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# The News

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THURSDAY 8  
OCTOBER 2020

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**Dr Chaitali Biswas** MBBS, AMC  
**Dr Jwan Roomi** MBBS

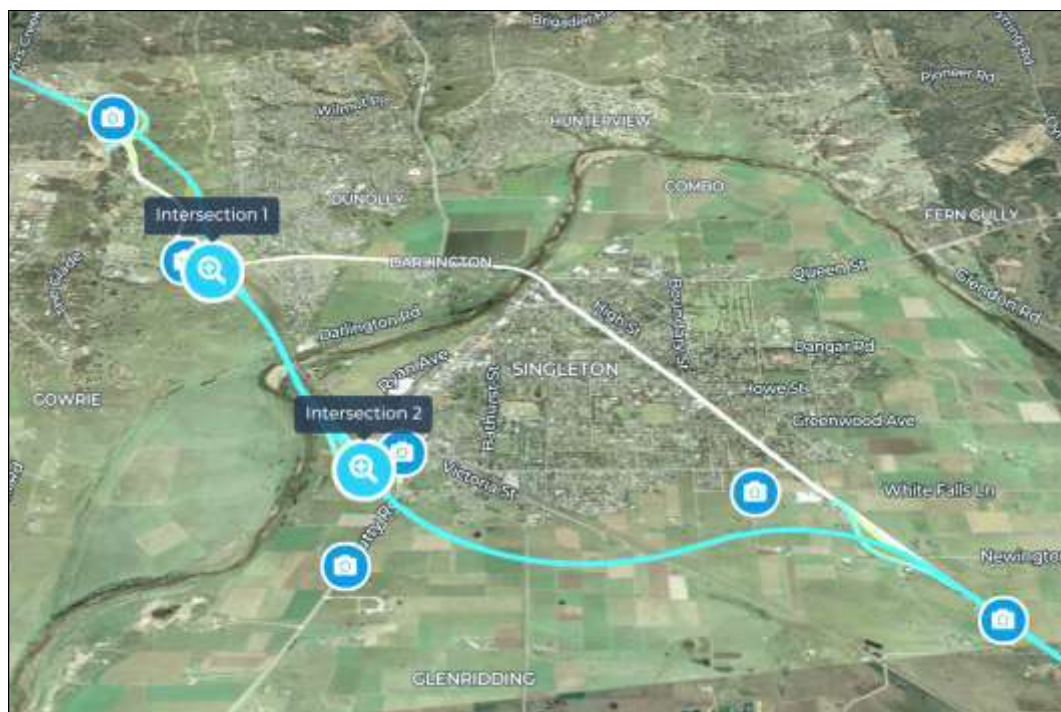
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## Singleton 'bypass' not 'bypassed'



**THE federal budget has given the go-ahead for the much needed Singleton Bypass.** It forms part of the federal governments \$7.5billion infrastructure stimulus package announced last Tuesday in the

federal budget. The project is expected to support 1370 direct and indirect jobs, it is due to start in mid 2023 and be finished by late 2026. Apart from the Federal Government's commitment of

\$560 million to the project the New South Wales Government will contribute \$140 million to almost fully fund the works. The bypass will improve traffic flow, travel times and safety through Singleton town centre by reducing traffic including heavy freight. The New England Highway currently carries around 26,000 vehicles, including more than 3,700 heavy vehicles, through the centre of Singleton each day. Singleton Mayor Sue Moore said that it is fantastic news. "It has long been recognised that a partnership between the Federal and State governments was required to deliver the Singleton bypass, and the \$560m to be allocated in the Federal Budget is a significant step forward to realising this vital piece of infrastructure.

CONT PAGE 3

# PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY

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www.piggottsparmacy.com.au

# coles

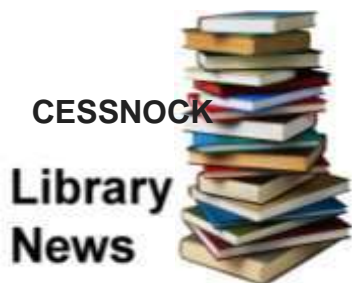
## Huntlee

**NOW OPEN**  
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# Lift-off at Cessnock Library!



**Cessnock City Library recently installed a new lift at the rear entrance to Cessnock Library and is pleased to let the community know that it's now operational and ready for use.**

This project was made possible with a \$200,000 Public Library Infrastructure Grant secured by Cessnock City Library, with Cessnock City Council partnering in the project to administer the grant and provide additional funds. The project has seen the old

stairs removed and a new lift, concrete stairs and automatic doors installed. Library Services Coordinator, Rose-marie Walters said this is a wonderful addition to Cessnock Library. "The majority of parking is to the rear of the library and the new amenities will provide easier access into Cessnock Library, particularly for seniors, people with a disability and families with young children," said Rose-marie. The Public Library

Infrastructure Grants are for projects that will assist NSW Councils to improve public library infrastructure, including buildings and information technology systems. The grants are administered by Library Council of NSW, on behalf of the NSW Government. • Photo above: (from left) Rose-marie Walters (Library Services Co-ordinator), Natalie Drage (Community and Cultural Engagement Manager), Lotta Jackson (General Manager, Cessnock City Council), and Cessnock City Mayor, Cr Bob Pynsent.

## Greta memorial completed



**Work on building a monument at Greta Camp has finally been completed 60 years after the camp closed.** The monument honours the 60,000 soldiers and 100,000 migrants who passed through Greta Camp between 1939 and 1960. Greta Tidy Towns Committee joined forces with Alek Schulha to take their long held dreams for a monument to Cessnock City Council for consideration for which they agreed. The construction costs of the monument was funded jointly, dollar for dollar, between the Greta Tidy Towns Committee and Cessnock City Council.



### PUBLIC EXHIBITION REMOVAL OF TOURISM FEES

At the Ordinary Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 16 September 2020, Council endorsed the creation of a tourism service agreement between Council and the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association that represents the interests of tourism operators in the Hunter Valley.

Council and Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association will offer one tiered membership to tourism operators with the fees administered by the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association.

To allow the creation of a joint tourism service between Council and the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association the following tourism fees are proposed to be removed:

- Fee For Service – Silver Deal
- Fee For Service – Gold Deal
- Fee for Service – Diamond Deal
- Fee for Service for Community – Not for Profit
- Visitor Guide and Map listing
- Fee For Service – Additional Brochure
- Early bird incentives
- Sequential Fee For Service: Multi packages
- Accommodation and Activity Bookings Commission

Current 2020/2021 Council Fees and Charges can be viewed at <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Forms-and-documents/Finance-budget>

**The public exhibition period will be from Monday 28 September 2020 to Monday 26 October 2020.**

Further information can be found at Council's "Have your say" webpage [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until **5.00pm Monday 28 October 2020** via email [council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post.

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Economic Development and Tourism Manager, Tony Chadwick on 4993 6720 or email [council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

[www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)
62-78 Vincent St, Cessnock
02 4993 4100

## REFLECTIONS

I wonder how we would respond if it were our presence that was requested at the wedding banquet for the king's son? Each of us is going about our own lives and then suddenly our presence is requested, because the ones who would normally be invited have not shown up or answered the invitation with their presence. We might choose to feel that we are less important because we were not on the original guest list, or we can choose to find the gift in this invitation. There is a party planned, and whether we are first, second or last to be invited, we are indeed invited. So, will we accept the invitation, or will we ignore it? There are responsibilities for those who accept the invitation. Like the guests at the wedding banquet who wear a wedding robe, which is supplied by the king, our acceptance of our place as children of God requires that our faith is evident in our lives. If not, we become like the guest who disrespected the king's son by not wearing a wedding robe. How we live our lives shows the depth of faith that we have. It is one thing to do all the right things when others are watching but it is equally important to live our faith in private. We are to celebrate life and love and faith. We are to join the party and share the joy of God who calls us to Himself. We are to worship God and give thanks for all that He is doing in our lives. Placing our trust in God, believing that there is nothing that we can face that God has not faced and knowing that God will be with us through the good and bad times, enables us to keep the faith regardless of our situation. It also enables us to journey with our neighbours and friends, meeting them where they are on the journey of life and faith. It is the things that we have in common that helps us to understand others and our faith gives us the strength and courage to reach out to others and to share the joy we experience. An invitation is extended to all who wish to come to the party and to know the love of God. What will be your answer?

*Will you come to the party?*  
Matthew 22.1-14



Blessings, Reverend Nicole

He said it.....  
'This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing Government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it'.  
Abraham Lincoln

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[www.cessnock.toastmastersclubs.org](http://www.cessnock.toastmastersclubs.org)

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# Singleton 'bypass' not 'bypassed'

"Our focus now will be on working with the NSW Government to commit to bridging the funding gap of about \$45 million. "But most importantly, we will be stepping up our efforts to ensure the project is built in keeping with the needs of our community and the people who regularly drive through our local government area. We need to make sure the bypass is built right now, not as a stop-gap measure that will require further attention 20 years' down the track. "Our community deserves a full interchange at Putty Road and John Street to make it easy for everyone to visit our Town Centre and get on their way again, and it needs to be dual lane for the entire length. "The people of Singleton are already facing a range of economic, social and environmental challenges compounded by industry change, and we need all levels of government to build infrastructure that will help us to overcome, and most importantly thrive, into the future. "I am pursuing meetings with the relevant State ministers as a matter of urgency to discuss these issues, and in light of the impending Budget announcement will be very keen to see a resolution and construction sooner rather than later," said Sue. Member for the Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon MP said the Coalition's support for the much-needed bypass road had come five years after the NSW state government committed \$95 million to the project and construction would not begin until 2023. "I'm pleased the Federal Government has committed to the Singleton Bypass, which is something I've been calling on for several years. It's important that federal funding of regional infrastructure is made on the merits of a project, and I have argued that the Singleton Bypass has always stood-up on merit." "The Bypass will improve amenity and congestion within Singleton, improve the efficiency of the New England corridor for business and industry, and get our coal mining employees to work more quickly and more safely," said Joel. The State Member for Upper Hunter, Michael Johnsen, said that he had been pushing the NSW Government and the Federal Government to get the job done. "The Nationals in Government have committed NSW's 20 per cent share of the funding in 2015, and I am delighted that after years of lobbying and of communicating the wishes of my Singleton community, we now have secured the Federal Government's 80 per cent share of the funding to complete the bypass," said Michael. "The NSW Government has committed \$92 million towards the Singleton bypass under Rebuilding NSW and allocated \$2.7 million in 2019-20 to continue development of the project." "Transport for NSW has over the last couple of years worked hard to decide the route and the bypass design, and just as the Nationals in Government promised and delivered the Scone Bypass, we are delivering on our promise of the Singleton Bypass," Mr Johnsen concluded.

# Young people encouraged to make their voice heard through YES.

**Cessnock City Council wants to hear from young people about the issues important to them as they develop the Youth Engagement Strategy (YES). The YES is designed to provide young people in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) with a platform to have their voices heard about issues important to them.**

It's an initiative of Council's Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) and is aimed at young people aged 12 to 25 who are living, working or studying across the Cessnock LGA. Young people can get involved by doing an online survey or through online discussion panels during October and November. 'Pop-up' consultations are also planned a local High Schools across, where students will be encouraged to respond to a series of questions.

Participants can also get creative by submitting a photo, video, drawing, painting, short story, song or poem via email that represents the theme "Your Voice, Your Community".

Similarly, they can take a photo and post to Instagram using the hashtag #2325Mayorforaday to show what changes they would make to their community if they were crowned 'Mayor for the Day'. A range of prizes, vouchers and experiences are on offer for the most creative entries.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent, said it's vital young people have a voice in determining the future of their community.

"This is an opportunity for young people to be a part of the conversation around issues and events that directly affect them. It will help Council better understand their needs and make decisions based on what they tell us is important."



CYCOS Youth Ambassadors 2020

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# PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY

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ask Piggotts!

## PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY BRANXTON WELCOMES A SISTER STORE TO TOWN!



MEET YOUR BRANXTON PHARMACIST  
**Tanya**

Piggott's Pharmacy Huntlee is now offering the same great caring service while also expanding professional facilities to include;

- ♥ Ultra-Lite Ketogenic Weight Loss Program ♥
- ♥ Sleep Apnoea Support ♥ La Belle Ruby Beauty Therapy ♥
- ♥ Home Medication Reviews ♥
- ♥ National Diabetes Service Scheme ♥
- ♥ Blood Pressure Monitoring ♥ Compounding Medication ♥
- ♥ Deliveries and outreach support ♥
- ♥ Dose Administration Packing ♥



MEET YOUR HUNTLEE PHARMACIST  
**Jo**

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OPEN: Monday to Wednesday & Friday 9am – 5:30pm, Thursday 9am – 9pm,  
Saturday 9am – 5pm, Sunday 10am – 4pm



# STEVE'S RANT

How?

How does the Federal Government pay back the national debt within a time limit that does not inflict the debt on our children and grandchildren? Leaving aside the massive indebtedness of the States after small business has been recompensed for being closed down and bankrupted during this calendar year, and let us be clear the cost of the damages will be massive and legal and unavoidable. How the States deal with this will be fascinating over the next few years. Back to the question posed; a get-up calling itself the Australian Institute is running advertisements advocating higher taxes to pay for - you guessed it, more spending on education, government services, social security, hospitals et al. All the usual feel-good stuff the left, socialist and commo's bang on about. This, despite the massive spending increases made to these aspects of the economy over the last twenty years. Way above the inflation rate and without any improvement in outcomes for the long-suffering public. The only people to benefit from this extra spending has been the public servants.

