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THURSDAY 27
AUGUST 2020

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STEVE'S RANT

Members Well Done
say...
Not So Well Done




School NEWS



Cessnock Council asks community for feedback to improve inclusivity across the LGA & also calls for applications to use outdoor aquatic and summer sporting facilities



Cllr Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

People with disability, their family and friends, plus local service providers are

being asked to share their ideas about how to make the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) more inclusive from today. Council has planned a number of community engagement activities to gain vital feedback from the community. These include a survey, individual feedback sessions, through creative expression, using an interactive mapping tool or an online discussion forum. Information collected during the consultation will be used to assist in the review of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP).

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said community involvement in the review of this plan is critical. "We're really keen to hear from the community, about their own experiences and ideas about how we can make it easier for those with disability, both living and visiting the LGA. All input from the community will greatly assist in Council outlining practical steps that can be achieved in the next four years of the DIAP." The DIAP was adopted by Council in 2017 and resulted in Council taking a number of steps to improve

inclusivity and remove barriers. This includes, but is not limited to, accessibility improvements to Council's website, the incorporation of the NSW Government's Everyone Can Play Guidelines in the design of playgrounds and the introduction of the National Relay Service by Customer Service. To find out how to get involved visit [Council's Have Your Say page](#). All feedback must be received by Wednesday 30 September 2020. Also a reminder, all personal trainers, educational institutes,

sporting organisations and community groups who wish to use one of Council's outdoor recreation facilities or swimming complexes during the summer season (October 2020 to March 2021) must apply to Council for permission. **Applications are now open and close on Friday 28 August 2020.** Application forms can be found by searching either 'Use of Recreation Facilities Application' or 'Use of Public Swimming Pools Application' on Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. Cessnock City Mayor,

Councillor Bob Pynsent said we have some wonderful and dedicated sporting groups across the region and hopes to see this continue to grow. "While we are currently living in uncertain times when it comes to group sport, it is something that has long been engrained in the Cessnock City culture and I hope to see it continue to flourish." "There are so many established sporting groups in our region, but we're always open to welcoming new ones, so be sure to complete an application if this is something you're

looking to pursue," added Cllr Pynsent. *All user groups will also be required to complete and follow the relevant COVID-19 Safety Plan in line with the current Public Health Order.* **COVID-19 (coronavirus) & Cessnock City Council UPDATE** The safety of community and staff is a priority for Cessnock City Council in relation to COVID-19 (coronavirus). As a result, their services, events and regular programs have been impacted. Go to for <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/News-announcements/COVID-19-coronavirus>




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A 'National day of Significance' held at Greta Museum

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~ Full Report



Protect yourself from viruses

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

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Parking education in the spotlight



Cessnock City Council has recently received a number of enquiries regarding parking rules so it's timely to remind the community of their responsibilities when parking vehicles to ensure they are parked legally, not creating safety issues for others. Student safety across the Cessnock Local Government Area has always been a key priority for Council with Rangers carrying out school zones patrols every day.

Parking offences in school zones carry a penalty of two demerit points and the majority of the offences will mean those who are caught will be dealt a \$349 fine. Some offences include parking in a 'no parking' zone (\$194), stopping where a 'no stopping' sign applies (\$349), stopping in a bus zone (\$349), double parking next to another vehicle (\$349), stopping within 20 metres before or 10 metres after a children's

crossing (\$464) or stopping on a footpath or nature strip (\$349). Cessnock City Council's Principal Ranger, Jason Mullee said school zone safety is a top priority, but often people don't understand the rules or the penalties that apply. The rules and penalties are in place for a reason, and that is to keep our children safe. "Parking rules outside of school zones is also a concern. Where a sign displays a control, such as

misconception is motorist believe they can park on the

No Stopping, Disabled Parking Only or timed parking that's pretty straight forward," said Jason. "However, many motorist believe they are parking legally when they are not. You must not park on or across a driveway or prevent access to a property, this includes parking in your own driveway outside of the property boundary," added Jason. Another

nature strip out the front of their property. A driver must not stop on a bicycle path, footpath, shared path or dividing strip, or a nature strip adjacent to a length of road in a built-up area. Many motorists get complacent and park where it's convenient, however this creates safety issues to pedestrians and other motorists. Another common offence is not parking in the direction of travel. This means drivers must park their vehicle the direction of travel of vehicles in the marked lane or line of traffic on, or next to, the part of the road where the driver parks. Not only are you risking the safety of others by parking illegally, you are also risking a fine.

Photo at top left: Principal Ranger Jason Mullee and Cessnock mayor Bob Pynsent

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CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR GRANT SCHEME 2020/2021

SPORTING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Cessnock City Council has \$30,000 available within the Sporting Facility Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme and \$30,000 in the Community Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to sporting and community groups.

All applicants must contact Council's Recreation and Community Facilities Liaison Officer Kate Hicks on 4993 4234 prior to lodging an application.

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Cessnock City Council has \$25,000 available within the Community & Cultural Development Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to not-for-profit community, arts and cultural groups.

All applicants must contact Council's Community and Cultural Development Officer Jo Miller on 4993 4258 prior to lodging an application.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES - TIDY TOWN

Cessnock City Council has \$10,000 available within the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to not-for-profit community environmental groups (such as adopted Section 355 Committees of Council, Landcare, etc.) to undertake projects that make 'on the ground' improvements to the local environment, encourage community pride and/or promote a positive community image.

All applicants must contact Council's Sustainability Officer Tricia Donnelly on 4993 4239 prior to lodging an application.

Groups are invited to apply for funds through these grant schemes.

Grants will be provided on a dollar for dollar basis and Council will assess applications in line with a preset selection criteria. It is preferred that all projects are completed within a 12 month period.

Application forms and grant guidelines are available from Council's Administration Building or via Council's website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au). **Completed application forms must be returned no later than 5pm Friday, 4 September 2020.**

USE OF COUNCIL'S SPORTING FACILITIES 2020/2021 SUMMER SEASON

Applications for the use of Council's recreation facilities by personal trainers, educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups during the Summer Sporting Season (3 October 2020 to 14 March 2021) are now open. **Applications should be submitted to Council by Friday 28 August 2020.** Applications are available via Council's website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or from Council's Administration Building, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised sporting activities can take place. Enquiries should be made to Council's Recreation and Community Facilities Liaison Officer, Kate Hicks on (02) 4993 4234.

USE OF COUNCIL'S OUTDOOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS 2020/2021 SUMMER SEASON

Applications for the use of Branxton and Cessnock Swimming Pools during the upcoming Summer Season by educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups are now open. **Applications should be submitted by Friday 28 August 2020.** Bookings for the Pool season commence Tuesday 6 October 2020. Application forms are available via Council's website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or from Council's Administration Building, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised swimming activities can take place. Enquiries should be made to Council's Aquatic Facilities Coordinator, Matt Ziemba on 0427 489 414.

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Vietnam Vet Day 2020 commemorative service at Greta



Vietnam Veterans Day, on August 18th 2020, was marked by local veterans, from Branxton & Greta, having a commemorative service at the Greta War Memorial. Each year, on the 18th August, Vietnam Veterans' Day and the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Australians pause to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who served during the Vietnam War. The first Australian troops from the Australian Army Training

Team Vietnam arrived in 1962 and over the course of the war around 60,000 Australians served there, with our involvement ending with the Royal Australian Air Force flying humanitarian missions and evacuating embassy staff in April, 1975. Tragically, 521 Australians died and more than 3,000 were wounded. On 18 August 1966 Australian soldiers fought in one of their fiercest battles during the

entire Vietnam War, the Battle of Long Tan, a brutal action that saw 18 Australians killed and 25 wounded. This year around 30 people attended the commemorative service and fortunately the weather was fine but cold. Master of ceremonies for the service was 'Taffy' Fauchon with Brian Furner OAM, 'President of the Branxton RSL Sub-branch, giving the occasional address. Brian Furner OAM President of

the Branxton RSL Sub-branch said that as we commemorate the service and the sacrifice of those who served and died in Vietnam, it is important to acknowledge that many Vietnam veterans were deeply affected by their service. As part of the commemorative service a tribute was given by 'Taffy' Fauchon to the late Geoff Beaven, a Vietnam Vet, who succumbed to the corona virus earlier this year. At the conclusion of the service

veterans and friends assembled at the Old Greta Courthouse for refreshments and camaraderie. During refreshments, much to his surprise, ex-Branxton RSL Sub-branch President, Lester Bootes, was presented with a 50 year RSL Sub-branch badge, tie-pin & tie in recognition of his 50 years as a member of a

RSL Sub-branch. His wife Joy was also presented with a 'Certificate of Support' & a posse of flowers.

Lest we forget.

Photo: Adrienne Beaven, widow of the late Vietnam Vet Geoff Beaven, lays a wreath in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam.

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STEVE'S RANT

..Make provision

The future is always uncertain, but we must, as individuals, and as a community plan and make provision for what is to come to the extent that this is possible. The things that we can be sure of is that the COVID 19 (Chinese virus) will be with us just as measles, mumps, and chickenpox are with us. To make things worse is the stupidity of our state premiers and their bureaucratic bungle dumbs who have taken the pandemic as an opportunity to morph into dictatorial little emperors and shower themselves in self-proclaimed accolades. Parliaments are suspended, borders closed and the people deliberately kept in the dark and fed on inflated estimates of risk, and threats of fines, or being called out as irresponsible citizens to justify this suspension of the constitution and democracy. These actions are not legal and not sustainable financially. Those parts of the economy which pay taxes and enable state economies are hamstrung by unnecessary border closures and a complete shutdown in the Peoples Republic of Victoria. The country has been living with the Chinese virus for sufficient time so the rules can be reset for how we deal with it. On a personal level, it is simple and not

Changed; Avoid crowds, social distance when out and about, wash your hands often and be conscious of what you touch when out of the house, don't put your hands to your face and wear a mask on public transport, taxis and when shopping. Another ancient piece of advice is the Latin proverb: *caca et declina medicos* ('sh*t well and avoid doctors' which was found scrawled on the walls of Pompeii). And hospitals too, for that matter. What the states should do now is reopen the quarantine stations and properly police them, get a contact tracing routine working and take proper care of geriatrics...then open all borders and get back to work. There is much to be learned from the last four or five months but which has always been true, just forgotten. Beware of the ideology-driven zealots who hide their self-interests behind their fervour. State Premiers for example and the 'Greens' and their fellow travellers who believe we will all be ruined by climate changes, the evidence for which seems harder and harder to find. The eagerness of the socialists for four-year fixed terms in state parliament means we can see the folly of giving state premiers a blank cheque to do as they please for four years.



It engenders a sense of entitlement to spend other people's money to buy the votes of minorities and the so-called chattering class progressives. Let's not mention travel and allowance rorts and the one rule for us and another for them. Governments do not need extended terms of power to institute wise and necessary projects to advance and protect our way of life. How long does it take to commence building a dam or a power station? The state governments fell over themselves to build desalination plants which at the time seemed vital but which only reflected the neglect of our water infrastructure over the previous twenty years. The billions of dollars spent

subsidizing wind farms and solar farms & blighting the countryside would have been better spent on nuclear, and coal-fired power stations. We are left with white elephants that are unreliable, expensive to utilize and are mainly owned by Chinese or foreign interests. The overseas manufactures love our money, and we have been conned by the green left loonies who have convinced us that carbon dioxide is the one compound that drives the so-called global warming. In truth, nobody can connect the relationship as sprouted by climate change alarmists because temperature trends do not follow CO2 parts per million (PPM) trends. No matter what the ABC and SBS present as evidence of

global warming and coming global catastrophe, they don't report anything that might conflict with their ideology. Unfortunately, these publicly funded bodies can convince much of the population and most of our politicians of 'Doom' by presenting one-sided statistic with considerable gravitas and absolutely no serious questioning of the alarmist opinions. They have created the total acceptance of these theories as fact. Trouble is when the theories are repeatedly spoken of as fact it is little wonder the general population, the so-called educated and our leaders, go along with the stupidity. As Albert Einstein said "If A is success in life then A = X + Y + Z.

X is work, Y is Play and Z is keeping your mouth shut. He also said "There are two infinities; space-time and the stupidity of mankind, but he has doubts about space-time being infinite".
Cheers, Steve.



with Mike Lowing

Like me I would assume that a great percentage of our readers have been blinded by the in-depth media coverage of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic worldwide with almost hourly updates from all over the globe. With this barrage I have detected a certain change in attitude; some friends have wafted from mild hysteria at the initial onset to now not taking all measures seriously. Whether its because they have become complacent/weather-beaten as a matter of course because our local area has been, generally speaking, spared, I am yet to decide. Personally, I have taken the

view that the virus is highly contagious and that to have it unknowingly & pass it around would be my greatest nightmare &, heaven forbid, if a death resulted I would be culpable. With that in mind our family has taken the advice from our state Premier; 'if you don't need to go, don't'. Premier Berejiklian has said she is anxious about the steady number of "mystery cases" and "when every week you get a couple of unknown cases, and they can't be linked, you do worry because what it does tell us is that there is the disease circulating." It is expected that testing, treatments and vaccines will eventually quell the pandemic; but when(?). However, even after the corona virus is brought under control, I suspect that it is unlikely that pre-pandemic normalcy (as we knew it) will be quickly restored. One good example is that people, and it applies to me, now do and can work from home. Initially, I found it hard particularly when you needed something & it was at the office. I quickly learnt my lesson & now I can have a well made cup of tea anytime, walk the dog whenever she wants & the garden is in the best condition since we moved here; small blessings I guess.
Cheers, Mike



Thank You Geoff I wish to publically acknowledge accountants Addison Partners in Singleton for their very generous gesture in providing accounting services for the Branxton RSL Sub-branch. This was done at no cost to our subbranch & has considerably eased the financial pressure on our small organisation, set up in the community for veterans & their families. In particular I would like to thank Geoff Tattersall who completed the work & would highly recommend him.

Thank you Geoff & Addison Partners. *Brian Furner OAM, President Branxton RSL Sub-branch*
Support for the mental health of children and parents Child mental health is greatly affected by parenting, yet Medicare does not fund services to help parents develop effective actions to support their children. Medicare rebates are only available for services provided to the person with the problem – i.e., if children are struggling with mental health problems, services must be provided directly

to them. Australia is a world leader in developing parenting programs that are effective in improving the mental health of children and parents. But a review by the Sax Institute, which is based in New South Wales, found that fewer than 10per cent of families in Australian schools have access to such programs. Given the number of families experiencing unemployment, economic stress and social isolation due to the pandemic, the Commonwealth Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Response Plan sensibly recommends that children with mental distress have access to programs that meet the needs of them and their families. A recent review of Medicare rebates recommended they should include interventions with parents. We call on the federal government to enable

these programs to be delivered by authorised practitioners as part of the Better Access to Mental Health Care Initiative. *Professor Daryl Higgins, Australian Catholic University, Professor John Toumbourou, Deakin University, Professor Jan Nicholson, La Trobe University*
No free ride for brumbies
Hopefully NSW Environment Minister Matt

Kean will stand his ground against pressure from John Barilaro in his bid to rid Kosciuszko National Park of its feral horses. The feral brumby population has no place in one of our nation's finest national parks. Hopefully the government as a whole will back Matt Kean and take the advice of the scientific community and have these feral animals

removed for good. The native flora and fauna in this highly fragile environment need all the protection they can be given.
Stewart Smith, Tea Gardens

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000 FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need—fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	Police Branxton..... 4938 1244 Lochinvar... 4930 7209 Ambulance 131 233 NSW Fire Brigade Branxton..... 4938 3396	Electricity Energy Australia..... 131 388 Hospitals Maitland... 4939 2000 Cessnock... 4991 0555 Singleton.. 6572 2799 SES132 500 Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 Poisons Info 131 126 Hunter Water 1300 657 000 Ausgrid 131 388 Gas Emergencies . 131 909 Lifeline131 114 Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609 Centrelink Self Service 136 240 Medicare 132 011 Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483
For non-life threatening calls..... Police Assistance Line (PAL).... 131 444	Rural Fire Brigades Belford..... 6574 7149 Broke..... 6579 1491 Greta..... 4015 0000 Bishops Bdg Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4015 0000 Pokolbin.... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4991 1733 Bishops Bdg Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4015 0000 Pokolbin.... 4015 0000 Rothbury.... 4991 1733 Scotts Flat..... 6575 1200 Central (Cessnock)... 4015 0000	

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- * 1 x Round Poly Trough
- * 2 x Rolls Weed Mat
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*** Dependent on regulations/protocols at the time concerning Covid-19 Pandemic**

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@ National Councillor Anne -Louise O'Connor & Dianne Whitten

Our 31st birthday celebrations were held at Greta workers Club on 13th August. We were delighted that our National Councillor, Anne-Louise O'Connor and Dianne Whitten, NA02 Zone Councillor were able to attend.

