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THURSDAY 5
NOVEMBER 2020

Keep your business in town and you keep your town in business!!!!

Huntlee Tavern officially opened

by Cessnock-bred & Newcastle Knights legend Andrew Johns

HUNTLEE TAVERN welcomed its first patrons last Friday evening after being officially opened by Cessnock-bred & Newcastle Knights legend Andrew Johns. The hotel has been 5-years in the making but, as owner-director Jason Gavin said, they

persevered and are proud of the outcome. "The result is a new hub for the community where absolutely everyone is welcome. "It's great to be the first hotel in this brand new town - that's not the type of opportunity

that comes along every day," he said" said Jason. The hotel was designed by award-winning hospitality architects Bergstrom Architects and built by Whitcon. The hotel has a public bar, a bistro (open for lunch and dinner seven days a week) and

a cafe (open from 7am daily). There's also a bottle shop, indoor kids' playground, a kids' theatre, an outdoor terrace, a VIP outdoor lounge, TAB and KENO facilities. The opening has also seen 30 jobs created and, as Jason said, mostly locals. "Trading since Friday has been much better than expected which has been a welcomed surprise, particularly with Covid-19. The feed-back from patrons has also been very positive. I am very proud of our staff who handled the large crowds, since opening, very well," said Jason. Jason also said he was delighted with the feed-back he's seen on social media and congratulated his kitchen. "The menu focuses on classic modern Australian pub food and the chefs, between them, have over 100 years experience in the industry," said Jason. The Bistro has been booked out since opening as well as the Melbourne Cup luncheon. ■ Photos: (at Top) Andrew Johns cut the opening ribbon &, at right, part of the crowd at Melbourne Cup Luncheon



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SAVE THE KRAWARREE

By John Murray, Executive Director, Hunter Anzac Memorial Ltd



The AH Krawarree is an Australian Army Sea Ambulance from World War 2 and today marks a significant day in having the boat fully restored and put back in the water again.

Launched in 1945 she is built from 100% Huon Pine at Launceston – Tasmania. Her sole purpose was to save wounded Diggers fighting fierce battles around our Top End, PNG and the Solomon Islands. Of only five built this one is the last remaining. A newly formed charity, the **Hunter Anzac Memorial**, has acquired this unique piece of Australia’s wartime efforts and plans to have her made fully operational again. The Chairman of the **Hunter Anzac Memorial** Mr Brett Wild described the AH Krawarree as one of the most historic WW2 finds in decades “We must restore this boat so she may carry on with the important humanitarian work for which she was built.” He said. “The **AH Krawarree** is a national treasure and it

must be seen and experienced by all Australians whilst carrying out her most important work. She will also do Tasmania and all those master tradesmen and women who built her all those years ago proud!” The boat has been residing behind a service station in Northern NSW but over the weekend of the 24th and 25th October it was transported down the Pacific Highway under police escort to Carrington on Newcastle Harbour. It is here at Thales Shipyards that she will undergo specialised refurbishment. It is expected to take some two years to have the **AH Krawarree** bought back to looking and operating as new again. And once made fully operational, the **AH Krawarree** will have an extensive sailing schedule that will take her to all ports of Australia. In keeping with the Charter of the **Hunter Anzac Memorial** she will be taking out Veterans,

deserving youth and other groups to assist with mental health and other social issues. Whilst primarily for Veterans support the boat will also act as a floating platform from which to teach our children of the sacrifices Australians made then and now to keep us free. The **AH Krawarree** was made to help others but is now in need of a hand herself. If you can help with a donation to ‘**Rescue the Krawarree**’ and help us make this dream a reality we would be eternally grateful. Please visit our website to donate or go to the MyCause site shown below... . www.mycase.com.au
Type Donate
Type in Hunter Anzac Memorial and select from the drop down menu
 Click on the logo for **Hunter Anzac Memorial** to donate
 All donations fully Tax Deductable
AH 1733 Krawarree Vessel Number: HV000399
Date: 1943

Builder: EA Jack
Previous Owner: Australian Army
Dimensions: Vessel 24.38 m x 4.88 m x 1.6 m (80 ft x 16 ft x 5.25 ft)
Classification: Vessels and fittings
Significance
 AH 1733 KRAWARREE is an 80 foot Ambulance Launch built in Tasmania in 1945 by EA Ned Jack, and was intended for service in World War II. It was built as an Army Hospital launch based on the hull of a fast patrol boat often designated as Harbour Defence Motor launches (HDML). It is the only surviving

example of five such craft that were all built in Tasmania, and remains in its original configuration. It is a rare example of the huge number of working craft built for service and rescue operations, and one of the very few examples of the larger adapted fast supply and patrol boat craft still extant in Australia. Description AH 1733 KRAWARREE was built by EA "Ned" Jack in Launceston and probably launched around August 1945 . The Ambulance Launches built in Tasmania were made by either Purdon and Featherstone in Hobart who made three, or EA 'Ned' Jack in Launceston who made two. Neither firm kept exact records to confirm who built the craft which were numbered AH 1730-1734, however an image in the Hobart Mercury 28 August 1945 shows the vessel AM 1733 undergoing trials on the Tamar River. Another undated historic image of AM 1733 shows it undergo-

ing trials on the Derwent River. The 24.38 metre long craft were adapted from the 80 Ft HDML hull design, with a raised aft deck over the rear third of the hull to give headroom and space for stretchers. They were fitted out with 33 stretcher berths, 30 in the main ward and three in a special ward. The layout was an effective use of the space and compartments, and the arrangement to lift stretchers aboard was simple and shows how basic facilities and treatment was in this wartime period. Wounded soldiers would be hoisted aboard on a stretcher, and lowered through a long hatch directly onto a table for assessment and initial treatment. The craft had wooden double diagonal planked hulls and were powered by 2 Hercules diesel engines, giving a cruising speed of 12 knots, and a top speed of 16 knots. They were lightly armed for defence with one 20mm machine gun, and two twin Vickers 303 in guns. The building process was slow and held up by the lack of suitable engines. Of the eight originally ordered around the end of 1943, only five were completed. The first three saw service late in the war in the PNG area. KRAWARREE did not see active service as it was completed at the end of the war. The log books held in National Archives Canberra begin in August 22 1945. The craft also had the capacity to be modified as a headquarters for senior commanders, and AH 1734 KURUNDA was noted as being used as a command craft after the end of the war in September 1945.

Branxton ‘Book Exchange’ now Open!



