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WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2020

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STEVE'S RANT



Protect yourself from viruses

- Clean your hands with soap and water, or hand sanitiser.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Stay home if you are sick.

Find the facts health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

Old news but good news!

Branxton to Greta Cycleway gets the green light

Cessnock City Council has announced it has secured \$1,950,000 under Round 4 of the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream to build an off-road, shared cycleway between Branxton and Greta.

Council will provide a co-contribution of \$650,000 towards the project to bring the 3.3km cycleway to life. The cycleway will connect the Branxton and Greta war memorials acknowl-

edging the sacrifice of local service personnel. The memorial trail is expected to be hugely popular with locals and also visitors to the region providing a new recreational offering.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the funding announcement is fantastic news and is a result of Council working with community to attract financial support for the project. "This project grew out of community advocacy and initiative. Council has supported the community's vision through ensuring the project was shovel ready so that when funding became available we were in a good position to make a strong application."

"Working collaboratively has worked exceptionally well. Congratulations to all involved including the Branxton-Greta Business Chamber and the local RSL sub-branches."

Mayor Pynsent also thanked His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales for his support with a grant of Vice-Regal Patronage for the project. His Excellency support was secured by the Branxton Greta

Business Chamber (BGBC) resident of the BGBC Brett Wild, who has advocated tirelessly for this project, said securing the support of His Excellency was a huge milestone in the life-span of the cycleway. Mr Wild welcomed the funding for what he has called a piece of legacy infrastructure. "This completed memorial cycleway will educate generations to come about the sacrifice of local men who went to war. Some of these young men were seeking adventure but instead were faced with one of most horrific wars. It honours their commitment, sacrifice and mateship and reflects our strong local military history. "Further expansion of the cycleway to incorporate a war memorial aspect along the route is being co-ordinated by Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway Limited.

The Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) supports the Australian Government's commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities into the future. For more information on the funding visit BBRF website.

Above: It's been a long time coming!



GOOD PRACTICE (GP) SURGERY



10 Dalwood Road, East Branxton

Dr T Sasi Sasitharan MBBS, AMC, DCH (Syd), FRACGP
Dr Riju Verghese MBBS, AMC, DCH, FRACGP

Dr Chaitali Biswas MBBS, AMC
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Changes to Cessnock City Council Services

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 is adopting a phased approach to resuming services to ensure the safety of both staff and the community. Please read the following information on the status of each service:

Reopened (or opening soon)

Libraries Face to face services at the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries have resumed in COVID-safe mode. Both libraries are open between 9am and 5pm Mon - Fri. You can also take advantage of our 'Call and Collect' service - find out more here. 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. If you have any questions about the reopening or need help in accessing the 24/7 e-branch, Library staff can be contacted on (02) 4993 4399 or at library@cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre (HVVIC)

Face to face services at the HVVIC have resumed with regular trading hours. For more information, please visit the HVVIC website.

Council administration building

Face to face services at 62-78 Vincent Street have resumed. The Administration Building is open during normal business hours, from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. The cashier will close at 4.30pm on these days. Customers are also encouraged to connect with us remotely using our live chat service or by telephone during business hours.

CYCOS

The Cessnock Youth Centre programs have recommenced including school holiday activities. Visit CYCOS' Facebook page for the latest information on upcoming programs. The Youth Services Team can be contacted on (02) 4993

4357.

Arts & cultural centres

Wollombi Cultural Centre has reopened. Richmond Main is due to open in July. Marthaville Arts and Cultural Centre reopened to the public on 3 July.

Cessnock Waste Management Centre

The Cessnock Waste Management Centre (CWMC) has now reopened to the public as normal. There may be some delays as numbers onsite will be limited to observe social distancing.

Residents are encouraged to follow instructions while at the CWMC, including wearing enclosed footwear. Transactions will remain cashless until further notice (waste vouchers will be accepted). *Please note that the Greta Transfer Station is closed.*

The following services remain impacted

Council meetings

The Ordinary Meeting of Council on, today, 15 July will be conducted in the Council Chambers with social distancing measures in place. Residents will be able to live stream the meeting via Council's Facebook

CPAC Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Arts Centre has reopened to the public. 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.

On-site sewerage management system inspections

Council has postponed standard and routine monitoring inspections of on-site sewerage management systems. Routine inspections will be rescheduled at a later time that is suitable for the property owners or operators.

Greta Transfer Station

This facility is closed.

Changes to Council facilities

Council is adopting a phased approach to reopening facilities to ensure the safety of both staff and the community. Please read the following

information on the status of each facility:

Reopened (or opening soon)

Parks

All parks, including outdoor gyms, playgrounds, skateparks, barbecue areas and public toilets have been reopened across the Cessnock Local Government Area.

Sporting Facilities

All sporting facilities in the Cessnock LGA reopened on Friday 29 May 2020

Tennis facilities

All tennis facilities have now been reopened

RV Areas

Council operated RV areas at Branxton and Kurri Kurri reopened on Monday 1 June 2020.

Community Halls

Community halls reopened to the public on Monday 22 June. These facilities will reopen in-line with all NSW Government restrictions, including the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020.

Aquatic Facilities

All of Council's pools remain closed, including:
* Kurri Kurri Aquatic & Fitness Centre
* Cessnock pool
* Branxton pool

Changes to Council events and programs

Youth Week 2020 The Youth Week 2020 program has been postponed.

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 which was scheduled in partnership with Transport NSW for Thursday 26 March 2020 has been postponed until later in the year.

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. Impound fees for Tuesdays and Thursdays will be waived as residents won't be able to pick up their furry friend. For more information call RSPCA on (02) 4939 1555.

Financial assistance

Residents experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19

Pandemic can contact Council and enter into an arrangement on (02) 4993 4100. Our Customer Service team will take your details and our Rates team will call you back. Our team will endeavour to return calls by the next business day.



**PUBLIC EXHIBITION
DRAFT INSTALLATION OF DIRECTIONAL SIGNS FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICES & TOURIST FACILITIES POLICY**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 17 June 2020, Council resolved to place the Draft Installation of Directional Signs for Community Services and Tourist Facilities Policy on Public Exhibition from **8 July 2020 to 4 August 2020**

Council invites public comment on the Draft Policy which aims to provide a consistent approach for the installation of community, service and tourist facility signage across the Cessnock LGA

The documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section)
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions should be endorsed: "Draft Installation of Directional Signs for Community Services and Tourist Facilities Policy" and addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 5pm on 4 August 2020** via email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

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

**PUBLIC EXHIBITION
DRAFT SKATE AND BMX STRATEGY**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 17 June 2020, Council resolved to place the Draft Skate and BMX Strategy on Public Exhibition from **29 June 2020 to 26 July 2020**.

The draft document aims to provide an updated strategic direction on the future provision, development and management of wheeled sports for the Cessnock LGA.

The documents can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section)
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 5pm on 26 July 2020** via email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Principal Recreation and Community Facilities Planner, Kate Harris on 4993 4100.

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

**COMING TO A STREET NEAR YOU
ROAD WORK: ANVIL CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
NELSON STREET, GRETA**

WORK: Anvil Creek Bridge Replacement
LOCATION: Nelson Street Greta
TIME FRAME: Scheduled to commence August 2020, weather permitting.
DISRUPTIONS: A pedestrian bridge will be provided to maintain access to the Greta Rail Station for pedestrians, however all vehicles will be required to detour during the bridge closure period (approximately 8 weeks). Information on the timing and duration of the bridge closure will be provided closer to the construction date.
INFORMATION: Refer to News Announcements Council Works on the Cessnock City Council website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/News-announcements/Council-works or contact our friendly Customer Service Team on 4993 4100.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000 FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	Police Branxton..... 4938 1244 Lochinvar... 4930 7209 Ambulance ... 131 233 NSW Fire Brigade Branxton..... 4938 3396 Rural Fire Brigades Belford..... 6574 7149 Broke..... 6579 1491 Greta..... 4015 0000 Bishops Bdg 4015 0000 Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury... 4015 0000 Pokolbin..... 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	Electricity Energy Australia..... 131 388 Hospitals Maitland... 4939 2000 Cessnock... 4991 0555 Singleton.. 6572 2799 SES132 500 Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 Poisons Info 131 126 Hunter Water 1300 657 000 Ausgrid 131 388 Gas Emergencies . 131 909 Lifeline131 114 Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609 Centrelink Self Service 136 240 Medicare 132 011 Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483
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NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service
Assistance & personal support ~ For people impacted by bushfire, the NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service will help you navigate the support and financial assistance that's available across all levels of government. Service NSW is providing one-on-one support for people and businesses, available over the phone or in-person.
Call 13 77 88
Or visit www.service.nsw.gov.au for locations of Service NSW, and Mobile Service Centres. People are encouraged to register online at Register Find Reunite.

Local business's down but not out



The heartening news, amongst a litany of bad news, is the strong support on the ground from local people supporting local businesses in our area through the Corona pandemic.

Locally & typical of small communities throughout the area, Branxton is made up of two clubs, one hotel, an IGA Supermarket and a plethora of small businesses providing goods and services that generally mean locals don't have to leave the area to get what they need. "The worst affected businesses had been the hotel, clubs, beauty salon and local newspaper ... they were closed but, thankfully, are now back in business," Brett Wild, President of the local Business Chamber

said. While Covid has hurt some businesses, Brett reports some have fared better through the crisis. "The chemist, supermarket, pet shop and butchery have been doing well but the social distancing and maximum numbers has bought with it, in some cases, expensive measures to ensure that they are compliant with the current regulations. "A surprise to me came after speaking to the operators of the Branxton Bakery who have actually increased their business during the current medical crisis." Mary Nguyen, proprietor of the Branxton Bakery, said that they employ five casuals, do all baking onsite and up until recently, were

unable to have any dining onsite. "We are lucky to have the coal mining industry not skip a beat and the construction going on at the new commercial centre at Huntlee," Mary said. "Also, while the mums and dads were home schooling they would arrive for a coffee, cake and a break. "I would also like to say that our very valued customers adapted very quickly, and were very supportive and in some instances, very patient." Sue Mitchell, manager of the Branxton IGA, agreed with Mary's sentiments. "The support from locals has been amazing," Sue said. "People have been very understanding, patient and even offering to help and

saying lots of positive stuff. "People who might normally do their shopping at the bigger supermarkets have been coming in. That's been great because they see we have much more variety and niche local products than they thought." Brett said that the chamber has had great support from Cessnock Council which has got behind a number of stimulates put forward by the chamber and council's economics resources unit. "The latest initiative was the 'Support Local ~ Branxton' signs that were erected some time ago," Brett said. "The initiative drives home the

message that local buying supports local jobs and makes the community stronger by helping to keep money circulating in the region. "We know that a lot of local businesses have been severely impacted and we, the business chamber, would hope that the recovery is

quick and painless." A quick update on the proposed opening schedule for the Coles complex at Huntlee. They are looking at mid September & the new Tavern in early December. Those dates are not official but all concerned are hoping that they are close.

STANHOPE HANDYMAN SERVICES

Branxton and surrounding areas

I'll consider any job and will tell you if I can't do the work!

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- ✓ Clean-up and rubbish removed
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For a FREE quote, call Peter on: 0419 441 257



Understanding your Cessnock City Waste Service

Cessnock City Council provides kerbside waste services to around 22,500 households every year and transports their general household waste to the Cessnock Waste Management Centre. We get lots of questions about the service and want to ensure residents understand how we can assist them.

It can be frustrating when you notice your general waste bin is broken, but did you know Council can repair or replace your damaged bin? Jump on to Council's website and lodge a request. If it's your garden organics bin, call Solo Resource Recovery on 1800 870 250, email yourorganicsbin@solo.com.au or visit Your Organics Bin.

If it's your recycling bin please visit HRR or call 1800 838 884.

Do you often find your recycling bin or garden organics bin isn't big enough for the waste you're producing? You have a number of options, first you should look at ways you can reduce your waste otherwise you have the following options:

- You can now swap your existing 240 litre recycling bin to a larger 360 litre bin for a one-off \$25 fee by visiting Council's website and completing the "Upsize recycle bin application" form. You can also call or visit our Customer Relations Team. You can also now apply for an extra 240 or 360 litre recycling service by completing the "Request for additional waste service" form online.

- You can now apply for an additional 240 litre garden organics bin by visiting Council's website and completing the "Request for additional waste service" form. You can also contact our Customer Relations Team.

Council also has a service to assist elderly and disabled people with their waste service and help them get their bins from their yard. This is called our Blue Disc Service and people can apply online.



Locals supporting locals.

We've all been through a lot, lately - drought, floods, bushfires and a pandemic - but despite that, our unrelenting community spirit survived, proving we can do anything, when we all work together.

Locals supporting locals is all about working together. It's about shopping and buying local; as well as hiring local talent - it's about keeping doors open! When we *support local*, every member of the community gets to enjoy the economic, social and environmental benefits; not just now, but well into the future.

#supportlocalcessnock

Take a selfie in your favourite local business, then post on Instagram or Facebook (public setting), with the hashtag **#supportlocalcessnock**. Enter lots, and tag/name the business please!

Every month until September, an Advance Cessnock City representative will choose 5 winning photographs. **So, join in - take a selfie, help a local; you could win a \$100 gift card***

Keep safe, please adhere to the social distancing rules.



#supportlocalcessnock

*Full Terms & Conditions at advancecessnock.com.au/supportlocal



A CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE

STEVE'S RANT

During the oil pricing stoush between Russia and Saudi Arabia, the oil price reached the lowest level in twenty or so years and in fact was below the cost of production in America.

While this was going on the US strategic reserve purchased the total production of Saudi Arabia to top up the nations reserve stocks. These had been depleted during the Obama administration in an attempt to stabilise world markets. OPEC has now called a truce on the discounting wars with the hope of increasing the spot price of crude oil. The spot price of crude has not changed much and is unlikely to while the world economy is in shut down due to the Corona virus. Now is the chance for Australia to stockpile crude oil at least to the extent that we at least fulfil our obligation to the international oil reserve holding guidelines. If the capacity can be expanded by tank farms established in economically strategic areas, we should keep on growing our reserves. At the same time, the crude oil spot price remains low.

Since it appears, we are so reluctant to adopt nuclear fission reactors for power generation, and as propulsion for our Navy, our dependence on crude oil will remain for years to come. I am okay with that provided we have ready access to it, but as we have seen this year our reliance on international 'just in time' supply lines has become tenuous in the extreme. Which brings us to the point; the stranglehold influence,

the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has on the world economy. The Belt and Road initiative (a push for Chinese dominance in global affairs with a China-centered trading network) is the tip of the iceberg. It is the visible evidence as to how the CCP has taken control of the UNITED NATIONS and its various bodies such as the WHO (World Health Organisation).

