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THURSDAY 2 APRIL

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STEVE'S RANT

Members Well Done
say...
Not So Well Done



School NEWS

School Leaders 2020

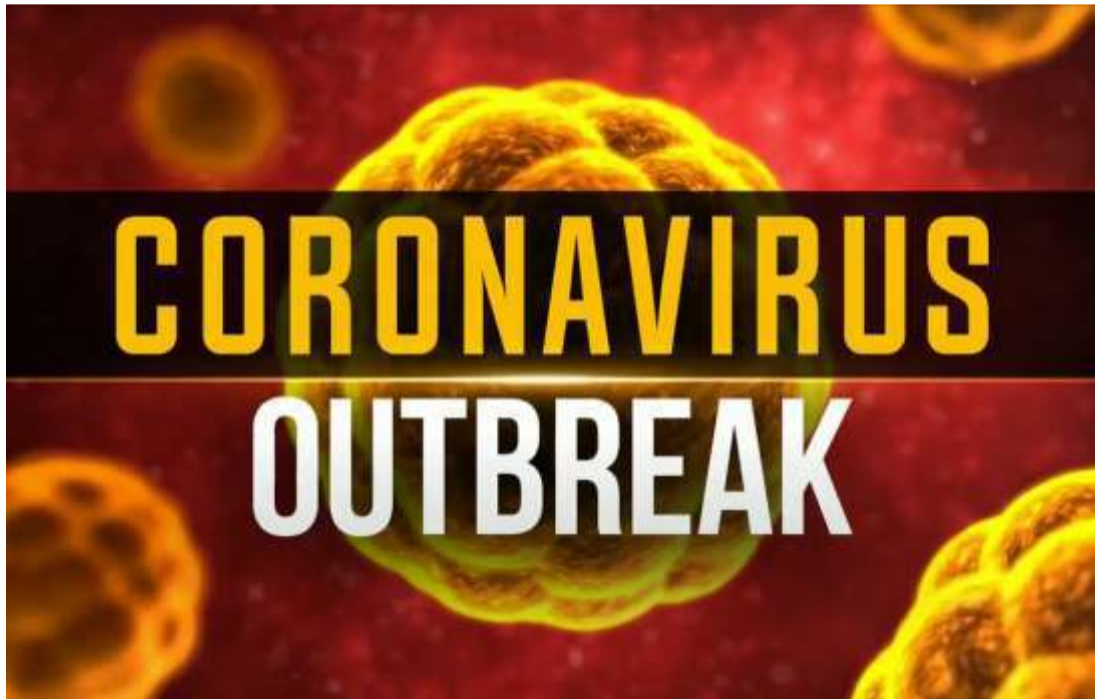
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Open all over the Easter break

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Branxton NSW2335



PROTECT YOURSELF AND THOSE AROUND YOU



Stay at home as much as possible



Wash your hands regularly



Cover your coughs and sneezes



Avoid touching your face



Keep 1.5 metres away from others (as much as you can)

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10 Dalwood Road, East Branxton

Dr T Sasi Sasitharan

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Cessnock City Council maintaining services for the community



While a number of services, events and regular programs have been impacted due to the ongoing COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) situation, Cessnock City Council is committed to ensuring that disruption to both community and staff is minimised as much as is practicable.

In order to ensure the safety of staff and our community a number of Council services have ceased face-to-face operations. This includes Council's Administration Building, the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre, Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, and our libraries. Council also today announced that all public barbecues, children's playgrounds, outdoor gyms, skateparks, and a number of public toilets were closed on Friday 27 March.

The good news is we're able to provide all of our services online or via the phone. Customers can visit Council's website, call our Contact Centre or send an email. Where possible it's 'business as usual' for Council and it's staff. Cessnock Library has moved its ever-popular Storytime sessions online, with regular "Song and Story" videos from the Library's Children's and Young Adult Officer Sandy Ryan being uploaded to their Facebook. The Library's e-Branch is also available at any time with access to a range of digital media, a service that may prove invaluable as State and Federal Governments call for people to stay at home.

All major works and projects underway remain unaffected at this time. Residents will still notice our works crews are carrying out jobs across the community and will continue to do so to ensure key targets are being met. Advance Cessnock City will continue to provide advice and support for businesses through their online business portal, with up to date information and resources relating to COVID-19.

Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson said it's important during this time that community interactions with Council continue.

"Our aim is to ensure that our community can still access vital services and up to date information during this time. Work from home contingency arrangements

are in place for staff to guarantee that there is as little disturbance to services as possible."

Council announces one Council meeting for April

Cessnock City Council has announced that during the month of April there will be one Council meeting. The meeting on the Wednesday 1 April has been cancelled, with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 April.

Council's General Manager Lotta Jackson said this decision has been made as part of the ongoing risk management associated with the spread of COVID-19.

"The welfare of Councillors, staff and our community is paramount as we all face this difficult time together. We are continually having to respond to this rapidly changing crisis. We thank the community for their understanding and urge them to follow every direction from the Federal and State Government to keep us all safe."

This decision has been made by the Mayor in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, Section 226(d).

Council meetings are recorded and can be accessed online via Council's website.

Open Space and Community Facilities Closures

Cessnock City Council is continuing to closely monitor the ongoing situation relating to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), in particular any and all advice from the Australian Government and NSW Department of Health.

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, and to prioritise the well-being of Council staff, volunteers and communities, Council has closed a number of community facilities across the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). This includes selected public toilets, sporting facilities, parks and community halls.

All bookings for parks, sport and recreation areas in the LGA were suspended as of Friday 20 March 2020. Groups that will be affected by these closures are being notified. Several community halls have also been closed. Those that remain open are operating in strict accordance with

advice of the Australian Government and NSW Department of Health with regards to COVID-19. At this time, Cessnock Pool, Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre, and Branxton Pool will remain open, with additional hygiene measures in place to protect community members and Council employees.

Changes to Council's operations announced in response to COVID-19

As the situation continues to change Council will monitor and respond to any potential impacts on services provided by Council.

As a result of the Federal Government's announcements Council has made the following decisions:

- Cessnock Performing Arts Centre has temporarily closed and a number of performances have been postponed to a later date. Box Office staff are working tirelessly to contact ticket holders impacted by changes. The box office can be contacted on 4993 4266 and updated information will be posted on the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre website and Facebook.

- The Cessnock Youth Centre has temporarily closed however Council's Youth Team is engaging with young people via social media and will be trialling virtual drop in. The Youth Services Team can be contacted on 4993 4357.

- Face to face services at the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries will be suspended effective from 5pm on Tuesday 24 March. The 24/7 e-Branch remains open and the Cessnock City Library Facebook includes a demonstration for how to access e-magazines, e-books, e films, e-music. For help in accessing the 24/7 e-Branch, Library staff can be contacted on 4993 4399. Council is also looking at options to provide a "take away" style service during the closure.

- Marthaville Arts and Cultural Centre has temporarily closed.

- Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre is closed. For more information visit kurri-kurriaafc.com.au or call 4937 1362.

- Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre is closed.

Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson said the situation continues to change and we continue to respond. "We are working to ensure we make decisions in the

best interest of the community and that are in line with all restrictions announced. Local Government has an important role to play, as does every individual in our community. Please, we ask that everyone in our community adheres to social distancing. These are vital and simple measures that we should all be implementing into our daily lives."

Changes to Council Services

Council administration building Face to face services at 62-78 Vincent Street will be suspended effective 5pm on Wednes-

day 25 March. Customers are encouraged to connect with us remotely by using our eServices, or by telephone during business hours.

• Council meetings

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 April 2020. To meet the four square metre per person requirement for indoor gatherings, we are not accommodating a full public gallery at Council Meetings. .

CPAC Cessnock Performing Arts Centre has temporarily closed and a number of performances have been postponed to a later date. Box office staff

are working to contact ticket holders impacted by changes. The box office can be contacted on (02) 4993 4266 and updated information will be posted on the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre website and Facebook.

CYCOS The Cessnock Youth Centre has temporarily closed. Council's Youth Team is engaging with young people via social media and will be trialling virtual drop in. The Youth Services Team can be contacted on (02) 4993 4357.

Libraries Face to face services at the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries will be suspended effective 5pm on Tuesday 24 March. Over the phone services will be available

Monday- Friday 9am-5pm. The 24/7 e-branch remains open and the Cessnock City Library Facebook includes a demonstration for how to access e-magazines, e-books, e-films and e-music. For help in accessing the 24/7 e-branch, Library staff can be contacted on (02) 4993 4399.

Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre

Face to face services at the Visitor Information Centre will be suspended effective 5pm on Wednesday 25 March. Visitors are encouraged to connect with the team by telephone during business hours.

Changes to Council events and programs Youth Week 2020

CONT. NEXT PAGE



COUNCIL MEETINGS DURING APRIL 2020

Cessnock City Council has announced that during the month of April there will be one Council meeting.

The meeting on **Wednesday 1 April** has been cancelled, with the next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday 15 April**.

Council's General Manager Lotta Jackson said this decision has been made as part of the ongoing risk management associated with the spread of COVID-19.

"The welfare of Councillors, staff and our community is paramount as we all face this difficult time together. We are continually having to respond to this rapidly changing crisis. We thank the community for their understanding and urge them to follow every direction from the Federal and State Government to keep us all safe."

This decision has been made by the Mayor in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993, Section 226(d)*.

Council meetings are recorded and can be accessed online via Council's website.

EASTER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2020

Council's Administration Office, Vincent Street, Cessnock

At this time face to face service has been suspended due to the spread of COVID-19. Closed Good Friday 10 April to Easter Monday 13 April, inclusive. Council's Customer Service Team can be contacted via email or phone from 9am Tuesday 14 April.

Cessnock & Kurri Kurri Libraries

At this time face to face services are suspended due to the spread of COVID-19. The 24/7 e-branch remains open.

Ranger Services

A Council Ranger will be on-call for the Easter period, normal services will return on Tuesday 14 April. In an emergency please call the Police.

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre (CPAC)

CPAC is temporarily closed at this time due to the spread of COVID-19 however the Box Office can be contacted on (02) 4993 4266.

Cessnock & Branxton Swimming Pools

Cessnock and Branxton Pools are now closed until October 2020.

Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre

Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre is currently closed.

Kerbside Collections

NO general waste collection on Good Friday 10 April, collections normally made on that day will be collected on Easter Saturday 11 April. Recycling and garden organics collection as normal on Good Friday. Normal general waste, recycling and garden organics collections on Easter Monday 13 April.

Cessnock Waste Management Centre

Closed on Good Friday 10 April, otherwise open as normal during Easter.

Greta Transfer Station

Closed on Good Friday 10 April, otherwise open as normal during Easter.

Cessnock Airport

For all enquiries regarding Cessnock Airport please contact Mr Tony Allan during normal business hours on 0401 107 557.

Visitors Information Centre

Face to face services at the Visitor Information Centre are suspended until further notice due to the spread of COVID-19. Visitors can connect with the Visitor Information Centre via phone on 4993 6700 from 9.00am to 4.00pm on Public Holidays. Easter Saturday hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Councillors and Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish residents a safe and happy Easter Holiday.



Council's maintaining services for the community

From previous page

Youth Week 2020

The Youth Week 2020 program has been postponed. For more information please check Council and CYCOS Facebook pages.

Draft 2020-25 Waste & Resource Strategy - community drop in sessions All planned community drop-in sessions for the Draft 2020-25 Waste & Resource Strategy currently on exhibition have been cancelled.

Free tree giveaway Council has postponed the free tree giveaway until later in the year. We'll be getting in touch with all those who have applied.

Learner drivers workshop The free workshop for parents and supervisors of learner drivers scheduled in partnership with Transport NSW on Thursday 26 March 2020 is postponed this until later in the year. **Currently closed:** Public toilets

- Jeffries Park, Abermain
- Branxton Oval
- North Cessnock Park
- Mount View Basin
- Cessnock Norman Brown Park
- Greta Margaret Johns Park, Kurri Kurri
- Booth Park, Kurri Kurri
- North Rothbury Park
- Chinaman's Hollow, Weston
- Weston Memorial Park
- East End Oval Cessnock
- George Jeffery Park Kearsley
- Kitchener Poppethead Park
- Veteran's Memorial Park Aberdare
- Mulbring Park

Further closure of public toilets may need to occur due to the ongoing theft of toilet paper.

Community halls All community halls in our local government area are closed until further notice:

- Abermain Plaza Hall
- Abermain School of Arts
- Bellbird Community Hall
- Branxton Community Hall
- Ellalong Community Hall
- Greta Arts & Sports Centre
- Greta Council Chambers
- Greta Courthouse
- Kearsley Community Hall
- Kurri Kurri Senior Citizens Centre
- Laguna Community

Hall

- Millfield Community Hall North
- North Cessnock Community Hall
- Pokolbin Community Hall
- Weston Civic Centre Wollombi Community Hall
- Sporting facilities All sporting facilities in our area have now been closed:
- Turner Park, Aberdare
- Howe Park, Abermain
- Orange Street Oval, Abermain
- Carmichael Park, Bellbird
- Branxton Oval (croquet lawns included)
- Miller Park, Branxton
- Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre
- Baddeley Park, Cessnock
- Drain Oval, Cessnock
- East Cessnock Oval
- Mount View Basin, Cessnock
- Greta Central Oval
- George Jeffery Park, Kearsley
- Birralees Ovals, Kurri Kurri
- Booth Park, Kurri Kurri
- Margaret Johns Park, Kurri Kurri
- Central Oval, Kurri Kurri
- Molly Worthington Netball Courts, Kurri Kurri
- Crawfordville/ Millfield Park
- Mulbring Oval
- Centenary Park, Pelaw Main
- Stanford Merthyr Park
- Chinaman's Hollow, Weston
- Varty Park, Weston
- Wollombi Recreation Ground
- Wollombi Tennis Courts

Pre-existing sports ground bookings have been suspended until further notice. No future bookings are being taken at this time. Tennis facilities (hide below) All tennis facilities are required to close until further notice from 12am Thursday 26 March. Aquatic facilities (hide below) All of our pools will close until further notice from Wednesday 25 March:

- Kurri Kurri Aquatic & Fitness Centre
- Cessnock pool
- Branxton pool
- Arts and cultural centres The following cultural facilities are closed until further notice:
- Marthaville Arts and Cultural Centre

• Richmond Main and Wollombi Cultural Centre Other closures **RSPCA Rutherford** RSPCA Rutherford is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays until further notice. Residents will not be able to release animals on these days. We're waiving impound fees for Tuesdays and Thursdays as residents won't be able to pick up their furry friend. For more information call RSPCA on (02) 4939 1555.

SINGLETON COUNCIL UPDATES ABOUT OUR FACILITIES AND SERVICES Council is taking action to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We implore everyone to follow the advice of government health authorities by maintaining good hygiene practices, social distancing, and staying at home.

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

Our customer service centre is open virtually. You can call us on 6578 7290, talk to us via webchat, or send us an email via council@singleton.nsw.gov.au **SINGLETON WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY** Council made the difficult decision to close the Waste Management Facility to household disposal of waste. Council's kerbside collection service relies on continuity of the landfill operations and restricting access to only essential collections was considered a necessary step. Council encourages the community to use kerbside collection bins (red, yellow and green) to dispose of garbage, recycling and garden organics as we would normally do. Kerbside collection services will continue. Large items must

be kept at home.

Council is currently contacting known commercial customers to discuss disposal processes. If you have enquiries related to commercial disposal, please contact Customer Service.

For those in the community who may not be able to access a kerbside collection, please contact Council via phone or email and staff will discuss options with you. In the meantime, residents will need to store waste on their property until further notice.

The community is reminded that it is an offence to illegally dump waste, with penalties of \$2000. Council staff and rangers, along with the police, are conducting routine patrols. Burragan Recycling Shop at the Singleton Waste Management Facility is closed but Kerbside waste collection continues as usual

SINGLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library is closed to customers, with services limited to digital only. All library members have access to a range of digital collections from our website 24/7.

SINGLETON YOUTH VENUE

Singleton Youth Venue is closed, arrangements are being made for some essential services to continue

SINGLETON CIVIC CENTRE

The Civic Centre is closed until the end of April (including Mama's Kitchen)

SINGLETON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

The Singleton Visitor Information Centre (VIC) is closed to visitors

MOBILE PRESCHOOL Singleton Council's Mobile Preschool is closed

SINGLETON GYM AND SWIM / SINGLETON HEIGHTS SPORTS

CENTRE

The Gym & Swim and the Heights Sports Centre were closed from 12pm on 23/3/20 in line with the Federal Government's directive for the closure of gyms and indoor sporting venues

LAKE ST CLAIR

Lake St Clair is closed to both campers and day trippers. People with existing bookings may transfer their booking to next year, or receive a credit. For more information, e-mail lake-st-clair@singleton.nsw.gov.au

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

All playgrounds, skateparks and outdoor fitness equipment are CLOSED and will be patrolled by police

All public toilets are closed with the exception of Burdekin Park (24 hours) and Townhead Park (daytime hours), and toilets in our villages

CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS

Work on Broke Skate Park has been suspended

COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Some Council building are closed, including 74 George Street and the Museum

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Council staff are providing a limited building certification service as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Where possible Council certifiers will undertake inspection of building work under construction in order to support the local economy.

Council certifiers will adhere to strict social distancing requirements specified by the health authorities and inspection bookings will only be made on a case by case basis at this stage.

Inspections in confined and enclosed spaces will not be undertaken until further notice in the interests of the health of the community and Council staff.

Building certification services will be reviewed on a regular basis and the community will be informed of any changes.

Please be aware however that waiting times for inspections will be longer than normal and the your co-operation at this time would be appreciated.

