



Helen Lowing
Licenced-in-Charge with 30 years Real Estate experience in the local area
BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300
M: 0412 566 041
www.abnstar.com.au

thebranxtonnews.com.au/

The News

Serving the local community since 1997

Free

...for your enjoyment

T: 49381773

M: 0414 757 826

FREE

"Your paper of choice"

All the local news since 1997

THURSDAY 30

JULY 2020

Page 4

Page 6

Page 19

Page 21

STEVE'S RANT

Members Well Done
say...
Not So Well Done



8 years in the making Alek Schulhas' history of the Greta Army Camp hits the shelves to great acclaim

Retired Newcastle Herald journalist & author, Alek Schulha, has just completed a mammoth task taking the better part of 8 years in the making.

Alek has just self-published "Beneath the Shadows of Mount Molly Morgan" which gives the history & selected stories of the Greta Immigration Camp which housed over 100,000 'New Australians' from 1949 until its closure in 1960.

Following over 8 years of interviews with literally thousands of people and hours of research which took Mr Schulha across the country and abroad, the book has finally been released.

Last Saturday Alek had a 'book signing' morning at Branxton Community Hall and looking at the numbers that arrived it will sell its head off.

"I took delivery on a Monday afternoon and

within a couple of hours after it was announced on Facebook we had 12,000 views," Mr Schulha said. Alek, who now resides in Maitland, was born at the Greta camp to a Yugoslavian mother and Ukrainian father. Mother Nada and father Peter ended up at Greta in 1949 and they were married in the Russian Orthodox Church at the camp. Alek Schulha was also christened there. Mother Nada worked at the

hospital as an interpreter and father Peter as a camp bus driver.

At the time it was Australia's second-largest migrant camp quarters, which, at times housed up to 9000 people.

The 70th anniversary of the first official arrival at Greta of immigrants was celebrated last year where the Governor General was guest of honour.

It was held at the original camp site just south of Greta.

Originally the site was the Greta Army Camp in which about 60,000 Aussie soldiers trained from 1939 until the end of the war.

It was then transformed into the migrant camp after and for another decade from 1949 post-war arrivals continued to settle



there. "They have made an immeasurable contribution to the prosperity and development of the Hunter region," said Alek.

"A world away from war-torn Europe, it enabled refugees to start lives afresh, in peace and safety. "Most had come from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia and

Czechoslovakia, with later intakes from Poland, Italy, Greece, Macedonia, Hungary, Austria, Germany and Russia," said Alek. In his foreword to the book Vitaly Lupish, an ex-camp resident, said that he was one of the first migrants to arrive in the camp in 1949, while Alek was born there in 1951.

"Alek's desire to record these people's lives for

future history & study is invaluable. All the former camp residents had a story to tell & Alek has collected them and recorded them in this magnificent book," said Vitaly.

In compiling this historic work Alek had invaluable assistance from his wife Lee. *More photos Page.2*

• Photo above: Alek at the 'book signing' in Branxton last Saturday morning

GOOD PRACTICE (GP) SURGERY

10 Dalwood Road, East Branxton

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

Dr Chaitali Biswas
MBBS, AMC

Dr Riju Verghese
MBBS, AMC, DCH, FRACGP

Dr Jwan Roomi
MBBS

Opening Hours
Monday - Friday 8.00 am - 5.30 pm

Offering cosmetic/anti wrinkle therapy

To make appointment, please call us on 02 4938 3366
Online appointments available through Hotdoc website

Mixed billing practice
Children under 16, pension/health care/DVA card holders/Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander bulk billed

Hunter Valley Electrics

HVE Electricians

6.6KW solar system

\$4,999*

FULLY INSTALLED
FREE ON-SITE QUOTE
*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

We are local installers

Mark Mellross
ELECTRICIAN
GRID-CONNECT DESIGN & INSTALLER
Local to the Hunter Region | 0488 911 306
mark@huntervalleyelectrics.com.au
www.huntervalleyelectrics.com.au
Licence no. 81644051

'Book-Signing' at
Branxton 25/7/20
Alek Schulha &
Greta Camp
with
Mike Lowing
About



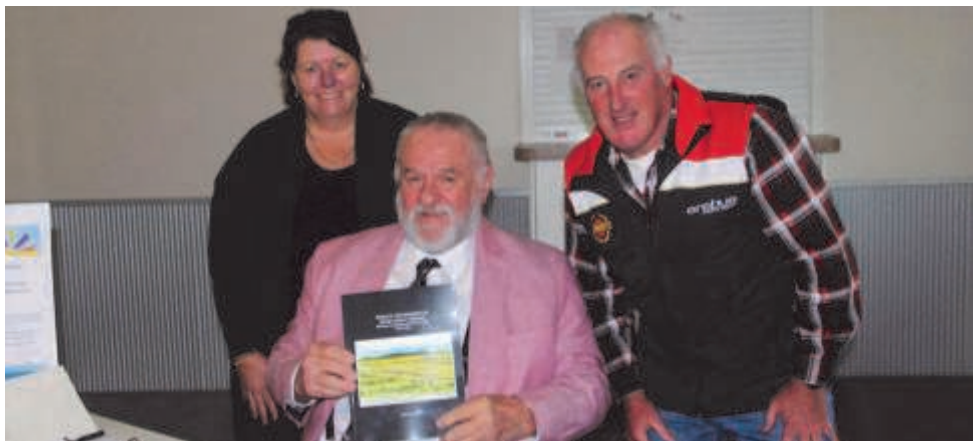
The Greta & Branxton Communities had the pleasure of meeting the author Mr Alek Schulha & wife Lee. Many people, ex-Greta Camp came along to reminisce & buy the book. Photo - Alek with wife Lee



Paul Maguire from Elderslie with Lee Schulha at the 'book-signing'



Above: (L - R): Tanya Pertol, Anna Croft, Helen Scott, Eddie Pawlica, Elizabeth Matt, George Simalis and Reginald Glove. All enjoyed a cuppa, shared some laughs and reminisced.



Mark and Trish Robertson from Bellbird Heights with Alek at the book-signing.

For Sale

BRANXTON



Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

Are you seeking your first home or maybe an investment. Well this is the opportunity to buy at a low price. A brick and tile two bedroom unit with a large open living area and large bedrooms. The property has its own private outdoor space and internal access to the garage. Updated Bathroom and Strata managed with low fees. It is currently tenanted at \$260 per week. Situated on a quiet street and conveniently located close to the Hunter Expressway

ASKING \$275,000

**BRANXTON & VINEYARDS
REAL ESTATE**

M: 0412 566 041 P: 4938 3300




Justice
Office of
Emergency Management

NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service

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

Call 13 77 88

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



NSW Health

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO VISITOR GUIDELINES ~ NSW HEALTH

Due to the increase in cases of community transmitted COVID-19 across the state in recent weeks, we have made the difficult but necessary decision to reintroduce visitor restrictions across all Hunter New England Health facilities. We know this may be challenging for our patients and their loved ones, however the safety of patients and staff is paramount and we are committed to taking the appropriate steps to protect them.

As of Saturday 25 July, a limit of one visitor at a time per patient at inpatient and community health facilities will be implemented. Patients attending an outpatient clinic can have a support person attend with them if required.

Our aged care residents may also have one visitor, however, there are specific guidelines for these more vulnerable groups. All visitors to these facilities must also be vaccinated against influenza. For more information about visiting restrictions in Residential Aged Care Facilities, please visit: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/residential-aged-care.aspx>

Of course we understand there will be circumstances where exceptions may be required due to compassionate reasons and these can be considered on an individual basis. We thank our community for their continued patience and understanding as we navigate the pandemic.

To continue to keep everyone safe in our facilities, all visitors must pass screening processes, including routine temperature checking. Visitors who are unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms, or who have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results, will be asked to reschedule their visit.

In addition, those who have visited a known hotspot will not be allowed entry. A full list of COVID-19 hotspots can be found here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>

We ask that all visitors continue to adhere to hand-hygiene and infection control instructions from our staff, and maintain social distancing rules at all times, including in our health facilities.

We will keep you updated with any further changes to visitor restrictions in our health services. If you have questions about your individual situation, please contact your clinician or the health service directly.

North Rothbury Rural Fire Services' new Cat 9

To North Rothbury Rural Fire Services great surprise they have been given a new Category 9 fire fighting unit replacing their existing unit which was over 12 years old.

The great surprise was that they had not asked for it. "It was a wonderful surprise as the old Cat 9 was 12 years old, had put in some hard yards but was still very much functional," said Brigade Captain Sonia Ivan. "The old unit will not be retired but will go to another RFS unit in the valley." The cost of the new Category 9 fire fighting unit is in the order of \$120,000 but packs a lot of punch for the money.

Sonia said that the 'Cat 9' vehicles allow firefighting crews to get into remote areas of bushland that larger trucks can't access, bringing crews right to the frontline. "They're equipped with a water tank, pump and hose as well as driptorches, rake hoes and chainsaws, first aid kits and water for the crew," said Sonia. In the midst of winter & the corona pandemic Sonia also reminded me that the fire season started in September last year and that it is only weeks away. "We will have an open day at the fire-station in September for all local residents to come & look at the new Cat 9 and get revamped on bushfire protection planning for the coming fire season."

"The next edition of The News will give the date and time for our open day. "We are thinking we may be able to have a 'sausage sizzle' but that will be determined by what protocols are in place at that time with the current pandemic. We can only hope that the emergency will be behind us," Sonia said. Sonia also said that preparation for the oncoming fire season does not have to wait until the weather warms up. "There are many things that property owners can do right now to secure their properties," said Sonia. "We recommend that you develop a written bushfire survival plan and discuss this

with your family," said

Sonia. Sonia also said that bushfires are scary and stressful. Anxiety and panic will stop you from thinking through alternative actions that could save your life. Some key points:-

- Making decisions with your family and planning what you would do in a fire before the bushfire season begins will help make sure everyone knows what to do in the event of a bushfire. This will help you cope and survive. Know the fire danger ratings and what they mean. Use them as your trigger to stay or leave the area.
- Never "wait and see" during a bushfire. On days forecast as catastrophic or extreme fire danger your safest option is to leave early, either very early in the morning or even the night before.
- Have a contingency plan in case you are unable to leave early. Being prepared with contingency plans for different scenarios will help to keep you calm and increase your chances of survival.
- You must have contingency plans in the event that you cannot leave as planned, are prevented from implementing your primary fire plan, or must escape a burning house.
- The elderly, children and animals should be moved away from danger as early as possible,

well before a fire arrives.

• If you live in or intend to travel to a high-risk bushfire area, know the location of the nearest bushfire safer place, meeting point or evacuation centre and how to get there. Check the frequency of your local ABC Radio station using our frequency finder and/or

check ABC Emergency on Twitter and Facebook to stay up to date with conditions.

- Always notify your family and friends of your plans and intentions to stay or go.
- Make sure your bushfire survival kit is ready and you know of its location.



STANHOPE HANDYMAN SERVICES

Branxton and surrounding areas

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

- ✓ Broad experience
- ✓ Lots of tools and equipment
- ✓ Small construction work
- ✓ Sheds built
- ✓ IKEA and other flat pack units built and installed
- ✓ Repairs and maintenance
- ✓ Renovations, painting and decorating
- ✓ Landscaping, paths, steps, pergolas, arbours, gardens, fire pits etc.
- ✓ High pressure water cleaning
- ✓ Clean-up and rubbish removed
- ✓ Firewood cut, split and stacked

Free quotes or will work for hourly rate on any project. **Seniors Discount!**

Great attention to detail and always clean-up at the end of the day! References available.

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

For a FREE quote, call Peter on: 0419 441 257



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.

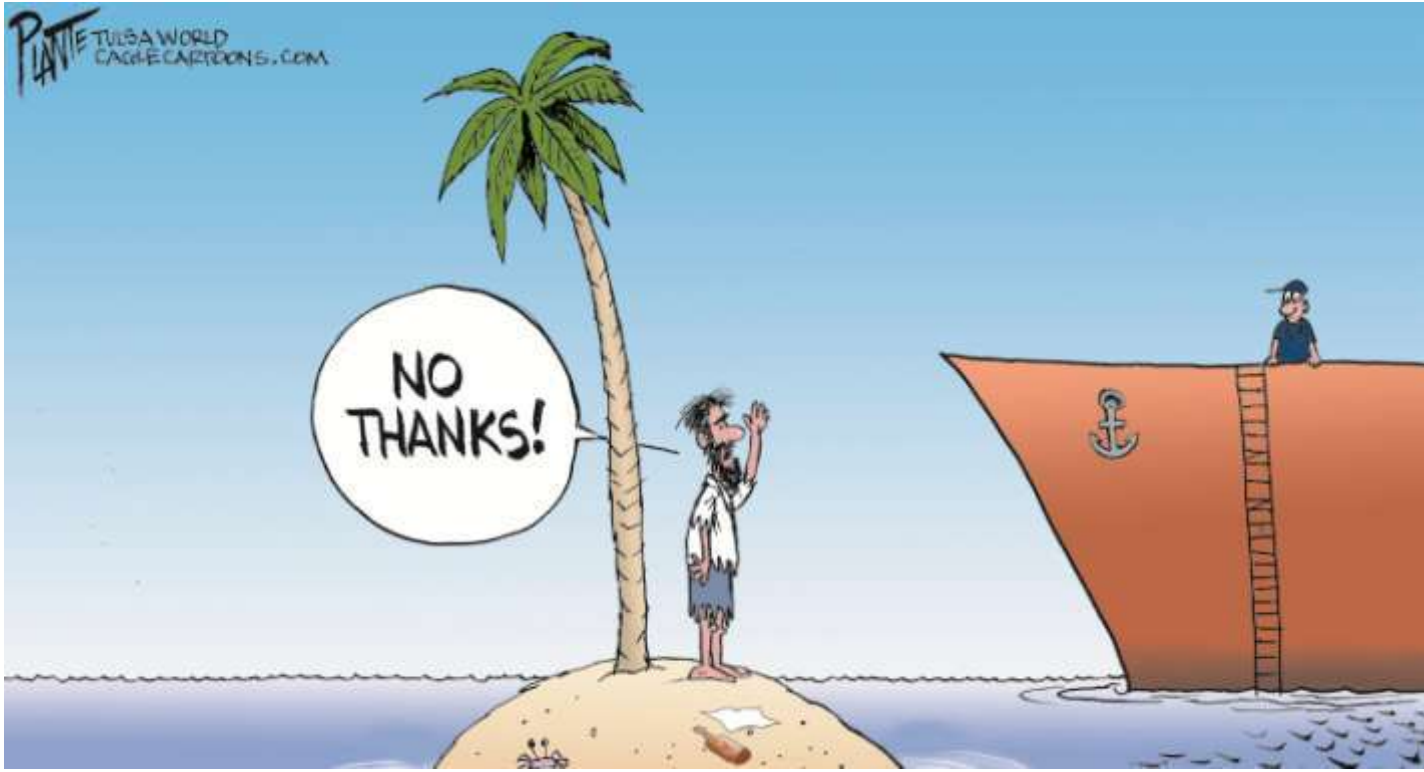


#supportlocalcessnock

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



A CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE



STEVE'S RANT

The 'Push Back'

The Push Back against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) appears to be gaining pace.

As the peoples of Western Democracies come to understand the extent and intent of Xi Jinping's attempt to spread the joy of his totalitarian organisation around the world, it is becoming clear that democracy and the CCP are incompatible.

Despite the efforts of fellow travelling intellectuals who have tried to rationalise communism with western democratic freedom over the past 100 years, the same dichotomy of ideology exists; the Commos and us just cannot mix.

Xi Jinping and his Commo mates know this and try from every angle to downplay the totalitarian nature of their view of society. The front organisations they form in Australia, which always includes in their nomenclature words such as FREEDOM, FRIENDSHIPS, INTERNATIONAL TRADE or COOPERATION and the sucked in so-called progressive Australians who join these front groups are now looking decidedly flaky.

In the light of the CCP attempts to rein in the Democratic movements in Hong Kong and their threats to Taiwan as an independent 'Democratic Sovereign State', we see the CCP for what it is; a grave threat to our democratic way of life and our freedoms which have evolved over the last

3000 years.

How is the CCP doing this? Since the end of the fighting in Korea, the CPP has developed through various front organisations, friendly associations with our academic fraternity, local government, politicians from all persuasions, big business and our sizeable Chinese population.

They arrange free conducted tours of China for our politicians, academics and selected so-called elites, and this promotes sympathetic support for the CCP. This to encourage further co-operative ventures such as funding university courses in Chinese studies or 'the One Belt One Road Initiatives'

This has been very successful. When the Ramsey family endowed the study of Western Civilisation for any Australian university, all the senior Australian university's declined the offer as being contrary to their progressive programmes and points of view. They all have faculties of Chinese Studies, however. The University of Wollongong has accepted the course to their credit. The Labour Government of Victoria has signed up to the 'One Belt One Road' initiative to their discredit. We have Twiggy Forest promoting links to the CCP to improve the prospects of Fortiscue Metals export of iron ore to China.

At present, ASIO and the Federal Police are investigating State Labor politicians for links to the CCP.

There is a Liberal Party member of Federal Parliament who finds it almost impossible to explain her past connections with the CCP through one or two of their front organisations. Her electorate has a large ethnic Chinese population, so it is very appropriate that she, as an ethnic Chinese, represent those people. But we know ethnic Chinese Australians in many cases have extended family in China and are therefore vulnerable to influence by the CCP. That is not to say we should not trust them as patriotic Australians, but there is that threat.

It is only recently that proper examination of foreign investment has been mandated. Prior to that parts of this country's primary industries, utilities and infrastructure were purchased by Chinese companies. All companies in China are subject to the dictate of the CCP. No matter what the name or nature of the business, it will have CCP members on its board and within the day to day management. So, while the primary aim of these companies is to make a

profit, if ordered to by the CCP, they will forgo that to disrupt our economy and bully us. If we do not like that what do we do about it? Currently, there is very little we can do beyond diplomacy.

There is only one option, and that is nuclear deterrents.