For the past thirty years, the Western Democracies have been asleep to this threat, being pre-occupied with the crap of global warming, same-sex marriage, illegal immigration, terrorism and some vague idea of globalisation. As a result, of globalism, we have companies such as social media companies and other entities who operate outside national sovereignty, thus avoiding tax and regulation. The European Union, the US and Australia have only just started to rein in these companies but with little effect. The same must be said of the CCP in East Asia and the Western Pacific. Small to medium sovereign powers have a vote in the General Assembly of the UN and due to their dependence on Chinese loans and trade do the bidding of the CCP in international matters. CCP control all functions of the United Nations except the security council for which they have a veto anyway. The CCP has used and will use every tool they can get their hands on to gain control of world trade. And expand their hegemony over Asia, Africa, and the South and Western Pacific,

including Australia. They have already demonstrated their ability to control certain of our politicians, and our gutless corporate sector is enthralled to the CCP. This allegation can also be made to sporting bodies. Shown when certain US basketballers were made to withdraw remarks made against Communist China. When I say every tool at their disposal, these include, influencing sizeable Chinese diaspora throughout the world to act as supporters of and to proselytise the greatness of the CCP. This is achieved by threatening the relatives in mainland China of ethnic Chinese living in worldwide. This diaspora is also used for more clandestine activities. We have evidence of the use of cyber warfare & their use

of blatant military threat as in the South China Sea. And the CCP military arm is developing chemical, biological, nuclear and inner space abilities to suppress other powers. I have already mentioned economic and political influence through the 'belt and road'. Still, it goes further than that as so-called Chinese Companies buy up assets in other countries. Something we must also consider is the fact of CCP virus (COVID19). The virus, could not have occurred naturally but by gene splicing to modify the virus in the P4 Laboratory in Wuhan synthetically. Allegedly from bat derived coronavirus and parts of HIV; not the Wuhan Markets as described by the CCP propaganda arm. No bats are

sold at the Wuhan wet market. Australia should withdraw all funding from the UN. Border security must now include strict quarantine guidelines for people and all organic products. We must become self-sufficient in pharmaceuticals, and the widgets, fasteners and whatsaname that Bunnings sell must be locally produced. You know the drill. (Pardon the pun)
STEVE'S JULY RANT
The only certainty about the end result of the pandemic is that nobody knows how it will turn out. I made a prediction in the last NEWS that there will be a prolonged rebound as such occurred after World War 1, and the Spanish Flue Pandemic of 1919, The

Roaring Twenties. Except for The Peoples Republic of Victoria as the States have lifted restrictions on the economic activity the retail sector is booming, and there is more to come, I suspect. When you release billions of dollars into the economy, something has to happen. Much is said about the effect the shutdowns has and is having on people's attitude and life expectations, and many think this is a good thing. However, like the frog swimming in the cooking pot which does not realise the danger it is in until too late, we the people are being slowly cooked by unelected, unrepresentative and beyond responsibility bureaucrats into thinking the Government is the answer to everything; The Nanny State. The State and Federal Governments have used the

Pandemic to take upon themselves authority they do not have and flouted the constitution. An unprecedented power grab, and we have just accepted this. WHY? We have been subjected to the Slow Cook over the last thirty years by a combination of:-
1. Special Interest Groups were making a great noise



Viability of our coalmining industry
Environmental groups constantly generate feelings of job insecurity by questioning the viability of our coalmining industry. They are wrong to do so. They argue that global demand for coal is about to collapse because our export customers are racing to renewable forms of energy generation. They also claim the technology needed to make steel without metallurgical coal is just around the corner. Neither is true. A similar campaign is being waged against another fossil fuel, natural gas. Indeed,

and more efficient ways of using our fossil fuels here in Australia. That's where the embrace of technology is important. Given the behaviour of investors we can expect that in twenty years' time, around 50 percent of the electricity we consume will come from renewable sources producing intermittent power. But the energy grid will need 'firming' power as the older coal power stations are retired. That's why we need to give strong support to technologies like carbon capture and storage which could allow the lives of some coal generators to be extended and will allow gas to play a larger role without increasing carbon emissions. A lower-emissions economy is our future, and to get there I have long advocated that we can walk and chew gum too. This is possible, as evidenced by the

Minerals Council of Australia's recent Climate Action Plan. It shows how Australian mining will stay vibrant and a strong employer, while still contributing to climate action. Central to the MCA plan is a commitment to technology. It is fitting that many of the new technologies that drive a low-emissions, modern economy, are supplied by mining. The ingredients for

Lithium-ion batteries, for instance, are all produced right here in Australian mines, as are the components for wind turbines, PV solar panels and all the electrical infrastructure in the grid. The zero-emissions fuel of the future – hydrogen – also comes from mining. In Queensland and Victoria, engineers are transforming coal byproducts into hydrogen, which will be a zero-emissions fuel of the

future. Technology must be our focus. In Victoria, Queensland and WA, there are projects to sequester carbon dioxide into the ground, from LNG plants and coal-fired power stations. These Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) projects can also be utilised to make hydrogen, and fertiliser. In the Hunter we have an expanding coal export industry, but we've also had a glimpse of the future. AGL's transition from the soon-to-be retired Liddell power station, to gas, pumped hydro and battery storage is a welcome one. Also welcome is the prospect

of a gas pipeline connecting Narrabri to Port of Newcastle, weaving through the Upper Hunter along the way. There are also plans to create a biogas industry in the Hunter from organic waste products. None of this requires the end of coal. Indeed, it will require strong mining and gas industries. That's exactly what we will continue to have here in the Hunter Valley.
*Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Member for Hunter
Shadow Minister for
Agriculture and Resources*

Emergency Phone Numbers		
Dial 000 FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	Police Branxton..... 4938 1244 Lochinvar..... 4930 7209 Ambulance..... 131 223 NSW Fire Brigade Branxton..... 4938 3396 Rural Fire Brigades Belford..... 6574 7149 Broke..... 6579 1491 Greta..... 4015 0000 4015 0000 Bishops Bdg Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4015 0000 4015 0000 Pokolbin.... 4991 1733 Rothbury.... 4015 0000 Bishops Bdg Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4015 0000 4015 0000 Pokolbin.... 4991 1733 Rothbury.... 4991 1733 Scotts Flat..... 6575 1200 Central (Cessnock)... 4015 0000	Electricity Energy Australia..... 131 388 Hospitals Maitland... 4939 2000 Cessnock... 4991 0555 Singleton... 6572 2799 SES132 500 Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 Poisons Info 131 126 Hunter Water 1300 657 000 Ausgrid 131 388 Gas Emergencies .131 909 Lifeline131 114 Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609 Centrelink Self Service 136 240 Medicare 132 011 Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483
For non-life threatening calls..... Police Assistance Line (PAL).... 131 444		

Congrats!

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARD NEWS

On your long awaited return to print.

For assistance with any matters relating to the State Government or its departments, please contact my office:

Phone: 4991-1466

Email: cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Visit: 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.



Follow me on
 @claytonbarrmp
www.claytonbarr.com.au

Clayton Barr MP
 STATE MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORATE OF CESSNOCK

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

Organisation	Project Title	Amount funded
The State Association of Australia (NSW Branch)	Financial Aids For 100 Rural Landowners Group	\$4,000
Cessnock City Council	Crash Road Safety Upgrade	\$14,000
Engageoff Community Development	Outdoor Shelter Unit	\$20,000
Seaside Community Sporting Assoc. Inc.	Hand Lighting (offering Herb Acacia)	\$3,000
Cessnock Branch Association of NSW - Cessnock Branch	Subsidised (Ball and Cones) Building Upgrade	\$4,500
Cessnock Public School P & C Assoc.	Cessnock Public School Light	\$20,000
Compass Housing Services Ltd	Wester Community Hub	\$30,000
Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre Ltd	Working Cessnock's Learning Centre for Out of School Hours Care	\$20,000
Seaside Neighbourhood of Advertisements Group Inc.	Seaside Neighbourhood Centre Bathroom Renovation Refurbishment	\$14,000
Lake Macquarie City Council	Supply and install Air Conditioning - accessible Community hall	\$5,000
Seaside Holdings Ltd	Subsidised of Electrical System - Seaside Seaside Centre	\$14,000
Seaside Public School P & C Assoc.	General Walkway - Classroom to the Bathroom	\$20,000
Seaside Grade 4/5/6/7/8/9/10	New Shower	\$5,000
Cessnock Motor Rugby League	400 New Road - Lighting (Stage 2)	\$10,000
Seaside Workers Sports Football Club Inc.	Upgrade to Regional Sporting Facility - Seaside Football Ground	\$30,000
Seaside Tennis Club Inc.	Upgrade Seaside Tennis Lighting to LED	\$10,000
Trustees of Church Property for the Diocese of Newcastle	St Luke's Methodist Presbytery Project	\$10,000
Seaside Neighbourhood Centre Club Inc.	High Boundary Fence (Preventing Bully Leaning Posts)	\$14,000
Seaside Community Youth (Lake Macquarie) Ltd	POC Services - Meeting Room and Staff Rooms	\$5,000
Seaside Workers Sports Rugby League Inc.	Shed Floor Boarding, Air System and Fencing	\$20,000
Cessnock City Sports Football Club Inc.	Seaside Football Training (Off-Road) Expansion	\$5,000
	TOTAL	\$300,000

community groups and 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 was 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

Seeds of Faith Scattered and Sown

Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

In the Gospel this week we hear that "the kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away." [Matthew 13.24-25]

As the wheat and the weeds grow, their roots can become entangled and new growth often looks similar. It is only as they continue to grow that we can tell the difference between the seed we intended to grow and the weed that was planted during our absence. The wise choice therefore is to allow the two to co-exist until the harvest is ready. Then the weeds can be separated, and the wheat collected.

Faith is a lot like that too. Seeds of faith are scattered and sown. During his ministry, Jesus planted many, many seeds, and there were mixed reactions to His teachings about the Kingdom of God. Some heard His called and followed Him, while others who had heard Him refused to follow His teaching. This demonstrates for us the difference between "hearing" the Word and "understanding" it. Those who both hear and understand the Word also follow Jesus and pass on to others that which they have heard. The Risen Christ sows good seed in the world and thus creates the church. We do not necessarily know when those seeds will grow and flourish. But who are we to judge others? Faith is not always seen in another person, even when it is there. God knows the heart of every person. God will look after the when and how the seeds grow and mature. Faith too takes time to grow and mature ... it takes a lifetime of learning. The seeds of faith might not seem like much in the beginning, but they can and do grow by God's grace. It is therefore crucial that every person is given the time and opportunities to hear and understand the Word of God, to ask questions and seek answers. Being nurtured in community, like the wheat being allowed to co-exist with the weeds, provides the opportunity for the seeds of faith to mature. Gracious God, we thank you that you sow in us the seeds of faith. Enable us to receive it with joy and to live according to it, so that we may grow in faith and hope and love. Amen. **Blessings', Rev. Nicole**



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Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

It is wonderful to welcome the Branxton- Greta Vineyard News back to publication. Our community rely on our local news outlets to tell our local stories and share important information. We are extremely glad to have Mike back!

Since my last column we have had some extremely exciting news for Branxton with \$1,950,000 announced under Round 4 of the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream to build an off-road, shared cycleway between Branxton and Greta. Council will provide a co-contribution of \$650,000 towards the project to bring the 3.3km cycleway to life. The cycleway will connect the Branxton and Greta war memorials acknowledging the sacrifice of local service personnel. The memorial trail is expected to be hugely popular with locals and also visitors to the region providing a new recreational offering. Working collaboratively has worked exceptionally well. Congratulations to all involved including the Branxton-Greta Business Chamber and the local RSL sub-branches.

The draft Skate and BMX Strategy is now on public exhibition and community members are encouraged to provide their feedback. The draft Strategy includes recommendations for existing skate and BMX facilities and outlines future needs. It identifies 23 actions, including upgrades to current facilities, priorities for new facilities and future investigations.

It is an important strategy for our growing community and we know our community have a strong interest in these facilities. They are an important space for families and young people, and we want to hear from you about how you would like Council to upgrade and improve these spaces into the future. Have your say and visit [Council's website](#).

Council adopted the 2020-2021 Operational Plan that includes a \$30 million Capital Works Program, which will reach over a record \$40 million following the next budget review. This is due to recent announcements of additional grant funding. This is record

funding and will provide a huge boost to our local economy in a time when we need it most. Again, I remind every resident to continue to support local business during this time. Find out more about our Support Local Campaign.

Shortly you will all receive the Cessnock City News in the mail along with your rates notices. Council is always looking for new opportunities to keep residents informed about Council services, projects and works. Council will shortly be launching the Cessnock City eNews which you can subscribe to via Council's website. Council's crews are progressing works in the Branxton CBD, residents will notice the installation of pavers, trees and street furniture shortly. Bridges Hill Park Playground and Access Improvements Project is continuing to come along well with the final elements being installed in the playground. The Sky Tower installation will occur over the coming weeks and is sure to be a hit with park users. Construction of the pedestrian access stairs from Yango Street to Millfield Street is well underway with sandstone retaining wall works, concrete walking paths completed and pre-fabricated stair scheduled within the coming weeks. To keep up to date with this project and other projects underway visit [Council's website](#).

Cheers, Bob



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

'Slow Return to Normal'

It's been three long months since governments shut down our normal way of life to combat COVID-19. More than 100 Australians lost their lives, many more were hospitalised and more than a million people were stood-down from their jobs, or had to close their business.

It's been a difficult time in regional Australia, where local economies don't have the scale to get through a major economic shock, in the way that a big city economy can. In the Hunter a really noticeable element of the COVID economic turnaround has been the losses in our local media.

Large newspaper groups have either cut their regional newspapers or have had them on furlough while they wait for the economy to bounce-back, and with it advertising revenue. And then there are

independent publishers such as the Branxton Greta Vineyard News, which has always filled an important newspaper niche. I'm very happy that The News is back, informing locals about the news that's important to them but which would never be published by the metropolitan media. Publications like this one are a social necessity in regional areas because they allow us to know what's going on in our own neighbourhoods.

It's my hope that the comeback of the The News is a resurgence that is followed by other businesses in the Hunter. We had a real shock to the system when the lockdown was first announced back in early April, all but eliminating our significant winery-based tourism and hospitality sector.

With the easing of these rules I'm delighted to see visitors now coming back into the Hunter, and our cafés, restaurants, bars and cellar doors opening up again. While JobKeeper has been a lifeline to so many people in the electorate, I know most people would rather be employed by thriving businesses.

We're not there yet: there are still limits on the number of patrons allowed on a premises and I appreciate that many business-owners do want to rush their re-openings and risk sparking a COVID transmission.

That trade-off between caution and optimism, right now, is the right attitude. We want to get businesses open and the economy thriving, but without risking the health of employees and customers. It's a fine line but if my conversations with business owners are a guide, we're on the right track. The outbreaks in Melbourne are a very clear warning.

If anyone has questions about the COVID restrictions, or needs to know what assistance might be available to them, please call my office or go to my website, [joelfitzgibbon.com](#). For now, I applaud the re-starting of the The News and hope everyone stays COVID-safe as we emerge from the restrictions.

Cheers, Joel

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



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

With the first half of 2020 now behind us, it's not

unreasonable to hope for a better end to the year given the challenges that we have faced locally, and indeed internationally, with bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

And things are already looking up.

It was great to hear news of the funding announcement to connect Greta and Branxton, making a long-awaited project soon to become a reality. Congratulations to all involved.

Then of course we had the welcome announcement from Deputy Premier John Barilaro just weeks ago that our calls for reforms to the Resources for Regions program have been answered, and our local government area stands to receive a fixed amount of funding amounting to \$4.5 million under Round Seven of the program. Better yet, 30 per cent of the available funds are open for community programs as well as infrastructure projects and Council is already getting to work alongside community organisations to prepare our applications by the 2 September deadline.

Locally, there's also a lot of work happening to support our residents and businesses through the impacts of bushfires and COVID-19 restrictions, most substantially through Council's \$2 million Community Support Package.

A key component of the package is a rates and charges rebate scheme, which offsets the 2.6 per cent IPART-approved increase of rates, waste and water and sewer fixed charges for 2020/2021. The rebate is open to all residents, farmland and business ratepayers in the Singleton LGA who have been adversely financially affected by COVID-19, ensuring anyone doing it tough will not pay one cent more in rates and charges than the previous year.

What's more, we've made it as simple and easy as possible to apply – and we don't need to know anything in depth about your financial situation. If you tell us you've been adversely financially impacted by COVID-19, you're eligible. You can download the application form from Council's website or contact Council's Customer Service team on 02 6578 7290 for a hard copy. The whole process is completely confidential, and you'll be notified as soon as possible about the outcome of your application.

There's also a range of grants programs available to community groups and businesses under our Community Relief + Rebuild Fund and Business Relief + Rebuild Fund in partnership with BHP's Vital Futures program. Information webinars for businesses will be held on Wednesday 15 July at 8am and Thursday 16 July at 5.30pm. There's a lot of information to take in, and all the details are available on our website. You can register for the webinars or apply online, or for further advice please contact 02 6578 7290. You can also help us to

record our COVID-19 experience in Branxton and surrounds for the history of the future. The Local History team at Singleton Library is collating the narrative of the COVID-19 experience as it happens – but they need your submissions of photos or momentos of your time in lockdown. It might be a picture of a pizza delivery on the front step, or how you marked Anzac Day: anything that visually captures what COVID-19 was like for us is welcome. To make it even more worthwhile, there are even Spend in Singleton gift cards for the best submissions that reach the Library by 9 August. On a final note, it's great to see the Greta-Branxton-Vineyards News back in print to keep our community informed of what's happening in our local area. We know only too well the value of publications like this one to keep people and communities connected, and I look forward to more local news as we emerge from this pandemic.

Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR SPORT RETURNS – TAKE CARE

There are mixed views about whether or not we should be returning to sport while still in the middle of COVID-19. I will leave it to you to make your own judgements. But can I just urge everyone to please follow all of the rules, codes and policies that are being put into place at the various sporting venues. Sport in 2020 is not business as usual. Indeed, sport in 2021 won't be business as usual either.

All of the care and caution being taken around our sports over the coming months is 100% about the safety of each of us. I know that it is going to be incredibly hard for parents and grandparents that are going to be prevented from watching their loved ones play their sport.