Anne-Louise enjoys her new position in this our 60th - Diamond Jubilee year for VIEW Clubs and especially our association with the Smith Family.

VIEW clubs were formed in 1960 when there were few career options for women outside the family. By the end of 1960 124 VIEW Clubs were formed to support disadvantaged Australian school children through the Smith Family - our partner.

Our club sponsors seven of these children whom we support through our various fund raising endeavours. Dianne Whitten from Denman raised some laughter when she told us she had named her two goldfish; one called Social and one called Distance. These are the times!! Jan Bennet was presented with her 30th year membership badge, Congratulations, Jan. Our newest member, Jan Travis was presented with her VIEW club booklet and badge and warmly welcomed into our happy club.

Many thanks to Greta Workers Club who provided a delicious array of Chinese dishes for our special occasion.

Our next meeting will be held on 10th September -10.30am for 11am start and new members are most welcome. Our secretary Bethany 0419 429 364 can give you further information. Guest speaker for 8th October will be Reverend Nicole Baldwin from the Anglican Parish of Branxton, Greta and Lochinvar. October 26th is our popular donna-lou Fashion Parade with affordable clothing which can be purchased on the day. \$15 includes a light lunch so bring your friends. All monies raised goes to support our seven disadvantaged Australian students whom we sponsor through the Smith Family Learning for Life program. Our president Helen Christy Rix shared a poem with us called "The Gift".

"Hello" and "How are you?" may not sound much but it means such a lot to those out of touch. A wave, a smile, a word of cheer, a hand to touch, a voice to hear, You hold these gifts to give away to make another person's day. *Peace and love to everyone.*
Judy Spillard

REFLECTIONS

The Way of the Cross

Matthew 16.21-28

In our Gospel reading, Jesus speaks to his disciples for the first time about the need for His own suffering and death at the hands of the empire's leaders and religious leaders in Jerusalem, and His resurrection after three days. This is a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. Until now we have heard about Jesus' ministry, the miracles and healings He has performed, the lessons He has taught, and we have heard Simon Peter proclaim, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." For all that Jesus has taught the disciples through His ministry, they are unable and unwilling to accept that their Saviour must die. The thought that the Messiah must suffer and die at the hands of the religious leaders was not a concept that they understood. A Messiah would fight and lead them to victory over the enemy, not succumb and submit to their enemy, and certainly not be humiliated and shamed by walking the way of the Cross. Jesus sets his face on Jerusalem where He continues to confront the status quo, and for doing so will be nailed to a Cross to die. However, His resurrection overcame this shame and showed how limited the power of the authorities really was. Jesus' death and resurrection are a part of God's purposes. Though the necessity of Jesus' suffering is foretold in this first passion prediction, it is not until later, after the third passion prediction, that a reason is given. It is then that the disciples learn that Jesus' death will have saving power.

I can only imagine the roller coaster ride of emotions that Jesus and His disciples were on. They are celebrating that their Saviour is with them and then He is telling them that He must die in Jerusalem. I am sure that I would have wondered where the justice was in that situation. But Jesus' disciples were thinking like people, not like God, and herein lies the very thing that trips them and us up. As Christians, we are called to hear God's call and to live God's way. We are called to live the way of love and peace. To live this way, we too must take up our Cross and follow Jesus. I wonder what the Cross is that each of us bears?

Jesus gives us the most precious gift of His own life that we may be saved. His, is the way of the Cross. If we are to be His disciples, the way of the Cross is also to be our way. What are we willing to do to take up our Cross and follow Jesus? Maybe this is something that we can ponder in this coming week?

May we always remember that we are all made in God's image and are loved by God. May we see others through God's eyes. In doing so may our families, friends and communities be encouraged to live as disciples of Christ. Christians live in the hope that we have found in Jesus. May we share this hope so that all people can come to know the God that we know and love.

Blessings,
Reverend Nicole

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

councils our ePlanning project received the accolade. This project was all about improving the applicant's experience in lodging development applications and post consent certificates online via the NSW Planning Portal and refining electronic assessment processes. Council has staff that are always looking for ways to improve the services offered and this is an example of continued commitment to excellence. Well done.

Council's Ranger team work tirelessly to educate residents about responsible pet ownership. To celebrate all the wonderful work they do and the great local pet owners we're holding an Instagram competition. For more details visit Council's website or Instagram page @cessnockcitycouncil. The top three photos will receive prepaid gift cards including \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place. Entries close Monday 31 August.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

If Back to Singleton 2020 is an opportunity to commemorate the rich culture and heritage of our area then the momentum is well and truly continuing with Council's draft Arts and Culture Policy, which is on public exhibition now. More than an outline for the vision and principles to guide the provision of arts and cultural development services, programs and infrastructure across the Singleton LGA, this is a reinforcement of our commitment to the arts, cultural development, heritage and cultural tourism and an important first step to formalising and recognising Singleton's identity. The draft policy will lay the foundation and direction for Council's Arts and Culture Strategy 2020-2030, which is currently in development, and the arrival of the Arts and Cultural Centre to be constructed in what will become the visitor, arts and cultural precinct in Singleton's Townhead Park. Our vision is ambitious: to make the Singleton LGA the centre of the arts in the Hunter region. And with a carefully considered and aligned Arts and Cultural Policy and Arts and Culture Strategy in place, combined with the skill and expertise of some very clever staff and

input from across our community, we're in no doubt that we can achieve it. The draft Policy itself confirms the "central role of arts and culture in the livability and life of the Singleton Local Government Area including the community's economic success and social health and wellbeing". It recognises that Singleton is traditional Wonnarua, Wanaruah land where the culture of all people is recognised, acknowledged and respected. Moreover, it calls for a whole of community involvement "in helping to create the circumstances where arts and cultural development can flourish" with a requirement for the support and leadership of the local community: "The successful implementation of the Arts and Culture Policy will rely on a partnership between Council and community interests."

The community's wish for a centre for the arts and culture for our LGA is long documented over decades and finally, with thanks to a \$2,787,000 contribution from the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund, the \$4.08million project is poised to become a reality. But a building alone doesn't deliver an arts and culture centre. Having a vision, the framework and the expertise to create an environment where people can come together to participate in quality arts and cultural programs for the enrichment of their own lives as individuals, as well as the social and cultural wellbeing of the collective, helps to define an identity for Singleton that we can all be proud of. I encourage everyone to view the draft Arts and Cultural Policy before the exhibition period ends on 20 September 2020 and provide any feedback you have. The document is available for viewing on Council's website, or in hard copy at the Administration Building, Singleton Library and Visitor Information Centre.



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR WHO OUT THERE GOT A WHITLAM EDUCATION? They say the music of The Beatles changed music for the decades that came after. I suspect that right here in Australia the Gough Whitlam decision to make university education available to all has completely changed our

country ever since. In 1974, Gough Whitlam made university free. University remained free of charge for the next 14 years. Tens of thousands of families and students considered university for the first time. Hundreds of thousands of young people became "first in family" to get a university education during this time, and since. The HECS debt model was introduced in 1989, but was still based on the principle that no money was needed upfront. Further to this, the HECS debt would not be paid back until the student was working and earning a decent wage. For more than 40 years, Australians can be very proud that its people have had access to public universities that are funded by taxpayers. A university education is not for everyone. Some of our best, most creative and most successful citizens have forged their careers without a university education. But by the same token our Universities do churn out millions of people with qualifications, research skills and the trained ability to think critically which has unquestionably helped to advance our society. There is so much that happens in Australia that is "world class" and can be linked to our well educated population. This is also reflected in our increasing energy to get young people hooked into education and learning earlier in life and in getting our teenagers to stay on at school for their HSC, unless they otherwise get a job, and use the HSC as the springboard into life. And historically there has been our incredible TAFE system to specifically educate and 'up-skill' our practical hands-on workforce. Given all of this, it hard to believe that the current State and Federal Governments are standing idly by while our university sector falls off a cliff. The sudden plummet of our Universities is linked to COVID-19 and the loss of international students who now pay big dollars, up front, for their Australian based university qualification. Our universities have long had a dependency on international students, but when the Federal Government led by Prime Minister Tony Abbot and Treasurer Joe Hockey placed funding caps on courses back in 2014, the international students became a necessary addiction, not just an option. So our current university crisis, brought on by COVID-19, needs a solid financial solution that is in keeping with our modern, well-educated, lucky country. Yep, we need to spend money to save the universities. We need to spend money to keep people employed in our universities. We need to spend money to keep the university option open to all of our citizens. And we desperately need to spend money on our universities to prevent a brain-drain. A government that doesn't

want to save our universities is a government better placed in the 1960's. I urge every person out there, who has realised a university education since 1974, or is linked to someone that has, or is a family member in a situation where somebody became the first in family to do a university course, to reflect on whether or not this State and/or Federal Governments attitude is in keeping with the Australia that you know and love. 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

Councillors Code of Conduct. Following my last column 'Don't Believe Everything You Read', I have been inundated with messages from local residents explaining how they, too, have been blocked on social media by Maitland City Councillors for asking what appeared to be perfectly reasonable and innocuous questions. So, too, have people reached out with serious concerns about so called "news" websites with no known authors, journalists, or editors, and therefore no lines of accountability. At the Maitland City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday the 25th of August, I have tabled a notice of motion which I hope will address these issues and respond to community concerns. My motion will force councillors to make a periodic and public declaration listing all the social media pages or websites that they manage. The intent of the motion is to try to bring some transparency back into these murky practices that seek to deceive the very communities which Councillors are meant to serve. With this in place, the Maitland community will at least know when campaigning Councillors are behind social media pages or websites that push particular views and silence others. The motion will not limit what a Councillor can do or say, but it will make them

accountable for what they do and say online. It will be interesting to see how this plays out in the chamber on Tuesday, and I encourage everyone to watch the meeting live on Maitland City Council's Facebook page. It will also be interesting to see if this reform will alter Councillor behaviour going forward, or if these questionable online activities will continue. While it is disappointing that these measures seem necessary, I am committed to improving transparency and accountability – and hopefully improving the level of trust between the community and our elected representatives. My hope is that all Councillors will put aside their political ambitions and prioritise open, transparent, fair and accountable government. Until next time. Ben



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Resources & Member for Hunter

'Dairy Industry Needs Government Attention.' The Upper Hunter was once a great and proud dairy region. Sadly, too many of our dairy farmers have now left the sector. It's been 20 years since John Howard's Coalition Government deregulated Australia's dairy industry. What the sector would look like now if left alone, we do not know. But it could hardly look any worse. In a media statement dated May 6, 2020, Agriculture Minister David Littleproud reminded us that across the country, last year alone, 500 farmers exited the industry. Forced out by rising costs and falling farmgate prices, they are asking the obvious: where will our drinking milk come from? Deregulation didn't only produce losers. There were winners, most of them big players with an eye to export markets where they capitalise on our clean and safe product reputation and push products like infant formula. The big supermarkets saw opportunity too, using fresh milk as a loss-leader in a strategy to build market share at the expense of the corner store. It was a strategy that by 2011 gave birth to "dollar milk" so understandably despised by dairy farmers. The question now is: does government have the will to save our dairy farmers and the local product they produce? Sadly, there's little to suggest the answer is "yes". Indeed, we all reached that conclusion in 2016 when the Turnbull Government refused to stand by our farmers in the face of Murray Goulburn's decision

to make them pay for the losses generated by the processor's own poor business decisions. Murray Goulburn did so by retrospectively reducing the amount it paid to its farmers, for their supply of fresh milk. The Government's only response to the Murray Goulburn debacle was an ACCC inquiry. It took 18 months and identified a number of "market failures". But sadly, it made only one substantial recommendation: the introduction of a mandatory code of conduct. Another twenty months on, the Morrison Government introduced the Code – better late than never. But two and a half years on, it is clear – as I predicted – that a mandatory code of conduct would not be enough to save our dairy industry. Farming families continue to struggle, and until we guarantee them a decent price at the farmgate, they will continue to do so. Where will our fresh drinking milk come from when they're all gone? ***** Parliament has finally returned this week and not before time. Under the Westminster system the Parliament is the place where governments are held accountable to the people. Therefore, most Prime Ministers would be happy it never met. But meet it should, just as it continued to meet during the worst of the World Wars. Australians everywhere are getting on with their work as best they can and so too should the Parliament. I'm glad we're back. ***** Our coalmining industry is now being affected by COVID-19. Demand for our coal is in decline as the economies of Japan, South Korea, China and India further slow. Sadly, workforce redundancies and stand-downs have begun. I fear there will be more before things pick up again. As they will. In the meantime, I'm speaking with the companies and the union in readiness to assist in any way I can. I've also spoken with Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and the Resources Minister Keith Pitt to make sure they understand the gravity of the situation. I advised them the industry is not asking for help at this stage, but they should be ready to assist if asked. Cheers, Joel

Members say
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Pharmacist Advice



Medical Advice

Stress



About stress
Stress is a process, not a diagnosis. We experience stress when there is an imbalance between the demands being made on us and our resources to cope with those demands. The level and extent of stress a person may feel depends a lot on their attitude to a particular situation. An event that may be extremely stressful for one person can be a mere hiccup in another person's life. You may feel under pressure to do something and fear you may fail. The more important the outcome, the more stressed you feel. You can feel stressed by external situations (too much work, children misbehaving) and by internal triggers (the way you think about external situations). Stress is not always a bad thing. Some people thrive on stress and even need it to get things done. When the term 'stress' is used in a clinical sense, it refers to a situation that causes discomfort and distress for a person and can lead to other mental health problems, such as **anxiety and depression**. Stress may also contribute to physical illness such as cardiovascular disease. When stress turns into a serious illness, it's important to get professional help as soon as possible. Untreated anxiety disorders can lead to serious depression.

Effects of stress
Stress affects us in many ways, including: Emotionally – anxiety, depression, tension, anger. The way we think – poor concentration, forgetfulness, indecisiveness, apathy, hopelessness. Behaviourally – increased drinking and smoking, insomnia, accident

proneness, weight problems, obsessive-compulsive behaviour, nervousness, gambling.

Your response to stress
Your attitude, personality and approach to life will influence how you respond to stress. Factors that play a part include:
How you think about a problem
How anxious you feel generally
How severely the problem affects you
Whether you have experienced anything like this before
Whether you can control what is happening
How long the event affects you
How important the outcome is to you
The different ways a person copes with difficult situations
Your life experiences and life history
Your self-esteem
Whether you have people around who can provide support.