On Monday 26th October The Branxton Book Exchange was officially opened. The book exchange is located inside the Crib Box Café at Branxton. The idea originated from two locals Emma Nevin and her 7-year-old daughter Ruby (see photo above). During the Covid lock down the Nevin family found their love for reading again and came up with this initiative to pass on books that have been read for other members of the community to share. Emma also quoted that it was a good opportunity to give her girls a life lesson in giving. A big thanks to the Café owner Nicole Gibson for allowing the book exchange to be built inside her shop. Also a big thanks to the Community for all the books that have been donated so far. Please feel free to drop in more of your old used books. To borrow a book all you need to do is pop a \$2 donation into the cup and take a book you like. Or you can swap a book. All proceeds will go to the purchase of more books. Feel free to come in to grab a coffee and take a look. "TAKE TIME OUT AND ENJOY A GOOD BOOK"



Reaching the end of a job interview, the human resources person asked a young engineer fresh out of Sydney Uni what kind of a salary he was looking for. "In the neighbourhood of \$140,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."
 "Well, what would you say to a package of 5-weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every 2 years...say, a red Porsche?"
 "Wow! Are you kidding?" "Yeah, but you started it."

Emergency Phone Numbers		
Dial 000	Police	Electricity
FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE	Branxton.... 4938 1244	Energy Australia..... 131 388
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ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	NSW Fire Brigade	Cessnock... 4991 0555
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	Belford..... 6574 7149	Crime Stoppers
	Broke..... 6579 1491	1800 333 000
	Greta..... 4015 0000	Poisons Info 131 126
	Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Hunter Water
	Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	1300 657 000
	Rothbury... 4015 0000	Ausgrid 131 388
	Pokolbin.... 4015 0000	Gas Emergencies . 131 909
	Rothbury.... 4991 1733	Lifeline131 114
	Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Mental Health Line
	Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	1800 011 511
	Rothbury.... 4015 0000	Domestic Violence Support
	Pokolbin.... 4015 0000	4990 9609
	Rothbury.... 4991 1733	Centrelink Self Service
	Scotts	136 240
	Flat..... 6575 1200	Medicare 132 011
	Central	Native Animal Rescue
	(Cessnock)... 4015 0000	0418 628 483

REFLECTIONS

The Greatest Commandment

Matthew 25.1-13

Jesus used parables, or short narratives and stories to engage the imagination of the disciples and to challenge the conventional thinking of his time. These stories often draw from “everyday, peasant life, but an unexpected twist underlines the surprising, gracious, demanding and countercultural nature of God’s reign.” We too can draw insight from the parables of Jesus as we interpret them for our own time and circumstances. The parable in this week’s Gospel, the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, is no exception. “Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.” [Matthew 25.2] The task at hand was to be ready for the arrival of the bridegroom. Five of them were prepared, but five were not. The five unprepared bridesmaids left to purchase oil for their lamps, but while they were gone, the five who were prepared and had brought extra oil with them were taken by the bridegroom to the wedding banquet. Arriving later, the five who were not prepared were denied entry to the wedding banquet, being told by the bridegroom, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” [Matthew 25.12] This parable highlights for us the importance of being ready and watchful for Jesus’ return. None of us know exactly when that will be, but we all can be ready ... or not. We have the choice to be foolish or to be wise with the time that we have as we wait, living in the present with our gaze directed towards the future. If Jesus returns during our lifetime, will we be counted among the foolish or the wise? Should we not prepare so that we are ready for Jesus’ return? So, how do we prepare for the coming of Christ? It requires more than mere understanding of the things that Jesus teaches us through Scripture and the example of his most precious life. Our understanding must be put into action in our lives as we wait. Jesus shared life, loneliness, anguish, and death as we do. He is not far from us at any time. Each day we have the choice to touch, serve and love him by imitating his life of service to others. When he does return, we will be judged on our life, not a moment in time. This parable is a warning for us. It is a warning wrapped in love, telling us that each moment of life should be beautiful, like bridesmaids awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom. We are not to wait in fear but in joyful hope, waiting for the voice of the Beloved. I wonder what we will do this week to show God’s love to the people around us? If Jesus were to return, would there be enough evidence of our love that he would recognise us as his disciples and welcome us into God’s kingdom?

Blessings,
 Reverend Nicole



mobility, balance, speech & cognition all at the same time.

I could not walk or balance myself. My speech was slurred, and I could not remember what I was saying mid-sentence. The left side of my face and body was paralysed. My body would stiffen and contort with spasticity to the point I would convulse. It felt like a million hot needles pricking my body over and over. The pain was horrendous! Worst of all was the cognitive issues. Problems with information processing, memory & concentration. I could not remember how to write my own name! I could not work out how to put my clothes on! Which piece of clothing went on first? Do I put my arm or my leg in? The confusion with simple tasks and word finding was just devastating! I felt like my mind was trapped inside my body. I knew what I wanted to say but could not get it out!

So here I was, a healthy 38-year-old woman, a mum, I worked, I volunteered, I was active in the community. No-one in our family had a history of MS. I could not understand it! Why me? What had I done to cause this?!

After that initial stay in hospital and having had MRI's, a lumbar puncture and massive doses of steroids to try and calm the flare, I spent several months in rehabilitation trying to

reclaim some of me that MS had taken away. Learning to stand up without falling over. Learning to walk when I could not feel my feet. Learning to laugh when life just was not that funny! Then just as I was starting to see some improvement, another MRI three months later told a different story. More lesions had appeared on my brain and my MS was progressing. At this time came my 'Official Diagnosis' and the decision to start aggressive treatment straight away was advised. During this time, I was lucky enough to have had not only the support of family and friends but also my local Pharmacist, Lee Grundy at Piggott's Pharmacy Branxton. Many a time Lee and the staff had been there for myself and my family with advice and guidance through the various stages of our lives. Branxton Pharmacy had been my local Chemist for nearly 20 years, and I trusted and valued their help, as do many within our local community. As the month's past, I concentrated on rehabilitation, physiotherapy and learning to manage my fatigue but I found myself becoming frustrated and depressed. So, a friend decided to get me out of the house and with wheelchair in tow, we ventured into Maitland. We were on the hunt for craft supplies. Something that I could do at

home to fill in my time between therapy. As my legs were not reliable, and I used a wheelchair or cane most days, I knew it had to be something that I could do with my hands and not be too mentally fatiguing. I had always enjoyed Visual Arts at school, so I was naturally drawn to the paints section. So began my painting journey. I found that painting (as challenging as it was) was very therapeutic. It relaxed me, it calmed my mind, it made me push through the spasticity and incidentally work on my fine motor skills, whilst helping with my concentration and co-ordination. Painting gave me a way of being able to express myself but most importantly, it helped me to reconnect socially. As time went on and the spasticity started to subside, I ramped it up a notch and decided to challenge myself with attempting to paint on glass. It was then that I discovered these amazing paints that if dried properly and baked, they would allow your artwork to become dishwasher resistant. This was a game changer! Months were spent practising my new skill before holding my first stall at the North Rothbury Twilight Markets, of where the Community came together to support my new endeavour and Two Hoots Giftware was born.