TOURISM RETURNS TO OUR REGION IN A BIG WAY

These past couple of weekends have seen an absolute boom in tourism. It's fantastic for all of the local businesses and also for the people employed to work in the tourism sector. Fingers crossed this will be a long and safe return to activity in our area. Meanwhile, with some state borders closed, it is an absolutely brilliant chance to see parts of NSW that you might not have seen before. If I could offer one tip – head out to the far west and north-west of NSW. Breathe in the vast expanse of our land. Find a river and go camping, or fishing, or just laze about and read a book. Visit a local pub or café.

Learn about our history and development of these far west areas both before and after European settlement. For example, visit the fish traps at Brewarrina that are almost certainly the oldest man-made structures on the entire planet – probably 50,000 years older than the water schemes of Rome or the pyramids of Egypt. Take a tour of the fish traps with a local Indigenous organisation and find out just how clever this structure was in providing a guaranteed food supply long before supermarkets and electricity existed.

ARE THE GREETING OF A HANDSHAKE AND/OR KISS-N-CUDDLE GONE FOREVER?

I find it incredibly hard to not shake someone's hand when I greet them. I feel rude when I refuse. I also feel embarrassed and disappointed. As humans, right across the globe, it seems that almost every culture had some form of greeting that involved physical touch as a signal of say "we are at peace with each other".

At the moment I do fear that a bit of COVID-19 complacency might see us revert back to old habits. Can I please urge this simple message – DO NOT BE COMPLACENT. For Exhibit A of what complacency can bring, check out the situation in poor old Victoria. Keep your distance. Wash your hands. Avoid touch. And isolate if you recognise even mild cold/flu symptoms and get tested.



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP
Member for Upper Hunter

FUNDING BOOST FOR UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

I wish to advise that domestic violence victim-survivors across our Upper Hunter electorate will have more vital help available during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Upper Hunter Homelessness & Support Service receiving \$134,800 in funding as part of the NSW and Federal Governments' recent \$21 million investment.

The pandemic has increased the potential for domestic abuse in homes across the Upper Hunter electorate community, so we want to ensure help is available and accessible at this crucial time.

This funding boost by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments will ensure local support services in the Upper Hunter electorate have the resources they need to respond to any increase in service demand.

The \$21 million additional investment for

domestic violence front-line specialist services comprises \$12.8 million from the NSW Government and \$8.8 million from the Commonwealth Government. Please contact the Domestic Violence Line on 1800 65 64 63 when it's safe to do so.

Cheers, Michael



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

It's been quite some time since I've written this column and what a time it has been. For some of us in the community it has meant we have had more time to spend with loved ones, catching up on jobs at home and doing activities that we enjoy. For others it has been quite challenging, both financially and emotionally. I hope for you it was the former. At Cessnock Council, although many staff have not been onsite the work has continued, particularly for the outdoor team who have been steaming ahead on many projects like the Bridges Hill Playground, Gingers Lane upgrade, Branxton Main Street revitalisation, Camp Road Greta culvert rehabilitation, Branxton Oval Rotunda upgrade and the bus stop upgrade at North Rothbury. As always, there is always more to do, and we look forward to continuing that work.

Over the past number of years Council has been focused on supercharging our strategic planning and ensuring projects are shovel-ready. As a result of our preparedness, we have successfully applied for a number of state and federal government grants including a new community hub/shelter at Miller Park, and \$1.95m for the Branxton-Greta Memorial Cycleway. These projects came to fruition as a direct result of efforts and continued lobbying by community members and I'm so proud of these partnerships which will continue to deliver real outcomes for our community and the broader region.

It's so important to remember that we aren't yet through this pandemic, so we must stay vigilant and continue to practice good hygiene and social distancing but continue to support our local businesses as much as possible. On that note, I'd like to finish by thanking the community for all you've done during this difficult time. We really are all in this together and in the midst of this challenging time, the strength of our community spirit has truly shone through. Cheers, Mel

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How COVID-19 has impacted the dental industry

During this time of uncertainty, we tackle these uncharted waters together taking as many precautions as possible. The dental industry is no stranger to infection control. In fact, dental clinics exercise a very high standard of infection control on a day-to-day basis. Routine personal protective equipment including masks, gloves and eyewear are always worn. Instruments are sterilized in an autoclave between each use, all surfaces are wiped down with disinfectant between each patient and effective hand hygiene practices are implemented between each patient and multiple times throughout a single appointment. Hunter Dental Group are closely following both the Chief Health Officers advice, as well as that of our industry body the Australian Dental Association. At the time of writing, we are only completing the treatment of urgent or emergency dental care. As the COVID-19 situation progresses, we will continue to follow medical advice and adapt to ensure urgent dental care can be completed safely. In the meantime while as a society we social isolate and stay home where possible, it is essential to maintain optimal oral health and not allow our



- hygiene practices to fall by the way side. As children stay home from school, it easy to fall out of routine and miss brushing our teeth regularly. Here are our top at home tips to optimize your oral health- no one wants a toothache in the midst of a global pandemic.
- * Brush your teeth morning and night. This is essential to preventing both decay & gum disease. Ideally you should be using a soft toothbrush, and brushing in a circler motion angling the bristles towards the gum line
 - * Clean between your teeth! If you are not flossing or using interdental brushes you are missing 25% of your teeth's surfaces!
 - * Children under the age of 8 should be assisted with brushing and flossing. As their dexterity and co-ordination develops children require assistance to ensure effective oral hygiene habits
 - * Reduce snacking and avoid consuming foods high in sugar. Dental decay is caused by a

combination of sugar & dental plaque. To reduce both yours and your child's risk of experiencing dental decay, be sure to eat a diet high in vegetables & fruits, nuts & seeds as well as dairy products. Interestingly, dairy products help to combat the sugar and acid attack on the teeth, so including a dairy product with each meal is a good idea.

- * Drink plenty of water and avoid soft drinks and fruit juices- both of which are high in sugar!

In order to assist your children in staying on track with their oral health during this time, we are offering online Oral Hygiene Reviews and Advice for parents & children. Simply call one of our four clinics or message us on Facebook to schedule your online consultation with one of our Oral Health Therapists. Additionally if you find yourself in a dental emergency during this time, please contact us in the same manner to discuss your dental concerns and receive advice.

Brittany Trudgett, Oral Health Therapist, Hunter Dental Group Greenhills. Cessnock. Greta & Dungog

Community urged to continue to be responsible and social distance

Cessnock City Council is urging residents and local businesses to ensure they are doing the right thing when it comes to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Our region continues to fair well and is recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic, however the developments this week in Victoria remind us how quickly transmission can occur. It's been positive to see our businesses reopen their doors and trade again, particularly seeing our community getting involved in the Support Local Campaign.

Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson is encouraging everyone in the community to ensure they are following government restrictions and advice.

"We must not be complacent. Social distancing, hand washing and staying at home when you're sick are all very important steps each individual can take that will make a real difference and save lives."

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent agreed, saying it's important, particularly for our most vulnerable residents.

"We don't want to see a situation in our community where we are forced to go back into a lockdown. Let's all continue to do our bit every day to protect our more at risk residents and to ensure our businesses can continue to operate."

"It's good to see businesses conducting their trading in line with NSW Government restrictions. These restriction eased earlier in the month and we want to continue in this positive direction. Please make sure you are compliant with Public Health Orders."



Mayor Pynsent using the hand sanitisation station in Council's Administration Building.



Let your slow cooker do the work to create this satisfying Italian-style veggie and meatball soup.

Ingredients ~ 6 Servings

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 2 celery sticks, thinly sliced
- 1 brown onion, finely chopped
- 1 fennel, chopped, fronds reserved
- 1 carrot, peeled, chopped
- 4 cups (1L) Salt Reduced Chicken Stock
- 400g can diced tomatoes
- 1 rosemary sprig
- 500g pork sausages, casings removed
- 1/4 cup (60g) ricotta
- 1/4 cup (20g) finely grated parmesan
- 1 egg, lightly whisked
- 3/4 cup (55g) panko breadcrumbs
- 1 zucchini, halved, thinly sliced
- 400g can butter beans, rinsed, drained
- 2 cups (80g) chopped kale

Method

Step 1
• Heat oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Add celery, onion, fennel and carrot. Cook for 4 mins or until the vegetables are tender. Transfer to a slow cooker.

Italian-style vegetable and pork meatball soup



Step 2

• Add the stock, tomato and rosemary to the onion mixture in the slow cooker. Season. Cover and cook for 1 hour on high (or 2 hours on low).

Step 3

• Meanwhile, finely chop the reserved fennel fronds. Place in a bowl with the sausage, ricotta, parmesan, egg and breadcrumbs. Roll 1-tbs portions of the sausage mixture into balls. Heat a non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add meatballs and cook, turning, for 5 mins or until brown all over.

Step 4

• Add meatballs, zucchini and beans to the slow cooker. Stir to combine. Cover and cook on high for 30 mins or until the vegetables are tender and the meatballs are cooked through.

Step 5

• Stir in the kale. Divide the soup among serving bowls.



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\$6.6 MILLION GRANT TO HELP RESTART HUNTER VALLEY TOURISM POST COVID-19



we're announcing today will ensure Cessnock airport is able to support more of these important air services and the museum will provide a greater experience for visitors who come to the Hunter by the airport arrivals gate."

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the \$500 million Growing Local Economies Fund is

sectors. "This is exactly what Growing Local Economies grants are designed to deliver for our regions and I congratulate Cessnock City Council on securing this funding." Cessnock Mayor Cr Bob Pynsent welcomed news of the funding and said the

council will provide a co-contribution of approximately \$2.1 million for the project. "I thank the NSW Government for its support and look forward to work commencing on this next important project for people in Cessnock," Cr Pynsent said.

The \$500 million Growing Local Economies Fund is part of the NSW Government's commitment to the delivery of infrastructure projects which improve the economic growth and productivity of the state under Restart NSW.

Photo at left: Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent at Cessnock Airport

Major upgrades to Cessnock Airport will transform Cessnock into the new gateway to the Hunter Valley, bringing in tourists to enjoy the vineyards and natural beauty of the region, boosting local jobs and the local economy, thanks to \$6.6 million from the NSW Government.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Catherine Cusack congratulated Cessnock City Mayor Cr Bob Pynsent for securing the grant from the Growing Local Economies Fund, which will allow Cessnock City Council to begin work

on the site. Ms Cusack said the vital upgrades will include extension and reconstruction of the runway, widening and resealing of taxiways and development of parking areas to allow a wider array of aircraft to land as well as establishment of an aviation museum.

"I'm thrilled to announce funding for these upgrades which demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to a strong recovery plan for the Region's tourism and aviation sectors," said Ms

Cusack. "In the years to come, this project will bring around \$32 million into the local economy, create close to 60 jobs and transform Cessnock into one of NSW's premier airports for general aviation.

"The airport is already a hub for scenic flights, airport and medical transfers, charter flights and more but, over the years, it has become tired with use, with cracking and rutting in the runway and a runway that's too short to allow larger airplanes to land. "The essential upgrades

delivering the infrastructure industry in regional NSW needs to improve productivity, expand their operations and create new jobs.

"The upgrade to Cessnock Airport anchors Cessnock as an essential part of the Hunter's tourism industry and will support the growth of local businesses," Mr Barilaro said.

"Our investment in regional NSW through the \$1.7 billion Regional Growth Fund is creating jobs and encouraging investment into tourism, logistics, agriculture and other



House of the Month ~ JULY 2020

Congratulations to Gary & Lyn of Reid Street, North Rothbury. Gary & Lyn have created a beautiful 2 bedroom cottage & wonderful yard.



A bonus for local book lovers!



Cessnock City Library has ramped up local access to online content in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak to help locals stay entertained through self-isolation and social distancing measures. With the launch of an innovative new platform *indyreads*, Cessnock locals can now access over 11,000 new eBooks and audiobooks from home, for free.

Developed by the State Library of NSW, *indyreads* gives Cessnock City Library members 24/7 access to a range of eBooks, including fiction titles by well-known and popular authors, poetry collections, cookbooks, educational books, local studies resources and much more.

Cessnock City Library Services Coordinator, Rosemarie Walters said *indyreads* also includes books from independent Australian and international publishers as well as the best examples of self-publishing, offering communities a greater diversity of stories.

"With *indyreads*, library members can get a lot more variety with something for every reader – from high quality self-published works by local writers to international award-winning authors, modern classics, and books in a range of other languages."

"*indyreads* is a great addition to our library collection. Our members will particularly enjoy being able to access such a wealth of fiction by Australian authors," added Rosemarie.

To access the *indyreads* collection, please visit libraries.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

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REPORT

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A Casual Misunderstanding – Casual workers may not truly be casuals at all

In August 2018, the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia delivered a significant decision for casual workers after Queensland truck driver Paul Skene successfully argued that, despite being labelled a ‘casual’, the nature of his employment more substantively and practically resembled permanent full-time (*Workpac Pty Ltd v Skene [2018] FCAFC 131*). This decision was re-confirmed in the recent decision of *Workpac Pty Ltd v Rossato [2020] FCAFC 84*, a decision handed down on 20 May 2020. The Court found that an employee of labour hire business Workpac Pty Ltd engaged and paid as a casual was in fact ‘other than a casual employee’ for the purposes of sections 86, 95 and 106 of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth) (**FW Act**). This entitled him to annual leave, compassionate leave and personal leave. The decision emphasised that the Court will look at the real substance of an employment relationship rather than its form when determining whether an employee is in fact a casual employee at law. By way of background, between 28 July 2014 to 9 April 2018, Mr Robert Ros-

sato was employed by Workpac under six consecutive contracts of employment which each labelled his employment as casual. Relying on the decision of *Skene*, Rossato claimed that despite Workpac labelling him as a casual, the employment relationship was not that of a casual employee. Workpac commenced proceedings in the Federal Court seeking declarations that Rossato was a casual employee and not entitled to paid entitlements under the FW Act or the applicable Enterprise Agreement. In the alternative, it was argued that Rossato’s pay included a casual loading of 25% which was, in part, paid in lieu of entitlements payable to permanent employees under the FW Act and Workpac was entitled to ‘set off’ any amount owed to Rossato in respect of those entitlements. The decision reinforced that casual employment is ordinarily indicated by an absence of a ‘firm advance commitment as to the duration of the employee’s employment or the days/hours the employee will work.’ While Rossato was employed and paid as a casual, the way the contracts were actually performed pointed

against such a characterisation. The Court found that the parties had agreed to employment of an indefinite duration which was stable, regular and predictable, including that:

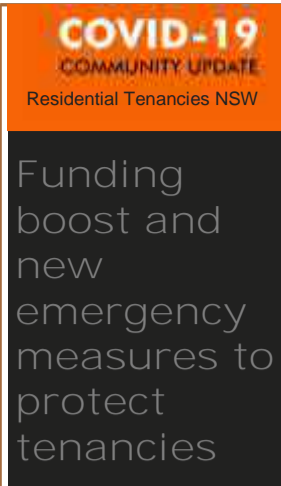
- the contracts provided for continuing work to be performed according to an agreed pattern of full-time hours;
 - despite some variability to the actual hours of work allocated, it was nevertheless pre-programmed long in advance and fixed by a roster; and it was implied that Rossato was required to perform the work as allocated to him on the roster and was unable to elect whether to work a shift or not.
- According to the Court, these characteristics indicated a firm advance commitment. By comparison, casual employment is unpredictable, irregular, intermittent and not pre-allocated. The decision directly impacts the manner in which thousands of casual employees are engaged and paid in Australia with employers needing to move quickly to re-assess their current arrangements. For labour hire companies where ‘permanent casual’ work arrangements are frequently utilised the decision will have a significant impact.

consumer protection measures.”

“The Victorian experience is a pertinent reminder for all NSW agents to stay vigilant. The ability for agents to hold open homes and onsite auctions is a valuable concession, not a right. If we don’t have agents complying with the COVID-19 restrictions, then a removal of the concessions and a return to more draconian measures is likely. As has been demonstrated in Victoria over the past week, the ability to carry on showing homes and conducting auctions is a concession that can be taken away at a moment’s notice,” says Mr McKibbin.