If you have any further questions regarding Council's building certification service at this time please contact Customer Service on 02 6578 7290

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITY

The Singleton Animal Management Facility is operating as normal, however alternative collection methods are currently being explored. For impounded animals that are microchipped, the process will be very simple. However, for animals that are not microchipped, additional statutory measures are required before the animal can be released. If your pet is impounded, please contact Customer Service via phone for instructions.

This is a difficult time for our community,

and the impact on pets is also being felt with increased demand for ranger services. Please be patient as our service levels are adjusted to accommodate the need to meet social distancing measures set by the Government. If you are concerned about the welfare of animals, please contact Customer Service. If the matter is an emergency, please contact the Police.

CHANGES IN THE WAY IN WHICH RETAIL PREMISES CAN OPERATE

The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces made the *Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development - Extended Operation) Order 2020* on 25 March 2020, allowing for retail premises such as supermarkets, pharmacies and corner stores to operate 24 hours per day. This includes deliveries.

Retailers that are part of hotels and motels are now also able to provide food and beverages 24 hours per day to people using their accommodation to consume in their rooms.

All other conditions of approval apply, and when operating outside usual hours, retailers must take steps to reduce noise. Council acknowledges that these arrangements may cause inconvenience for some, please note these arrangements will be temporary during the coronavirus pandemic.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUSINESSES

There are a number of public health and business orders issued by the NSW government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Primary industry production and related businesses and the entire food supply chain is an **essential industry**.

At present, there is no evidence that livestock or companion animals/pets such as dogs and cats can be infected with the COVID-19 virus. However, it is always a good idea to wash your hands with soap and water after contact with animals.

While this virus seems to have emerged from an unknown animal source in China, it is now spreading from person-to-person, and contact with people is the main route of infection. There is no evidence to suggest that any animals (livestock, pets or wildlife) in Australia might be a source of infection with this new coronavirus. For more information, visit the Department of Primary Industry website.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

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STEVE'S RANT

..... all bets are off
Well since last paper all bets are off, or should I say, on hold till the COVID19 pandemic is sorted.

Being an absolute optimist, I make two predictions. First, Maureen and I will not cark it due to COVID19, and secondly, there will be a rebound. Something always comes up, a bit like the reverse of Murphy's Law. Say after me "Always look on the bright side of Life" Now for the good bit. I congratulate the Management and Staff of the Branxton IGA & Liquor for their commitment to, and the exercise of, all due care, to protect their customers and staff from the COVID 19. To be commended too, the customers I have observed scrupulously observing the separation requirement. This column has banged on before about the need for households to keep at the minimum two weeks supply of canned foods and other necessities in case of emergencies. So I hope many people in our area were already well prepared. It is a bit unfair of the Prime Minister to criticise the citizenry for stocking up. Yes, the stupid press jumped on isolated cases of people fighting over items at supermarkets to illustrate panic buying by the general public. What the general public has been doing is not only

logical in the face of uncertain times but is sensible if they are not in the habit of keeping emergency supplies at home. To assume that the heavy demand on supermarkets is hoarding is wrong. It is a very natural reaction by responsible people to prepare for a possible lockdown such as occurred in China, Italy and Spain. The shortages which occurred is evidence of the rapidity of events, and possibly sections of our community being immigrants from places where supply is always uncertain, felt it necessary to stock up early, thereby commencing a run on certain items. That a Chinese state-owned company actively recruited the Chinese diaspora in many countries to buy-up PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) may have contributed to the run on supermarket stocks. This allegation is yet to be proven. The case is backed up by reports that busloads of people had been out to the regional towns to buy up, stocks of Paracetamol and PPE for shipping back to China. Comparison has been made with the 1918/1919 Spanish Flu Pandemic which killed millions worldwide as soldiers from the European war returned home. It was the shortage of ships that delayed the return of the 1st AIF and the reason

that the flu did not hit Australia until early 1919. My mothers father died in that contagion. He died on April 6th 1919 aged 31, leaving a young widow, two little girls and a baby son. One hundred and one years ago, this very week. Here is something to remember; the first World War and the Spanish Flu Pandemic was followed in the next ten years by the 'Roaring Twenties'. There was no recession until the Great Depression in the 1930s, so no link existed between these events. Talk of a recession is only talking. Quoting John Kenneth Galbraith: *the only function of economic forecasting is*

to make astrology look respectable. Now for some important stuff. Do not mow your lawn if you have alligator weed in evidence. Dig the weed up first so you don't spread the seeds. The recent and current rain has the stuff thriving and throwing seeds on long stems so you cannot miss it. A suggestion for local councils: if unemployment in your shire or area becomes a major concern work parties could be organised for hazard reduction and fire track maintenance and development. Personal separation can still be maintained working outdoors and using personal transport to get to sites.

This will allow council staff to exercise their leadership skill. Stay well and at home, Steve



with Mike Lowing

For very obvious reasons there is very little news about as the effect of the health emergency stops events *absolutely*. With the mantra 'stay at home' most of the community has put their

lives on hold hoping we get to the other side ASAP. *Social-distancing* is the big issue with all states (and territories) & the federal government policing it vigorously. I have set up a home office and I am finding it a delight; can get a wonderful cup of tea and the garden hasn't looked like this since the start of water restrictions. I do miss the face-to-face company which we enjoyed prior to our self imposed lockdown but have taken to social media & that keeps us informed about family & friends. From the onset of this emergency the states & federal government, it appears to me, have been playing catch-up and

dithering with some important decisions; being reactive not proactive. From the outset I comforted myself with the fact that we have a huge moat around us & that we could have closed up shop by not allowing entry from overseas. Also we are behind Europe, China etc., and would undoubtedly learn from their mistakes. When we finally did 'lock up' the horse had bolted. Lastly, someone needs to be accountable for this ... at least 440 passengers from the Ruby Princess liner have fallen ill since being allowed to disembark without checks in Sydney. At least five of the 20 have been passengers from the ship. Stay well & far apart!
Cheers, Mike



NSW enforcing restrictions of gatherings of more than two people

NSW is now enforcing restrictions announced by the Federal Government to limit gathering to two people. The

requirements introduced by Government include:
* Public gatherings, excluding household members, have been

reduced to a maximum of two people. Exceptions to this limit include:
* People of the same household going out together;
* Funerals - a maximum of 10 people;
* Wedding - a maximum of 5 people;
* Family units.
In NSW, people must have a reasonable excuse for leaving their home and abide by the above rules. Reasonable excuses are below, and there are fines of up to \$11,000 for anyone breaking the rules :
* obtaining food or other goods or services for the personal needs of the household or other household purposes (including for pets) and for vulnerable persons travelling for the purposes of work if the person cannot work from the person's place of

residence
* travelling for the purposes of attending childcare (including picking up or dropping another person at childcare)
* travelling for the purposes of facilitating attendance at a school or other educational institution if the person attending the school or institution cannot learn from the person's place of residence
* exercising
* obtaining medical care or supplies or health supplies or fulfilling carer's responsibilities
* attending a wedding or a funeral in the circumstances referred to in clause 6(2)(d) and (e) or 7(1)(h)
* moving to a new place of residence (including a business moving to new premises) or between different places of residence of the person or

inspecting a potential new place of residence
* providing care or assistance (including personal care) to a vulnerable person or providing emergency assistance
* donating blood
* undertaking any legal obligations
* accessing public services (whether provided by Government, a private provider or a non-Government organisation), including—
(a) social services, and
(b) employment services, and
(c) domestic violence services, and
(d) mental health services, and
(e) services provided to victims (including as victims of crime)
* for children who do not live in the same household as their parents or siblings or one of their parents or siblings—

continuing existing arrangements for access to, and contact between, parents and children or siblings
or a person who is a priest, minister of religion or member of a religious order— going to the person's place of worship or providing pastoral care to another person
* avoiding injury or illness or to escape a risk of harm
* for emergencies or compassionate reasons

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or
emailed to
thenews@hotkey.net.au

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The news Issue No 47 15th July 1999 Page 2

Ball boy found!

Above: The original photo published last issue of the, we think, 1946 Branxton Rugby League Football Team. All members were identified with only one exception - the ball boy.

Below: On the far right is 'the ball boy' Barry Graves. This photo was taken at the 1998 Centenary Reunion of Maitland Marist Brothers. The photo was taken at the Maitland Town Hall. From left is John Till, Terry O'Brien, Peter Bogan, Brother Bede (Ex-Principal), Terry Bailey & 'The Ball Boy' Barry Graves.



Above: Barry with his two daughters Janelle & Rebecca at his 60th birthday

CASE SOLVED
The mystery of the ball boy has been solved. He is Barry Graves, who was born in Branxton (he was actually delivered into this world at the residence of The Branxton Inn) & left the area in 1955 to attend Teachers College in

Newcastle. Barry is now a retired School Principal and lives in Valentine. The reason he was ball boy was because his uncle Roy Bridge played in the team. Barry attended Teachers College with our retired ex-Member for Hunter, Eric Fitzgibbon. When talking with Barry he did mention, for the records, that he was the youngest player ever to play first

grade cricket for Branxton (13 years of age) a fact not mentioned in the history of the Club. A happy retirement Barry.

Successful applicants for the 2019 Community Building Partnership Program

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP, announced today the Cessnock Electorate received \$300,000 in funding for a total of twenty one projects through the NSW Government's 2019 Community Building Partnership Program (CBPP).

The Community Building Partnership Program (CBPP), first introduced by the Labor Government in 2009 has provided funding to thousands of community groups, sporting clubs and councils across NSW to build or upgrade local facilities.

The program awards grants to the community to invest in infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes, while promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion. State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP said the State Government funds will deliver much-needed improvements to local facilities and will directly help many of our community groups and

Organisation	Project Title	Amount Spent
The Scouts Association of Australia NSW Branch	Flow Rd Area For 500 Kurr Kurr Scout Group	\$4,000
Cessnock City Council	Green Oval Facility Upgrade	\$24,000
Edgeworth Community Theatre Inc.	Children Studio Set	\$20,000
Newcastle Community Sporting Ass. Inc.	Flood Lighting Jeffrey Park Newcastle	\$23,000
Country Women's Association of NSW - Cessnock Branch	Subsidised Hot water Complete Building Upgrade	\$4,500
Maitland Public School P & C Assoc.	Maitland Public School Digital	\$20,000
Compass Housing Services Co Ltd	Western Community Hub	\$20,000
Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre Ltd	Moving Cessnock's Learning Needs for Out of School Hours Care	\$20,000
Supervising Neighbourhood Advancement Group Inc.	Supervising Neighbourhood Centre Bathroom Renovation Refurbishment	\$24,000
Lake Macquarie City Council	Supply and install Air Conditioning - Newcastle Community Hall	\$4,000
Mosaic Holdings Ltd	Refurbishment of Electrical Systems - Western Mosaic Centre	\$4,000
Maitland Public School P & C Assoc.	Concrete Walkway - Classroom to the Bathroom	\$20,000
Maitland Greta LINC Athletics	New Shower	\$8,000
Cessnock Minor Rugby League	4th View Park - Lighting (Stage 2)	\$20,000
Western Workers Rugby Football Club Inc.	Upgrade to Regional Sporting Facility - Surrounds Refurbishment	\$20,000
Maitland Tennis Club Inc.	Upgrade Tennis Court Lighting to LED	\$20,520
Trustees of Church Property for the Diocese of Newcastle	St Luke's Methodist Presbytery Project	\$20,700
West Wallsend Amateur Soccer Club Inc.	High Boundary Fence Preventing Balls Leaving Field	\$4,400
Hudson Cityways Youth Clubs NSW Ltd	PCIC Cessnock - Meeting Room and Hall Repairs	\$8,200
Maitland Western Hawks Rugby League Inc.	Home Park Scoreboard, PA System and Fencing	\$20,000
Cessnock City Hornets Football Club Inc.	Junior Football Training Facilities Expansion	\$5,400
	TOTAL	\$300,000

organisations. See attached list containing full details of the projects that have been funded.

Mr Barr said "This is fantastic news in a time when we need good news, it is great to see so many community groups and organisations receiving funding across the Electorate."

"I congratulate all the organisations that were

successful in their application and look forward to seeing these projects completed and making a difference to our local community." The Community Building Partnership Program will open for applications 4 May - 12 June 2020. Further information to come at www.nsw.gov.au/cbp in April.

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

"Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter ... not cancelled"

Our journey through Lent this year began as an opportunity for us to reflect deeply on our relationship with God and our faith in Jesus Christ, God's only Son. And then COVID-19 restrictions came into force and life changed for all of us. Some of us no longer have employment, at least until COVID-19 is under control, some of us now work from home and are learning new ways of doing things, and some of us are working in the frontline, in our hospitals, doctor's surgeries, supermarkets, chemists and other essential services. For all of us life is now different.

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday. It is the first day of Holy Week, the holiest week of the Christian year which culminates in the celebrations of Easter. We will be celebrating in a new and different way this year because of COVID-19. And although church services for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter are cancelled ... Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter are definitely not cancelled. On Sunday we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. He came humbly bringing salvation rather than as a conqueror. "The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" [Matthew 21.9]

Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers in the temple disrupting its economy and worship. When he later returned to the temple, the chief priests and the elders questioned where Jesus' authority came from.

Jesus' head was anointed with costly perfume by a woman in the home of Simon the leper and Jesus told the disciples that the woman had done a good thing for him in preparing his body for burial. The plot to kill Jesus continued with Judas Iscariot's agreement to assist the chief priests and being paid to do so.

The disciples prepared the Passover meal and Jesus foretold that one of the twelve disciples would betray him. While they ate, "Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." [Matthew 26.26-28]

Jesus knew that his flock would be scattered and said to Peter "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." [Matthew 26.34] Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray but the disciples were unable to stay awake. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Jesus was arrested and taken before the high priest, whilst Peter followed at a distance. That night Peter denied Jesus three times and then the cock crowed. The next day, Jesus was taken before Pilate who handed Jesus over to be crucified. The crowds who had celebrated Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, less than a week later cried "Let him be crucified!" [Matthew 27.22] Jesus takes his last breath. The curtain is torn in two and the earth shook. The terrified centurion said, "Truly this man was god's Son!" [Matthew 27.54]

These events were life changing for Jesus, for the disciples and even for those who conspired to kill him. Perhaps we understand some of the turmoil that the disciples were going through because of the situation we find ourselves in with COVID-19. Events outside of their control were impacting their lives and would impact the lives of people for all time. The events that are occurring in our world now, will have a lasting impact on our lives and the lives of our children. In all of this there is hope though. Our hope is in Jesus Christ. Jesus overcame death and promises us eternal life, which starts when we choose to believe and have faith in him. We are not able to be in the physical presence of each other at the moment, but there are many ways in which we can be connected, so we need not be alone. We are the body of Christ in the world today, and we can reach out to each other, encourage each other and help each other.

As we come to remember and celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, let us take a moment to thank God for and reflect on our many blessings. May we also remember that the disciples' lives also were changed forever during this most holy of weeks. May the mystery of Easter give us all hope as together we respond to the crisis of COVID-19. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families and for people around the world.

The blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

~ Reverend Nicole ~

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Members say ...



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

It is a very difficult time for our community, our country and the entire world as we deal with the spread of COVID-19.

We are all feeling stress and anxiety during this uncertain time. Seniors, vulnerable persons, parents, front line medical professionals, teachers and of course our local businesses.

There is really no one untouched by this crisis.

However, as a community this is a time more than ever that we must pull together and support one another.

This means helping a neighbour self isolating, or helping an older neighbour with the shopping. It means where possible supporting local businesses and shopping locally. It means supporting someone who may face unemployment.

We all have a role to play in stopping the spread of COVID-19. The message is simple - stay home and when you are out shopping for essentials you must social distance. If you are sick stay home.

Please take these measures seriously as this is what will help our community and nation recover again.

For more information visit www.health.nsw.gov.au. The safety of community and staff is a priority for Cessnock City Council in relation to COVID-19 (coronavirus). As a result, our services, events and regular programs have been impacted.

Council has made the decision to close the Administration Building to customers. During this period while face to face service is not an option customers can still stay connected via phone, email or our website. For more information please visit Council's website.

It should also be noted that only one Council meeting will be held in April to limit the risk to Councillors, staff and community. This is scheduled for Wednesday 15 April 2020.

In some more positive news, Daniel Repacholi, a local sports shooter has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. Congratulations Daniel.

While this event has been postponed for a year due to the outbreak of COVID-19, we all look forward to supporting you when the event [finally does](#) go ahead. Stay well and at home.
Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR
Week ending 20/03/2020
STAY CALM, CARRY ON AND CARE FOR OTHERS

COVID-19 is changing our society every hour of every day. At this stage it is in part due to the virus and in part due to the decisions being made because of the virus.

In these uncertain times I encourage people to rely only on reports from official Government Health departments and those that make references to official Government Health department reports (like a webpage or Facebook of a local MP).

Please avoid the volumes of crazy stuff that is getting spread every minute of the day through online conspiracy theories and/or people trying to pre-empt the next decision or announcement to be made.

In these days of social media, the stuff that is making the craziest and wildest statement gets the most clicks and some people have a vested interest in the number of clicks that they get, not a vested interest in your health or understanding.

Please help to slow down the spread of the virus by minimising your contact with others, taking extra special care to clean your hands and surfaces and by keeping a good 1.5m of social distance in public spaces.

It is not possible to completely stop the spread of the disease. It is too far gone for that. Eventually the disease will come through our communities, our families, our schools, work and social groups.

Hopefully this will happen slowly so that our hospitals and health workers can cope with the number of people that need help. It will be easier for everyone if the spread of the virus is a slow steady trickle instead of a tsunami.