The sooner we embark on this, the better and we don't need to wait for COVID 19 to pass before we do. So, whose technology do we adopt? What country with nuclear capability would give us a leg up with this? THE UN CAN GO TO BUGGERY.

The CCP owns the UN, so they don't count anymore. I say we go with the French for we are already committed to the Barracuda submarine. The Brits owed us for they did their tests here in Australia and have been nuclear-armed since then. Failing them, the US may help, but whatever, the capability must be sovereign to us.

We don't have that much time, and if we can blow the nation's budget by 280 billion to fight COVID19, then another 200 billion can

be made available for our freedom.

Suggested recommended further reading: - Hidden Hand by Clive Hamilton and Marieke Ohlberg.

Cheers, Steve



with Mike Lowing

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge & thank the multitude of readers who have contacted our office welcoming 'The News' back in print.

We went into 'corona hibernation' for about 3½ months for want of a commercial printer as our commercial printer in Tamworth shut down. We weren't Robinson Crusoe as the majority of regional newspapers in Australia had the same problem &, unfortunately, a great number have not returned in their previous

form viz., frequency of publication & volume of news.

A great number have also decided to just join the digital world & only publish on the 'world wide web' with a 'pay wall'.

The reason for this is the diabolical change that most small business's have suffered during the pandemic; a much reduced business turnover & a death toll on their income which necessitated a marked reduction in all expenses; one being advertising.

No advertising, no newspapers ~ simple as that. One of the remarkable outcomes was in local government in NSW by removing the requirement for council notices to be advertised in newspapers and instead allow the relevant notice to be published on the council's website.

In our own backyard this has disenfranchised roughly 25% of residents who have no access to a computer or a smart phone; just incredibly wrong!

Council public information should not have to be specifically sought, buried somewhere within a complex Council website. Such important resident information is best delivered in a 'news' package - advertised in newspapers, who deliver to community in a more 'friendly' reader environment and amongst many other aspects of news, which affects the widest community.

Local newspapers are a trusted, credible source of information, especially in contrast to our oversaturated, unqualified social media world.

Today, local newspapers are fighting hard to support local councils and their reader/ratepayer public, by professionally gathering news and presenting the honest facts. Not only hard news, but especially amidst the emotionally charged COVID-19 pandemic, newspapers are able to meld hard and soft news in a friendly social manner and appropriately targeted to the community within which the live.

The public benefit from specific independent local reporting, written by local and knowledgeable independent journalists, who are able to dissect, question, debate, support and congratulate through an in-depth local platform.

Cheers, Mike



Another view

The 'black lives matter' protest that was held in Newcastle a week or so ago was attended by responsible people who all wore masks and were social distancing; whingers please note. Some in the media have complained that face masks or scarves fall off when jogging or steam up eye glasses. I am sure that at one stage we may all have to wear covering in public. Brown paper bags with eye holes won't do. The possibilities are endless. I have ordered neck gaiters for my husband and me, because his hearing aids get in the way of the loopy bits. Neck

gaiters are worn by skiers and runners. Hijabs tucked in to ones shirt are a possibility. Best perhaps is a face covering and a welding mask type combination, to stop passage either way. Wearing sunglasses might help, but you will have to do all your banking online to avoid alarming security guards. Actually, a diving helmet with an oxygen tank might work with a decontamination unit on the front porch. Personally, I see COVID19 eventually wiping out the entire human race one way or another. **Name & address supplied but not published at writers request**

There is much to be learned from this pandemic. While the very nature and virulence of COVID-19 were always going to make the virus difficult to contain, costly mistakes have been made. The initial success led to complacency, and then concern over the economic crisis distracted us from health issues. Mixed messages from politicians from the beginning created confusion.

The failed COVIDSafe app continued to be promoted, while the value of face masks was largely discounted until now. Social distancing has not been enforced by those in charge of large gatherings. The public has been irresponsible in the eagerness to return to normal life. As a result, a big price has been paid in Victoria and NSW is now at risk. We are about to find out if our leaders and the rest of us are up to the challenge. **M. Mcgregor, Narrabri NSW**
No half-measures
If consumer spending in New Zealand is back to normal following COVID

elimination, while Sweden, which adopted the opposite approach, is economically still struggling, it would appear that a large part of the economic evidence about how to manage the pandemic is now in: the economy does better in the longer term if elimination strategies, rather than half-measures, are applied. We need to ditch economic theorising and accept real world evidence. - **A. Garrity, North Narrabeen**

A man brings his best buddy home for dinner unannounced at 5:30 after work. His wife begins screaming at him and his friend just sits and listens in.
"My hair & makeup are not done, the house is a mess, the dishes are not done, I'm still in my pyjamas and I can't be bothered with cooking tonight! Why the hell did you bring him



home?" Husband answers: "Because he's thinking of getting married" **A couple was having dinner at a fancy restaurant As the food was served, the**

husband said, "the food looks delicious, let's eat." Wife : honey ... you say prayer before eating at home. Husband : that's at home sweetheart ... here the chef knows how to cook.

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		Electricity
Branxton.....	4938 1244	Energy Australia.....
Lochinvar.....	4930 7209	131 388
Ambulance.....	131 233	Hospitals
NSW Fire Brigade		Maitland.....
Branxton.....	4938 3396	4939 2000
Rural Fire Brigades		Cessnock.....
Belford.....	6574 7149	4991 0555
Broke.....	6579 1491	Singleton.....
Greta.....	4015 0000	6572 2799
Bishops Bdg		SES
Nth R'bury....	4015 0000	132 500
Rothbury.....	4015 0000	Crime Stoppers
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000	1800 333 000
Rothbury.....	4991 1733	Poisons Info
Bishops Bdg		131 126
Nth R'bury....	4015 0000	Hunter Water
Rothbury.....	4015 0000	1300 657 000
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000	Ausgrid
Rothbury.....	4991 1733	131 388
Bishops Bdg		Gas Emergencies .
Nth R'bury....	4015 0000	131 909
Rothbury.....	4015 0000	Lifeline
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000	131 114
Rothbury.....	4991 1733	Mental Health Line
Scotts		1800 011 511
Flat.....	6575 1200	Domestic Violence Support
Central		4990 9609
(Cessnock)....	4015 0000	Centrelink Self Service
		136 240
		Medicare
		132 011
		Native Animal Rescue
		0418 628 483

Submit a letter to the editor

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

or
emailed to
thenews@hotkey.net.au

knows how to cook.

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

**Cessnock Waste Management Centre
Vouchers expiry date extended**

Residents will be able to use their 2019/20 Cessnock Waste Management Centre Vouchers up until the end of August.

The decision was made at the latest meeting of Council to make up for the period of time where the Cessnock Waste Management Centre was closed to the public due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The facility was closed from Friday 3 April and reopened on Monday 27 April.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said some residents may have missed out on disposing of waste during this time and it's great to be able to extend the life of the vouchers for impacted community members.

"If you have any vouchers left over from last financial year you'll be able to use these during the months of July and August instead of your new vouchers that you would have received in the mail with your first rates notice for the new financial year."

Please note these vouchers are only issued to residents who receive a Cessnock City Council Domestic Waste Service. For more information on the vouchers visit Council's waste section on the website. Residents are also encouraged to look for opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste.



Commemoration of Vietnam Veterans Day, this year the service will be held at the Greta Rotunda on Tues. 18th August starting at 10:45 am.

Members of the Branxton & Greta RSL's are welcome to attend.

We would like to pass on an open invitation to all interested community members from both areas, to attend..

Afterwards, light refreshments will be provided for RSL members at the Local Café opposite the Greta Rotunda.

Official dress Smart Casual With Medals. Any inquiries in the first instance to Brian on 0429438460



REFLECTIONS

Feed the Hungry

Matthew 14.13-21

Imagine the setting. News of the death of John the Baptist has reached Jesus, and so he goes to a "deserted place" to be alone with his disciples ... and to process what has happened to his cousin, John. But the crowds hear that Jesus is in the area, and so they follow him on foot. One could be forgiven for needing some time alone, some time to pray. So what does Jesus do? He has "compassion for them and cured their sick." [Matthew 14.14]

His compassion did not stop there though. As it was getting late, the disciples told Jesus that he should send the crowds into the village to buy food for themselves. Yet again, Jesus perplexes the disciples by telling them, the crowds "need not go away; you give them something to eat." [Matthew 14.16] With only five loaves and two fish, how were they going to feed a crowd of five thousand?

Nothing is impossible for God. Those five loaves and two fish were taken, blessed, broken and given. Does this sound familiar? It is what we do each time that we celebrate Holy Communion / Mass / Eucharist. The left overs were gathered up, filling twelve baskets.

We could easily focuss on the beautiful, compassionate and generous miracle that has occurred ... the feeding of the five thousand. If we focus solely on that, we miss the details that enable the miracle, the small things that have a huge impact. From small things, big things grow. Jesus fulfilled the physical need of hunger, but before he did this he fulfilled other needs. He had compassion for them and did not turn away the people who had follow him to that place. He understood their need and we are told he cured the sick, and then later he multiplied the small offering of loaves and fishes. The people are fully fed with left overs that were collected.. This is a miracle indeed ... one that shows us the abundance and generosity of God ... one that is an pattern for our own response to those in need.

But how do we feed the hungry? cure the sick? Each time we show God's compassion, mercy and love to another person, we are helping to feed the needs of the people around us. We also can literally feed the hungry. It might not be five thousand that we feed, but one person fed is one person not hungry.

This week, will you recognise the one who needs to be fed in some way? and will you take the time to stop and fulfil that need? Will you see that it might also be you? and if it is you that needs to be fed, will you seek the nourishment that you need?

As you give, may you also receive!

*Blessings,
Reverend Nicole*



Council supports local pensioners

Cessnock City Council is continuing to support local pensioners this financial year, providing them with an additional rebate.

Eligible pensioners in the Cessnock Local Government Area have been provided an additional rebate of 1.6% of their combined rates and domestic waste management charge. This is on top of the up to \$250 rebate provided for under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's fantastic to be able to offer an additional rebate to local pensioners.

"As a result of making sound financial decisions it has enabled us to provide nearly 5000 pensioners with an additional rebate on top of the mandatory rebate. It will save some individuals up to \$100. It's important we support those in our community who are more vulnerable and value such assistance."

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

Members say ..



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

It was great to attend the changeover dinner for the Cessnock Lions Club. Their adherence to COVID-19 restrictions was commendable. In a non COVID situation most service clubs have a change-over function. This year Cessnock is the only local service club to hold a formal function and this is a result of their strong planning. Service clubs play an important role in our community with the support they give. Fundraising has been difficult, as face to face meetings have been cancelled to ensure the safety of members. The other factor is the suspension of Bunnings Warehouse Barbeques, which are the foundation of most clubs fundraising efforts. At this stage these are planned to return at the end of July with strict hygiene protocols and social distancing protocols in place. To show their support during the period of no barbeques Bunnings have generously made a donation to our service clubs. Their support of community life and clubs must be applauded. The importance of community groups, clubs and organisations is vital. It provides opportunities for personal interaction between members and this is so important to the wellness of our community. This was emphasised by my visit to the Cessnock Croquet Club to assist in drawing their guessing competition. A number of members shared with me how they missed interacting with one another. Let's hope we can continue reopening many clubs in our local government area as we get through this pandemic. For us to get through we all need to be doing as NSW Health advises. Social distancing, handwashing and operating businesses in a COVID safe manner are all non-negotiables and now a way of life. Many of you may be tired of hearing this message over and over again, but it really is what will help us slow the spread. It would be devastating to see our local businesses being required to close down again and have a big impact on everyone if more restrictions were introduced. For information about how to keep you and your family safe visit NSW Health's website.

Last week Council's excellence in Customer Service was acknowledged. Council took out the annual award at the 2020 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards for Service Delivery Initiative for our work in the e-planning space. Council also took out a highly commended award for Excellence in People and Culture. Well done to the team at Council who are so committed to ensuring a good experience for customers and for showing initiative to look for ways to better provide support for customers.

Works have kicked off at Paynes Crossing Bridge, Wollombi it was good to undertake a visit to the site and see the works progressing quickly to replace the existing bridge with a much improved structure. This will allow better access for residents, visitors and have a higher deck level to allowing residents increased access during flooding. The good news is it can also be used by our emergency services, with new bridge able to take the weight of a Rural Fire Service tanker. Works are also set to commence shortly on Alfred Street, Cessnock with the construction of a pathway.

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR PLEASE TAKE THE CONTINUING THREAT OF COVID-19 SERIOUSLY

This is a desperate request to everyone to please please please take all of the extra care and caution that you did when COVID-19 first arrived on our radar back in February 2020.

I am constantly gob-smacked at how people have all gone back to their old habits of close contact, crowded spaces and no distancing. You are playing the deadliest gambling with your own lives and the lives of those around you.

I can't tell you how many times I have decided to not go into certain stores/venues because of how many people were crowded into some pretty small areas. I have also quickly departed some other areas when the crowd surged. And it drives me completely nuts when people behind me, in a service queue, line up and basically stand over the top of my back and shoulders breathing all over me and creating a risk to both of us.

C'mon people. Please stand back from each other, avoid contact and take extra special care of your hands and their cleanliness.

There is going to be a second wave of COVID-19. It is going to be worse than the first. It is not a question of "if", it is simply a matter of when.

I understand that people are getting a bit tired of all of the "social distancing" talk, but guess what - it saves lives and that life could be yours! Or it could be a loved one of yours.

If it helps, don't think of social distancing as a temporary inconvenience. Instead, lock it in to your routine as the new normal. Make it a part of every activity that you do.

In the coming weeks or months, it may well be that we need people to wear face masks or at least something across your mouth and nose. Part of the reason for this is that there have been many people find out that they had COVID-19 14 days after they first got it, which means that for 13 days they were accidentally and unknowingly spreading the disease.

There is a lot of language around the effect on the economy if we have to go back into lockdown. Can I offer this simple little tip - if you work in a business (owner or employee) that was previously affected by the mini-lockdown that we had in recent months, then please do your very best to put away as much in savings and reserve funds as you can, now, while you are still working. You may be relying on some of those savings in the near future. Take care everyone. Keep your distance. Stay safe.

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can help, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

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



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council-West Ward

Don't Believe Everything You Read.

The irony of an elected representative writing a title

like that in a newspaper column is not lost on me. But in my defence, I have always put my name to this column and indeed everything I write.

One of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the closure, suspension or reduction of many regional newspapers across Australia, particularly in regional areas. The Hunter region hasn't been spared. The long running Dungog Chronical has been closed, others have moved online only, and the Maitland Mercury has been reduced to one print edition a week. This has created and exacerbated existing problems in local news coverage that aren't normally picked up by larger newspapers and other news outlets. Failure to have a local newspaper holding local representatives to account means that your Councillors and their actions are getting less scrutiny than they once did. Unfortunately some Councillors have exploited this media void for their own political gain. When I was elected to Maitland City Council three years ago we would have a journalist from the Hunter Independent and the Maitland Mercury attend each Council meeting. They would report on the proceedings of the meeting. What was passed, what was knocked back, who said what. The Hunter Independent has sadly since shut down. The Maitland Mercury went from three print editions a week to one, and was completely suspended during the height of the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Some Maitland City Councillors have sought to use this to their advantage by leveraging large social media followings to, shall we say, stretch the truth. A number of claims have been made on social media in recent times which were so factually incorrect that Council staff were forced to issue statements correcting elected representatives.

On Facebook Councillors who run or administer so called "Community pages" or "Community forums" have deleted views which were in opposition to theirs from the comments section or have outright blocked people living in those very communities from even becoming members of that forum. On top of that it is not always clear who is an administrator of these pages or you have to dig quite deep to discover that Councillor X is an admin. These pages have also been used to whip up hatred and slurs directed to other Councillors and comments to this effect are often left to snowball while views critical to the admin are deleted.

Another new phenomenon appears to be a number of new "news" websites. Funnily enough many "articles" on these sites have almost word-for-word recounted Councillor's views without any form of investigation into whether what was said was factual or not. One site in particular seems to almost solely focus

on Maitland City Council. You would also notice that these so called articles have no author listed, no editor of the publication listed and no contact details for those running the site. I smell a rat! The fundamental problem with all these issues is that I believe Councillors and all public officials should be accountable for what they say and do. A lesson to us all is to check so called facts with reliable sources of information. Council meetings are always live streamed online so you can now watch for yourself. Or rather than believing what one Councillor says about another, perhaps consider contacting that Councillor directly and asking if it's true and why they came to that view. This has the added advantage of being able to put your views and experience to the Councillor directly.

My commitment to you is that I do not run anonymous websites or social media accounts, I never have and never will. If I want to say something publically I will always put my face or name to it. If you wish to meet with me or contact me over an issue I will always hear you out. You will not be blocked by me for expressing an opposing view.

Councillors are elected by you the public to serve and represent the community, and Councillors should be accountable for what they do and say, not create echo chambers where only views that align with them and their political goals are allowed to flourish.

As my Gran would say "Don't believe everything you read". It is great to see the Branxton Greta Vineyard news back. Here's to many more editions of great local journalism.

Until next time,
Ben



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

With so much uncertainty affecting every aspect of our lives, it's a bright spot for all of us as we see work getting underway on the construction of the \$7 million Singleton Town Centre Upgrade - Stage 2 this week. The project covers John Street from the intersection of Ryan Avenue north to the Campbell Street roundabout, and Campbell Street to the New England Highway, continuing the modernisation of our town centre as a regional destination to meet, eat, do business and relax. Funded in partnership between the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program and Council, it's a major part of more

than \$45 million in capital expenditure scheduled for 2020/2021.

The project is slated to take up to 12 months (weather permitting) for completion, and Council is doing everything possible to minimise disruptions to businesses and motorists during the construction phase. However, there will be some impacts on traffic. To keep up to date, follow Council on Facebook, contact the dedicated 24 hour enquiry line on 0401 096 484 or email

singletontc@robsoncivil.com.au

The endorsement of the Singleton Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2041 at last week's Ordinary Council meeting was another significant step for the future of Singleton. Economic diversity is a key component of the document that sets out a 20-year broad vision for the Singleton LGA in terms of land use, activities, landforms and buildings. The LSPS goes so far as to illustrate the vision for the LGA, including that by the year 2041, Singleton will be internationally recognised as a mining centre of excellence, and transitioned to a more diversified and innovative economy.