“The NSW community has done the right thing and by doing the right thing we have this virus in a manageable state. However, the Victorian experience shows just how easily COVID-19 can re-emerge and the problems that creates for the property industry. If this were to happen in NSW it would mean the relaxed social distancing requirements that we are currently enjoying could be reversed.”

with the current social distancing requirements. The NSW Government relaxed the restrictions imposed as part of the initial shutdown, enabling agents the ability to conduct open homes and auctions,” says REINSW’s CEO Tim McKibbin. “To protect consumers and continue enjoying these concessions, it is important that all agents not only comply with the minimum requirements, but also embrace the spirit of these



COVID-19
COMMUNITY UPDATE
Residential Tenancies NSW

Funding boost and new emergency measures to protect tenancies

Residential tenants and landlords facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 will receive increased support and greater certainty from the NSW Government’s new temporary rental support measures announced in mid April. The six-month support package includes a moratorium on applications for forced evictions due to rental arrears for those financially disadvantaged by COVID-19, and new requirements for landlords and tenants to enter into negotiations over rental payments in good faith. Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Kevin Anderson said an interim 60-day moratorium on finalising existing matters, or making new applications to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) for forced evictions over rent arrears related to COVID-19, sends a clear message that the process is not optional. “We know many people are worried about meeting their financial commitments at the moment. That is why we need more stability for tenants and landlords while the new Commonwealth income support payments are rolled-out, and landlords talk to their bank about mortgage relief,” Mr Anderson said. Where a household is struggling to make rental payments and has suffered a loss of income equal to or greater than 25 per cent due to COVID-19, there is a new obligation to enter into negotiations with their landlord or managing agent, prior to seeking a forced end to the tenancy. Tenants will be protected from eviction until NCAT is satisfied that negotiations have concluded. Any unpaid rent will accrue as arrears during this period. Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the Government was allocating around \$440 million towards rent relief in the form of land tax waivers or rebates – with the expectation that this would be split approximately evenly between business and residential landlords. Mr Perrottet said residential landlords would be eligible for a land tax waiver or rebate of up to 25 per cent if they passed the saving on to tenants in financial distress. “This is effectively a \$220 million commitment in the residential sector from the

NSW Government to help encourage both landlords and tenants to reach agreement on rent reductions during this difficult time,” Mr Perrottet said. “It’s also important that tenants suffering financial distress as a result of COVID-19 will not be blacklisted for the accrual of rental arrears during this time.” Mr Anderson said it was important that both landlords and tenants continued to honour existing agreements to the extent possible. “No reasonable person wants to end a tenancy right now, which is why we are supporting renters and landlords to negotiate new temporary terms, so tenants keep a roof over their head, and landlords aren’t left without rental income for the next six months. “For some people this may be a daunting experience, so to boost available support we’ve announced a one-off \$2.5 million boost to tenancy advocacy and advice services across the state.” Tenants and landlords will also have access to assistance from Fair Trading and access to the NCAT to resolve matters after the end of the 60-day period:

- NSW Fair Trading’s dispute resolution service will be available to assist if the parties are unable to re-negotiate and agree on new rental arrangements, backed by Fair Trading’s existing legal powers
- NCAT will be available to make appropriate orders in light of the current circumstances where the parties are unwilling or unable to reach an agreement and action is taken to seek an eviction
- Action is also being taken to ensure that evictions for reasons not related to rent arrears are also stayed to minimise avoidable housing disruption and movement. The usual periods of required notice under the Residential Tenancies Act will be increased from the minimum of 30 days up to 90 days for terminations due to fixed or periodic leases ending, or other agreement breaches.
- Landlords will however continue to be able to seek to recover premises due to their own genuine hardship. Tenants will also continue to be able to apply to the Tribunal to terminate a fixed-term tenancy on the basis of hardship.
- Tenants will be protected from being added to tenancy databases (or ‘blacklists’) for breaches of agreements resulting from COVID-19 impacts. “I encourage landlords and tenants to approach this new process with an open mind and an empathetic ear. It is important to learn about each other’s current position in order to better support each other during

these extraordinary times,” Mr Anderson said.

Mandatory Code of Conduct for commercial leases

By Stuart Dixon-Smith, Simone Menz, Carl Black, Chris Wheeler, Mark Bayliss, Francesca Giorlando, Chris Mitchell, Julia Nikolich and Tristan Howes. On 7 April, the National Cabinet announced a Mandatory Code of Conduct (Code) for COVID-19 impacted small and medium sized commercial tenants. The good faith leasing principles imposed by the Code stand to radically alter the rights of affected landlords and tenants, and we would anticipate that their implementation will require careful legislation from States and Territories and complex bilateral negotiations between landlord and tenant parties. The Code seeks to share the burden of the challenging conditions faced by the property sector (including through a sharing of benefits provided to landlords by their banks) and to ensure commensurate protections are in place to support Australian businesses. Whilst the Code was prepared after consultation with stakeholders in the commercial property sector, many aspects will require further development by both State and Territory government and industry participants to ensure clear and successful outcomes. This alert sets out the changes to existing commercial leasing arrangements required by the Code, and considers the implications and opportunities for landlords and tenants.

Applicable Leases Whilst the Code has been developed to enable a consistent national approach and application, the States and Territories will each separately introduce legislation to give effect to the Code. Commencement will be determined by each State and Territory and the Code is intended to apply for as long as the Commonwealth JobKeeper program is operational (**COVID Period**). Regardless of the dates on which individual States achieve legislative adoption of the Code,

the Code proposes commencement of the measures from a date after 3 April, within individual State legislation to define the date. The Code applies to commercial tenancies where the tenant is both:

- a small or medium sized enterprise with an annual turnover of less than \$50 million per year (measured at the franchisee level for franchises and at the group level for retail corporate groups). It is thought the intent is for the grouping to apply to all corporate tenants, not just retail groups; and
- suffering financial distress and hardship – defined so that tenants eligible for the JobKeeper program automatically qualify. Businesses with an annual turnover less than \$1 billion are eligible for the JobKeeper program if they have experienced a 30% fall in revenue since 1 March 2020, and are not subject to the major bank levy. The principles espoused in the Code are also intended to apply “in spirit” to the leasing arrangements of all businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, regardless of whether they meet the specific eligibility criteria. The below rules will not strictly apply to ineligible tenancies, but nonetheless may provide guidance for negotiations which might occur as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Requirements The Code is based on good faith leasing principles and is designed to encourage parties to reach mutually agreeable outcomes. However, its “principles” include the following guidance, to be applied on “a case by case basis”:

- the Code includes several express positive obligations required of negotiated outcomes;
- **Rent reductions:** landlords must reduce rent proportionately to the decline in the tenant’s business, measured by the reduction in turnover during COVID Period and a reasonable recovery period. The reduction is to be a combination of waivers and deferrals of rent. Alternate outcomes such as deferral, pausing or hibernating may also be used to reach commercially agreed outcomes; and
- **Lease obligations remain on foot:** tenants must remain committed to the terms of the lease and continue to pay rent where possible;
- the Code also imposes a number of restrictions that apply during the COVID Period and a reasonable recovery period;
- **Rent increases:** landlords must not impose rent increases (except in the case of retail turnover rent);
- **Terminations:** landlords must not terminate leases for the non-payment of rent;



Important that Real Estate agents remain vigilant and compliant with the current social distancing requirements

There has been a return to stricter controls on Victoria’s property agents as a result of the re-emergence of COVID-19 in Melbourne over the past week. This is a timely reminder for us all that this issue has not been put to rest. With the property market currently so buoyant, there are many more potential buyers coming through open homes and attending auctions. To avoid the Victorian-style restrictions being imposed in NSW, it is critical that agents remain vigilant and compliant

About the Huntlee Academy

....achieving employment outcomes for local people

Huntlee Academy was established in 2014 to provide work, skill development and higher level career opportunities for local disadvantaged people.

opportunities to a wide range of local residents. We also anticipate that by increasing the skills, experiences and responsibilities

through other employers. With a first class management team and enthusiastic participants the Academy has grown from strength to strength and stands behind its charter of enabling people to receive the best training available for their betterment and future income opportunities



Under the direct employment provided by the Huntlee Academy, daily activities currently include:

Mowing	Colorbond fencing	Block splitting
Slashing	Rural fencing	Metal fabrication
Whipper snipping	Domestic fencing	Temporary fencing placement and removal
Roadside clean-up	Landscaping	Machinery maintenance
Gardening	Mulching	Property maintenance
Carpentry	Tractor work	Water carting
Weed spraying	Land cleaning	Construction of concrete paths
Native seed collection	Timber processing	Native land conservation
Container Collection (Return & Earn)		



Trainees are typically young people, long term unemployed, mature aged workers, people with a disability and Indigenous Australians. For these people, the benefits are immediate and the repercussions very much long term as they learn skills, complete training and receive the support they need to ensure they are job ready.

Near Branxton and the township of Huntlee

Huntlee Academy was planned and established as an essential component of the Huntlee development. In addition to providing opportunities for trainees, it offers employers – both those associated with the building of the new town and those engaged in other activities in the local area – access to a dedicated pool of employees managed by the Academy.

As well as meeting their labour demands, it allows employers to fulfil an important social responsibility in the burgeoning new township by offering sustainable employment

of local people, the Huntlee Academy will, in the longer term, create the opportunity for the incubation of new small businesses.

The Organisation

Huntlee Academy is a standalone organisation governed by a board which includes community members. We are a registered charity. We are entirely independent of Huntlee and LWP Property

Group (the project manager), however LWP Property Group and a number of its contractors have committed to assisting the Academy by providing competitive commercial work opportunities. This has enabled the Academy to contribute some \$1.5m to the local community in goods, services and payroll with no direct government funding.

ACADEMY WORK

Huntlee Academy achieves employment outcomes directly by sourcing candidates for its business units and indirectly by facilitating opportunities

A CRISIS OUT THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE IN HERE.

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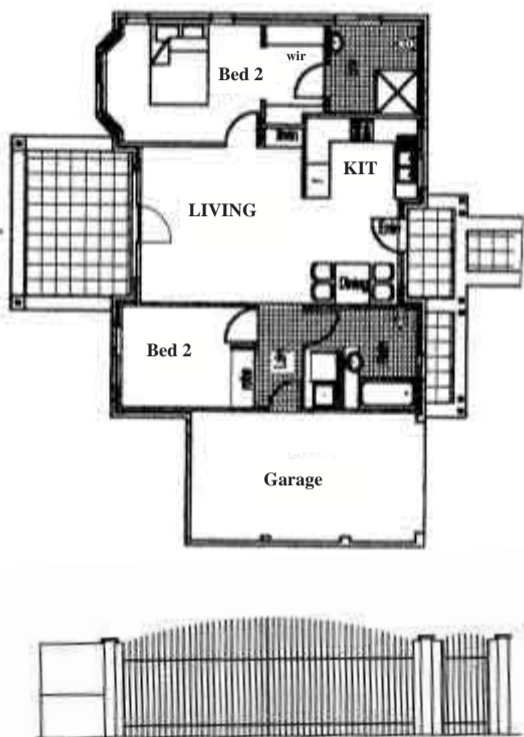
SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"



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.

ASKING \$320,000



GATE DETAIL

* The dwellings may provide accommodation only for the following persons: 1. seniors or people who have a disability; 2. people who live within the same household with seniors or people who have a disability; 3. staff employed to assist in the administration of & provision of services to housing provided under that policy. "Seniors" is defined as persons aged 55 years & over.

BRANXTON

SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"



Two-bedroom unit 'Branxton Gardens' Senior Living

Features include ~ heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit with an ensuite to the main bedroom, walk-in robe, a lock-up garage, natural gas & your own private totally landscaped courtyard. Other features include air-con in main bedroom & living area, recently layed laminated wood flooring in living area + many other features. It is totally landscaped & also features security gating. The unit is next to Branxton Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just 5 minutes drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.

ASKING \$360,000



Building Blocks

NORTH ROTHBURY
Vacant building block ~ 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ono

BELFORD

Vacant Building Block
2559m²

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

ASKING \$160,000 ONO

NORTH ROTHBURY

Vacant building block

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

ASKING \$135,000



after prohibited drugs and explosive devices were located at a home in Weston NSW. Officers attached to the Hunter Valley Police District Proactive Crime Team conducted a Firearms Prohibition Order (FPO) search at a home on Fifth Street, Weston, about 10.30am (Wednesday 1 July 2020). During the search, police located and seized an amount of methylamphetamine, cannabis, more than \$10,000 cash, drug paraphernalia, and explosive detonators. Police arrested a 36-year-old man at the scene and he was taken to Cessnock Police Station. He was charged with seven offences including:

- Possess prohibited drug (x4)
 - Possess, supply or make explosive for unlawful purpose
 - Goods in custody suspected being stolen (x2)
- He was refused bail and faced Newcastle Local Court on Thursday 2 July 2020. Specialist police were called to the station to safely destroy the explosive materials.

Man charged as part of investigations into Cessnock death

Wednesday, 08 July 2020
A man has been charged as part of investigations into the death of another man at a rubbish tip at Cessnock. Emergency services were called to the waste management facility on Old Maitland Road just after 5pm on Sunday (5 July 2020), after a 54-year-old man was found critically injured. He died at the scene. Officers from Hunter

Valley Police District attended and established a crime scene which was examined by specialist forensic officers. Local detectives, assisted by the State Crime Command's Homicide Squad, established Strike Force Nargal to investigate the circumstances surrounding the man's death which is being treated as suspicious. Following extensive inquiries, strike force detectives executed a crime scene warrant at a property at Lovedale just before 10.30am on Wednesday 8 July 2020, where they seized a Toyota Landcruiser.

A 30-year-old man was arrested at the property and taken to Cessnock Police Station. Shortly after, investigators executed a search warrant at a home at Aberdare, where a number of items were seized. The man was charged with dangerous driving occasioning death-driver manner dangerous, negligent driving (occasioning death), fail to stop and assist after vehicle impact causing death and driver not disclose identity of driver/passenger as required. Police will allege in court that the man was driving the Toyota Landcruiser when he struck the 54-year-old – who is known to him – at the waste facility. The Aberdare man was refused bail and appeared at Maitland Local Court on Thursday 9 July 2020. Inquiries are continuing

Man charged over alleged sexual act on bus – Kurri Kurri NSW
Saturday, 04 July 2020
A man has been charged over an alleged sexual act

on a bus last month. About 1.45pm on Wednesday 24 June 2020, a 16-year-old schoolgirl boarded a bus at Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri, travelling towards Heddon Greta. A man also boarded the bus and sat directly behind her. As the bus moved away, the man leaned over the seat and held a mobile phone allegedly depicting a sexual image in front of the girl. She got off and returned home before officers from Hunter Valley Police District were notified and commenced an investigation. Following inquiries, detectives arrested a 49-year-old man on Northcote Street, Weston about 4pm on Friday 3 July 2020. He was taken to Cessnock Police Station and charged with carry out sexual act with another without consent. The man was granted strict conditional bail to appear at Kurri Kurri Local Court on Tuesday 11 August 2020.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report crime via NSW Police social media pages.



FROM PAGE 10

Mandatory Code of Conduct for commercial leases

- **Securities:** landlords must not draw on tenant securities (including personal guarantees) for the non-payment of rent;
- **Penalties:** landlords are prohibited from imposing penalties for tenants who stop trading or reduce opening hours; and
- **Interest:** landlords must not charge interest on any unpaid rent;
- despite the level of prescription, the Code seeks to promote flexibility for landlords and tenants in several respects:
- the Code includes a number of broad overarching principles encouraging tenants and landlords to work together to share the financial burden during the COVID Period;
- landlords and tenants are encouraged to negotiate in good faith amendments to their existing arrangements that are bespoke and appropriate to their particular circumstances; and
- an expectation that landlords will work with their banks to share the burden, and share any benefits provided to them with tenants;
- the arrangements will be overseen by a binding mediation process coordinated by each State and Territory. It will be interesting to see how this will be resourced.

The changes in detail Lease obligations

Tenants must continue to observe the terms of the lease, subject to any agreed amendments. This is expressed as a prerequisite to the applicability of the Code, with any material disregard of the lease by the tenant to result in forfeiture of the specific protections set out in the Code.