I am hoping that the coming months will allow us to find the very best in ourselves and each other; not the very worst. Look

out for each other, be willing to pass a few rolls of toilet paper over the fence to a neighbour, try to do some shopping for an elderly person that you know, so that they don't have to expose themselves too much because the risk to the elderly is much more significant. We are all in this together, so let's work as a team.

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 or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

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



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

The COVID-19 pandemic and the situation we are currently experiencing is, quite simply, unprecedented. And extraordinary circumstances require an extraordinary response - not just from governments, or from people in major cities.

Every single one of us must do our bit for the greater cause, and that is to control the spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately, that has economic and social consequences. There is no one in our community who is not affected by COVID-19 in some way: people have lost jobs, businesses have closed, and children are being told to stay home from school. And the impacts are even greater for people in our community who are already vulnerable.

Council exists to support our community, and that takes on particular meaning during times of crisis and hardship. We are currently developing a Community Support Package, which proposes allocating \$475,000 to help businesses and residents across our local government area. And of course we'll be

strengthening our partnerships with business chambers, bodies such as the Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association, our neighbours at Cessnock City Council and community organisations to make sure we're doing everything we can for people in our entire community to get the help they need.

Council is also conscious of adding to the burden of worry about paying bills, so we're looking at every possible aspect of our operations to provide relief for our residents and businesses.

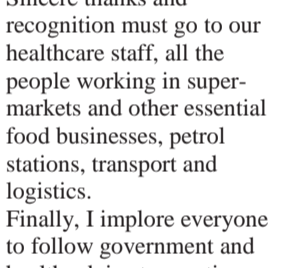
Measures already announced and to be formally endorsed by Council include an extension of the payment for the fourth quarter rates installment from May 31 to August 31. Cancellation fees at our long daycare centre have been waived.

We're working quickly to review all fees and charges with the objective to find opportunities for relief for our community, and investigating a range of other options to help offset the impact such as procurement and service delivery changes and in-kind work, to help support the economy.

And we're not the only people working hard in the face of this pandemic. Sincere thanks and recognition must go to our healthcare staff, all the people working in supermarkets and other essential food businesses, petrol stations, transport and logistics.

Finally, I implore everyone to follow government and health advice to practice social distancing, good hygiene and simply to stay at home. This is a challenging time for everyone in our community, our State, our nation and our world. But if we all work together, we will come out the other side. Please care for each other, be kind, and stay safe.

Cheers, Sue



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our frontline staff who are helping fight this virus. From our local doctors and nurses, to police, paramedics and to our teachers and everyone else assisting in this fight, from a grateful community, can I say thank you.

To our farmers and their families and the people and businesses who keep them operating, thank you for what you're doing. In keeping us fed with the

fresh, cleanest produce in the world, we are forever grateful.

For up to date and official COVID-19 (Coronavirus) information and advice, click on the link -

nsw.gov.au/covid-19
POLICE CRACKDOWN ON RECKLESS SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Police will have the power to issue \$1,000 on-the-spot fines for individuals and \$5,000 for corporations not complying with ministerial directions relating to COVID-19, as part of a state-wide crackdown on reckless behaviour to slow the spread of the virus.

Officers will also no longer require a warrant to arrest an individual breaching a public health order, after the NSW Government passed legislation to give Police greater powers to enforce orders under the *Public Health Act 2010*.

The measures are tough but necessary to minimise the risk the pandemic poses on public safety.

Despite the majority of people doing the right thing, we are still seeing reckless and irresponsible behaviour that endangers the lives of others, particularly to elderly and immunocompromised members of the community.

The rules are clear and they apply to everyone. No one is above the law. If you decide to ignore a direction, you will be caught and you may find yourself slapped with a hefty fine.

The message to the community is simple: be vigilant, be sensible, and stay up to date with the latest health advice.

Police also have the option to charge anyone found failing to comply with a ministerial direction, which carries a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment and/or an \$11,000 fine for an individual and \$55,000 for a corporation.

Members of the public can report to Crime Stoppers if they hold concerns an individual or community is failing to comply with Public Health Orders. You can report online at www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au or call 1800 333 000.

Council Elections Postponed
To provide certainty to councils, communities and potential candidates, the NSW Government has made the decision to postpone the September local government elections in the face of the COVID-19 crisis.

Local government elections are a vital part of the democratic process, ensuring local councils are accountable to their local communities. Therefore, the decision to postpone them has not been taken lightly but is necessary to ensure the health and safety of voters, NSW Electoral Commission staff and election candidates.

The decision follows Parliament passing amendments to the Local Government Act.

The postponement of the next elections will not change the future schedule of council elections, and the subsequent elections will still proceed in September 2024.

Current councillors and popularly elected mayors will continue to hold their civic offices until the rescheduled local government elections are held.

Mayoral elections will need to be held for mayors elected by councillors in September 2018 when their two-year terms expire this year. Mayors elected in September 2019 will continue to hold office until September 2021 once the new election date is gazetted.

Be Kind to your Neighbours
This is a very tough time for everyone at the moment. Uncertainty is the order of the day with events being cancelled, business being affected and some jobs being cut back or lost. One thing is for sure though, we will get through this together.

Let's take precautions as advised and look out for each other. Support is being provided by both State and Federal governments and my office is open to assist and provide information where possible.

If you are feeling unsure of where to go for non-medical information regarding the latest developments, please call my office on 65431065 or even better, email to upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au

We will do our best to allay your concerns, point you in the right direction for assistance or just be there to do what we can to help.

Contact: My Email address; upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au, phone numbers; 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook 2333.

Cheers, Michael

Income Security
By Joel Fitzgibbon
When I was last published on this page there were 450 confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Australia. By Monday of this week, the virus was quickly making its way to 4,000 victims.

The growth will continue and we need to take the threat very seriously. Please follow the health advice and government guidance on things like social distancing and restricting your outings.

Stay safe, together we will get through this crisis.

Last week's 12-hour sitting of Parliament was an historic one. In my own contribution I emphasised the inadequacy of the support being given to small business and those losing their jobs. The previous day, the Prime Minister had announced that those losing their job would be eligible for an enhanced Jobseeker Allowance (unemployment benefit), but he failed to mention the Allowance would be subject to a partner's income test. That means that if a wife, husband or partner is earning more than \$48,000, there is no eligibility. Also, the additional component of the Allowance would not apply to some other Centrelink payments, and workers under 22-years-of-age would continue to face the period-living away from home test, to establish independence from their parents. Many now-jobless under 22-year-olds not living at home cannot receive assistance because their parents earn too much. Along with a large number of small business problems, these were the issues that have taken most of my time and that of my staff. Happily, by the time this column is published, the Prime Minister would have heard our calls for further help and fixed the problems for individuals. I suspect the small business measures may remain under-done but I will continue to lobby for more. Many of these issues could be avoided if the Government implements the wage subsidy model embraced in other countries. A wage subsidy scheme is one in which the Government pays the employee a percentage (typically 80%) of their wage whether they are working or not. This avoids the complexities of assistance qualification and helps ensure the employer retains his or her workforce. It also allows employers to keep people employed despite collapsing revenues. It is typically more expensive than Centrelink payments, but it is more effective and beneficial to the employer, the employee and the economy. Many readers would have spoken with me or a member of my staff over the course of the last couple of weeks. We thank you for your patience as we work hard to deal with the much larger than normal pleas for help. Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you believe we may be able to help - 49 911 022 or joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au

Stay safe, together we will get through this crisis.

Cheers, Joel

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News
P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice & Medical Advice



Clinical update: 2020 seasonal influenza vaccines

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months and over (unless contraindicated). This will reduce their chance of becoming ill with influenza.

Annual vaccination is the most important measure to prevent influenza and its complications. It is recommended for all people aged 6 months and over (unless contraindicated).

To meet the anticipated demand for seasonal influenza vaccines in 2020, the Australian Government will be securing the largest ever supply of seasonal influenza vaccines. These are provided through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for people most at risk.

NIP vaccines will be available in April, subject to local supply arrangements. Updates for 2020

- All people aged 6 months to less than 5 years will now be eligible for free influenza vaccines

under the NIP in 2020.

- This year Australia is the first country to offer an adjuvanted Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIV) - Flud® Quad. This is available for people aged 65 years and over.

- New age-specific vaccines will be available under the NIP in 2020 for eligible people. Age indications for some vaccines have changed.

For more information on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2020, refer to the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation's Statement. This includes up-to-date clinical advice on the age-specific QIVs available under the NIP, strains included in 2020 vaccines, timing of vaccination, and other relevant topics.

Eligibility for influenza vaccines through the NIP In 2020, influenza vaccines funded through the NIP are available to the following groups. This is due to their increased risk of complications from influenza.

- All people aged 6

months to less than 5 years (this cohort is newly eligible in 2020)

- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over

- Pregnant women (during any stage of pregnancy)

- All people aged 65 years and over People aged 6 months and over with medical conditions which increase the risk of influenza disease complications.

Timing of vaccination Optimal protection against influenza occurs within the first three to four months following vaccination.

Timing of vaccination should aim to achieve the highest level of protection during peak influenza season. This usually occurs from June to September in most parts of Australia.

Vaccinating from April provides protection before the peak season. Further information and resources about 2020 seasonal influenza vaccines will be made available shortly.

children

The immunisation schedule for children involves a course of a primary vaccine that reduces the risk of infection with 13 strains of pneumococcal bacteria. This vaccine is most effective for very young children. A second type of vaccine that reduces the risk of infection with 23 strains of pneumococcal bacteria is given as a booster dose to children. from four years of age, if they have a medical condition putting them at high risk of pneumococcal disease or were born prematurely before 28 weeks gestation.

Protection for children against pneumococcal disease is available under the National Immunisation Program Schedule. Immunisation against pneumococcal disease is free of charge for: children at two, four and 12 months of age – three primary doses of the vaccine that covers 13 different types of the pneumococcal bacteria medically at-risk children receive three doses of vaccine at two, four and six months, the fourth dose at 12 months and a booster

vaccine at four years if children have conditions that put them at high risk of illness children born prematurely (less than 28 weeks gestation) – receive four doses of the vaccine at two, four, six months and 12 months Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children receive four doses of primary vaccine at two, four, six months and 12 months if children live in high-risk areas including Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia or South Australia (not Victoria) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 15 years and over who are medically at risk – a booster dose of vaccine is available for children up to and including five years – catch-up immunisations are available for children who have not received the vaccinations. The number of recommended doses depends on the child's age and health.

Immunisation against pneumococcal disease for adults

Protection for adults against pneumococcal disease is available under the National Immunisation Program

Schedule. In Australia, immunisation against pneumococcal disease is free of charge for: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged between 15 and 49 years with medical risk factors all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years or older all people aged 65 years or older All adults aged less than 65 years who are medically at risk should also be immunised although the vaccine is not free under the National Immunisation Program. Speak to your doctor or immunisation provider for further information about the vaccine and its costs. **Pregnancy and pneumococcal immunisation** Immunisation against pneumococcal disease is

not usually recommended for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Women who are at increased risk of pneumococcal infection should be vaccinated before pregnancy or as soon as possible after giving birth. Speak with your doctor about whether you are at risk of infection and should be immunised.

Pre-immunisation checklist

- Before receiving the vaccine, tell your doctor or nurse if you (or your child):
- * are unwell (temperature over 38.5 °C)
 - * have allergies to any other medications or substances
 - * have had a serious reaction to any vaccine
 - * have had a serious reaction to any component of the vaccine
 - * are pregnant.



Set the slow cooker and come home to this hearty chicken soup. It is loaded with healthy vegetables and leftovers can be eaten the next day for lunch.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbs olive oil
 - 1 leek, halved, thinly sliced
 - 1 brown onion, finely chopped
 - 2 carrots, peeled, cut into 2cm piece
 - 2 celery sticks, sliced
 - 3 garlic cloves, crushed
 - 350g sweet potato, peeled, cut into 2cm pieces
 - 2 (about 370g) parsnips, peeled, cut into 2cm pieces
 - 2 zucchini, chopped
 - 3/4 cup fresh continental parsley leaves, chopped
 - 2 lemons, rind finely grated, juiced
 - 60g baby spinach
 - Crusty wholegrain bread, to serve (optional)
- SOUP BASE**
- 1.8kg whole organic or free-range chicken
 - 1 brown onion, halved
 - 1 carrot, halved
 - 1 celery stick, halved
 - 2 fresh bay leaves
 - 4 fresh continental parsley sprigs

Slow cooker gut-healing chicken soup



1 tbs apple cider vinegar
1L (4 cups) Massel salt reduced chicken style liquid stock
Meanwhile, heat oil in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Cook leek, onion, carrot, celery and garlic for 10-12 minutes or until softened. Transfer leek mixture to slow cooker. Cook, covered, for 21/2 hours. Add sweet potato and parsnip. Cover. Cook for a further 30 minutes or until chicken is very tender and falling off the bone. Transfer chicken to a bowl. Use tongs to remove and discard halved onion, carrot and celery, bay leaves and parsley sprigs. Shred chicken, discarding skin and bones. Return to the bowl. Cover to keep warm. Add the zucchini and chopped parsley to the slow cooker. Cook, covered, for 30-40 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in chicken, lemon rind and juice. Season. Cover. Cook for 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in spinach. Serve with bread, if using.

NUTRITION 1582 kJ ENERGY 13g FAT TOTAL 3g SATURATED FAT 9.5g FIBRE 40g PROTEIN 19.5g CARBS (TOTAL)

Pneumococcal disease – immunisation

Summary

Pneumococcal immunisation is recommended for children, especially for babies.

Immunisation is also recommended for people aged 65 years and over, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over and those with a serious underlying medical condition.

In Victoria, pneumococcal vaccines are provided free of charge under the National Immunisation Program for all young children, people aged 65 years and over, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over. Serious reactions to the pneumococcal vaccines are rare.

Pneumococcal disease is caused by the bacterium, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. The infection can cause milder symptoms such as sinusitis or ear infections. More serious complications include inflammation of the brain (meningitis), inflammation of the lungs (pneumonia) or a blood infection (septicaemia).

People in high-risk groups are more likely to become seriously ill or die from pneumococcal disease. Pneumococcal immunisation is recommended for young children, people aged 65

years and over, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and over and those with a serious underlying medical condition. Serious medical conditions include, but are not limited to, chronic heart, kidney and lung disease, diabetes and a weakened immune system.

Immunisation can substantially reduce the risk of infection, especially in young children. Serious side effects or allergic reactions to the pneumococcal vaccine are rare. If you are concerned about your reaction or your child's reaction to any vaccine, see your doctor immediately.

Immunisation against pneumococcal disease Vaccines are available to reduce the risk of pneumococcal disease and immunisation is recommended for people in high-risk groups.

People who should receive the pneumococcal vaccine A number of medical conditions put people at higher risk of pneumococcal disease and people with these conditions require immunisation. Speak with your doctor about whether you (or your child) are at risk. Situations where

immunisation is required include people who have:

- * no spleen or have a spleen with poor function
 - a weakened immune system - includes people with kidney failure, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), * people receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy,
 - * people who have received a transplant or people with a genetic immune deficiency leakage of fluid from around the spine and brain (cerebrospinal fluid)
 - * cochlear implants
 - * shunts in the brain
 - * heart disease
 - * lung disease (including people who smoke)
 - * diabetes
 - * down syndrome
 - * chronic liver disease
 - * alcoholism
 - * been born prematurely (less than 28 weeks gestation).
- People who should not receive the pneumococcal vaccine** The pneumococcal vaccine should not be given to people who have had:
- * a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) after any earlier dose of pneumococcal vaccine
 - * a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine.
- Immunisation against pneumococcal disease for**

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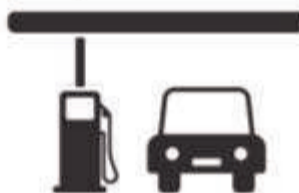
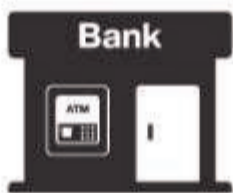


Australian Government

OFFICIAL MEDICAL ADVICE

Coronavirus: You must take action to save lives in your community.

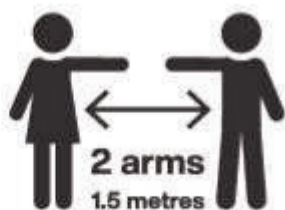
Stay at home unless absolutely necessary. Banks, supermarkets/groceries, petrol stations, medical services and suppliers will remain open. You must avoid non-essential travel.



If you can, work from home. If going to work, avoid groups. Use phones for meetings and stop handshaking. Tap to pay where possible instead of using cash.



You must stay 2 arms lengths away from others and wash your hands for 20 seconds.



Exercise away from others.




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The Emergency Measures Act



On 24 March 2020 the NSW Parliament passed the COVID-19 Legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020 and received assent on 25 March 2020. The Emergency Measures Act is part of the State Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Act addresses various areas including Civil and Administrative matters, Local Government administration and required authorisations under the NSW Constitution Act 1902 to streamline the Governor assent processes for legislative instruments. Specifically with respect to real estate, the Emergency Measures Act enables the Minister under certain occupancy legislation to make regulations prohibiting the usual powers of a landlord or owner to recover possession of premises or terminate leases, in particular

circumstances and across multiple sectors. The new regulation making powers apply under the Retail Leases Act 1994 (NSW), the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 (NSW), the Boarding Houses Act 2012 (NSW), the Residential (Land Lease) Communities Act 2013 (NSW), the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1990 (NSW) and any other Act relating to the leasing of premises or land for residential or commercial purposes. At the time of writing, no such regulations have been made. Broadly speaking, the Emergency Measures Act enable regulations to be made under the Relevant Acts which:

- prohibit the recovery of possession of premises by a landlord or owner of premises;

prohibit the termination of a lease or tenancy by a landlord or owner; regulate or prevent the exercise or enforcement of another right of a landlord or owner; or exempt a tenant or class of tenants from the operation of a provision of the Relevant Act or any agreement relating to the leasing or licensing of premises.