Fast forward to today and I am pleased to say that my MS is currently stable. I have mastered the art of glass painting and am now a proud small business owner. I am also absolutely honoured that I am being further supported by the same Pharmacy that supported me during my diagnosis and now their sister store Huntlee as well. Two Hoots Giftware is now available at both Pharmacies. Each hand painted on quality Krosno glassware with most taking several days to create as drying times varying depending on the layers of the design. Some taking up to 5 days to complete. All the glassware is dishwasher resistant, so do not be afraid to use them repeatedly. Check them out next time you are in Piggott's Pharmacy Branxton or

Huntlee. They are perfect gift for Christmas, birthdays or for that some-one special! They are available in various colours with new designs regularly released. I hope you enjoy them as much as I have enjoyed painting them for you! *MS is an incurable chronic disease of the central nervous system where the immune system attacks the protective sheath (myelin) that covers nerve fibres and causes communication problems between your brain and the rest of your body. It affects over 25,000 people in Australia with most being diagnosed between the ages of 20-40. Roughly three times as many women have MS as men.*

Photos: top left - Two Hoots Giftwares' Sally Moffat & above a sample of her creations

Two Hoots Giftware was born in 2017 after I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and is named after the two Tawny Frogmouth Owls that come to nest every year in the tree outside of my lounge room window.

I take great delight every year on their return, watching them raise their young and listening to their distinctive sound. Since 2013 I had been having minor issues but dismissed them. Little things like occasional blurriness in my left eye, accidentally walking into doorframes and

quite often forgetting basic words mid conversation. This would happen on and off a few times a year and after several weeks would correct itself.

The doctors put it down to vertigo and long sightedness and I was given prescription glasses. Then on November 3rd, 2016, things got a little crazy.

Within a matter of 3 days, I went from being completely fine to being hospitalised. It was what they called my first major exacerbation or 'flare'.

It had affected my vision,



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STEVE'S RANT

Catastrophic doom(?)

It never fails to disappoint when the climate change proponents' bang on about their forecasts of catastrophic doom without ever questioning evidence and statistics provided by the "science".

The 'science' is in so they say. Every conversation, article or opinion is made on the assumption that climate change is real and increasing exponentially as the world burns more and more fossil fuels. On top of this, is conflated every other type of pollution from plastic straws to nuclear waste, and a rapid decline in biodiversity both on land and on the sea. Things are not that simple, but it is convenient for the 'prophet of doom' to blame all this on carbon dioxide and those who produce it. I was, for want of something better to do, whilst waiting for the doctor, listening to a talk session on ABC Radio National. The broadcast was on Morning on the 26 October 2020, and the theme of the programme was the weather. The point made was how nowadays there is much more urgency and concern about the weather and how worried and frightened people were of extreme weather events. The experts on hand were a climate psychologist and an ex-fire department officer who represented a climate

action group. The climate psychologist was concerned with peoples anxiety levels about climate and the threat to their children's future. Several phone-ins spoke of their fear and mentioned that their children were not planning to have children of their own. Without exception, all the phone-ins based their contributions on the assumption that climate change was real and that future extreme weather events and threats to the biodiversity would be the result. Each gave anecdotal accounts of things they have observed which reinforces their ideas—the obvious one where the North Queensland floods and the bushfires in the eastern states and South Australia. Climate change, of course, did not cause these events. The floods were the result of an intense monsoon season in 2019 when three tropical cyclones followed one, two, three. This year's fire season followed the devastating drought of the last two to three years which dried out the country below the Tropic of Capricorn. It was made more deadly due to the Local Government policy of denying landowners permission to reduce fuels loads around their properties. State and Federal Governments failing to reduce fuel loads

in National and State reserves. There was good reason for this last year because of dry conditions and a lack of windless days. However, that only added to an already volatile situation which had developed over the last five years; this was neglect. After each significant bushfire event, we have investigations into the causes and severity of the fires and each time the same conclusions are made.

Apart from people and lightning causing fires, in the northern savannah lands, birds, black kites, carry burnings stick or grasses in their beaks to start new fires to startle prey below. Indigenous people call them fire-hawks.

In NSW the purchase of additional aircraft and up-grades of the RFS fire fighting vehicles the RFS have better resources to deploy.

Hopefully, any future event will not be on such a large scale as this year's fires and fire-fighting assets will not be spread so thin; fingers crossed.

Other anecdotes reported by the people phoning-in were observations of changes to local birdlife, plants, and the strange demise of the normal range of frogs.

As for the disappearing frogs, frogs need rain to start them mating. In prolonged dry periods they estivate in mud, even for up to a year. Unlike hibernation, they can go into, out and then in again. It is not surprising in a drought then.

The prolonged drought would seem the most likely cause for these changes. Droughts we know are cyclical events, and as with fire, floods and pestilence have been occurring through recorded history. Strangely, what the recent history of extreme weather events shows is that they occur less frequently than in the past and due to good

weather forecasting the human death toll from these events has reduced markedly in the past 50 years. This, despite far greater numbers of people being exposed to extreme weather as populations increase and move to cities on the coastal fringes.

When we talk of extinctions amongst our native species, any link of this to changes in the climate is spurious. The wildlife of Australia has adapted to and survived past climate changes for millions of years. It was the advent of humans in the past 60 thousand years, which started a steady decline in our megafauna and the changes to the vegetation of our continent. With the introduction of exotic animals such as kampong dogs (dingoes) pigs and water buffalos, bought to northern Australia by the peoples of the Indonesian archipelago, the Tasmanian Tigers and Devils disappeared from mainland Australia.

Then we have the arrival of the English who introduced, intentionally or otherwise, the greatest threats and causes of native animal extinction. These include the following; rats and mice, rabbits, cats, foxes, deer, goats, sheep, donkey's, camels and cane toads. The activities of the new human arrivals apart from habitat reduction had little effect on native animals apart from crocodiles.

Unfortunately, some twerp thought it a good idea to stop hunting them.

We need to invent a word, a noun, to designate people who believe in climate change - so shall we call them "Doomers"? They hold as axioms many phenonium's for which there is no evidence. Let us look at each one in turn. The atmosphere is getting warmer; temperatures on the eastern coast of Australia have not changed since records have been kept. Except where the department of meteorology has fiddled with the record in attempting

gentle, inclusive part of the population, think of 'The Extinction Rebellion' addressing those who question climate change. Scornful and sneering, and publicly damaging the careers of those who disagree with their points of view.

Social justice warrior is a term for an individual who promotes socially progressive (not universally accepted) views, including feminism, communism, socialism, and multiculturalism. Unfortunately, they cover other -isms too. Journalistically, sensationalism, a distinctive belief, theory, with disregard to truth.

To control outcomes, they accuse others of racism, sexism, classism. All the isms which are connected to 'Holier-Than-Thou' identity groups, attempting to influence social and economic justice. It is anything but social justice. The Left are expressing contempt or disapproval of those who question some of the more

outrageous rubbish. Young admirers of a socialist system of government that will answer to their genuine fears of Armageddon close their minds and walk away from the reasoned argument, disputing everything. And these bullies of the left are malicious, trying to take power, wanting to change our speech, our history and dividing us. Very pretentious about how much they care about social issues, freezing us to silence. The left bullies university professors who are scared to cover anything that might in some way appear to discriminate or upset some students. Why? Because their careers are at stake. We are well on our way to George Orwell's 1984. Totalitarianism was the reason Romans killed Caesar, and it again reared its head back in 1917. Ask any older Chekhovian, Hungarian or Eastern European. Chinese people are "sorted" with whom they associate. Their families

to allow for changed circumstances at individual weather stations.