Rent reductions

Landlords must provide reductions in the rent payable by the tenant, proportionate to the reduction in the tenant's turnover, during the course of the pandemic and a reasonable recovery period thereafter. Rent reductions may provide up to a 100% reduction of the rental amounts normally payable by the tenant. Rent waivers must account for at least 50% of any rent reduction (unless waived by the tenant), and should make up a higher proportion where the tenant would

otherwise be unable to fulfil their lease obligations and having regard to the financial ability of the landlord. Any such rent waivers may not be recovered by landlords during the remaining term of the lease. This will lead to the requirement for tenants to be very transparent to landlords about their financial position, both their cashflow position and their financial reserves (cash, loan facilities and equity positions). The balance of the rent reduction should be made up of rent deferrals, repayable over the greater of the balance of the term and 24 months after the COVID Period and a reasonable recovery period (except as otherwise agreed). It is not immediately clear how a 24 month repayment period would be implemented where the balance of the term is less than 24 months. The expectation is that the relief agreement would be an enforceable enduring arrangement potentially well past the term of the lease in some cases. The rent reductions are likely to apply only to net rent. Outgoings can still be recovered, although landlords are asked to seek to waive recovery whilst tenants are unable to trade. Landlords must not impose any fees, interest or charges in relation to any agreed rent waivers and deferrals. This contrasts to the position of many loan deferral arrangements with the banks. For example:

- a tenant experiencing a 40% decrease in turnover as a result of measures taken to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic would be entitled (in principle) to a reduction in the corresponding rent by 40%, with at least half of this reduction being a permanent waiver;
- if the monthly rent was \$10,000, the tenant would pay \$6,000 each month; and
- \$2,000 each month is deferred (and payable over a period of at least 24 months after the reasonable recovery period), whilst \$2,000 each month is permanently waived by the landlord.

Extended terms

Tenants should be provided with the opportunity to extend lease terms for an equivalent period of the rent waiver and deferral period. This would provide them with an opportunity to trade during the eventual period of recovery, whilst providing time to repay any deferred rent.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT EDITION

Fatal single-vehicle crash at North Rothbury

Sunday, 05 July 2020
A driver has died after a single-vehicle crash in the state's Hunter region on Sunday 5 July 2020. About 2.20am (Sunday 5 July 2020), emergency services were called to Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury, following reports a car had caught fire after leaving the road and hitting a tree.

The driver and sole occupant died at the scene. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District along with Fire and Rescue NSW attended scene and commenced investigations. A report will be prepared for the coroner.

Explosive detonators, cash seized; man charged – Weston NSW

Thursday, 02 July 2020
A man has been charged

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STUNNING 36 ACRES BLANK CANVAS READY
FOR YOUR DREAM HOME**

With optional potential home sites, the property has plenty of opportunity for a weekender country escape or unique rural lifestyle existence. Under a 2-hour drive from Sydney, approx. 70 min drive from the M1 interchange Wahroonga...

Things You Will Love About This Escape Acreage...

- Approx. 14.65 hectare (36.2 acre) rural holding with dwelling entitlement
- Stunning views from elevated sites
- Potential building sites
- Unique lifestyle acreage
- Abundant wildlife and native flora

ASKING 745,000





We have had challenging times since the last Branxtion VIEW Club report I wrote in February this year. Words - Coronavirus,(COVID 19) ,lockdown, social distancing etc. have now become everyday familiar language. We learn new ways to communicate with each other in this our 60th Anniversary of VIEW Clubs.

How wonderful it was to meet with each other again at our VIEW Club meeting this month-so much to catch up on - bushfire experiences, new additions to

families, health updates etc. Social communication at last!

Twenty six VIEW ladies met and began planning for our Birthday meeting to be held on 17th August 10 am at Greta Workers Club. Everyone is most welcome to attend, celebrate and bring some friends.RSVP is 27th July so please phone our secretary,Bethany Oldfield on 0419 429 364 to join us for a great day-\$30 per person.

Your attendance enables us also to support our seven disadvantaged Australian schoolchildren through the Smith Family Learning For Life program. Our income to meet our commitments for their support has also been affected since the shutdown since March.

So come along, have some fun and if you wish, think dress up like the Vera Lynne era ! Yes, we will have a great fun day !!

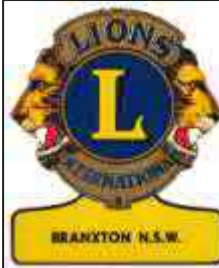
Advance notice for your diaries. Guest speakers booked-3rd September meeting- Lynette Mc Dowell from Museum of Clothing Maitland Gaol and 1st October, Reverend Nicole Baldwin. Our popular donna-lou Fashion parade will be held on 26th October.

Congratulations to Anne Louise O Connor from Pokolbin who is now the National VIEW Club President for 2020-21.

PS. Could not resist this advice from a CAT.

Be frisky !, Pounce on possibilities,enjoy the night life, always land on your feet, stretch often delight in the simple joy of a long nap, create your purr-fect day!

Peace and love to everyone, Judy Spillard



Funding Announcement

The Lions Club of Branxtion will receive funding of \$88,900 from the NSW Stronger Country Communities Fund to construct a new, larger storage facility, replacing the current 20-year-old shipping container. "The Club's new facility is set to have updated security as well as electricity and water, which will allow preparation and cleaning of food and equipment, and enable the club to increase its support services in the local area."

Branxtion Lion's Club President, Brian Thomas said the funding was fantastic news, as it will greatly assist their fund-raising efforts into the future.

"Thanks to this grant and support from Cessnock City Council, we can continue to expand our services in the community and further assist disadvantaged people," said Mr Thomas.

"The new facility will also be offered (free of charge) to emergency services for use during emergencies and natural disasters."

If you wish further information on this exciting announcement, or are interested in learning more about the activities of the Lions Club of Branxtion, please contact Alan on 0426261 948.



Over \$40 million set to be invested – a big boost for local economy

It was a positive feeling in the Cessnock City Council chambers last week, with the adoption of Council's 2020-2021 Operational Plan that includes a \$30 million Capital Works Program, which will reach over a record \$40 million following the next budget review.

This is due to recent announcements of additional grant funding.

Despite difficult times and the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19 Cessnock City Council has managed to deliver a budget of \$97 million with a

small surplus.

Council has also successfully maintained service levels despite the challenges of operating within government restrictions.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's an exceptional plan that will provide a boost to our local economy at a time where many in the community have felt firsthand the financial impacts of COVID-19.

"The \$30 million capital works program will have positive flow on effects for our community,

local businesses and local jobs. There's more good news to come at the next quarterly budget review which takes into account more grant funding recently announced, including a \$6.6 million grant secured for the upgrade of Cessnock Airport.

This project has the potential to create nearly 60 jobs and could see up to \$32 million injected into our economy over time. Our success in gaining grant funding has increased our ability to deliver for our community and kick start infrastructure projects that inject much needed funding into our economy."

Other highlights include \$13.64 million in grant funding:

- * \$1,950,000 under Round 4 of the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream to build an off-road, shared cycleway between Branxtion and Greta.

- * Bridges Hill Park, Cessnock – Playground Upgrade (\$851,018) & Improve Walking Path Access from CBD (\$198,000)
- * Kurri Kurri Commercial Centre Upgrade (\$3,717,900)

- * Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourist Signage (\$1,948,876)

- * Yango Creek, Wollombi – Replace Bridge over Wollombi Brook (\$1,176,500)

- * Gingers Lane, Weston – Upgrade Road Stage 3 (\$2,593,485)

- * Hart Road, Gingers Lane, Government Road, Loxford – Replace Roundabout (\$2,004,000)

The plan sets out the key actions Council will be achieving in the next 12 months.

This is the final Operational Plan to deliver the objectives and plans identified in the four year 2017-21 Delivery Program

YOUR VOICE IN CANBERRA

Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Your Federal Member for Hunter

If you have a Federal Government issue, call my office on 4991 1022.

The best way to keep up with what I'm doing in the Hunter electorate and in Parliament House is to follow me on social media or check my website at:

joelfitzgibbon.com



3 Edward Street, Cessnock 2325
joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au

Authorised by Joel Fitzgibbon, Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch), 3 Edward Street, Cessnock 2325 NSW

Community recovery a priority

Cessnock City Council welcomed a recent NSW Government announcement that will see a temporary Community Recovery Officer role established for the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA).

The role will be dedicated to supporting the following the bush fires that hit the LGA last fire season.

Council's Local Emergency Management Officer, Justin Fitzpatrick -Barr looks forward to the role joining the team.

"A person dedicated to the recovery process for a 12 month period will see a real difference on the ground. We will look to better understand the effects of the fires and how best to support those impacted."

"The Community Recovery Officer will be working directly with the community and drive community outcomes. It's a critical resource in the aftermath of a disaster which has complex affects from physical damage, to impacting wellbeing or financial stress, particularly for our tourism operators."

The role was advertised, with applications closing on Thursday 25 June.

For details on assistance available call Disaster Welfare on 1800 018 444.



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.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000

FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE
It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.
When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct.
ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED
For non-life threatening calls.....
Police Assistance Line (PAL).....
131 444

Police

Branxtion.....	4938 1244
Lochinvar.....	4930 7209
Ambulance.....	131 233
NSW Fire Brigade	
Branxtion.....	4938 3396
Rural Fire Brigades	
Belford.....	6574 7149
Broke.....	6579 1491
Greta.....	4015 0000
Bishops Bdg	4015 0000
Nth R'bury....	4015 0000
Rothbury.....	4015 0000
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000
Rothbury.....	4991 1733
Bishops Bdg	4015 0000
Rothbury.....	4015 0000
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000
Rothbury.....	4991 1733
Scotts	
Flat.....	6575 1200
Central (Cessnock)....	4015 0000

Electricity

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

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325



WIN A MEAT TRAY

FRIDAYS—Tix on sale 6pm drawn 7.30pm

SUNDAYS—on sale 11am drawn 12 noon

HARVEST BISTRO



**Open Lunch & Dinner
Wednesday to Sunday
Dine-in or Takeaway**

Wednesdays

4pm—6pm

\$4.00 Schooners



\$1500 Wed 15/7

\$1100 Sun as at 12/7

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW

COURTESY BUS

Wed 4-7 Thurs 5-8

Fri 5-10 Sun 11-2 /4.30-8.30



Miller Park Sports Club

6 Maitland Street East Branxton Ph 4938 1226



HOUSEIE

Every Wednesday

10am start

Wednesdays

4pm—6pm

\$4.00 Schooners



**Every Friday & Sunday
Bowlers Raffle Thursdays**



TUK TUK Thai & Aussie

Open Wed—Sun

Lunch & Dinner

Dine in or Takeaway



MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

\$500 as at Sun 12/7

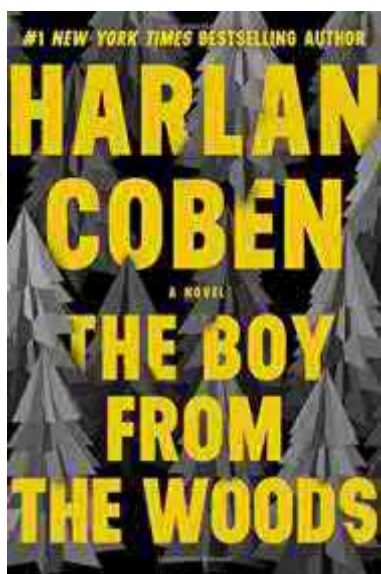
\$600 Thurs 16/7



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



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

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.

ABOUT



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 (12 July 2020)

- 28 SUMMERS by Elin Hilderbrand - A relationship that started in 1993 between Mallory Blessing and Jake McCloud comes to light while she is on her deathbed and his wife runs for president. Ranked 1 last week
● 4 weeks on the list
- THE VANISHING HALF by Brit Bennett - The lives of twin sisters who run away from a Southern Black community at age 16 diverge as one returns and the other takes on a different racial identity but their fates intertwine. Ranked 4 last week
● 94 weeks on the list
- WHERE THE CROWD 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 2 last week
● 21 weeks on the list
- THE GUARDIANS by John Grisham - Cullen Post, a lawyer and Episcopal minister, antagonizes some ruthless killers when he takes on a wrongful conviction case. Ranked 9 last week
● 9 weeks on the list
- CAMINO WINDS by John Grisham - The line between fact and fiction becomes blurred when an author of thrillers is found dead after a hurricane hits Camino Island. Ranked 3 last week
● 9 weeks on the list
- WALK THE WIRE by David Baldacci - The sixth book in the Memory Man series. Decker and Jamison investigate a murder in a North Dakota town in a fracking boom.
● 3 weeks on the list
- THE SUMMER HOUSE by James Patterson and Brendan DuBois - Jeremiah Cook, a veteran and former N.Y.P.D. cop, investigates a mass murder near a lake in Georgia. Ranked 5 last week
● 4 weeks on the list

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:

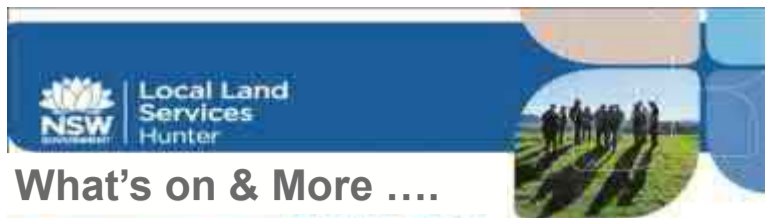
The Range Control Officer
Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management
Range Control Centre
Range Road
Singleton Training Area
Singleton NSW 2331

LOCALS SIGN UP FOR T.A.F.E NSW FEE-FREE

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Catherine Cusack has welcomed the news that 10,835 people across the Hunter region have taken advantage of the NSW Government's fee-free TAFE NSW short courses. Across New South Wales enrolments have passed 100,000 since the program was introduced in April as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 54 per cent of enrolments are from people living in regional NSW. Ms Cusack said that the rapid take-up of TAFE NSW short courses

in such a short period is unprecedented. "The NSW Government is committed to helping skill the state's workforce, so it's vital that we provide the support that communities need today, to get back to work and re-energise their businesses tomorrow," Ms Cusack said. The most popular courses in the Hunter community are Statements of Attainment in Medical Administration Skills, Team Leader Skill Set, eMarketing for Small Business and Business Administration.

Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education Geoff Lee said the NSW Government was pleased to see so many people getting their first taste of what it's like to study at TAFE NSW. "Around 49,000 people who enrolled in the fee-free short courses are first time TAFE NSW students. I hope that through this they will get a taste for TAFE and use the opportunity as a pathway to studying a higher qualification," Mr Lee said. "TAFE NSW is open and is committed to providing opportunities for people to get the skills they need to support our communities."



What's on & More

GOOD NEWS FOR FERAL FIGHTING FARMERS

Farmers across New South Wales are being supported to continue important biosecurity work on-farm, as the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) temporarily adjusts pest control accreditation periods for landholders in response to COVID-19.

Hunter Local Land Services Biosecurity Team Leader Luke Booth welcomed the exemption saying it will help protect farmers and the environment from feral pests like wild dogs and foxes.

The EPA has extended Vertebrate Pesticide Accreditations due to expire, and those that had expired since 1 March 2020, until 20 October 2020.

“This is good news for landholders in our region undertaking autumn baiting, and those already coordinating their spring campaigns with neighbours.”

The support and adaptability of Local Land Services has been a constant throughout the drought, fires, floods and now COVID-19. “We’re here when it matters, and ready to support you with innovative solutions for pest management, including providing individual bait drop offs to landholders and advice around best practice for pest management in our part of the state,” Luke Booth added.

“We offer a safe, contactless service to limit social contact, and ensure you’re still able to manage pests effectively.”

The agency is also providing online training for Vertebrate Pest Induction Training. The course covers topics such as baiting techniques, toxicity, storage, transport, legislation and work health and safety. Those completing the course will be issued a five-year accreditation to use 1080 and Pindone for feral pest control.

Landholders are encouraged to call their nearest Local Land Services office to express their interest in the online training, and to talk to a biosecurity officer about immediate options for pest management or planning for the months ahead.

HUNTER HORSE OWNERS REMINDED OF HENDRA



Hunter Local Land Services is urging horse owners to be aware that winter 2020 may provide suitable climatic conditions and subsequently a period of heightened risk for Hendra Virus cases in horses.

The case in the Upper Hunter last year, suggests that we must not become complacent and that Hendra virus infections can occur in our area.

BatOneHealth (batonehealth.org) are a global team of experts who have been studying the complex interactions between climate, land use, flying fox ecology, Hendra virus dynamics and the concurrent risk to horses and humans.

District Veterinarian Kristi Arnot said this group has recently advised that Winter 2020 represents a period of heightened risk for Hendra Virus spill over into horse populations.

“There were similar climatic and ecological conditions leading up to Winter 2011 and Winter 2017, which saw the largest numbers of equine cases, and the prediction is for similar climatic conditions this year,” said Kristi.

“June through to October is considered a high-risk time for Hendra infection in horses, because flying foxes are under pressure to find food in Winter.

“Actions now by vets and their clients can reduce this risk by ensuring horses are protected from infection, please be aware if there is sufficient close contact between an infected horse and a person then human infection becomes possible.”