These regulations can only be made (upon the recommendation of the Minister to the Governor) in circumstances where:

- Parliament is not sitting, and is unlikely to sit within two weeks after the regulations are made; and in the Minister's opinion, the regulations are reasonable to protect the health, safety and welfare of lessees under the Act. Regulations made under this section of the Act, expire six months after the regulation commences or an earlier date decided by Parliament (by resolution of either House of Parliament).

Stay safe
Cheers, Kerrie



Tenant's obligation to pay rent

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, Government have imposed obligations to protect the health of the community. Unfortunately, this has adversely impacted the Australian economy. There is currently a lot of discussion regarding the potential difficulty that tenants will face if they lose their jobs and are unable to pay the rent on their properties. "Our fear is that Government will legislate to remove tenant's obligation to pay their rent," says Tim McKibbin, REINSW CEO. "This is concept fundamentally flawed." "By removing the obligation of a tenant to pay rent, merely

transfers the difficult financial circumstances of the tenant to the landlord," says McKibbin.

- Landlords have expenses: rates, water, strata fees, maintenance and mortgage repayments to name a few. If landlords are required to absorb these expenses, then effectively the Government is asking the landlord to provide social housing.
- It has been suggested that the major banks may give mortgage holders a holiday from making loan

repayments if they are suffering financial stress. Whilst that sounds like an attractive option, the landlord is still paying interest on the loan, and that is compounding each month. Paying interest on the interest charged. There is nothing free being offered by the banks.

- Once the opportunity to avoid paying rent is made available, some tenants who do not require assistance may see the opportunity to avoid their contractual obligations. It is difficult to see how a process to expeditiously assess and assist the needy whilst avoiding the opportunist.
- It is a fallacy that all landlords are wealthy. 80% of landlords own only one property. That property is typically mortgaged and the landlord is either making loan repayments, or alternatively the property is owned by a retiree who depends on the income for their

expenses. By removing the requirement to pay rent, it puts the landlord in financial stress. What is needed is Government to assist and enable the Tenant to pay the rent.

- The life-blood of all economies is the flow of money, if the money stops flowing then the economy dies. A better solution is for the Federal Government to provide tenants with assistance to pay the rent and allow the money to move thus keeping the economy active.
- The policy of granting tenants the right not to pay rent - erroneously assumes that the landlord has not lost their job!

Water usage charges

Water usage charges are only payable by the tenant when the premises is separately metered and certain water efficiency measures are in place.

Water. It's a precious commodity. And it can be expensive - which explains why landlords are keen to pass usage charges on to their tenants whenever possible. But, in the past, charging tenants for water usage has been anything but simple. "The on-charging of water usage has been fraught with difficulty," Sandra McGee, Rental Manager at Starr Partners Merrylands and member of the REINSW Property Management Chapter Committee, said.

"In the case of a single premises, it was straightforward. But sometimes there's just one invoice that applies to two or more premises; for example, a main residence with the primary meter and a granny flat with a sub-meter. That's when things became complex, because the property manager or the landlord had to attend the premises to read the meters. "In some instances, the local council or water authority provides invoices for the separate premises, but in many other cases they don't. It has always added an extra layer of complexity to our role as property managers." Property managers now have more clarity about when landlords can charge for water usage and when they can't. Importantly, tenants now have more consistency when it comes to the payment of water usage charges.

What was required prior to 23 March 2020? Section 39 of the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 (NSW) sets out the circumstances in which water usage charges are payable by the tenant. Specifically, that the premises must be "separately metered".

However, there was no guidance as to what "separately metered" actually means. Charging tenants for water usage can pose problems. There are many residential properties throughout New South Wales - including granny flats, villas and townhouses - with secondary water meters that have been installed to measure the water usage separately to that of the main residence, but they aren't read by the water supply authority. By way of example, consider the circumstance of a main residence with a granny flat, each leased to separate tenants. While the meter for the main residence is read and a bill is levied, the bill includes the combined water usage of both the main residence and the granny flat. There's no separate invoice for the granny flat.

This has meant that the property manager had to physically attend the property, read both meters and then calculate the water usage applicable to each. Separate invoices had to then be raised for both residences.

In short, the supplier's bill could not be used for either property, as the reading from the main meter applied to water usage for both the main residence and the granny flat. This was an unworkable situation, both in terms of the inconvenience of having to attend the property on a quarterly basis and the inaccuracy of on-charging, as the property manager's meter reading was always out of sync with the supplier's reading.

What's changed?

On and from 23 March 2020, a new definition for "separately metered" has been added to section 3 of the Residential Tenancies Act. The new definition applies to section 39 and means that water can now only be charged to the tenant where a separate meter is installed measuring supply to the tenant's premises and a separate bill is issued by the water supply authority. In addition, in accordance with section 39, all of the following must be satisfied:

The premises must have compliant water efficiency measures installed (as prescribed by clause 10 of the Residential Tenancy Regulation 2019 (NSW))

- The tenant must have received a copy of the part of the water supply authority's bill setting out the charges or other evidence of the cost of water they have used
- The tenant must have been given at least 21 days to pay the water usage charges
- The landlord must have requested payment not later than three months after the issue of the water supply authority's bill. Clause 10 of

the Residential Tenancies Regulation sets out that the following water efficiency measures that are necessary in a premises:

- Shower heads with a maximum flow rate of nine litres per minute
- Dual flush toilets with a minimum three-star rating (on and from 23 March 2025)
- Cold water taps and single mixer taps for kitchen sinks and bathroom basins with a maximum flow rate of nine litres per minute. Further, the premises must be checked and any leaking taps or toilets fixed at the start of the tenancy and when water efficiency measures are installed, repaired or upgraded.

The amendments in practice

Sandra said that REINSW worked with NSW Fair Trading to develop the definition of "separately metered". "The definition now addresses some of the issues property managers face when charging tenants for water and other utility charges," she said.

"Where there is no separate meter for an individual residence that is read by the water supply authority, how much can be charged? "The amendment means that water will now only be able to be charged where there is a separate meter installed measuring supply to the tenant's premises and a separate bill is issued by the water supply authority.

"Property managers may no longer be required to physically attend the premises to read the meter or calculate the correct amount payable from a single invoice issued for multiple premises." On its face, this is a real win in terms of day-to-day practice for property managers, but Sandra cautioned that there are still some practical issues that need to be navigated. "Section 39(2) says we need to supply a copy of the water supply authority's bill or 'other evidence of the cost of water used by the tenant'," she said.

"However, the legislation provides no guidance as to what this 'other evidence' might be, so REINSW sought advice from NSW Fair Trading."

NSW Fair Trading has advised REINSW that the definition of "separately metered" in section 3 must be read together with section 39. An important element of the new definition is that the meter must allow a separate bill to be issued by the supplier for the charges.

"This means that a landlord or [property manager] can only rely on a revenue meter installed at the rented property to be able to pass on water usage charges to the tenant, as this is the meter that is read by the water supply authority for billing purposes," the advice set out.

The advice goes on to say that "relying on 'other evidence' to pass on water usage charges to the tenant under section 39(2) will likely conflict with the Act."

"On the basis of this advice from NSW Fair Trading, property managers should only pass water usage charges on to tenants where a separate bill is issued by the water supply authority," Sandra said.

When it comes to the water efficiency measures installed at the premises, Sandra urged property managers to closely monitor compliance.

"At the start of every residential tenancy agreement and whenever water efficiency measures are installed, repaired or upgraded, clause 10(d) of the Residential Tenancies Regulation requires that the premises are checked and any leaking taps or toilets are fixed," she said.

REINSW has received advice from NSW Fair Trading that there is no requirement for the landlord to use a qualified plumber to check water efficiency measures for the purposes of clause 10(d). Rather, it's up to the landlord or their property manager to determine how they will comply, so water usage charges are able to be passed on to the tenant. However, a qualified plumber is required if plumbing and/or drainage work is required. Sandra noted this advice from NSW Fair Trading, but said that best practice is to have all water efficiency measures checked by a qualified plumber at the end of every lease to ensure they continue to be compliant.

"By doing this, you can be sure that everything is in working order and there are no impediments to passing on water usage charges to the tenant," she said.

"In circumstances where a tenant has removed a water efficiency measure - for example, they've changed the shower head - the cost of repair can be charged to the tenant or may become part of any bond claim." In the case of installing dual flush toilets, Sandra advised property managers to start planning now.

"The deadline is 23 March 2025, but don't wait - start talking to your landlords today," she said. "If a property under your management becomes vacant, have the new dual flush toilet installed as a priority. The last thing you want is to find yourself in where you have tenanted premises with a single toilet and you're having to hire a 'port-a-loo' while the installation is completed."



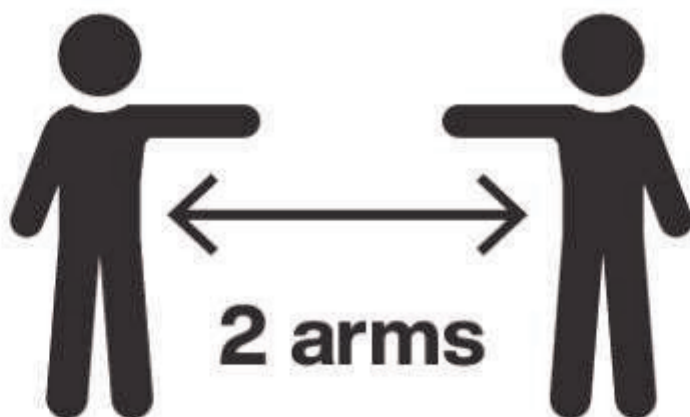
Australian Government

OFFICIAL MEDICAL ADVICE

Coronavirus: what is social distancing?

Keeping a distance of two arms lengths (1.5 metres) from others where you can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Including in your home, work and public spaces.

Where it's not practical to distance (such as on a train or bus) practise good hygiene as always.



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Coronavirus Info Line

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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

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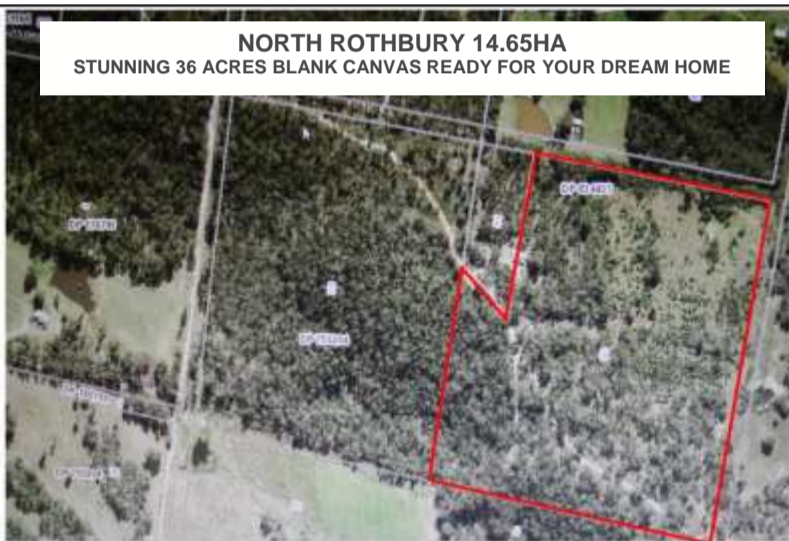
Large modern family home

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.

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wellbeing of the whole community, including children.

“We are in the midst of a pandemic, and as a government we don’t want to add to the fear in the community, but we need to ensure children who are attending school online are not being exposed to this insipid risk,” Mr Elliott said.

“While we have seen most of the community band together to work through these difficult times, I’m sickened by the thought of predators using a crisis to exploit our most vulnerable.

“The activities of parents and carers will be supported by dedicated officers who are ready to respond to reported criminal or inappropriate activities,” Mr Elliott said.

Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Squad Commander, Detective Superintendent John Kerlatec, said internet usage has already increased and this is a timely reminder for all parents to keep an eye on what their children are doing online.

“With the current restrictions in place and school holidays starting next week, we know more children will be spending time indoors at home, which often includes activities on devices and on the internet,” Det Supt Kerlatec said.

“While online activities can include accessing education material, we are encouraging parents to remain vigilant and monitor their usage, including what websites they are visiting, and who they may be speaking with.

“Not only should young

people be very careful about providing personal information details to a person they only know in an online environment, they should never organise to meet, as doing so may place them at further risk of harm.

“If they encounter something or someone they are not comfortable with, we encourage them to speak to a person they trust, who can then let our investigators know,” Det Supt Kerlatec said.

With the number of online communication applications increasing, it is very important to speak to children about the dangers associated with online conversations.

“If you or your child ever come across any concerning material online, we would encourage you to contact local police immediately,” Det Supt Kerlatec said.

“We have specialist officers that investigate the sexual exploitation of children online and via telecommunication systems, and we can only help if the incidents are reported.”

Safe internet use – tips for parents and carers:

- Monitor how much time your child spends on the internet, what websites they are visiting and who they may be speaking to.
- Ensure you are able to access your child’s email and social media accounts and randomly check the contents.
- Remind children to never send pictures of themselves to anyone they don’t know and never place a full profile and picture anywhere on the internet.
- Remind children to never

give out personal information, including full name, home address, phone number or school, over the internet.

- Ensure children never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone that they have only ever chatted with on the internet.
- Let your children know they can tell parents or another responsible adult about any contact that makes them feel uncomfortable

More information and educational packages for parents and children are available from ThinkUKnow, a multi-agency program designed to educate and promote cyber safety: <https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/>

Additional information can be accessed via the eSafety website: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

The Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Squad is comprised of detectives who are specially trained to investigate matters against children and adults, including sexual assault, serious physical abuse, and extreme cases of neglect.

Anyone with concerns about suspected child abuse or exploitation should call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page: <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>

Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. People should not report crime information via our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Parents urged to remind children about online safety during COVID-19 restrictions
 Thursday, 02 April 2020
 10:03:36 AM
 The NSW Police Force is urging parents and carers to remind their children about online safety during the current COVID-19 restrictions and upcoming school holidays.

With the community spending more time indoors and at home following the shutdown of all non-essential services and direction to self-isolate, police are encouraging parents to speak to their children about their activities online.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, David Elliott, wants parents to feel reassured that during this crisis everything is being done to protect the

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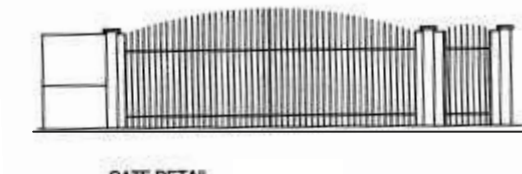
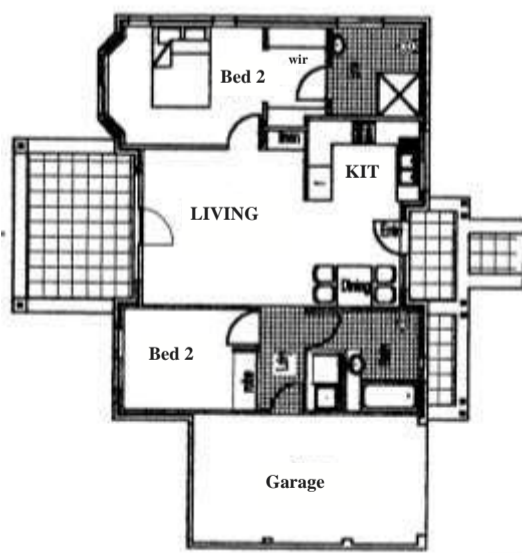
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For Sale



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BRANXTON SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"

Unit 18 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"

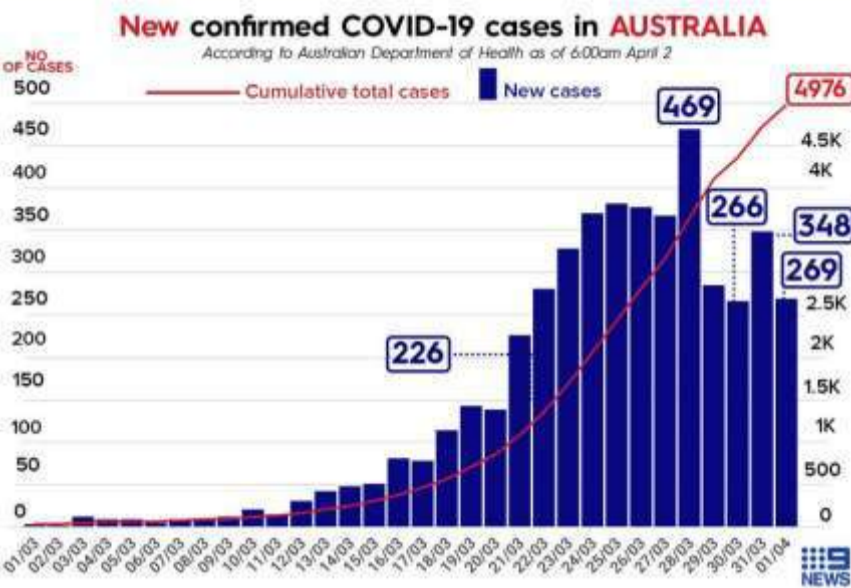
This heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit has an ensuite to the main bedroom, a lock-up garage & your own private courtyard. It also feature security gating. The unit is next to Branxton Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just short drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.