Like petrol prices, atmospheric temperature changes daily and between night and day. On a cloudless still night the temperature will drop 20 degrees or more. It is said, by placing a cup or a small tin of water in a hole in the sand overnight in the North African desert one can make ice.

What about upper atmospheric temperature? It just gets colder as one gets higher.

The sea level is rising, and the Pacific islands are being submerged? The mean sea level as measured on Pinchgut Island in Sydney Harbour, has not changed by more than four inches. (10 cm) since records have been kept. The highest levels were recorded just after Federation in 1901. Specific seasonal changes may occur as the trade winds come and go, and prevailing winds can lower sea levels near the Barrier Reef causing coral bleaching.

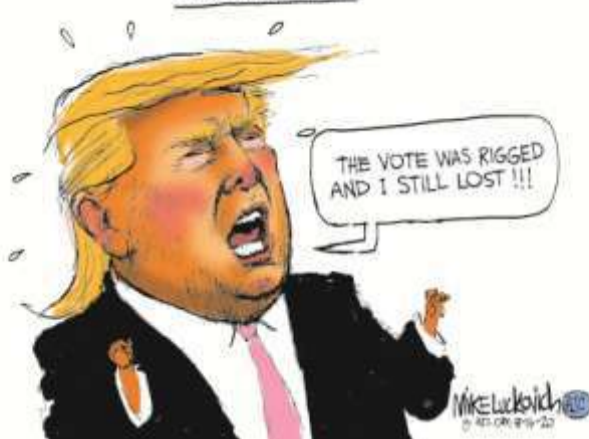
The islands of the South Pacific subject to sea-level changes are coral atolls. Coral atolls grow; they do not shrink. The habitable parts of these reefs are dead and broken coral which is washed up in heavy seas. Over time these piles of broken coral are colonised by coconut palms and other vegetation which produces floating seed pods. They always remain subject to storm surged and heavy seas.

and friends are graded as to how well they do in supporting the Communists Party. The party treats one by how they score. Similarly, we are tracked and graded by what we buy on the internet and our browsing history. I have recently been browsing postage stamps, so all manner of philatelists email me. My accountant can access the taxation department to see if I have been paid any benefits, and wine merchants know what I drink.

Think of how that pregnant woman arrested in her home for what she put on Facebook, was tracked. They can identify us. Some public servants can already arrest people, but that's when a crime is or has been committed. Dan



November 4th



Melting ice caps and retreating glaciers?

There are two classic photographs of the Muir glacier in Alaska.

The 1941 shot shows the serrated surface of the glacier as it creeps down the valley and it extends out of the photo frame on the lower right—all ice.

The second photograph from the same viewpoint in 2004 shows blue water up the valley with only a tiny show of ice at the top almost out of sight—a dramatic illustration of how glaciers retreat in warmer conditions. In Melbourne during the late 1940s and 1950s, I remember breaking the ice on puddles on our way to school. That was a solar minimum. The winter of 1941 stopped Operation Barbarossa in its tracks just short of Moscow. The Germans never recovered from that as the Russian front went into a stalemate and the slow grinding down of the German Army. The studies of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica, all give figures of ice mass loss at the point where glaciers meet the sea.

The studies make dramatic predictions of the tipping point of no return for the collapse of the Antarctic Thwaites Glacier in the next 60 to 70 years. Then they say the steady decline in the glacier's mass could go on for centuries if a collapse does not occur in the glacier's mass. Talk about having a bob each way. The ice cap researchers make

observations and deduce future events from the evidence left by past events on the seafloor and by the record of past atmospheres in ice cores i.e., CO2 levels, dust and pollen deposits. This evidence shows how the ice caps accumulated in the past. When researchers put this information into their computer modelling, they get conflicting outcomes and always give a 'range of possibilities'. However, they never quantify how much new snow and ice is deposited on the ice cap but always give the net amount of ice as a diminishing quantity and predict sea level rises. Well, hello, sea levels are not rising as predicted. Recently, the northern winters have produced record snowfall, and this northern winter will be no exception.

In the past twenty years, the eastern Antarctica ice has been growing. Just do not ask how we can tell east and west at the South pole. There are other factors which might affect global temperatures, some known but others beyond our ken. So why do 80% of Australians fear Global warming? It is quite simple. Most Australians get their information from the ABC, SBS and other twitter-spheres. Therefore, they only get one side of the story. The only time these media outlets ever engage with 'non-Doomers' is to denigrate them. Every News show will have some reference to a global

warming story, and every news item will be couched in terms of how this will affect global warming. There is no questioning of these pronouncements or any balanced comment made.

A further startling fact is that 45% of Australians cannot read and rely solely on television or social media for their information. I beg everyone who can read to do your research on this subject. The following is a list of suggested reading.

APOCALYPSE NEVER and BREAK THROUGH: Both by Michael Shellenberger
COOL IT. By Professor of Statistics Bjorn Lomborg
WILL THE GREAT BARRIERS REEF SURVIVE? By our well-known David Mason-Jones formerly with Mike at 'The News'.
Any thing written by Ian Rutherford Plimer
Cheers, Steve

M. Lind, North Rothbury NSW



illogical or flippant?

It occurs to me that Allan Thomas The NEWS letters to the Editor 22 OCT 2020 has outed himself as illogical or flippant in that he has extended the argument beyond defending democracy and the rights of the individual. Let us not close our eyes to the creeping socialists that Labor and the Greens have become. It is easy to scoff at those that think for themselves and the democracy which allows us to speak out. Thank goodness we still have democracy and Allan has the right to expose himself. Group thinking and group identities are the realms of the socialists. Allan may have to zugzwang in his political druthers. People, those on the right of politics, generally want to get things done and let

others enjoy the life we had when people had Christian values.

In the post-Christian world, a new religion has taken over. Not just taken over, but so influenced the left side of politics the population is dividing not by classification but by identity.

I identify as a white middle-class person who understands the woke, cancel culture, political correctness and gender issues are being engineered and promoted by the left. The left assume moral superiority and aim to establish power over us. They are in our universities, big corporations and airhead political parties. You know who, inner-city chattering class, many public servants and many schoolteachers in every school. If you think they are just a



BUSINESS CHAMBER TAKES LEAD ON REFORMATION

Improved economic opportunity for every member of the Branxton/Greta & wider local community

of leadership the Chamber and its members can achieve significant outcomes like those below:-

- The Branxton Greta Cycleway - construction commences early 2021
- Refurbishment of the Rotunda in John Rose Avenue— completed early October 2020
- The Maitland street CBD improvements— Completed September 2020
- Business Expo & Support Local

From 2021 onward it is the view of the current board that the primary role of the business chamber is to:

- Promote and enhance opportunity for business to grow and expand in the local area
 - Lobby Local, State and Federal government for funding for projects and infrastructure to enhance the economic value of our town trading centres.
 - Raise issues that impact on business such as the opportunity to gain government contracts, startup business grants and working conditions for the employment of new staff, just to name a few.
- The new era for the Central

Hunter Business Chamber (CHBC) will commence with the AGM to be held on 25th November 2020 at the Branxton Community Hall. The hall was best choice as a venue because it has capacity for approx. 70 people under COVID-19 safe rules, said Tony Gates, Interim Secretary for the Chamber.