It is no surprise that the Australian Institute is in Canberra and as its website explains, it is a green lefty loony outfit get-up that opposes everything that might assist this country recovering from the present economic crisis. They quote economists for goodness sake, and we know economists have no more idea than Daniel Andrews. The Institute moreover reflects the dominant ideology of the Federal Bureaucracy, which is against dams, animal husbandry, cheap baseload power and mining. This lot cheers Chinas Communist Party and Xi Jinping's Belt and Road initiative. They genuinely believe they run this country and not the elected Federal Government. That's how come 30 million dollars of your money spent on a parcel of land west of Sydney subsequently, is valued at 3 million dollars, give or take a few grand. So, increasing taxes is not the answer to paying down the debt. We should examine everything the Australian Institutes promotes and reject it out of hand as we should their advertisement for higher taxes. But that is not the only reason to reject higher tax. Tax removes money from



people and reduces our ability to turn money over in commerce which is the engine of the economy. Commerce generates wealth which in turn creates employment and hence adds to the tax revenue. The average home loan is financed over 25/30 years. The Federal Governments debt is currently five hundred billion dollars but is due to blow out. There would need to be an annual provision of 25 billion dollars to repay the current debt over say 20 years, That represents 28% approximately of the current budget. Over the next twelve months, the Federal Government debt is due to reach 851 billion dollars, just over the debt limit currently set. Annual expenditure will increase exponentially as will the repayment of the debt. (This means it will double itself each year) We shall see what the budget is on Tuesday (last Tuesday) and what the Treasurer has to say about

it. Still, there are loviess at the ABC who think we should not worry about debt and print more money. Every other economic sovereign grouping (i.e. the EU) is doing it why shouldn't we? Trouble is, this has been tried before in the Wehrmacht Republic of Germany in the 1920s, Uganda under Ide Amin and Zimbabwe under the atrocious Robert Mugabe. Germany overcame their crisis by appropriating the property of Jews and generating an immense weapons industry for war against the rest of Europe looting as they went. Uganda and Zimbabwe are still basket cases. We have to outgrow our debt by creating employment, increasing our productivity and reducing the cost of production. These are all related to each other and must be given equal priority. The sticking point is the administrations of the State Governments with their illegal border closures, the

rotten ideology of the greens distorting sensible governance and accountability and the dichotomy between the people who pay tax from the productivity of the private sector and those who suckle on the public teat. All governments, State Territory and the Commonwealth need an ideological frontal lobotomy to get rid of non-essential limitations on development. Such as, over-regulation by too many different authorities, (i.e., ten years to approve the Adani Mine) conflicting ideas of what is right and what is bad for development. (i.e., steam turbine generation using coal or nuclear energy). Long-term planning implemented for the provision for essential services such as fresh water, sewerage, affordable electricity and disposal of garbage and industrial waste. It is the State and Territory administrations which are negligent in this. They fail in the provision of real

education and training for our children which has the knock-on effect of limiting the country's ability to lift productivity. This is due to distorted progressive thinking driven by minority groups such as the Green's, Get Up and self-interested lobbies pushing against the common good. We should use the disruption to everyday life caused by the Chinese virus pandemic as a watershed moment, and reset our priorities and ambitions as individuals and as a nation. Well, I think that is happening to a degree. Still, there are threats from idiot politicians and bureaucrats who are using this disruption to entrench power at the expenses of individual freedoms and the rights of citizens. Think when it comes time to vote. To reduce the cost of production and government administration will require great detail, and that is in the hands of the governments. They will botch a lot but hopefully enough will be

achieved to get us through this hiatus of stubbornness and stupidity. If we remain the Lucky Country we will muddle through. Cheers, STEVE.



with Mike Lowing

It is now official. The Hon. Mark Latham MLC & member of the Pauline Hanson's One Nation is heading north next February. His wife was appointed a magistrate in the NSW Local Courts last year & has been given a gig in Newcastle. There has been a suggestion that they will be taking up residency in or around Lake Macquarie in the Federal seat of Hunter. Does he want to return to the Federal Parliament(?) Cheers, Mike



## NEW MAITLAND HOSPITAL "Facts not Spin"

We are after better outcomes as promised for the residents of the Lower and Upper Hunter health area and "spin" we don't need from bureaucrats. We need to have the "facts" and hard questions need to be asked of our bureaucrats is what's required from our elected MPs. In 2011 the NSW Liberal Party under Robyn Parker and Jillian Skinner then Health Minister promised the people of the Maitland State Electorate that if elected, the government would build a 412 bed teaching hospital. There was no mention at the time of closing the old Maitland Hospital and other local hospitals in the area. "Hunter voters turned to the Coalition in record numbers

in 2011 and were promised a better deal in return. A new hospital as promised would be a great way for the current government to keep face with the Hunter electorates of Maitland and Cessnock" During 2011 to 2012 HNE staff visited various meetings across the area to promote the new hospital. Dr Sue Carter in 2014 presented a session at the Senior Citizens and Retired Miners meeting in Kurri Kurri on the new Maitland hospital and the services it was going to deliver. We are aware that final planning was still required for the new hospital but from a promise of 412 beds in 2014, then 339 beds in 2017 and now 282 beds in 2020 is not what was promised and falls well short of community

expectations of what we were to get. And then in late 2014 Jillian Skinner announces at a meeting in East Maitland the future closure of the old Maitland Hospital resulting in a net loss of 196 beds to the region. The CEO of Hunter New England Health keeps telling us that the new facility would be 339 beds. We need to get the truth

(Facts not Spin) and stop double counting and counting chairs in hallways as beds. And then Kurri Kurri hospital was expanded too much fanfare to accommodate a 26 bed rehab unit to relieve the current Maitland Hospital. It is my understanding that the Maitland Rehab beds have been closed?

And can we clarify a letter in the local papers and media in 2019 quoting that Kurri Hospital would be closing their Emergency Department (ED) and transferring those 24 beds to the new Maitland Hospital! We need to ask the hard questions of Hunter Health Bureaucrats of how many beds are currently in use at the Kurri Kurri Rehab and

residential growth corridors. Some 24,000 Greenfield home lots are either approved or are in the planning phase west of East Maitland. And this doesn't include any infill developments or The Vintage and Golden Bear resort residential developments in Pokolbin. In 2013 HNEH produced a 103 page Service Statement for the new hospital in line with community expectations and were advised of such in public meetings. The 2018 Service Statement as published on the NSW Health website has been reduced to 16 pages. We have lost the CCU and the ICU beds and this new hospital needs to be at a level 5 hospital not level 4 in this new Service Statement. I would ask the question? Are the funds and plans being removed from the New Maitland Hospital development and diverted to the substantial expansion of John Hunter Hospital? And where has the \$280 million

gone from the original budget to build this hospital. Finally, why are we dumbing down a new hospital in 2020? This facility will be around for at least the next 50 years or greater when we are in a major growth corridor. The Hunter Region Plan 2036 and Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan clearly acknowledge these facts. Do we need to have another Wyong Hospital issue where \$200 million needs to be spent on an upgrade 40 years later when State Planning and Local planners would have known at the time that Warnervale and other residential areas on the Central Coast were coming on stream. We need to get the new Maitland Hospital business model right before it opens in 2022. The true scope of the 2022 facility needs to be announced without any double counting. (We need Facts not Spin) Clr Rod Doherty, Maitland NSW

## Emergency Phone Numbers

### Dial 000

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

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

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





**Piggott's Pharmacy Huntlee's manager, Jo, is a Qualified Pharmacist with a strong passion for Community Pharmacy.**

Shortly after commencing a successful community weight loss program, centred around Ultra Lite, Jo was awarded the National Telstra Young Woman 2004. That same year she completed her Master of Business Administration through Curtin Business School, Western Australia.

After taking a 10-year break from business ownership to raise her 4 children, Jo has recommenced Ultra Lite Consulting at Huntlee.

Jo has mentored over 200 clients in the Ultra Lite Ketogenic Weight Loss diet. "It fits into the practice of professional community pharmacy perfectly. I was such a good feeling to see my clients loose between 8-13kg at the end of the 5-week Ultra Lite program and many continued with an additional 5-week program. During this time, I

was working closely with my clients GPs and had to facilitate so many dose reductions in blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetic medication that most had been taking for many years.

Her customer, Barry, lighted the Ultra Lite fire in her once again when he asked her, "Jo, I need your help to lose weight by eating the correct foods" Only one word consumed Josephine's mind. ULTRA LITE!

At right is a picture of Barry on day 1 and then day 20 of Ultra Lite. Barry has lost 11.5kg and his blood pressure has improved considerably, and he can fit into some of his old jeans. Barry has not been able to lose weight prior to Ultra Lite.

**Piggott's Pharmacy Huntlee 5 week Weight Loss Challenge Registrations: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Challenge Commences: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Prizes for the most CM & % Weight Loss**



Day 1



Day 20

@ Barry has lost 11.5kg over a 20 day period; his blood pressure has improved considerably and he can now fit into some of his old clothes. Barry had not been able to lose weight prior to Ultra Lite.



## Locals supporting locals.

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

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

### #supportlocalcessnock

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

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

Keep safe, please adhere to the social distancing rules.



#supportlocalcessnock

\*Full Terms & Conditions at [advancecessnock.com.au/supportlocal](http://advancecessnock.com.au/supportlocal)



A CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE



# Members say ..



Cr Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

### Behind the Mayors desk

On Monday it was wonderful to attend the Cessnock City Library and donate a book Council received from the Royal Australian Navy. The book 'The ABC of Royal Australian Navy Corvettes' features information about the 56 Bathurst Class Corvettes. This includes wonderful images of the HMAS Cessnock which served in World War II taking to the seas in the Indo-Pacific, the Atlantic and Mediterranean. The naming of the Australian Navy Ships after regional towns across Australia was to establish stronger community connections between Navy people and the communities from which they come.

The 2020/21 pool season kicked off on Saturday with Cessnock and Branxton Pools now open for everyone to enjoy. Due to COVID-19 there are a number of restrictions Council has had to introduce to ensure compliance with the Public Health Order. Some of the restrictions include introducing a maximum capacity for each facility, social distancing unless from the same household and using hand sanitiser.

As a community we all need to ensure we are respecting the restrictions in place and behaving in a responsible way. While the spread of COVID-19 in New South Wales is being managed, every resident and business must continue to do their bit and social distance. To view and understand the current restrictions in place visit NSW Government's Health website.

The 2020 Volunteer of the Year Awards are on this Friday. It is important to recognise the valuable work of those volunteering in our communities. Volunteers make a huge contribution to community life and on behalf of the community of Cessnock- thank you.

Congratulations to Councillor Darrin Gray, who was elected to the position of Deputy Mayor. Councillor Gray will replace Councillor Melanie Dagg who has held the position for the last two years. Well done to Cr Dagg who has served our community proudly.

Residents will have noticed substantial works are underway at Bluey Frame Park. The upgrade to the park involves the installation of new play equipment, fencing and landscaping. It is set to be completed next month. Works are also progressing well at Bridges Hill Park Playground. Works are underway to connect the toilet facilities. This community space is an absolutely fantastic community asset and Council is certainly looking forward to completing the project. For more information visit Council's website.

Cheers, Bob



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council-West Ward & Deputy Mayor

### Your Voice Matters.

In my previous column, I wrote about a proposal that I was putting to Maitland City Council to increase the transparency of councillor's sometimes-hidden online activities. The proposal was the first of its kind in NSW. It sought to establish a public register of all social media pages administered by councillors, as well as websites they own and manage.

I'm pleased to say that my proposal was overwhelmingly supported by Council, with 11 votes in favour and only two votes against. Since that meeting, a local media organisation has already exposed the operator of one pretend "news" site, and some Maitland City councillors have put their names to social media pages for the first time ever. My proposal has been drafted to require elected councillors to publicly report their ownership or management of social media sites and websites on an annual basis, or within three months of any changes to such sites. Councillors can continue to use social media and websites as they wish. The new draft rules won't stop councillors saying or doing anything online, but they will force councillors to reveal their identity when running social media sites or websites.

### What you can do-

The draft code changes are now on public exhibition until the 30th of October. You can have your say on the changes by putting in a submission via-email- your-say@maitland.nsw.gov.au Mail- General Manager, Attention:Maitland Your Say Submission- Draft Code of

Conduct and Procedures 2020, Maitland City Council, PO Box 220 Maitland, NSW 2320 Online- www.maitlandyoursay.com.au You can find copies of the proposed changes on the Council's website, where you can also find the webcast of the meeting on the 25th of August. Any submissions, big or small, would be greatly appreciated before it comes back to Council for final determination and adoption.

In other news, at the council meeting held on the 22nd of September, I was fortunate enough to be unanimously elected as Maitland's new Deputy Mayor. Thank you to the many readers who have sent lovely messages of support and congratulations. I'm informed I may be the youngest Deputy Mayor in Maitland's history. It's incredibly humbling to have been elected to such a role, and I look forward to the year ahead.

If you have any issues making a submission or wish to contact me about a council matter, please feel free to contact me via the details on the Maitland City Council website or via Facebook at @BenMitchellAus.

Until next time Ben



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

After the year we've all had, it's wonderful to see a relaxation of some COVID-19 restrictions, particularly around sport and interregional travel that means we can welcome the Cycling NSW Masters Road Championships to our part of the world this weekend (9-11 October). Our relationship with Cycling NSW began last year, helping to enhance Singleton as an adventure and recreation destination and highlighting all the reasons anyone would want to visit - not least amazing natural attractions and world-class food and wine - to an even wider market. And despite the threats that hung over this year's events, it's fantastic to see our association with Cycling NSW continue with about 250 riders expected to head our way over the course of the weekend.

Even better, they'll be getting out of town with the rides taking place around Glendon Hall and Broke as we showcase the length and breadth of our local

government area to a whole new audience - and enticing them not only to come back, but to bring their friends and family.

As well as tourism, Council is actively looking at how we can diversify and build on all industries across our LGA - including the future of energy. Last week I was invited to address a public hearing in relation to the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Planning enquiry into the sustainability of energy supply and resources in NSW.

Council's submission to the enquiry reaffirmed Singleton's importance as one of the most important mining centres in NSW and the significance of the coal mining industry to our local economy. That's why we have taken a proactive socio-economic position that also includes the potential for renewable energy production facilities in appropriate locations.

What we need, and why we are appealing for NSW Government assistance, is to identify industry diversification opportunities, avoid land use conflicts, investigate emerging opportunities and develop strategic long-term post mining land use outcomes to help ensure Singleton continues to be an important economic centre for NSW.

With the potential for more events like Cycling NSW's Masters Road Championships, and as more people discover that our region has so much more to offer beyond mining, there's plenty of energy for a bright future for Singleton - regardless of the source. Cheers, Cr Sue Moore Mayor of Singleton



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

### Raising the BARR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS MAYHEM

As we head into the warmer months and the festive season, there will be some that are looking forward to daylight savings and those that are nervous about the change in times. For people that often sleep through the early hours of

sunrise and the dawning of a new day, they will definitely appreciate the extra hour of sunlight at days end. But knowing that the sun comes up at 6.00am instead of 5.00am will be a detail lost to the sleepy dreams.

On the other hand, the early riser peeps will be wondering why it has to stay light so long into the evening. Pretty hard to head off to bed when the sun is still up at 8.00pm. And then there are the curtains and the cows. There has been a series of studies that prove that curtains in the window suffer from far more fade and deterioration as a result of daylight saving. Sadly, the poor old curtains just cannot cope with the extra hour of daylight and they fall apart years earlier than they otherwise would. But please do not forget the dairy cows. Those little machines of milk have a pretty strict timeline of taps on and taps off. The sun rising later than the taps are ready is definitely a problem for our bovine friends. Whichever side of the daylight savings debate you are on, please keep in mind it is only for 6 months of the year, so in perfect harmony we have both winners and losers. The curtains and the cows, they will undoubtedly survive or suffer in equal portions.

### NOT SURE WHAT THE KOALA HUBBUB IS ALL ABOUT

For those that noticed, there was a Government explosion and implosion about koalas in recent weeks. It's hard to imagine why anyone would hate the little cuddly koala, but apparently there are people out there in our society. Simple fact - if we keep knocking down trees that support koalas, then surely koala numbers decrease. Simple fact - you cannot possibly halve the amount of koala habitat and at the same time double the number of koalas. Looking after koala habitat is not going to inconvenience existing farms on existing farmland. But protecting koala habitat will prevent developers from buying farm land and clearing the rest of the trees on-site.

What is really crazy in this whole circus of public attention is the fact that some of the most outspoken people for/against the policy are the same people that are "inside the room" for the Cabinet debate and decision making. Toys out of the cot!

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in

contact with someone who can help, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to [cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You can also follow me on my Facebook page "[www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp](https://www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp)", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at [www.claytonbarr.com.au](http://www.claytonbarr.com.au) Cheers Clayton



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

### 'Budget Must Support Business and Jobs'

In the past a key test for a Federal Budget has been its capacity to fund its policies without driving taxpayers into unnecessary debt. COVID-19 has made commentators, economists and the broader community more tolerant of public debt. But it should not provide government with a license to lazily spend the community's money when we already have the biggest budget deficit in our lifetimes.

Rather, the test will be (at the time of writing the Budget had not been delivered) how well the Government plans to spend its ever-growing debt. A reckless spend-a-thon in the middle of Australia's first and deepest recession in one hundred years won't be the right response. Tax cuts must be efficient, well-targeted and must act to incentivise work and investment. Programs to support business and the workforce must also be designed to encourage, not discourage work.