Hendra virus is a virus carried by flying foxes (who are unaffected by the virus) and can be deadly to both humans and horses. Hendra virus is transmitted from flying fox to horse, via the ingestion by the horse of flying fox bodily fluids most likely dropped from overhead trees contaminating pasture, feed, water troughs etc. Hendra virus can then be spread from horse to horse, horse to dog and horse to human via close contact with respiratory secretions, blood or any other bodily fluid from an infected horse.

“Since the disease was first recognised in 1994, 62 outbreaks have been recorded with 104 horse deaths and 7 human infections have resulted in 4 deaths,” said Kristi.

“To protect both your horses and yourself, it is recommended to vaccinate your horse, as there is no human vaccine.”

There is no specific treatment for infected horses, and euthanasia is often required on welfare grounds whilst awaiting test results.

“Your decision whether or not to vaccinate your horse should be made in consultation with your veterinarian,” said Kristi. “This is an important discussion to have with your private veterinary practitioner so that they can safely attend and treat your horse in times of illness.

“Access to veterinary attention may not always be available for unvaccinated horses.”

PEST CONTROL CAMPAIGN HELPING FIRE AND DROUGHT AFFECTED PRODUCERS

Hunter Local Land Services has doubled efforts to target pest animals impacting the areas of the Manning Great Lakes and Hunter Valley hardest hit by drought and recent bushfires.

During autumn the Biosecurity Team has undertaken a combination of strategic programs involving aerial and on ground works to remove pest species across the region, to assist landholders rebuilding their farms and herds after such a devastating period.

Team Leader Luke Booth said the program has been far reaching, and utilising the skills of the Hunter Local Land Services team and contractors to assist landholders to control pest species.

“Over the last three years of the drought we saw an



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 7th July 2020

There was an increase in numbers with cows and young cattle well supplied. There was a great variation in both quality and condition throughout. Apart from a line of plain condition cows and their calves the quality and condition of the balance continued to show improvement as cattle come forward off crops and pastures. The regular buyers were in attendance and operating, along with some very strong restocker orders. There were varying trends through the young cattle. High demand for light weight young cattle representing the lower end of the dollar value was very high. Competition was strong resulting in significantly dearer prices being achieved. The better quality vealers to restockers sold to cheaper trends, both steers and heifers. Well finished vealers to the trade sold to a cheaper trend also. An improved quality penning of medium weight yearling feeder steers sold to a slightly cheaper trend, however averages improved in line with a quality improvement. There was a larger offering of heavy weight feeder steers, these also seeing a cheaper trend. There were cheaper trends of 12 to 14c/kg through the yearling heifers to restock and feed. Trade was firm to slightly cheaper. Weaker demand for heavy weight grown cattle resulted in cheaper trends for both steers and heifers. That trend carried into the well finished cows to process with the market trend as much as 15c/kg cheaper. Despite the cheaper market for well finished cows the plain condition cows attracted very strong restocker competition to sell to a dearer trend with prices surpassing those of the well finished lines.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 8th July 2020

Numbers lifted considerably, with the breed and quality fair to good. The majority were younger cattle and suitable for the restockers and feeder orders, as approximately 90 cows were penned. The bulk of the younger cattle entered the vealer categories, with the yearling heifers scarce in the pens. The market trend was cheaper. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers eased 7c and sold from 388c to 494c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers decreased 12c and ranged from 362c to 440c/kg. The yearling steers to feed and the restockers reduced 8c, with the medium weights receiving from 378c to 402c/kg. The best of the yearling heifers to the restockers reached 410c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers struggled to maintain firm prices, however the best still reached 428c/kg. The grown steers and heifers trended cheaper, however the heifer portion to the restockers sold to strong competition and reached 366c/kg. Cows trended 7c cheaper, with the plainer 2 scores making from 245c to 276c and up to 290c/kg to the restockers. The better covered heavy weights ranged from 284c to 300c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 270c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 7th July 2020

Consignments slipped, as the breed and quality remained fair to good. The majority were suitable for the lot feeders and restocker orders, with good percentages also suitable for the local butchers. There were approximately 90 export, the majority entering the cow categories, while there were also some pens of heavy steers and heifers in the market. The sale trend overall was cheaper. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers eased 6c and made from 418c to 498c/kg. The same weight heifer portion to the same orders trended 12c cheaper and ranged from 400c to 438c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to the lot feeders eased 4c and received from 390c to 410c/kg. The yearling heifers also to the lot feeders maintained solid prices, with the medium weights making from 370c to 404c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers were heavier compared to recent markets and these topped at 426c/kg. The better finished heavy weight grown steers and heifers reached 350c/kg. Cows trended 6c cheaper, with the plainer 2 scores ranging from 250c to 280c, as the better finished heavy weights made from 278c to 312c/kg. Due to technical issues the data for the export cattle do not appear on this report.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 6th July 2020

The first sale of the new financial year saw a sharp increase in supply. All categories were represented, cows well supplied. The quality and condition of the offering was very mixed with well bred and well finished cattle in good numbers. There were quite a few plain condition light weight cows and grown heifers penned. The usual buyers were in attendance and operating along with some strong restocker competition, particularly on those plain cows. Demand was weaker for the lighter weight vealers to restock. This resulted in cheaper trends in the main, quality also a factor in price change. The good quality heavier weights remained firm. Heifer vealers to restock also sold to cheaper trends with weaker demand. Yearling steers to restock and feed saw little but quality related price change. That trend also carried in to the feeder heifers. There was strong domestic trade competition for suitable well finished yearlings. The market trend dearer. Heavy grown steers and bullocks sold to dearer trends, posting strong gains. Again strong domestic competition on the younger lines contributed. The well finished grown heifers saw a mostly firm market trend. There were age related price variations with

increased presence of pests on properties, as they came in search of feed and water, the bushfires further compounded that situation in many parts of our region,” said Luke Booth.

“Through a combination of intense strategic programs including ground and aerial works, utilising Professional Controllers and working closely with local wild dog associations and community groups we have redoubled efforts this autumn to control pest animals across the region.”

This is the fourth successive annual aerial shoot in the region, aimed at directly impacting invasive species populations.

“Already we are seeing the positive cumulative impact of these repeated annual campaigns, with landholders reporting fewer pests returning to these properties over time,” said Luke.

“The program across the Hunter and Manning Great

Lakes this year resulted in the removal of 765 deer, 714 pigs, 5 foxes and 2 wild dogs.”

“Our strategic programs are all planned in partnership with local associations and in line with the Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan, to ensure our customers have a say in ensuring any local hotspots are targeted.”

In some areas of the Upper Hunter landholders are reporting deer numbers down by as much as two thirds on populations from two years ago.

“This is the fourth time we have undertaken an aerial shooting campaign across the district, and it is showing we are making a big impact on feral deer populations – which is great news for landholders trying to maintain feed and water supplies for stock in the worst drought on record,” said Luke.

“For producers to report they are able to carry more stock or their crops and pastures are surviving to harvest without being over grazed and wrecked by feral deer is a big success story.”

More than 200 properties across the region also participated in aerial baiting during May. Hunter Local Land Services has covered all costs of the aerial baiting program for landholders for the past two years, as part of ongoing drought support measures. These regular autumn programs have been aided by the addition of Federal Government funding, to support areas impacted by bushfires over summer. In the Manning Great Lakes a professional controller has



been engaged fulltime to work with landholders in fire affected areas, to target and remove pests impacting their livestock, especially wild dogs predated in the fire scar.

“We are here to support landholders as they recover from what has been a very difficult period across our region,” said Luke. “Working together strategically to reduce and remove pest species not only assists landholders recovering from drought and fire, but native species who also often fall prey to, or have to compete for habitat with feral animals.”

Out & About

with Mike Lowing

The current pandemic with its initial lockdown & ensuing regulations (& general good compliance) hasn't seemed to affect the construction industry locally with Coles at Huntlee & the new Huntlee tavern and other private commercial construction going ahead full steam. Cessnock City Council is currently refurbishing the Rotunda Memorial at Branxton Oval and are well on their way with the Branxton main street upgrade. Also, the newly funded Branxton to Greta Cycleway is set to commence soon after surveying & geotechnical work is complete. The temporary closing of part of Wombo Underground Mine seems to be, at this stage, the only bad news in the local coal mining industry.



☞ Above: The Huntlee Tavern taking shape



☞ Above: Changes to Greta Workers Club



☞ Above: John Rose Avenue gets the full makeover



☞ Above: The new Coles complex at Huntlee almost complete



☞ Above: Branxton Memorial Rotunda getting a huge facelift ready for Vietnam Vets Day on the 18 August.



☞ Above: Branxton main street upgrade



☞ Above: Branxton's old chemist shop no longer.



☞ Above: Baileys of Greta welcomed addition

State border closure worth the economic pain



The Sydney Morning Herald



By Clancy Yeates
Banking reporter

For the first time in a century, the border between our two most populous states is shutting, with police and military on the northern side of the boundary enforcing the closure.

Does that strike you as economically disastrous at a time when we are already battling a brutal recession? Some in the business community are clearly nervous, with Australian Industry Group chief Innes Willox warning of massive disruptions and even citing Cold War Germany.

"The border closure puts up a Berlin Wall between our two biggest states which represent more than half our national economy, and cuts in two our country's main economic artery," Willox said on Monday.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews' decision on Tuesday to send metropolitan Melbourne back into lockdown, in response to surging COVID cases, will deal a further blow to hopes of a recovery in the state.

But like so many questions in economics, assessing these restrictions means looking at both costs and benefits. If you only look at the negative economic impact of tighter restrictions — and there will undoubtedly be many — you only get half the story.

Monday's decision to shut the NSW-Victoria border is the most dramatic in a series of recent border closures by state governments trying to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The last time this happened was the 1918-19 Spanish flu pandemic, also following an initial attempt by the federal government to have all states work together. That border closure, put in place by NSW, was unsuccessful. NSW State Archives and Records reports that closing the border did not stop the Spanish flu gradually spreading throughout the state after it reached Sydney on a ship.

But regardless of how successful this closure is a century later, it's clear there will be nasty side-effects for some parts of the economy.

SW accounts for about a third of national economic output, and Victoria makes up just under a quarter. Closing off the movement of people between the states and having Melburnians stay home is undoubtedly a setback to the federal government's plan to reopen activity, and Treasurer Josh Frydenberg has acknowledged it will probably cost jobs.

The pain from the border closure will be particularly acute for the already struggling tourism and travel industries, at a time when inter-state visitors brought a ray of hope after international tourism had ground to a halt.

spending by inter-state travellers.

Business travel is another likely casualty, though much of this has already been replaced by Zoom meetings in recent months.

The border closure is also a further blow to the reeling aviation sector, given Sydney to Melbourne is also one of the world's busiest air routes (or at least it was until the virus struck).

Less tangibly, the confidence of households and businesses may well suffer from the border closure and Melbourne's lockdown. And such a hit could have a real influence on economic activity, because if consumers all tighten their purse strings at the same time, it makes a bad situation worse for businesses that depend on us spending money. Even so, the closure of the NSW-Victoria border — and indeed the other state borders closed this year — do not mean all economic links are severed.

"Deloitte Access Economics reports that inter-state tourism is worth \$39 billion in annual spending, about a quarter of the domestic tourism economy"

Trucks have continued crossing state borders for months, and the NSW government says freight will be given special treatment, as will people in border towns who have a permit. Industry is worried about the complexities of a permit system and the potential for delays, with the Logistics Council pointing out there are 7300 heavy vehicles that cross the NSW-Victoria border every day.

But these disruptions need to be seen against the much bigger economic benefit from containing the virus — which, without a vaccine, can only be achieved by restricting the movement of people.

For all the financial pain of the last few months, Australia's economy has emerged in better shape from the pandemic than the experts were fearing in March.

That track record is the result of moves to suppress the spread of the virus, which allowed the earlier-than-expected lifting of restrictions — until now in Victoria. There is, therefore, an economic case for trying to protect this position in other states, including NSW, while doing what's needed to contain the virus in Victoria.

And this is not just some theoretical argument cooked up by economists — there's already early evidence of how fresh outbreaks can have real financial consequences.

ANZ Bank's weekly data on customer spending on Tuesday showed Victoria lagging other states, which the bank put down to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in Melbourne. Closing the NSW-Victoria border will have real costs, but these should be compared with the economic and human costs we'd face from the virus spreading more widely in our two most populous and economically significant states. In that contest, a border closure looks like the lesser of two evils.



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

To all our friends, customers & family who have made our recent difficult times manageable... for the food, loving thoughts & just being there when it mattered.

It has iterated the fact that we live in a wonderful, caring community and both John & I would like to thank all for your unconditional support.

John is on the recovery trail & back manning the fort.

Margaret & John, Branxton Post Office

To the staff & Rev Nicole at our 'best shop' in town; the Anglican Op Shop near the Branxton golf course. Thank God you are back open as I was missing my weekly sojourn to say 'hello' &, my usual, no intent of buying but always seem to come home with something; a bit like going to Bunnings.

To the NSW State Roads Department (whatever you're called now) and/or Cessnock Council; whoever looks after Wine Country Drive at North Rothbury. Last week another road fatality at the corner of Mayne Street & Wine Country Drive. That has got to be the 4th fatality since I have lived there (20 years). I remember the local Tidy Town mob asking for it to be declared a 'blackspot' and a power pole to be re-situated but nothing came of that; do something PLEASE!!!



Classified's

Classified's

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

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362

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

For Sale: 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: agistment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

Share Accommodation: East Branxton \$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 ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Branxton 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 >

Dates for your diary >

14 JUL 2020 — Branxton/Greta CWA Mthly Mtg — Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
SAT 25 JUL 2020 — A reminder that the Branxton Golf Club Open Day. Ring the pro shop for more details.
SUN 6 SEPT 2020 — Fathers day
TUE 8 SEPT 2020 — Branxton/Greta CWA Mthly Mtg — Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
MON 5 OCT 2020 — Labour Day Public Holiday
TUES 13 OCT 2020 — Branxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg — Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
TUES 10 NOV 2020 — Branxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg — Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
TUES 8 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.

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.

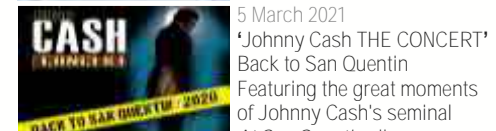


6 October 2020
"Loose Ends"
Produced by Jens Altheimer
Out-of-the-Ordinary Visual Theatre

8 October 2020
"Ross Noble" ~ Humouroid
If Robin Williams, Billy Connolly and the Monty Python team had a baby, it would be Ross Noble. And Noble would probably tell you how they did it, in all its absurd detail.

17 October 2020
"THE ROCK SHOW - OZ EDITION"
Featuring the TRILOGY OF ROCK band and STEVE MULRY (Ted Mulry Gang)
21 January 2021
"The Gruffalo's Child"
Adapted from the award-winning picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Published by Macmillan Children's Books.

5 March 2021
"Johnny Cash THE CONCERT"
Back to San Quentin
Featuring the great moments of Johnny Cash's seminal At San Quentin album.



Local contributions sought to create a snapshot of Singleton's COVID-19 experience for the future

Singleton Council LGA residents and businesses are being called on to help the historians of the future understand the COVID-19 response and the impact on the local community by contributing to a virtual time capsule.

The Local History team at Singleton Public Library is collating the history of the COVID-19 experience in the Singleton local government area and looking for contributions from the community to complete the collection. Submissions will be included on the Library's Facebook page, website and saved in the Archives and Local Histories collections.

Anthony Egan, Council's Director Business and Community Services, said the best submissions that reached the Library team by 9 August 2020 would be

in the running for a Spend in Singleton gift card.

"We are quite literally living through a significant period in global history, and recording the events for the future," he said.

"We're encouraging people to submit any photos or momentos of your time in lockdown – it might be a picture of a pizza delivery on the front step, how you marked Anzac Day or maybe you were part of the bin isolation outing Facebook page.

"Anything that visually captures what COVID-19 was like for us in Singleton will help to create a snapshot in time so that future generations will understand what this time was like.

"Submissions can be made at any time, but to encourage people to think about

it now, we have Spend in Singleton gift cards up for grabs for the best submissions that come into the Library by 9 August."

Mr Egan said the Library was also gathering posters, flyers and mail-outs circulated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the collection.

"We're specifically looking for items you might have received in your mailbox or while you were out and about, such as government leaflets, leaflets from local businesses, restaurants or organisations about their services during COVID-19, and community notices regarding COVID-19," he said.