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Rural towns under virus threat from city residents' exodus, country doctors fear



By Richard Wood • Senior Journalist Nine News
 12:59pm Apr 2, 2020
 Cordoning off rural shires may be necessary to stem the risk of coronavirus breaking out in vulnerable communities, a New South Wales country GP has warned.



Despite government appeals to remain at home, city folk are continuing to flock to the country, Dr Aniello Iannuzzi, a GP at Coonabarabran in the state's central west, told nine.com.au.au. Many head to towns and hamlets that have populations of older people served by limited medical facilities, including a lack of ventilators. Dr Iannuzzi said people had been coming to Coonabarabran to stay in rental

accommodation, farms and holiday properties. Some had made the six hour drive from Sydney or Newcastle to the town that has 2500 residents. Dr Iannuzzi, who is also the shire deputy mayor, is concerned the sudden influx increases the risk of a virus outbreak in his community. He says he has seen a noticeable spike in people from outside the local area at his surgery. "I can understand why they are doing this. But the

reality is that smaller rural hospitals are not designed or geared up for ventilated patients and this is going to be a scary thing if COVID-19 breaks out in these small towns," he said. Coonabarabran has a local hospital with a small emergency department, there is no doctor on site. Doctors are on call and attend when required. Dr Iannuzzi said it often has only one or two nurses working there and would be hard pressed to treat an

large influx of patients from a pandemic such as coronavirus. "There is also a lack of medical equipment – not just ventilators – in many rural hospitals. Some of the money spend on this needs to be redirected to country areas," he said. Dr Iannuzzi and others are now flagging the closure of shire borders to protect rural communities. He said closing state borders can not guarantee the safety of some communities. "If you close a state border it doesn't stop people jumping off cruise ships or aircraft and coming out to small towns that aren't equipped to deal with COVID-19," he said. Rural doctors' representatives have warned that coronavirus is not just a threat to city folk.

"Cases of coronavirus have already been confirmed in numerous rural communities," Dr Adam Coltzau, who is leading the COVID-19 response for the Rural Doctors Association of Australia and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, said. "But some rural Australians are still walking around in La-La Land, thinking COVID-19 is only a big city issue."

In Queensland there have been reports of a backlash by locals against the influx of city dwellers. Tyres have reportedly been slashed in some cases amid panic travellers may be spreading COVID-19. North Queensland federal politicians have also urged the state government to close the region in a bid to slow the spread of the virus.

Photo above: Some Sydneysiders are driving hours to the NSW Central West as the virus grows in the city. But rural doctors are concerned.



Lions 'Lap the Map' for Diabetes — Postponed

The Lions Club of Brantxton Lap the Map event scheduled for the 29th March 2020 has been postponed due to concerns about the COVID - 19 virus, however, there is still the opportunity to put into practice

the healthy lifestyle choices which reduce the prevalence of Diabetes. These include:

- Regular physical activity;
- Maintaining a healthy weight;
- Making healthy food choices;
- Managing blood pressure;
- Managing cholesterol levels; and
- Not smoking.

Over 1.3 million Australians have diabetes, and an estimated 2 million are at high risk of developing the condition - and these numbers are increasing rapidly every day in communities across the country. Diabetes doesn't discriminate, and rates are rising for the young and old, men and women, and across a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

Fast facts
 Diabetes is recognised as the world's fastest growing chronic condition. One in 11 adults world-wide is confirmed as having diabetes (415 million). 12 per cent of global health expenditure is spent on diabetes (USD\$673 billion). Every six seconds globally, a person dies from diabetes. Diabetes is one of Lions' 5 key focus areas in 2020, so this event will go ahead once the current health environment returns to normal. If you wish to find out more about other Brantxton Lions' activities, please contact Brian Thomas on 0417 282 440.

GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE ACTION ON PRICE GOUGING

Shadow Minister for Consumer Protection Julia Finn has called on the NSW Government to take drastic steps to prevent price gouging for essential products like toilet paper and hand sanitiser. Hoarders have been reselling toilet paper, hand sanitiser and surgical masks for huge mark-ups online and now independent small retailers across NSW have reportedly started marking up prices.

"Price gouging on essential products must stop. Our community cannot stay healthy if they cannot afford the basics like toilet paper and hand sanitiser," Ms Finn said. "It is clear the Berejiklian Government needs to step up and introduce a temporary restriction on price gouging for these essential items. The health and well-being of our community is at stake."

The NSW Government previously introduced legislation to stop online ticket scalpers from reselling concert tickets for more than 10 per cent over their original listed price. "If the Government can stop ticket sellers price gouging, then surely they can take the

Emergency Phone Numbers

<p>Dial 000 FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED</p> <p>For non-life threatening calls..... Police Assistance Line (PAL)..... 131 444</p>	<p>Police</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Brantxton.....</td><td>4938 1244</td></tr> <tr><td>Lochinvar....</td><td>4930 7209</td></tr> <tr><td>Ambulance...</td><td>131 233</td></tr> <tr><td>NSW Fire Brigade</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brantxton.....</td><td>4938 3396</td></tr> </table> <p>Rural Fire Brigades</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Belford.....</td><td>6574 7149</td></tr> <tr><td>Broke.....</td><td>6579 1491</td></tr> <tr><td>Greta.....</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> <tr><td>Bishops Bdg</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> <tr><td>Nth R'bury...</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> <tr><td>Rothbury....</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> <tr><td>Pokolbin....</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> <tr><td>Rothbury....</td><td>4991 1733</td></tr> <tr><td>Bishops Bdg</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> <tr><td>Nth R'bury...</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> <tr><td>Rothbury....</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> <tr><td>Pokolbin....</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> <tr><td>Rothbury....</td><td>4991 1733</td></tr> <tr><td>Scotts.....</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Flat.....</td><td>6575 1200</td></tr> <tr><td>Central.....</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>(Cessnock)...</td><td>4015 0000</td></tr> </table>	Brantxton.....	4938 1244	Lochinvar....	4930 7209	Ambulance...	131 233	NSW Fire Brigade		Brantxton.....	4938 3396	Belford.....	6574 7149	Broke.....	6579 1491	Greta.....	4015 0000	Bishops Bdg	4015 0000	Nth R'bury...	4015 0000	Rothbury....	4015 0000	Pokolbin....	4015 0000	Rothbury....	4991 1733	Bishops Bdg	4015 0000	Nth R'bury...	4015 0000	Rothbury....	4015 0000	Pokolbin....	4015 0000	Rothbury....	4991 1733	Scotts.....		Flat.....	6575 1200	Central.....		(Cessnock)...	4015 0000	<p>Electricity Energy Australia..... 131 388</p> <p>Hospitals</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Maitland...</td><td>4939 2000</td></tr> <tr><td>Cessnock...</td><td>4991 0555</td></tr> <tr><td>Singleton..</td><td>6572 2799</td></tr> <tr><td>SES.....</td><td>132 500</td></tr> </table> <p>Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000</p> <p>Poisons Info 131 126</p> <p>Hunter Water 1300 657 000</p> <p>Ausgrid 131 388</p> <p>Gas Emergencies . 131 909</p> <p>Lifeline131 114</p> <p>Mental Health Line 1800 011 511</p> <p>Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609</p> <p>Centrelink Self Service 136 240</p> <p>Medicare 132 011</p> <p>Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483</p>	Maitland...	4939 2000	Cessnock...	4991 0555	Singleton..	6572 2799	SES	132 500
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PLEASE CHECK WITH CESSNOCK CITY TOASTMASTERS TO ASCERTAIN IF IT

Public Speaking Workshop

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




<p>Venue Cessnock Leagues Club</p> <p>When From Monday 20th April 2020</p> <p>Time 7 to 9 pm</p> <p>All course material included in cost</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">To enquire contact Anna 4990 4093 Anna.vannetten@bigpond.com www.cessnock.toastmastersclubs.org</p>
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Limited places available!

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

Cessnock City Toastmasters WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE
www.toastmasters.org



BRANXTON CROQUET CLUB

IMPROVE YOUR BODY AND MIND

SATURDAY AND TUESDAY FROM 9a.m.

John Rose Avenue, Brantxton



Greta Museum

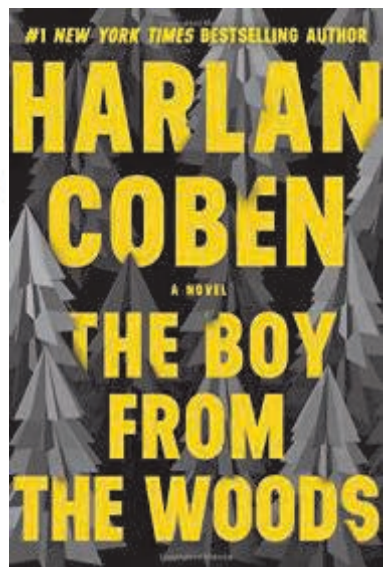
Continues to open and exhibit Army and Migrant Camp photos and memorabilia, as well as coal mining, sporting and some family histories, and artefacts, from the local area's past.

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

Greta Workers Sport &
Recreation Club Ltd/
Miller Park Sports Club
2 West Street Greta &
6 Maitland Street
Branxton

As we enter into challenging times in the Club industry, our thoughts are with the whole community & with practices now in force following the guidance of the Australian Government & Health Authorities, we can only sit this out until restrictions have been lifted.

We urge you all to stay safe, and we look forward to having beer, a bet and a good laugh with you all once we re-open! See you all in the near future.



does Crash after a brief visit to Matthew in which he tearfully confesses his guilt about the bad stuff he did to Naomi. This second disappearance veers into more obviously criminal territory with the arrival of a ransom note that demands, not money, but the allegedly incriminating videotapes of Rusty Eggers that Dash and Delia Maynard have had squirreled away for 30 years. The tapes link Rusty to a forgotten and forgettable homicide and add a paranoid new ripped-from-the-headlines dimension to the author's formidable range. Readers who can tune out all the subplots will find the kidnappers easy to spot, but Coben finds room for three climactic surprises, one of them a honey. The crafty Coben knows how to weave a compelling story with intriguing characters, and Wilde is one of his best. Wilde's journey to search for answers not only for the people he cares about, but his own personal journey, provides an intriguing plot. The supporting characters also shine. Once the big reveal happens, it would be the end for most stories, but Coben has just gotten started. The narrative veers into such unexpected directions that even a true thriller aficionado will not see the multiple surprises the ending delivers. Coben's name on the book cover continues to mean quality.

notice his agitation. But Hester, taking the time from her criminal defense of financial consultant Simon Greene (*Run Away*, 2019) to worm the details out of him, asks Wilde to lend a hand, and sure enough, Wilde, unearthing an unsavory backstory that links Naomi to bullying classmate Crash Maynard, whose TV producer father, Dash Maynard, is close friends with reality TV star-turned-presidential hopeful Rusty Eggers, finds Naomi hale and hearty. Everything's hunky-dory for one week, and then she disappears again. And this time, so

Now that Coben's added politics to his heady brew, expect sex and religion to join the mix.
Coben's latest darkest-suburbs thriller sets a decidedly offbeat detective on the trail of a crime with overtones unmistakably redolent of once and future presidential elections. Wilde is called Wilde because nobody's known his real name from the moment a pair of hikers found him foraging for himself in Ramapo Mountain State Forest 24 years ago. Now over 40, he's had experience as both a lost boy and a private investigator. That makes him an obvious person to help when his godson, Sweet Water High School student Matthew Crimstein, expresses concern to his grandmother, attorney Hester Crimstein, that his bullied classmate Naomi Pine has gone missing. Matthew doesn't really want anyone to help. He doesn't even want anyone to



Harlan Coben

Harlan Coben (born January 4, 1962) is an American writer of mystery novels and thrillers. The plots of his novels often involve the resurfacing of unresolved or misinterpreted events in the past, murders, or fatal accidents and have multiple twists. Among his novels are two series, each involving the same protagonist set in and around New York and New Jersey; some characters appear in both. Early life and education
Coben was born into a Jewish family in Newark, New Jersey, and was raised in Livingston, where he graduated from Livingston High School, with his childhood friend and future politician Chris Christie. While studying political science at Amherst College, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity,

along with the writer Dan Brown. Career
After Amherst, Coben worked in the travel industry, in a company owned by his grandfather. Coben was in his senior year at college when he realized he wanted to write. His first book was accepted for publication when he was twenty-six. His thriller *Play Dead* was published in 1990, followed by *Miracle Cure* in 1991. He then began writing a series of thrillers featuring a former basketball player turned sports agent, Myron Bolitar, who often finds himself investigating murders involving his clients. Coben has won an Edgar Award, a Shamus Award and an Anthony Award. He wrote a short story, "The Key to My Father," which appeared on June 15, 2003. *Tell No One*, his first stand-alone thriller since the creation of the Myron Bolitar series in 1995, was published in 2001. Director Guillaume Canet made a French-language film based on the book, titled *Ne le dis à personne*, in 2006. Coben followed *Tell No One* with nine more

stand-alone novels. His novel *Hold Tight*, released on April 15, 2008, was his first book to debut at number 1 on the *New York Times* Best Seller list. Personal life
Coben lives in Ridgewood, New Jersey, with his wife, Anne Armstrong-Coben, a pediatrician, and their four children. Television
Coben's 2003 book *No Second Chance* became the basis for the 2015 French miniseries *No Second Chance*. Coben is the creator of the British crime drama television show *The Five*, which first aired on April 2016 on the Sky 1 channel in the United Kingdom. Coben is also the creator of the French-British crime drama television show *Safe*, which premiered in 190 countries on 10 May 2018. His 2015 novel *The Stranger* was adapted for Netflix as *The Stranger* (2020), starring Richard Armitage. His 2007 novel *The Woods* is currently being adapted for Netflix in Poland as *W głębi lasu* where he will serve also as executive producer.

Awards
Coben won the 1996 Anthony Award in the category "Best Paperback Original", for *Deal Breaker*, the first volume of the Myron Bolitar series; it was also nominated for an Edgar Award in the same category. *Fade Away* won the 1997 Shamus Award and the Edgar Award for "Best Paperback Original", was nominated for the Anthony Award and the Barry Award in the same category, and was nominated for a Dilys Award. The following Myron Bolitar novel, *Back Spin*, won the 1998 Barry Award and was nominated for the Dilys Award and the Shamus Award. In 2002, *Tell No One* was nominated for the Anthony Award, the Macavity Award, the Edgar Award and the Barry Award. In 2010, *Live Wire* won the crime fiction award, the RBA Prize for Crime Writing, worth €125,000.

=== Daily Thoughts ===
Old telephone books make ideal personal address books. Simply cross out the names and addresses of people you don't know. - Anon.
"The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when he fills out a job application form." - Stanley J. Randall

The New York Times Best Sellers (5 APRIL 2020)

- Combined Print & E-Book Fiction
- NEW THIS WEEK** THE BOY FROM THE WOODS BY HARLAN COBEN
When a girl goes missing, a private investigator's feral childhood becomes an asset in the search.
 - 58 WEEKS ON THE LIST LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE BY CELESTE NG
An artist opens a quiet town outside Cleveland. Ranked 5 last week
 - NEW THIS WEEK** SMOKE BITTEN by Patricia Briggs
The 12th book in the Mercy Thompson series. The car mechanic who has the ability to turn into a coyote takes on a deadly foe.
 - 80 WEEKS ON THE LIST WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect. Ranked 3 last week
 - NEW THIS WEEK** HIT LIST by Stuart Woods
The 53rd book in the Stone Barrington series. The former N.Y.P.D. detective takes it upon himself to get the target off his back.
 - 9 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. Ranked 4 last week
 - 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST IN FIVE YEARS by Rebecca Serle
A Manhattan lawyer finds herself confronting a vision she had when elements of it come to life on schedule. Ranked 10 last week
 - 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST THE MIRROR & THE LIGHT by Hilary Mantel
The third book in the Wolf Hall trilogy. After Anne Boleyn's execution, Thomas Cromwell's enemies assemble. Ranked 1 last week
 - NEW THIS WEEK** STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER by Rae Carson
The Resistance goes on a new adventure as word of the re-emergence of Emperor
 - NEW THIS WEEK** A CONSPIRACY OF BONES by Kathy Reichs
The 19th book in the Temperance Brennan series. The forensic anthropologist seeks the identity of a corpse missing its face and hands.

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

Because of the current health emergency it is advisable to check with Cessnock City Council

YOUTH WEEK

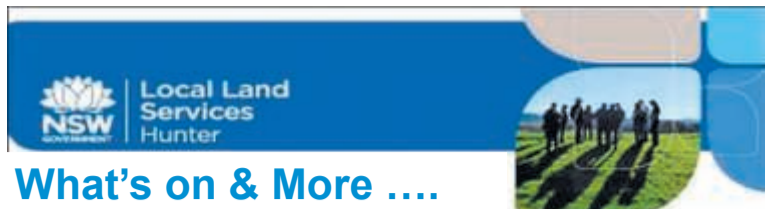
2020

14 MARCH - 11 APRIL

SPEAK UP / BE INVOLVED / GET CONNECTED / HAVE FUN

FOR INFO ON EVENTS VISIT

cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/youth



What's on & More

UNIQUE TURTLE TO THE MANNING GETTING A HELPING HAND

Hunter Local Land Services is working closely with local volunteers and other agencies to help save the rare Manning River Helmeted Turtle. This unique freshwater turtle is found only in the mid-upper reaches of the Manning River. Around 55 million years old - they have been described as a living fossil, and an ancestor to all Australian turtles.