Infrastructure spending must be based on both merit and its capacity to produce jobs quickly and deliver long-lasting benefit. The Government should invite every Council to submit a list of projects - they all have plenty of them ready to go. The debt now accumulated will be with us for decades - let's hope the money is well-spent.

\*\*\*\*\* I was fortunate to spend the long weekend on a dairy farm. COVID-19 and welcome rains have taken the plight of our dairy farmers off the front pages, but their challenges remain enormous. Last year Australia lost 500 dairy enterprises, we can't let that continue. The drought is not completely behind us and its impact will impact on farm finances for years. But the biggest issue remains the power imbalance between our farmers and those who buy their product for sale.

There is clear market failure in the dairy sector. Market failure describes a situation where a market can't operate fairly and efficiently for some reason. In this case it's the market power of the processors and the retailers. The economic textbooks tell us that governments should let the market work without interference and find its own level, but it also tells us that when there is market failure, government intervention is justified.

The government needs to find a way to regulate the price the farmers receive at the farm gate. It needs to be a fair price. I've suggested the Government ask the ACCC to investigate the merit of allowing it to set a minimum farmgate milk price in each dairy region (because each is different). That would still leave scope to allow the price to rise and fall as it currently does but not fall below the average cost of production in the region. But the Government refuses to provide the ACCC with the reference needed to test my idea. Mainly because it's not their idea, I suspect.

Cheers, Joel Fitzgibbon

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## Weight and health

**People who are overweight or obese tend to have higher blood pressure and higher blood cholesterol levels than others, and are more likely to develop heart disease, diabetes or a stroke. The main way to lose weight and improve health is to change eating habits and increase physical activity.**

Some simple guides for checking body weight, and the amount and distribution of body fat are:

- \* Body mass index (BMI) – a measure of weight for height, calculated by weight in kilograms divided by height in metres squared (kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
- \* Waist circumference – a measure of fat around the abdomen (stomach).

Using more than one type of measurement (e.g. BMI and waist circumference) is often recommended. A doctor or your Piggott's Pharmacist can help with these measurements and explain what your results might mean.

### Overweight and obesity

People who are overweight or obese have too much body fat. Fat around the waist ('apple shape') is more of a health risk than fat around the hips and thighs ('pear shape').

- Overweight and obese people are more likely to develop a range of medical conditions such as:
- \* high blood pressure
  - \* heart disease
  - \* high blood cholesterol
  - \* some cancers
  - \* diabetes type 2
  - \* stroke
  - \* joint problems (e.g. osteoarthritis, gout)
  - \* gallstones
  - \* sleep apnoea
  - \* asthma and other breathing problems.

Being overweight or obese can also lead to social problems (e.g. low self-esteem) and can make many activities more difficult.

### Causes of weight gain

Most people put on weight because they eat and drink more energy from food than their body needs or uses. The 'spare energy' they eat and drink builds up in their body as fat. The amount of energy in food is measured as kilojoules (kJ) or calories. The amount of energy your body needs depends on a number of things, including age, gender, your genetic makeup and how active you are.

Some medical conditions and medicines can also play a role in weight gain. Ask a Pharmacist for more information about medicines and weight gain.

### Self care

The best way to reach and keep to a healthy weight, is to:

- \* have 'healthy eating' habits, to reduce energy intake (eat less calories or kJ of food)

\* do 'regular physical activity' to use up energy. Weight loss should be gradual (e.g. 1 kg per month) to make sure fat is lost, rather than muscle or water, and to reduce the chance of putting weight back on.

### Healthy eating

Healthy eating means balancing the food you eat, to get the amounts of energy and nutrients that your body needs.

A healthy, balanced diet means:

- \* eating a wide variety of healthy foods every day
- \* eating mainly vegetables, legumes and whole-grain foods (e.g. whole-grain/wholemeal breads, cereals, pasta, rice, quinoa, couscous)
- \* eating moderate amounts of fruit
- \* eating moderate amounts of lean meat, fish, skinless poultry, eggs, tofu, nuts and seeds
- \* eating moderate amounts of reduced-fat dairy foods (e.g. milk, yoghurt, cheese)
- \* eating small amounts of oils and fats. Fat supplies twice as much energy as carbohydrate or protein, so eating less fat is an important way to reduce energy intake. Polyunsaturated or mono-unsaturated oils and fats are the best oils and fats to eat
- \* eating small amounts of sugars and salt
- \* drinking enough fluid every day to satisfy your thirst and to keep your urine 'light-coloured' (unless a doctor advises you not to). It is best to drink plenty of water and limit other drinks.

### To control your weight:

- \* Limit the amount of high energy foods and drinks you consume. High energy foods include high fat, high sugar and highly refined foods (e.g. pastries, pies, pizzas, hamburgers, chips, cream, creamy sauces, butter, sweets, cakes, biscuits, chocolate, soft drinks, fruit juices).
- \* Limit foods and drinks high in salt. Do not add salt to food.
- \* Limit alcohol. Have no more than two standard drinks a day.
- \* Eat smaller portions, eat slowly and stop eating when comfortably full.
- \* Have a planned, regular eating pattern of meals, or meals and mid-meals.

### Physical activity

Physical activity uses energy, and regular exercise or physical activity will use up fat and build muscle. Your body shape will change, even if you do not lose weight.

- \* Start slowly by using everyday events to increase your activity (e.g. take the stairs; park the car 10 minutes away

from work).

- \* Do active things you enjoy and will want to continue.
- \* For general health and wellbeing, do at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each week. To lose weight, you may need to do more physical activity.

If you have not exercised for a while, check with your doctor before starting.

### Medicines for weight loss

Medicines can help with weight loss. They work best if combined with healthy eating and physical activity. Some medicine companies offer customer support programs that can increase the chances of successful weight loss.

Some medicines that can help weight loss are:

- orlistat** – reduces fat absorption in the stomach and intestine. Orlistat capsules are a non-prescription medicine available from a pharmacist
- liraglutide** - reduces appetite. Liraglutide injection must be prescribed by a doctor.

Some medicines are prescription only and must be prescribed by a medical practitioner.

### Other treatments for weight loss

- \* 'Meal replacement' products and commercial formula foods, with a very low-calorie content. These products come in various forms, such as powders, drinks, soups, bars and biscuits. Some products are designed to replace all meals, and others are designed to replace only one or two meals per day. Ask a Pharmacist or dietician for advice.
- \* Surgery is sometimes suitable and helpful.
- \* Some herbal products and diet supplements are marketed as weight control medicines, but there is no proof for the weight loss claims of many of these products.

### Important

- Set a realistic goal for weight loss.
  - Make healthy diet changes that you can continue.
  - Start a regular exercise routine that you can continue.
  - Healthy weight loss takes time. Avoid 'crash' diets.
  - Ask a doctor or Pharmacist about weight loss medicines.
  - Ask a doctor, your Piggott's Pharmacist or dietician about meal replacement products.
- Cheers,  
Jo Jennings

**Jo Jennings is Piggott's Pharmacy Huntlee's manager. Jo is a Qualified Pharmacist with a strong passion for Community Pharmacy.**



As part of Local Government Week 2020 Cessnock City Council launched an Instagram and Council's Ranger Team ran a photo competition celebrating responsible pet

ownership. A number of fantastic entries were received featuring some pretty cute cats and dogs! Residents highlighted key actions they take to be responsible

pet owners including walking their dogs on a leash, picking up after their pets and ensuring they are microchipped.

First place was taken out by competition sweetheart "Olive" a Maltese Shih Tzu, second place was given to a shy cat called 'Meow' and third place was awarded to a cute pup call Ponyo. The owners received the following prepaid gift cards:

- First place- \$100
- Second place \$75
- Third place \$50

Council's Principal Ranger, Jason Mullee said it was great to see the community get involved and talking about

responsible pet ownership. "It's important to have conversations about our pets and how best to look after them. It helps educate everyone in the community about what they can do for

their pet and more broadly for the benefit of their community. A few important steps can really make a difference including microchipping and registering your animal."

Olive's owner, Emily Angwin-Robertson emphasised the importance of doing the right thing when out and about.

"Your pet is a big part of your life and it's important to ensure they are looked after, not only for their benefit but for the community. Picking up after your pet is something you have to do, when you're enjoying a walk the last thing you want to see is dog droppings on the footpath."

Congratulations Emily and thanks for being a responsible pet owner.

For more information on pet ownership visit <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Pets-animals>.

Photo at left: Proud owner Emily Angwin- Robertson & Olive



### A stir-fry vegie mix takes the fuss out of the prep in this easy Japanese noodle recipe.

- 2 tablespoons oyster sauce
- 2 tablespoons tomato sauce
- 3 teaspoons soy sauce
- 3 teaspoons honey
- 3 x 150g pkt shelf-fresh ramen noodles
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 700g chicken thigh fillets, trimmed
- 400g fresh stir-fry vegetable mix
- 1 green shallot, thinly sliced diagonally
- 2 teaspoons sesame seeds, toasted
- 1 tablespoon drained pickled ginger (optional)

### METHOD

**Step 1 MIX THE STIR-FRY SAUCE**  
Whisk together Worcestershire, oyster, tomato and soy sauces, honey and 2 tbs water in a small bowl until combined. Season with

## Chicken yakisoba noodles



pepper.

**Step 2 PREP THE NOODLES & CHICKEN** Prepare noodles following packet directions. Heat half the oil in a wok or large frying pan over high heat. Cook chicken for 4 minutes each side or until cooked through. Add 2 tablespoonfuls of sauce mixture. Stir for 1 minute or until coated. Transfer to a chopping board and slice.

**Step 3 LET'S STIR-FRY!** Wipe wok clean. Heat remaining oil in wok over high heat. Stir-fry vegie mix for 3 minutes or until just tender, adding 2 tbs water halfway through cooking. Add noodles and remaining sauce mixture. Bring to a simmer. Cook, stirring, for 1-2 minutes or until thickened. Divide among bowls. Top with chicken, shallot, sesame and ginger, if using. **0:10 Prep 0:10 Cook 4 Servings**

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**Coal Miners Pneumoconiosis – What you need to know about ‘black lung disease’**

In February 2019, it was reported that there were 102 confirmed cases of mine-dust related diseases in Queensland with 250 more suspected cases awaiting assessment by experts in the US. In the past few years, a number of cases have been confirmed here in New South Wales.

The re-emergence of coal miners’ pneumoconiosis is a sobering reminder that continued vigilance must be a key factor in ensuring the eradication of this disease in NSW.

**What is coal miner’s black lung disease?**

Coal miner’s pneumoconiosis (“CWP”) is caused by the inhalation of coal dust and is one of several respirator disease caused by long-term exposure to high concentrations of respirable coal dust. It is commonly known as ‘black lung disease’ as the effected lungs appear to be black in colour rather than pink.

Related coal mine dust lung diseases include silicosis, mixed dust pneumoconiosis and chronic pulmonary disease.

CWP is caused by prolonged exposure to respirable coal dust and the general build up of coal dust particles within the terminal airways. A workers body reacts to these particles by forming layers of scar tissue over the affected areas. The dust collections and scarring may appear as small round shadows on a workers regular chest x-ray.

**What is respirable dust?**

The dust particles created by mining coal generally fall

into two size categories - **inhalable dust** and **respirable dust**.

Inhalable dust is about 0.1mm in diameter and is visible to the naked eye. This type of dust gets caught in the mouth, nose and upper respiratory tract and can cause short-term effects such as eyes and nose irritation, asthma and bronchitis.

Respirable dust on the other hand is invisible. It is around 0.005mm in diameter and passes through defences and directly into lung tissue.

These form of dust causes irritation to the lungs, which the body attempts to heal, causing scar tissue to form (fibrosis). This replaces health lung tissue and causes an increase in mucous production, shortness of breath and wheezing.

**Who is at risk of developing CWP?**

Any worker exposed to harmful levels of dust is at risk of developing a dust-related lung disease. The risk is linked directly to your total level of exposure to dust – the longer a person is exposed to high concentrations of respirable dust, the more series and life-altering the disease becomes.

**What are the symptoms of CWP?**

CWP usually takes several years to develop. It is common for there to be no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. There are two types of CWP: simple and complex. The diagnosis is dependent upon the level of progression of the disease and simple CWP can

progress to become complex CWP if exposure to dust continues.

When a worker has simple CWP with nodules less than 10mm in diameter, there are usually no symptoms.

Complex CWP (also known as progressive massive fibrosis, or PMF) can cause symptoms such as shortness of breath on exertion and eventually at rest, chronic cough, chronic chest infection, black sputum, lung dysfunction, pulmonary hypertension, emphysema and can lead to heart problems.

**Is there a cure to CWP? What is the likely prognosis for a worker who is diagnosed CWP?**

For workers with simple CWP, prognosis is for a normal quality of life with small modifications depending on the severity of diagnosis. It is also possible that avoiding exposure to harmful dust may stabilise the disease.

If a worker is diagnosed with complex CWP, prognosis is poor and there is no cure. The treatment regime from this point is to maintain and protect remaining lung function

**What do workers in the coal industry of NSW need to do?**

There are a number of controls implemented by Coal Services including periodic health surveillance, chest x-rays and independent airborne dust monitoring at mine sites that work towards preventing dust disease – however education of workers is also crucial.

We cannot emphasis enough the importance of workers having regular chest x-rays. A chest x-ray is required every six years if you have a high risk of dust exposure. In addition, it is important that workers ensure they are undergoing their Periodic Health Assessment with Coal Services every three years. As part of this assessment, lung health is examined along with a number of other occupational health issues such as noise, fatigue, mental health and musculoskeletal issues. Prevention is key and early detection can be life saving.

*Cheers, Gemma*

dominate the list of the 10 Australian regions with the largest price growth is further proof of strong interest in outer-city living, according to Cameron Kusher, realestate.com.au’s executive manager of economic research.

“Western Australia, in particular, has seen some relatively strong price growth, which reflects the fact that low-interest rates, government stimuli and the recovery from COVID-19 have led to quite strong housing demand across the state, which is pushing



**From the Lions’ Den Childhood Cancer One of the Five Global Causes of service Lions Australia and Lions International are focusing on is Childhood Cancer, and October is identified in the Lions’ calendar as Childhood Cancer Month.**

In Australia it is estimated an average of 950 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer each year. Leukemias are the common type of cancer found among young people, accounting for about 33% of all cases, followed by tumours of the central nervous system (mainly brain tumours) which are responsible for 25% of all diagnoses with lymphomas, a further 10%. Among childhood illnesses, cancer remains the most common cause of death in Australia, claiming three children a week. Lions Australia want to turn this around by proudly supporting the activities of the Lions Australia Childhood Cancer Research Foundation. In the last edition of “From the Lions’ Den” mention was made of Branxton Lions Trivia Night being the major fundraising activity of the club, and the article identified Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation as one of the recipients of the money raised that evening.

Lions Australia, through the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation (ALCRF), has become one of Australia’s most important philanthropic donors to childhood cancer research within Australia. Australian researchers are recognised as being amongst the best in the world and are playing a

significant role in improving childhood cancer survival rates. Today, eight out of ten children in Australia survive their disease and the number of adults who are survivors of childhood cancer has increased to one in each nine hundred of the population.

A second recipient of funds raised from the Lions’ trivia night is an organisation at Stockton, just over the river from Newcastle, and that is Harry’s House. This organisation provides support for both children with cancer and their carers by maintaining and making available a family retreat house close to the ferry terminal, shops, foreshore park and beach. Additionally, Harry’s House Mobile Retreat is a six berth Avidia Ceduna Motor Home that families can use for a week long unique holiday experience.

Harry’s House retreats are available to families that have a child living with cancer and to families grieving the loss of their child to cancer, within the past two years.