VOTING at the AGM can only be accepted from FINANCIAL members so the Interim Board has set a new fee structure that will start at \$20 for a period up to February 28th 2021.

From March 1st 2021 the annual fees will apply for the next 12 months. Notably fees have not changed since 2018 so the value to members is significant with all the new benefits and programs to emerge in the new year without putting members financial position at risk for little or no value at all, said Mike Lowing, Interim President.

Tony Gates said Past members, prospective members and interested community individuals are encouraged to consider membership for the future benefit of businesses and the local community. ALL board positions will be open for re-election, and we



remind all new and potential members only financial members get to vote
Pre-election Nominations will be welcomed ONLY if sent in writing by email to secretary@centralhunterbusiness.com.au

Central Hunter Business Chamber VISION STATEMENT to improve the economic opportunity for every member of the Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury & Huntlee New Town Community

Central Hunter Business Chamber MISSION STATEMENT to create a better everyday life for the citizens of Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury & Huntlee New Town by working with business, Government and major stakeholders to inspire and implement solutions for improved trading environment, improved infrastructure and stronger economic growth for Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury & Huntlee New Town

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Members say ..



Clr Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Behind the Mayors Desk

It was wonderful to attend the Sculpture in the Vineyards Opening event and see so many people enjoying art in a very special location. Well done to the organisers and artists involved. Despite COVID-19 we must continue to hold events and come together as a community in a safe manner. It is important life continues on and we remain connected. This is certainly important for occasions such as Remembrance Day which is approaching.

Unfortunately, we were unable to gather together to acknowledge ANZAC Day as a community, however we will be able to do so on the 11 November. It will be good to stand with the local community and pay respects to service personnel at the service in Branxton. Deputy Mayor Darrin Gray will attend the Kearsley service. Everyone in our community is encouraged to attend and observe social distancing.

Residents are encouraged to get involved in NAIDOC Week celebrations that start next week with the Always Was. Always Will Be Student Art Exhibition at the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries. There are a number of other fantastic events planned up until the 15 November. One of the highlights is a Youth Radio program which will be happening on Monday 9 November. Students from Mt View High School have put together a program that will be broadcast on 96.5FM exploring the theme of NAIDOC Week. They will interview elders, community members, artists, dancers and sporting stars. These students have worked very hard to be radio ready and as a community it would be fantastic to see a large number of people tuning in to show support. The program is scheduled from 9:30am to 11am. Thanks to 2CHR for their assistance and support to get these young people on their airwaves. To find out what else is planned during NAIDOC Week visit Council's website and download the program.

Last week was a significant milestone for the Gingers Lane Road Upgrade, with crews starting work on stage four. It also marked the start

of construction of a new permanent roundabout at the Hart Road intersection. Residents have been severely impacted by these important upgrades and their patience is appreciated. These upgrades will make it safer for those travelling on these busy route.

For those who have not been to Bridges Hill Park Playground recently you are encouraged to pay a visit. Council crews have opened the Sky Tower to the public! This is a very large slide that will be a source of fun for the entire family. Works continue to progress well on the playground with the installation of amenities underway. To keep up to date with the project visit the Bridges Hill Park Playground Project page on Council's website.

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR NEVER BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT TIME FOR OUR SOCIAL SERVICES

If anyone out there is coming to the end of their schooling or maybe looking for a career change (forced or voluntary) one industry that is desperate for more workers is the social services sector. This work might be helping families that are struggling with life's challenges, it might be looking after young children that have been removed from a dangerous home life, it might be social work and mental health services, it might be disability work or it might be in the role of an ambulance officer or school teacher. While the recent Federal Budget had a large focus on building new stuff, it was dramatically lacking in any real investment in the people of Australia. My fingers are crossed that the NSW State Budget (due in 2 weeks) will be more focused on the people than on bridges or tunnels.

Of all of the jobs that have disappeared since COVID turned our world upside down earlier this year, 68% of the jobs lost have been in roles typically staffed by women. In simple terms, that's 2 out every 3 jobs lost. This creates a whole host of socially un-even outcomes and we really, really, need to tackle this in the State Budget. Please, don't get too upset by the generalisations that I make in these comments. Yes, I know that thousands of men work in social

services, but statistically most workers are female. Equally, I know that thousands of women work in construction and mining, but most of the workers are men. Unfortunately, over the next 12 months we are expecting to see dozens more people become homeless in our own local area, hundreds of our local families will likely see an increase in domestic violence, hundreds more children will be living in terribly unsafe situations in their own homes, the levels of mental stress right across our community will skyrocket and tragically our rates of suicide will spike. It is a really important time to show kindness and compassion to our neighbours and to generally keep an eye out for families that are struggling. It is a really important time for our Governments to invest in the people. And it is a really important time for people to consider the incredibly important work of our social services as a possible career choice.

KURRI KURRI REHABILITATION UNIT

Many people won't even realise that at Kurri Kurri Hospital, on the grounds out the back, is one of the Hunters newest and best facilities. It is a Rehabilitation Unit that is basically able to take people that have been sick or injured, out of our hospitals, and help them with their recovery before sending them back to their homes or place of residence. The Rehab Unit does brilliant work and makes sure that during recovery patients have the best possible access to physiotherapists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, social workers etc. If you help people recover really well then it is highly likely that they will make a successful return to their homes.

There has been some real concern in the community about that lack of new patients coming into the Kurri Rehab Unit. People have been worried that it might close and become a white-elephant. But as I write this column, I am extremely optimistic that the concerns of the doctors responsible for that unit will have been addressed and we will soon see that wonderful rehab facility operating at full capacity in the very near future.

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

You can also follow me on my Facebook page www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp, Cheers Clayton



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Given everything that's happened in the past 12 months, it's hard to believe that it was only this time last year that we experienced catastrophic fire conditions for the first time in NSW – and we all know what happened next. Singleton has been identified as an area that is battling the triple whammy of drought, bushfire and COVID-19, and Council takes our role extremely seriously not only to support our community in challenging times, but to provide tangible assistance to businesses and organisations to keep on keeping on. We have not forgotten that there are people in our community still dealing with the impacts of last summer's devastating bushfires, and it's heartening to know the Australian Government hasn't either with the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund – Phase 2.