"If you have any of these items, please put it aside to mail or drop into the Library."

Submissions may be made online.

Anglican Op Shop Branxton Welcomes Customers and Volunteers



Welcome back!

"It is a delight to be able to welcome our volunteers and customers back into the community space that is our Op Shop. We have missed being able to catch up with our amazing volunteers and customers. Our volunteers dedicate their time and talents to make the Op Shop so welcoming, friendly and inviting, whilst our customers enable us to offer friendship, a listening ear and a bargain to boot!" said Rev Nicole Baldwin. They re-opened three weeks ago. From my observation the energy in the Op Shop is high and there is a buzz that can only happen when friends re-connect.

"Who would have thought that there would be a line up to enter ... but that was the case on the first day we were open until after lunch time! We were excited to welcome our customers and they were as excited as we are about us being open again. The Op Shop is an important gathering space for our community and beyond. We are family. We are friends. And we choose to love and serve the community of Branxton and surrounding communities," said Rev Nicole.

The health and safety of all people attending their sites is paramount. They are complying with Government and Diocesan requirements to provide COVIDSafe spaces. Due to the increased requirements they have had to make some changes.

Currently they are open on Tuesday and Thursday of each week & seek the assistance of all their customers to observe social distancing guidelines, to use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the Op Shop, and to be patient if our maximum store capacity has been reached. As the Rev Nicole said, the volunteers are only too happy to have a chat while people wait to come in.

Donations must be dropped off to a volunteer during the days that they are open and must not be left at the back door or inside unattended. Please help them to care for their volunteers who are there to care for you. They look forward to being able to open more days as they are able.

"If you are looking for a volunteer role, in which you will be part of a family, your time will be valued and you will have the opportunity to give something back to your community, please call me on 0481 269 892," said Rev Nicole.

Go on in and say "hi" ... they would love to welcome you!



If you require assistance please call Mike on

0414 757 826

Have your say on the future of wheeled sports

Cessnock City Council is asking for community feedback on the draft Skate and BMX Strategy that is on public exhibition from Monday 29 June.

The draft Strategy includes recommendations for existing skate and BMX facilities and outlines future needs. It identifies 23 actions, including upgrades to current facilities, priorities for new facilities and future investigations.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's an important strategy for our growing community.

"By the year 2031 it's anticipated an additional 29,000 people, including 6,000 children, will call the Cessnock

Local Government Area home. This

has implications on the current skate and BMX facilities. We want community members to take a look at the strategy and provide us with feedback so we can better meet the needs of our community as we plan for the future of wheeled sports."

"We know the community want to see improvements to the provision of such facilities. Council has received 8 petitions over the last 10 years for various skatepark facilities across the LGA. Now is an excellent time for those residents who signed petitions over the years to provide Council with their feedback during public exhibition. "

Key points in the draft Strategy include:

- The need for supporting infrastructure such as shade, seating, access to water and pathways
- Providing facilities that cater for beginners and that encourage and enable skills progression
- A user preference of transition and street styles

Submissions must be received by 5.00pm on 26 July 2020.



Return & Earn

Huntlee Academy
1825 Wine Country Drive
North Rothbury NSW 2335

BULK ONLY

Opening to the public:

Monday to Thursday: 8am to 2:30pm

Friday: 8am to 12:30pm

COVID-19

- Count own glass, plastic, aluminium bottles and cans
- Place in plastic bags provided
- Social distancing
- Use pens provided
- Sanitiser for hands available

- Directions, Turn at the lights on Wine Country Drive and drive as if to go around the rear of the new Tavern. You will see the signs with arrows showing the way up to Huntlee Academy





Branxton Public School

Despite what's been happening in our world and the changes in our day to day activities, Branxton Public School, with the support of parents, has continued to provide quality education to our students. Mrs Blakemore has successfully steered us through some troubled times, but hopefully, we are approaching some calmer waters as we head into Term 3. We thank parents for their efforts over the Home Learning time and for their patience with changes we've had to make to keep our students safe.



ESI PBL Assembly

We have a new roof on the Multi Purpose Building and many classrooms, outdoor areas, canteen and staff areas were given a fresh coat of paint. When all the students came back it was to a refreshed school.

There has been some work going on in our playground over the past few weeks, providing some entertainment for many of our students. We acknowledged a year since the passing of Mr Breard at the end of Term 2 and we now look forward to the completion of the sport court, named in his honour. In the last week of Term 2 we held our PBL Assemblies in stage groups. Although it isn't quite the same, it was lovely for our students to be recognised for their efforts in upholding our school expectations. These assemblies, along with all our other virtual assemblies are on our school Facebook page as we are unable to have parents on site at this stage.

We are planning our Kinder Orientation activities for our 2021 Kinders. Please phone the school on 49381214 if you have a little person ready and eager for school next year. We don't want anyone to miss out on this important transition.

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



Sport Court construction

Over the Home Learning period we had workmen in to complete some much-needed maintenance.



The Rotary Club of Cessnock is back in action after the Covid 19 Lockdown restrictions.

This week Cessnock Rotary have been able to host our first fundraiser at Hunter Valley Gardens outside the Putt Putt and Aqua golf. We hope to be a regular in this space and with thanks to our events director Sharon Waite for thinking outside of the box. It was great to be out in the sunshine for a few hours. Some of the community may see our BBQ van at regular events such as Bunnings BBQ's but we are always interested in new opportunities and the money raised through this fundraising helps our local community of Cessnock LGA, National and International projects. If you are interested in having us at your event, getting involved as a sponsor or even helping us out as a friend of Rotary please contact us via our website, facebook or instagram.

Covid 19 has been a difficult time for our club, having to adjust to keeping in touch with zoom, the opportunity of this has been members have been able to enjoy our meetings from wherever they are. This flexibility of being able to check in via zoom will continue even as face to face meetings return in early August on our regular Thursday night time at Cessnock Leagues Club. Rotary has changed a lot over the years with its transformation into a far more inclusive, flexible organisations whose focus is to help, wherever they can.

On the 2nd of July we held our Club's Changeover. The event itself was available via zoom and included a few physical presentations. The meeting was attended by the District Governor



Graeme Hooper. President John Rosee presenting his annual report detailing donations to the community, which was achieved through the sponsorship of businesses, fundraising and our BBQs in the community. A special presentation was made to PDG Greg Bevan with

his Paul Harris Fellow triple Ruby recognition. This year the board decided to introduce a special award, where the President selects a person who has shown outstanding service, to receive the "David Clark Memorial Award" to recognise the outstanding service rendered, this year Friend of Rotary, Ron Jackson was chosen for his continued participation in the Christmas Lights project for the last 7 years. Then the highlight of the night where John inducts Vicki Steep as our new president. She now becomes our 84th President and President for the third time which no other member has ever achieved in club history.



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





Winter is Rose Planting Season

Winter is bare rooted rose planting season, the perfect time to add a stunning new variety to your current collection or start your brand new rose growing journey. Bare rooted roses are available in garden centres and via mail order during winter. They are thoroughly pruned leafless rose bushes sold in small plastic bags of potting mix. A bare rooted rose bears little resemblance to the magnificent flowering plant it can become, however cast your mind forward to spring and summer when it will be delighting you with masses of blooms.

Here are some simple steps to give it the best possible start:

- Before planting, unwrap the plastic from around the roots and then place the plant in a bucket of diluted seaweed solution, so that all the roots are covered. It's important not to let the roots dry out.
- Choose a well-drained spot in the garden that receives at least 6 hours of sunshine a day, as roses growing in shady conditions will develop spindly growth and have less flowers. Good air flow is also important, as it can help reduce the chance of diseases.
- Dig a hole around 30cm wide and deep. Mix some Yates® Dynamic Lifter® Soil Improver & Plant Fertiliser into the soil dug from the hole. The rich organic matter in Yates Dynamic Lifter will improve the structure and quality of the soil and provide the rose with gentle slow release organic nutrients as it establishes.
- Create a pyramid shaped mound of soil in the bottom of the planting hole. Place the rose in the hole with its roots sitting on and around the mound of soil. Ensure that the graft union (bump on the stem) will be sitting at least 5cm above the final ground level. Backfill around the roots gently with Yates Dynamic Lifter enriched soil and then water in well.
- Apply a layer of organic mulch, like bark chips or pea straw, around the new rose, keeping the mulch a few centimetres away from the stem.
- Keep the soil moist while the new rose establishes. Many roses will also grow very well in pots. Choose a pot at least 30cm in

diameter and partially fill with a good quality potting mix like Yates Premium Potting Mix. Place the

rose in the pot and backfill around the root zone with potting mix, keeping the graft union 5cm above the final level of potting mix. Water in well to settle the potting mix around the roots. Potted roses will require more frequent watering than in-ground roses, so monitor potting mix moisture levels regularly.

Sometimes a rose will produce new shoots prematurely during winter. These are vulnerable to damage from cold and frosts. If your roses are developing tender new growth, spray leaves and stems with, sug-



gested, Yates Waterwise® DroughtShield®. It creates a thin flexible protective film over the shoots which helps reduce frost damage. At the end of winter and early spring, roses will start to wake from their winter slumber and it's time to feed them. Suggested: apply some Yates Thrive® Natural Roses & Flowers Pelletised Organic Based Plant Food around the root zone, which is a complete fertiliser that is specially formulated to provide roses with the nutrients they need to grow healthy foliage and lots of heavenly flowers.



Some do's and don'ts when you feed your dog ...

You might be surprised to learn which common foods could harm your dog, and which can keep them healthy. We all want to feed our dogs the best. But we're only human - sometimes we might share a little something from our dinner plate or lunchbox that may not be best for them. It's important to be clear on what helps or hinders their wellbeing. But which foods are good and which are bad? Just a few common foods...

Eggs
They are safe for dogs and can be a good source of protein when included in high-quality pet foods. They're included in pet foods as they're really digestible and help to balance the amino acids that your dog gets.

Garlic
Garlic is a big no-no for dogs and is the most toxic member of the allium family of plants (which also includes onion, shallots, leeks and chives), so don't feed these either. We might love using them to flavour our foods, but in dogs they can cause red blood cell damage, leading to anaemia. Call your vet for advice if your dog has eaten some.

Apple
Apple isn't a bad treat at all: a piece makes a nice reward for good behaviour. You'll also find apple in some pet food recipes, incorporated for its micro-nutrient content and to add extra fibre to the mix.

Cheese
This isn't clear-cut. Cheese is often used as a training

reward, but our official quiz answer is "bad" - primarily because we often give much more than we should.

Cheese has some protein but quite a bit of fat, too: 100g of cheese contains about 400 calories, which is about 75% of a 10kg dog's daily energy needs. If you do give them cheese, only give a morsel at a time.

Macadamia nuts
While some nuts are relatively harmless, macadamia nuts can cause fever, vomiting, fatigue and may cause damage to your dog's nervous system. Call your vet for advice if your dog has eaten some.

Carrots
Some high-quality pet foods include carrots in their ingredient lists, which indicates that they can be a nutritious addition to your dog's diet. Some owners even use pieces of raw carrot as a healthy training treat or reward. They're low in calories and contain some fibre, which can support the digestive process.

Chocolate
You may have heard that chocolate shouldn't be fed to dogs. Dark chocolate in particular can be fatal. Cacao contains methylxanthines, which stimulate the heart and nervous system.

Consumption of chocolate can result in vomiting and seizures, and in very serious cases can lead to respiratory failure or cardiac arrest. Eating chocolate is a common reason for vet visits, particularly over Easter. Call your vet for advice if your dog has eaten some.

Fish
You've probably heard that omega fatty acids found in fish can be beneficial for a dog's skin and coat, but they're also reported to be good for brain, heart and joint health. Many pet foods incorporate fish as a highly digestible protein source that also offers our

dogs a unique taste.

Avocados
This is a tricky one, but on balance, avocados aren't a great idea. More toxic to birds, they contain a toxin called persin, which can lead to heart failure. Persin is in higher concentrations in the leaves, bark and skin of the fruit, so definitely don't let your dog chew those. Also troublesome is the fat content of avocado pulp, which can cause gastric upset (for example, in dogs with pancreatitis). Plus, the stone or pit isn't easy to digest and can cause a blockage. Call your vet for advice if your dog has eaten some.

Tomatoes
Tomatoes are on the good team. Tomato pomace or powders are frequently used in pet foods, as the combination of dried skin, pulp and seed give a nice blend of soluble and insoluble fibres. Tomatoes are also rich in antioxidants, which help the body at a cellular level.

Top 10 training tips for dogs

Whether you train your new puppy or dog yourself, take classes, or hire a private trainer, some basic training tips should be tackled right out of the gate. These top 10 tips from professional dog trainers at the top of their game will help get you going.

Aside: When your puppy is old enough, think about getting him or her neutered or spayed, likewise if you adopt a dog. A neutered or spayed dog is more docile, less aggressive, and may be more open to successful training.

Choose your dog's name wisely and be respectful of it. Of course you'll want to pick a name for your new puppy or dog that you love, but for the purposes of training it also helps to consider a short name ending with a strong consonant. This allows you to say his name so that he can always hear it clearly. A strong ending (i.e. Jasper, Jack, Ginger) perks up puppy ears—especially when you place a strong emphasize at the end.

If he's an older dog, he's probably used to his name; however, changing it isn't out of the question. If he's from a shelter, they may neglect to tell you that he has a temporary name assigned to him by staff. If he's from a breeder, he'll come to you with a long name, which you may want to shorten, or change. And if he's coming out of an abusive situation, a new name may represent a fresh start. But we're lucky: dogs are extremely adaptable. And soon enough, if you use it consistently, he will respond to his new name. New name or old, as much as possible, associate it with pleasant, fun things, rather than negative. The goal is for him to think of his name the same way he thinks of

other great stuff in his life, like "walk," "cookie," or "dinner!"

Decide on the "house rules." Before he comes home, decide what he can and can't do. Is he allowed on the bed or the furniture? Are parts of the house off limits? Will he have his own chair at your dining table? If the rules are settled on early, you can avoid confusion for both of you.

Set up his private den. He needs "a room of his own." From the earliest possible moment give your pup or dog his own, private sleeping place that's not used by anyone else in the family, or another pet. He'll benefit from short periods left alone in the comfort and safety of his den.

Reward him if he remains relaxed and quiet. His den, which is often a crate, will also be a valuable tool for housetraining.


Help him relax when he comes home. When your puppy gets home, give him a warm hot water bottle and put a ticking clock near his sleeping area. This imitates the heat and heartbeat of his litter mates and will soothe him in his new environment. This may be even more important for a new dog from a busy, loud shelter who's had a rough time early on. Whatever you can do to help him get comfortable in his new home will be good for both of you.

Teach him to come when called. Come Jasper! Good boy! Teaching him to come is the command to be mastered first and foremost. And since he'll be coming to you, your alpha status will be reinforced. Get on his level and tell him to come using his name. When he does, make a big deal using positive reinforcement. Then try it when he's busy with something interesting. You'll really see the benefits of perfecting this command early as he gets older.

Reward his good behaviour. Reward your puppy or dog's good behavior with positive reinforcement. Use treats, toys, love, or heaps of praise. Let him know when's he's getting it right. Likewise, never reward bad behaviour; it'll only confuse him.

Take care of the jump up. Puppies love to jump up in greeting. Don't reprimand him, just ignore his behavior and wait 'til he settles down before giving positive reinforcement. Never encourage jumping behavior by patting or praising your dog when he's in a "jumping up" position. Turn your back on him and pay him no attention.

Teach him on "dog time." Puppies and dogs live in the moment. Two minutes after they've done something, it's forgotten about. When he's doing something bad, try your chosen training technique right away so he has a ...



Open 7 days
8am - 8pm
4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)



Come in to INSPECT

what's new in your local museum!



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

Greta Historical Museum

96 High Street Greta

Open 11am-3pm

Wednesdays & Saturdays

SPORTS RESULTS



Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 2-7-20 ~ Stableford

Div 1 Winner D Kinch 30 pts R/u K Anderson 29 pts 3rd J Sheedy 28 pts
Div 2 Winner W Smith 32 pts (SOD) R/u R McMillan 27 pts (c/b) 3rd J Atton 27 pts
Ladies Div Winner N Busch 26 pts R/u J Scobie 25 pts 3rd R Friis 24 pts
NTP Ladies R McCarthy Gents M Ryan
Raffle prize recipients as posted at Pro Shop
Members draw - Not Won

A glorious Winter's Day greeted our eager players, participating in to-days event held at the "Ultimate 9 Golf Course at Branxton, the jewel of the Hunter Valley. Congratulations to William (Bill) Smith on winning his division achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all other winners and place getters.