Stress as a health problem
As a health problem, stress occurs when a person feels that the demands made on them exceed their ability to cope. Factors contributing to a person feeling stressed might include:
Environment (work, home, school)
Lifestyle
Emotional and personal problems
Physical disorders.

Stress and physical illness
When we feel under stress, our body kicks into high gear to deal with the threat. Our heartbeat, breathing rate and blood pressure all go up. The longer we feel stressed, the greater the demand on our body.
The more often we are placed under stress, the

more often we have to use energy to cope. There is growing evidence that stress may contribute to physical illness such as cardiovascular disease (although this link remains controversial and research is ongoing), high blood pressure, proneness to infection and chronic fatigue. Whatever the cause, physical diseases need appropriate medical management before any attempt is made at stress management. Discuss with your doctor how stress management may be used to support treatment of your physical symptoms.

Stress and anxiety
Untreated stress can turn into a mental illness such as an anxiety disorder or depression. Almost everyone experiences some anxiety. This is normal. However, an anxiety disorder is different from everyday anxiety – it is more severe, can persist and may interfere with a person's daily life. Common anxiety disorders include:
Generalised anxiety disorder – the person is constantly worried, often about irrational things, and cannot be reassured
Panic disorder
Specific phobias – such as fear of flying or of spiders
Agoraphobia – fear of public places or of being away from home
Social anxiety disorder – fear of the scrutiny and judgement of others.
A less common anxiety disorder is acute stress disorder. Anxiety is a very treatable condition. There are many different psychological and medication options. Treatments need to be individually decided on and

regularly reviewed to make sure they are effective and to minimise side effects of medications. Separately and in combination, psychotherapy and medication therapy generally produce good results.

Untreated anxiety disorders and depression
Untreated anxiety disorders can lead to serious depression. Depressive illness is common – about 17% of Australians will suffer from depression at some time in their life. Depression is about twice as common in women as in men. The most common time in life for people to suffer from depression is in their 40s. However, it can develop at any age. Depression is often associated with an increased incidence of suicide. The annual suicide rate for people with depression is three or four times higher than that of other psychiatric disorders.

Stress at work
Stress in the workplace is common and is caused by many different factors, including excessive hours, conflicts with others and feelings of isolation. The amount of stress a person experiences is often determined by whether or not they can accept that some things in life will

simply never be sorted out to their satisfaction. For example, a person may feel stressed by the way they are treated by their employer or by the behaviour of a work colleague. Sometimes, this stress can be resolved by dealing with the particular behaviour. In many organisations, there are processes to deal with workplace problems like harassment, victimisation or unfair treatment. In many cases, the problem can be resolved if the behaviour is changed. However, some problems will never be fully resolved, and you may have to accept them. For example, if someone who you think is poorly qualified is given a job you felt entitled to, you may continue to feel stressed, unless you are able to let go of that grievance and move on.

Stress management
The old saying 'prevention is better than cure' is certainly true for stress management. It will help if you:
Exercise regularly – regular exercise is a great way to manage stress. You should do some form of exercise that causes you to feel puffed afterwards – a leisurely stroll to the bus stop is not enough! Have at least 20 minutes of exercise

three times a week
Avoid conflict – avoid situations that make you feel stressed such as unnecessary arguments and conflict (although ignoring a problem is not always the best way to reduce stress). Assertiveness is fine but becoming distressed is not. Relax – give yourself some time to relax each day and try to spend time with people who make you feel good about yourself
Eat well – a nutritious diet is important. Eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables and avoid sweet and fatty foods
Sleep – a good sleep routine is essential. If you have difficulty falling asleep, do something calm and relaxing before you go to bed like listening to music or reading
Enjoy your life – it's important to make time to have some fun and to get a balance in your life. To deal with stress more effectively, it helps to investigate your stresses and how you react to them. Try to:
Understand what situations make you feel stressed
Understand what situations you can and can't control
Prepare for stressful events in advance, by thinking about the future
Keep yourself healthy with good nutrition, exercise and

regular relaxation
Try to do happy things every day.

Getting help for stress
You should see your doctor or community health centre if:
You feel stressed often
Particular things stress you and you feel they are beyond your control
You feel your reactions to stress are extreme or worry you
You feel anxious or depressed about stress.

Where to get help
Your doctor
Psychologist or counsellor
This way up - an online **Coping with Stress** and an **Intro to Mindfulness course** developed by the Clinical Research Unit of Anxiety and Depression (CRUFAD) at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney and University of New South Wales (UNSW) Faculty of Medicine
Community mental health service
Mental Health Foundation Australia Tel. National Mental Health Helpline **1300 MHF AUS (643 287)**
Lifeline Tel. **13 11 14**
Kids Helpline Tel. **1800 55 1800**
Suicide Helpline Tel. **1300 651 251**



This chicken tray bake might be speedy, but it certainly doesn't skimp on flavour. Even better, it requires minimal washing up.

Ingredients
1/3 cup (80ml) Maple Flavoured Syrup
1 tbs Wholegrain Mustard
500g pkt Roasting Vegetables with Garlic & Rosemary, chopped
1 large pkt (about 1kg) Free Range RSPCA Approved Chicken Breast Fillets
200g brussels sprouts, halved

Method
STEP 1
Preheat oven to 210°C. Line a large baking tray with baking paper. Combine the maple syrup and mustard in a jug. Chop the vegetables and garlic from the roasting kit into 2cm pieces. Place on the lined tray with the rosemary. Add half the maple mixture and toss to coat. Roast for 5 mins.

Classic maple-mustard chicken tray bake



STEP 2
Meanwhile, cut 3 deep slits in each chicken fillet. Season. Heat a large non-stick frying pan over high heat. Cook the chicken for 2 1/2 mins each side or until golden brown.

STEP 3
Place the chicken over the vegetables on the tray. Drizzle with the remaining maple mixture. Roast for 10 mins. Add the brussels sprouts to the tray. Roast for a further 10 mins or until the chicken is cooked through and the vegetables are tender.

Serves ~ 4
Prep ~ 15m
Cooking ~ 15m

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Community Recovery Officer appointed

In response to the devastating 2019/20 bushfires, the NSW and Commonwealth Governments jointly funded a number of Community Recovery Officer (CRO) positions throughout NSW to support bushfire affected communities on their road to recovery.

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Melissa Boucher into the new CRO role. She will continue in the role until August 2021 and will be the key contact for all bushfire related support enquires.

Melissa said this new role provides an exciting opportunity for Council to have a dedicated person to harness the many support opportunities available for those in the Cessnock LGA who were affected by the recent catastrophic bushfires.

"I am very much looking forward to getting out into the community to identify needs, help develop local recovery programs and assist people in accessing information and resources to continue their road to recovery."

"I am also excited to be working with local people and services to help build on the strength and resilience of the

community in preparation for future disasters," added Melissa.

The objective of the CRO is to ensure that community recovery needs are understood, individuals have access to important information and there is community input into important recovery plans and documents which shape recovery activities in the local area.

A Community Resilience Network will be established comprising of local service groups and community



Melissa Boucher

organisations to help coordinate and contribute to recovery and resilience activities.

There are a number of grants still available for both individuals and communities to support recovery activities as well as free services, including financial counselling and mental health support.

Visit Cessnock City Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au for information on grants and support still available. You can also contact Melissa Boucher on 4993 4257 for more information or if you're interested in being involved in the Community Resilience Network.

Community Recovery Officers are funded by the NSW and Australian Governments.



From the Lions' Den

Community Needs Assessment

Lions Clubs around Australia are keen to assist local communities to recover successfully from the dreadful COVID-19 pandemic that has been ravaging the country since February this year and looks as if it maybe with us for the foreseeable future.

The Lions Club of Branxton has decided that now is an opportune time to review what is happening in the community and commence planning for community service events as we emerge from the pandemic.

The first step in the process is to seek community group input; so, a *community needs assessment* has been developed to capture information on which planning can be based. An invitation to participate in the community needs assessment has been emailed to known community groups seeking their responses to a number of simple questions and once these responses are received, they will form the basis for planning future Lions community events.

Alan Beckley, the Secretary of the Branxton Lions said: "We have already received some very interesting responses from people suggesting events such as support to challenge domestic violence and also proposals for events for young people. We would very much value responses from any members of the communities of Branxton, Greta, and North Rothbury."

If your community group has not received an invitation but would like to participate in the community needs assessment please contact Alan at Branxton_Lions@outlook.com or visit Branxton Lions Facebook page which you can access by searching for 'Branxton Lions' or joining the sponsoring Facebook Group: **Support Small Businesses in Branxton / Greta.**

Branxton Signs

Thank you to everyone who responded with information about Branxton's "two cemeteries no hospital" signs. Hunter Valley Operations Pty Ltd., sponsor of the \$5,704.66 necessary to replace the two signs said "Hunter Valley Operations was pleased to support Branxton Lions for their community work and helping towards road safety."

Initially there was only one sign and that was positioned at the Maitland end of Branxton where motorists heading inland would see it. That sign was prepared by Charlie Raisbeck an artist/signwriter from Cessnock, and as far as we know the sign was erected in the Mid-1960's. The second sign, at the Singleton end of Branxton came later, during the 1970's and was painted by Jacqui Rocket.

A post on Facebook about the signs bought some interesting comments; a lot of "likes" along with a couple of "dislikes." One interesting story that came to life is about the signs being used as a clue in the ABC Radio programme "Treasure Hunter" which aired on ABC Newcastle radio on a Saturday morning hosted by Dan Cox.

Preparations for the work on the new sign at the Maitland end of Branxton is currently underway along with the refurbishment of the sign at the Singleton end of town.

Lions' Five Global Causes

Branxton Lions is a part of the well-known Lions Club International that has over 1.4 million members in 46,000 local clubs located in more than 200 countries. The international club has nominated their five global causes to be: Diabetes; Environment; Hunger; Childhood Cancer; and Vision. Every Lions club has been asked to focus on these five global causes to enhance people's lives all around the world. Your local club, Branxton Lions, is seeking to improve the lives of people in the local community by donating to charitable organisations that primarily fall within the Five Global Causes categories.

If you would like further information on these announcements, or are interested in learning more about the activities of the Lions Club of Branxton, please contact President Brian on 0417 282 440 or Secretary Alan on 0426 261 948.



Australian Government

We're extending financial support

The Australian Government is extending JobKeeper until 28 March 2021 and the temporary Coronavirus Supplement for those on income support until 31 December 2020, after which income support will continue.

For JobKeeper and the temporary Coronavirus Supplement there will be some changes to payments and eligibility to support businesses and households who need it most.

For information on how these changes affect you, visit Australia.gov.au



28 Mar 2021

JobKeeper
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31 Dec 2020

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The difference between an Enduring Power of Attorney and an Enduring Guardianship document

When we discuss Estate Planning, the focus is often on the necessity to have a valid Will. It is just as important to consider other life planning tools, such as a Power of Attorney and an Enduring Guardian documents.

These two documents achieve different things and work well together to ensure that your affairs are taken care of in certain circumstances.

What is an Enduring Power of Attorney?

An enduring power of attorney is a legal document that allows you, the principal, to nominate one or more persons, referred to as attorneys, to act on your behalf.

An enduring power of attorney gives the attorney the authority to manage your legal and financial affairs, including buying and selling real estate, shares and other assets, operating your bank accounts and spending money on your behalf.

You can appoint an attorney to act for you in a variety of circumstances such as an extended interstate or overseas trip, or for a time when you are no longer capable of handling your own affairs.

Can I choose more than one person to be my Attorney?

Yes, you can. If you

appoint more than one, you need to indicate whether the attorneys are to act jointly, severally, or jointly and severally. If they are appointed jointly, they must make decisions together and attend institutions (i.e. a bank) and sign together. If they are appointed severally or jointly and severally, they can act independently of each other.

You are also able to nominate a substitute attorney or attorneys if your first appointment is unable or unwilling to act.

So my Attorney/s can only make decisions about my legal and financial affairs?

Correct. An attorney under an enduring power of attorney cannot make decisions about your lifestyle or health. These decisions can only be made by a guardian, which is where the Enduring Guardian document becomes relevant.

What does an Enduring Guardian document achieve?

Whilst a will and enduring power of attorney document allows you to plan ahead for your financial and business affairs, you need to also consider what will happen if you find yourself unable to make lifestyle and medical decisions due to

illness or accident.

An enduring guardian is someone you appoint to make lifestyle, health and medical decisions for you when you are not capable of doing this for yourself. Your enduring guardian/s can make decisions such as where you live, what services are provided to you at home and what medical treatment you receive.

It is important that you trust the person you appoint as your enduring guardian to make appropriate lifestyle decisions on your behalf. It is recommended you inform this person of your wishes about lifestyle decisions and involve them in discussions about your views or goals. If these change, it is important to let your enduring guardian know.

When does an enduring guardian document come into effect?

Enduing Guardianship only comes into effect if and when you lose capacity and will only be effective during the period of incapacity; therefore, it may never become operational. However, it is a good way to plan for the future, particularly for unforeseen situations.

Can I appointment more than one person?

Yes, certainly. Similarly to the enduring power of attorney document, if you appoint more than one enduring guardian, you should indicate whether the enduring guardians are to act jointly, severally or jointly and severally. Enduring guardians who are appointed jointly are only able to make decisions if they all agree about the decision. Enduring guardians who are appointed severally or jointly and severally are able to make decisions independently of each other.

If you appoint an alternative enduring guardian, they will only have authority to act as your guardian if the first appointed enduring guardian/s dies, resigns or becomes incapacitated.

home values are down 2 per cent over the same period. It has especially been the case to the immediate south and north of Sydney. The Illawarra region is the standout performer. The Illawarra recorded the largest annual rise in regional housing values across Australia, up 12 per cent. It also saw the biggest jump in home sale volume over the past twelve months, with activity up 14 per cent over the year. Newcastle and Lake Macquarie was NSW's next best performing region. Its

Do you **REMEMBER** when....

THE NEWS No. 100 11th Oct 2001 P. 37

Tony Roche at Hunter Valley business dinner

Approximately 100 local business people gathered at Season's Restaurant Pokolbin on the 26th September to dine in the company of special guest, Australian tennis legend Tony Roche.

Tony spoke after dinner about his world of tennis, the Davis Cup Final & then answered questions from the floor.

Tony was one half of Wimbledon's most successful doubles teams in partnership with John Newcombe but his career was cut down by a chronic elbow injury.

A former Davis Cup coach and mentor to top Australian players he is considered to be one of the world's best coaches.

Tony did win one Grand Slam singles title before his injury

started to impact on his career. In 1966 he won the French Open defeating Istvan Gulgas of Hungary. He was also runner up in 1965 to Stolle and 1967 to Emerson. He was also runner up twice at the US Championships in 1969 and 1970 and at Wimbledon in 1968.

He was a member of the Davis Cup team from 1964-1978. His record in the 12 ties he played was 7-3 in singles and 7-2 in doubles.



Photo: Local business people (L-R) Steve Clarke of Branxton, Peree Dagg of Branxton & Alan Pope of North Rothbury.



Newcastle, \$590,000 in the Southern Highlands and \$704,000 in the Illawarra. Mr Lawless warns regional economic conditions can be more volatile, especially those areas that are heavily dependent on a single industry for economic prosperity.

There have been signs regional growth rates peaked in late 2019, and could head into negative territory later this year without significant improvement to economic conditions or a demonstrated shift in demand side factors like population growth.

house values were up eight per cent, on the back of a seven per cent hike in sales activity. Elsewhere, the Hunter Valley region, excluding Newcastle, saw values up 2.8 per cent annually. Its sales activity level was up six per cent. The heightened sales activity was evident in the NSW Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven, where the house sales volume increased by 12.7 per cent. Values in the region grew by 3.2 per cent annually. The latest quarterly regional report analysed 25 of Australia's largest non-capital city regions, including 10 from NSW, looking at performance of both house and unit markets. Of the 50 house and unit markets included in the analysis, 37 have seen values rise over the 12 months to July.