In addition, the Singleton township and surrounding villages are community focused, with sustainable design, liveability and amenity at the forefront of growth objectives. The Singleton town centre, neighbourhood shops, McDougall's Hill Business Park and Mt Thorley Industrial Area are well-planned, vibrant and dynamic business centres that offer a range of skills and employment opportunities.

But we know our LGA can't progress in isolation. Most recently we've seen the rewards that come from local partnerships with businesses and community organisations, most notably through our Chambers of Commerce and Interagency. We have productive relationships with our neighbouring LGAs, particularly the junction in Branxton where we meet with Cessnock City Council. And we have strong partnerships with a range of government agencies and initiatives, including the NSW Government's Upper Hunter Economic Diversification Work Group. I am also proud to chair the 2050 Foundation, a sub-committee of the Hunter Joint Organisation.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has had an immediate impact on our daily activities, it has not slowed the advancement of a diverse and progressive future that isn't happening 20 years from now, but today.

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

'It's Time for Food Security'

COVID-19 has at least increased community awareness of the extent to which we rely on others for a range of essential products including our fuel supplies and medical equipment.

But our agricultural system continues to breed food-security complacency.

Yes, our farmers and farming practices are world's best. But not only are they exposed to strong global competition - they are also heavily reliant on others for many of their inputs to production.

If we are to protect our food security, we need to come to terms with our vulnerabilities. Farmers can't grow food without seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and veterinary medicines. Yet over recent decades Australia's reliance on other countries for these on-farm inputs has grown substantially.

China has become our primary provider of crop protection products, and Australia is about to lose its only remaining manufacturer of the key active ingredients necessary to produce our herbicide crop-protection products. Our local manufacturers, farmers and consumers will now be even more dependent on product from China following news that Nufarm will close its Laverton plant in Victoria.

Nufarm is doing this in part because it can't compete with imported product from China. The high cost of energy is another factor forcing Nufarm's hand, yet the Morrison Government refuses to act.

It raises the question: how many otherwise-competitive manufacturers will we have to lose before the Government acts?

Nufarm is not alone: many downstream food manufacturers are also struggling. While the reasons are many and varied, higher-than-necessary energy costs are a constant in this crisis.

Most Australians will be surprised to learn that while we export almost \$50 billion worth of food product each year, we also import around \$17 billion worth of processed foods. Our food imports are growing at around 5 per cent annually.

Many predict the post-COVID19 world will be a much different place. I hope not. While far from perfect, I thought it was going well. I don't believe the virus calls for a dramatic shift in our policy settings although the shifting geopolitical situation will require us to be nimble.

But our COVID-19 experience should teach us that wherever the capacity to produce product is crucial to our survival as a nation-state, CONT. PAGE 8

Gravel, Soils,
Sands,
Trenchers,
Auger & Forks
P: 4938 3202
or
M: 0429 983 202

**P&L STANDEN
BRANXTON**
ABN 77 715 058 915
BOBCAT & TIPPER HIRE



HVE Pty Ltd
Hunter Valley Electrics
Mark Mellross
Owner / Operator
400c Standen Drive
Lower Belford NSW 2335
0455 911 700
mark@hunervalleyelectrics.com.au
www.hunervalleyelectrics.com.au
HVE Pty Ltd t/a Hunter Valley Electrics

**Local
Trades
& Services
Directory**

**Local
Trades
& Services
Directory**

Can Change Therapy
Psychotherapy, Clinical Hypnotherapy, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
(CBT) Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP)
Expectations change the structure of our brains! When we learn to expect good things, good things start to happen.
Want to change something in your life? Weight, Smoking, Alcohol, Anxiety, Depression, etc.
Phone 0417 949060 today to discuss, first consultation free.
www.canchange.com.au

Graham Duncan
CONCRETING &
LANDSCAPING
Lic. No. 131164C
Plain or Coloured Driveways, Shed Slabs,
Footpaths, Retaining Walls
& Garden Edging
Ph: 4938 7754 Mob: 0415 389 977



**ANDP MC DONALD
PLASTERING**
* Gyprock Interior Linings
* Decorative & Suspended
Ceilings
* External Cladding
Systems
* Residential/Commercial
For quality workmanship &
competitive quote
CALL Wayne
0417 679 619
mcdplaster@activ8.net.au

**COALFIELDS
CLIMATE CONTROL**
Air Conditioning / Refrigeration / HVAC / Engineering / Electrical
0422 493 102
www.coalfieldsclimate.com.au
ABN: 89 616 271 277 L#: 2176530 ARC: AU42682

News
To enquire
about
advertising in
The Branxton
Greta
Vineyards
News call
Mike on
4938 1773

**Hunta Karate Martial
Arts Club**
Non Profit organisation
Located at Branxton Community hall
Train Tuesday & Thursday Night
Please Contact Jerry
0407 077 930

**The Branxton
Greta
Vineyards News
call Mike on
4938 1773**

MPH Cleaning
Specialising in
Domestic/Commercial
Window Cleaning.
Exit Cleans
Call Mark on 0412 980848



**Local Trades
& Services
Directory**
Less than \$14 a week
P: 4938 1773

CHICKEN MANURE
Get ready for
Spring
Free Delivery!
Call Mick
Ph: 0425 835 075
4938 7273




**MJZ
PLUMBING**
Lic No 191131c ABN 92638811064
Constructing, Renovating, Maintaining
the Hunter Valley - No Job Too Small
Ph: 4938 1742
Mobile: 0458 342 324

**STANHOPE HANDYMAN
SERVICES**
Free quotes or will work for hourly rate on
any project. *Seniors Discount!*
Great attention to detail and always clean-up
at the end of the day! References available.
Satisfaction Guaranteed!
For a FREE quote, call Peter
on: 0419 441 257

News
For all your
advertising
needs call
Mike on
4938 1773

**COMPUTER
TECHNICIAN
Repairs, Help
& Web Design**
Phone Les: 0428 025 509



**Midweek share
accommodation**
Would ideally suit any workers in the area. Mon to
Thurs in 6 self contained cottages ranging from 2
to 5 bedroom.
Lovedale area.
Call for rates and availability.
P: 0490 403 387

**BAGLEY
PAINTING**
"Quality painting, affordable rates"
• Over 30 years experience so you can be assured
of quality & professional service.
• FREE quotes with no obligation
P: 0409 523 056 or 4938 3178



**Branxton and Vineyards Real
Estate
call Mike or Helen on
4938 3300**

News

**Branxton &
Vineyards
Real Estate**
4938 3300

**Local
Trades
& Services
Directory**
Less
than
\$14 a
week
P: 4938 1773

**COMPUTER
TECHNICIAN
Repairs, Help
& Web Design**
Phone Les: 0428 025 509




**State's
SIMPLE SOLUTIONS**
for all your handyman needs
Lawn Mowing General Maintenance Bobcat Work
Call us today for a free quote
H. (02) 4938 3601 M. 0428 081 265



Deans Turf Supplies
Your Local Turf Grower of:
*Kings Pride Soft Leaf Buffalo
& *Kikuyu
Phone: Scott Dean
Ph: 0249 381 874 Mob: 0407 006 953
e: deansturf@bigpond.com
460 Elderslie Road Branxton
Inspections welcome by
appointment




Company LIC: 237774C
ABN: 93 149 933 246
P.R.W BUILDING Pty Ltd
PAUL WORTH
MOB: 0429 305 554
818 Lambs Valley Road
Lambs Valley NSW 2335



**Brett Hubner
Plumbing**
0421 427 596
~ Your Local Greta Plumber ~
Servicing all areas
Water Services • Gas Services • Hot Water Systems
Blocked Sewers, Drainage & Storm Water
Guttering • Bath & Kitchen Renovations
L/no: 140922C



JT Painting and Plastering
licence no: 292457C
FREE quote and expert recommendation
on any project
email: jtpaintingplastering@gmail.com
Phone: 0487756170



HVE Pty Ltd
Hunter Valley Electrics
Mark Mellross
Owner / Operator
400c Standen Drive
Lower Belford NSW 2335
0455 911 700
mark@hunervalleyelectrics.com.au
www.hunervalleyelectrics.com.au
HVE Pty Ltd t/a Hunter Valley Electrics

News
P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice & Medical Advice

Coronavirus vaccine progress report & the flu

Coronavirus vaccine progress report: the projects bidding to win the race for a COVID-19 vaccine

The race is on to develop a vaccine for COVID-19. There are now more than 140 vaccines being tested around the world, according to the World Health Organization. Australian researchers are leading several major clinical trials that might help bring an end to the deadly disease. We asked the lead investigators of trials around Australia to tell us about their vaccines: when the trials are being held, how they work, and how they might kill or impede the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

What you need to know

Kylie Quinn, RMIT

Vaccine development normally progresses through a series of steps that enable researchers to collect all the data needed to approve a vaccine for the clinic. Initially, vaccines are tested in the lab, using cells in culture and animals that mimic human disease, to determine whether the vaccine is safe and worth developing further.

Promising vaccines are then evaluated in clinical trials with human volunteers, where researchers ask:

1. Is the vaccine safe, and what dose should be used? (Phase 1)
2. Can the vaccine generate an immune response? (Phase 2)
3. Can the vaccine protect from infection or disease? (Phase 3)

With SARS-CoV-2, researchers are speeding up this process by running one trial while simultaneously recruiting for the next phase. This uses lessons learnt during the Ebola epidemic, when a vaccine was developed in a record time of just five years. Despite this acceleration, many researchers' best guess is that it will be at least early 2021 before a vaccine might be approved (and the next challenge is to manufacture enough of it). This may seem like a long time, but it is lightning fast for a vaccine.

But it isn't a sure thing yet. One concern is that when people recover from infection with other human coronaviruses, immunity can wane relatively quickly. It seems vaccines will have to do much better than this "natural immunity". Fortunately, early data from

human trials suggests vaccines can generate stronger responses than natural immunity. Our next questions are: how long will these responses last, and will they protect us? The waiting game continues.

Flu deaths drop in Australia as coronavirus restrictions save hundreds of lives

By medical reporter Sophie Scott and the Specialist Reporting Team's Celina Edmonds

Hundreds of Australian flu deaths have been avoided because of the lockdown measures used to prevent the spread of COVID-19, experts say.

The latest national statistics, obtained by the ABC, reveal from January to June 2020, there were just 36 deaths from the flu. That compares to 430 deaths in the same period for 2019.

Ian Barr, deputy director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, said it was "great news" as influenza was very hard to combat.

"I think if we could get this sort of effect every year, we'd be very happy," Professor Barr said. "You have to do exceptional things like having very, very high vaccination rates or doing something dramatic like [what is] currently happening with a severe lockdown type of approach."

The flu season was particularly severe last year, meaning the drop in influenza deaths from 2019 to 2020 is even more pronounced. Australian Medical Association NSW vice-president Andrew Zuschmann said this year doctors were seeing much lower community rates of influenza infection.

"What it's telling us is that many of the measures that are working to contain the spread of COVID-19 within the community are also very effective at reducing transmission of influenza," he said. In total, from January to the end of June 2019, more than 132,000 people were diagnosed with the flu. This year, almost 21,000 people were diagnosed during the same period.

Why have flu cases dropped so significantly?

Closing schools,

maintaining physical distancing and boosting hand hygiene have all contributed to the massive decline in flu diagnoses and deaths.

"The main reasons are due to social distancing, as influenza is spread just like COVID-19 is," Professor Barr said.

"And the closure of schools probably also has a big part in the transmission of the flu in a normal season."

The closure of Australian borders to international travellers also provided far fewer opportunities for people to bring the flu into the country from overseas. Vaccination rates have also jumped, according to data from the federal health department, which showed from March to mid-July this year, 8.8 million doses of influenza vaccines were dispensed.

That is 2 million doses more than were administered in the same period last year.

What will happen next winter?

What is not clear is what impact this will have on next year's flu season, and whether having so few people experiencing the flu this year might make things worse in future.

"That's the \$64 million question [and] something we will be watching very closely," Professor Barr said.

He said it was difficult to gauge the level of immunity to influenza in the community and what the flu season might look like next year — especially if Australian borders remained largely closed.

WHO researcher Ian Barr said last year's flu season had the highest number of cases on record, due to a prolonged season and early outbreaks.

"It also depends on what happens in terms of socialising in communities, how early a COVID-19 vaccine is available and what happens overseas," he said.

Australia is not the only country seeing the benefits of COVID-19 social distancing when it comes to the circulation of other respiratory illnesses.

"Australia is in the peak of its normal influenza season, but so are other countries like South Africa, New Zealand, Chile, and Argentina," Professor Barr said.

"They've all seen marked reductions in influenza cases so far this season."



Cessnock City Council has developed a draft Community Engagement Strategy and is now calling on the community to check it out and have their say.

Council's Community Satisfaction Survey carried out in 2019 highlighted that improvements in engaging the local community needed to be made.

As a result, the new position of Community Engagement Officer was

created and filled in March this year and the process of community consultation and drafting the Strategy began.

Cessnock City Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson, said Council is responsible for decisions that impact on our community and community engagement and participation in the decision making process is an important part of our local democracy.

"The overall objective of

the draft Strategy is to encourage more community participation in decision making and ensure we are more responsive to our community."

"Over 200 people participated in consultation activities during April and May

2020 which informed the development of the draft Strategy and now we want to know if we got it right," added Lotta.

The draft Community Engagement Strategy is on public exhibition from Monday 20 July until Sunday 16 August 2020.

Visit Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/HaveYourSay to check it out and have your say today.



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP

Members say

.... the guidance provided by the economic orthodoxy should be challenged. The economic textbook does not always guide our defence capability decisions. We'd never build surface combatants or submarines in Australia, if it did. Rather, we accept a less-than optimal economic outcome as the price for maintaining local capability and skills. Is our food security any less important to our sovereignty? I think not. Nor is fuel security. You can't deploy sailors, soldiers, airmen or airwomen, without food and fuel!
Cheers, Joel



Ingredients

- 60g butter
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 carrots, cut into small cubes
- 3 sticks of celery, cut into small cubes
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 3/4 cup plain flour, seasoned
- 8 veal shanks (about 1.5kg)
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 800g diced Italian tomatoes in juice
- 2 cups beef stock
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 2 bay leaves

Gremolata

- finely grated rind of 2 large lemons
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley, finely chopped

Method

- Step 1*
- Heat 20g butter and 2 tablespoons oil in a frying pan. Add carrots, celery, onions and garlic. Cook for 4 to 5 minutes. Remove to an ovenproof dish.
- Step 2*

Traditional Osso bucco



- Place seasoned flour into a plastic bag. Toss, two shanks at a time, in flour. Shake off excess and place on a plate.

Step 3

- Preheat oven to 200°C. Melt remaining butter and oil in a frying pan over high heat. Brown both sides of veal in 2 to 3 batches. Place on top of vegetables.

Step 4

- Add tomato paste, tomatoes, beef stock, thyme and bay leaves to pan. Bring to the boil, stirring. Reduce heat to medium and simmer for 5 minutes. Pour over vegetables and veal. Cover roasting dish with lid or foil. Transfer to oven and bake for 1 1/2 hours to 1 3/4 hours until veal is tender.

Step 5

- To make gremolata: Mix ingredients together. Sprinkle over veal and serve.

C.R. SMYTH & SON

FUNERAL SERVICES

24 hours
7 days

Owned and operated by the Smyth Family since 02.02.1925 - celebrating 95 years of serving the communities of Maitland, Cessnock, Kurri Kurri & surrounds with compassion & respect.

Rutherford
4932 7744

Cessnock
4990 1425

Kurri Kurri
4937 4811

\$3.7 million to be invested in local roads!



Cessnock City Council has welcomed a huge boost to local roads funding with the Australian and NSW Governments making a joint announcement that will see more than \$3.7 million invested into three local projects. The three roads projects include:

- \$1,177,500 for Mitchell Avenue, Kurri Kurri - Pavement resurfacing from Government road to Northcote Street.
- \$757,500 for Cessnock Road, Weston - Pavement resurfacing from Station Street towards First Street.
- \$1,836,000 for Old Maitland Road, Sawyers Gully - unsealed sections of pavement at the northern end of Old Maitland Road will be resurfaced from the end of the existing sealed section, through the section commonly referred to as the 21 bends, heading south from Sawyers Gully Road.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's a fantastic announcement. "This funding enables us to upgrade roads we know are in need of significant improvements. Many residents will be extremely pleased these roads are now getting the work they need to make it safer for motorists. It's particularly good news for the Old Maitland Road which has been an area of concern for our community." This funding is part of \$382 million of joint funding announcement allocated to

shovel-ready projects able to start in the next 12 months, driving an estimated 3,500 jobs in regional NSW. Projects will need to be delivered within two years of receiving funding, to ensure that local communities are benefiting quickly. Applications for round two of the program will open later this year.

• Photo at left: General Manager Lotta Jackson, Council's Principal Engineer Renae Leayr and Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent at Old Maitland Road which is receiving funding.

"Interact" highest achievement award



Cessnock High School Interact Club has been acknowledged for participating in service projects in the community with the highest achievement award; a Platinum International Presidential Citation.