The recent effects of drought and fire exacerbated threats to their survival, restricting turtles to smaller pools of water, with reduced resources, poor water quality and greater exposure to predators. After bushfires affected parts of the catchment, Hunter Local Land Services recently undertook a camera monitoring program to see what wildlife frequented the area, particularly in the area around Bobin.

"Unfortunately, the camera images revealed a number of foxes and other pests including wild dogs in the catchment area," said Biosecurity Team Leader Luke Booth.

"As part of fire recovery efforts in the Manning Great Lakes we are planning a coordinated ground and aerial control program in the district that has been supported by funds from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

"It's important to give surviving wildlife the best opportunity to recover, and the current conditions make it ideal time to remove pests such as foxes."

For the turtle, foxes pose a significant threat from predation and raiding of nests, while habitat disturbance from loss of vegetation and impacts from stock access also pose considerable threats. Other fauna that are under pressure from pests in fire impacted areas include threatened Brush-Tailed Rock Wallaby, Koala, Hastings River Mouse and Rufous Scrub-bird.

Hunter Local Land Services currently has incentive funding available to landholders in the mid-upper reaches of the Manning River to undertake works on their property to improve land management, including along river banks.

Interested landholders can find out more by visiting: <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter/grants-funding-scholarships>

Landholders that believe they have suitable habitat, and are willing to have their waterways surveyed for the Manning River Turtle can contact Andrew Steed from DPIE directly, or Hunter LLS staff Reegan Walker or Rye Gollan (in the Taree LLS office).

Through the *Every Bit Counts* project, LLS are targeting smaller landholders (2-80ha) in these priority areas to identify key habitat areas of the Manning River Turtle and conduct further motion-camera monitoring for the presence of pests species such as foxes that pose a major threat.

Manning River Helmeted Turtles have a distinct yellow stripe along the jaw and neck line, along with two short barbels (whisker-like protrusions under their chin).

Unlike the commonly seen Eastern long-neck turtle, the Manning River Turtle will almost exclusively spend their time in the waterways and are unlikely to be seen crossing large distances overland.

Thanks to the Manning River Turtle Conservation Group, Aussie Ark, Mid Coast Council, and DPIE, whom LLS have been actively working with to promote awareness and education surrounding this ancient turtle. There is also been strong community support to protect this local icon and ensure its long term survival.

If anyone believe they have seen a Manning River Turtle, they are encouraged to try and take a photo and report it to Andrew Steed from the Biodiversity and Conservation Division at: P: 0497 097 834 or 6659 8276 E: andrew.steed@environment.nsw.gov.au info@environment.nsw.gov.au W: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

This project is supported by Hunter Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 25th March 2020

Consignments were lower in number, while the quality was very mixed, with some very plain younger cattle spread throughout the market. There were also pens of well bred younger cattle suitable for the lot feeders and restocker orders along with a supply in prime condition and suitable for the butchers. Approximately 96 cows were offered and the market trended cheaper throughout most classes. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers lost 30c and received from 358c to 480c, as the heavier drafts reached 414c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers trended cheaper by 30c, with prices making from 330c to 380c/kg. The yearling steers to feed and the restocker orders eased 14c, with the medium weights making from 352c to 386c/kg. Yearling heifers also trended cheaper, with the restockers and lot feeders paying from 356c to 370c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers were on average lower yielding this week and prices eased accordingly, as the best B muscles reached 422c/kg. The grown steers and heifers also trended cheaper, with the steer portion easing 15c, while the heifers sold cheaper because of breed and quality. Cows eased 20c to 25c in value, as the plainer 2 scores made from 250c to 276c, while the better finished 3 and 4 score heavy weights made from 240c to 278c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 250c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 24th March 2020

Numbers increased, with the quality mixed, as good runs of cows were penned, with some high yielding drafts available. The majority were young cattle and suitable for the feeder and restocker orders, while good percentages were in prime condition and purchased by the butcher orders. The market was cheaper throughout most categories. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers trended 15c cheaper, however very well bred Angus classes reached 500c, and made from 370c to 500c/kg. The vealer heifers eased 30c, as restockers paid from 334c to 386c/kg. Yearling steers to the feeder and restocker orders trended 14c cheaper, and made from 356c to 414c, as very light drafts reached 460c/kg. The yearling heifers to feed and the restockers sold 12c cheaper, and made from 298c to 388c/kg. The prime conditioned young cattle to the butchers eased 12c, as the best B muscle yearling steer topped at 428c/kg. The older steers and heifers also trended cheaper, with the best steers to the lot feeders and identified with 2 teeth receiving from 350c to 386c/kg. Cows trended 25c/kg cheaper, with the supermarket order not competing this week. The plain 2 scores cows made from 230c to 255c, as the better covered heavy weights ranged from 249c to 273c/kg. Heavy weight bulls eased 15c, with the best topping at 296c/kg. Cow and calf units made \$2200/unit.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 23rd March 2020

There was a slight reduction in numbers with young cattle and cows well represented. Grown cattle were limited in supply. The quality and condition of the offering was fair to good, improving in some classes. The usual processors, and restockers were in attendance along with a little extra competition from feedlot and restockers. With a bit of uncertainty market trends through the young cattle to restock were mostly cheaper. Quality a factor in some significant price changes. Light weight steer vealers to restock were only slightly cheaper. Medium and heavy weights were up to 14c/kg cheaper. Heifer vealers to restock were significantly cheaper. Light weight yearling steers to restockers followed a similar trend, however the better quality lines were least affected. Medium and heavy weight feeder steers saw a firm to dearer market trend with quality improving. Well finished trade heifer yearlings sold to a dearer trend. The feeder weight heifers were a little cheaper. Market trends were firm to cheaper through the cow market with limited competition from processors and very little restocker activity. The trend was as much as 20c/kg cheaper.

Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 24th March 2020

There was a reduced yarding this week, that included a large penning of cows. There was a fair supply of young cattle, however grown cattle were in limited supply. The quality of the offering was mostly good with few secondary quality cattle. Condition was fair to very good in both the yearlings and the cows. There was a reduced gallery of buyers in attendance. Demand was weaker for the most part through the young cattle with less restocker and feedlot participation. This resulted in cheaper trends in the majority of categories. Light and medium weight vealer steers to restock were significantly cheaper. The heavy weights were only slightly affected. Light weight yearling steers experienced cheaper trends, substantial in places. Medium and heavy weight feeder steers suffered a little from the reduced competition, down 5c to 10c/kg, and more in places where condition was greater. There was not a lot of change in the market for feeder heifers with the usual buyers in attendance. Well finished heavy trade heifers were significantly cheaper under limited competition. There were limited supplies of heavy grown steers, the well finished grown heifers much cheaper with quality and competition factors. There was a reduction in competition for cows with market trends cheaper, down 15c/kg on the well finished heavy weights and more on the plainer condition lots. As in previous weeks quite a lot of the better cows were destined for the domestic market

Racing Review & News

TAB agencies closed - but no worries about having a bet

By Ben Dorries
TAB agencies throughout Australia have been temporarily closed by government order as a result of the coronavirus pandemic - but there's no worries about having a bet. The TAB's Glenn Munsie provided an update to punters via Twitter, including advice on the different ways you can still have a bet through the TAB. The phone betting service has also been beefed up and Munsie has provided advice on how to collect prior winning tickets.

Victoria Racing Club stands down majority of staff - what about Melbourne Cup?

The prestigious Victoria Racing Club is standing down the majority of its staff to try to ensure its sustainability as the coronavirus pandemic sweeps the world. But VRC chief executive Neil Wilson said the club was still planning for the Melbourne Cup carnival to go ahead "in some shape as it has done for almost 160 years." The VRC, which has the Melbourne Cup week as the jewel in its racing crown, has now activated a business-wide operational model to try to ensure jobs aren't lost entirely during

uncertain times. They are implementing a number of measures, including:

- * Standing down the majority of staff that was effective from Monday 30th March until Friday 1st May 2020 with team members encouraged to use annual and long service leave where they can. An additional two weeks of annual leave will be advanced to staff should leave balances be exhausted.

- * Retaining a very small team to execute business critical tasks.
- * Reducing the Executive Team's working week to three days with a reduction in their rate of pay.

VRC CEO Neil Wilson said standing down staff was a tough difficult decision but was necessary to ensure the sustainability and forward positioning of the Club through the current

COVID-19 health crisis. "This has been an incredibly difficult decision and one that will impact our entire team at the VRC," Mr Wilson said. "We have explored every option and we believe this model will best allow our people and the club to withstand these unprecedented times and resume regular activity as soon as this situation passes." Wilson said the VRC was planning for the Melbourne Cup Carnival, to go ahead "in some shape as it has done for almost 160 years." "We are looking at a number of different scenarios so that we can emerge from this crisis and remain one of the nation's greatest events that bolsters not only Victoria's tourism, hospitality and retail sectors but the spirits of a nation," Wilson said. "The Melbourne Cup Carnival is an iconic Australian event, generating thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of

dollars for the economy every year." All staff will remain employees of the VRC and will be able to access their available annual leave and long-service leave entitlements as well as receiving other offers of support from the Club during this time. They will also continue to accrue both continuity of service and all leave entitlements during the stand down. "Our first priority right now is to look after our people, so they can take care of themselves and their families, as we work our way through this unprecedented situation," Wilson said. "We will spend the next five weeks monitoring developments and formulating a plan for beyond the 1st of May if required, keeping our people, members, corporate partners and the broader industry regularly informed throughout this period."

Lindsay Park Guineas runners disqualified

Two Bendigo Guineas runners from the Lindsay Park stable have been disqualified from the race after they were incorrectly saddled. The error was not picked up by the starters when checking the brands before the race while Lindsay Park co-trainer Tom Dabernig was fined \$3000 for the mistake. Racing Victoria deputy chief steward Rob Montgomery said Independent Road and Peidra ran in last Saturday's race and were later disqualified after each had finished near the tail of the field. Regan Bayliss was to ride Independent Road but he ended up on Peidra. Jye McNeil was booked for Peidra and partnered

Independent Road. Both horses finished unplaced in the race won by Riddle Me That. The error wasn't picked up until after the running of the Golden Mile when Dabernig self-reported to stewards. "Mr Dabernig came and reported it to us after race eight after one of his staff reported it to him," Montgomery said. "It was an honest mistake but a costly one." Montgomery said the starters, Corey Mallyon and Errol Gath, would be referred to RV's human resources department.

=== Daily Thoughts ===
"Did you ever walk in a room and forget why you walked in? I think that's how dogs spend their lives."
- Sue Murphy.

The toughest part of a diet isn't watching what you eat. It's watching what other people eat.
- Anon

click's

Solutions

MOVIE REVIEW

Top 10 Movies of 2019 (Rated by TIME)

Coronavirus is changing how we work. Online scammers are taking advantage

ABC Science ~ By technology reporter Ariel Bogle and Siobhan Heanue

Australians are now working from home offices and kitchen tables as social distancing measures to slow the spread of coronavirus ramp up. But this change to how we work makes us more vulnerable to cybersecurity threats.

Australia's cyber spy agency has warned of scams and phishing attempts, as criminals try and take advantage of the disruption. Scamwatch has also received 94 reports of COVID-19 scams since the beginning of the year, with numbers expected to rise.

Karl Hanmore, the acting head of the Australian Cyber Security Centre — part of the Australian Signals Directorate — said there are already examples of coronavirus-inspired cybercrime.

"I'd be suggesting people be cyber-alert but not cyber-alarmed," he said. "Most importantly, don't click on links you receive via text message or email, especially if they're around the coronavirus." Phishing scams using COVID-19-themed text messages are already circulating in Australia. One of them appears to be sent from "GOV" and shares a link that claims to help people find out where they can get tested for coronavirus.

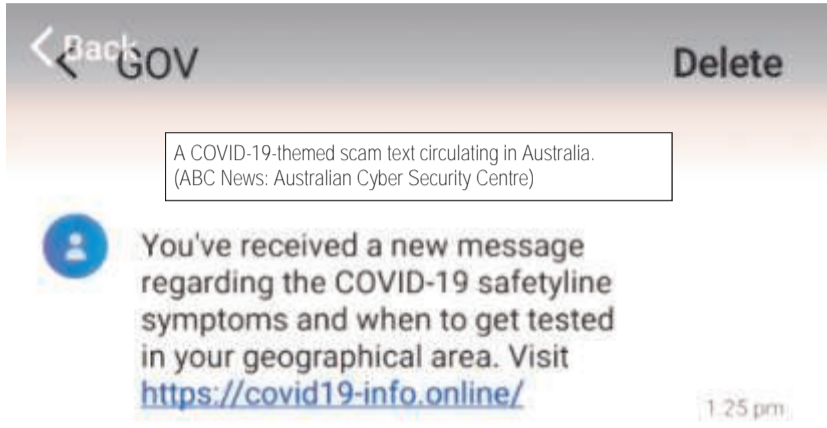
But the link and the sender are fake. Clicking on the link could install malware designed to steal your banking details.

"That's criminals trying to steal your banking details at a time when you're least able to protect yourself," says Mr Hanmore

Healthcare sector at risk
Some critical industries like healthcare may be subject to increased threat of ransomware attacks during the pandemic, among other risks. In the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services has reportedly been targeted in recent weeks.

Criminals may focus on industries people are particularly reliant on, according to Ian Atkinson, director of the eResearch Centre at James Cook University.

"So, you can imagine health, banking, people looking at their



superannuation funds," he said.

"People stressed, doing things quickly in panic mode, that's a great time for a cybercriminal to come in."

Colin Denver is the chief executive of the start-up SpeedX, which makes respiratory virus tests, and has a COVID-19 test in development.

His company already had many staff members working remotely, so he believes they are well prepared.

"Realistically, keeping our workers healthy and keeping our business open is probably the biggest concern," he said. In his view, it's vital the companies which make important components like protective medical equipment or ventilators stay online during the pandemic.

"It's got to be something that is focused on from a much wider level," Mr Denver said.

"[Ensuring] all the companies that are servicing the increased need for healthcare are able to operate during these times."

Phishing and the 'human firewall'

To protect against the potential for "increased opportunism from bad actors", businesses should undertake basic cyber hygiene, such as patching servers, according to the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Mr Hanmore.

He also recommends people visit cyber.gov.au for warnings and updates. David Eaton, who helps lead cybersecurity at the IT company Datacom, helps manage the risks faced by more than 6 thousand employees around the world.

From last Monday, more than 80 per cent of them will work from home. He said Datacom views employees as "a human firewall" against phishing scams and other attacks

— something that may become more challenging as employees are out of the office.

"One of the key defence mechanisms against phishing is a peer who sits alongside you," he said.

"You can say, 'look at this, what do you think I should do?' That peer is no longer there."

When employees work from home, here are some security practices he recommends businesses consider:

Alerting employees about the potential for phishing

"Part of this is ensuring staff know how to spot a phishing email," Mr Eaton said.

This could include tell-tale signs, like odd email addresses or malicious links.

He suggested circulating a sample COVID-19 phish to employees, so they have some idea of what to spot.

Using multi-factor authentication

When they're at home, workers may have to identify themselves to online work systems in a new way.

"That requires multi-factor authentication," Mr Eaton said, "to allow us to be comfortable that the employee is who they say they are, regardless of the location they work from."

Multi-factor authentication could include using a separate app to permit entry to online workspaces. In some cases, it may be appropriate for employees to access critical systems via a virtual private network, or VPN, to help ensure the end to end communication is secure.

Patching your computers and locking down home Wi-Fi

Mr Eaton said he recommends that if employees are doing work, they're using a work device. If that's not possible, it's important to ensure the device using the latest software update, has been patched, and is using secure

Wi-Fi.

In other words, while we work from home, workers must ensure their Wi-Fi is locked down — at least password protected.

Deciding on a chain of command

If your team is spread across the country, or even internationally, Mr Eaton suggested it's important to decide how decisions get made in case of online disruption.

For example, can decisions be made entirely via email or should a second "factor" (such as video or phone calls) be required?

"Can the process be subverted by a party wanting to cause disruption?" he asked.

To protect yourself from phishing:

- Don't click on links in emails or messages, or open attachments, from people or organisations you don't know

- Before you click a link, hover over that link to see the actual web address it will take you to (usually shown at the bottom of the browser window)

- If you do not recognise or trust the address, try searching for relevant key terms in a web browser. This way you can find the article, video or webpage without directly clicking on the suspicious link

- If you're not sure, talk through the suspicious message with a friend or family member, or check its legitimacy by contacting the relevant business or organisation (using contact details sourced from the official company website)

A scam email stating you'll receive a payment for staying at home during the #COVID19 crisis is doing the rounds. The attachment titled 'COVID 19 Relief' is malicious – don't open it, delete the email immediately! pic.twitter.com/nRjEzU0aFk — Scamwatch_gov_au (@Scamwatch_gov) March 19, 2020

By Stephanie Zacharek

Every year some colleague or acquaintance will say to me, "This just wasn't a very good year for movies." To which I respond, invariably, "It was a great year for movies!"

There are always terrific movies, because there are still filmmakers who believe in making the most of the medium. The mechanics of how movies get to us is a bigger issue than ever:

Specifically, how much effort are most of us willing to expend to see a movie on the big screen, the canvas filmmakers who are serious about their craft continue to believe in—and want to work in? That drama will continue to unfold. But for now, here are 10 films—plus a clutch of very honorable mentions—that remind us what movies, at their best, can mean.