Lions Club of Branxton President, Mr. Brian Thomas said the club had selected these two organisations to support this year because “it’s not just the child with the cancer that needs support, it is the whole family, and supporting these two causes helps to fulfill family needs.”

**Bunning’s BBQ’s are Back!** The Lions Club of Branxton will staff the Bunnings BBQ at Singleton on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The news was welcomed



Memories

enthusiastically by the Lions as it allows us to get back to fund raising and community service.

So, if you are near Bunnings Singleton on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October call in for one of our famous sausage sandwiches, a cold drink and say G’day! It’s been a long dark winter, but I’m sure you shall be greeted by a smiling Lion and your senses will be assailed by the smell of the BBQ. All monies raised by Lions at Bunnings BBQ’s and other fund raising activities is donated to charitable organisations primarily within our local area, and Australia. **Branxton Lions LAP THE MAP – to involve the whole community COVID Safe!**

Over 1.3 million Australians have diabetes, and an estimated 2 million are at high risk of developing the condition - and these numbers are increasing rapidly every day in communities across the country. Diabetes doesn’t discriminate, and rates are rising for the young and old, men and women, and across a variety of ethnic backgrounds. In response to this national health epidemic, diabetes is one of Lions’ 5 key focus areas in 2020. Branxton Lions are calling for Branxton community members to ‘Lap the Map’ for diabetes prevention.

**Lap the Map for Diabetes**

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2020

lionsaustralia we serve

#LionsLapTheMap

prices higher,” Mr Kusher said. “Across the country, we are also seeing some evidence of strong price growth in mining-linked regions. This is reflective of the ongoing strong demand for commodities and the high prices that some of these commodities are receiving.”

WA’s Donnybrook-Balingup region was the best-performing in the county for house price growth, with a 74% jump in the three months to August, followed by WA’s Waroona with 62% growth.

NSW regions made up five of the top 10 regions, with Warrumbungle Shire coming in at number three with house price growth of 61%. For units, Victoria’s Mildura region claimed top spot with 39% growth in unit prices, while WA’s Busselton region ranked at number two with an increase of 33%.

Mr Kusher said many of the top 10 regions for both house and unit price growth have relatively cheaper medians than the broader market, which suggests city-dwellers are also trying to escape expensive city property prices.

The median house price across the top 50 best-performing regions was \$375,500, compared with the September 2020 national annual median house price of \$575,000. Where property prices are increasing state-by-state Regional areas also featured heavily among the best performing suburbs for property price growth at a state level in the three months to August 2020. The ACT is not included in the dataset as the territory is not broken down into local governments areas (LGA). NSW’s Warrumbungle Shire, 120km north-east of

Dubbo, claimed top spot for house price growth in the state with a 61% jump to a median of \$230,000. Agent Chris Korff said he has seen an uptick in interested buyers from Sydney and Newcastle looking at affordable properties that tick their lifestyle boxes. “It’s all price-driven, people are looking to get away from COVID areas,” Mr Korff said, adding that sellers are also taking the money rather than waiting to get the highest prices for their properties, leading to more sales in the three months to August. He said the area is well served with good medical facilities, supermarkets and NBN coverage in town, which make it an attractive option for buyers. Coastal region Ballina ranked at number one for unit price growth in New South Wales with an increase of 26% to a median of \$565,000.

**The best NSW median unit price growth in 3 months to August LGA\***

LGA*	State	Median	Median change in 3 months
Ballina	NSW	\$565,000	27%
Blue M’tains	NSW	\$587,500	24%
Lismore	NSW	\$330,000	23%
Port Stephens	NSW	\$450,000	17%
Wingecarribee	NSW	\$710,000	16%
Coffs Harbour	NSW	\$399,000	16%
Byron	NSW	\$820,000	14%
Clarence Valley	NSW	\$335,000	14%
Maitland	NSW	\$355,000	13%
The Hills Shire	NSW	\$830,000	10%



**COVID-proof regions: Where prices have increased despite the pandemic**

By Erinna Giblin

The economic fallout from the coronavirus crisis continues to have far-reaching effects, including on the property market. But new data shows property prices in some areas are showing resilience despite the pandemic.

Data from realestate.com.au reveals affordable, regional areas with good infrastructure have recorded a boost in median prices in the three months to August 2020. This follows an uplift in regional suburb enquiry as Australians seek a lifestyle change amid the health crisis. The fact that regional areas



## FREE Mattress Drop-off



The last free mattress drop off day in 2020 will be Saturday 17 October. The event will be held at the Cessnock Council Works Depot, located at 2082 Old Maitland Road Cessnock and will run from 8 am – 12 noon. Residents are permitted to bring a total of 4 mattresses or bases and will be required to untie their load and return to their car, prior to the mattresses being unloaded by staff. These events can cause congestion on the day, so your patience is greatly appreciated. If you can't make this one our next will be 20 March 2021.



## FREE Compost Giveaway



Friday 9 October 2020 - 10am (until gone) Cessnock Sportsground, Vincent St, Cessnock. This will be a drive through event. To maintain social distancing please remain in your vehicle and queue following the directions from traffic control. Remember:  
 • 2 x 25L bags of garden organics compost per household.  
 • Bring your rates notice or drivers licence for proof of residency.  
 • No bags will be available prior to the published start time and the event will finish when all the bags are gone. Dates are subject to change due to weather conditions.



## Aussie Backyard Bird Count



Spring means birds will start reappearing from their winter hideaways ready to be counted in BirdLife Australia's Aussie Backyard Bird Count from 19 to 25 October.

Our common backyard species give us the best indication of the health of our natural environment – think of birds as a barometer for nature! That's why each October, people count how many birds they see within 20-minutes in their backyard, local park, or any other area. This provides a snapshot at the same time each year, allowing us to look at trends in our bird communities, and enabling you to make an important contribution to citizen science from your own home! Especially important in 2020, the Bird Count is a fun, safe activity that can be enjoyed no matter the COVID-19 situation in your area. Counting birds isn't just a fun activity for you and the environment – spending time observing nature has been proven to provide benefits to mental health and well-being.

All it takes is 20 minutes in your backyard, local park, or favourite outdoor space – anywhere you can count birds. Count the birds that are counting on you - register now to be part of the nation's largest annual citizen science event! To find out more, visit



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 .....historic photos  
 .....weddings ... baptisms  
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 anything about your community.  
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**Open 7 days**  
**8am - 8pm**  
**4990 3485**  
 202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock  
 (opposite ALDI)

### A History of Maitland Sport

Now open at Brough House, 73 Church St, Maitland, an exhibition - *Winning Isn't Everything - A History of Maitland Sport*. This exhibition is presented by Maitland Regional Museum, The Clothing Museum and sponsored by Easts - East Maitland Bowling Club and Easts Leisure and Golf. Learn about sports in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and follow the development of Maitland's sporting clubs. Open Saturdays and Sundays (10.00 am-3.00 pm) until 13<sup>th</sup> December. Weekday Group bookings, phone 49334450. \$5 adults, children free; for more details [maitlandmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:maitlandmuseum@gmail.com)

On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription: 'Remus Rudd horse thief, sent to Melbourne Jail 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Melbourne-Geelong train six times. Caught by Victoria Police Force, convicted and hanged in 1889.' So Judy recently e-mailed ex-Prime Minister Rudd for information about their great-great uncle, Remus Rudd. Believe it or not, Kevin Rudd's staff sent back the following for her genealogy research: "Remus Rudd was famous in Victoria during the mid to late 1800s. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Melbourne-Geelong Railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the Victoria Police Force. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed." *NOW That's how it's done, Folks! That's real POLITICAL SPIN.*



SPIN, THE AUSTRALIAN WAY No matter what side of the political fence you're on, THIS is FUNNY and VERY telling! It just all depends on how you look at the same things. Judy Rudd, an amateur genealogy researcher in south east Queensland, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that ex-Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's great-great uncle, Remus Rudd, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Melbourne in 1889. Both Judy and Kevin Rudd share this common ancestor. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows at the Melbourne Jail.



# For Sale



## BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

# The best location in town!

## BRANXTON

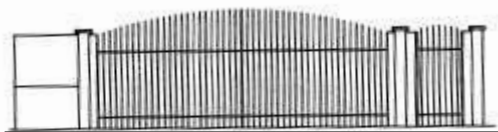
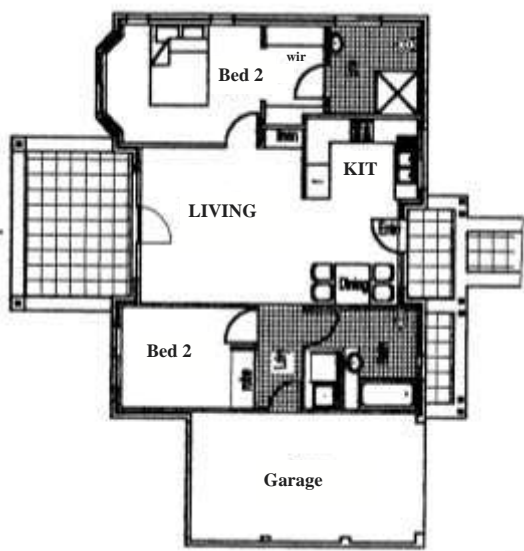
### SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"



#### Unit 18 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"

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

**ASKING \$320,000**



GATE DETAIL

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

## BRANXTON

### SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"



#### Two-bedroom unit 'Branxton Gardens' Senior Living

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

**ASKING \$360,000**

SOLD



## Building Blocks

### NORTH ROTHBURY Vacant building block ~ 809m<sup>2</sup>

Vacant Building Block  
Fantastic visage

**ASKING \$130,000 ono**

### BELFORD

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

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

**ASKING \$160,000 ONO**

### NORTH ROTHBURY

#### Vacant building block

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

**ASKING \$135,000**





# For Sale



## BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

### NTH. ROTHBURY



#### Well maintained 3 bedroom family home on large fenced block

Very well maintained 3 bedroom family home set on a 809sm fenced block.

Double brick and colorbond roof.

Features include:-

- \* Split system air con
- \* LUG and garden shed
- \* Fresh water tank
- \* landscaped yard
- \* Built-ins in all bedrooms
- \* wonderful Cathedral ceiling in living area.
- \* deck off living area on the northern side
- \* Fans in all bedrooms
- \* Shower & bath in bathroom
- \* Sep toilet
- \* Roofing, carpet & guttering in good condition

**ASKING \$430,000**

### GRETA



#### Wow ~ if size matters then this is it!!!

Lovely spacious family home on approx half an acre.

Features include:-

- 4 good large bedrooms
- Ensuite to main bedroom & good sized main bathroom
- Open plan kitchen, dining & family
- Separate lounge room
- Decking at rear
- Large water tanks
- Plenty of good shedding
- Double garage currently used as a studio

All this set on over 2000 square metres

**ASKING \$620,000**

### NTH. ROTHBURY



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

Things You Will Love About This Escape Acreage...

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

**ASKING 745,000**

### BRANXTON



#### Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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

Situated on a quiet street and conveniently located close to the Hunter Expressway

**ASKING \$275,000**







# Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

**2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325**



## **FRIDAY**

Tickets on sale 6.30pm  
drawn 7.30pm

## **SUNDAY**

Tickets on sale 11am drawn  
12 noon

## **COURTESY BUS**

Wed 4pm-7pm Fri 5pm-12pm

Sun 11am-3pm & 5pm-8pm



**MEMBERS FREE CHOOK  
Raffle**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**From 5.30pm**



**4pm Thursdays  
to  
6pm**



**\$4.00 Schooners**



## **HARVEST BISTRO**

Lunch & Dinner

Wednesday to Sunday  
Dine-in or Takeaway

**Open**



Members Badge Draw

Every Wednesday & Sunday

**\$900 Wed 7/10**

**\$800 as at Sun 4/10**

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW

## **HOUSIE**



**WED 10am**





TRENT DALTON

"sorcerer", Longcoat Bob, cursed her grandfather long ago for stealing gold. This curse is the reason for the cruelty and debasement of her father and uncle — the hearts of all Molly's kin are destined to turn to stone.

Guided by poetic clues etched on the back of her grandfather's prospecting pan and the advice of writers such as Emily Dickinson and Shakespeare, she heads off to find Longcoat Bob and have the curse lifted, but she's not alone. Greta, the beautiful actress girlfriend of Uncle Aubrey who's suffered one too many of his beatings, goes with her.

Molly's mother told her the sky is her best friend and Molly finds many examples to confirm this. The sky saves her life. It talks to her and sends her gifts, including Yukio, when he parachutes from his doomed plane almost at her feet.

Dalton's Northern Territory is a magnificent wild Eden and there's splendour in his smallest descriptions. In time *All Our Shimmering Skies* becomes a mythic quest as Molly is driven to find Longcoat Bob before her own heart turns to stone and she loses the ability to care for anyone. She leads Greta and Yukio into the wilds of northern Australia, with danger ahead and in pursuit.

The similarities between Dalton's two novels are too explicit to be ignored but they don't diminish his achievement here. It's unfair to compare any novel to *Boy Swallows Universe*, which has sold more than 500,000 copies in Australia alone and was longlisted for the Miles Franklin literary award. I adored it, but it wasn't perfect.

Neither is *All Our Shimmering Skies*. It's unnecessarily repetitive and baggy and could easily lose 80 pages. There's too much symbolism and metaphor and Yukio's fortuitous knowledge of exactly the right English words strains credibility more than the fantastical events.

It's also a work of shimmering originality and energy, with extraordinary characters and a clever, thrilling plot. On paper, Uplifting Australian Gritty Fantasy Gothic seems an unlikely mix, yet somehow it works brilliantly. Dalton's novels are companion pieces exploring how traumatised children cope and evolve under the most dreadful of circumstances, while also being cracking good reads. I found *All Our Shimmering Skies* unputdownable.

When explaining how an actor cries on cue, Greta tells Molly to shut her eyes and imagine "that dark and scary and fragile place where you've been before ... you go there enough times you realise that dark place is actually your sacred place". At the same time there is magic all around us, the novel says, if only we lift our gaze to the skies and look.

**Toni Jordan's most recent novel, *The Fragments*, is published by Text.**

**ABOUT....**

**Career**

Dalton works as a staff writer for *The*

*Weekend Australian* and previously worked for *The Courier-Mail*. In 2018 he published *Boy Swallows Universe* through 4th Estate, which was longlisted for the 2019 Miles Franklin Award.

In May 2019 the film adaptation rights for *Boy Swallows Universe* were won by Anonymous Content, Chapter One and Hopscotch Features, to be directed by Australian actor and director Joel Edgerton. Queensland Theatre Company developed a play from the book, its performance delayed by COVID-19.

Three days a week, Trent still works as a newspaper journalist.

"I really do think the journo thing leads into the other stuff, I'm pretty certain of it. I think I need to keep that there 'cause it keeps it all real ... I think I'll be doing it for some time yet, yeah."