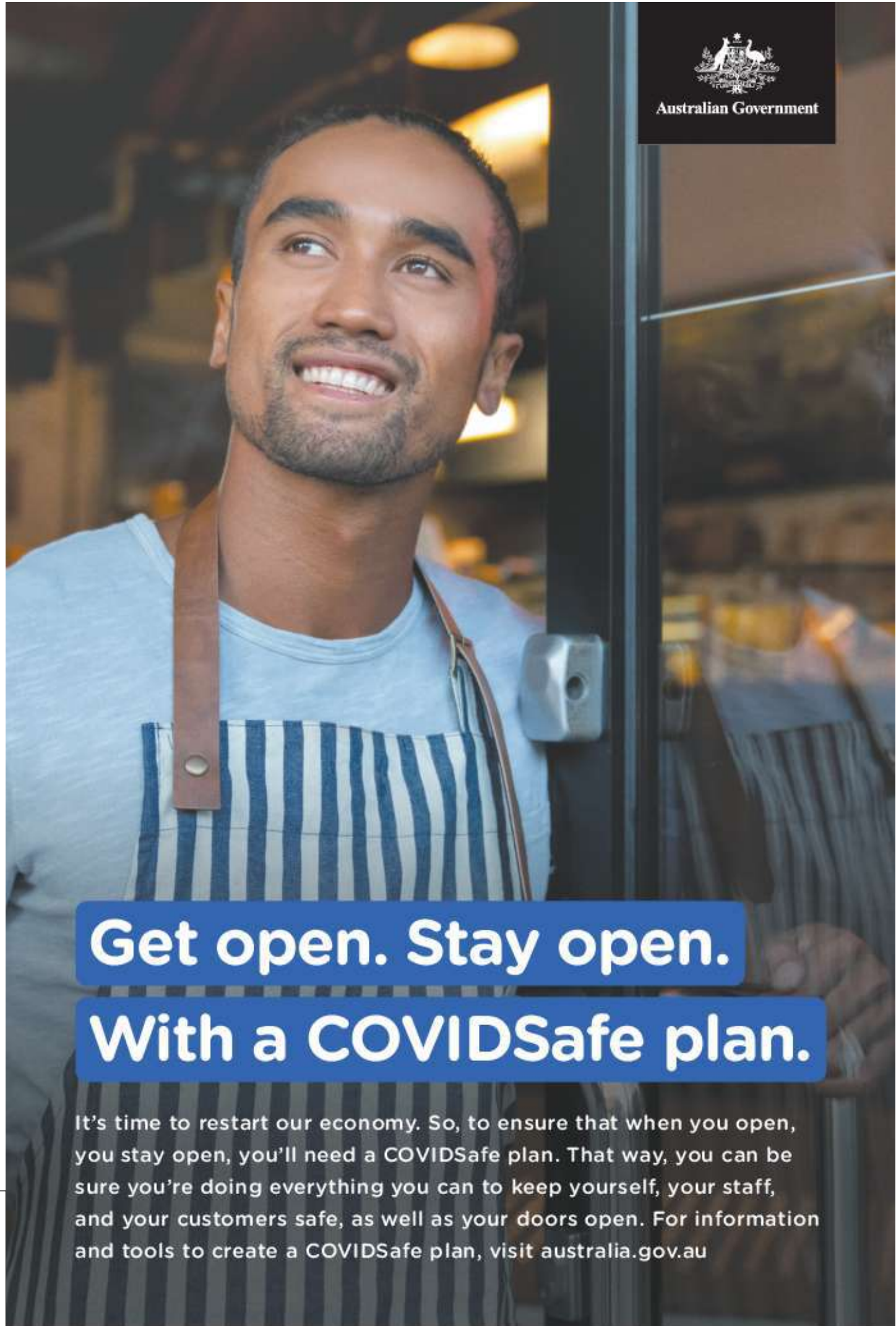
There are 10700 Interact clubs worldwide and each year they are able to be reviewed for an International President Citation. These come in 5 levels, a citation, a bronze citation, a silver citation, a gold citation, and a platinum citation. Vicki Steep - President Cessnock Rotary said that they are very proud to announce that the Interact Club at Cessnock High School has been recognised with one of the rarest awards a Platinum Citation from the International President of Rotary International. "This team of students is quite amazing and it is wonderful to see their efforts rewarded. "Last year they hosted a food drive, raised money for polio, hosted leadership sessions, made a movie, took on a kindness project and had many students participating in service projects in the community. "We look forward to presenting a framed certificate in the future to the team. "Although they have been interrupted briefly by COVID 19 they are in current plans for their next project and we look forward to supporting them," said Vicki Steep, President Cessnock Rotary. Cessnock High School Interact which is sponsored by Cessnock Rotary. Congratulations Cessnock High School Interact Club on an award well deserved.

Daily Thoughts ...

Credit cards have three dimensions: height, width and debt.

--Joey Adams

Let no man pray that he know not sorrow. Let no soul ask to be free from pain, for the gall of today is the sweet of tomorrow and the moment's loss is the lifetime's gain.



Get open. Stay open.

With a COVIDSafe plan.

It's time to restart our economy. So, to ensure that when you open, you stay open, you'll need a COVIDSafe plan. That way, you can be sure you're doing everything you can to keep yourself, your staff, and your customers safe, as well as your doors open. For information and tools to create a COVIDSafe plan, visit australia.gov.au



WITH

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

SHAW & BUNNER

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



The Sale of Anti-Virus Activewear in a Post-Pandemic World

The current global pandemic has seen certain businesses thrive, whilst others have suffered enormously. And as we adjust to the 'new norm', it is interesting to see how businesses have adapted and pivoted in the post-pandemic world. One such business is Lorna Jane Pty Ltd, a Brisbane based sports clothing company, who arguably took things a little too far when they started to advertise 'anti-virus active wear'. The company claimed that their clothing prevented and protected the wearer from infectious diseases, implying the clothes were effective against COVID-19. They launched their "LJ Shield exclusive technology". The website claims that the "LJ Shield" breaks through the membrane shell of any toxic diseases, bacteria or germs that come into contact with it, not only killing that microbe but preventing it from multiplying into anymore. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), part of the Department of Health, were not convinced and took action to issue

three infringement notices totaling \$39,960.00. The TGA alleged unlawful advertising in relation to COVID-19 and allege that Lorna Jane represented its 'anti-virus active wear' for therapeutic use and therefore believes that it is a therapeutic good within the meaning of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*. Therapeutic goods, including advertising, are subject to the regulations administered by the TGA. The advertisement referred to therapeutic goods that were not included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). This is required before they can be lawfully supplied or advertised in Australia. Under the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, any references to COVID-19 (and related terms) in the promotion of these types of goods are restricted representations. A **restricted representation** refers to a serious form of a disease, condition, ailment or defect. The use of restricted representations in advertisements for therapeutic goods is unlawful without a prior

formal approval or permission from the TGA. It is also a breach of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code (No. 2) 2018 to promote a therapeutic good as being safe, harmless or without side-effects. Adjunct Professor John Skerritt, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health, was quoted as saying: "This kind of advertising could have detrimental consequences for the Australian community, creating a false sense of security and leading people to be less vigilant about hygiene and social distancing." Lorna Jane have responded to the action on their website and state: "We didn't want to mislead anyone. Our testing shows that LJ Shield is an important part of stopping the spread of both bacteria and viral infections and should be used in combination with other precautionary measures such as face masks and thorough and frequent hand washing". As businesses move forward in the current pandemic, they need to be weary of any advertising associated with COVID-19. The TGA has published as warning to advertisers and consumers about illegal advertising relating to COVID-19.

Cheers, Gemma

South Wales appear to be largely unaffected by COVID-19 to date," Mr McKibbin said. The REINSW Residential Vacancy Rate Report is based on the proportion of unlet residential dwellings to the total rent roll of REINSW member agents on the 15th of each month.

Carried out monthly, the research – a survey of REINSW member agents conducted by Survey Matters – collects the total properties on agency rent rolls, the number of properties that were vacant on the 15th of the month, and the postcode in which a majority of agents' rental

properties are located. The suburb-level rates reported by agents are weighted based on ABS Census 2016 Dwelling Characteristics. The June 2020 report is based on survey responses covering 116,110 residential rental properties.

-14.4%, but houses fared better than units over the quarter, which experienced a -28.8% drop in completions. Number of homes under construction bigger than the 20-year average. At the end of March 2020, there were 189,247 dwellings under construction across Australia. If that sounds like a large number, it is. The 20-year average for the number of dwellings under construction is 145,817.

	Jun-20	May-20	Apr-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Jan-20	Dec-19	Nov-19	Oct-19	Sep-19	Aug-19	Jul-19
SYDNEY												
Inner	5.8%	5.0%	4.3%	2.5%	2.8%	3.1%	3.4%	2.4%	2.7%	3.1%	3.4%	3.0%
Middle	5.2%	4.6%	4.4%	3.6%	3.9%	3.6%	3.4%	3.7%	4.2%	3.0%	3.9%	4.1%
Outer	2.6%	2.7%	3.1%	3.0%	3.5%	3.3%	3.4%	3.6%	3.9%	2.7%	3.5%	3.4%
Total	4.5%	4.1%	3.8%	3.0%	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%	3.2%	3.6%	2.9%	3.6%	3.5%
HUNTER												
Newcastle	1.7%	2.4%	2.1%	1.6%	2.5%	2.0%	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%	1.2%	1.5%	1.6%
Other	1.9%	2.4%	1.8%	1.2%	2.0%	0.9%	1.7%	1.1%	1.4%	1.0%	1.4%	1.8%
Total	1.8%	2.4%	1.9%	1.3%	2.1%	1.2%	1.9%	1.6%	1.8%	1.0%	1.4%	1.7%
ILLAWARRA												
Wollongong	3.2%	3.9%	3.2%	3.5%	2.0%	2.9%	2.6%	4.3%	2.5%	2.8%	2.4%	1.6%
Other	2.9%	2.9%	4.3%	4.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.9%	1.5%	2.1%	1.5%	2.3%	3.3%
Total	3.1%	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%	2.1%	2.7%	2.7%	2.9%	2.4%	2.2%	2.3%	2.2%
REGIONS												
Albury	0.6%	1.2%	1.2%	0.6%	1.6%	1.8%	1.1%	1.3%	0.9%	1.0%	1.3%	1.8%
Central Coast	2.1%	2.3%	3.0%	2.4%	3.0%	4.3%	5.1%	3.5%	4.4%	3.0%	3.4%	3.0%
Central West	1.5%	2.0%	2.0%	1.0%	1.4%	2.1%	2.2%	2.0%	1.9%	2.3%	2.3%	2.1%
Coffs Harbour	2.4%	3.0%	3.4%	3.1%	5.4%	3.3%	2.5%	3.1%	3.6%	2.9%	1.3%	3.2%
Mid-North Coast	2.0%	3.2%	2.6%	1.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.2%	2.3%	2.1%	2.8%	2.6%	2.1%
Murrumbidgee	0.8%	2.0%	1.1%	1.4%	1.5%	1.9%	1.8%	-	0.5%	1.2%	1.0%	1.1%
New England	3.1%	3.9%	3.4%	3.0%	3.8%	4.1%	3.3%	2.4%	2.8%	2.4%	2.6%	2.6%
Northern Rivers	2.6%	1.8%	2.7%	1.7%	1.7%	2.2%	1.5%	1.3%	1.5%	1.6%	2.1%	1.9%
Orana	1.9%	2.4%	2.7%	0.7%	1.2%	2.4%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.4%	1.5%	2.5%
Riverina	1.2%	2.5%	1.8%	1.5%	1.9%	1.7%	1.2%	0.8%	1.1%	1.2%	1.8%	1.3%
South Coast	2.7%	2.0%	1.7%	4.8%	3.9%	2.7%	3.4%	2.4%	3.1%	3.1%	2.8%	2.8%
South Eastern*	0.8%	1.8%	0.7%	3.5%	2.5%	1.8%	1.2%	0.3%	0.8%	1.2%	4.1%	3.4%

Strong Q1 results for new housing as industry holds out hope for HomeBuilder

Cameron Kusher
While it's still too soon to tell what impact COVID-19 is having on Australia's new housing industry, data from the first quarter of 2020 suggests the sector was off to a good start pre-pandemic. The latest building activity data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows dwelling commencements and the number of dwellings under construction lifted over the March quarter compared to the end of 2019, and reflected no shudders when COVID-19 lockdowns began in mid-March. Meanwhile, the number of dwelling completions dropped compared to the previous quarter, with the fall likely driven by the enormous number of new homes under construction across the country. These figures mark a positive start to the year for the housing industry, and while only time will tell how the sector has fared amid the health crisis, it's expected the new HomeBuilder scheme, announced in June, will help turn the sod on more new housing in the second half of 2020. New construction increased while completions fell. **Over the March 2020 quarter, there were 44,434 dwelling commencements nationally, which was 3.8% higher than the previous quarter. However, these figures reflect a -1.6% drop in new construction compared to the same time last year and a -27.7% slump from the peak in March 2016.** Nevertheless, house commencements held up stronger than units falling -



will likely remain relatively high over the coming quarters given this large volume of stock under construction. Unit developments come in a variety of shapes and sizes so they can take 12 months to be completed or they can take many years. Given this, the volume of dwellings under construction is likely to moderate over the coming quarters but is expected to remain elevated, particularly in New South Wales and Victoria.

15.2% from the peak in March 2018, while unit commencements dropped -42.2% from the peak in March 2016. While new housing commencements rose over the first quarter of 2020 compared to the previous quarter, the number of properties completed dropped across the board. There were 47,573 completions over the March quarter, -5.2% fewer than the previous quarter, -10.4% down on the same time last year and -18.9% lower than the peak in December 2016. Similar to commencements, new housing completions fell by



for JobKeeper and Job-Seeker benefits looming, affordability is at the forefront of many tenants' minds. It's really no surprise that inner-city properties with higher weekly rents are being relinquished in favour of more affordable options. "For Sydney's Inner Ring, if this trend continues, as it's likely to for the foreseeable future, we can expect to see downward pressure on rents. While this is great news for tenants, it's a recipe for disaster for many landlords," he said. Regional areas are faring better. Vacancies in the Hunter region dropped by 0.6% to sit at 1.8%, and the Illawarra region saw a 0.5% decrease to 3.1%. Other regional areas also recorded significant drops including Albury (-0.6%), Central West (-0.5%), Coffs Harbour (-0.6%), Mid-North Coast (-1.2%), Murrumbidgee (-1.2%), New England (-0.8%), Orana (-0.6%), Riverina (-1.3%) and the South East (-1.0%). "This month's results really do tell two very different stories, with Sydney's inner suburbs continuing to suffer while Sydney's outer suburbs and regional New

Sydney's vacancy rate soars as tenants continue exodus from inner city

Continuing the trend of recent months, the REINSW Vacancy Rate Survey results for June 2020 show that COVID-19 continues to impact the residential rental market. Vacancies in Sydney increased for the fourth consecutive month and now sit at 4.5%, up 0.4% from May and 1.5% since March. "Sydney's Inner Ring experienced the most significant change, rising 0.8% to 5.8%," REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said. "Last month, vacancies in the Inner Ring hit an 18-year high at 5.1% – a result that has been exceeded

this month. Looking back at more than 20 years of survey results, we've not seen vacancy rates this high. It really is staggering. "The Middle Ring also increased, with a 0.6% rise to 4.6%. Sydney's Outer Ring was alone in recording a decrease in rental vacancies, falling 0.1% to 2.6%. "The impact of COVID-19 on the residential rental market continues to be significant and shows no sign of abating. As unemployment continues to rise and with the end date



Helen Lowing,
Licencee-in-Charge with 30 years Real Estate experience in the local area

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300
M: 0412 566 041
www.domain.com.au

Branxton CBD upgrade to receive \$330,000 grant

Cessnock City Council has endorsed five key projects to be undertaken through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program where Council is eligible to receive \$1,065,399 in funding including \$330,000 for Branxton Town Centre upgrade.

The LRCI funding is available for local road and community

infrastructure projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets that are accessible to the public.

Brett Wild, president of the local business chamber, said the money was a bonus coming off the already allocated funds for the main street.

"The current works by council in the main street is in the order of \$400,000 and is already a



face changer; well done Cessnock Council."

The following projects were endorsed by Council at its meeting on Wednesday 15 July 2020 and the works programs will now be submitted for approval:

- Branxton Town Centre Upgrade Stage 3 - \$330,000

- Government Road, Weston Road Pavement Upgrade - \$300,399
- Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Back Stage Access Project - \$200,000
- Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre Improvements - \$85,000

- Weston Public School Zone Precinct Upgrade - \$150,000

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he looks forward to seeing these projects get underway.

"Each of these projects will benefit our local community in some way, whether it be improved

accessibility, visual amenity or safety benefits." Council will need to complete these projects by 30 June 2021 to receive the full amount of allocated funding.

■ Photo above: Branxton CBD

\$111,600 in grants and sponsorships awarded supporting local business

Cessnock City Council is supporting local business through the annual Economic Development Grants and Sponsorships Program awarding \$111,600 to support local business and stimulate economic growth.

The program offers funding to Advance Cessnock City Partners, this includes business chambers, tourism bodies, training providers and community organisations. Council has approved funding for seven applications.

Cessnock Chamber of Commerce, Kurri Kurri Towns with Heart and the Hunter Region Business HUB will benefit from this years' program.

This crucial funding is being invested into vital initiatives including small business training, business service awards and Kurri Kurri Visitor Centre. Sponsorship has also been granted for Cessnock STOMP Festival and Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival and for the town coordinators in both Cessnock and Kurri Kurri.

Council's Economic Development Manager, Tony Chadwick said the local business community is highly engaged and proactive, making Council's decision to support business programs and initiatives an easy one.

"As a community we need to be collaborating and working together to recover from what has been an incredibly difficult period. These projects will have flow on affects to our entire business community."

"I'd also like to use this as a reminder for people to continue to participate in our Support Local campaign and shop locally. Your support really does have a huge impact on our operators." For more information on support available for local business and resources visit Advance Cessnock City.

Help

I received the below email a couple of weeks ago & have not had the time to follow it up ... can anyone help Matthew(?)

From: Matthew Peter Burgess

<Peter_Matt_Burgess@yahoo.com>

Subject: Please help me find someone

Message Body:

When I Googled the information I have, your address came up. Might you know this guy or be able to help me?

Years ago an exchange student came from Aussie-land to Thailand and stayed for a year. He and I were both at Sarasit College in Ban Pong, Ratchaburi, Thailand. (He was studying and I was teaching.) He was about 17 or 18 years old at the time. Might you know or know of this guy and be able to get him in contact with me?

He is Brett Saxby on Branxton Street in...then, anyway...Nulkaba in New South Wales.

I have tried to send a postcard to the address I have for him, but the post office here refuses to send it: no airplanes -- believe it or not -- due to Covid-19.