Results 9-7-20 ~ Stableford

Div 1 Winner T Seamer 28 pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u K Anderson 28 pts (c/b) 3rd G Train 28 pts
Div 2 Winner M Kingston 27 pts (c/b) R/u W Smith 27 pts 3rd R Chalmers 26 pts
Ladies Div Winner N Busch 23 pts R/u R McCarthy 21 pts 3rd C Caldwell 20 pts
NTP Ladies C Caldwell Gents D Taylor
Raffle prize recipients as posted at Pro Shop
Members draw - Not won

A chilly Winter's morning welcomed our eager group of players, with some obfuscation to deal with. Gradually the fog lifted and enabled our members to enjoy their of golf. Congratulations to Tony Seamer on winning 1 division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to all other winners and place getters
LN Bootes, Hon Sec

Branxton Lady Golfers

3rd June 2020 - Monthly Medal
Winner: Carol Miller with 75 nett
Runner-up: Neridah Busch
Putting Comp: Jan Scobie with 28 putts
Carol Miller with 33 putts
10th June 2020 - Pauline Thomas Memorial Rd 2
Winner: Neridah Busch with 36 points
Runner-up: Carol Miller with 25 points
17th June 2020 - PAR Rd 1
Winner: Jen Salna with Square
Runner-up: Ruth McCarthy with -3
24th June 2020 - Stableford
Winner: Neridah Busch with 35 points
Runner-up: Ruth McCarthy with 33 points
1st July 2020 - Monthly Medal
Winner: Trish McMillan with 78 nett
Runner-up: Ruth McCarthy with 79 nett
Putting comp: Caren Caldwell with 29 putts & Kerrie O'Connell with 30 putts
8th July 2020 - Pauline Thomas Memorial Trophy Rd 2
Winner: Caren Caldwell with 31 points
Runner-up: Trish McMillan with 28 points

Branxton Golf Club

Saturday, 13 June 2020
SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 63
Grades A Mick Barrett 39
Grades A Victor Matt 37
Grades A Lee Hunt 37
Grades B Reece Caldwell 40
Grades B Neil Jordan 40
Grades B Peter Marquet 39
Grades C Nicholas Redgrove 36
Grades C Mick Lutovac 36
Grades C Daniel Stoneman 35
Balls 19 Distributed down to score: 32
NTP 9TH/18TH

A GRADE - PETER WILTON
B GRADE - STEVE PRIMMER
C GRADE - LEE JACKSON
Local veteran Mick Barrett displayed his class again in winning Saturday's A Grade Stableford Competition with an excellent 39 pts, two clear of long time low marker Victor Matt with the Vets Captain, Lee Hunt, returning to form with his 37 pts for third. Lee's playing partner

Reece Caldwell won B Grade with the day's best stableford score of 40 pts, on a countback from Neil Jordan, with Peter Marquet third with his well compiled 39 pts. Nicholas Redgrove won a very competitive C Grade with 36 pts, on a countback from Mick Lutovac (another cheque earned) with Daniel Stoneman third with 35 pts. It's pleasing to see the nearest to pins back, with the ever consistent, recently turned 50, sharp shooter, Peter Wilton hitting the best shot to the last in A Grade, with Steve Primmer and Lee Jackson winning the other grades. 32 pts was needed to win a ball in a strong field of 63 players.

Saturday, 20 June 2020

SATURDAY COMP - 2 MAN
AMBROSE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Field: 78
SRCATCH WINNERS
JOSHUA TRACEY/ COREY LAMB 58

NETT WINNERS PETER WILTON/ PAUL BUSH 61 NETT
SCRATCH RUNNERS UP ADRIAN CHOMISAK/ JON LAWLER 64
NETT RUNNERS UP PAUL ANDERSON/ GARRY TRAIN 62.25
NETT THIRD DANIEL TURNER/ ANTHONY BENTLEY 62.5
NETT 4TH DAVID KINCH/ KELVIN MATHER 63.25
NETT FIFTH TOBY GRANT/ ZAC HAYES 64.25
NETT SIXTH LEE HEUSTON/ BARRY TURNER 64.5

Balls EVERYONE THAT COMPETED
NTP 9TH/18TH
A GRADE - PETER MARQUET
B GRADE - GARRY TRAIN
C GRADE - JAMES ELPHICK
OVERALL SCRATCH AND NETT WINNERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR TROPHIES AT THE END OF YEAR PRESENTATION NIGHT.

A near full capacity field of 78 players enjoyed some beautiful weather to participate in the Annual 2 Man Ambrose Championships. The winners were Corey Lamb and Joshua Tracey who had an amazing 12 under par score of 58, 6 shots clear of the scratch runners up Jon Lawler and Adrian Chomiszak with a 6 under par 64—a great score in itself. Corey is one of the most promising golfers in Australia whilst Joshua is a Branxton Club Champion so there is no doubting their abilities—apparently Joshua sank putts from everywhere so Corey didn't have to use his wonderful short game as much as usual. We're not sure what the record is for this event but it would be hard to think a better score has ever been recorded. The Nett winners were Peter Wilton and Paul Bush with a very impressive 61 nett, just ahead of Gary Train and Paul Anderson's nett 62.25. Third place went to Dan Turner and Anthony Bentley with 62.5, 4th to David Kinch and Kel Mather with 63.25, 5th to Toby Grant and Zac Hayes with 64.25 with Lee Heuston and Barry Turner's 64.5 nett score good enough for 6th. The nearest to pins went to Peter Marquet, Gary Train and James Elphick. Branxton Golf Course is enjoying a huge popularity at the moment, with full fields for the competitions and bookings required for social games as many have been turned away from playing due to the course being overloaded. It's a great time to play golf at Branxton with the course in good condition and the club's facilities now open.

Saturday, 27 June 2020

SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD
Field: 57
Grades A David Curry 39
Grades A Peter Wilton 38
Grades A Chris O' Brien 37
Grades B Graeme McFarlane 38
Grades B Geoffrey Geason 37
Grades B Adam Wallace 36
Grades C Colin Hughes 33
Grades C Ted Zawirski 31
Grades C James Elphick 28
Balls 17 Distributed down to score: 31
NTP

A GRADE P WILTON
B GRADE R HALE
C GRADE J ELPHICK
Another good sizes field of 57 players enjoyed Saturday's excellent conditions around Branxton Golf Course. Dave Curry won A Grade with an excellent 39 pts, the day's best stableford score, from Peter Wilton with 38 pts (a near par

round once again) with Chris O'Brien's 37 pts good enough for third place. Graeme McFarlane won B Grade with his 38 pts with Geoffery Geason and Adam Wallace filling in the minor placings. C Grade was won by Col Hughes with 33 pts, Ted Zawirski and James Elphick winning the minor prizes on a day where the C Graders struggled. The Nearest the Pins were won by Peter Wilton, Bobby Hale and James Elphick. Last Wednesday night the Club held its AGMeeting (the Board members elected have yet to be sent to me) but we now have a new Club Captain with Steve Ross taking over the reins form our long lasting, well loved former Captain Murray Johanson, who is now recovering from some recent knee surgery. His efforts over the many years have been much appreciated by all members—he did a great job—and I know he will continue in some capacity when he recovers. We welcome Steve to the job and thank him for having the courage to take it on—I know he is a great choice for the job. He has already messaged every member about the Singles Knockout Competition attaching the draw so games can be organised. He asks that everyone completes their Round 1 Knockout game by July 12th, and he also reminded everyone that the Pairs Knockout Draw is now open.

Saturday, 4 July 2020

STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL - STROKE

Field: 57
Winners A Christopher Lawrence 67
Grades A Benjamin Bridge 70
Grades A Lee Heuston 70
Grades A Peter Wilton 71
Grades B Toby Grant 69
Grades B Barry Turner 69
Grades B Reece Caldwell 71
Grades C Ted Zawirski 75
Grades C Richard Turnbull 77
Grades C Pip Lancaster 79

Balls 17 Distributed down to score: 78
NTP
A GRADE G TEARLE
B GRADE P BUSH
C GRADE R TURNBULL
Saturday's Monthly Medal proved to be quite a challenge for most golfers with only a nett 78 needed to win a ball—17 players out of 57 meaning 40 players (70%) played worse than a 78 nett, a very interesting statistic on a stroke day. Only 3 players bettered their handicap—well done Chris, Toby and Barry—you were in the top 5% for the day! Chris Lawrence won the overall Monthly Medal with an excellent 67 nett (especially when you look at the stats). Ben Bridge won A Grade with his well compiled 70 nett, on a countback from Lee Heuston, with Peter Wilton third with his 71 nett. Lee and Peter play off low single figures so it seems that the cream does rise to the top on difficult days. Toby Grant just beat Barry Turner on a countback with his 69 nett, with Reece Caldwell third with a 71 nett score. Ted Zawirski prevailed to win C Grade with a 75 nett, with Richie Turnbull and Pip Lancaster filling the minor placings. The nearest the pins went to G.Tearle, Paul Bush and Richie Turnbull—a good day for Richard. Last Sunday our A Grade Pennants team resumed their competition as they hadn't finished before the Covid-19 pandemic hit. They defeated Hunter Valley 5-0 at Kurri putting them in third place but unfortunately they are two points back behind Muswellbrook who have a far superior for and against so it looks like they will just miss out on the final after an excellent season (there are 9 teams in this competition)—they really are a classy side showing the district the quality of players who come from Branxton (they are the defending champions from 2019). A reminder that the Branxton Open is on Saturday 25th July so ring the pro shop for more details.

Saturday, 11 July 2020

SATURDAY COMP STABLEFORD
Field: 59
A Grade: Lee Heuston 42 Corey Lamb 40 Greg Gillard 38
B Grade: Paul Bush 42 Jeremy Thomas 38 Toby Grant 37
C Grade: Izach Dennis 45 Colin Hughes 40 Mick Lutovac 35

Balls 18 Distributed down to score: 32
NTP A GRADE Y KWON : B GRADE T M CCAW: C GRADE L PORTER
The relatively calm although damp weather ensured some great scores were recorded across the grades on Saturday. Local promising golfer, Corey Lamb, scorched around the course in a remarkable 62 (8 under par score), an incredible effort which is unofficially a club record. By all reports he could have gone even lower with many near misses on the green—it was a possible sub 60 round! What an effort by Corey as he now continues his progress towards the elite level. Incredibly his 40 pts (off a plus 4 handicap) couldn't even win the day's competition. Lee Heuston also had a day



Overall Points Leaderboard

FISHERMAN	FISH	WEIGHT (KG)	WEIGH IN DATE
Scott Barrett	Spear Fish	0.65kg (Luderrick)	8-Jun
Lee Heuston	Bream	1.1	27-Jan
Benjamin Bridge	Flathead	2.7	13-Mar
Lee Heuston	Taylor	0.85	13-Mar
Toby Grant	Tarwhine	0.45	16-Feb
Scott Beckett	Trevally	0.4	27-Jan
Riley Mickewen	Whiting	0.3	8-Jun
Aaron Fox	Teraglin	0.89	27-Jan
Tyson Nevin	Snapper	2.44	8-Jun
Troy Fields	Mulloway	2.86	27-Jan
Lewis Jacobs	Australian Bass	0.7	16-Feb
Andrew Jacobs	Silver Perch	0.5	16-Feb
Scott Beckett	Salmon	3.05	15-Mar
Judy Masters	Leather Jacket	0.15	15-Mar
Cohen Miller Spillet	Flounder	0.4	16-May
Steve Nevin	Monwong	0.71	8-Jun
Jason Mckewen	Mullet	0.38	8-Jun
Tyson Nevin	Nannygai	0.1	8-Jun

FISHING CLUB INDIVIDUAL PRIZES LEADERBOARD

FISHERMAN	FISH	WEIGHT (KG)	WEIGH IN DATE
Kyle Barnes	Spear Fish	0.65kg (Luderrick)	8-Jun
Andrew Jacobs	Bream	1.1	27-Jan
Cohen Miller Spillet	Flathead	2.7	13-Mar
Mick Edwards	Taylor	0.85	13-Mar
Izayden Miller	Tarwhine	0.45	16-Feb
Scott Beckett	Trevally	0.4	27-Jan
Riley Mickewen	Whiting	0.3	8-Jun
Aaron Fox	Teraglin	0.89	27-Jan
Tyson Nevin	Snapper	2.44	8-Jun
Troy Fields	Mulloway	2.86	27-Jan
Lewis Jacobs	Australian Bass	0.7	16-Feb
Andrew Jacobs	Silver Perch	0.5	16-Feb
Scott Beckett	Salmon	3.05	15-Mar
Judy Masters	Leather Jacket	0.15	15-Mar
Cohen Miller Spillet	Flounder	0.4	16-May
Steve Nevin	Monwong	0.71	8-Jun
Jason Mckewen	Mullet	0.38	8-Jun
Tyson Nevin	Nannygai	0.1	8-Jun

FROM PAGE 22

Top 10 training tips for dogs

.....chance to make the association between the behavior and the correction. Consistent repetition will reinforce what's he's learned.
Discourage him from biting or nipping. Instead of scolding him, a great way to put off your mouthy canine is to pretend that you're in great pain when he's biting or nipping you. He'll be so surprised he's likely to stop immediately. If this doesn't work, try trading a chew toy for your hand or pant leg. The swap trick also works when he's into your favourite shoes. He'll prefer a toy or bone anyway. If all else fails, break up the biting behaviour, and then just ignore him.
End training sessions on a positive note. Excellent boy! Good job, Jasper! He's worked hard to please you throughout the training. Leave him with lots of praise, a treat, some petting, or five minutes of play. This guarantees he'll show up at his next class with his tail wagging—ready to work!

to remember recording his best ever score of 68, 2 under par off the stick from his 4 handicap, winning the A grade event with an outstanding 42 pts. Third was Greg Gillard with his sound 38 pts. Paul Bush won B Grade with an excellent 42 pts, well clear of runner up, Jeremy Thomas with his 38 pts, with Toby Grant third with 37 pts. Not to be outdone, Izach Dennis recorded the day's best stableford score of 45 pts, an incredible effort on any day, with Col Hughes playing well again to finish 2nd with 40 pts, Mick Lutovac picked up another prize coming third with his 32 pts. Only 32 pts was needed to win a ball, meaning 41 players didn't reach this mark when 5 players broke the 40 pt mark—it goes to show how fickle golf can be. A reminder to everyone that the Branxton Open is on in two weeks so get your names in—it promises to be a wonderful event especially in A Grade where there is going to be a very hot field—if you're not playing it may be worth a walk around the course after lunch as many birdies and eagles will be on offer!

Greta Workers Fishing Club

Returns After Covid 19

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BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NewSPORT

Greta Workers



Tarwhine all weighed in.

The Recent June Open weekend saw a few 2020 records broken with Kye Barnes 0.65kg Luderick (speared category), Riley Mckewen 0.3kg

Whiting, father Jason Mckewen weighed in the clubs first ever mullet 0.38kg, Steve Nevin 0.71kg Morwong, and Tyson Nevin weighed in a 56cm Snapper weighing in at 2.44kg.

Overall Points honors for the weekend went to Major Sponsor Aidan McDougall who skippered a team of keen anglers inside the lake and offshore at Forster. He managed 121.2 points with a good feed of Flathead, Mowey, Squire and Bream.

Lewis Jacobs has kicked away in the Junior category after his persistence day and night at Forster paid off. He risked a confrontation with the Yowie and managed a heap of Bream from "The Bream Spot" as well as testing Skipper McDougall's patience offshore with Flathead and Squire to add to his total of 110.8 points. Tyson Nevin also cracked the century with his maiden weigh in of 2020 with 101.1 points made up of Flathead, Mowey, Nannygai and Snapper.

The next outing is an Open on 10th-12th July. We also have our next meeting at 5pm Wednesday 8th July at the Club, everyone is welcome to attend. Registrations are still open

but have increased to \$50 single rego, or \$100 family. For any further information contact Steve Nevin 0457547478

A big shout out to all our 2020 Sponsors Gocon Rural Fencing, McDougall Rural Concreting, The Bottlo at Greta, The Sea Shanty at Rutherford, and the Harvest Bistro at Greta Workers Club. We are unsure when the Fishing Club Raffles will recommence but stay tuned... *MORE inside page*

Photo: a 56cm Snapper caught by Tyson Nevin on the weekend offshore at Forster.



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