Council submitted Singleton's funding application last week, following consultation with people in the most affected areas of Putty and Broke, as well as community groups, local emergency services and the Local Emergency Management Committee to put together a fantastic and most importantly practical suite of community wellbeing programs and community preparedness. We have applied for \$250,000 to put these programs into motion, and I look forward to the outcome of those applications in the coming weeks. Our staff, as always, are doing a great job in accessing every dollar available to our community. This past year has also highlighted the important work of community organisations across our local government area in supporting the social fabric of our community, and we're putting the spotlight on sports groups in the next few weeks with free one-hour strategic planning workshops to help clubs prepare development strategies and achieve their goals.

Two sessions will be held at Council's Administration Building on Thursday 26 November at 7pm and Tuesday 1 December at 5pm to suit as many sporting groups as possible, as well as navigate COVID-19 requirements. You only need to come to one session. The workshop is free, but we ask that you reserve your seat because of limited numbers in keeping with social distancing. Participating clubs have a little bit of homework to do before the sessions by undertaking a Club Health Check Exercise. It'd be great to see as many interested sporting organisations get involved. For more information, give our Customer Service team a call on 02 6578 7290 or check our website and Facebook page.

Cheers, Sue



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

'School Visits Still Important'

I had a lovely visit to Singleton's King Street Public School on Monday. Conversing with our primary school students remains one of my favourite responsibilities as a Member of Parliament. They are always respectful, curious and well informed. And of course, sometimes amusing. All of these attributes are a great credit to their teachers and parents. Sadly COVID-19 has forced a suspension of school visits to Parliament House, it's a big missed opportunity and a great shame. Recent school visits have alerted me to yet another consequence of COVID-19, the opportunities missed by school leaders and achievers. School Captains haven't had the opportunity to represent their school at events, functions and ceremonies. Year 6 kids destined to secure the mantle of "school champion" in their chosen sport have largely missed out in 2020. School excursions and sporting events have ground to a halt. These are hard things to rationalise, process and accept at such a young age.

As sad and disappointing as it all is, I hope our students can draw strength and resilience from it. It's been a tough year but maybe it will change their perspectives and expectations a little and they can gain from the experience.

I'm a big Rugby League fan and Peter V'landys and his crew have done a wonderful job resurrecting and delivering a 2020 season. But the NRL's decision to drop the National Anthem for the State of Origin was a bad mistake and I welcome the reversal of the decision. The announcement was a welcome one. Understandable, deep divisions run through some of our communities over the nature of the Australian settlement and the disadvantage caused to our indigenous people. We have a long way to go before that intergenerational disadvantage is overcome. Our path to truth-telling, reconciliation, self-determination and empowerment has been too slow and the latest Closing the Gap report demonstrates we must do better. To do so, we'll need more action and less divisive and unproductive symbolism. Dumping the National Anthem helps no-one and pours fuel on an already difficult process.

By the time this column appears the result of the United States Presidential election will be known. Few things remind us more that the world is changing at a remarkable pace. Whatever the outcome, the result of the election will have shot and long-term consequences for Australia. Last weekend's Queensland election reminded us that in relative terms, our democracy is in pretty good shape. There was no violence of any consequence and while "fake news" was not entirely absent, our electoral laws, processes, protocols and courtesies remain pretty good. We are indeed a lucky country, boasting universal healthcare, good access to education, a strong minimum wage, a good welfare safety net and universal superannuation. All of these things offer a stability not enjoyed by many. Of course, you make your own luck! The result in Queensland reminds us of the impact of COVID-19, Annastacia Palaszczuk was rewarded for being strong in her determination to keep her

citizens safe. Most other issues took a backseat. How many more elections will be dominated by the Corona Virus? No one knows.

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

STRICT NEW LAWS TO REGULATE SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Short-term rental accommodation hosts, guests, letting agents and online booking platform operators will soon be subject to strict new laws with a mandatory Code of Conduct for the industry to begin in December. The new Code, which has been released, includes clear guidance and obligations for hosts and guests centred on minimum standards of good behaviour. Also included are formal avenues for complaints and dispute resolution and the ability for NSW Fair Trading to ban problematic hosts or anti-social guests from booking short-term rentals for five years. The NSW Government is introducing these laws as part of our broad reform of the sector. Together, they will ensure the minority of participants who are giving the sector a bad name are removed and the short-term rental sector is improved for hosts, guests and communities. A key feature of the new laws was the establishment of an exclusion register, which will introduce a 'two strikes and you're out' policy for unruly guests. The standards are enforceable, with powers available to NSW Fair Trading Commissioner to take disciplinary action, including penalties and exclusion from the industry for repeat offenders. All participants, including booking platforms, will be required to comply with the Code and comply with directions and requests from the Commissioner.

Cheers, Michael

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News
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Fibre and bowel health



The fibre in food helps keep your bowels (intestines) healthy and may protect against bowel cancer. It also helps control your weight, blood cholesterol level and blood sugar level. There are good amounts of fibre in wholegrain breads and cereals, fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts and seeds. Ask a doctor, your local pharmacist or dietitian for advice.

What is fibre?

Fibre is found in foods that come from plants. It is also called 'roughage' or 'bulk'. Dietary fibre is the part of plant foods that is not digested or absorbed in your stomach or small intestine. Dietary fibre passes unchanged into the large bowel (large intestine, colon), where bacteria break it down. The breakdown of fibre may produce a lot of gas (wind) in the large bowel. Most dietary fibres are carbohydrates. The main types of dietary fibre are soluble fibre, insoluble fibre and resistant starch.

Some foods with good amounts of soluble fibre are: oats, barley, rye, fruits, vegetables and legumes (e.g. beans, lentils).
 • Some foods with good amounts of insoluble fibre are: wheat bran, rice bran, wholegrain foods, the skins of fruits and vegetables, nuts and seeds.
 • Some foods with good amounts of resistant starch are: unprocessed whole-grain cereals, nuts and seeds, under-ripe bananas, legumes, slightly under-cooked ("al dente") pasta and cooked and cooled potato, rice and pasta. Resistant starch (as Hi-Maize) is added to some breakfast cereals and fibre supplement products.

Fibre and health
 Some health benefits of a high fibre diet are:
 • Fibre increases the size of

faeces (bowel motions) and helps to soften them. Large, soft faeces move quickly and easily through your bowel, and are easy to pass when you empty your bowel.

• High fibre foods can help control body weight. They are often slow to eat (they need more chewing), they are filling, and they often contain less kilojoules (calories) per gram than low fibre foods.

• Soluble fibre slows the absorption of sugar into the blood stream. A high fibre diet can help people with diabetes control their blood sugar levels and may also reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

• Soluble fibre can help lower your blood cholesterol level.
 • Fibre may reduce the risk of bowel cancer (colorectal cancer).

The breakdown of soluble fibre and resistant starch in the bowel produces short-chain fatty acids,

- high blood cholesterol
- diabetes.