I am Matthew (Peter) Burgess

Arunvithaya School

163 Moo 2

Tambon Saeng Arun

Amphur Thabsakae

Prachuab Khirikhan

Thailand

Thanks a lot and I hope to hear from you.

Matthew



Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licenced-in-Charge

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

12 Clift Street
BRANXTON NSW 2335
P: 4938 3300

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

THERE'S NO PLACE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HELP IS HERE CONTACT MENSLINE

1300 78 99 78

MENSLINE.ORG.AU

If you're worried about your actions or relationship, help is here. Get free, confidential online and phone advice and counselling for men. 24/7.



Australian Government

For Sale



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

The best location in town!

BRANXTON

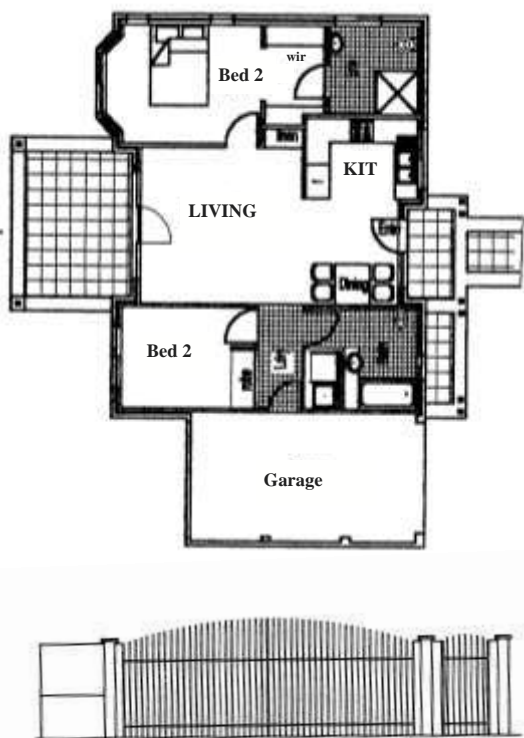
SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"



Unit 18 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"

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

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





Cattle theft – Lovedale - Hunter Valley Police District

Between the 1 July 2020 and 20 July 2020,

10 Angus steers were stolen from a property on Green Lane, Lovedale.

The steers were all approximately 10-12 months of age and were tagged with NLIS devices. Anyone with information in relation to this matter is requested to contact the Cessnock Police Station on 02 4991 0199, the Hunter Valley Rural Crime Investigators on (02) 6542 6999 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 (Please quote reference E75704031)

Teenagers charged over fast food restaurant fire – Cessnock

Friday, 24 July 2020 10:01:15 AM

Four teenagers have been

charged over allegedly lighting a blaze at a fast food restaurant in the Hunter at the weekend. About 3.30am on Sunday (19 July 2020), emergency services were called to a fast food restaurant on Allandale Road, Cessnock, after reports of a fire within the external playground area.

Crews from Fire and Rescue NSW extinguished the flames a short time later.

Officers from Hunter Valley Police District commenced an investigation into the cause of the blaze.

Following extensive inquiries, about 9am yesterday (Thursday 23 July 2020), police attended a high school in Cessnock, and arrested a 15-year-old boy.

Then about 2.40pm, officers attended another high school in Cessnock, where they arrested a 14-year-old boy.

Later that evening, two teenage girls – aged 16 and 17 – attended Cessnock Police Station where they were both arrested.

All four teenagers were charged with damage property by fire and were all granted conditional bail to appear at a children's court on Monday 11 August 2020.

Fifth teen charged over fast food restaurant fire – Cessnock

Monday, 27 July 2020 10:30:16 AM

A fifth teenager has been charged over allegedly lighting a fire at a Cessnock fast food restaurant.

About 3.30am on Sunday (19 July 2020), emergency services were called to a fast food restaurant on Allandale Road, Cessnock, after reports of a fire within the external playground area.

Crews from Fire and Rescue NSW attended and extinguished the fire a short time later.

Officers from Hunter Valley Police District commenced an investigation into the cause of the blaze. Four teenagers – two boys and two girls – have been charged over the incident. They remain before the courts.

Following ongoing inquiries, a 15-year-old boy attended Cessnock Police Station and was arrested about 2pm yesterday (Sunday 26 July 2020). He was charged with damage property by fire and was granted conditional bail to appear at a children's court on Monday 11 August 2020

\$1 million reward announced on 35th anniversary of Sydney racehorse trainer murder

Detectives investigating the 1984 murder of racehorse trainer, George Brown, have today welcomed the announcement of a \$1 million NSW Government reward for information.

The body of 38-year-old George Brown was found in a burnt-out Ford Falcon sedan in bushland at Bulli Tops just before 11pm on Monday 2 April 1984. Mr Brown died from head injuries inflicted prior to the vehicle fire.

Local and Homicide Squad detectives conducted numerous inquiries at the time and in the years fol-

lowing; however, no one has ever been charged for his murder.

In 2009, detectives from the Homicide Squad's Unsolved Homicide Unit established Strike Force Comboyne to reinvestigate the circumstances surrounding Mr Brown's murder.

In acknowledgement of today's 35-year anniversary and to assist with ongoing inquiries, a \$1 million NSW Government reward has been announced.

Homicide Squad Commander, Detective Superintendent Scott Cook, said detectives would welcome any information from the community that may help provide answers to Mr Brown's family. "We know George Brown worked at the horse stables at Rosebery throughout the day and evening where he was last seen 35 years ago, but he did not arrive at his Kensington home as planned," Det Supt Cook said.

"A significant aspect of the investigation is around one of Mr Brown's horses who performed poorly at a race meet in Doomben, Brisbane, two days before his death.

"We would like to hear from anyone with information about possible race-fixing at that meet or anyone who knew of any fears or concerns George held from any person or group just prior to his murder.

"Investigators are also interested in the movements of Mr Brown's vehicle, a 1973 green Ford Falcon sedan with NSW registration 'GMH 498', so if anyone remembers seeing that car, we would like to



speak to you," Det Supt Cook said.

Mr Brown's sister, Jean O'Leary, said the family have never given up hope of finding out what happened 35 years ago.

"I had a very close relationship with my brother, George, and helped raise him after our mother died," Mrs O'Leary said.

"George was a good man and his death has impacted our entire family.

"Every year since he was murdered, I have hoped that someone would come forward because it's the right thing to do. "This year, now there is a \$1 million reward on the table, I am pleading with anyone who knows something to contact the police," Mrs O'Leary said.

The reward can be provided to anyone who has information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for Mr Brown's death.

Anyone with information that may assist Strike Force Comboyne investigators 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
Photo above: George Brown

2020/21 Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme opens soon!

Cessnock City Council's 2020/21 Dollar for Dollar Grants Scheme opens on Monday 3 August and they're calling on sporting, environmental, arts and community groups from across the Cessnock LGA to apply for funding. Council believes in investing in the community and recognises the invaluable contribution that community groups make to our social well-being, economic advancement, environmental improvement and the development of a vibrant community.

The Grant Scheme is about supporting community, cultural, sporting and environmental projects that improve and enhance community life in our LGA.

Council currently offers four Dollar for Dollar Grant Schemes:

- Sporting Facilities
- Community Facilities
- Community & Cultural Development
- Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he is proud of what this grant scheme has achieved over the years, with Council and community groups working together.

"This annual grants program has supported some exciting initiatives in the past and I'm sure this year will be no different."

"It is a wonderful opportunity for community organisations to get things done that they might not have been able to without the extra funding boost and I strongly encourage local groups to apply," added Cr Pynsent.

Applications close at 5pm Friday 4 September 2020. The guidelines and application form are available at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/dollarfordollar.

Daily Thoughts

"Why can we remember the tiniest detail that has happened to us, and not remember how many times we have told it to the same person." **Francois de La Rochefoucauld**
"The amount of sleep required by the average person is about five minutes more." **Max Kauffmann**
"A stupid man's report of what a clever man says is never accurate because he unconsciously translates what he hears into something he can understand." **Bertrand Russell**

For Sale



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

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



With optional potential home sites, the property has plenty of opportunity for a 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

OzHarvest Mobile Market Branxton

The OzHarvest Mobile Market is returning. A bag of fresh fruit and vegetables will be available to any household doing it tough, free of charge. Please take an extra bag for your neighbour (stock permitting).

12.30pm-2.30pm
Thursday, 30 July 2020
Old St Brigids School,
Cnr Maitland & Station Streets, Branxton

All information, FAQs and pre-registration is available at
www.ozharvest.org/omm-nsw

To see our ongoing schedule and FAQs please visit www.ozharvest.org/omm-nsw
or txt/call 0490 262 519

COVID-19 safety

- Guest log book, face masks, 2m physical distancing rule and hand sanitation are in place
- Please do not attend if you are feeling unwell.

Please note:

- Pre-registration is optional, not compulsory
- If you pre-register, please check your email spam/junk folder for the confirmation email.

We look forward to seeing you!



Covid-19 confusion: Hunter residents warned to stay away from Sydney



A senior health official is warning Hunter residents to stay away from Sydney, prompting Labor calls for the Government to end the confusion around safe travel in NSW during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hunter New England Health Public Health Controller for the COVID-19 response Dr David Durrheim said the South West Sydney cluster around the Crossroads Hotel at Casula is deeply concerning: "We would strongly advise anybody from the Hunter region to rather stay at home than visiting Sydney at this stage unless absolutely necessary." Labor Shadow Minister for Health Ryan Park said: "The advice from the NSW Government is as clear as mud. Are people free to move about the State or should they limit their travel?" On Monday the Premier Gladys Berejiklian delivered conflicting messages:

- "The health advice has been consistent about South West Sydney and in broader communities – and that is for all of us to restrict anything that is non-essential for the next few weeks."
- "The health advice for South West Sydney is

avoid non-essential travel."

• "I can't say enough how stressed and worried I am about the next few weeks. And that's why all of us have to be extra careful. We're not suggesting don't do what you normally would do."

"Gladys Berejiklian is telling residents in South West Sydney to avoid non-essential activities. Then she says people should carry on as normal. All while a Hunter health bureaucrat is telling people to avoid Sydney," Mr Park said. "What does that mean for the rest of the State? "Should people in the Illawarra, where I'm from, avoid travel to Sydney? What about people from Wagga, the North Coast or the Blue Mountains? Should Sydney residents stop visiting regional NSW?"

"This pandemic requires clear, accurate and consistent messages from the Government about how to stay safe. The Premier should urgently update the community about what the rules for appropriate, safe travel are."

Speaking in Colour workshops

In the lead up to NAIDOC Week 2020, Cessnock City Council will be hosting the 'Resurgence' cultural program which is eight weeks of cultural weaving workshops hosted by Speaking in Colour.

The workshops will take place each Tuesday at Cessnock City Library from Tuesday 1 September to Tuesday 3 November 2020 (excluding school holidays on 29 September and 6 October).

Locals are invited to join Speaking in Colour for these special workshops where you will learn traditional Aboriginal weaving techniques, as well as gain an understanding of the cultural context of weaving.

This is more than just weaving, it is about building identity, developing mindfulness, caring for country and building community. Everyone is welcome including creatives, weavers and anyone wanting to learn.



Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this was a wonderful initiative and is encouraging local residents to register and attend.

"Over the eight weeks participants will create a collaborative sculpture which will be exhibited as part of NAIDOC Week 2020, which is just fantastic."

Suitable for ages 10 and up, these workshops are free to attend but bookings are essential. Call 4993 4258 to register your spot by Friday 21 August.

All precautions will be taken to ensure the workshops are COVID-safe.



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.

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

- JoelFitzgibbonMP
- FitzHunter
- FitzyMP



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.

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	Electricity
Branxton..... 4938 1244	Australia..... 131 388
Lochinvar... 4930 7209	Hospitals
Ambulance... 131 233	Maitland... 4939 2000
NSW Fire Brigade	Cessnock... 4991 0555
Branxton... 4938 3396	Singleton... 6572 2799
Rural Fire Brigades	SES132 500
Belford..... 6574 7149	Crime Stoppers
Broke..... 6579 1491	1800 333 000
Greta..... 4015 0000	Poisons Info 131 126
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Hunter Water
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	1300 657 000
Rothbury... 4015 0000	Ausgrid 131 388
Pokolbin... 4015 0000	Gas Emergencies . 131 909
Rothbury... 4991 1733	Lifeline131 114
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Mental Health Line
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	1800 011 511
Rothbury... 4015 0000	Domestic Violence Support
Pokolbin... 4015 0000	4990 9609
Rothbury... 4991 1733	Centrelink Self Service
Scotts	136 240
Flat..... 6575 1200	Medicare 132 011
Central	Native Animal Rescue
(Cessnock)... 4015 0000	0418 628 483

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325



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



\$1700 Wed 29/7

\$1400 Sun 2/8

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

\$800 as at Sun 2/8

\$900 Thurs 29/7



Daniel Silva's The Order
Daniel Silva's newest pulse pounding thriller, **THE ORDER** (Release date was July 14, 2020), will not disappoint. Art restorer and head of Israeli Intelligence, Gabriel Allon, is off on holiday imposed on him by his long-suffering wife Chiara. She alone decided he needed time away from the chaotic life he leads to properly recover from injuries he sustained in a bombing in Paris. After Gabriel's feeble but futile insistence that he was fine and did not need a rehab vacation, off they flew to Venice. Upon arrival they took up residence in Campo di Ghetto Nuovo, a centuries old Jewish enclave; the only neighborhood in all of Venice requiring round-the-clock police protection. It was agreed that workaholic Gabriel would spend his time with the family and occupy any spare time doing art restoration, but the unexpected and sudden death of the Pope Pietro Lucchesi would lay waste those plans. Although the Pontiff was known to have a heart condition, his unexpected and sudden demise came as a shock. Worse yet, his death was soon found to be cloaked under a shroud of mysteri-

ous circumstances. As is the custom in Silva's novels, the plot is laced with intrigue and mystery, silhouetted against the sweeping panorama of Europe, with fly overs to the Middle East. A clandestine neo-Nazi organization, known to its members as the Order of St. Helena, was of utmost concern to those in the upper echelons of the Church who detected a recent rise of fascism within its ranks. The organization was made up of members of the Catholic curia hierarchy, business magnates, and government heads of state. Its members planned to seize the papacy and wield its power for the benefit of European National Socialism. The Order, as it was referred to by its members, was pure evil, which should come as no surprise, as its members were inspired by their patron saint, Adolph Hitler. Gabriel's holiday of recuperation was short lived as he was recruited by his friend, Archbishop Luigi Donati, the personal assistant to the Pope, to investigate the suspicious nature of the death of the Pope and the alarming growing sphere of influence of The Order. Together Gabriel and It-aly's handsome, Archbishop Donati, joined forces to frustrate the ambitions of that unholy alliance of the curia. They recognized if The Order were successful, it would be an existential threat to the Church, Israel, and Europe's surviving remnant of 1.5 million Jews. The only impediments to The Order's plans were Donati, Allon, and Israeli Intelligence, affection-

ately referred to as the 'boys' and 'girls' of, The Office. It was inevitable that The Order would butt heads with Donati, Allon and his team when it was discovered that they planned to break into the Vatican Secret Archives in search of a book rumored to be the Gospel of Pilate. If the gospel did exist and were to be spirited out of the Vatican, its contents would ignite a global firestorm, and frustrate the ambitions of The Order. Disguised as a priest and using Archbishop Luigi Donati as cover, Gabriel managed to breach the impenetrable Archives in search of the alleged gospel. But would he and Donati be able to extract that ancient work, which could lay bare the Christian lie of deicide by the Jews, a fabrication that is universally regarded by scholars as the foundation of anti-Semitism. Uncharacteristic of Silva's novels, this rendering has several elements which, until now, were not present in his earlier novels. First there is a veiled hint of the engagement of the supernatural, second, there is only a passing reference to the former head of the Office Ari Shamron, and third, the injection of political barbs, that interrupted the ebb and flow, of what is otherwise a fast paced and riveting spy story. Setting those three atypical elements aside, Silva still proves to be a master weaver of tales of international espionage and assassinations. *One cannot help but marvel at his uncanny prescient knowledge of events unfolding today and those of tomorrow. S. Wenick*



ABOUT
Daniel Silva (born 1960) is an American journalist and author of thriller and espionage novels.
Early life
Silva was born in Detroit, Michigan. When Silva was seven years old, his family moved to Merced, California. He was raised as a Catholic. Silva received his Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Fresno and began a graduate program in international relations at San Francisco State University, but left when offered employment as a journalist at United Press International
Career
Journalist
Silva began his writing career as a journalist with a temporary position at

United Press International in 1984. His assignment was to cover the Democratic National Convention. United Press International made Silva's position permanent and, a year later, transferred him to the Washington, D.C., headquarters. After two more years, he was appointed as UPI's Middle East correspondent and moved to Cairo, Egypt. Silva returned to Washington, D.C., for a position with Cable News Network's Washington Bureau. He worked as a producer and executive producer for several of CNN's television programs, including *Crossfire* and *Capital Gang*.
Novelist
In 1994 he began work on his first novel, *The Unlikely Spy* (1996). The novel debuted on *The New York Times* best-seller list on January 26, 1997; it remained on the list for five weeks, rising to number 1. In 1997 Silva left CNN to pursue writing full-time. Since then Silva has

written 20 more spy novels, all best-sellers on *The New York Times* list. The main focus is Gabriel Allon, an Israeli art restorer, spy and assassin, who is a key figure in all but three of Silva's titles. The series has been a *The New York Times* bestseller since its first installment in 2001. Twelve of the series' titles hit number one on *The New York Times* list of best sellers (Bibliography, below). Some of his novels are set against Islamic terrorism, some relate to villains set in Russia, and some are about historic events related to World War II and the Holocaust. Silva did not come into the Allon series with a significant understanding of the world of art restoration but was able to use a neighbor's expertise to help him turn a spy-assassin into an artist.
Adaptations
In 2007, Universal Pictures made an offer to option the rights to Silva's Gabriel Allon series, starting with *The Messenger* (2005). In 2011, it was announced that Jeff Zucker would

serve as producer, though the deal was never signed. On May 15, 2017, MGM Television acquired the adaption rights for the Allon series, though no production schedule was released and it was not specified which novel or novels were under consideration.
Personal life
Silva met Jamie Gangel, a CNN special correspondent while they were both correspondents in the Middle East. They later married, and Silva converted from Catholicism to Judaism, the religion of his wife. Silva and his wife have twin children, Nicholas and Lily. Silva frequently takes his children on research trips for his books.
Honours
2007 Barry Award for Best Thriller for *The Messenger*, 2013 Barry Award for Best Thriller for *The Fallen Angel*.
In January 2009, Silva was appointed to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

House fire safety reminder

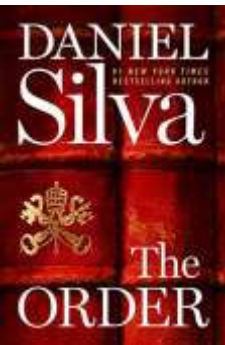
Cessnock City Council is urging people to be aware of the risk of fires within the home and to practice safe fire behaviour this winter. In the cooler months, electrical, gas and wood heaters are used to help warm up the home. There is also increased use of clothes driers, electric blankets, cooktops and portable heaters. It's important appliances and equipment are regularly checked, monitored while in use and maintained to minimise the risk of fire. Reading and following safety instructions for heating appliances and equipment will help .reduce the risk. Smoke alarms save lives, without a


working smoke alarm a fire can take hold very quickly. It is compulsory for every home, caravan or other building where people sleep to have an operating smoke alarm. Most smoke alarms must be connected to electrical power supply and backed-up by batteries. Changing the batteries and testing the smoke alarm should be conducted annually, choosing a significant date e.g. birthday or anniversary, can be an easy reminder. If you're unsure of your smoke alarm status Council strongly encourages obtaining advice and assistance from a licenced electrician.