**Bibliography  
Novels**

*Boy Swallows Universe*, 4th Estate (2018)

*All Our Shimmering Skies*, HarperCollins (September, 2020)

*By Sea & Stars: The Story of the First Fleet*, 4th Estate (2018) Award

Australian Book Industry Awards

- 2019: Winner: ABIA Book of the Year *Boy Swallows Universe*
- 2019: Winner: Literary Fiction Book of the Year *Boy Swallows Universe*
- 2019: Winner: The Matt Richell Award for New Writer of the Year *Boy Swallows Universe*

- 2019: Winner: Audio Book of the Year *Boy Swallows Universe* (Narr. Stig Wemyss)

- Indie Book Awards
- 2019: Winner: Debut fiction *Boy Swallows Universe*

- International Dublin Literary Award
- 2020: Longlisted: *Boy Swallows Universe*

- New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards

- 2019: Shortlisted: Christine Stead Prize for Fiction
- 2019: Winner: UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing
- Queensland Literary Awards

- 2019: Shortlisted: Queensland Premier's Award for a work of State Significance

- 2019: Shortlisted: *The Courier-Mail* People's Choice Queensland Book of the Year Award
- Voss Literary Prize

- 2019: Shortlisted

"Life is no brief candle to me. It is sort of a splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

-George Bernard Shaw

**The New York Times Best Sellers  
(11 OCTOBER 2020)**

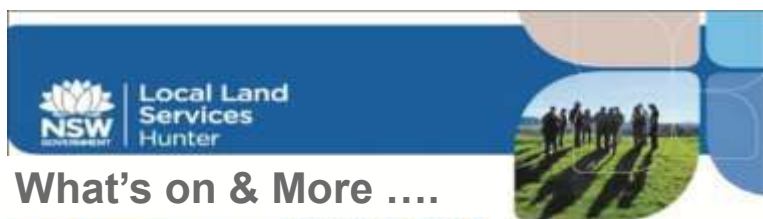
1. THE BOOK OF TWO WAYS ~ NEW THIS WEEK  
by Jodi Picoult  
After surviving a plane crash, a death doula travels to Egypt to reconnect with an old flame who is an archaeologist.
2. THE COAST-TO-COAST MURDERS ~ NEW THIS WEEK  
by James Patterson and J.D. Barker  
A detective and an F.B.I. agent are baffled by a cross-country killing spree.
3. THE EVENING AND THE MORNING ~ 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
by Ken Follett  
In a prequel to "The Pillars of the Earth," a boatbuilder, a Norman noblewoman and a monk live in England under attack by the Welsh and the Vikings.  
Ranked 1 last week
4. NEXT TO LAST STAND ~ NEW THIS WEEK  
by Craig Johnson  
The 16th book in the Longmire series. A million dollars in a shoebox and a piece of a painting might be clues to an art heist.
5. VINCE FLYNN: TOTAL POWER ~ 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
by Kyle Mills ~ Ranked 2 last week  
When America's power grid is shut down, Mitch Rapp goes after a cyber terrorist.
6. THE VANISHING HALF ~ 17 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
by Brit Bennett ~ Ranked 7 last week  
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.
7. ANXIOUS PEOPLE ~ 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
by Fredrik Backman ~ Ranked 6 last week  
A failed bank robber holds a group of strangers hostage at an apartment open house.
8. TROUBLED BLOOD ~ 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
by Robert Galbraith ~ Ranked 3 last week  
The fifth book in the Cormoran Strike series. A decades-old cold case might be connected to a serial killer.
9. ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE ~ 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
by Louise Penny ~ Ranked 8 last week  
The 16th book in the Chief Inspector Gamache series. When his billionaire godfather is attacked, Gamache uncovers secrets hidden throughout Paris.
10. ONE BY ONE ~ 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
by Ruth Ware: An avalanche tests the bonds of coworkers from a London-based tech startup on a corporate retreat in the French Alps.

**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 ....

### RESEARCHERS TRACK THREATENED SHOREBIRDS IN HUNTER AND PORT STEPHENS ESTUARIES

Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) is calling on visitors to the Hunter and Port Stephens estuaries to watch out for threatened shorebirds, with new signs installed across the region highlighting key feeding and nesting sites as part of a major tracking and protection program. Funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, the project is identifying threats to shorebirds and developing strategies to protect them including research, habitat restoration and community engagement. Shorebirds, also known as waders, are a group of long-legged birds that live on the fringes of lakes, estuaries and coastlines feeding on worms and crustaceans. Reegan Walker, Senior Project Officer with Hunter LLS, said that many people don't realise that there are so many threatened shorebird species in the region.

"There are five threatened shorebirds species that travel to the Hunter and Port Stephens estuaries every year from their Arctic breeding grounds." "Incredibly, researchers have recorded non-stop flights of around 9000km during these journeys," said Mr Walker. The project is funding the installation of a large-scale radio tracking system to provide highly accurate 24-hour information detailing shorebird movements within each estuary – the first such system in Australia. "Migratory shorebirds come here with one key objective: to gain enough weight to sustain them on their long flight back to their breeding ground. They must eat as much as possible, and when not eating, they must rest to conserve their energy," said Mr Walker. "We are working with the University of Newcastle to find out exactly where

these birds are feeding and resting, so we can ensure those sites are properly managed." Hunter Local Land Services and partner organisations are asking recreational visitors to the Port Stephens and Hunter estuary areas to look out for shorebirds either feeding or resting, and to give them a wide berth to avoid disturbing them from these crucial activities. "We've worked with MidCoast Council, Port Stephens Council and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to install fifteen shorebird identification signs at key visitor locations across the region." "The signs provide images of different shorebird species and information detailing their long journey back to the Arctic to breed," said Mr Walker.

### LOCAL LAND SERVICES HELPING PEOPLE ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY

As more and more city people consider moving to regional areas, encouraged by the remote working opportunities provided through COVID 19, many are considering buying a rural property and escaping to the country. For many of us, the idea of 'getting away from it all' and becoming a part of a rural community is a lifelong dream. Acreage can be rewarding but if people do not have the skills and knowledge to look after their land and animals properly, the great Aussie dream could turn into a nightmare. Local Land Services has responded to this need by releasing a toolkit of new and updated resources to help people successfully make the shift to country life. The new resources include the 2020 update of the Rural Living Handbook which is a starter guide to getting the most out of a rural property and contains a wealth of resources for new and prospective rural residents. It covers a range of topics as diverse as emergencies, rural crime, owning livestock, farm safety, developing a property and what each landholder's General Biosecurity Duty is. The handbook includes a 'Before you buy' checklist that lists the sort of

questions a prospective rural property owner should ask prior to purchase, to avoid potential problems. The handbook is not designed to include everything a new or prospective rural resident may want to know but is intended to be a springboard for further personal research. Each section includes lists of useful resources and websites as well as contact details for organisations that provide support to rural landholders. "The landholders we help are pretty diverse, from large-scale primary producers to people who have a lifestyle block or hobby farm," said Peter Evans, Senior Land Services Officer at Local Land Services. "We tailor our help to what they need with the end goal of making sure our farms and environments are productive and healthy." "We understand it is not always easy to know what to do or the right people or organisations to go to for help, if you have never lived in a rural area before." Susie Crowe is one landholder who has been helped by Local Land Services and the Rural Living Handbook. She says she referred to the handbook a lot in the early days after she and her husband Greg bought a 134

-hectare property at Wallerawang, west of Lithgow four years ago. They wanted the farm to pay for itself, but it was overrun with blackberries and they knew very little about how to achieve that goal. "We were consciously incompetent; we knew we didn't know anything," said Mrs Crowe. "When you're starting out, you need to surround yourself with people you can trust, and Local Land Services provided such a diverse range of expertise." The Rural Living Handbook is the most up to date version of a guide that was originally compiled nearly 20 years ago for councils throughout Sydney's drinking water catchment. It was largely based on the work of Jack Miller, a Landscape Planner at Goulburn Mulwaree Council who said he is pleased the handbook is just as relevant today as in 2004. "Back then, we saw a need for some basic information for people who were moving into our local government area who did not know much about rural life," he said. "Over the years this publication has been reproduced in a number of formats in NSW and interstate and I am really

### Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

*Last reported 29th September 2020*

There was an increase in numbers with yearlings well supplied. All other categories represented. The quality of the offering was generally good with secondary quality lots in limited number. The condition of the penning was mostly good with plain condition cattle, not surprisingly, short in supply. The full field of buyers were in attendance and there was increased export processor activity. Demand was high from all sectors through the young cattle market. This resulted in dearer trends throughout, any negative price change was quality and breed related. Vealer steers to restockers were up to 10c/kg dearer with the heifer portion showing a greater rise. Both quality and breed were strong factors in the cheaper prices for the lightest of the yearling steers with a vast range in that quality. Medium weight yearling steers to restock and feed posted strong gains. Heavy weight feeder steers saw a firm to slightly dearer market trend. Medium weight yearling heifers to restock and feed saw a significantly dearer market trend under strong competition. Trade yearlings saw a firm to dearer trend, little change in the heavy weight steers, while the heifers posted strong gains. Heavy grown steers sold to a much dearer trend with increased competition. This followed through to the well finished heavy grown heifers. There were two extra buyers in the cow market with the extra competition resulting in a dearer trend of as much as 18c/kg.

### Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

*Last reported 30th September 2020*

Consignments increased marginally for a generally good quality penning, with the vealers and yearlings well supplied. There were fair numbers in prime condition and suitable for the local butchers, however the majority were purchased by the restocker orders. The export cattle were limited in number, with approximately 18 cows offered. The market trend was dearer. Vealers returning to the paddock lifted 12c to 18c, with the over 200kg steers making from 406c to 540c/kg. The same weight heifer portion received from 436c to 486c/kg. The yearling steers improved 10c, with the medium weights to the restockers making from 390c to 460c, as the lighter end reached 474c/kg. Yearling heifers also sold to strong competition, with the restockers paying from 396c to 468c/kg depending on the weight offered. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger drafts to the butchers gained 10c to 12c in value, as prices ranged from 400c to 460c/kg for the better end. The older steers and heifers also trended dearer, with a heavy weight steer reaching 352c, while the heifers topped at 376c/kg. The better covered heavy weight cows lifted 12c and sold from 272c to 300c/kg. The heavy weight bulls reached 275c/kg.

### Detailed Cattle report for Scone

*Last reported 29th September 2020*

There was only a small penning of fair to good quality cattle, fair percentages in prime condition and suitable for the butcher and processor orders. The majority were younger drafts, with approximately 30 cows all in prime condition, also in the market. The market trend was firm to dearer. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle to the local butchers again sold to strong competition, with the best vealer reaching 438c/kg. The vealer steers to the restockers remained firm and sold from 412c to 498c/kg. The heifer portion also maintained firm prices, with those to the restockers making from 410c to 476c/kg. The yearling steers also sold at similar prices week on week, as restockers and lot feeders paid from 380c to 450c/kg, depending on the weight offered. Yearling heifers improved 12c with those to the restocker orders receiving from 376c to 440c/kg, also depending on weight. Grown steers to the processors sold from 318c to 348c, as the best of the older heifers reached 368c/kg. Cows improved 15c, however yield was higher week on week with the better covered heavy weights making from 266c to 290c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 280c/kg. Cow and calf units sold from \$2000 to \$2800/unit.

### Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

*Last reported 28th September 2020*

Numbers almost doubled in the lead up to next weeks public holiday. Young cattle were well supplied, particularly yearlings. There was an increased penning of cows along with a few heavy steers and heifers. Quality was mostly good overall with some categories showing improvement. Condition was also good with most cattle showing the benefit of good crops and pasture conditions. The usual buyers were in attendance along with some extra feedlot competition. Not all processors operated. Strong restocker demand for light weight cattle saw vealers sell firm to dearer. Trends were also firm to dearer for yearling steers to restock and feed. Light and medium weights attracted keen restocker demand with quality improvements accounting for some strong price gains. Medium and heavy weight feeder steers saw a firm to slightly dearer trend with some quality related price change either way. Heavy weight trade steers also sold to dearer trends on the back of the strong feedlot competition. High restocker demand for quality females resulted in light weight yearling heifers selling to dearer trends. The quality of the offering contributing to some significant price improvement. Medium and heavy weight feeder heifers experienced little but quality related price change. Heifers to the trade were also dearer. Increased competition for heavy cattle saw the grown steers to processors sell to a dearer trend. The well finished heifers followed suit. That increased export processor competition was evident in the cow market with the well finished cows selling to a dearer trend of as much as 18c/kg.

## MELBOURNE CUP

Still hope for crowds at VRC Spring Carnival

By **Stephen Brassel**

With just over a month to the start of the Spring Carnival at Flemington the VRC has not given up hope of at least some crowds being in attendance over the four days starting on October 31. However while reports have circulated that up to 10,000 would possibly be permitted on course at Flemington the VRC refused to confirm any numbers for possible attendees. "We can confirm that after consultation with Government, the VRC provided a confidential proposal, which is under their consideration with discussions ongoing," a spokesperson said. "It is not appropriate to share details of the proposal until this process is complete, at which time members, owners, our partners, and the broader community will be updated." "Since March, the VRC has been

planning for a number of different scenarios for the 2020 Melbourne Cup Carnival, including the possibility of reduced or no crowds. With four weeks until Derby Day, that planning continues and we are in regular discussions with the State Government as to how we may be able to safely welcome small crowds to Cup Week," VRC CEO Neil Wilson said. "No decision on crowds for the Cup Week has been made. The decision ultimately lies with the State Government and will depend on public health advice. "Whilst of course we would love to host crowds at Flemington for Australia's greatest racing carnival, we know that most people will be watching away from the track. That's why we are focussed on providing an off course experience that ensures everyone can share the magic and excitement of the Cup Week, no

matter where they may be watching. "Racing Victoria is engaged in ongoing discussions with Government around the potential for the return of spectators to country and metropolitan race meetings," a spokesman for Racing Victoria said. "Any decision on spectators at Victorian race meetings will be made by the Victorian Government based on the latest public health advice. "In preparation for any resumption, the industry has developed a return to crowds framework which provides the guiding principles for how our Racing Clubs will safely welcome back people to the track when it is appropriate to do so." A limited number of owners were permitted to attend race meetings in metropolitan Victoria door a three-week period in June-July under strict biosecurity protocols before restrictions were reimposed.







**Battery Replacement V Device Replacement**  
 Most people believe that once the battery dies on their device (whether Phone or Tablet), it's all over red rover, but not so!  
 The manufacturers would like you to think that way because they want you to buy a new device every couple of years, but if there is nothing else wrong with it, why not just get the battery replaced...you'll save a fortune, still have a device that you're used to and you won't have to bother copying all your stuff from one to the other, and we all know what a pain that can be right?  
**Winter time is the worst for battery replacements** (best time for us!). Like car batteries, device batteries hate the cold. One minute they're working, the next... doh!

**Macdroids provide a lifetime guarantee** on the batteries they fit. This means that the batteries have to be top quality because if it fails again, it gets replaced for FREE.  
 We recently had a few clients come in with battery complaints where they had them replaced very cheaply elsewhere and the battery swelled up (like in the picture) and some even exploded resulting in the phone being damaged. So you saved a few bucks on a battery, but your phone self-destructed a few weeks later.  
 Apple Watches are prone to swelling batteries. When this happens, the screen 'pops off'. With a bit of luck, it will just need reattaching and replacing the battery but in the worst case scenario, you'll also need the screen replaced. We do both of these types



This battery is swollen. It can lead to the screen popping off, lifting and cracking. It can also lead to the phone exploding and igniting.



Rice stuck in the vents and holes.

probably need to carry your charger with you...just sayin.  
 This battery is swollen. It can lead to the screen popping off, lifting and cracking.  
 It can also lead to the phone exploding and igniting.

phones). It actually makes it worse and in some cases to a point where that delay in seeking attention makes the phone unrepairable.  
**Here's what to do if your phone gets wet, dropped in bath, sink, toilet, pool, ocean etc.**

1. DON'T STICK IT IN RICE! You're wasting time and potentially causing more problems, expensive problems.
2. If it's still on, turn it off. If it's gone off while under water, whatever you do, **DON'T turn it back on to see if it still works.** Water is conductive and if you turn it on while there is water over the circuit board inside, you'll more than likely short out lots of those tiny little parts...it doesn't take much to destroy them.
3. If it's in a case, take it out of the case and wipe it down. Pop out the sim tray, SD card slot (if it has one) and shake the phone for a minute or two to exhaust any excessive water floating around inside.
4. As soon as practical, visit a repair centre that can handle this type of repair. The sooner you do this, the better off your phone will be. It will also potentially reduce the repair cost if things haven't fried up.
5. Salt water is the worst thing that can enter your phone so don't waste time thinking about what to do... get it checked and dried out internally ASAP. Corrosion can start in as little as 48 hours.