10. Hustlers

Two exotic dancers (Constance Wu and Jennifer Lopez), both single mothers needing to provide for their families after the 2008 crash, hatch a highly illegal scheme to charm clueless Wall Streeters out of their money. Director Lorene Scafaria's *Hustlers* is lively and funny, as well as a reminder that it's often women—and their children—who suffer most when an economic system driven largely by men collapses. When the going gets tough, the tough ...

9. A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Marielle Heller's beautifully made film isn't a biopic of celebrated children's TV host Fred Rogers. Instead, it shows his ideas in practice, telling the story of an unlikely friendship between Mr. Rogers (Tom Hanks) and a sour journalist (Matthew Rhys) riven with anger issues. Rogers was all about kindness, but Heller's movie highlights another of his tenets: we have to give ourselves permission to feel everything in order to make peace with the things that threaten to tear us apart.

8. Dolemite Is My Name

Eddie Murphy stars as Rudy Ray Moore, the real-life performer who financed and starred in an ultra-low-budget 1975 movie—featuring a flashy hustler named Dolemite—that became both a hit and the stuff of legend. Directed by Craig Brewer, this movie is about ambition taking flight against all odds. It's also pure joy, and as Dolemite himself would tell you, you never kick that out of bed.

7. Knives Out

Writer-director Rian Johnson's ensemble whodunit—about a family fighting over the will of an eccentric mystery writer—is so beautifully made that it skims by in a flash. Ana de Armas gives a wonderful performance as the young woman, a nurse who also happens to be an immigrant, at the heart of the intrigue. This gorgeously layered film is great fun to watch, but it's also perfectly placed in our era. We're killing one another, but with something that's the opposite of kindness.

6. Parasite

Korean director Bong Joon Ho's black comedy-thriller, about an impoverished family who scheme their way into an upper-crust household, artfully explores resentment between the haves and the have-nots.

Even more striking is its deep humanity: both the scammers and the scammed earn our sympathy. *Parasite* is today's answer to filmmaker Jean Renoir's famous line, "The awful thing about life is this: everyone has their reasons."

5. Little Women

Greta Gerwig's verdantly alive adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's evergreen 150-year-old novel—starring Saoirse Ronan as the ambitious and vibrant Jo March—captures the book's spirit and heart. It also cuts to the reason Alcott's ideas still resonate: she knew how it felt to yearn for something more, even when you're not sure what that something more is.

4. Marriage Story

Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson, both astonishing, star as a married couple in the midst of breaking up: To their horror, and ours, their at-first amicable split grows into a monster they had no idea they were capable of creating. This is Noah Baumbach's most emotionally ragged movie, an acknowledgment that compromises aren't nuisances that detract from life; they're the stuff it's built on.

3. Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood

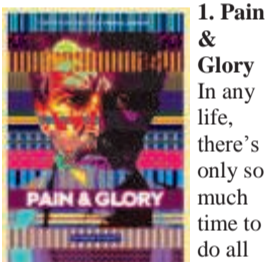
Quentin Tarantino concocts a fantasy in which Sharon Tate—the actor murdered by Manson family members in 1969—gets the much happier ending she deserves. Margot Robbie plays Tate in a small but potent role; she's the patron spirit of a late-1960s Hollywood in which a has-been actor (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his stunt double and buddy (Brad

Pitt) struggle to find their place. This is Tarantino's most affectionately detailed picture, filled with tenderness for a lost Hollywood, and a lost era of filmmaking.

2. The Irishman

The world doesn't need another gangster movie, not even one from Martin Scorsese—or so you may have thought before *The Irishman*. Scorsese's 3½-hour saga is based on the story of real-life low-level mobster Frank Sheeran (played, superbly, by Robert De Niro), who claims to have killed Jimmy Hoffa (a marvelous Al Pacino), the onetime Teamsters president who disappeared in 1975.

For roughly its first two-thirds, *The Irishman* is hugely entertaining. Then it shifts into something far more complex. It's a melancholy mob epic.



1. Pain & Glory

In any life, there's only so much time to do all we want

and need to do. In Pedro Almodóvar's *Pain & Glory*, Antonio Banderas gives the performance of a lifetime as a 60-ish filmmaker Salvador Mallo—a stand-in, more or less, for Almodóvar himself—who's in so much physical pain that he's uncertain whether he'll ever work again. Worse yet, his suffering is so intense that he may not care; instead of life after death, he's settling for death before death, a premature leave-taking that's a betrayal not just of his gifts, but of the time on earth any of us are given. But an anniversary screening of one of his older films sets off a chain of events that shifts everything: A lost love reappears as if conjured from a dream, and other bits of his past—particularly recollections of his mother, played as a young woman by a radiant Penelope Cruz—reassemble into a joyous, haunting interior monologue that demands to be explored visually, through his art. *Pain & Glory* may be Almodóvar's most resplendent and moving film, a panorama of vibrant paint-box colours and even more intense emotions—and a hymn to the mysterious whatever-it-is that keeps any of us going, in the years, months or days before our bodies betray us.

Learning to swim against the tide of Disappointments

Richard Glover
Broadcaster and Sydney Morning Herald columnist

The Sydney Morning Herald



Leading Australian swimmer Mitch Larkin was until this week training for the Tokyo Olympics. Credit: Getty

There are so many big disappointments, fruits of this virus, that it's important to remember the smaller ones. An example: the 12-year-old girl I heard about this week, recently voted deputy school captain. What fun. She gets to run school assemblies. Except she doesn't. Because there are no school assemblies.

This is not death, of course. Nor is it losing your business or losing your job. It doesn't even cut it compared to that enormously common story: the grandparent/grandchild bond that's been put on hold until the pandemic passes.

But we needn't triage our disappointments. For each of us, the virus will take something away, and – for that person, at least – it will be something important. I think of the young kitchen hand, on the verge of being promoted. Everyone knew it would happen next week, but next week now won't happen. Suddenly it's all Centrelink and uncertainty. Or the stand-up comic who – at this year's Sydney Comedy Festival – was finally getting a go. Except it's been cancelled.

Or the new kid in school who was about to make friends in a fresh neighbourhood, but now it's all on hold, school holidays about to start, and he doesn't know anyone. I feel for people for whom this was their time of opportunity – the moment they were about to step forward and shine. Sometimes, they'd been working up to this point for years. The world, via the virus, then decided it had other plans.

The most obvious example: our Olympians, people who've trained for years with the intention of reaching peak performance precisely *now*. Well, soon. Each stroke in the pool, each sprint around the field, had been marked on a trajectory that took them to Tokyo in July.

Now it doesn't. They have to stop. Recalibrate. When it comes to dotted lines on a graph, there's a different curve we're all watching. On radio this week, I talked to the swimming champion Mitch Larkin, veteran of the 2012 and 2016 Olympics and – until this week – busy training for Tokyo. He was disappointed, he told me, but he understood his was only one disappointment among so many.

It was no bigger for him than for others – like those café workers who, on the day we talked, were losing their jobs. "The more people you speak to, everyone has been affected," Larkin said. "It's important to remember there are people's lives at stake and if we can all do our little bit, it will make a big difference".

He's 26 years old, by the way. It was Mitch's wisdom that started me thinking about that 12-year-old deputy school captain, and how she must be feeling. The small, pleasing opportunity had been given to her, then almost immediately snatched away.

In this nation of 25 million, there must be 25 million of these disappointments: big and small. Self-funded retirees, for example, who are

contemplating a retirement fund, built over decades, that's now been destroyed over the course of a week. "Don't worry, the market will come back," people say, which is good advice, if you have time to wait. That's the trouble. Sometimes it's all about timing.

To borrow a phrase from the Reserve Bank governor, Philip Lowe, we are all trying to build a bridge that will get us over this thing. Some, due to circumstances, will find the bridge challenging to cross. Others will be able to look down from the bridge, viewing those passing disappointments, and find themselves able to endure them.

They'll have their eyes facing forward, watching for that point where the bridge lands us back to safety.

There may even be moments of serendipity. The ache felt for a grandparent, forced to retreat into temporary isolation, may remind the family how much that person was treasured and relied upon; the joy they brought.

The decision to press ahead with study, or a career, or creative ambition in the face of cancellation and disruption may strengthen a person's muscles of resolve in a way that will prove useful later.

The way the virus works – jumping from one person to another – may also remind us of a political truth. When it comes to human society, we're all in this together, we always are – whatever the latest theories of rampant individualism. And, who knows, any one of us may prove to be the new Isaac Newton.

It was while in lockdown during the Great Plague of 1665 that Newton conceived the idea of universal gravitation. And – while doing a little social distancing – he also found himself able to invent differential calculus and knock out a theory of colours.

One historian of the great plague, Stephen Porter, says that despite the terrible loss of life, many communities rapidly revived once the crisis was over.

"Individuals," he wrote, "found that the plague had created opportunities or perhaps a breathing space, even though it had disrupted their lives." My prediction: that 12-year-old student will still have her chance to run something. And, some day, it will be bigger than a school assembly. Like most of us, she'll have navigated the bridge to the other side.

Richard Glover
Richard Glover is the author of 12 books, including the prize-winning memoir "Flesh Wounds". He presents "Drive" on 702 ABC Sydney and the comedy program "Thank God It's Friday" on ABC local radio. For more: www.richardglover.com.au

THE NEWS | No.517 | THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2020 19

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

and

Looney press(?) Lunatic Greens. Rick ranting on again; insulting the ones who have a differing opinion to his. Lunatic press, lunatic Greens .. Oh no! the lunatics have taken over the asylum. Making excuses for SlowMo shows the scope of thinking coming from an inability to think critically for himself. We now have the states going independently of Canberra due to mixed messages and passing the buck to them. To trust SlowMo to step up to the plate is a pipedream. Strong leadership is imperative to help quell the virus. We don't need rhetorically opinionated comments or the watering down of decisions already made (hairdressing ia a prime example of this dangerous back-flip) We need to shut down everything; isn't life more important than money? The economy will recover over time and again flourish as it has before.

To all our health workers who are placing their lives on the line each day they work ... also our police for their tireless effort in supporting the new regulations being imposed in this horrific pandemic.

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

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for ½ hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362
For Rent: Braxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
For Sale: 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 LXTR9 Dual Cab lpg/petrol (WSE547) rego 27/6/20. 156,239 bull bar ute liner canopy silvergrey \$2950 neg. olwynca@gmail.com P: 0249387430
For Sale: Small, almost new, Guinea Pig cage. \$25 P: 0404 499 849
For Sale: Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused. or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on 0458721077
For Sale: Aviary bred Rainbow & Scaly Lorikeets. \$20ea or \$45ea with new cage P: 0421 102 711
For Sale: Alpacas Ph 0400697148
For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

Share Accommodation: East Braxton \$180 + share utilities cost P: 0407 383 026
Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz c170 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Braxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 0413161296 Fred
Work Wanted: Need a house cleaner \$25/hr P: 0488 588 333
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance. P: 4938 3153
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards – rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

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

Dates for your diary >

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
SAT 25 APR 2020 – ANZAC Day
SUN 10 MAY 2020 – Mothers day
TUE 12 MAY 2020 – Braxton/Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, TUE 9 JUN 2020 – Braxton/Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome.

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.

Dates for your diary >

Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information
14 JUL 2020 – 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.
SUN 6 SEPT 2020 – Fathers day
TUE 8 SEPT 2020 – 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 5 OCT 2020 – Labour Day Public Holiday
TUES 13 OCT 2020 – 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.
TUES 10 NOV 2020 – 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.
TUES 8 DEC 2020 – 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.

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.



DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS No. 110 28th Mar 2002 P. 16

Where is it now?



THE above circled shed, that previously resided between the new chemist shop & Russ Watsons' home in Branxton, is still in one piece & is still a functional building (they don't make 'em like they used too!).

The first person to be able to tell me where it is now will win a pass to Cessnock Cinema 3. The advertising on the front reads "Kinkara Tea" & "Mother's Choice Flour" ~ that's a hint.

I will be the sole arbiter of who is the winner as there are some people who know exactly where it is, as they have worked in it. They will be ineligible. Sorry. The photo is courtesy of Elaine & Alister Moss of Branxton. Good Luck.

THE NEWS No. 110 28th Mar 2002 P. 31

Charter members of Branxton Lions Club

THE Branxton Lions Club, who are currently very short of members & who do a great job in our community, have given me a copy of the Charter Roster which is an interesting piece. The Club was chartered on the 11th February, 1957 with eighteen members. The first president was George Robinson who was the Royal Federal Hotel publican; secretary was Robert Maloney, a school teacher of Lower Belford, & charter treasurer was Perc McGuigan of Dalwood. They met on the first & third Wednesday of the month at the Royal Federal Hotel.

The full list of Charter members with their address and classification were:
 N. Andrews, Main Street, Nth Rothbury, Miner. J. Aurisch, 5 Russell Street, Branxton, Coal. A. Brett, Public School, Branxton, School Teacher. R. Burns, Lower Belford, Dairy Farmer. P. Ernst, Branxton, Factory Hand. E. Holz, East Branxton, Butcher. A. Koller, Branxton, Storekeeper. C. Landers, Lower Belford, Dairy Farmer. T. Landers, Lower Belford, Dairy Farmer. R. Maloney, Lower Belford, School Teacher. G. McKenzie, Branxton, Storekeeper. P. McGuigan, Dalwood, Vineyard. W. McDonald, East Branxton, Miner. E. Ninnes, Tulloch Street, Branxton, Public Servant. G. E. Robinson, Royal Federal Hotel, Hotel Keeper. P. Sylvester, High Street, Baker. A. Vitnell, "Tangorin" Branxton, Dairy Farmer. W. Webster, Lower Belford, Dairy Farmer.

Five dairy farmers from Lower Belford ~ that's history in itself.



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 LEGAL DUMPING **131 555**

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



Cancer Council | Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

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 25th 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 Kindergarten Classes for 2020. The Kookaburras, Magpies and Emus have settled beautifully into school life and are adjusting so well to the new remote learning. Thank you to parents for supporting them through their initial transition to school and then towards learning at home. We are a true community at Branxton Public School and times like now make us really appreciate everyone who supports us.

Thank you Newcastle School Portraits for providing these photos a little early for us.

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



The Magpies



The Emu's



DO YOU REMEMBER?

22 THE NEWS No. 359 7 May 2013



■ BPS Year 1 Raffle winners from Term 1



■ The 'poppy wall hanging' that was presented to the school by the Branxton RSL Sub-branch shown with Madi Neville, Abbey Matt, Patrick Andrews & Will McMahon



■ Madeleine Hughes & Abbey Matt laying the wreath



■ Preparing for ANZAC Day march.



■ Mitch & Amy preparing to lay a wreath

WANTED

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

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

UNIT 2
UNIT 10
UNIT 12
UNIT 18



Organic Fungicides

Treating small problems before they become big ones!

Fungicides work best as preventatives rather than cures, so if you notice your plants starting to turn white, grey or brown, take action! Sooty mould, rusts, powdery mildew and black spot are all common fungal diseases in the garden. These treatments are listed in order of intensity - start with a milk spray, but if ineffective move further down the list.

- **Milk spray** - One part full-fat organic milk to ten parts water

- **Bicarb spray** - Two teaspoonfuls bicarbonate of soda, half a teaspoonful of sunflower oil and a drop of biodegradable dishwashing liquid to one litre of water

- **Powdered sulphur, dusting grade** - Simply dust over plants, but not when the temperatures exceed 30 degrees Celsius

- **Lime sulphur spray** - One tablespoon of lime sulphur to one litre of water

Bordeaux spray - Add 100 grams of builders', brickies' or hydrated lime to half a standard plastic bucket of water, stir well. Add 100 grams of copper sulphate to a separate plastic half-bucket of water and stir until dissolved. Then pour the lime water into the copper sulphate water and mix thoroughly. All these treatments need to be reapplied after heavy rain.

Even the most common foods and products can affect you and your plants. It is good practice with any homemade remedy to first spray a test patch on the target crop and wait 24 hours before checking the sprayed foliage for damage, before proceeding.

Liquid v Solid Fertilisers

All fertilisers contain nutrients that make for healthy plant growth, but some are complete plant foods that supply all sixteen essential nutrients, while others target specific needs or deficiencies. Some are designed to be applied as solids while others are applied as liquids.

- **Liquid** fertilisers offer a quick response. The nutrients are almost immediately available to be



absorbed through the roots or leaves, correcting nutrient deficiencies quickly or giving the plant a general boost through the growing season. You need to decide whether to use an inorganic or organic liquid because the results can be vastly different depending on which you choose.

- If you're looking for a slow release general feed over a whole season for a mature tree or pot plant then **solid** fertilisers are ideal. Another advantage if you're time-poor is that they only need to be applied once a year.

Integrated Pest Management

Look at the Pest Triangle to look at the relationship between three things: firstly, the pest (e.g. aphid, black spot, etc), secondly the host (plant) and, thirdly, the environment (the conditions of where the plant, pest or disease is living). If the pest is present on a host and the environment is favourable to the pest, then it will thrive. By altering any one of the three, you can help reduce the impact of the pest.

- Practice:
- Good garden design.
 - Manual removal of insects like snails, slugs and scale.

- Setting traps using beer, pheromones, hessian and soap.
- Watering and feeding your plants correctly so that they are healthy and vigorous
- Building a healthy, friable soil with good drainage.
- Employing good garden hygiene for plants, people and tools.
- Companion planting.
- Developing a good balanced ecosystem in your garden encouraging predatory insects like lady bugs, lacewings, lizards and frogs.
- Crop rotation to halt the spread of pests and diseases that attack plants of the same group.
- Planting green manures to invigorate an impoverished soil and break pest and disease cycles.
- Adjusting pH can also be used to prevent fungus like club root in brassicas.
- The application of natural sprays and the correct times to apply.



made after this cooling off period.