Other fire safety measures to protect your family could include purchasing and installing a fire blanket or a house-hold portable fire extinguisher. Create a fire safety and action plan involving the whole family and practice a fire drill regularly so everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency. Fire and Rescue NSW respond to over 4,500 residential call outs every year. Unfortunately tragedies do occur but can be minimised by being aware of fire risks and taking preventative action. For more information and winter fire safety tips visit Fire and Rescue NSW.

The New York Times Best Sellers (12 July 2020)

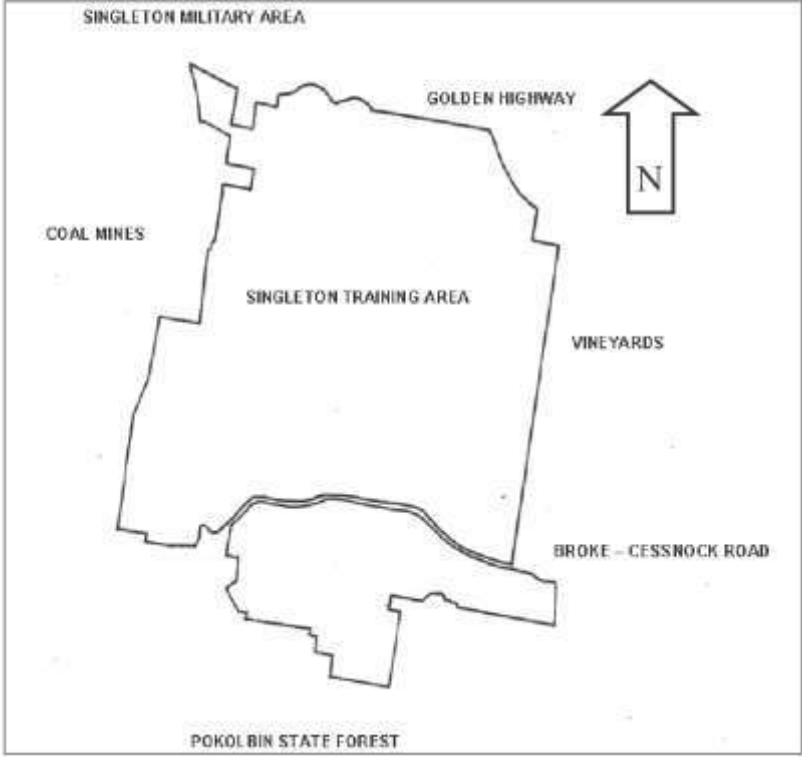
1. NEW THIS WEEK THE ORDER BY DANIEL SILVA
The 20th book in the Gabriel Allon series. The art restorer and spy cuts his family's vacation short to investigate whether Pope Paul VII was murdered.
2. NEW THIS WEEK PEACE TALKS BY JIM BUTCHER
The 16th book in the Dresden Files series. Chicago's only professional wizard tries to keep the peace during a summit of the Supernatural nations of the world.
3. 7 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 1 last week
4. 5 WEEKS ON THE LIST 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 2 last week
5. 97 WEEKS ON THE LIST WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING BY DELIA OWENS
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.
Ranked 4 last week
6. 7 WEEKS ON THE LIST THE GUEST LIST BY LUCY FOLEY
A wedding between a TV star and a magazine publisher on an island off the coast of Ireland turns deadly.
Ranked 5 last week
7. 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST SEX AND VANITY BY KEVIN KWAN
A nod to "A Room With a View" in which Lucie Tang Churchill is torn between her WASPy billionaire fiancé and a privileged hunk born in Hong Kong.
Ranked 10 last week
8. NEW THIS WEEK A WALK ALONG THE BEACH BY DEBBIE MACOMBER
After dealing with loss and setbacks, two sisters take risks on dreams and love.
9. 24 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 7 last week
10. 75 WEEKS ON THE LIST LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE BY CELESTE NG
An artist upends a quiet town outside Cleveland.



 **Australian Government**
Department of Defence

WARNING NOTICE

DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES



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

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

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

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

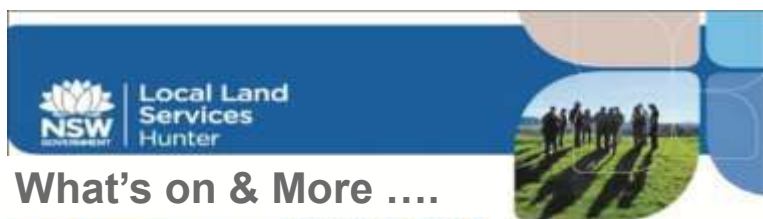
Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area.

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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

00189



What's on & More

KNOW YOUR WINTER FEED GAP

Each year across our region, there is a period of time when pasture quality does not meet livestock energy requirements. The length of this period depends predominantly on seasonal conditions and stocking rates. Did you know that this period of time is known as your feed gap and it can happen multiple times throughout the year?

For most, late winter to early spring is when the feed gap is most likely as the days are cooler and sunlight day length shorter resulting in slower pasture growth. Unfortunately, it is during the coldest part of winter that livestock energy requirements increase as they adjust to conditions. Livestock quickly lose condition when energy requirements are not met, particularly in young or lactating stock.

“Understanding your feed gap can help to predict when one may occur and therefore assist you to maintain maximum productivity,” said Hunter Local Land Services Livestock Officer Teresa Hogan.

“If the drought has taught us anything, it has taught us the value of decision making.” The ability to predict when a feed gap may occur gives you the opportunity to forward plan and make on farm management decisions early, be that reducing stock numbers or purchasing & storing supplementary feed. To effectively fill a feed gap there are some things to consider:

- Due to the drought, supplementary feeding costs are high and demand for feed has eased but supply is still low. Feed budgeting is an essential tool to assist you in making timely livestock feed management decisions. Calculate your feed requirement for a reasonable period and be certain that you have enough access to feed to get you through this period. Be vigilant on the changing energy requirements of the livestock that you are feeding. Set yourself critical dates to reassess how things are tracking so that you don't find yourself caught short for feed.
- March to early June is generally the window for sowing winter crops and pasture such as oats, wheat, rye grass or brassicas, while soil temperatures are still warm enough for seeds to germinate.
- Livestock markets remain strong, with rainfall increasing demand of all

classes of stock. Taking advantage of these markets in the form of reducing stock numbers, early weaning and short term trading and fattening of livestock may be an option. “Historically supplementary feeding has been the most effective means of filling feed gaps,” said Teresa.

“Many will supplement with silage or hay and grain or pellets (depending on what is available) to provide energy and protein to meet the energy requirements of livestock they have on their property. “Recent rainfall has given some the opportunity to make silage and hay to store, whilst grain remains expensive and access is limited. The quality of grain is stable but worth noting that some grain varieties are registering lower protein levels.” Hunter Local Land Services continues to provide free basic feed testing and encourages you to take this opportunity to find out exactly what you are working with. A simple feed test early can save you from a lot more work down the track.

Dry feed in steeper or forested paddocks where animals don't generally venture can be another resource to utilise over winter for grown animals. Spending money on adding a water point and loose licks, molasses mixes etc. to these areas can add to you saving money over a winter period over purchased feeds. When buying in supplementary feed or preparing feed on farm for storage, consider the quality of feed you require to meet the energy requirements of the class of stock you will need to feed over the feed gap.

Proactive assessment of seasonal conditions and on farm productivity is imperative as we continue to recover and rebuild. The ongoing drought and Covid-19 have potentially changed some farmers thinking around how best to approach it this year. Livestock markets remain strong, with the improved seasonal outlook increasing demand of all classes of livestock, in particular weaner heifer/steers & grown heifers and re-stocker ewes. “In the cattle market at present, high weaner and re-stocker prices of 400-500c/kg are being seen right across the board. This price is giving farmers another alternative to managing their feed gap,” said Teresa.

“Many are taking advantage of high prices and reducing weaner stock

numbers early to ease supplementary feeding costs with less livestock to feed.

“Remember, you and your family are your farms number one asset, make your decisions early, look after yourself and seek help if required.”

For further details and to discuss your individual livestock needs, please get in touch with Hunter LLS on 1300 795 299.

SILAGE SUCCESS SECRETS UNEARTHED IN WEBINAR SERIES

With recent rain across a wide part of NSW, some farmers have the unusual problem of having too much feed for their relatively few livestock, so silage may be the answer.

“Previous generations commonly used silage and now it's becoming popular again,” said Local Land Services Livestock officer, Sue Street.

“In recent times, we have seen many farmers helped through drought by digging up or opening silage that was stored or buried decades ago,” said Ms Street.

“Many producers who de-stocked during drought, now have excess forage, and in some cases, cereal crops which could be turned into silage for future use on-farm or as a saleable product,” she said.

Local Land Services is hosting a four-part series of free webinars in August to help producers decide whether to make silage and how to do it, including storage in underground pits.

The webinars will cover forage quality and how it impacts silage quality and livestock production as well as mowing, wilting, harvesting, storage and feeding out of silage. Participants will receive practical, step-by-step advice in an accessible online environment. The four webinars will be run weekly on **Tuesdays from August 4**. If landholders have registered but cannot attend live, they can access recordings of the webinars after each week's event.

HELP US, HELP YOU - CHECK YOUR LETTERBOX Local Land Services is urging landholders to keep an eye out for Annual Land and Stock Returns which are landing in mailboxes this week.

Annual returns are a statutory requirement and the data



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 21st July 2020

There was an increased penning with the inclusion of a large number of plainer condition cattle. Quality was quite mixed with some very well bred cattle penned. Condition also varied greatly with a good supply of well finished cattle showing the benefit of crop. The usual buyers were in attendance, however not all processors were operating. There was strong restocker demand for lightweight young cattle representing lower dollar value. The vealers sold to dearer trends with some strong price gains. The better quality vealers to restockers carrying more weight saw trends firm on the heifers and dearer on the steer portion. A limited number of well finished vealers suitable to the local trade orders showed a much dearer trend. There was little but quality related price change in the medium and heavy weight yearling steers to restock and feed. Heavy steers to the trade saw a dearer trend with some improvement in quality. Yearling heifers to restock and feed saw some quality related price change on a firm to dearer market trend. The heifers to the trade were cheaper. No heavy grown steers to quote. A large run of plain condition lightweight cows attracted strong competition from restockers. Whilst there were no similar cows to compare to from last week, these cows sold to a dearer trend than the comparable cows from the same vendor a fortnight ago. Well finished cows to processors sold to a slightly dearer trend.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 22nd July 2020

The offering was back by half the numbers of a fortnight ago, to which this sale is compared. There was a good offering of milk and grain assisted veal as well as supplementary fed yearling cattle. Processors were competitive for the trade cattle, restocker and feeder orders attended to the young cattle. Restockers operated on light steer weaners to see a mostly firm trend, while the heifer portion saw dearer trends, up to 26c/kg. Trade calves saw a quality improvement, their sales up as much as 20c/kg. Yearling steers to feed sold to dearer trends, up to 15c with restockers seeing rises of 7c/kg. Heavy trade steers sold to 4c/kg better. Light heifers to restockers saw a cheaper trend of 24c, while medium weights to feed sold to a cheaper trend of 6c/kg. Medium weight grown steers to feed were 4c better and grown heifers sold to 376c/kg. Low cow numbers sold to cheaper trends, with D2 and D3 cows back 20 to 29c/kg. A draft of yearling bulls sold to 462c. to be dearer by 24c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 21st July 2020

Numbers increased slightly to see a very low number of cows penned, and a good quality yarding of young cattle, both for restockers and butchers. All the regular operators attended. Light weight weaners saw dearer trends for both steer and heifer categories. Steers experienced price rises of 14c, and the heifer portion up 30c/kg, with both categories going back to the paddock. The heavy weight drafts of weaners saw a slightly cheaper trend of 3c/kg, with heifers showing significant falls. Less numbers of yearling steers to feed sold to cheaper trends. Trade steers and heifers sold to a dearer market with price improvements of 23c, and 28c/kg respectively. Limited numbers of grown steers experienced cheaper price trends of up to 18c/kg, for the heavy steers to processors, with no big changes in price for the heifer portion. Medium weight cows sold to a dearer trend of 16c/kg. The heavy weight D3 cows were back by 5c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 20th July 2020

A small increase in numbers with all categories represented. Cows and yearlings made up the bulk. The quality and condition of the offering varied greatly. There was another offering plain condition lightweight cows similar to a fortnight ago. The full compliment of processors were in attendance with most operating. Restocker activity was again high. Plain condition light weight vealers of plain quality attracted very strong restocker competition. No market comparison from the last sale, however when compared to the same cattle a fortnight ago they were dearer. Light and medium weight yearling steers sold to cheaper trends of 14c to 20c/kg as demand weakened. Heavy weight feeder steers also sold to a cheaper trend, down 10c with reduced competition. Yearling heifers to restock and feed saw a slightly cheaper trend for the most part. There was a quality related price increase on odd pens. The well finished trade heifers sold to dearer trends, again quality was a factor. Heavy grown steers sold to a slightly cheaper trend. Conversely the heifer portion averaged slightly higher. Those plain condition lightweight cows attracted strong restocker competition, again no comparison to last week. When compared to the consignment from the same producer a fortnight ago, these cows were as much as 16c/kg dearer. There were limited numbers of well finished cows penned, the market trend showing little change.

and keep out air,” he said.

The webinars will cover forage quality and how it impacts silage quality and livestock production as well as mowing, wilting, harvesting, storage and feeding out of silage. Participants will receive practical, step-by-step advice in an accessible online environment.

The four webinars will be run weekly on **Tuesdays from August 4**.

If landholders have registered but cannot attend live, they can access recordings of the webinars after each week's event.

HELP US, HELP YOU - CHECK YOUR LETTERBOX

Local Land Services is urging landholders to keep an eye out for Annual Land and Stock Returns which are landing in mailboxes this week.

Annual returns are a statutory requirement and the data

provided ensures Local Land Services customers get the help they need when emergencies or disasters strike. “We're urging landholders to complete their Annual Land and Stock Return online, because that's the quickest way to ensure we can respond swiftly and accurately when needed,” said Business Partner, Emergency Management, Steve Eastwood.

“Landholders can help us help them in an emergency or biosecurity event,” he said.

Annual Land and Stock Returns are a snapshot in time, much like a census and landholders should fill in the details as they were recorded at 30 June.

Annual returns need to be lodged to Local Land Services no later than 31 August.

The information gathered builds a picture of



agricultural land use and livestock numbers across NSW and assists in monitoring flocks and herds for emergency animal diseases. “We understand circumstances change over a 12 month period, and after a hard few years, reporting livestock figures can be confronting, especially when landholders have destocked due to drought, fire or flood,” Dr Eastwood said. Executive Director Regional Operations, Rob Kelly, noted that the livestock figure landholders provide on their return does not affect the amount they pay in rates. Local Land Services rates are calculated on a property's Notional Carrying Capacity.

Mr Kelly said it is vital Local Land Services has accurate, up-to date information so it can best

deliver services.

“It may not be top of every landholder's to-do list right now, but we need all returns so we can understand what's happening on the ground across the state,” he said. “In an emergency situation like last summer's fires, our team will be supporting landholders as well as other agencies and suppliers to roll out an enormous amount of practical help, as well as information and advice,” he said. Lodging online only takes a few minutes.

Visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au/alr and follow the links to the dedicated portal.. The online process can be done in three simple steps and helps reduce face to face contact with Local Land Services and mail service staff, although postal lodgement is still available.

click's



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

ABC Science ~ By technology reporter Ariel Bogle and Siobhan Heanue

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

Australia's cyber spy agency has warned of scams and phishing attempts, as criminals try and take advantage of the disruption. Scamwatch has also received 94 reports of COVID-19 scams since the beginning of the year, with numbers expected to rise. Karl Hanmore, the acting head of the Australian Cyber Security Centre — part of the Australian Signals Directorate — said there are already examples of coronavirus-inspired cybercrime.