**Would You Like Fried Rice With That?**

Every week I see phones of all types come in for repair where they've been water damaged. And 99% of these poor soaking devices have been buried in rice for up to 2 weeks in desperation that they will come back to life. Save yourself the pain & suffering by NOT sticking your soaked device into rice. The only reason a few devices come back to life is if they dried out themselves over the days or weeks they were sitting around.  
 FACT: Rice does nothing to dry out the water inside an affected device (mainly

of repairs at the Greenhills Store.  
 Most manufacturers have had battery issues. Samsung lost the entire Note 7 Range due to potential fire hazard from their batteries. Apple have had various problems with their devices too and offer free replacements in certain circumstances. Depending on how much you use your phone, the battery should last ALL day and still have up to 50% left on it. I charge mine up overnight and unplug it in the morning...ready for work. At the moment it's at 46% (7pm).  
 If you're a teenager, you'll

I haven't come across a device where I haven't been able to change the battery. This includes iPods, iPhones, Sealed Samsung phones, iPads, Tablets and Laptops. Prices starting from just \$59.  
 Many Kiosks won't change them because they're worried about cracking the screens. And that's understandable if you don't have the correct equipment or training to do what we do.  
 There are many types of batteries available too so be careful where you get yours from.  
**The top repairers like**

# MOVIE REVIEW

## After We Collided

### After We Collided: Raunchier, darker sequel offers less Twilight, more 50 Shades



Tessa (Josephine Langford) and Hardin (Hero Fiennes Tiffin) have reacted very differently to his deceit. While she has thrown herself into her internship at Vance Publishing, he has started sleeping in his car and treated himself to some new ink. With his constant texts going unanswered, he begins to wonder how he'll ever win her back.  
 But an opportunity comes when Tessa has a big night drinking Sex on the Beaches in order to secure hedge fund money for her new boss' expansion plans. A moment of inebriated weakness sees her allow him into her bed, a drunken decision she instantly regrets.  
 However, while finally collecting the rest of her stuff from their former shared lodgings, she inadvertently runs into Hardin and his charismatic British mother Trish (Louise Lombard), on her first visit to the States. Agreeing to pretend to still be together for her sake, Tessa listens intently to Trish's tales of the incident that left eight-year-old Hardin traumatised and still suffering nightmares more than a decade later. Could she be the one to "fix" this "lost little puppy"? Or will his resentment, jealousy, alcoholism and "toxic badness" destroy him and take her down too?  
 Instantly unravelling its awful predecessor *After's* seemingly hopeful ending, this sexed-up sequel quickly establishes a different tone. Having failed with the first movie's *Cruel Intentions*-meets-*Pride and Prejudice* conceit due to a decidedly PG-13, Nicholas Sparks approach and a leaden script-by-committee, author of this boy band fan fiction tale Anna Todd must



have seen her five-book franchise was heading in only "One Direction" – nowhere. So she's taken on scripting duties herself, hired the man who directed the original *Cruel Intentions* (Roger Kumble) and got everyone to agree to a more "adult" take. Admittedly, the result is a superior movie. There's more humour, better chemistry and Lombard and Dylan Sprouse's (*The Suite Life of Zack & Cody*) new characters do add an extra dimension. However, *After We Collided* is still plagued by terribly telegraphed twists, dreadful dialogue and the overuse of pop-songs to convey emotion. Worse, with the raunch ramped up, the arrival of a vanilla rival (Sprouse's "work wife" for Tessa, Trevor) and an oft-talked about impending shift of the action from Atlanta to the Pacific Northwest, this feels even more like a story

attempting to straddle the divide between the *Twilight* and *Fifty Shades* universes. Kudos to the set blockers and cinematographer for their inventive camera angles to protect their stars' modesty, but when one of the audience audibly sighed "what, again" when Tess and Hardin stripped off for about their fifth "set-piece", she appeared to speak for all of us in the Thursday night session.  
 A story dominated by "daddy issues", misunderstandings and Victoria's Secret product placement, it naturally came with a cliff-hanger conclusion, leaving me with the thought that Taylor Swift's *Exiles* sums up my overall impressions magnificently: "I think I've seen this film before, and I didn't like the ending."  
**James Croot**  
 Stuff.co.nz  
 2.5/5

**MacDroid's**  
 For Sales, Service & Advice...  
 1300 622 376  
 help@macdroids.com.au

Macbooks	Desktop Pcs	Laptops	iPads	Tablets	Phones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cracked Screens</li> <li>Water Damage</li> <li>Refurbishment</li> <li>Recycle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Battery Replacement</li> <li>Software Issues</li> <li>Network Unlocks</li> <li>Screen Issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passcode Removal</li> <li>Fan Problems</li> <li>Internal Cleaning</li> <li>Motherboard Repairs</li> </ul>			



# The worst debate in modern American history: how hope was mugged in the Trump-Biden clash

By Bruce Wolpe  
Senior fellow at the United States Studies Centre and former political staffer.



The Sydney Morning Herald



■ A terrible reality show: Trump v Biden, round one. CREDIT:AP

Ninety minutes is a lifetime in politics these days – and Wednesday's reality TV show let us know that it was 90 minutes of our lifetimes we will never get back. A horrible, disastrous, useless session that left viewers utterly disappointed – the worst debate in modern American history. President Donald Trump hates being challenged, and he gamed this debate to occupy the platform and bully former vice-president Joe Biden and the moderator, Chris Wallace, to recreate his favourite playing field: where he owns the oxygen and sucks it out of the room. He loved all those precious minutes where he could soar unfettered because, in the words of an Australian prime minister he does not know, "I'm going to do you slowly, mate." Trump lashed Biden for being a Trojan horse for socialism, anarchy, crime and much, much worse.

Going into this first debate, the polls and the fundamentals underpinning Biden's campaign were steady. Nationally, he is up by seven to 10 points against Trump, and is constantly registering more than 50 per cent of voters polled – a significant benchmark. He is leading in every crucial swing state, and competitive even in Republican redoubts Iowa, Georgia and Ohio. Women voters are for Biden over Trump 65-35 – up 15 points over Hillary Clinton's margin.

Trump's approval is at 43 per cent. No president has won re-election while under 50 per cent – a benchmark Trump never reached in his term. He is carrying white voters 52-46, but in 2016, he won them by 16 points. Biden leads with older voters 52-37; Trump won them by seven points in 2016. Sixty per cent of Americans do not want the Supreme Court to outlaw abortion – but this is a major driver for Trump to place judge Amy Coney Barrett on the court by election day. At 57 per cent approval, Obamacare is more popular than Trump.

So Trump had to take Biden apart, and rev up the engine that won those key states that delivered the presidency to him in 2016 with only 46 per cent of the popular vote, against Clinton's 48 per cent. Trump only plays offence – never retreats into defence. Biden struggled under the onslaught – to get heard, to keep focused on issues as Trump changed the subject – and was out-talked. Biden could not proceed for more than 30 seconds without Trump interrupting. Trump was pugnacious in the extreme, but Biden does not fight on those terms, and was hurt. Trump absolutely cemented his base with his performance. They loved it. Biden supporters came away sickened by the President as much as ever. This debate left the country as divided as ever on their leadership and their future.

But was Biden's performance strong enough to bring him to victory over the last 34 days of the campaign? His enthusiasm factor is much weaker than Trump's. Sixty-five per cent of the Trump base is "very" enthusiastic for their President, but only 49 per cent are similarly amped up for Biden. That was probably unchanged after this debate. If all of Trump's supporters show up to vote and 10 per cent of Biden's stay home, trouble for Joe.

Biden's Hispanic vote is not especially strong, and this could cost him Florida, where Hispanics who hold enmity for the regimes in Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela are firmly behind Trump and his animus for the dictators their families fled.

The projected African American vote for Biden will be greater than Clinton's in 2016 – but lower than Obama's in 2012.

There are wildcards that could come into play. No one is immune from coronavirus. If Trump or Biden gets

sick, that will change the race. If Biden stumbles physically or mentally, this could raise doubts about his abilities for the presidency. And sadly, there is a prospect of violence. The days before the election will be the most tense the country has faced since the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001. The mood is grim – and was not at all helped by this Trump-Biden encounter.

In the decade from 1963-72, horrific political violence was rampant, from the assassinations of president John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy, and the attempt to kill governor George Wallace of Alabama as he campaigned in 1972 on a white supremacy, law-and-order platform. Candidates for the presidency have not been attacked since. The danger today is an America with too much ugly anger and too many guns. Trump and Biden will meet two more times. But with 90 million tuned in, this was the one that counted most. It disappointed and reinforced the terribly sad state of American democracy. Hope was mugged on the debate stage in Ohio.

**Bruce Wolpe is a senior fellow at the United States Studies Centre. He has served on the Democratic staff in the US Congress and as chief of staff to former Australian prime minister Julia Gillard.**

## FROM PAGE 17 LOCAL LAND SERVICES HELPING PEOPLE ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY

.... pleased to see Local Land Services release this updated edition."

David and Kim King also thank Local Land Services for helping them gain the confidence to establish a mixed beef, poultry and apiary enterprise on 33 hectares at Berry in the state's south east.

David says that when they moved from Sydney five years ago it was their first venture into farming and they had lots of problems at first.

"It has been a steep learning curve and Local Land Services has been an enormous help," Mr King said.

"We attended as many courses, workshops and training sessions as we could on a range of topics including pest animals, agronomy, beekeeping, weeds, sheep and cattle handling and grazing management.

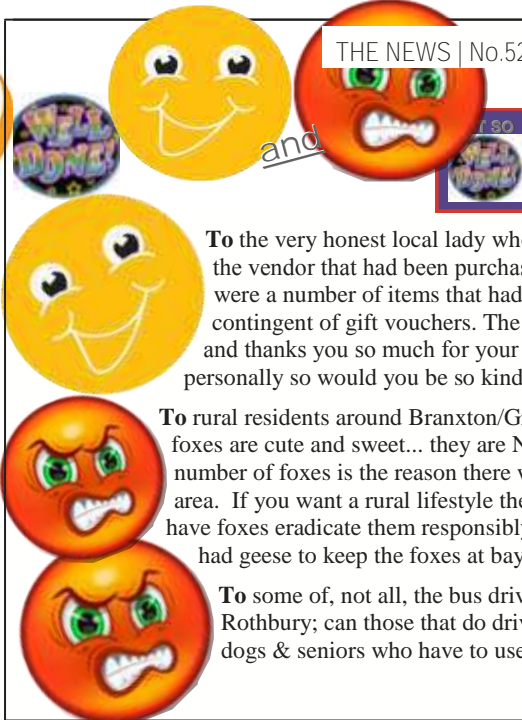
"Without Local Land Services there's no way we would be in the position we are now – we would have spent more money and made more mistakes. Their help has been invaluable."

The Rural Living Handbook is available to read or download online and from selected Local Land Services regional offices. Another new resource for rural property owners is an online information hub called 'Every Bit Counts' specifically aimed at 'blockies' and small area farmers.

Local Land Services also has a range of digital resources such as the Big Shift for Small Farms podcast which is designed to equip and connect small farmers with topics like 'Startup farming' and 'Urban farming'.

These resources and others can be found by searching [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)

Any NSW rural landholder wanting advice, assistance or to attend training such as webinars can call Local Land Services on 1300 795 299 or make an online enquiry at [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/contact-us)



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

To the very honest local lady who returned a number of personal items back to the vendor that had been purchased at a recent local 'clearing sale'. Included were a number of items that had sentimental value to the vendor and a large contingent of gift vouchers. The vendor was overwhelmed with your honesty and thanks you so much for your kind gesture ... he would like to contact you personally so would you be so kind to contact the clearing sale auctioneer.

To rural residents around Branxton/Greta/North Rothbury that think foxes and baby foxes are cute and sweet... they are NOT! They are feral animals. The increasing number of foxes is the reason there were no baby ducks last summer in our area. If you want a rural lifestyle then please also manage the property and if you have foxes eradicate them responsibly. (Ed. Note As a child on the farm we always had geese to keep the foxes at bay; seemed to work)

To some of, not all, the bus drivers who frequent the streets of North Rothbury; can those that do drive too fast please slow down; we have kids, dogs & seniors who have to use the street as a thoroughfare.



Classified's

Classified's

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

**Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128  
**Drum lessons:** Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 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](mailto:olwynca@gmail.com) P: 0249387430

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

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

**For Sale:** 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

Dates for your diary

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

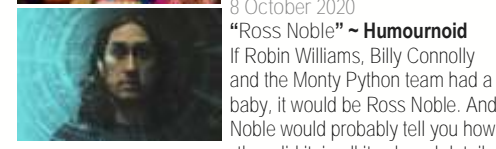
Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY MORNINGS — The Branxton Greta Mens Shed meet in the mornings: come and have a cuppa at the Shed. 49 Branxton Street, Greta (in the grounds of the old St Mary's primary school) For more information contact Richard Wesseling 0417422560  
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.  
MON 26 OCT 2020— Branxton VIEW Annual Fashion Parade. 10am Branxton Community Hall. All clothing can be purchased on the day with donna-lou fashions showing the latest Spring and Summer styles.  
\$15 per person includes a light lunch  
TUES 10 NOV 2020— Branxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.  
TUES 8 DEC 2020— Branxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

### Upcoming Concerts

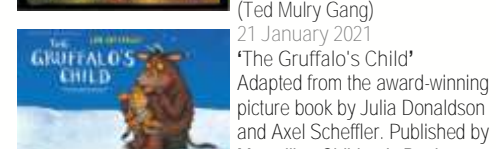
SAT 24 OCT 2020 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate  
SAT 31 OCT 2020 — "Jazz in the Vineyards" (Kate Cebrano) @ Hope Estate  
SAT 21 NOV 2020 — A Day on the Green (James Blunt & Jason Mraz) at Bimbadgen, Hunter Valley  
SAT 5 DEC 2020 — Iconic Scottish band SIMPLE MINDS will be performing at a day on the green wineries.



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



8 October 2020  
"Ross Noble" ~ Humour Noid  
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.



## Councils back NSW Labor's calls for easing of restrictions in rural and regional NSW

Several councils have thrown their support behind NSW Labor's calls for the government to consider easing COVID-19 restrictions in rural and regional NSW.

Rural and regional areas that have not recorded a local positive COVID-19 case in months have still been subject to the same restrictions placed on metropolitan areas where the virus had been more consistently present. Shadow Minister for Health, Ryan Park, said the "one size fits all" approach needed to be reviewed by the government. "It has been months since locally acquired cases were reported in some parts of the state," Mr Park said. "In these areas, we should be looking at easing the square metre rule and booking caps in cafés, restaurants and pubs as well as caps on functions and gatherings. "How come 40,000 people can go to a stadium in Sydney but

residents in regional NSW can't stand up at their local pub? If we can do it safely at the footy, why not Forster or Forbes?"