Self-care

• Eat a wide variety of high fibre foods. Most adults should aim to eat at least 5 serves of vegetables, 2 serves of fruit, 4-6 serves of wholegrain or wholemeal foods, and some nuts and seeds every day. Limit foods high in fat, sugar or salt.

• Increase fibre in your diet gradually, to avoid wind, bloating and cramping.
 • Eat regular meals to help your bowel activity.
 • Never ignore the urge to empty your bowels.

• Drink enough water every day to satisfy your thirst and to keep your urine 'light-coloured' (unless a doctor advises not to). A person with a high fibre diet needs to drink plenty of fluid, to avoid constipation

• Exercise at a moderate level for at least 30 minutes on all or most days of the week. Exercise can help

which may protect the bowel from cancer. Also, large, soft faeces moving quickly and easily through the bowel can quickly remove cancer-causing substances from the bowel.
 • High fibre foods usually contain many vitamins, minerals and other essential nutrients.

Effects of low fibre

A diet that is low in fibre may cause or worsen some health problems such as:
 • constipation
 • haemorrhoids (piles)
 • bowel cancer
 • diverticular disease
 • irritable bowel syndrome
 • being overweight

your bowel activity.
Fibre supplements
 The best way to get fibre is to eat high fibre foods. Some people also need to use fibre supplement products. The fibre in these products may produce less gas in the bowel than high fibre foods. Common fibre supplements are:

- psyllium (e.g. Metamucil, Nocolox)
- inulin (e.g. Metamucil Fibesure)
- ispaghula (e.g. Fybogel)
- sterculia (e.g. Normacol Plus, Normafibe).



Does our world drive you bananas?



Who, at times, isn't stunned by the ridiculous and wildly unreasonable things we humans do?

Everyone should be shocked says Hunter Valley writer, Paul Maguire. That's partly the reason he's written a new book, *going bananas*. This is a second book for Paul, who was born in Singleton and lives in a rural area near Branxton. His first, *vegan ninja*, was published in 2015. About *going bananas* he said: "Start with the basics, food for everyone, clean water, fresh air, safe and meaningful lives, respect for nature and all other animals". "It's a disgrace what we as a species do on personal and global levels.

"Millions of people are starving, we're polluting our air and water as if there were no tomorrow and the way we're going there may very well be no tomorrow." Paul, a former newspaper journalist, describes *going bananas* as an "ecosophical vegan cookbook".

Yes a cookbook. While it has 73 plant-based recipes, it's much, much more, he said. It's also an individual and global commentary that puts food in its place and blends environmental imperative with practical philosophy and daily action, he said.

"There's a growing awareness that if our meals are meat-and-dairy-free our health, the animal kingdom and our planet will be better off," said Paul.

"Our western industrial food system, coal-based electricity generation and petroleum-fuelled transport are having massive impacts on all ecology.

"Life though, is not black and white, so we have to find ways to encourage diverse solutions for the ludicrous and toxic things our species is indulging in," he said.

Paul said the issues he's mentioned may imply the book is heavy stuff, but it's not. "It's penetrating and relevant to these uncertain times, but it's also readable and occasionally funny," he said.

"Concerns about the environment, animal cruelty and personal health led me to become vegan 20 years ago but I do not want other

people to simply do as I have done.

"I want to put ideas into the public domain that have people thinking and questioning what's happening around them and then acting on the understanding that their actions, big and small, do make a difference."

A perspective of consideration and compassion extends to every aspect of our existence and should be part of our daily routine, he said.

Issues examined in *going bananas* include the hero worship of money, status, power, mankind's exploding population, political corruption, coal, plastics, the great horse manure crisis, burning Notre Dame Cathedral, a supermarket samba and yes, coronavirus.

The second half his book comprised 73 nutritious plant-based, meat-free and dairy-free recipes.

They include soups, rustic vegetable pies, a variety of sauces, dressings, salads, lentil and tofu dishes, bread, two super burger patties, several cakes, biscuits and other sweets. All profits from *going bananas* will be given to wildlife and habitat preservation, education and solar power for disadvantaged communities.

going bananas is available by emailing Paul on mag.juju@hotmail.com or through McDonalds Bookshop Maitland, Branxton Post Office, Moorebank Wines Pokolbin, The Readers Café East Maitland Library, Tenambit Foodworks, Organic Feast East Maitland and Worn Out Wares Singleton.

Photo: Author Paul Maguire



Bring some heat to your next barbie and try this chargrilled steak with chimichurri. It's quick, easy and full of flavour.

Serves ~ 6
 Prep ~ 10m
NOTE: + 5 mins cooling & 5 mins resting time
 Cooking ~ 10m
Ingredients
 6 Australian Beef T-Bone Steaks
 1 tbs olive oil
 Oregano sprigs, to serve
CHARRED CHILLI CHIMICHURRI SAUCE
 2 long red chillies
 2 tbs red wine vinegar
 2 tbs extra virgin olive oil
 1 garlic clove, crushed
 1/3 cup finely chopped flat-leaf parsley
 1/3 cup finely chopped coriander
 2 tbs finely chopped mint
 2 tbs finely chopped oregano
 1 tsp ground paprika

BQ T-bone steak with chimichurri



Method
STEP 1
 To make the charred chilli chimichurri sauce, heat a barbecue grill or chargrill on high. Cook the chillies, turning, for 5 mins or until blackened all over. Set aside for 5 mins to cool.
STEP 2
 Use a small sharp knife to halve the chillies lengthways. Seed and finely chop the chilli and place in a small bowl. Add the vinegar, oil, garlic, parsley, coriander, mint, oregano and paprika. Stir to combine. Season.
STEP 3
 Brush the steaks evenly with the oil. Season well. Cook on grill for 2 mins each side for medium or until cooked to your liking. Transfer to a plate and cover with foil. Set aside for 5 mins to rest.
STEP 4
 Place the steaks on a large serving platter and drizzle with the charred chilli chimichurri sauce. Top with oregano sprigs. Serve immediately.

Cessnock Toastmasters Speech Contests

Toastmasters is a community based group but it is a bit different to most other service clubs because its focus is on public speaking. Recently Cessnock Toastmasters Club held the first round of their annual speech contests. The winner of the club contest was David Sweet. David is a very experienced Toastmaster and for many years he has been successful at local club, area and division contests. He will now represent Cessnock at the Area 12 Contests next February. Area 12 is our local Toastmaster Area and it includes the clubs at Cessnock, Maitland, Singleton, Muswellbrook and Wallsend.

There will be a second round of speech contests at Cessnock Toastmasters on Monday 30th November and visitors are certainly welcome. Next Monday night's meeting (9th November) will include a series of Demonstration Speeches. If anyone is considering finding out more about Toastmasters then one of these evenings would be a great opportunity to come along. The meetings are held at 7pm every Monday night. Venue—Cessnock Leagues Club.