Houses were the better performer over the year, with 20 regions recording a rise in the value of houses, while five regional areas saw house values decline

over the 12 months, with two in NSW. They were the Riverina area and the New England and North West region. The latter had the longest days on market over the year, with houses taking close to 100 days to sell, on average.

Across regional unit markets, 17 regions across Australia recorded a rise in values over the year to July. While the region by region data shows diversity, Tim Lawless, the head of research at CoreLogic, suggests relatively steady conditions in regional markets were partly due to the areas being less affected by stalling overseas migration.

"Close to 85 per cent of Australia's net overseas migration flows into the capital cities," Mr Lawless advised.

Mr Lawless also reckons the latest data shows some momentum in the trend towards rising demand for lifestyle properties. "It was prevalent prior to COVID-19," he added.

Regional areas certainly offer up a variety of advantages and risks compared with their capital

city counterparts. Housing prices tend to be lower, providing a more affordable entry point to the market.

For instance, there is a \$588,000 median around

Photo above: Newcastle



Regional cities have performed stronger than capitals throughout COVID-19 crisis

By Jonathan Chancellor

Regional housing values have held firm through the COVID period compared with the capital cities across Australia.

New research from CoreLogic shows dwelling values across the regional areas of Australia slipping by only 0.1 per cent between March and the end of July, while capital city



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

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Coles at Huntlee on target to open mid to late September & Huntlee Tavern expected to be trading prior to Christmas

It's all good news for local residents with the expected opening of the new Huntlee Coles Centre only weeks away & the Huntlee Tavern opening just prior to Christmas.

The Coles Huntlee project comprises a new 3,311m² single level Coles supermarket, a Liquorland spanning across 192m², a specialty retail space of 1,087m² and 580m² mall along with on grade car parking accommodating 242 cars, a loading dock and staff parking. Also, local residents will have an exciting new venue option for their Christmas celebrations, with the Huntlee Tavern expecting to be open by early December.

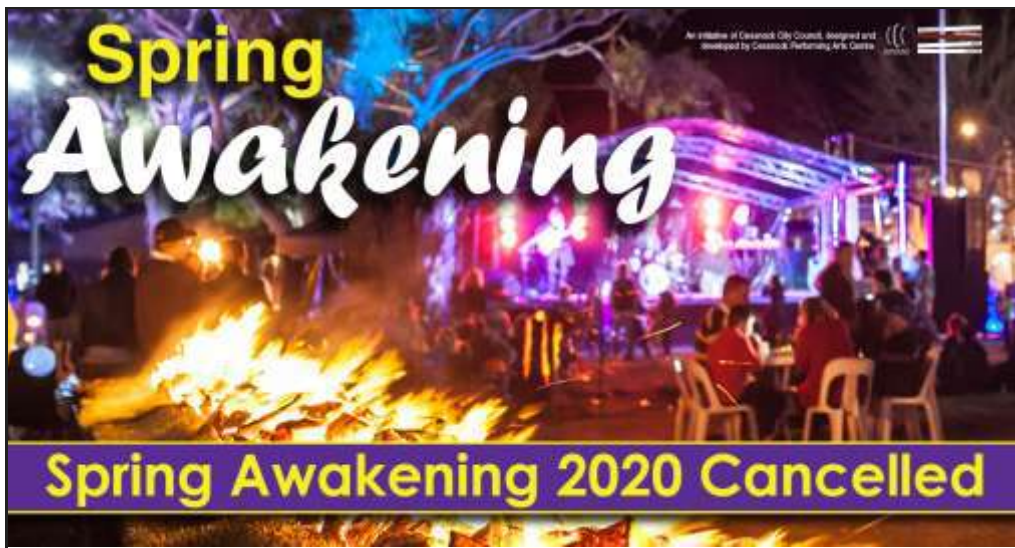
The all new hotel in the Huntlee Town Centre has been designed by award-winning hospitality architects Bergstrom Architects, who said the key design objective from the outset was to create a destination hotel for this rapidly developing area. "This is achieved using focal face brick facades which address the main street frontages, combined with contemporary interior spaces finished with high quality



The new Huntlee Coles almost ready to open



The new Huntlee Tavern is expected to be trading prior to Christmas materials to ensure patron comfort and durability," said Director and Principal Architect, Tom Bergstrom. "Classic material combinations, such as brick and timber, and



Spring Awakening 2020 has been cancelled due to COVID-19 and the current NSW Government restrictions regulating gatherings.

The much anticipated event that involves a lantern parade and a festive gathering at TAFE Park, Cessnock cannot proceed in accordance with Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 4) 2020.

Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson said it's disappointing it cannot go ahead for everyone.

"This event has attracted up to 2000 participants in previous years. I'm sure many in the community will share in our disappointment but understand at this time we cannot proceed with the festivities."

To view understand the current restrictions in place visit NSW Government's Health website.

open plan interiors with great lighting and furniture will ensure this tavern becomes the next best stop for both visitors and locals."

Huntlee Tavern Director, Jason Gavin, said the venue will be all about good times and great food.

"We know a lot of people living in Huntlee and the surrounding villages are shift workers and that's one of the reasons the

tavern will include a café which will open early," said Jason.

"Our bistro will open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, serving all your gastro pub favourites, including great steaks and ribs, pizzas and kids meals. The bistro will have its own bar in addition to the public bar.

"Live entertainment will feature every Friday and Saturday night, with a range of performers to appeal to all tastes. And we'll

provide a courtesy bus to ensure you get home safely after a great night out.

"We can't wait to open the door to the Huntlee Tavern, it's great to be the first hotel in this brand-new town – that's not the type of opportunity that comes along every day. And being located at the gateway to Wine Country makes the location hard to beat," added Jason.



Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licence-in-Charge

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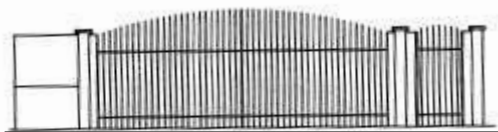
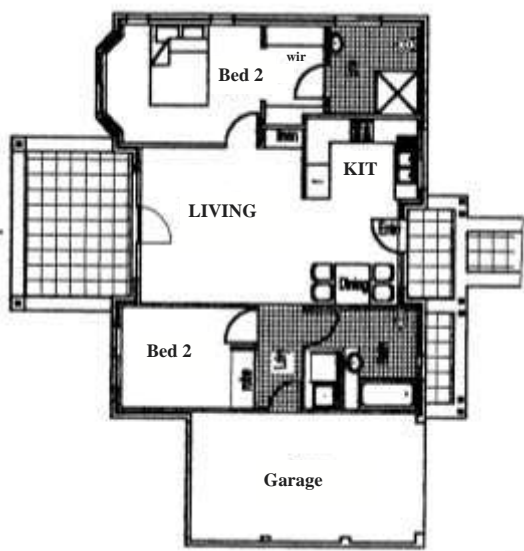
SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"



Unit 18 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"

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

ASKING \$320,000



GATE DETAIL

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

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SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"



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ASKING \$360,000



Building Blocks

NORTH ROTHBURY
Vacant building block ~ 809m²

Vacant Building Block
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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



attended a hotel on High Street, Maitland, and located the 20-year-old and another woman. She was arrested and taken to Maitland Police Station and charged with conveying false information that a person/property is in danger. She was refused bail to appear at Maitland Local Court today (Wednesday 19 August 2020). Police are conducting inquiries into the whereabouts of the man. He's described as being of Caucasian appearance, between 160cm to 170cm tall, with a solid build, brown hair and brown eyes.

Appeal following attempted home invasion – Weston

Tuesday, 18 August 2020 11:06:41 AM
Police are appealing for public assistance following an attempted home invasion in Weston. About 3.35am on Sunday (16 August 2020), five people – four men and one woman – were inside a home on Eighth Street, Weston, when two unknown men attended. Police have been told one of the occupants, a 43-year-old man, answered the door and was confronted by the men who were armed with a firearm and an electronic stun device. The pair demanded a set of car keys before a second occupant, a 49-year-old man, chased the men out of the home. The pair were last seen heading west on Eighth Street. No one was injured during

the incident. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District attended and commenced an investigation.

Nearly \$8 million of cannabis and 12 large-scale industrial grow houses dismantled near Muswellbrook

Friday, 21 August 2020 09:13:05 AM
Drug and Firearms Squad detectives have charged two people after dismantling 12 large-scale industrial grow houses in the state's Hunter Region and seizing cannabis with a street value of nearly \$8 million. In November last year, detectives from the State Crime Command's Drug and Firearms Squad established Strike Force Harthouse to investigate the cultivation and supply of cannabis across NSW. Their inquiries uncovered a remote property near Muswellbrook being used for the large-scale cultivation of cannabis. Following extensive investigations, strike force detectives executed a crime scene warrant at a property on the Golden Highway at Gungah, about 58km south-east of Muswellbrook, from 9am yesterday (Thursday 20 August 2020). During the search, investigators seized 2628 cannabis plants with an estimated potential street value of \$7.8 million. Officers also located equipment consistent with the cultivation of cannabis within 12 large-scale

industrial grow houses, which were subsequently dismantled. Two men – aged 24 and 29 – were arrested at the property and taken to Muswellbrook Police Station. The Cabramatta men were both charged with cultivate prohibited plant (large commercial quantity). Both men were refused bail. Investigations by the Drug and Firearms Squad are continuing.

Murder charge over Hunter Valley waste-facility death

Friday, 21 August 2020 09:01:53 AM
A man has been charged with murder following the death of a man at a rubbish tip in the Hunter Valley last month. About 5pm on Sunday 5 July 2020, emergency services were called to a waste management facility on Old Maitland Road, after a 54-year-old man was found critically injured. He died at the scene. Detectives from Hunter Valley Police District, assisted by the State Crime Command's Homicide Squad, established Strike Force Nargal to investigate the circumstances surrounding the man's death. On Wednesday 8 July 2020, officers attended a property at Lovedale where they arrested a 30-year-old man and seized a Toyota Landcruiser. Police will allege in court that the man was driving the Toyota Landcruiser when he struck the 54-year-old – who is known to him

– at the waste facility. At that time, the man was taken to Cessnock Police Station and charged with dangerous driving occasioning death-driver manner dangerous, negligent driving (occasioning death), fail to

stop and assist after vehicle impact causing death and driver not disclose identity of driver/passenger as required. On Thursday 20 August 2020, the same man was served with two additional charges at a correctional

facility in Parklea, including murder and aggravated break/enter, and commit serious indictable offence. The Aberdare man will next appear at Cessnock Local Court on Wednesday 26 August 2020.

Welcome



Hunter Valley Police District & the local community would like to welcome three new Probationary Constable to our command area. These Officers finished at the Goulburn Police Academy last week and are all keen to get to their stations and start. From the front left and moving to the right, is our Crime Manager, Detective Inspector Zimmer, Probationary Constable Cory Willison stationed at Muswellbrook, our Commander Superintendent Chapman, Probationary Nushung Sackie stationed at Singleton and Probationary Constable Ryan Clarke stationed at Cessnock.

An Irishman was terribly overweight, so his doctor put him on a diet.
'I want you to eat regularly for 2 days, then skip a day, and repeat this procedure for 2 weeks. The next time I see you, you should have lost at least 5 pounds.'
When the Irishman returned, he shocked the doctor by having lost nearly 60lbs!
'Why, that's amazing!' the doctor said, 'Did you follow my instructions?'
The Irishman nodded...I'll tell you though, by jaesuz, I t'aut I were going to drop dead on dat 3rd day
'From the hunger, you mean?' asked the doctor.
'No, from the f**' skippin'

Woman charged over alleged hoax kidnapping prank – Maitland

Wednesday, 19 August 2020 09:40:00 AM
A woman will face court today charged over an alleged hoax kidnapping in the Hunter overnight. Police will allege in court about 10.40pm yesterday (Tuesday 18 August 2020), a 20-year-old woman was on a video call with relatives when she was handcuffed and appearing to be held against her will by a man. Relatives contacted police shortly after the call was terminated. Officers from Port Stephens -Hunter and Newcastle City Police Districts commenced inquiries into the whereabouts of the woman. About 1.30am (Wednesday 19 August 2020), police

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Got an idea for our local economy?



Cessnock City Council would like to hear from local businesses, visitors and residents to assist them in preparing the next draft Economic Development Strategy. It's a critical Strategy aimed at ensuring the Cessnock Local Government Area has a sustainable and prosperous economy into the future.

Council's Economic Development and Tourism Manager, Tony Chadwick said the feedback from businesses and the broader community will ensure Council has the most up to date information.

"The feedback and ideas we're asking for will ensure we have a diverse range of views to develop a clearer picture based on the current and future economic climate. This will help us build on the information collected during the Business Capability Study we did last year. We're looking forward to putting together a practical strategy with clear priorities that will have real outcomes for our community as we grow."

The Strategy will be based on the key themes of productivity, investment and innovation.

If a business, resident or visitor would like to have their say, surveys can be accessed via Council's 'Have your say' web page. There's also a fantastic ideas wall for those wanting to share their vision. All feedback must be submitted by Friday 9 October.

Confirmed: mining regions duded on resources funding

The Government has confirmed mining-dependent regions have been robbed \$24 million under Resources for Regions funding.

As 'The News' has stated many times in the past, only \$50 million was made available to mining-dependent communities when round 7 of the program was announced in June. This is despite a significant underspend during the previous round, where only \$26 million was spent.

In response to a question on notice, the Deputy Premier John Barilaro has since admitted the Round 7 funding included the previously unallocated \$24 million from Round 6.

Labor Shadow Minister for Natural Resources, Paul Scully, said: "This is an open and shut case of the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government duding mining-dependent communities of around \$24 million when it can be least afforded."

"Instead of providing local regional economies with a stimulus boost, the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is arrogantly ripping money out of those communities."

"The missing \$24 million could help local communities fund the building of local roads, bridges, sporting facilities, pools, community centres, local halls and upgrading main streets."

"But because the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government has ripped these local communities off, many will be forced to not proceed with or postpone projects, putting local jobs and the recovery of local economies at risk."

If the \$24 million from Round 6 had been allocated with the \$50 million in Round 7, the Resources for Regions program would be worth \$74 million to mining-dependent communities, of which our area is one, across the state.

Mr Scully said this economic boost is desperately needed as communities struggle with drought, bushfire recovery, a recession and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Government has one last chance to do the right thing by boosting the Resources for Regions funding program by \$24 million in the upcoming

budget.

"It's time the Deputy Premier walked the talk of supporting regional communities not be mean and tricky by sneakily taking funding away," Mr Scully said.

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy."

— Ernest Benn

Greta Museum now has for sale — Alek Schula's epic book, 'Beneath the Shadow of Mount Molly Morgan', of people's stories who came to stay in the Greta Migrant Camp - \$55 a copy



Hand-Made Washable Masks - only \$10 each (two designs, with one style suitable for those that wear glasses)



Greta Museum is open Wednesdays & Saturdays 11am-3pm, at 96 High Street Greta, in the former Greta Council Chambers. Cash only please.

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Pokolbin....	4015 0000	Lifeline	131 114
Rothbury....	4991 1733	Mental Health Line	
Bishops Bdg	4015 0000		1800 011 511
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Rothbury....	4015 0000		4990 9609
Pokolbin....	4015 0000	Centrelink Self Service	
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(Cessnock)...	4015 0000		

FROM PAGE 6

Members say ..