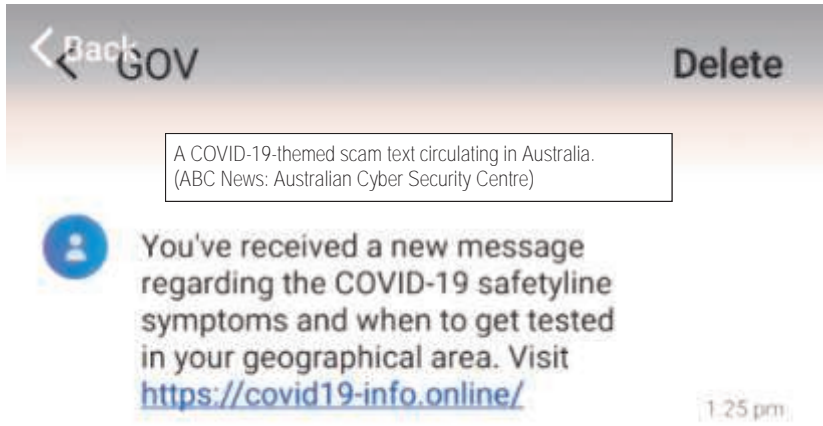
"I'd be suggesting people be cyber-alert but not cyber-alarmed," he said. "Most importantly, don't click on links you receive via text message or email, especially if they're around the coronavirus." Phishing scams using COVID-19-themed text messages are already circulating in Australia. One of them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

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

"That's criminals trying to steal your banking details at a time when you're least able to protect yourself," says Mr Hanmore. **Healthcare sector at risk** Some critical industries like healthcare may be subject to increased threat of ransomware attacks during the pandemic, among other risks.

In the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services has reportedly been targeted in recent weeks. Criminals may focus on industries people are particularly reliant on, according to Ian Atkinson, director of the eResearch Centre at James Cook University.

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



said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phishing and the 'human firewall'

To protect against the potential for "increased opportunism from bad actors", businesses should undertake basic cyber hygiene, such as patching servers, according to the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Mr Hanmore. He also recommends people visit cyber.gov.au for warnings and updates. David Eaton, who helps lead cybersecurity at the IT company Datacom, helps manage the risks faced by more than 6 thousand employees around the world.

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

become more challenging as employees are out of the office.

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

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

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

Alerting employees about the potential for phishing

"Part of this is ensuring staff know how to spot a phishing email," Mr Eaton said. This could include tell-tale signs, like odd email addresses or malicious links.

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

Using multi-factor authentication

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

"That requires multi-factor authentication," Mr Eaton said, "to allow us to be comfortable that the employee is who they say they are, regardless of the location they work from." Multi-factor authentication could include using a separate app to permit entry to online workspaces.

In some cases, it may be appropriate for employees to access critical systems via a virtual private network, or VPN, to help ensure the end to end communication is secure.

Patching your computers and locking down home Wi-Fi

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

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

Deciding on a chain of command

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

For example, can decisions be made entirely via email or should a second "factor" (such as video or phone calls) be required? "Can the process be subverted by a party wanting to cause disruption?" he asked.

To protect yourself from phishing:

- Don't click on links in emails or messages, or open attachments, from people or organisations you don't know
- Before you click a link, hover over that link to see the actual web address it will take you to (usually shown at the bottom of the browser window)

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

- If you're not sure, talk through the suspicious message with a friend or family member, or check its legitimacy by contacting the relevant business or organisation (using contact details sourced from the official company website) # A scam email stating you'll receive a payment for staying at home during the #COVID19 crisis is doing the rounds. The attachment titled 'COVID 19 Relief' is malicious – don't open it, delete the email immediately! pic.twitter.com/nRjEzU0aFk — Scamwatch_gov_au (@Scamwatch_gov) March 19, 2020

By Stephanie Zacharek

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

There are always terrific movies, because there are still filmmakers who believe in making the most of the medium. The mechanics of how movies get to us is a bigger issue than ever: Specifically, how much effort are most of us willing to expend to see a movie on the big screen, the canvas filmmakers who are serious about their craft continue to believe in—and want to work in? That drama will continue to unfold. But for now, here are 10 films—plus a clutch of very honorable mentions—that remind us what movies, at their best, can mean.

10. Hustlers

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

9. A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

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

8. Dolemite Is My Name

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

7. Knives Out

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

6. Parasite

Korean director Bong Joon Ho's black comedy-thriller, about an impoverished family who scheme their way into an upper-crust household, artfully explores resentment between the haves and the have-nots. Even more striking is its deep humanity: both the scammers and the scammed earn our sympathy. *Parasite* is today's answer to filmmaker Jean Renoir's famous line, "The awful thing about life is this: everyone has their reasons."

5. Little Women

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

4. Marriage Story

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

3. Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood

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

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

2. The Irishman

The world doesn't need another gangster movie, not even one from Martin Scorsese—or so you may have thought before *The Irishman*. Scorsese's 3½-hour saga is based on the story of real-life low-level mobster Frank Sheeran (played, superbly, by Robert De Niro), who claims to have killed Jimmy Hoffa (a marvelous Al Pacino), the onetime Teamsters president who disappeared in 1975. For roughly its first two-thirds, *The Irishman* is hugely entertaining. Then it shifts into something far more complex. It's a melancholy mob epic.

1. Pain & Glory
In any life, there's only so much time to do all we want

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



Hesitant and dithering: The void at the heart of the government endangers the nation's future

Peter Hartcher ~ Political and international editor for The Sydney Morning Herald

The Sydney Morning Herald



Let the clinical notes show that Dr J. Frydenberg and Dr M. Cormann attended the patient, Mr Oz Economy, on Thursday, July 23. The doctors told the patient the results of diagnostic tests. He had suffered a massive cardiac arrest, was on life support and would remain confined to the ICU. They informed him that his hospital bill was large and growing. Dr Frydenberg described it as "eye watering". The patient said that he was aware of these facts and wanted to know his prognosis. Dr Frydenberg said the patient would continue to lose function until Christmas. He was expected to improve in the new year. The outlook was "highly uncertain". Any recovery would feel like climbing a mountain. The patient asked for a treatment plan. Dr Frydenberg said he would provide one in October. Dr Cormann said the main thing was that the patient was in better condition than other patients in the ICU. After the patient conference, Mr Economy asked the nursing staff for more oxygen and antidepressants and asked whether he might still be alive in October.



The Morrison government's economic response to the pandemic so far has been solid. Credit where it's due. The federal government and the Reserve Bank mobilised serious quantities of national resources to protect the country from the worst global economic shutdown since the Great Depression almost a century ago. But this week showed a hesitant government, dithering in making the necessary shift to the next phase – to move from an emergency rescue to a growth plan. When Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Finance Minister Mathias Cormann presented the government's fiscal and economic update this week, it exposed the void at the centre of Australian policy.

By the end of their joint press conference they were complaining that reporters kept wanting to know about the future and not just the past. "Everyone wants to talk about the budget today", Cormann chided. Frydenberg responded by ending the show with an explanation of why their statement was so inadequate: "As Mathias said, you would all like us to deliver the budget. That will be on October the sixth. What we've delivered today is a consolidation, a crystallisation of the decisions, more than 100 different measures that we have taken" since the mid-year update in December. It was a statement of accumulated debt, deficit and the economic outlook. A stocktake. Necessary, yes. Sufficient, no. It wasn't only the pesky press but also every business leader, investment planner, economist and concerned citizen in the country who wants to know what the plan is. Australia is suffering in the present and anxious about the future. National confidence has held up reasonably well in the circumstances, but it's a delicate moment.

Every business, every worker, every investor, every family wants to see a purposeful national government with a credible and cohesive plan for recovery. There isn't one. The government has a bucket of bits and pieces for patching things up but lacks a structured recovery plan.

A reporter on Friday asked Frydenberg what he could do to encourage people to have more babies. With immigration effectively suspended and a poor economic outlook, the government projects that population growth next year will be its lowest in a century: 0.6 per cent. Frydenberg said that the solution was "to create a strong economy for them to be born into". He pointed to policies to support families, too, including funding for child care.

While those conditions are necessary they are, again, insufficient. The decision to have children overwhelmingly depends on confidence. Confidence in the future of the country, the society, the economy, the household. Fertility rates depend ultimately on the same magic elixir as economic growth itself – confidence for the future.

Labor's critique of this week's economic statement was effective. "The defining feature was the fact that the government expects an extra 240,000 Australians to lose their job between now and Christmas but there wasn't a single element of any kind of plan to respond to that situation," said the shadow treasurer, Jim Chalmers. "Today was a missed opportunity. The Australian people already know that things are grim in the economy. People are worried about their jobs. They have a right to expect from their government a plan to respond to that and didn't get that today."

To now, the opposition has been largely irrelevant since the pandemic struck. Partly that's because, to Anthony

Albanese's credit, he's chosen to be a responsible political leader. He's not exploited the coronavirus crisis or fearmongered but he has made constructive criticisms. He was well ahead of the government in calling for a wage subsidy, what we now know as JobKeeper, for instance. And partly Labor has been irrelevant because as long as the government has been observing the expert medical advice, the opposition is hardly better qualified than the epidemiologists. Labor has been wise to respect medical expertise, too.

But the economic situation is very different. It opens the first real opportunity for Labor to make some political inroads. And the criticism that the government has no plan for the future is

a potent one. The government shouldn't get too cocky about the Prime Minister's current standing in the polls. Scott Morrison has an exceptionally high approval rating. But the percentage of people saying they'd vote for the Coalition is not exceptionally high. In fact, it's not budged since last year's election. Why the disparity? It's because the people are cheering, not voting. Australians appreciate that Morrison is handling the crisis well and they are cheering him on – keep going! They have not reconsidered their voting intentions. That is a verdict for another day. And it's that day that Morrison and Albanese need to have in mind. The next federal election day could be anything up to two years away. The state of the economy will weigh heavily on voters' minds. We know from long experience that the electorate doesn't vote according to gratitude for past events but on expectations of the future.

So a plan for the future is a vital national necessity as well as a political one. The risk here is that, now that the urgent crisis is in hand, Morrison will allow the pollsters and political consultants to wield veto over the policy process. If he wants to consign the nickname "Scotty from marketing" to the dustbin of recent history, he will not do this. He will develop a fair dinkum plan, not one designed as an election slogan. Build the policy first; the election slogan can follow.

It's a historic moment for Australia. A 30-year boom has ended in shattering collapse. Morrison can allow political timidity to take over and consign Australia to a second-rate future, or he can seize the opportunity to set the country up for a golden era. No prime minister will ever get such a good opportunity again.

Relapsing to a pre-COVID agenda – a tinpot political agenda of focus-group-tested tax cuts and deregulation – would be a betrayal. The governor of the Reserve Bank helpfully has explained why – pre-COVID Australia was already running itself slowly into the ground and will again. Australia was lacking "economic dynamism" before anyone had heard of COVID-19. "Unless we change something," Philip Lowe explained last month, "we're going to have a world of lower growth in Australia. And if that's the world we're in, we can't just resolve that problem by continuing to borrow. Borrow to build the bridge, but we can't borrow to address a slower growth world."

"What we can do is reform, and the list of areas where we should be doing reforms are well known – they include tax, infrastructure, human capital, industrial relations, entrepreneurship and R&D," research and development. "If we don't address those areas, we will just meander along with mediocre growth, and we can't borrow our way out of that."

This is a delicate moment where Australia is poised between political timidity and economic mediocrity on the one hand and real boldness and national rejuvenation on the other. As he draws his plan for the national future, Morrison would do better to shut the pollsters and political marketers out and bring Lowe in. He doesn't have a medical degree but he is an apolitical doctor of economics. Ambitious reform would be just what the doctor ordered.

Peter Hartcher is political editor.

THE NEWS | No.519 | THURSDAY 30 July 2020 9 19

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

and

NOT SO

To Daniel Andrews ~ Victoria's-China-strategy-progress-report 2018. That Victoria becomes China's gateway to Australia based on the strength of our connections and the depth of our understanding of each other's people, culture and economic needs.

A big thanks to our local paper for it's constant support and advertising on behalf of Greta Coalfields Classic Motorcycle club.

I want to express my admiration to the management and staff of IGA Branxton for their proactive and timely approach to the restrictions and problems of the corona virus. At the same time, they have expanded and improved their services and maintained their significant staffing levels. It is a pleasure to shop at this store. (Steve Lind, North Rothbury NSW)

I read the article about the Huntlee Academy in the last issue of The News. Living in Rothbury and doing a daily travel into Branxton I often wondered who they are & for what purpose other than gardening/mowing. Now I know Thanks

FREE Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds

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

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronic P: 4991 1128
Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for ½ hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362
For Rent: 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 >

SAT 25 JUL 2020 — A reminder that the Branxton Golf Club Open Day. Ring the pro shop for more details.
MON 3 AUG 2020 — Cessnock Toastmasters. Meeting at Cessnock Leagues Club. 7pm For information -- ring 49904093
MON 10 AUG 2020 — Cessnock Toastmasters. Meeting at Cessnock Leagues Club. 7pm For information -- ring 49904093
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— 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.

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.

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

WHAT'S ON?

GO TO

www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

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

8 October 2020
"Ross Noble" ~ Humourmold
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.

**SEARCH FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS
IN THE CESSNOCK
ELECTORATE WHO ARE
INSPIRED BY FRED
HOLLOWS' PHILOSOPHY**

The Fred Hollows Foundation is calling for nominations for the annual Fred Hollows Humanity Award, which recognises Year 6 students who show compassion, integrity and kindness towards others.

Since 2012, the Fred Hollows Humanity Award has recognised more than 1,500 students nationwide who follow in Fred's footsteps by making a positive difference in the lives of others.

"There are no acts of kindness too small, whether it is helping someone in need, volunteering or fundraising for a good cause. Children in the Electorate of

Cessnock are making a tremendous contribution to our community and the Fred Hollows Humanity Award is a great opportunity for them to be recognised", State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Mr Clayton Barr said.

"I urge parents, teachers and other community members to nominate Year 6 students who has demonstrated compassion, integrity and kindness towards others" said Mr Barr.

Previous year's nominees included a boy from the ACT who taught himself Auslan to communicate with a profoundly deaf classmate, a girl from Victoria who raised awareness and funds for refugees and a boy from Tasmania who provided ongoing support to a classmate with a serious medical condition.

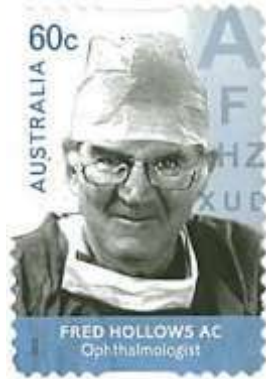
All nominees will receive a certificate and be recognised at a virtual presentation ceremony, with a special guest, later in the year.

Each state and territory will also recognise a Junior Ambassador who will be able to extend their humanity by allocating \$5,000, donated by the award's charity partner Specsavers, to one of The Foundation's programs to end avoidable blindness.

"Fred used to say the basic attribute of mankind is to look after each other," said Gabi Hollows, Founding Director of The Fred Hollows Foundation.

"He would be so proud to know The Fred Hollows Humanity Award is recognising students who are demonstrating this belief in their own lives.

Nominations are now open and close 11.59pm, Friday 11 September.



TAX RETURNS From \$99

DIANNE PRESTON ACCOUNTING & TAXATION SERVICES

- Registered Tax Agent/Accountant With Over 20 Years Experience
- Electronic Lodgement (REFUNDS IN 14 DAYS)
- Business & Company Tax/Bas
- Eftpos & Fee From Refund Available
- Rental Property/Investments & Shares
- After Hour Appointments Available

PH 49387023

Email: prestonaccounting@bigpond.com

ADDRESS: 59 Florence St Greta 2334

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



=== Daily Thoughts ===

"Never say more than is necessary." - Richard Brinsley Sheridan

"Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders than from the arguments of its opposers." - William Penn

"I told my psychiatrist that everyone hates me. He said I was being ridiculous - everyone hasn't met me yet." - Rodney Dangerfield

"Hegel was right when he said that we learn from history that man can never learn anything from history. George Bernard Shaw

"History is more or less bunk. It's tradition. We don't want tradition. We want to live in the present and the only history that is worth a tinker's damn is the history we made today". Henry Ford (1863 - 1947)

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking." - Steve Jobs

"If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavour." - Eleanor Roosevelt

"If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." - Oprah Winfrey



If you require assistance
please call Mike on

0414 757 826

School NEWS



Branxton Public School

Students and staff are fresh and ready for a new term. Plenty of smiling faces at the gate on Tuesday and not just the parents! We hope everyone had a lovely school holiday and managed to spend a little time relaxing with family and friends. The Sport Court is now complete! The students have been working with Mrs Ballenden to come up with ideas for how it can be used by the

students, as well as the PBL expectations in this new playing and learning space. Kindergarten have had a particularly exciting week as they approached their 100th Day of learning. Friday was the big day and they celebrated with some 100 themed activities and a few special treats. Well done Kinders!

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.



* 100

DO YOU REMEMBER?

20 THE NEWS No. 459 WED 1 Aug 2017



Greta Public School

With Sarah-Jane Hazell
Relieving Principal, Greta
Public School



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



NAIDOC Week

Our students hit the ground running on our return to school after the holidays. NAIDOC week fell in the school holidays and we held the majority of our recognition activities in the first week of school. Late last term we were lucky enough to have a visit from Uncle Johnny who told the story of his family and their experiences in the stolen generation. This term we followed this up by an excellent performance by Lucas Proudfoot who shared songs, dances, and stories with us. Throughout the week students undertook a range of classroom activities across all subjects to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal Culture and the week culminated with a short assembly, Indigenous games organised by year 6 and a BBQ provided by the P&C.



your local vet can provide advice. Other dogs who go swimming may require less bathing as this activity can function like a bath. Remember, if you do allow your dog to swim occasionally, supervise them at all times and stick to safe and shallow waters where your dog can always touch the ground.



behaviour and when your dog allows general handling. This will make your dog less likely to react when you touch them in these areas while bathing.