Selecting your dog
When it comes to selecting a dog or puppy, take your time to think about what type of dog you are after, and what type of dog is right for you and your family.

An RSPCA shelter is a fantastic place to start your search. You will find animals available for adoption that are medically and behaviourally sound, are perfectly healthy and sociable, and are simply waiting for a new home and a loving family.

Caring for your dog or puppy

Bringing a new dog or puppy home is a wonderful, exciting experience. It is very important that you take the time to help your new family member feel safe and comfortable in its new surroundings, so the whole family can enjoy this new relationship. You also need to be ready to begin the process of educating your dog, and be prepared to provide for all of its feeding, health, training and exercise needs.

Before getting a dog it's important to consider what is involved in being a responsible owner and to decide whether you'll be able to meet all your dog's needs throughout their lifetime. Dogs are wonderful companions but owning one is a long-term commitment, so make sure you are ready.

- *Do I want a puppy or an adult dog?*
Can I cover all the financial costs of owning a dog, beyond just the purchase price, including food, bedding, toys and veterinary check-ups and treatment including emergencies?
Is my home safe, secure and suitable for a dog?
- *Do I have time to train and socialise a dog?*

Adopting a dog or puppy

(Ed. Found this very interesting article on the RSPCA website)

Choosing to adopt a dog or puppy is an exciting time. However, there are many things to consider before adopting a pet to help ensure the right dog is placed with the right family.

Adoption process

Matching the right people to the right dog is important to us at RSPCA, that's why we have an adoption process. Take your time to think about what type of dog you are after, and what type of dog is right for you and your family.

Once you have spotted that special friend, an adoption assistant will talk to you about that particular dog, its needs, and its background. We will want to know about how the dog will live, so photos of your backyard are a good way of showing us about your lifestyle. We also ask about other family members and pets, and are happy to arrange a meet and greet with you and your existing pets. Above all else, our interest is in the welfare of the dog and making sure that it finds a 'forever home'.

Each shelter will require an adoption application form to be filled, and an additional 24-hour cooling off period can be required to give you the opportunity to ensure you have made the right decision. An interview can be arranged with an adoption officer to ensure that the best possible match has been



- Will I be able to provide them with enough company so they don't get lonely or bored? A dog that doesn't receive enough attention is unlikely to become a social and well-behaved pet.



Do I have time to walk and play with a dog every day? Am I ready to make a 15-year commitment? Your local RSPCA or vet can give you more information about what it takes to raise a polite and well-balanced puppy and care for it throughout its lifetime.

If you think you are ready to welcome a new puppy or dog into your life, then it is time to carefully consider what type of dog will suit you.

Just like us, every dog has its own unique personality, but their general temperament is strongly influenced by their genetics and early life experiences. In choosing your dog, think about what breed or type of dog will best suit your lifestyle.

Am I looking for a calm, quiet dog that settles easily, or a more playful, active dog?

- Is a small, medium or large-sized dog best for me?
- Do I have time to groom a dog that needs frequent brushing?

Am I aware of the particular health and welfare problems some breeds can have?

If you are interested in a particular breed of dog, be aware that different breeds are predisposed to different inherited disorders. Some dogs also have been bred for a particular 'look', resulting in exaggerated features that can lead to serious health problems. These conditions can cause dogs significant pain and suffering so be sure to find out about the problems that are known to occur in that specific breed or breed type.

If you do choose to get your dog from a breeder, ask what action they take to prevent inherited disorders and avoid exaggerated features in their dogs. If you're sure the type of dog you're interested in will suit your lifestyle, and you understand any health risks, the next step is to think about where to get your dog!



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Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 19-3-20

Pairs Aggregate Stableford

1st G Anderson & P Anderson 56 pts
 2nd S Dunker & G Beeton 52 pts (c/b)
 3rd R Brooks & K Anderson 52 pts
 4th J Sheedy & B Wallis 50 pts
 5th T Seamer & B Turner 49 pts (c/b)
 NTP Ladies R Friis Gents J Bereza
 Members draw - Not won
 A great Autumn day and a course in good condition for a round of golf, lured our eager players out into the sun shine for to-days play. Congratulations to George and Paul Anderson, with a fine score of 56 pts, on winning the event. A well done to other place getters.

Results 26-3-20 Stableford

To-days event abandoned due to rain.
LN Bootes, Hon Sec
Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 15th March
 Robert Wilton has won the Weekly Challenge with 35 points from Phil Small on 34.
Monday 16th March
 Ken McLaughlan with a solid 40 point round has won the Vets Medley Stableford from Rob Hannah 37 and Wayne Barber 3rd with 36 points. Ball winners were: Ken Harris 35, Alan Kendall 35, David Peel 35, Greg Ireland 35, Wayne Cowan 35, Garry Marsden 35, Curly 34, Gunther Shilko 33, Bruce chambers 33 and Alick Bender 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ian Newell (3rd) David Peel (4th) Danny Schofield (8th) James Schofield (10th) and Rex Talbot (17th).
Tuesday 17th March
 The Irish Stableford event has been won by Phousang Sihapanya with an excellent round of 80 points from Ken Scott-McKenzie 79 and Wayne barber 3rd with 75 points, Ball winners were: Scott Conti 74, Chris Taggart 74, Gary Arnold 73, David Peel 72, Wayne Cowan 72, Darrell Porter 70, Bindi 69, Paul Smith 68, Damien Porter 66 and Wayne Burgess 65 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Rob Hannah (3rd) and Stephen Bear (10th)
Wednesday 18th March
 The Ladies Stableford has been won by Dale Hamilton just getting the better of playing partner Jenny Chambers by 1 shot.
Thursday 19th March
 Wayne Barber has won the Stableford event with an excellent 41 points from Darrin Cussen 37 and Tom

Bell with 36 on a count-back. Ball winners were: Dan Olsen 36, Bruce Chambers 36, Paul Smith 35, Kevin Dick 35, Richard Craft 35, Steve Piggot 35, Ken Harris 35, Rob Hannah 34, Neil Peterson 33, Fluff 33, Peter Perkins 33, Chris Taggart 33, Ken McLaughlan 32, Graeme Flynn 32 and John Stewart 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Kevin Dick (3rd & 10th) Tom Bell (4th) & Geoff Boyd (8th)

Saturday 21st March
 Everglades GC visitors cleaned up the Podium positions in A Grade in Saturday's Stableford event with Steve Chay on top with 40 points from Michael Elliott 37, B Grade to Kevin Smith with 40 points from Richard Craft 38 on countback and C Grade to Paterson GC visitor Phil Watson with 45 points from Nathan Mudd with 39. Ball winners were: Michael Pearce v38, Dale Johnston 38, Stephen Watson v38, Ron Findlay 37, Joe Farrugia v37, Nic Bates 37, Brian Connolly 37, Wayne Barber 37, Russ Lightfoot 37, Peter McIntyre 36, Adrian Kent 36, Ken Springbett 35, Bruce Lobb v35, Michael Tsakissiris 35, Michael Gilbert 35, Paul Smith 34, Mitch Attewell 34, Wayne Drayton 34, Nick Evans v34, Graham Morris 34, Tony Bowie 33, Robert Wilton 33, Russell Philips v33, Beb Bradley 33 and Michael Prichard v33. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Milas (3rd) Matt Merlo (4th) Paul Smith (8th) Ben Bradley (10th) & Peter McIntyre (17th).

Sunday 22nd March
 Scott Armstrong with a solid 41 point return has won the Weekly Challenge from Shawn Parish 37 and Harrison Skinner 3rd with 35 points.

Tuesday 24th March
 The Tuesday Stableford was decided by countback after Ryan Wilson & Graeme Flynn had 39 points each with Ryan receiving the Judges nod, Paul McDougall from Maitland GC took 3rd on countback with 38 points. Ball winners were: Steve Piggot 38, Steven Kane 37, Phousang Sihapanya 37, Jason Cowburn 36, Andrew Edwards v36, Bindi 36, Joe Laughlin 35, Lloyd Barrett 35, Nigel Brenton 34, Rob Hannah 34, Paul Smith 34, Jason Capararo v34, John Stewart 34, Richard Craft 34 and Steven Wright v34. Nearest-the-Pins went to Angello Wood (3rd) Lloyd Barrett (4th) Tom Bell (8th) and Ben Bradley (10th)

Wednesday 25th March
 No Ladies golf this week
Thursday 26th March
 Morning rain has washed out the Vets this week
Saturday 28th March
 A field of almost 70 turned out for the Irish Stableford in fairly iffy conditions with Mark Noble from Toukley GC 83 taking A Grade from Peter McIntyre 79, B Garde to Aaron Dries from Maitland GC with 84

points from Nic Bates flying the flag for the locals with 81 points and C Grade to Dylan Palmer with 74 from Nathan Davey 73. Ball winners were: Brad Greenham v79, Jeff Morton 77, Steve Piggot 74, Stephen Zok 73, Wade Attewell 73, nathan Sweeney 72, Bindi 72, Scott Conti 72, Andrew Schofield 71, Col Bradley 71, Troy Wallis 70, Andrew Zok 70, Jeremy Holden 69, Mark Makin 69, Adrian Chomiszak 68 and Phousang Sihapanya 68 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Brad Burgess (3rd) Angello Wood (4th) Steve Jurd (8th) Michael Tsakissiris (10th) and Lloyd Barrett (17th)

Branxton Golf Club Saturday, 14 March 2020 SUMMER CUP RD 5 - STABLEFORD

Field: 62
 Grades A Chris O' Brien 38
 Grades A Peter Wilton 38
 Grades A David Matt 37
 Grades B John Bowen 42
 Grades B Robert Hale 37
 Grades B Tony Seamer 37
 Grades C Steven Primmer 37
 Grades C Justin Preece 37
 Grades C Barney Ward 34
 NTP 2/11 A 2nd Peter Wilton 26cm
 NTP 4 A 4th Stephen Clark 366cm
 NTP 9/18 A 9th Edward Barrett 125cm
 NTP 13 C 13th Justin Preece 15cm
 Balls 19 Distributed down to score: 31
 Saturday's Stableford Competition drew a good field of 62 players with those teeing off early enjoying much better conditions then those who endured the southerly change that made conditions very challenging. Chris O'Brien won A Grade with his pleasing 38 pts, on a count-back from the ever-consistent Peter Wilton, with Dave Matt third with his 37 pts. John Bowen had the day's best score with an excellent 42 pts, well clear of runners up Robert Hale and Tony Seamer who both had 37 pts. Steve Primmer's 37 pts was good enough to win C Grade, just ahead of Justin Preece with the same score, with Barney Ward third with his 34 pts. The nearest the pins were very impressive with Justin Preece's shot to the difficult 13th one to remember, finishing only 15 cms from the pin. Pete Wilton's shot to the 2nd was just as impressive finishing just 26 cms away. On Sunday the A Grade Pennant team kept their finals hopes alive with a tough 3-2 win against Singleton at The Vintage. The C Grade player their final at Singleton against Paterson, unfortunately losing a very close contest 3 -2. Well done boys, a great effort.

Saturday, 28 March 2020 SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 46
 Grades A David Hollis 40
 Grades A Peter Wilton 39
 Grades A Mick Martin 37
 Grades B Paul Bush 39

Grades B Norm Redgrove 36
 Grades B Reece Caldwell 36
 Grades C James Elphick 50
 Grades C Darren Mathers 33
 Grades C Darrell Fletcher 32
 Balls to 33 pts
 Saturday's stableford competition continued on Saturday with very strict conditions of play being adhered to during this coronavirus epidemic. A good field of 46 players enjoyed the conditions with James Elphick winning C Grade with an amazing 50 pts, 14 pts better than his handicap—a wonderful effort. Dave Hollis continued his rise to good golf in winning A Grade with an excellent 40 pts, just ahead of the ever-consistent Peter Wilton with 39 pts, with Mick Martin, now in A Grade, third with a very pleasing 37 pts. Paul Bush won B Grade with a very solid 39 pts, well clear of runners up Norm Redgrove and Reece Caldwell with 36 pts. As mentioned, James Elphick's 50 pts easily won C Grade, an amazing 17 pts clear of runner up Darren Mathers with 33 pts, with Darrell Fletcher third with 32 pts. 33 pts was needed to win a ball. The present coronavirus is impacting all our lives, so playing golf is one of the few sports that can be played at the moment. Currently all players at Branxton are issued with the following conditions of play:-
"To All Golfing Members, as we go through this time of uncertainty Branxton Golf Club is listening carefully to NSW Health, Golf NSW and other interested parties to make sure that we are keeping all our players as safe as possible. With this in mind, we are asking players to minimise contact as much as possible; Groups to be limited to two or three players only; Only one person in the Pro Shop with Marcus at any one time; No sand buckets, please chip in the edges of your divot; No carts WHATSOEVER!!!! Personal or club carts are banned until further notice; Tee time spacing will be adjusted where possible; Flags are to remain in at all times and the bunkers are all GUR until further notice; Remember 'Social Distancing' on the putting green and the tees."
 Other news includes—the proposed Premier League and Singles Knockout competitions have been postponed; as have all other Championship Events. They will be decided upon as they come due and how the health situation unfolds. All golfers should keep abreast of the golfing news through the Golf Australia or Golf Link.

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Branxton Pro-Am this weekend



Above: Ian Stanley in 1986 - The first Branxton Pro-am winner.

great golf then venture down to the Branxton Golf Club this weekend.

Australian Golf professional Peter Lonard will lead the field into this weekends \$20,000 Branxton Pro-Am. Peter won the Pro-Am in 1996 & joins the only other winning player to return to this years Pro-Am, Greg Engall. Joining Lonard & Engall are 58 male professionals & six women. Newcastle's two PGA Tour players Nathan Green & Kurt Linde are also expected to play. The Branxton Pro-Am, since its inception in 1986, has donated more than \$55,000 to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service & is set to continue its charity. The club has 20 amateur places each day of the tournament at \$25 each place. The Celebrity Dinner will be held, as usual, on the Saturday night. If you enjoy watching

The news Issue No 52 23rd Sept. 1999 Page 31

Sportsman of the past ~ Aub Swinton

Aub Swinton lived in North Rothbury for most of his life & worked for Les Russell for many years. Aub started racing T.Q. cars, now formula 500, and motorcycles in 1956 with his life time friend Herp Pinchen as his mechanic. He competed around the Hunter Valley, Tamworth and Gunnedah with some success. He was placed second in the Australian B Grade Championships at Muswellbrook in 1957 and held the lap record at Gunnedah for many, many years. Aub went to Redcliff Speedway, QLD in 1958 and was winning all of his races until motor trouble forced him out of the meeting. Aub then tried his luck in New Zealand in 1960 with his bike and had better luck then. In 1964 he went back to New Zealand with a T.Q. car (not his own machine) and raced at Western Springs Speedway in Auckland with some success. At Napier and New Plymouth Speedways he won five races out of eight starts at each meeting. On returning to Australia in 1965 he crashed his car at Salty Creek Raceway at Wallsend, Newcastle, and retired from racing through injury.



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

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BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS Issue 64 6th April 2000 P. 44

Greta/Branxton Junior Cricket 1999/2000 Minor & Major Premiers

Congratulations Greta/Branxton U/16 Team on winning the U/16 final against Aberdare on Saturday 1/4/00. Playing on the second day of the final and chasing 47 runs to secure victory, Greta/Branxton did it in style by getting the required runs without losing a wicket.
Batting: Joshua Dagg 30 not out: Brent Watson 34 not out Extras 11.
This has been a great team effort by these boys during the year. There have only

been 9 players for most of the year and yet they drew one match and won every other match. In fact these boys have been undefeated since the first game in 1998/1999 season.

This very talented cricket side is: Damien Austin, Matthew Bogacz, Brendon Bouwmeester, Simon Dagg, Joshua Dagg, Trent Fuller, Andrew O'Toole, Ben Rowlands, & Brent Watson.

Thanks to coach Peter Fuller for the time he has spent helping these boys to their 5th Premiership.



PHOTO:
Back L-R: Peter Fuller (coach) Matthew Bogacz, Andrew O'Toole, Trent Fuller, Brendan Bou Umpire Peter Ptolemy
Front L-R: Ben Rowlands, Damien Austin, Simon Dagg, Joshua Dagg & Brent Watson



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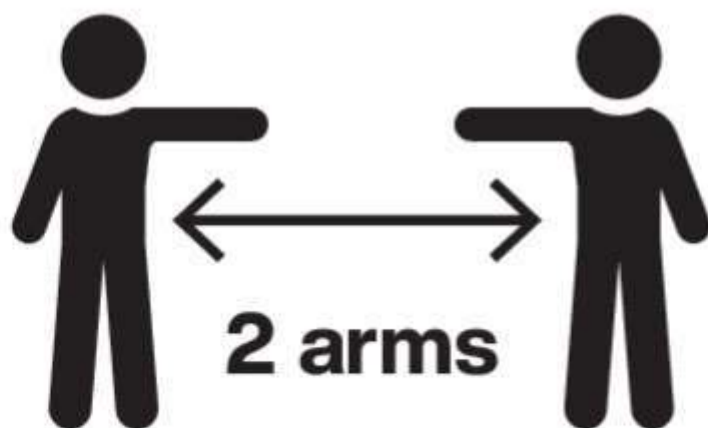
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OFFICIAL MEDICAL ADVICE

Coronavirus: what is social distancing?

Keeping a distance of two arms lengths (1.5 metres) from others where you can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Including in your home, work and public spaces.

Where it's not practical to distance (such as on a train or bus) practise good hygiene as always.



australia.gov.au

Coronavirus Info Line

1800 020 080