Cllr Melanie Dagg - Deputy Mayor & Cessnock City Councillor representing Ward C

Works have been continuing in the area following the completion of upgrades along Maitland Street and John Rose Avenue as part of the rolling out of the Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan for which Council secured \$400,000 to assist in funding the upgrades. There will be more to come as further funding becomes available. In addition, works are continuing with culvert upgrades along Camp Road, Greta and the replacement of Anvil Creek Bridge near Greta Train Station commences in the next month, which I know will be welcomed by many. Whilst Council is not immune from the financial costs of the pandemic, we remain committed to continuing to deliver improvements to local community and transport infrastructure.

There's been many events on our social calendars that, as a result of COVID-19, have had to either continue in a different format or be cancelled altogether. One of the wonderful events in our city calendar, that I've certainly been looking forward to, is Spring Awakening 2020. This event usually attracts thousands of participants in its lantern parade and festivities. As always, it is most important we all behave responsibly to protect the most vulnerable in our community, so cancelling the event is not a big deal in the scheme of things. But I'm sure we are all looking forward to getting back to normality - whenever that will be!

You can't sugar coat it, 2020 has not been one of our best years. It was not that long ago our community was covered in dirt from the drought, then suffered evacuations and property damage due to bushfires. Now we face a global health pandemic with restrictions on our everyday lives far greater than we ever anticipated when the first case hit our shores. It has been difficult to adjust to the challenges that the pandemic has brought to our lives, but one thing that I have appreciated is the quality time that I've been able to have with my family, that I wouldn't have had otherwise due to all our various commitments. Whilst I don't want to take away from the very serious nature of what we are facing, given it is a matter of life and death for many, there can be silver linings for some of us if we look for them and the regaining of quality family time is something I'm going to take away from this terrible time.

Although society may look a little different, we will eventually move past this moment. We will recover and see the other side of this and enjoy our good times again. And we will do it as we always have, together.

Cheers, Melanie

YOUR VOICE IN CANBERRA

Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Your Federal Member for Hunter

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

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

joelfitzgibbon.com



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

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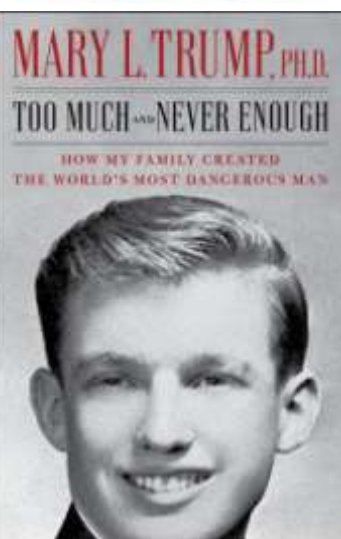
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endured when his mother was hospitalized. This is the first insight into Donald Trump's early childhood and how his development was interrupted by his father's inability to adequately care for him while his mother was ailing. Donald Trump's father was a textbook example of the domineering patriarch. He could not envision nor accept a career for his eldest son, Mary Trump's father, that diverged from his vision of a business dynasty. He disparagingly called his eldest son — one of the first commercial pilots for TWA Airlines — a "glorified bus driver in the sky." Mary's insights into the Trump family are scathing and inherently satisfying for anyone who, like her, was negatively impacted when Donald Trump was elected. It's a validating piece for people who said "never my president." On the flip side of the exposé, though, lies paralyzing fear. Mary is convinced that Russia tampered with the 2016 election, and she does not paint a hopeful picture for the future based on that logic. If Russia intervened in 2016, what's to stop them from doing it again in the future? Mary's insights on her paternal family is as fascinating as it is exasperating. Never before have I wanted access to a time machine more than I do after reading this exposé. It's obvious that some kind of intervention was necessary to prevent the catastrophe that is Donald Trump. Interestingly, Mary doesn't elaborate much on Donald Trump's fixation with young women. She does, however, tell a story about when Donald saw her in a bathing suit for the first time at his Mar-a-Lago resort and disgustingly remarked that she was "stacked." She closes the book with a firm push not to elect Donald for another

By Hevyn Heckes
Since 2015, there has been speculation on the mental faculties of the man who would become our nation's 45th president. Donald Trump has been a fixture of the tabloid media for several decades, but never before has his eccentric nature influenced the fate of an entire country. Clinical psychologist Mary L. Trump's "Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man" is a must-read exposé on the Trump family, told from the point of view of Donald Trump's niece. The first part reads like a CliffsNotes version of Donald Trump's family history. The most intensive feature in this section is the early childhood trauma that Donald



ABOUT...
Mary Lea Trump (born May 3, 1965) is an American psychologist, businessperson, and author. She is a niece of President Donald J. Trump. Mary Lea Trump was born in May 1965 to flight attendant Linda Lee Clapp and Fred Trump Jr., a commercial jet pilot with Trans World Airlines. Her older brother is Frederick Trump III. Trump graduated from the Ethel Walker School in 1983. She studied English literature at Tufts University, earned a master's degree in English literature at Columbia University, for which she studied the works of William Faulkner and his dysfunctional fictional Compson family, and holds a PhD in clinical psychology from the Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University.
Career ~ Trump worked for one year at the Manhattan Psychiatric Centre while working on her PhD research. Trump is a contributor to the book *Diagnosis: Schizophrenia*, published by Columbia University Press in 2002. She has taught graduate courses in developmental psychology, trauma, and psychopathology. She is the founder and chief executive officer of The Trump Coaching Group, a life coaching company, and has also owned and operated a number of small businesses in the Northeast.

Personal life
Trump's father died on September 29, 1981 at the age of 42 from a heart attack caused by alcoholism; she was sixteen. He had developed an enlarged

heart and had undergone surgical procedures before he finally succumbed to the disease and died alone in Queens Hospital Centre in Jamaica. Trump was at school, watching a film in the auditorium with other kids when a school teacher pulled her aside and made her call home. She found out after a series of phone calls that her father had died. Mary was not able to see his father's body despite her asking for it and had to contend with saying her goodbye to a closed coffin at the funeral. In her book, Trump relates a time when her grandmother Mary Anne MacLeod Trump referred to Elton John as a *faggot*, and Trump decided not to come out as gay and tell her that she was going to marry a woman, with whom she would later raise a daughter. She has since divorced, and lives on Long Island, New York, with her daughter. Trump's family includes a brother Fritz and his wife Lisa.
Politics ~ Trump supported Hillary Clinton during the 2016 presidential election. On July 15, 2020, she said in an ABC News interview conducted by George Stephanopoulos that Donald Trump should resign. Mary said that he is "utterly incapable of leading this country, and it's dangerous to allow him to do so." In a July 22, 2020 interview on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, when asked for her professional opinions, Mary stated that Donald Trump exhibits sociopathic tendencies but not at a high-functioning level like his father, was institutionally insulated from responsibilities, and is never held accountable for his actions.
Conflicts within the Trump family
When Fred Trump Sr. died in 1999 from Alzheimer's disease, Mary and her brother Fred III contested their grandfather's will. Fred Sr.'s will left

presidential term, detailing the risks of prolonging his time in office. She reiterates how incompetent he is to lead the nation and suggests that his nomination as the Republican presidential candidate was a calculated move by GOP leaders to put someone in office who can be easily manipulated. I read her tell-all with much skepticism, because the Trump name has become synonymous with ridiculous, self-serving arrogance and outright corruption. Her PhD in psychology lends credibility to an account that could otherwise be criticized as a conflict of interest. To be fair, she makes no effort to disguise her obvious bias against him. She is honest even when it doesn't benefit her — admitting before the world and her powerful family that she was the whistleblower in the 2018 "New York Times" investigation on Donald Trump's corrupt business practices and criminal irresponsibility with his finances. Despite my uncertainty, I found "Too Much and Never Enough" to be fascinating. Mary Trump's recollections and her psychological insights certainly explain much about the way Donald seems to always "fail upwards," all the way into the Oval Office.

It seems that Donald Trump has always been a puppet for more powerful men and that his development was stunted at a critical age. In effect, he's still the terrified child who was abandoned by his father when his mother was sick. He is not a man fit to lead the nation, and allowing him to do so for another four years would surely mean total devastation of the American democratic system.

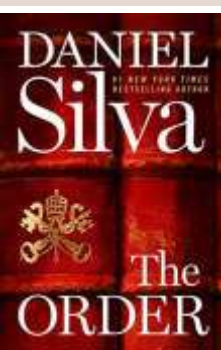
Hevyn Heckes is a freelance reporter at the Daily Lobo. She can be contacted at culture@dailylobo.com or on Twitter @H_Squared90


the bulk of his estate, in equal shares, to his children. His grandchildren were each left \$200,000. When Mary's father predeceased him, Fred Sr.'s lawyers had recommended amending his will, to leave Mary and her brother, Fred III, larger shares than the grandchildren with living parents. They anticipated Fred Sr.'s will would be challenged if it were not amended by descendants who would argue his intent was that each child would eventually leave a portion of his or her share of the estate to his or her own descendants. Shortly after Fred Sr.'s death, Mary's sister-in-law gave birth to a son with a rare and debilitating medical condition—one that would require a lifetime of very expensive medical care. Fred Sr. had established a foundation that paid the medical expenses of his family. After Mary and Fred III had filed suit against Donald Trump and two of his three living siblings, Mary and Fred III were advised that the medical foundation would no longer pay for their medical expenses. The lawsuit was settled in 2001. The final settlement of the dispute over sharing Fred Sr.'s estate did not award them the share their father would have inherited, if he had been alive when Fred Sr. died. It did restore coverage of their family's medical expenses. The 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting was awarded to David Barstow, Susanne Craig and Russ Buettner of *The New York Times* for "an exhaustive 18-month investigation of Donald Trump's finances that debunked his statements of self-made wealth and revealed a business empire riddled with tax dodges." Mary was reportedly a key source of information for that study, having come into possession of Donald's tax documents during the discovery process in the dispute over her grandfather's estate.

CONT PAGE 18

The New York Times Best Sellers (12 August 2020)

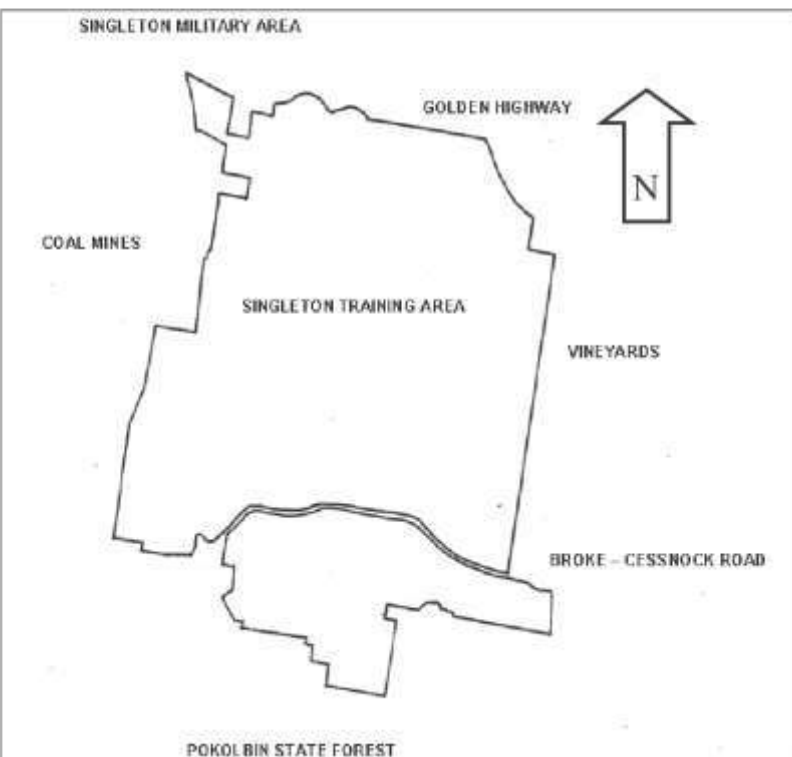
- NEW THIS WEEK THE ORDER BY DANIEL SILVA**
The 20th book in the Gabriel Allon series. The art restorer and spy cuts his family's vacation short to investigate whether Pope Paul VII was murdered.
- NEW THIS WEEK PEACE TALKS BY JIM BUTCHER**
The 16th book in the Dresden Files series. Chicago's only professional wizard tries to keep the peace during a summit of the Supernatural nations of the world.
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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.
- 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
- 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.

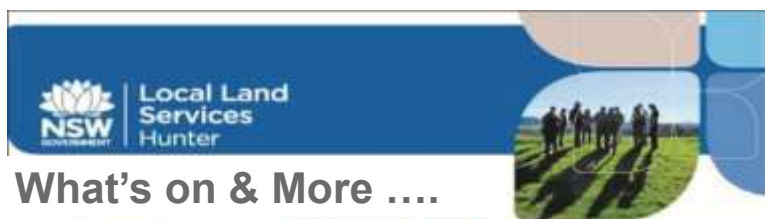
Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

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



What's on & More

FARM FORCE!



Farm kids standing guard against bushfire, pests, drought and flood.

The challenges farming families face when dealing with the impacts of bushfire, pests, drought and flood have an enormous effect on our rural communities.

In these times it is our children who can feel like they are uninformed and unheard.

The 'Farm Force' program provides our kids from the Hunter region a chance to have a voice.

It will see the creation of a series of books addressing these issues that are written and illustrated by local kids, to be used as a resource for

the local community. Hunter LLS Community Engagement Officer Daniel Trudgeon said the first of the book series will focus on local experiences of the 2019/2020 bushfire season. "Last summer's bushfires were the most severe on record as they affected so many parts of our region and across NSW," said Daniel. "We want rural kids to reflect on past experiences, learn about the importance of good bushfire preparedness and recognise how communities come together to support each other in times of crisis." "This will make them a 'force' to be reckoned with

as they are better equipped to help their families prepare for future events."

Please visit the Farm Force webpage and click on Bushfire Battlers to discover more information on how to be involved.

<https://www.envirostories.com.au/get-involved/farm-force/> Entries are open now, and will be accepted until 31 October.

The next three series will focus on Flood Fighters, Drought Defenders and Pest Patrollers.

This program is supported by Hunter Local Land Services, Hunter Region Landcare Network and Mid Coast 2 Tops Landcare Connection. For more information, please contact Community Engagement Officer Daniel Trudgeon on: Phone: 0419 436 185 Email: daniel.trudgeon@lls.nsw.gov.au

BIODIVERSITY – EVERY BIT COUNTS!



keeping your pests at bay – for free! Photo by Ingrid Yeo.

RESTORE THE RIVER Rivers, creeks, gullies, billabongs, ponds, wetlands, gilgais can all be considered as riparian areas. They hold enormous value to farming operations and as an important community asset. Many hold cultural values and are also a significant carbon store. The improvement of riparian assets into healthy functioning ecosystems can have significant positive impacts on the farm and also for the catchment and wider community.

SPRUCE UP THE FARM DAM Good quality water has a huge impact on stock performance. According to Professor David Lindenmayer from Australian National University, 23% of livestock weight loss can be attributed to poor water quality. That's like having a 300kg steer that should have been 400kg due to poor water quality. A healthy

September is biodiversity month in Australia. We as humans are dependent on healthy functioning, biodiverse ecosystems to provide us with air to breathe, water to drink and plants and nutrients to feed us. Let's appreciate what we have and look at how we can help to improve it.