Shadow Minister for Local Government, Greg Warren, said it didn't make sense for pubs, club and restaurants in Cooma, Cessnock or Coraki to be subject to the same restrictions as those in Castle Hill, Carlingford or Clovelly. "Applying a bit of common sense regarding the easing of restrictions would make an enormous difference to rural and regional areas throughout NSW," he said.

"Placing restrictions on communities that have remained largely isolated from the virus seems counterproductive and unnecessary." NSW Labor's calls have received support from a number of rural and regional councils including Cessnock and the Riverina Joint Organisation. Chairman of the Riverina

Joint Organisation, Rick Firman, believed the level of restrictions should be rolled back given the absence of the virus in the local community.

"This is something all of us across the Riverina region as mayors, councillors and staff have been calling for, for some time now," Cr Firman said. "There has been very few if any cases out here and we need to get our economy and tourism industry back on track, so we warmly and fully support this campaign by NSW Labor."

Cessnock City Council Mayor Bob Pynsent echoed those thoughts.

"We are in a strong position to welcome visitors back to the Cessnock Local Government Area and the easing of restrictions will see a significant increase in tourism, which is so needed for our local economy," Cr Pynsent said. "Our businesses have gone through enough with the bushfires and now COVID-19."

## Hunter community organisations can now apply for new Clubgrants funding

Community organisations across the Hunter region impacted by COVID-19 are encouraged to apply for funding, thanks to the next round of the NSW Government's Infrastructure Grants program now open.

The grants are made possible by the Clubgrants Category 3 Fund which re-invests profits from registered clubs' gaming machines into a statewide funding pool for large-scale community projects. Since 2015, the NSW Government has funded more than 350 community projects worth \$62.8 million under Infrastructure Grants.

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## DO YOU REMEMBER?

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

Where is it now?



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

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

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

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

Charter members of Branxton Lions Club

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

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

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



# 'Arrivederci' Desrie & Neil



Neil & Desrie and photos below of their wonderful garden which they will miss

and love of children at Singleton Heights Primary School. "Our beautiful garden at "Rothridge" has been a collaborative effort, me the more physical worker and Desrie with her creative nature, providing colour, plant choice and imagination culminating in a thing of beauty, something we shall miss when we leave this home.

"Since moving here in 1982 when my residence was one of only three permanent residences, I have experienced many changes on Old North Road, Rothbury, the biggest of which would be the subdivision called "Sweetwater", a development increasing the population and inevitably changing the area. "The one thing which has had little change is the gravel road itself.

"Even with the large increase of traffic from locals, "tradies" servicing the mining industry and tourist accommodation, the road remains unsealed and at times dangerous which is caused by drivers not driving to conditions and at speeds ignoring the consideration of other users.

"The old saying 'one door closes and another opens' is our positive thought process with our decision to move on; we will miss our Old North Road home, the friends we have made and the beauty of the Hunter Valley but we are excited at the prospect of what is ahead. *We wish you both well.*

became my work until retiring in 2012".

"For some years I continued my love of music as a member of the Singleton Theatrical Society as a singer, actor and director. "In more recent times, the last five years, I joined a ukulele group the *Maitland Pluckers* providing me with another outlet for my love of music and performance plus the company of a fun loving and talented group of musicians and singers".

"My lovely wife Desrie was raised in Singleton and taught in Singleton, travelling daily, fulfilling her lifetime calling



## Cessnock to host a AFC Youth Women qualification Tournament

**Football Federation Australia (FFA) today welcomed the decision by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) which will see Australia host two (2) AFC Youth women's qualification tournaments in Australia in 2021.**

The AFC has granted Australia hosting rights for a group of the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers Round 1 which will be held in Shepparton, Victoria and a group of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers Round 1 to be played in Cessnock, New South Wales. The AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers Round 1 are currently scheduled to take place in March next year, with the AFC U17 Women's Championship 2022 qualifiers in April.

FFA Chief Executive Officer, James Johnson, said that the hosting of these tournaments was an important milestone for the development of football in Australia.

"On behalf of the Australian football community, I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to the AFC for granting Australia the hosting rights for these important youth women's football tournaments which will be held next year," Johnson said.

"The hosting of these two tournaments aligns with our desire, espoused within the XI Principles for the future of Australian football for Australia, to become the centre of women's football in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We are excited that our future stars will have the chance to play for Australia on home soil and to showcase their talent in front of friends and family. It also our great pleasure to bring international football to the communities in Cessnock and Shepparton and we hope to provide more opportunities for Australian communities, particularly those in regional areas, to share in the spectacle of the world game.

"We are looking forward to working with the Greater Shepparton City Council and Cessnock City Council to host these important fixtures for the Westfield Young Matildas and Westfield Junior Matildas." FFA is very aware of potential issues related to COVID-19 and will continue to work with



Cllr Bob Pynsent, Cessnock Mayor said that Cessnock Sportsground is a fantastic facility. "We're extremely pleased to host the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2020 Qualifiers Round 1 & we look forward to working closely with AFC to ensure the event is COVID-safe for all, including the athletes, officials and spectators".

Cessnock City Council, Greater Shepparton City Council, the NSW Government, the Victorian Government and the Australian Federal Government to ensure that the health and wellbeing of all participants, as well as members of the community, are protected during these tournaments. "We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation nationally and internationally," Johnson added. "With these games to be held in 2021 we hope and expect that the situation locally and within the Asian region will have improved by the kick-off of these tournaments." "We will always put the health and wellbeing of the host community, players, officials, and fans first in relation to these important qualifiers." Greater Shepparton City Council Chief Executive Officer Peter Harriott said it was fantastic to be selected to host this prestigious event.

"We are very excited for Greater Shepparton to be one of the first Australian cities to see the return of international events and welcome these top athletes to our region," Mr Harriott said.

"Our community has a proud football history and we pride ourselves on investing in world class facilities that allow for elite events to be held in our own backyard. It will be an amazing experience for our local aspiring athletes to witness the country's very best junior women's footballers go up against Asia's best at the Shepparton Sports City precinct next year.

"Hosting the round one qualifying games will also see a real boost to our business community, injecting economic stimulus into our local restaurants and cafes, accommodation services, retail shops and attractions which have all been hit hard following the onset of the pandemic."

Cessnock City Council Mayor, Cr Bob Pynsent, was also excited about hosting the event in the Cessnock community.

"Cessnock Sportsground is a fantastic facility and we're extremely pleased to host the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2020 Qualifiers Round 1," Cr Pynsent said. "It's a great opportunity for our community to witness talented athletes and expose some of our own aspiring young sports men and women to this level."

"We look forward to working closely with AFC to ensure the event is COVID-safe for all, including the athletes, officials and spectators," concluded Cr Pynsent.

The Westfield Young Matildas and the Westfield Junior Matildas will learn which Asian nations they will host in their respective groups when the official draw is conducted at AFC House later this year at a date to be confirmed.



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## FRANGIPANI



What you need to know about frangipani

**Name:** frangipani (*Plumeria* sp. and cvs.)

**Height:** 5–8m with age, canopy often as wide

**Foliage:** deciduous. Large (20–30cm long × 10cm wide), deep green, distinct veins and mid-rib.

**Climate:** tropics, subtropics, sheltered location in warm temperate, and microclimates in cold temperate.

**Soil:** free-draining to sandy soil. Will perform best with extra organic matter in the soil.

**Position:** full sun, protected from winds

**Flowering:** varies by region, from December through until April.

**Feeding:** not essential, although a spring/summer feed is beneficial.

**Watering:** during warmer months if needed. Avoid winter watering.

**The *Plumeria rubra*,** or frangipani, is native to Central America, Mexico and Venezuela. It's known for its beautiful and fragrant flowers, the colours of which can vary enormously from white with a yellow centre, through shades of apricot and right through to pink and even dark red.

Uses of frangipani  
Whether grown in the ground or in big pots, no tropical-look, resort style, Balinese or modern Aussie coastal garden is complete without a frangipani or two. You can even plant a perfumed rainbow! The choice of flower colours is enormous, and the perfume is divine.

Frangipani is excellent grown against sunny walls, providing cooling summer shade while letting winter sun flow through. It can also be a real problem solver, as it will thrive in sandy soil that many plants can't handle.

And if you only have a balcony, you can still have a frangipani! They can do very well in large pots and planters too.

How to plant and grow frangipani

As frangipani hails originally from tropical regions, its best performance will be in the tropics and sub-tropics. However, if protected from cold winds and frost, it can also grow well, albeit more slowly, in cooler zones. Locally they seem to thrive even with a cold winter and occasional frosts.

In cooler areas, select a north-facing spot that will create a suitably warm microclimate. Frangipani will tolerate a wide range of soil types, provided drainage is excellent.

Avoid locations where soil may remain wet, especially across the cooler months, and avoid windy spots, as frangipani branches are brittle.

Frangipani planting tips

Follow these planting tips to ensure your frangipani will thrive:

Frangipani will benefit from some extra organic matter, such as a quality compost or composted manure, blended in with the planting soil.

Don't be surprised if the plant only has a very loose root ball when you remove its pot.

Try not to disturb the roots too much, as they can be easily damaged.

Larger plants will require staking, as they will be top-heavy until they establish.

Frangipani care tips

Frangipani is a very easy-care plant. If conditions are dry in the warmer months, water the plant as the leaves and flowers are developing.

Avoid watering your frangipani while it is dormant (leafless).

Fertilising isn't necessary, but will improve performance. Apply a controlled-release fertiliser around the edge of the canopy line in late spring or early summer.

How to prune frangipanis

Occasionally, you may

need to prune your frangipani to restrict size, tidy a broken branch or to remove an inconvenient branch. On older trees, look for any branches that have started rubbing or crossing over, or have stopping producing foliage or flowers, and remove them.

Diseases and pests

Frangipani rust generally appears shortly before leaf fall, and shows up as discolouring of leaves above, and orange spots on their under-surface.

Thoroughly spray all leaf surfaces with a suitable fungicide such as Eco-Fungicide and repeat weekly. Any fallen leaves should be promptly removed, sealed in a plastic bag and disposed of in the regular bin (not the compost).

Scale insects are found on stems or leaves. They look like small white or brown lumps. These can easily be treated with a suitable horticultural spray oil.

Growing frangipani from cuttings

Frangipani grows very easily from cuttings. Your cutting should be a growth tip at least 10–15cm long. Ensure the cutting is cleanly cut, not crushed, and put it somewhere warm and shady until the sap seals.

Once dry, fill a suitable-sized pot with a free-draining potting mix or propagating mix. Put the cutting in, and support it if required. Put it in a warm spot and only water when dry. You can grow a new plant from even very large cuttings—just ensure they have adequate support as they grow.

A lot of people say frangipanis are old hat, but a row of evergreen frangipanis can look just as good in a modern setting as they would in an old garden.

They flower from November to May, so if you can find a better plant for the tropical or subtropical garden than frangipani, I'd like to see it.



## Tips For Your Dogs

## & Cats



### Boarding your pets whilst you are on holidays

It's very important to remember that when planning a trip or holiday your pets may need to go into a boarding facility. It's important to understand what your local boarding facility can and will offer your pet whilst you are away, remember to ask if you can have an inspection before selecting a facility:

- \* What are the hours of operation
  - \* Will my pet have their own room
  - \* Do they supply bedding
  - \* Is food included or can I bring my own
  - \* Do they have air conditioning – very important in the summer months
  - \* Are the staff all trained
- My pets on medication
- Boarding Hints:**
- \* Ensure Vaccinations are up to date,
  - \* Ensure your pets worming is also up to date
  - \* Provide the boarding facility with your holiday or emergency contact details
  - \* Advise them of your veterinary details
  - \* Watch out for additional charges – i.e., for bringing

your own food and toys

\* Do the staff play with my pet

These are just a few ideas of questions to ask when considering a boarding facility; more importantly is that all pets that are boarded in facilities are required to be fully vaccinated:

**Cats:** The recommended minimum requirement for cats going to boarding is the F3 vaccination. This provides immunity against feline enteritis and feline respiratory syndrome (commonly called 'cat flu'). Check with your vet however – they may also recom-

mended your cat has an additional vaccination against Chlamydia and Feline Leukaemia. The FIV vaccination is also a good idea.

It is recommended your cat's vaccinations are fully up to date and if a booster is due it is done at least 2 weeks prior to boarding.

**Dogs:** The recommended minimum requirement for dogs going to kennels is the C3 and C5 vaccination. This provides immunity against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, parainfluenza and Bordetella (which causes kennel cough).

Kennel Cough is not particular to boarding kennels – your dog can pick this up in off-leash dog parks. You should check with your veterinary as the C3 now comes as a tri-annual or 3 yearly whereby the C5 is at this stage only an annual shot, you should remember to check with your boarding facility prior to boarding. I hope the above has been helpful in the decision to board your pets; choosing the right facility is important, so ask your vet, your friends or even look at their reviews.

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### Nominations open for local 'sport grant program'



Member for Cessnock  
Clayton Barr MP

**Local sporting clubs across the Electorate of Cessnock are encouraged to apply for funding under the 2020 Local Sport Grant Program.**

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP said the Program aims to increase regular and on-going participation opportunities in sport and active recreation by assisting in the funding of facility upgrades, community sporting events or initiatives to improve club development.

"Across our community, sport plays a crucial role in bringing people together. We need to ensure functional resources and facilities are available for participants and spectators" Mr Barr said.

Up to \$50,000 has been allocated for projects within the Cessnock Electorate and incorporated, not-for-profit grassroots sport groups are eligible to apply.

There are four project types within the Program:

1. Sport Development (up to \$2,000);
2. Community Sport Events (up to \$5,000);
3. Sport Access (up to \$5,000) and;
4. Facility Development (up to \$15,000).

"Sporting groups across the Cessnock Electorate have been successful in receiving funding in recent years to improve their facilities and encourage community members to get involved with their local clubs" said Mr Barr. The 2019 Local Sport Grant Program recipients included Abermain Rams Football Club \$2872, Abermain Weston Hawks RLFC \$5,000, Cessnock Amateur Swimming Club \$3,000, Greta Workers Sports and Recreation Club \$20,000, Kurri Kurri Junior Motorcycle Club \$5,000, Kurri Kurri Netball Association \$5,000, Kurri Kurri Tennis Club \$7,128 and West Wallsend Soccer Club \$2,000.

"The grants have been used recently to fund everything from playing uniforms, subsidised registrations, to marquees, to flood lighting and an irrigation system."

Applications close at 5pm on Wednesday, 7 October 2020. For information about the program, including the program guidelines, please visit <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/localsport>

### They said it!.....

640K ought to be enough for anybody.  
- Bill Gates (Born 1955), Microsoft Founder, in 1981

Computer: a million morons working at the speed of light.  
- David Ferrier

Computers are useless. They can only give you answers.  
Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)

Computers aren't intelligent, they only think they are.  
- Anonymous

Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school - Albert Einstein

Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern but impossible to enslave. - Henry Peter Brougham, Baron

Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance - Will Durant

Education is a method whereby one acquires a higher grade of prejudices - Laurence J. Peter

If you used one of these:



Stay at home! You are in the high risk group.



# SPORTS RESULTS

## RESULTS GOLF

### Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 24-9-20 Stableford

Div 1 Winner M Barrett 30 pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u M Ford 28 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> R Yandle 28 pts  
 Div 2 Winner P Tracey 30 pts R/u J Flynn 29 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> S Dunker 25 pts  
 Ladies Div Winner J Scobie 26 pts R/u T Martin 24 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R McCarthy 22 pts  
 NTP Ladies R Friis Gents G Scobie  
 Raffle prize recipients as posted at Pro Shop  
 Members draw - Not won  
 A fine, warm Spring day greeted our keen players for to-day's round, although some may have considered the wind quite uncomfortable, for pleasurable play. Congratulations to Mick Barrett on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to all other winners and place getters.