When introducing your dog to bathing, do it slowly and give them plenty of praise and tasty dog food treats for being calm and tolerating the process. This will help your dog to associate bathing with positive things, helping to make the experience pleasant for your dog and easier for you. You should be calm and speak to them in a positive tone. This will help your dog to be more relaxed. After bath time also be sure to reward your dog with a tasty dog treat so the activity finishes on a good note.

them for being calm and allowing you to handle them. Go slowly, patting them on the chest area, shoulders, sides and along the back, gradually working towards other areas such as each leg. Once they're comfortable with this, try briefly lifting up a paw, one at a time. Overtime you can extend this to gently touching the footpads and nails and also other areas such as the ear flaps. Continue to praise and reward (e.g. with tasty dog food treats) for calm

Growing Hydrangeas

A Guide to Grooming and Bathing Your Dog

Why Bathe Your Dog? Bathing your dog when needed is an important part of general pet care. For dogs with healthy skin and a healthy coat, the most common reason to bathe is to remove an unpleasant odour or because they've accumulated dirt on their coat.

The benefits of bathing can include cleaning the skin and coat which helps to remove loose hair, scale and debris and improve the hair coat's shine.

For dogs with specific skin conditions, bathing may be part of their medical treatment plan as recommended by their vet

How Often to Bathe Your Dog

How often to bathe your dog will vary between each individual dog and their particular needs. Essentially, dogs should only be bathed when necessary. Bathing is generally required when a dog has an unpleasant odour** or they've accumulated dirt/mud on their coat.

So if your dog smells normal (remembering that most dogs have a healthy dog smell which is not unpleasant) and they are not dirty, then bathing is probably not necessary at that stage.

If dogs are bathed too frequently this can dry out their skin and hair coat and may cause problems. Only bathing when it is necessary should help to prevent the skin drying out due to excessive bathing as the natural oils on the skin and coat won't be stripped away too frequently.

Dogs with skin problems may require different bathing schedules as part of their treatment plan and

** If you notice an unpleasant odour from your dog, this could be caused by rolling in something that smells unpleasant, however, if you can't identify an external cause your dog should be checked by a vet to rule out any medical causes of an unpleasant smell such as skin or ear problems.

What Type of Shampoo to Use

Your local veterinary clinic can provide advice about the most suitable products for your pet dog. Choose a shampoo specifically designed for dogs. Dogs have sensitive skin and their skin pH is different to the pH of human skin so human shampoo products should not be used on dogs. For dogs with healthy skin and coat, choose a mild and gentle hypoallergenic shampoo. For dogs with skin conditions your local vet can advise what type of shampoo or product to use to help manage or treat specific skin problems. You can also try applying a mild and gentle hypoallergenic rinse-out conditioner after shampooing to help prevent dryness after shampooing.

Test patch a small amount of products first to make sure there is no reaction or irritation. If your dog seems irritated at all – talk to your vet and try a different product that doesn't cause any irritation.

Training Your Dog to Enjoy Bath Time
Teach your puppy or dog to be comfortable with handling in general, by patting and stroking different parts of their body. Praise and reward



Brighten up a shady spot with these easy-care shrubs for long-lasting colour from spring to autumn. They may make you think of your gran but she was onto a good thing with hydrangeas. Not only can they be grown just about anywhere in Australia they also flower prolifically in blue, pink, red or white. Hydrangea macrophylla is the most widely recognised species. The mophead type has big round flower clusters while lacecaps feature long, flathead open blooms with bud-like flowers in the centre.

Older varieties tend to be larger, while the newer are smaller, with an extended flowering time and brighter colours. There are also miniature types that get to about 300mm high. Anthony Curnow of Plants Management Australia says that hydrangeas are simple to plant but need nutrients to thrive. Says Anthony, 'Make sure you dig plenty of organic matter into the soil. Be aware that, depending on what you add and the soil type, the colour of the hydrangea may change over time.'

It's true that Hydrangea macrophylla flowers can change colour, depending on the acidity of the soil. More acid soils give blue flowers, alkaline soils red or pink and neutral purple, while white stays white regardless of soil pH. Anthony says it's best to accept the colour you have but to change the blooms, add lime to the soil for pink flowers or aluminium sulphate for blue. You need to change the soil pH before the flower buds form so it's best to treat the soil after August.

Pruning Roses

Pruning roses is not difficult, however, it is a task many find daunting due to the vast amounts of information and opinions available on the topic. To be honest, you cannot really prune a rose wrong. Pruning does not harm the rose at all, you will not kill the rose by pruning – so don't stress! Pruning is best done **mid to late winter or early spring** - remember to hold off until the most severe frosts have passed in frost prone areas.

Why Prune? Pruning is a highly effective way of ~ controlling the size and neatness of the bush & maximising flower production and encouraging strong growth

By decreasing the size of the rose, the plant has less eyes that require sap flow in spring. This results in stronger stem production and therefore more flowers. During its life span, the rose will produce continuous water shoots (or basal shoots) from the bud union at the base of the plant, forming the beginning of new stems. Fresh rose stems claim most of the sap flow, producing long stems with large quality flowers. Overtime the sap flow will gradually decrease and the stem will become exhausted. You will notice that old stems lose their vigour, producing short twiggy shoots, with smaller, fewer flowers and the bark turning grey before eventually dying off. The procedure of pruning is to help accelerate this process, aiding the rose to produce higher quality flowers, foliage and stems. This is done by removing aged grey stems, allowing the plant to put all its energy into the new growth.

How To Prune:

- When pruning always cut slightly above the growth eye (or growth bud) as this where new growth will begin to appear. Growth eyes occur where there is, or was, a leaf growing from the stem. Try to select a growth eye that is facing outwards.
- If in doubt of which stems to remove, always remove the oldest grey branch. The newer branches will produce stronger growth and more flowers.
- If plants have had black spot or mildew – or any other fungal disease – during the growing season, the fungal spores will stay in your garden. Be sure to collect all clippings after pruning and burn them. This will help stop the spread of disease around your garden.

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

Cessnock Day Night Pharmacy

Open 7 days
8am - 8pm
4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

4938 3300

12 Clift Street,
BRANXTON

.....for all your Real Estate needs

FREE PROPERTY MARKET APPRAISALS



M: 0412 566 041

E: thenews@hotkey.net.au
WEB: www.domain.com.au

SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 16-7-20 Stableford

Div 1 Winner M Ryan 28 pts (SOD) R/u G Anderson 27 pts (c/b) 3rd G Jones 27 pts

Div 2 Winner A Hackett 27 pts R/u J Flynn 25 pts (c/b) 3rd I Harris 25 pts Ladies Div Winner R Friis 22 pts R/u N Busch 21 pts 3rd R McCarthy 20 pts NTP - Not contested

Raffle prize recipients as posted at Pro Shop

Members draw - Not won

Another bearable Winter's day, although with light cloud cover and a regular chill wind, energised our players participating in to-day event, entering the fray with zeal. Although the scores may not reflect that. Congratulations to Mike Ryan on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". And a well done to all other winners and place getters.

Results 23-7-20 9 hole - Stableford "Mid Year Lunch"

Div 1 Winner G Sheldon 22 pts R/u M Ryan 19 pts 3rd L Hunt 18 pts (c/b) Div 2 Winner M Carling 19 pts (c/b) R/u R Chalmers 19 pts (c/b) 3rd R McMillan 19 pts (c/b)

Ladies Div Winner C Caldwell 16 pts R/u R Friis 12 pts (c/b) 3rd M Hunt 12 pts NTP - Ladies J Harris

Gents R McMillan

Raffle prize recipients as posted at Pro Shop

Members draw - Won (L Bootes)

The pleasant Winter days keep rolling along, much to the comfort of our keen players. A pleasing number gathered for to-day's round, which was followed by a most enjoyable lunch, provided by our chef, Paul. Our thanks go to Paul for the quantity and quality of the food.

Congratulations to Graeme Sheldon on winning the round and a well done to all other winners and place getters

LN Bootes, Hon Sec

Branxton lady Golfers

15th July 2020 - PAR Rd 2

Winner: Trish McMillan with -3

Runner-up: Kerrie O'Connell with -5

SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Saturday, 18 July 2020

Field: 53

Grades A Steve Eccles 40

Grades A Dean Fowler 40

Grades A Peter Wilton 38

Grades B Nick Wheeler 39

Grades B Lee Jackson 39

Grades B John Burgess 36

Grades C Pip Lancaster 36

Grades C Terry Partridge 32

Grades C Richard Turnbull 32

Balls 16 Distributed down to score: 31

NTP

A GRADE C LAMB

B GRADE J BURGESS

C GRADE L PORTER

Saturday's beautiful weather ensured that good scores were needed to win in each grade. Steve Eccles showed how it can be done in winning A Grade with an excellent 40 pts, just ahead of Dean Fowler on countback with 40 pts, with Peter Wilton once again showing his class finishing third with his 38 pts—another near par round. B Grade was equally as close with Nick Wheeler also winning on a countback from Lee Jackson with a very solid 39 pts, with John Burgess third with his 36 pts. Pip Lancaster had a good day in winning C Grade with 36 pts, well clear of Terry Partridge and Richard Turnbull. Corey Lamb once again graced the Branxton course with his presence, recording a nearest the pin on the last and recording another solid 2 under par score in readiness for next week's Branxton Open.

Corey Lamb defends title as Branxton Open Champion in devastating style with 4 under par 66



Corey Lamb, pictured above, takes 2020 Branxton Open again

Branxton's Corey Lamb defended his title as the Branxton Open Champion in devastating style with his 4 under par 66, an outstanding 6 strokes clear of runner up Steve Piggot. The quality of his game can be measured by the fact that his two favourite clubs are his driver and his putter, two clubs he handles with great skill. Playing with his uncle, Mark Hale, a 15 time Branxton Club Champion, some wonderful golf was on display around the tricky Branxton Course. He started his round with 3 birdies in the first 5 holes, effectively putting the Open result in no doubt. Neil Jordan turned back time in winning B Grade with an excellent 80 off the stick, an outstanding 7 strokes clear of runner up Joe Bereza. C Grade was won by local veteran Col Hughes with his 96, just ahead of James Hale—Corey Lamb's cousin and Mark Hale's son—there is certainly some pedigree there and some very promising elements to his game. The day's major sponsor, John Gray, made his trip from Bulli very worthwhile by winning the A Grade nett trophy with his net 68—not a bad effort since it was his first game since last year's Branxton Open. Steve Kearney made a welcome return to form with his runner's up score of 69. The B Grade nett winner was Toby Grant who produced the day's best net score of 64—a great score on any day. This also enabled him to also win the Ted Meyn Memorial Trophy with the best nett score—a very rewarding and profitable day! Kel Mather was runner up, 9 strokes back, with his 73 nett. The C Grade Nett winner was Lachlan Kauter with his nett 74, just ahead of Terry Partridge's 76. Dave Dever, Chris Taylor and Col Hughes all won the nearest the pins, with Dave's shot so near a hole in one as it landed less than a metre over

the pin before spinning back to within 60 cms—a great shot. The new Club Captain, Steve Ross, needs to be congratulated with his first real test as Captain, as the day went very smoothly. The support from many club members around the course, with its preparation, ball spotting, BBQ and adherence to all the Covid protocols just shows how small golf clubs can be such a success—well done everyone!

Branxton Open Results Saturday, 25th July

Overall Winner: Corey Lamb 66 scratch score (4 under par)

A Grade Scratch Runner Up: Steve Piggot 72

B Grade Scratch Winner: Neil Jordan 80

B Grade Scratch Runner Up: Joe Bereza 87

C Grade Scratch Winner: Col Hughes 96

C Grade Scratch Runner Up: James Hale 98

A Grade Nett Winner: John Gray 68

A Grade Nett Runner Up: Steve Kearney 69

B Grade Nett Winner: Toby Grant 64

B Grade Nett Runner Up: Kel Mather 73

C Grade Nett Winner: Lachlan Kauter 74

C Grade Nett Runner Up: Terry Partridge 76

Phil Shiven Memorial Trophy: Greg Geason / Nick Wheeler 86 nett

Ted Meyn Memorial Trophy: Toby Grant 64 nett

Nearest the Pins:

A Grade: Dave Dever

B Grade: Chris Taylor

C Grade: Col Hughes

Greta Workers



Fishing Frenzy Continues Despite the Chill

12 people weighed in after the Greta Workers Fishing Club July Open weekend. That was a record for this time of the year, and is evidence of the enthusiasm in the area to get out and enjoy the outdoors post Covid. With the raffles back on it is business as usual for the Fishing club.

Aaron "Caramilk" Fox took out the week with a high scoring 117.2 points with his mixed bag of

Bream, Flathead, Snapper, Teraglin and Leatherjack fishing in Wallis Lake and offshore (Forster). He was followed by second placed in the overall 2020 points Andrew "Fred" Jacobs trying to narrow the gap between competition leader Scott Beckett. His 81 points was made up of Tailor and Snapper. Andrew has really found his rhythm of late getting consistent feeds of Snapper. Rumour has it he is soaking his bait in his beloved VB to give it that extra scent.

Some other fish to mention over the weekend was Box Miller with a rare 0.59kg Goatfish, son Ethen with a 2020 record Morwong 0.89kg and Steve Nevin with a 0.36kg Pigfish.

In general fishing news the beaches are fishing pretty quiet at the moment. The regular big seas we have experienced over the past few months have forced the regular species to take cover. Try targeting the Northern or Southern corners near the rocks and you should be able to find a feed of Bream, Whiting and Tailor. There are still plenty of Yellowfin Tuna being caught off Port Stephens and even some Blue Fin still being caught as low as Sydney. Make sure you are using live bait to entice these big suckers. Nelson Bay breakwall is still producing good feeds of Bream and Luderick whilst off shore the Snapper have been a bit harder to find but I would recommend once the seas back off to target around the islands off Port Stephens in shallow water with little or no weight with fresh bait. Big Snapper have been reported off Harrington, and Newcastle offshore appears quiet. Forster is flooded with Leatherjacket offshore at the moment once you fish deeper than 40 metres so take plenty of spare rigs. The lake is still producing plenty of good Bream and the odd Flathead. Inland freshwater Dams Lake St Clair and Glenbawn should start fishing better in another month or two as we come off the back of winter. Memberships have now closed for 2020 but spread the word for a bigger and better 2021. Don't forget to get down to the Raffles every Wednesday from 5pm and support the Greta Workers Club Bowlers and the Fishing Club.



Pictured above: Lewis Jacobs with one of his Snapper and Cohen Millet-Spliet with his Bass and brother Ethen's Mowey.

YOUR friendly team

The News

Mike Lowing: Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator
Manager Advertising: Helen Lowing
The "Branxton Greta Vineyards News" is bound by an industry code of ethics. If you have a complaint, contact the newspaper first. If the matter is unresolved, then call The Australian

Press Council on 1800 025 712. Complaints about advertising should be directed to the Editor and if the matter isn't resolved contact The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission on (02) 9230 9133.

Deadlines

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

PHONE: (02) 4938 1773 or after hours (02) 4938 3451

MOB: 0412 566 041 0414 757 826

Email: thenews@hotmail.net.au

Office: 12 Cliff Street, Branxton, NSW 2335

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

Has your phone stopped ringing? You need to advertise your business



Call Mike 4938 1773

The Bad: Greta Branxton Colts Rugby League Club withdraw Open Men's Team from 2020 season competition

The Good: Colts U/18 win their season opener with dashing display by Matt Guy

THE Greta Branxton Colts Rugby League Club has withdrawn their open men's team from 2020 season competition. The decision was made last week with an official announcement given by club President Andrew Grieve. All their Junior Teams, Under 18's and Ladies League Tag will continue with season 2020. The issued official statement said "To our players, sponsors and supporters. It is with regret that we inform you that after an executive

meeting held on Wednesday night (22/7/20), the Greta Branxton Colts have decided to withdraw our open men's team from competition for season 2020. We held a meeting with the playing group Thursday night to explain our decision and the reasoning behind it. The senior playing group were all understanding and agreed with our decision. Moving forward all our Junior Teams, Under 18's and Ladies League Tag will continue with season 2020. However if the COVID 19

Pandemic continues to grow closer to our community the Greta Branxton Colts will NOT hesitate to withdraw all of our teams from competition in order to protect our players, their families and the community of Greta/Branxton and surrounds. Thank you everyone for your support during these unprecedented times. Andrew Grieve President - Greta/Branxton Colts." Greta-Branxton captain-coach Liam Foran has returned to the Cessnock

Goannas after this unexpected turn of events As reported elsewhere Liam Foran didn't think he'd ever get the chance to line up for Cessnock again, but the former NRL and English Super League player said he'd relish the opportunity this season. "I never thought I'd be back here (Cessnock Goanna's) again, but I'm glad I've now got the chance," said Foran, who previously played with Cessnock in 2015 and 2016. "My intention is to go back to the Colts next year and use

this six months to try and recruit a few quality senior players." Foran had 10 NRL appearances between Melbourne (2008) and Manly (2012). He played 15 games for UK club Salford in 2013. In much brighter news for the club the Mark Bercini-coached Colts U/18's made its debut in Newcastle and Hunter Community Rugby League & easily accounted for Lakes United 44-6 at Greta on Saturday (July 25). It was a very impressive

victory which had the Colts' officials wearing gleaming smiles. Winger Matt Guy touched down in the 38th minute and again in the 40th, a brilliant solo effort & to top it off, Guy bagged his hat-trick early in the final term. GRETA-BRANXTON COLTS 44 (Matt Guy 3, Cain Borham 2, Harry Drayton, Hayden Regan, Reuben Andrews tries; Pat Andrews 6 goals) defeated LAKES UNITED 6 (Joshua Dalby try; Bailey Coutts goal)

A PLUS

CONTRACTING & POLY WELDING

PHONE 4938 3425 ON CALL 24 HOURS 7 DAYS

EXPERTS

POLY WELDING
CIVIL EARTHMOVING
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
SPECIALISED SERVICES

- POLY WELDING EQUIPMENT TO 800MM
- LONGREACH EXCAVATOR EQUIPPED WITH GPS
- SPECIALISED SILT FENCING INSTALLATION MACHINE
- CIVIL WORKS INCLUDING CONCRETING
- GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FLEET
- SKID STEERS, BACKHOES, EXCAVATORS, WATERCARTS, AND GRADERS ALL WITH ATTACHMENTS
- TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES

WWW.APLUSCONTRACTING.COM.AU