5 WAYS TO IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY ON FARMS MAINTAIN WHAT'S ALREADY THERE

The most effective way of improving biodiversity on your farm is by maintaining and managing what you already have. Try to avoid "cleaning up" and removing dead, fallen timber as this is

important habitat and part of nutrient cycling. Control exotic weeds and pest animals and control stock by strategically grazing. By identifying areas on your farm of high conservation value or an area that a threatened species such as a koala has been identified, you can plan to protect and enhance the area as part of your overall farm plan. *Tawny frogmouths are a great example of birds that will utilise small clumps of trees. You may not even notice that you have a family of them living in the trees around your sheds and as you sleep they will be feasting on insects, snails and small mammals such as mice and thus*



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 18th August 2020

There was a sharp increase in numbers with an influx of plainer quality and condition cattle penned. Yearlings were well supplied, along with a fair supply of grown cattle. Overall the quality and condition of the offering was very mixed. The majority of the local cattle showing good levels of finish. There was limited export processor attendance, however local trade competition was comparable. There was good restocker and feedlot participation. Market trends varied through the young cattle. Those plainer quality and condition yearlings mostly fell into the lightweight classes, representing lower dollar values they attracted very strong restocker competition and sold to a significantly dearer trend, in particular the steer portion. Medium weight yearling feeder steers saw firm to dearer market trends, with some quality related price change. There was a greater supply of heavy feeders with no market comparison available. They did however attract strong competition. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed sold to a slightly cheaper trend. Well finished heavy weight yearling steers to the trade sold to a substantially dearer trend, while the medium and heavy weight heifers to the same destination were slightly cheaper. Despite limited export processor competition, supermarket competition was behind a substantially dearer market trend for heavy grown steers. There were strong premiums for the younger drafts with 4 or less teeth. Plain quality and condition grown heifers attracted strong restocker competition to sell to dearer trends. A pen of PTIC cows sold to a restocker well above the rate for cows to process, attracting plenty of competition. The cow market saw a dearer trend, showing moderate increases. Heavy bulls were as much as 16c/kg dearer.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 19th August 2020

Consignments lifted for a generally good quality penning of mainly younger cattle, with the vealers well supplied. There were prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle suitable for the butchers spread throughout the market. Cow numbers remained similar for 42 head penned. The market trend overall was firm to dearer. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock lifted 7c and made from 430c to 524c, as the heavier drafts reached 470c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers improved 8c and ranged from 410c to 466c, as the lighter end reached 504c/kg. The yearlings maintained firm prices, with only quality and breed contributing to any price variations, with the medium weight steers making from 370c to 398c, as the heifer portion sold from 388c to 410c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle purchased by the butchers sold at a premium, with the best reaching 462c, with many well over the 400c/kg range. The better bred older steers to the lot feeders sold around the 356c range, as the older heifers to the processors made from 360c to 398c/kg. The medium weight cows remained firm, however the better covered heavy weights sold at a cheaper trend. Medium weights ranged from 246c to 294c, depending on condition, while restockers paid 310c/kg to secure their selections. The heavy weights to the processors sold 10c cheaper and received from, 270c to 286c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 270c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 18th August 2020

Numbers lifted marginally for a fair to good quality penning of mainly younger cattle, with good percentages in prime condition and suitable for the butcher orders. The vealers and yearlings were well supplied, with grown steer numbers lifting, as the cows were limited in number. The usual buyers competed in a very strong market, with only yield and quality contributing to any price variations. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers ranged from, 442c to 524c, as the heavier drafts reached 454c/kg. The same weight vealer heifers also to the restockers made from, 428c to 458c/kg. The yearlings sold to solid competition, as the steers received from, 372c to 442c, depending on weight, while the heifers ranged from, 374c to 414c/kg. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle to the butchers again sold to strong competition, with some carrying plenty of weight, prices topped at 438c/kg. The older steers to the lot feeders received from, 336c to 356c, as the better finished pens to the processors reached 368c/kg. The older heifers made from, 320c to 366c, and up to 376c/kg to the restockers. The heavy weight cows ranged from, 260c to 294c, as the best of the heavy bulls reached 308c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 17th August 2020

Numbers doubled following last weeks rain reduced offering. Yearlings well supplied along with a fair sized penning of grown cattle. Overall the quality was mostly good with the majority of the penning showing a good level of finish. The regular trade and feedlot buyers were in attendance, however again, there was less than a full compliment of export processors. Restockers activity was high. There were varying trends through the young cattle, with quality playing a role in price fluctuations in places. Light weight young cattle were well supported by restockers looking to reduce dollar outlay. Medium and heavy weight yearling feeder steers sold to cheaper trends. Medium weights to restocking orders sold strongly aided by a good quality penning. Well finished trade steers sold to a slightly cheaper trend. Dearer trends for yearling feeder heifers with an improvement for quality. The well finished lines purchased by the trade were as much as 10c/kg dearer with a vast improvement in quality accounting for the big lift in averages. Strong supermarket competition saw well finished grown steers and heifers sell to a dearer trend, with strong age and quality related price gains. The condition of the cows on offer was mostly good. Strong competition from the active processors resulted in dearer trends from 6c to 11c/kg.

farm dam consisting of vegetation to filter water and habitat features such as shallow areas, rocks and logs can improve your farm productivity due to improved water quality. And it will also provide important habitat for wildlife such as turtles, water birds, fish, frogs and yabbies. And we all know, there is nothing better than going yabbing in the dam when you are a kid!

TAKE CARE OF PADDOCK TREES These often majestic old trees have been declining in recent decades and once gone, there is little regeneration to replace them. A single tree can support hundreds of species of fungi, insects, plants, and animals. Many have hollows which are perfect

for nesting birds such as parrots, owls and bats. Individually, they are extremely important but collectively, they are key stepping stones across our fragmented landscape. The koala is one such species that heavily relies on paddock trees to move across their territory and keep safe from threats that are on the ground.

PLANT SOME NATIVE VEGETATION Native vegetation can provide a wide range of social, environmental and financial benefits to farms. A shelterbelt will provide windbreaks and shade for stock but they also offer a multitude of benefits to farm productivity and wildlife through ecosystem services including pollination and pest control.

A well-designed shelterbelt can enhance existing remnant vegetation and isolated paddock trees by linking them across the landscape. For example, up to 62 species of native birds in the Gunnedah area will utilise paddock trees for roosting, perching, foraging and to make their way to the next patch of vegetation. By increasing the size of remnant vegetation and linking patches, this could increase to up over 100 different species of birds using these areas.

Incorporating tree planting with remnant native vegetation will link scattered paddock trees and will help areas become more biodiverse. It will also provide more opportunities for native wildlife to move

across the landscape and access different species and age classes of vegetation. Put simply, every bit counts! Whether you own a large farm, live on a hobby block or in town, you can contribute to biodiversity by planting 1 tree, 100 trees or just protecting what you have. If you are concerned that native vegetation is being cleared illegally, please call the Environment Line on 131 555.

This article is supported by North West Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Catchment Action NSW. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Baker on 0429 368 693

Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA

A 'National day of Significance' held at Greta Museum

Greta Migrant Camp was recognised & remembered at a 'national day of significance' at the Greta Museum on Saturday, August 15 with a good attendance on a cold winters day.

The day included a book signing of 'Beneath the Shadows of Mount Molly Morgan' by local author – Alek Schulha. (Stories from Greta Migrant Camp), the presentation of a 'national treasure' to the Greta Museum – a memento from 71 years ago, commemoration of the arrival of the first ship load of migrants to land directly

FROM PAGE 16 ABOUT....

Mary Lea Trump Upon the announcement of Mary's book *Too Much and Never Enough* in June 2020, her uncle Robert Trump attempted to block its release, stating that she signed a non-disclosure agreement during the 1999 lawsuit. The filing of a temporary restraining order against Mary was dismissed by a New York court for a lack of jurisdiction, and the book was published on July 14, 2020.

Too Much and Never Enough

Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man is a tell-all book written by Trump published on July 14, 2020, by Simon & Schuster. According to Trump's note at the beginning of the book, all accounts in the book come either from her own memory or from recorded conversations with family, friends and others. Other sources are legal, financial and family documents and email correspondence as well as the *New York Times* investigative article done by David Barstow, Susanne Craig. The book details how the author was the anonymous source who revealed Trump family tax returns to *The New York Times*; the reporting won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize. A legal battle over whether the book could be published was waged in New York's judicial system, with an appellate judge allowing *Simon & Schuster* to publish the book. The book sold close to one million copies on its first day of sales.

at the port of Newcastle in 1949 and the announcement that work is about to start on the construction of a permanent monument remembering the 60,000 soldiers and 100,000 migrants who passed through Greta Camp between 1939 and 1960. It will be built near the entrance to the former camp. The highlight of the day was certainly the presentation of a toy koala & inscribed card from Arthur Calwell to the local community. On August 12, 1949, the then Minister for Immigration, Mr Arthur Calwell, flew to Fremantle, Western Australia, to welcome the 50,000th migrant to Australia under the displaced persons program.

At a ceremony on the 'Fairsea', Mr Calwell presented seven year old Maira Kalnins, of Latvia, the koala and a talking doll. (Her five year old brother, Inars, was presented with a toy kangaroo and an Australian Rules football at the same ceremony) Two weeks after presenting Maira with her koala in Fremantle, Mr Calwell presented a similar koala to six year old Isobel Saxelby at a ceremony in Melbourne Town Hall on August 25, 1949.

Isobel was the 100,000th British 'Ten-pound-Pom' to arrive in Australia. In 2017 Isobel donated her koala, named Kookie, to the National Museum of Australian Democracy at old Parliament House in Canberra. "Maira donated her beloved koala to the Greta Museum as a way of saying thank you to the town and the former migrant camp. "It will be put on permanent display in the museum," said MC for the day Alek Schulha.

"On July 17, 1949, Richard and Zenta Kalnins and their two young children, Maira 7 and Inars 5, of Latvia, boarded the migrant ship 'Fairsea' in Naples, Italy, bound for Australia and a new life," said Alek. "Within four days of leaving Naples, Maira was selected as the 50,000th migrant to enter Australia and be the face of the displaced persons program in Australia. It changed their lives forever. "Soon after, Maira contracted mumps and spent some time in the ship's hospital where she started to



The toy koala that Maira presented to the local community. It will be housed at the Greta Museum for all to see.



Maira with her Greta Rose after it was presented to her as a community thank you

learn her speech in English," said Alek.

Shortly after Maira's selection, behind the scenes moves were initiated to divest the 'Fairsea' to Fremantle so that the Minister for Immigration, Mr Arthur Calwell, could personally welcome Maira to Australia. "It caused a political storm as the question arose as to why he would travel 2,200 miles to do it when he could have had the presentation in Newcastle," said Alek. The Kalnins family lived in Greta Camp for four years during which time their third child, Sandra, was born. In 1952 the family moved to the Central Coast where they lived for nine years before moving to Sydney in 1961.



Photo above: Author Alek Schulha, with his just published work

The wonderful & historic memento was accepted by Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent on behalf of the local community. As a token of appreciation Maira was presented with a Greta Rose. "On behalf of Hunter Multicultural Communities, of which I am a board member, I would like to



The card which read "To Maira Kalnins, 50,000th New Australian from Europe. Warmest greetings from the Australian people who wish you, those who travelled with you on the "Fairsea", those who came before you & those who will come after you, a long and happy life in your new Country. Arthur A. Calwell, Minister for Immigration, Fremantle 12/8/1949"



Author & retired journalist Alek Schulha welcoming Maira & Mayor Bob Pynsent



Mayor Bob Pynsent with local historian & author Neridah Kentwell



Mayor Bob Pynsent accepts the token koala bear from Maira on behalf of the local Great community.

present this Greta Rose to Maira as a way of thanking her for her generous donation to Greta Museum today," said Alek Schulha. "Clippings from this rare pale pink rose that grew near the old Greta Camp hospital have been propagated by Margaret Kenning, a

community garden co-ordinator for the Hunter Multicultural Communities group at Waratah. "Two of these roses have also been planted in a memorial garden at the Waratah Centre to represent the thousands of migrants who called Greta Camp

home. "Ms Kenning found the rose during the 60th anniversary celebrations held at the former camp site in 2009. She has been propagating the rose at the centre ever since. I have two growing in my own garden," said Alek.

Coalition will keep on exploiting Labor's cracks between climate and coal unless they are plastered over



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

JOEL Fitzgibbon was in front of the cameras at Kooragang Island yesterday (last week), talking down the chances of any sort of cataclysmic explosion of the Orica ammonium nitrate plant, in the wake of such a tragedy in Beirut earlier this month.

As it happened, Mr Fitzgibbon was already juggling political dynamite - or so it seemed - after suggesting the Labor Party risked splitting if it couldn't reconcile the conflict between its working class and socially progressive halves.

His comments have been interpreted as an attempt by the dominant Right faction to bring pressure to bear on Labor leader Anthony Albanese, whose inner city Left background puts the two MPs on supposedly opposite sides of the fence.

But nothing is ever straightforward in Labor factional politics and Mr Fitzgibbon and Mr Albanese are politicians cut from somewhat similar cloth, despite their factional differences.

Mr Fitzgibbon is far and away the Hunter Region's most experienced politician.

Indeed, with 24 years in Canberra under his belt he's one of our most senior federal representatives, full stop.

Elected to parliament in 1996 - and taking over a seat his father, Eric Fitzgibbon, had held since 1984, Mr Fitzgibbon was on the front bench in opposition by 1998.

He's been close to virtually every federal Labor leader with the exception of Julia Gillard, and having risen to the position of national convener of the ALP's dominant Right faction, he has access to substantial power, behind the scenes, should he

choose to wield it.

It is possible that he is using that power now, with what appear to be "freelance" musings on the party's direction.

He declined to be drawn on the subject when asked during his Orica appearance with NSW Senator Deborah O'Neill yesterday, intimating that it was already old news.

Which may be a sign that he was slapped down by an angry Mr Albanese.

Or it may be that having thrown those leaves to the wind, they were both happy to see where they landed.

It should be remembered, too, that Mr Fitzgibbon has been making similar comments on and off for years (see article below "Federal election 2019: Joel Fitzgibbon considers Labor leadership challenge after 'abysmal' regional result"), representing, as he does, an electorate where the coal miners may still outnumber the latte-sippers.

Either way, it's a split the Coalition government will be only too happy to keep on exploiting, if a fix can't be found.



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

This story Joel Fitzgibbon: architect of ALP anarchy or flying a kite with knowledge of the back room? first appeared on Newcastle Herald.

MAY 21 2019 - 9:30AM

Federal election 2019: Joel Fitzgibbon considers Labor leadership challenge after 'abysmal' regional result



Michael Parris

Hunter MP Joel Fitzgibbon says he could run for Labor leader if none of the candidates commit to more centrist policies and a greater focus on regional Australia.

Mr Fitzgibbon, who suffered a 10 per cent swing against him in the formerly safe Labor seat, told the *Newcastle Herald* on Monday morning that the party's impending leadership contest was a "once in a generation opportunity to shift back to the sensible centre".

Prominent frontbencher Anthony Albanese has declared he will nominate to take over from Bill Shorten after Labor's shock election defeat on Saturday.

Deputy leader Tanya Plibersek pulled out of the race on Monday, but treasury spokesman Chris Bowen, environment spokesman Tony Burke and shadow defence minister Richard Marles are possible candidates.

Mr Fitzgibbon, a leading light in Labor's right faction, said he would talk to each of the candidates and seek a commitment to return the party

to the centre of politics after a campaign promoting a "progressive" agenda.

"We need to re-engage with our blue-collar base and put more focus on regional and rural Australia. Our performance in the regions was abysmal," he said.

Hawke, Paul Keating and Kevin Rudd had won by "sticking to the centre".

Former Liberal leader John Hewson echoed that sentiment when he told ABC radio on Sunday that Australia's main parties continued to forget that the electorate did not vote "left

We need to put more focus on regional and rural Australia. Our performance in the regions was abysmal.

Joel Fitzgibbon

"If no candidate commits to those things, I may have to consider running myself."