### Results 1-10-20 Stableford 4BBB v Par

1<sup>st</sup> D Kinch & N Wheeler +8  
 2<sup>nd</sup> R McCarthy & J Scobie +6  
 3<sup>rd</sup> P Conroy & G Cuthbert +5 (c/b)  
 4<sup>th</sup> J Flynn & D Taylor +5 (c/b)  
 5<sup>th</sup> B Turner & L Bootes +5  
 NTP Ladies R McCarthy Gents G Train  
 Raffle prize recipients as posted at Pro Shop  
 Members draw - Not won  
 Another pleasant Spring day provided comfortable playing conditions for our eager players participating in to-day's round. Congratulations to Dave Kinch & Nick Wheeler (Winners) and to Ruth McCarthy & Jan Scobie (Runners up), both teams with very respectable scores. Also, a well done to all other winners and place getters. *LN Bootes, Hon Sec*

### Branxton Golf Club 4 PERSON AMBROSE SPONSORS DAY MURRAY & KAREN JOHANSON Saturday, 26 September 2020

Field: 61  
**NET WINNERS**  
 CHRIS LAWRENCE, CHLOE COLLISON, MICHAEL TRACEY, JOSHUA TRACEY 54.625 NET  
**SCRATCH WINNERS**  
 BARRY TURNER, DANIEL TURNER, LEE HEUSTON, ANTHONY BENTLEY 65 C/B  
**NET RUNNERS UP**  
 JOHN BOWEN, GRAHAM BULL, JOHN BURGESS, JAMES ELPHICK 54.750 NET  
**NET THIRD**  
 BEN BRIDGE, NEL BRIDGE, NICHOLAS REDGROVE, NORM REDGROVE 56.875 NET  
**NET FOURTH**  
 PIP LANCASTER, MICK

MARTIN, DAVID HODGES, STEPHEN KEARNEY 57.375 NET  
**BALLS EVERYONE WINS A BALL WHO DID NOT WIN A MAJOR PRIZE NTP'S**  
 A GRADE C ZAWIRSKI B GRADE N HUGHES C GRADE D TAYLOR LADIES K FRY  
 Saturday's brutal westerly winds didn't deter 61 players competing in the Johanson Family sponsored 4 Person Ambrose event—which is always a lot of fun as team members celebrate good and bad shots as a team. The Scratch Winners were the highly skilled team led by club veteran Barry Turner who must have ensured his team members, son Dan and Lee Heuston and Anthony Bentley concentrated and played to their abilities as their 5 under par 65 won them the scratch event. Joshua and Mick Tracey teamed with Chloe Collinson and Chris Lawrence to win the Net event with their 54.625 score. They finished only 0.125 in front of John Bowen, Graham Bull, John Burgess and James Elphick. The team of the Bridges and the Redgroves finished third 2 point behind with the Steve Kearney led team of Pip Lancaster, Mick Martin and Dave Hodges 4<sup>th</sup> another point behind. All other players won a ball with Chris Zawirski, Noel Hughes, Dave Taylor and Kerri Fry winning the NTPins.

### Saturday, 3 October 2020 MONTHLY MEDAL STROKE

Field: 47  
 Winners A Gregory Tearle 64  
 Grades A Greg Gillard 69  
 Grades A Gary Wilton 70  
 Grades A Wal Korotkich 70  
 Grades B Rodney Moylan 66  
 Grades B Luke Simmons 67  
 Grades B Benjamin Bridge 70  
 Grades C Ted Zawirski 68  
 Grades C Edward Neale 68  
 Grades C Lennard Porter 75  
 Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 75  
 NTP'S  
 A GRADE LEE HEUSTON B GRADE KEL MATHER 5 CM  
 C GRADE MICK LUTOVAC  
 Saturday's balmy spring weather ensured good scores were needed in each grade, with a smallish field undoubtedly affected by the long weekend. Gregory Tearle continued his recent fine form in winning the overall Monthly Medal with

an excellent 64 nett score (having 38 on each nine)—always a fine effort in a stroke event. Greg Gillard won A Grade with his 69 nett, just ahead of local club legend Gary Wilton's 70 and Wal Korotkich with the same nett score. Another local long time vet Rod Moylan turned back the clock in winning B Grade with the day's second best nett score of 66, just ahead of Luke Simmons with his nett 67 with last year's B Grade Club Champion Ben Bridge with his 70 nett—just in time to defend his championship. Ted Zawirski has had a fine year with another win in C Grade with his nett 68 edging out Eddie Neale with Lennie Porter third with his 75 nett. A nett 75 was needed to win a ball. The 18<sup>th</sup> hole proved to be one for the spectators on Saturday with Kel Mather winning the NTPin, finishing only 5 cms away—Club Captain Steve Ross was watching this great shot saying it landed about 3 metres short and ran straight towards the hole before pulling up agonisingly short—great shot Kel. Peter Wilton, one of the best iron players in the club, showed his prowess on the same hole, hitting the pin before seeing his ball rebound back off the green—very unlucky. Pete was still able to make par after that disappointment. The Club Championships start in 2 weeks so tee times are now a premium for those wanting selected time slots.

### Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 20th September

The Weekly Challenge has been won on countback with Jai Kumar getting the judges nod from Branxton GC visitor Lachlan Kauter after both had 39 point returns.  
**Tuesday 22nd September**  
 John Carmody had his best round for some time to record 44 points to record a clear win in the Tuesday Stableford from Grafton District GC visitor Peter Gibbons with 40 with Gary Arnold surviving a count-back for 3rd with 38 points. Ball winners were: Phil Darcy 38, Col Bradley 37, Anthony Mudd v37, David Michael Menzies 36, David Peel 36, Wayne Burgess 36, Rob Hannah 36, Dennis Donn 36, Scott Conti 35, Darren Cussen 34, Paul Smith 34, Mitch Attewell 34, Ian Langley v34, Dan Olsen 34, Wayne Barber 34, Nathan Cameron v33, Steve Piggot 33, Irwin Perring v33 and Graeme Flynn 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Steve Piggot (3rd) Tom Bell (4th) Gary Arnold (8th)

Darrell Porter (10th) 7 Wayne Barber (17th)  
**Wednesday 23rd September**  
 In a very close finish the 2020 Ladies 4BBB Champions are Mary Fortey and Jill Slatter with 44 points from Peree & Melita Watson 43 with Leesa Robinson & Sue Williams 3rd with 42.  
**Thursday 24th September**  
 A large field took on the Vets Stableford event with some solid scores returned, Division 1 went to Richard Craft with 38 points from Jeff Taylor 36 c/b, Division 2 Tom Bell with 37 on count-back to Bruce Chambers and Division 3 to Ron Findlay with 39 points from Anthony Neale with 37 c/b. Ball winners were: Dennis Donn 37, Rob Hannah 36, Mark Green 36, Wayne Barber 36, Ian Newell 35, Kevin Dick 35, Gary Arnold 35, Garry Marsden 35, Bruce Mathews 35, James Schofield 35, Ryan Wilson 35, Chris Norman 34, Scrum 34, Danny Schofield 34, Michael Gilbert 34, Ken Wright 34, Kerry Porter 33, Ann Grace-Smith 33, Ray Boyd 33, John Barbour 33, John Pascoe 33, Greg Harder 33, David Peel 33, Ken McLaughlan 33 & Wayne Berry 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd Hole-in-One) Steve Piggot (4th) David Peel (8th) John McLoughney (10th) & Ron Findlay (17th).

### Saturday 26th September

Back to Winter greeted the field with the chilly conditions lasting most of the day. The individual Stableford played in conjunction with the 4BBB has seen A Grade won by Peter Huckfelt with 38 points from Stephen Zok 34 c/b, B Grade to Geoff Boyd with an outstanding 43 point round from Don Btadley with 37 on countback and C Grade to Glenn Williams with 34 points from George Copas 33. Ball winners were: Tom Bell 37, Jeff Morton 36, Stewart McMahan v36, Graham Morris 35, Nic Bates 35, Peter Puerta 35, Peter McIntyre 34, Jeremy Holden 34, Micke Carter 33, Jason Cowburn 33, David Peel 33, Shannon Attewell 33, Steve Piggot 33, Dean Freebairn 32, Brian Connolly 32, Terry Roughan 32, Dean Morison 32, Kevin Smith 32, Peter McLennan 32, Paul Bullock 32, Ken Harris 32, Terry Webb 32, Ben Bradley 31, Richard Craft 31 and John Sansom v31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jeff Morton (3rd) Shannon Attewell (4th) Denis Corke (8th) Steve Piggot (10th) & Paul McCudden (17th) The

4BBB Stableford Championship has not been declared as yet due to computer issues. Unfortunately the Mixed 4BBB had to be postponed due to lack of mixed teams and has been rescheduled for Sunday 8th November.

### FROM BACK PAGE Colts Claim U/18's Premiership in Thrilling Finish

...Andrews slotted the conversion to end the scoring. The Colts had to nervously defend their line in the dying moments when they failed to complete from the kick off, but their steely resolve held firm and they held on until the final hooter. Skipper Hayden Regan was awarded man-of-the-match honours, Reid received the player's player award, with Guy, Will Regan and Lane Jurd among the Colts' best, but there was not a bad player on the field in what was truly a spirited display to come back from a twelve-point deficit with limited time remaining. Greta/Branxton Colts Central Hunter Community Cup Minor/Major Premiers: Matthew Guy, Cain Bonham, Will Regan, Will Sanders, Zach Ellis, Reuben Andrews, Patrick Andrews, Ethen Spliet-Miller, Harry Reid, Cody Guentthroth, Lane Jurd, Nic Holland, Hayden Regan ©, Noah Ambrum, Daniel McCann, Harry Drayton, Ethan Hartcher, Jack Pryor, Fletcher Warrington, Kurtis Phelps, Corey Xuereb, Bailey

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## Record Turn-out for 2020 Lake St Clair Comp

THE weekend of the Friday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September over 50 of the Greta Fishing Club Members and their friends camped along the banks of the wonderful Lake St Clair Park.

Greta Workers



This was nearly every member that was in attendance which was an enormous effort. A visit from the boys in blue saw them take a photo of the pig cooking on the spit and it was clear that everyone was practicing safe social distancing. The fishing was above average from the word go with the majority of the fish caught over the weekend being from the shore in camp. Those who did take boats managed a few fish further up the lake but as a whole members sat back in their camp chairs and watched their rods with a beer in their hands. Many Catfish, Silver Perch and Australian Bass were weighed in, or caught and released. It was pleasing to see how many fish over the course of the weekend was released to live another day and help to keep the great fishing stocks of the dam alive and well.

The overall point's winner for the weekend was Scott Beckett with 161.5 points, just ahead of his father Glenn (157.2) and Steve "Young Devon" Nevin (102.5). The highest Junior for the weekend was Tyson Nevin (78.4) and highest Female Summer Spliet-Miller who entertained the crowd with her unique but effective technique (78.3 points)

One of the many highlights of the weekend apart from the fishing were the Saturday night feed and games put on by the club, many thanks to Aidan McDougall and Matt Thrift for donating the hand reared pig for the spit roast. Matt also featured on the highlights reel with a 10/10 effort to go running from nowhere to rescue Fee Jacobs' rod which was doubled over with a fish on the end, only to see him slip down the hill and land on his but in the water but not spill a drop out of his freshly opened beer. Treasurer Andrew Jacobs also made the big time when his frustration at getting outfished saw him throw his rod and reel in the water and when questioned his reply was "they are still making them".

As mentioned above there were games played on the Saturday afternoon and a number of BCF Vouchers were awarded to the winners below:

Biggest fish off the bank Summer Spliet-Miller 2.5kg Catfish

Lolly guessing competition Ethen Spliet-Miller  
 Casting Comp Junior event Ethan Sams  
 Casting Comp Senior event Joel Platt  
 Yabby Races Junior event Ruby Nevin  
 Yabby Races Senior event Micah Platt

Pictured below is the normally quiet and reserved Ethen Miller-Spliet who turned 18 the previous week and celebrated his birthday up at the Dam. He shocked the crowd when he came running out to the fire singing Queens Bohemian Rhapsody fully dressed as Freddie Mercury.



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# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

## The News **SPORT**

### Colts Claim U/18's Premiership in Thrilling Finish



Greta-Branxton Colts Central Hunter Community Cup U/18's Minor/Major Premiers 2020 – Back Row L-R: Mark Bercini (coach), Patrick Andrews, Will Sanders, Harry Reid, Kurtis Phelps, Greg Andrews (FAO). Middle Row L-R: Harry Goodyer (assistant coach), Matthew Guy, Cody Guentthroth, Jack Pryor, Ethen Split-Miller, Daniel McCann, Zach Ellis, Seamus Keegan. Front Row L-R: Noah Ambrum, Ethan Hartcher, Fletcher Warrington, Reuben Andrews, Hayden Regan (c), Will Regan, Cain Bonham, Harry Drayton, Nic Holland, Lane Jurd.

On Saturday 26th Sept the Greta/Branxton Colts U/18's won a memorable premiership when they

defeated Denman 26-20 in front of a capacity crowd at Greta Oval. The Colts overcame a twelve-point

deficit with twelve minutes remaining to rally in the final stages with three unanswered converted tries.

After defeating the Devils a fortnight earlier to wrap up the minor premiership, the home side made it a minor/

couple of tackles later saw a nice crisp backline shift to the right which resulted in a try in the north-eastern



Colts skipper Hayden Regan holds the premiership trophy aloft.

major premiership double in front of a capped 500 vocal fans due to Covid restrictions. Greta/Branxton opened the scoring in the seventh minute of the match. Fullback Matty Guy's great return run from a 20-metre tap saw him evade tackle after tackle to put the Colts on the attack. A

corner to centre Will Regan. Patrick Andrews' difficult conversion attempt in the blustery conditions was waved away and the Colts led 4-0.

Denman responded immediately after Greta/Branxton allowed the ensuing kick off to bounce dead in goal. Four tackles later from the drop out the Devils opened their scoring with a converted after their five-eighth waltzed through some brittle Colts defence to lead 6-4. The Devils were in again shortly after with a neat try on the last tackle following a grubber into the in goal. The sideline conversion raised the flags and they now led 12-4.

The Colts responded with four minutes remaining in the first half. Patty Andrews sensed an opportunity on the last tackle, he threw a neat pass to skipper Hayden Regan, whose beautiful cut-out pass found an unmarked Cain Bonham and he crossed in the corner. Andrews' difficult conversion attempt was again flagged away and the Colts went into half time trailing 12-8. Denman dominated the majority of the third quarter, with two more tries extending their lead to 20-8 in what should have been good

enough to claim the title. The Colts in spirited fashion refused to lay down though, with in-form prop Cody Guentthroth crashing over from close range right on the stroke of three-quarter time. Andrews made no mistake with the conversion this time and all of a sudden the deficit was just six points. The fourth quarter was all the Colts, with Patrick Andrews levelling things up with a converted try of his own after his last tackle kick ricocheted off the upright and he dived on the live ball for his seventh four-pointer of the season. Cool, calm and collected he slotted the conversion to lock things up at 20-all.

The ensuing kick off saw the home side receive a much-welcomed penalty after four tackles. Then came the moment of the match with four minutes on the clock. With the Colts deep on the attack, Andrews was lingering behind the ruck, seemingly setting himself for the one-pointer to break the deadlock. Class hooker Harry Reid had other ideas though, as he split the defence from dummy half and sprinted 15 metres to crash over next to the posts for the match winner.

CONT. INSIDE PAGE

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