Mr Fitzgibbon, the shadow agriculture minister and a former defence minister in the Rudd government, told the *Herald* on Saturday night that he backed Labor's election strategy.

"I don't believe we could have or should have done anything different. It just appears to me like the electorate wasn't quite ready for that progressive approach, and the result is very obvious tonight."

He said on Monday that former Labor prime ministers Bob

fell from 12.5 to just 2.5 per cent after what he termed a climate change "scare campaign" by One Nation and the Nationals.

One Nation's Hunter candidate, mine worker Stuart Bonds, secured almost 22 per cent of the primary vote, making him the right-wing party's most successful performer in Australia. Mr Bonds successfully exploited mine workers' dissatisfaction with Labor's plans to transition the economy away from reliance on fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy.

His most successful polling booth results were in traditional mining areas.

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

Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 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 LXTRF9 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: Collectable rabbit traps from \$10 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 >

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

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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.

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

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

17 October 2020
"THE ROCK SHOW - OZ EDITION"
Featuring the TRILOGY OF ROCK band and STEVE MULRY (Ted Mulry Gang)
21 January 2021
"The Gruffalo's Child"
Adapted from the award-winning picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Published by Macmillan Children's Books.
5 March 2021
"Johnny Cash THE CONCERT"
Back to San Quentin
Featuring the great moments of Johnny Cash's seminal *At San Quentin* album.

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.

Daily Thoughts ...

"Now that I'm here, where am I?" Janis Joplin "Did you ever walk in a room and forget why you walked in? I think that's how dogs spend their lives." Sue Murphy. If you cannot convince them, confuse them. Anon Marriages are made in heaven. But then again, so are thunder and lightning! Anon "I can't say I was ever lost, but I was bewildered once for three days." Daniel Boone

Work starts on traffic improvements

Work is about to begin on the second stage of traffic improvements to relieve congestion at the New England Highway, Church Street and Cessnock Road roundabout in Maitland.

“The NSW Government is investing \$4.9 million this financial year to improve traffic flow and reduce travel times on the highway,” Catherine Cusack, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter said this week. “The New England Highway is a vital thoroughfare for the Hunter region, with 40,000 motorists passing through this intersection every day.” “The first stage of improvements in October has reduced queueing during peak periods, and we’re excited to



be moving forward to the next stage of works which is expected to see westbound delay times reduced by about 80 per cent. “This project won’t just cut congestion, it will also provide work for about 10 local contractors and suppliers, supporting about 90 local jobs in total.” The second stage will start on Sunday, 23 August and involves installing traffic lights on Church Street, modifying the roundabout layout and widening Cessnock Road. The traffic lights will be triggered by queue detectors, and operate during busy times to help manage traffic flows. Work also involves providing two through

lanes from Church Street to Cessnock Road, two right-turn lanes into Cessnock Road for eastbound highway traffic and extending the dual southbound lanes on Cessnock Road to Fishery Creek Bridge. Work will be carried out between 7pm and 5am from Sunday to Thursday, and is expected to take five months to complete, weather permitting. Lane closures and a 40km/h speed limit will be in place during work hours for the safety of workers and road users, with motorists advised to drive to the conditions and to follow the directions of signs and traffic control. Transport for NSW will continue to progress plans to potentially further extend the two southbound lanes on Church Street over the rail bridge, with a community update coming soon. For more information on the project please visit nswroads.work/maitland.

Daily Thoughts

But I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, his greatest fulfillment of all he holds dear, is the moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle - victorious. -- Vince Lombardi
When in doubt, punt! -- John Heisman
If you train hard, you'll not only be hard, you'll be hard to beat. -- Herschel Walker



GIVE US A BREAK

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School News



Branxton Public School

PBL Assemblies were held last week and the recordings are on Facebook. It is great to see so many students receiving awards, and although parents aren't permitted at assemblies, we know how proud they are of the students. It is comforting to know that our expectations of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best remain a strong feature within our school community.

Our Reward activities this time were chosen by each stage. Student voice has been encouraged and heard! Each class or stage voted for what they wanted their reward to be, so we had some students participating in sport, art or just spending time playing games with their friends in their classrooms. A great place to be on a very windy Friday!

COVID restrictions will continue in schools for the foreseeable future and there were important updates shared by Mrs Blakemore last week. Please continue to check SkoolBag regularly to stay informed.

Mr Tattis has been coordinating the debating. Debating of the virtual kind, of course. The Greater Debaters (BPS girl team) defeated Take de Bait (BPS boy team) in their first round with the topic "All tests should be banned." Both teams will compete in the next round against Rutherford PS via Zoom. Good luck debaters.

Kinder Orientation will be quite different this year, but we still encourage you to phone the school on 49381214 if you have a little person ready and eager for school next year. We are looking forward to getting to know our students for 2021 and their families.

Photo at right: Stage 1 PBL Assembly

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



Hunter drivers urged to get their hand off it



Michael Johnsen MP, Member for Upper Hunter has reminded Hunter drivers to get their hand off their mobile phones to save

lives and money. Since March 1 2020, mobile phone detection cameras have checked 169,627 vehicles within the

Hunter Valley area. This resulted in 462 penalty notices being issued. Around one in every 367 drivers checked in the

Hunter Valley area during this period (1 March to 31 July 2020) were issued a penalty notice, an offence rate of 0.27 per cent.

Hunter Valley Area is based on the following local government areas:

- Cessnock City Council
- Dungog Shire Council
- Maitland City Council
- Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Port Stephens Council
- Singleton Shire Council
- Upper Hunter Shire Council

"While the number of drivers booked are relatively low, its costs drivers \$349, or \$464 if detected in a school zone and five demerit points, or ten demerit points during double demerit periods. "More importantly, it's a distraction we don't

need and it will save lives if we simply keep our hands off it. Your family will appreciate you and so will the families of others involve in crashes caused by inattention", Mr. Johnsen said.

"In NSW, the law allows fully licensed drivers to talk on a phone 'hands-free' – which means where the phone is mounted on an approved fixed cradle or where hands-free technology such as Blue-Tooth is used, but many people can't resist text messaging, and this is

where the danger lies. "Restricted licences holders including learner, P1 and P2 drivers and riders are not permitted to use their phone at all while driving or riding. This includes use of hands-free and Bluetooth functions. "Illegal mobile phone use

will result in heavy penalties including demerit points and fines, which could mean the loss of your licence," concluded Johnsen.

(Tip: Avoid temptation and keep your phone in your bag or glovebox)

I thought you would want to know about this



e-mail virus. Even the most advanced programs from Norton or McAfee cannot take care of this one. It appears to affect those who were born prior to 1960.

Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice. *done that!*
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail *!that too!*
3. Causes you to send e-mail to the wrong person. *yep!*
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you. *Aha!*
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment. *well darn!*
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished. *Oh, no - not again!*
7. Causes you to hit "DELETE" instead of "SEND." and I just hate that!
8. Causes you to hit "SEND" when you should "DELETE." *Oh No!*

IT IS CALLED THE "C-NILE VIRUS."

Hmmm.....

Have I sent this to you already?

~ Quotable Quotes ~

"It is now proved beyond doubt that smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics." Fletcher Knebel

"Conversation is the enemy of good wine and food." Alfred Hitchcock

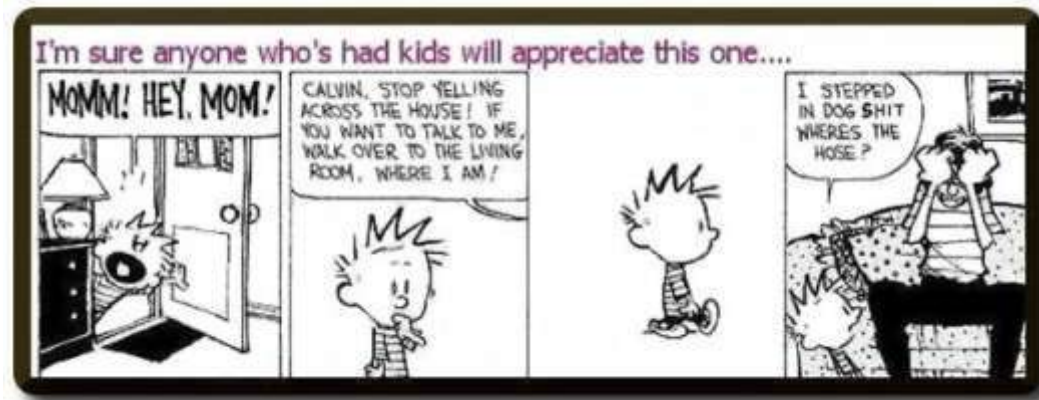
"Honesty pays, but it don't seem to pay enough to suit some people." Kin Hubbard

"I'm way overdue for a promotion. I've made so many lateral moves, I'm beside myself." Gary Apple

"Half of the world's misery comes from ignorance. The other half comes from intelligence." Bonar Thompson

"Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect." Benny Hill

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Anne Frank



WANTED

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P: 4938 3300

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton
Recent sales

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



Puppy scams spike during coronavirus lockdown, reports ACCC

COVID-19 has been a hot bed for fraudulent activity with scammers targeting those in search of a furry companion. Here's how to not get duped.

By Jessica Wang



French bulldogs are another breed used by scammers. Picture: Zak Simmonds/News Regional Media. Source: News Corp Australia

Winter Grass in Lawns



cylinder mower. The weed can become a real problem over time as the many generations create more and more root systems, which will keep filling the soil like spiders' webs. The root systems are very intensive and will eventually fill the soil and

choke out the lawn's own root system.

How to kill Winter Grass

The herbicide for Winter Grass is the most unique amongst most other herbicides. This is because it acts on the root system of Winter Grass rather than on the leaf system like other poisons.

Winter Grass poison can be bought in a concentrated form in a small bottle, usually for less than \$20. It

is then mixed with water in a spray bottle and sprayed onto the lawn as per manufacturer's instructions. Because this herbicide works on the root system, it must be watered immediately into the lawn after application. One of the most important factors in controlling Winter Grass is to treat it as early as possible in its lifecycle. The more Winter Grass matures, the more difficult it is to kill, and it can often resist weed sprays. The other reason to treat this weed early is to kill it off before it has a chance to produce a new generation of weed seeds, which will only create more Winter Grass in the years to come.

Expect to treat Winter Grass for a few years running, as the seed banks will take some time to deplete their stocks in the soil.

Pre-Emergent control of Winter Grass

Winter grass needs to be treated as early in its life cycle as possible, in fact the best time to treat Winter Grass is before it is even seen. This is when the Winter Grass seeds have germinated in the soil but have yet to emerge into the lawns surface.

This may seem like a tricky act, but it really is very easy. If you have had Winter Grass in your lawns in previous years, then you will most certainly have it this year. So, if Winter Grass is expected, you simply apply the Winter Grass poison, knowing that the weed has already germinated within the soil.

While the coronavirus lockdown may have been responsible for a surge in pet adoptions, it's also created a spike in 'puppy scams', says the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACC).

The trade authority says Australians have lost nearly \$300,000 to puppy scams in 2020, with spikes in April almost five times higher than average. In comparison, the entire year of 2019 only saw \$360,000 lost in similar scams.

Puppy 'panic buyers' seeking a pet during social isolation were especially targeted by scammers and the breeds most reported were Cavoodles and French Bulldogs.

"A lot of people are stuck at home and going online to buy a pet to help them get through the loneliness of social isolation," says ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard.

"Unfortunately the rush to get a new pet and the unusual circumstances of COVID-19 makes it harder to work out what's real or a scam."

According to Ms Rickard, fake websites, ads on online classifieds and social media

are the most common methods used by scammers to lure puppy buyers.

They're then asked to make upfront payments via money transfer to secure the sale of their pet, with some scammers also using COVID-related reasons to further increase prices.

"Once you have paid the initial deposit, the scammer will find new ways to ask for more money, and scammers are now using the COVID-19 pandemic to claim higher transportation costs to get across closed interstate borders or additional fees for 'coronavirus treatments'," she says.

"Unfortunately once you make the payments, the

seller will cease all contact."

For pet enthusiasts eager to add a furry member to their household, the safest option is to only adopt or buy from a seller you can meet in person, as "scam websites can look quite convincing". Price can also be a giveaway.

"If the price looks too good to be true, it probably is," she advises.

"Research the seller by running an internet search using the exact wording in the ad and do a reverse image search for pictures of the specific puppy, as you're likely to be dealing with a scammer if you find matching images or text on multiple websites," Ms Rickard said.

While puppy scams are a particularly malicious ploy to dupe families and individuals after a furry companion, COVID-19 has become a hot bed for fraudulent activity.

Scamwatch – a website run by the ACC – reports they received over 2000 coronavirus-related scam reports with over \$700,000 in reported loss since the outbreak of the virus. Fake government scams involving welfare benefits and superannuation and phishing scams for personal information are among the most common ploys. "If you think you have been scammed, contact your bank or financial institution as soon as possible," advises Ms Rickard.

Vets see 50 per cent spike in pet injuries because owners are walking them more during pandemic

Australian pets are being taken to the vet with more injuries since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Ellen Ransley

Australia's pets — particularly dogs — are visiting the vet twice as much during the COVID-19 pandemic as they were before.

Veterinarians are seeing an increase in musculoskeletal injuries such as torn cruciate ligaments in dogs, consistent with over-exercising. Dr Sam Jones from My Local Vet in Alexandra Hills in Brisbane's southeast said it appeared business had increased significantly at veterinary practices around the country.

"There has been a 50 per cent increase in patients at veterinary practices across Australia," Dr Jones said.

"Personally, I have my own theory: people have been working from home and they have more time with their pet, so they're probably more inclined to exercise and be outdoors because there is a bit more flexibility.

"And when restrictions were strongly enforced (in Queensland) people potentially had more disposable income, so they were more inclined to get their pets checked out." But he warned there was a danger of owners spending more time with their pets, with an increase in injuries relating to extra exercising. "Now that restrictions are easing people are out and about more exercising with their pets," Dr Jones said. "But we are seeing an increase in the number of musculoskeletal injuries from exercise and an increase in dogs with trauma to their nails and paw pads."

He suggested another reason for the uptake in vet presentations could be that more people had bought or adopted a "fur baby" in the last few months.

"We saw a huge demand for rescue pets and people going out and buying more pets (during the pandemic) because people felt they

could have one and give them the time they deserve while they were working from home," he said.

While exercise is important for pets, Dr Jones warned owners to be wary of the side effects of potential over-exercising.

"We know you can kill a dog if you exercise it too much on a hot day, but heat comes with the territory," he said.

"The other thing is if you're going to increase your level of activity, it's like in humans you are going to need to factor in physio because of injuries, the same needs to be done with dogs.

"Dogs don't really think about whether or not they should continue to jump around if they have horrendous injuries, they're just living their best lives ... dogs will push through pain and not show it.

"We rely on owners being aware of changes in behaviour, and if you are exercising your pet more,

they will need more regular checks."

So how much exercise should your dog be getting a day?

"If you can exercise your dog 20-30 minutes twice a day that will provide a level of exercise to encourage fitness," Dr Jones said.

"Just as importantly, that provides stimulation they need to enrich their lives, which is so important."

For those considering bringing a new pet into their family home, Dr Jones urges two "major things" be considered.

"You need to be aware of what is your necessary commitment to this pet to provide a good quality of life," he said.

"You also need to consider what is your financial commitment to make sure this pet has adequate medical care."

Originally published as *The surprise casualties of COVID-19*

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SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 13-8-20 Stableford

“Guy Cornwell Memorial Trophy”
 Div 1/Trophy Winner M Barrett 31 pts(SOD)(c/b)
 R/u T Seamer pts 3rd
 D Kinch 27 pts
 Div 2 Winner Winner G Scobie 31 pts R/u J Flynn 29 pts 3rd B Wallis 28 pts
 Ladies Div Winner R Friis 23 pts R/u C Caldwell 22 pts
 3rd J Scobie 21 pts
 NTP Ladies J Scobie
 Gents G Scobie
 Raffle prize recipients as posted a Pro Shop
 Members draw - Won (W Smith)

International “Lefties” Day and a glorious Winter’s day set the scene for to-day’s successful event, held at the “Ultimate 9” Golf course, Branxton. Over 50 players gathered for the challenge, hoping they would be the one to hold the Trophy high. Congratulations to Mick Barrett on winning the Trophy and achieving the “Score of the Day”. Well done to all other winners and place getters. The Committee wishes to thank all who participated, assisting in the success of to-day’ event.

Results 20-8-20 Stableford

Div 1 Winner M Barrett 30 pts R/u M Carling 29 pts (c/b) 3rd T Seamer 29 pts
 Div 2 Winner G Beeton 30 pts (SOD) (c/b)
 R/u P Lancaster 28 pts
 3rd R Chalmers 27 pts
 Ladies Div Winner R Friis 26 pts R/u N Busch 23 pts
 3rd R McCarthy 22 pts
 NTP Ladies R Friis
 Gents R McMillan
 Raffle prize recipients as posted at Pro Shop
 Members draw - Not won
 A fine wintery day with gusty westerly winds (well it is August), set the scene for to-day’s event, 53 players assembled for the contest. Congratulations to Mick Barrett on winning his division for the third time in a row, achieving a ‘Hat Trick’. Congratulations to Gary Beeton in getting the “Score of the Day”. Well done to all other winners and place getters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec Branxton Lady Golfers 22nd July 2020 – Monthly Medal

Winner: Trish McMillan with 73 nett
 Runner-up: Jan Scobie with 74 nett
 Putting comp: Trish McMillan with 34 putts
 29th July 2020 – Stableford
 Winner: Jan Scobie with 25 points on c/b
 Runner-up: Trish McMillan with 25 points
 5th August 2020 – Monthly Medal
 Winner: Kerrie O’Connell with 78 nett
 Runner-up: Trish McMillan

with 82 nett
 Putting Comp: Jan Scobie with 28 putts
 Kerrie O’Connell with 32 putts

12th August 2020 Stableford

Winner: Neridah Busch with 27 points
 Runner-up: Ruth McCarthy with 26 points
 19th August 2020 - PAR
 Winner: Trish McMillan +2
 Runner-up:
 Diane Williams with -1

Branxton Golf Club Sat Comp Saturday, 15 August 2020 MEN’S FOURSOMES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Field: 52
 SCRATCH WINNER- SCAMERON JOHANSON/
 MICHAEL SIMPSON 75
 SCRATCH RUNNERS
 UPLEE HEUSTON/
 ANTHONY BENTLEY 78
 NETT WINNERS
 STEPHEN ROSS/ YOUNG
 KWON 71 NETT
 NETT RUNNERS UP
 ROBERT HALE/
 RICHARD TURNBULL 72
 NETT
 NETT 3RD PLACE PETER
 WILTON/ PAUL BUSH
 72.5 NETT C/B
 NETT 4TH PLACE GARY
 WILTON/ EDWARD
 BARRETT 72.5 NETT
 NETT 5TH PLACE
 CHRIS ZAWIRSKI/ TED
 ZAWIRSKI 73 NETT
 N.T.P’S
 A GRADE STEVE ROSS
 B GRADE NEIL BRIDGE
 C GRADE MICHAEL
 CARLING

Balls EVERYONE WHO DIDN’T WIN A VOUCHER GETS A BALL
 52 players braved the windy, damp conditions in the “Don’t say Sorry” competition, better known as the Foursomes Championships. Two -time Club Champion, Cameron Johanson teamed up with Michael Simpson, a low marker himself, to win the title with a scratch score of 75, 3 shots clear of Lee Heuston and Anthony Bentley. Michael celebrated his 28th birthday on Saturday, topping off a great day. Club Captain, Steve Ross, teamed with Young Kwon to win the nett prize with a nett 71 just ahead of Robert Hale and Richard Turnbull with their 72. Peter Wilton and Paul Bush were third with their 72.5 nett on a countback from the impressive veteran pair of Gary Wilton and Eddie Barrett who consistently showed how the short game can be played. Chris and Ted Zawirski finished 5th with their 73 nett. Everyone

else won a ball. The best story of the day belonged to the nett winners with Steve Ross hitting a magnificent shot to the last, only 3 feet away, winning the NTPin and his playing partner, Young Kwon, handing the pressure beautifully by sinking the putt which ultimately won them the nett prize. Club Pro Marcus was quite chuffed as Steve is a graduate from his house of tuition—and Steve is a left hander so nothing can phase our club professional!

Branxton Golf Club Saturday, 22 August 2020 SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 44
 Grades A David Kinch 36
 Grades A Greg Gillard 34
 Grades A Chris Zawirski 32
 Grades B Joseph Bereza 35
 Grades B Noel Hughes 33
 Grades B Reece Caldwell 32
 Grades C Ted Zawirski 38
 Grades C Darrell Fletcher 37
 Grades C Terry Partridge 36
 N.T.P’S
 A GRADE G TEARLE
 B GRADE N JORDAN
 C GRADE R TURNBULL
 44 players braved the extremely windy conditions with wind gusts up to 50 km/hr at Branxton Golf Course last Saturday.

To complicate the conditions the greens were cored during the week so scoring was very difficult all day. Dave Kinch showed how it is done once again in winning A Grade with a very solid 36 pts, two points clear of Greg Gillard with Chris Zawirski’s 32 pts good enough for third place. Joe Bereza won B Grade with a very creditable 35 pts, also 2 points clear of Noel Hughes with Reece Caldwell third with his 32 pts. The day’s best stableford score was recorded in C Grade with local veteran Ted Zawirski victorious with an excellent 38 pts, just ahead of Darrell Fletcher’s 37 pts, one of only two players to break their handicap for the day, with Terry Partridge third with a sound 36 pts. The difficult conditions are reflected with only 29 pts needed to win a ball—only 13 players achieved this goal meaning there were some incredible scores recorded on the day.

As mentioned earlier, the greens were cored during the week, an important task at this time of the year—our sincere thanks go to all the volunteers who carried out this job—it won’t be long before the greens are in pristine condition.

Heavenly Harrington Produces Good Bags of Fish

The 21st-23rd August Harrington Fishing Club weekend away was once again a highlight of the calendar for the 2020 Greta Workers Club Fishing Club. A total of 67.17kg of fish were weighed in. One good thing about the Club is that no fish goes to waste and if you are ever looking for a feed come down to the weigh in’s and there is often fishermen and women happy to give away some freshly caught fish.

The overall winner of the weekend in points was the reining fishing club winner Troy Field who fished the beach and offshore. He weighed in 7 Bream, 3 Snapper, 1 Morwong and a Goatfish (105.9 points). Closest to him was the three stooges- Larry Timmins (96.1), Mick “Mouse” Edwards (92.7 points) and his usual sidekick Jeff “How ya going now” Nevin (91 points).

The President of the Club Larry only weighed in 4 fish but the Quality were gold star. Larry now holds the highest Pearl Perch and Snapper records for 2020 after his 1.8 and 3.31 kg trophy fish (The Snapper Pictured below).

Other catches to mention were Lewis Jacobs who landed a Kingfish off the wall on a soft plastic, Mick Edwards with two big Salmon weighing 4.3kg total, and Dominic Platts 0.71kg Bream (Pictured below).

The Committee are very pleased to see the amount on juniors weighing in. Seeing the young ones line up to weigh their fish in is Secretary



Steve Nevins highlight of the month. This month Cohen Miller-Spliet (2 Squire, 1 Goatfish, 1 Flathead), Kye Barnes (1 Flathead), Dominic Platt (1 Bream, 1 Trevally), Lewis Jacobs (1 Kingfish, 1 Morwong), Ruby Nevin (1 Bream), and Tyson Nevin (3 Flathead, 1 Squire) all weighed in for the juniors.

Do you REMEMBER when....

THE NEWS Issue No 100 11th Oct 2001 P. 38

Julian Bailey misses grand final

I was terribly disappointed that I missed the first half of the rugby league grand final last Sunday week. I had to attend an official function that was supposed to stop for the grand final but didn’t quite get its timing right. I was just another casualty of an evening grand final but imagine how

Knights first grader & recent Branxton boy Julian Bailey (he was born & bred in Singleton) felt when he saw his team take the premiership.

Julian had played all but two first grade games for the Knights in the season proper before fate dealt its unkindest blow when he badly fractured his arm in the second last round. The break required surgery with its legacy of two surgical plates & twelve screws. “They won’t be coming out until January next year &

that’s if all goes well. Unfortunately when I broke it, it also fragmented the bone”, Julian said.

Both he and Darren Albert were in the same boat but both will be receiving a Grand Final Premiers Ring. “I’m not too sure if it is NRL sanctioned but Michael Hagan said we are to receive one each,” he said. Even though he didn’t play Julian left Newcastle on the team bus on the Saturday & returned on the team bus on Sunday night ~ make that Monday morning. “I

couldn’t believe the number of people who waited at Marathon Oval for the bus to return; it was the most amazing thing to see. The parade in Newcastle on the Wednesday was also something to behold”, Julian said.

Julian has two years left under his current contract & hopes that injuries are behind him. “Unfortunately it’s all part and parcel of the game”, he said.

Preseason training commences on the 12th November with no traditional ‘end of season trip’. “There are a lot in the team who are married & a trip away is probably the last thing on their minds as it’s a very long season”, Julian said.

We wish Julian all the best for the coming two years with the Knights & hope they can quinnella the premiership next year.

Photo at left: Julian Bailey in action for ‘The Knights’ early in the season. Julian played first grade from the second round until the second last round when he fractured his arm. He was disappointed that he missed the Grand Final but was philosophical when he said ‘injury is part & parcel of the game’.



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Clayton Barr MP delivers the goods.

~ A **BIG** 'Thank you' from Branxton Greta Little Athletics ~

A very informal but very much anticipated 'hand-over' was held at Miller Park last week.

Branxton Greta Little Athletics received a new 'ride-on' mower courtesy of the state government, under 'The Community Building Partnership Program', through their local state member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP.

"The program awards grant funding to invest in infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes, while promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion. It is

always great to see funding being injected into our community and that local groups are able to purchase necessary equipment," said Clayton.

Across the Electorate of Cessnock 21 projects received a total of \$300,000 in grant funding under the 2019 Community Building Partnerships Program including Branxton Tennis Club, Cessnock City Hornets Football Club and West Wallsend Amateur Soccer Club.

"Our current mower had done a considerable amount of work and was on its last legs. The new mower, coming into a new athletics

season, couldn't have come at a better time," said Club President Daniel Webber. Branxton Greta Little Athletics has seen major growth over the last couple of years under the stewardship of Daniel and a very robust and hard working committee structure. "We had another problem; with the growth of the club and the necessary purchase of new equipment we had run out of storage space," said Daniel.

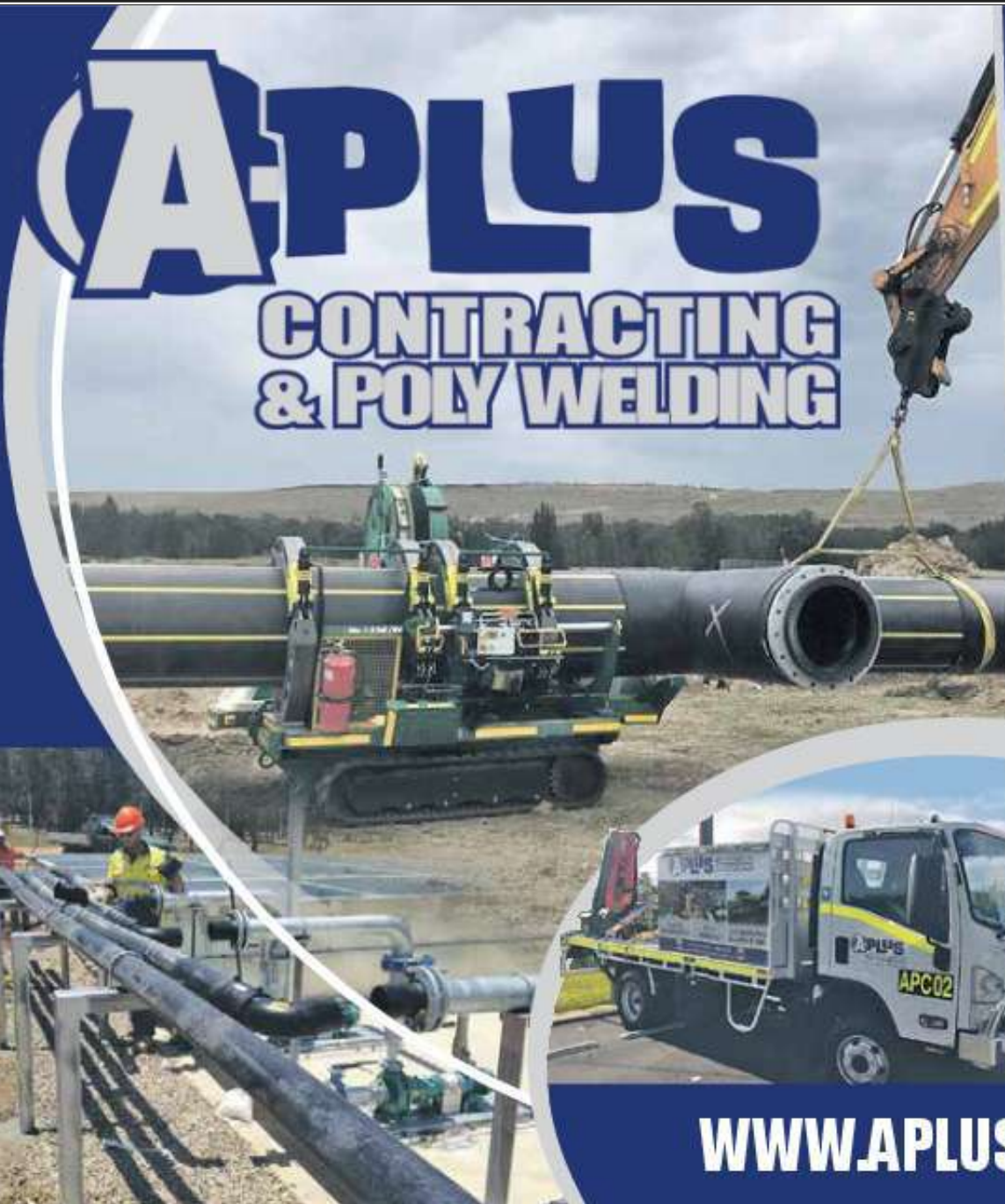
"Thankfully Clayton (Barr) has solved our problem, once again, by being instrumental in securing a state grant of \$98,000 to extend our storage facility.

"The new facility, we hope, will be in-situ by the end of this year," said Daniel.

The club committee will meet in a couple of weeks to decide on how they can go forward under the present Covid-19 pandemic. "We are hopeful that within the next couple of weeks the situation will be much clearer and we would hope that the club will be able to operate in a reasonable fashion. "Our young athletes are as keen as mustard to get up and running, excuse the pun, and for the club to be able to function in the current environment it would be just fantastic.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed that it will eventuate," said Daniel.

Photo: Clayton Barr MP hands the keys for the new \$9,800 ride-on mower to Branxton Greta Little Athletics President Daniel Webber



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