■ Photo above: Speech Contest winner David Sweet with Area 12 Director Martin Beggs

Cessnock families get free subscription to sustainable fun with dirtgirl



Cessnock City Council has partnered with the award-winning children's TV show dirtgirlworld to bring a free online subscription program called Get Grubby for Families to the wider Cessnock community. Designed for families with 3 -10 year olds, this program provides resources to help families engage in fun sustainability focused activities such as growing a garden, making compost, recycling, DIY, and much more. Cessnock City Council Mayor, Bob Pynsent said there's no doubt the past year has been tough for parents and guardians with young children.

"This free subscription is one of the ways Council is continuing to support our local community whilst encouraging them on their journey to sustainability," he said.

dirtgirlworld creator, Cate McQuillen says the Get Grubby for Families program is all about learning and growing together as a family and as a community.

"For the past 10 years dirtgirlworld and Get Grubby TV have been proud leaders in sustainability education and entertainment. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis we've witnessed a huge resurgence of interest in sustainable living and growing food, and there's never been a more important time to support families on this path," said Cate. All families that reside in the Cessnock Local Government Area are eligible to access the Get Grubby for Families program for free. Sign up to the program online at www.dirtgirlworldshop.com/ggp-family-activate-cessnock

■ Photo above: The Get Grubby for Families program features dirtgirl and Costa the Garden Gnome



Locals supporting locals.

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

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

#supportlocalcessnock

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

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

Keep safe, please adhere to the social distancing rules.




#supportlocalcessnock

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



A CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE




LAW REPORT

SHAW & BUNNER
LEGAL

WITH

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

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How employers can avoid a post-Christmas party hangover (vicarious liability in workplace legislation)

As we roll into “silly season” many workplaces will be planning their annual COVID-compliant Christmas functions.

Whilst these events are generally held outside of standard working hours, it is well established that such occasions are connected to the workplace. This means that unlawful behaviour – such as bullying, fighting or sexual harassment – engaged in by employees at function can be subject of a workplace complaint or litigation.

In NSW, most workplace legislation contain provisions that the employer is held to be ‘vicariously liable’ for the conduct of their employees if the employer has not taken reasonable steps to prevent the unlawful behaviour occurring. This includes discrimination and sexual harassment laws and they extend coverage to corporate work events and ‘after parties’.

A few case examples of Christmas parties gone wrong include:

- Four employees were prosecuted and fined by WorkSafe for breaches of occupational health and safety laws when an employee suffered severe burns at a Christmas party when another employee sprayed paint thinner onto his colleague’s bare torso, which then caught fire as a result of the flame from an

already ignited spray can.

- An employee was injured by a propeller after being pushed off a boat by another employee at a Christmas party. The employer was found liable for the injury.

A golf club was held liable for the conduct of its president who sexually harassed a female employee of the club at the end of year Christmas party.

Aside from injury, incidents at work Christmas functions can lead to employment issues also.

For example, a case involving an employee who was dismissed after he urinated over the side of a balcony on to diners below at his employer’s Christmas party. He was dismissed and subsequently lodged a claim against his employer alleging his dismissal was unfair!

To avoid the potential headaches, there are a few things employers can do when preparing for and managing end of year functions:-

1. Ensure that the organisation has current policies in place with respect to equal opportunity, sexual harassment, bullying and workplace health and safety. Policies should be reviewed to ensure compliance and should be circulated and reinforced to staff prior to any function,

along with a Code of Conduct if the employer has one.

2. Remind all staff via email before the function of the standards of behaviour expected of staff at workplace functions. Highlight the disciplinary consequences of failing to meet those standards, as provided in relevant policies. It is important for employees to understand that just because the work function may be outside of standard working hours and may be at a non-work venue, normal workplace standards of behaviour continue to apply.

3. The function should have a designated finish time which factors in the time employees have been present. Provide transport to employees or taxi vouchers to ensure that no one who has been drinking drives home.

4. With alcohol, it is important to ensure responsible service. Employers are obligated to ensure that employees and others present do not become heavily intoxicated. In a 2016 Fair Work Commission case (McDaid v Future Engineering and Communication Pty Ltd [2016] FWC 343, the Commission held that employers must ‘take steps’ to ensure that they serve alcohol responsibly.

5. Employers should consider sending unruly employees home by taxi before allowing any anti-social behaviour to start. On this point, it is often helpful to designate someone to monitor hazards. In a FWC case from 2015 it was encouraged for employers to appoint a manager to supervise the conduct of work events to avoid problems. The person should remain sober and be able to monitor and attend to any OHS issues through the event.

Cheers, Gemma

provides you with the ability to focus and concentrate.

A loud room filled with lots of distractions (even if it’s meant to be an actual office) will probably not be nearly as productive for you as a small quiet space where you can really concentrate.

2. **Access to power points** Secondly, it needs to either be very well lit or it needs to have access to power outlets.

This may sound obvious but easy access to power means that you don’t have to rely on a network of extension cords and double adaptors to power your devices and, in the process,



It was with great enthusiasm that Branxton/Greta CWA members re-united at the McAuley Hall, Station Street, Branxton on Tuesday, 13th October, 2020, after a very long COVID-19 break. Social distancing was maintained. All future meetings will be held here until further notice. The Land Cookery/Product Promotion Day has been cancelled due to the coronavirus and other functions for next year will be discussed at the next meeting. With most of our members working, it has been hard to be of assistance during the pandemic but it was heartening to read in the latest CWA

Journal that Branches in other areas have kept busy making and selling masks and donating the funds raised to several charities in need.

We hope to be back on track as soon as possible.

My husband, John and myself, took a drive to Broke to visit Pauline Hunt (Agricultural/Environmental Officer) as Pauline was unable to attend the meeting. Thanks Pauline and Bill for your hospitality and a lovely, relaxing afternoon.

As always, we would happily welcome anyone interested in assisting to raise money to help others in need, or assist in any other ways, and also making new friends.

Should anyone be interested in joining Branxton/Greta CWA, or like any information, or attending any of our functions, please contact our Secretary, Marie Shearer on 0402015850 or Denise McGoldrick on 0422896415 or Secretary branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com

Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.

Photos: Members enjoying a “catch up chat” and (top photo) BYO morning tea after the AGM & Denise and John and Pauline and Bill enjoying a catch up.



be hazardous to your health so, depending on how you work, you might consider a workspace without a chair, or perhaps without a chair 100% of the time.

4. Be creative with your options

Given these three simple requirements, there are lots of small spaces in your home that could potentially work as office space for you. Yes, you could work out of a converted wardrobe; you can make a corner of the kitchen table your office area; even a repurposed corner of your laundry might provide the space necessary for you to create an effective work area.

As an example, in my last home, I took the sliding doors off a regular closet in the guest room and installed louvred horizontal blinds in their place. I then took out the clothes hanging rods and built a desk directly into the wall of the closet. The depth of the desk was small so I was able to simply

lower the blinds and no one would know there was a workspace back there. If guests arrived, I simply dropped the horizontal blinds and my desk and workspace were completely hidden.

5. Go small. Go light. Go digital.

If you don’t have a small space you want to dedicate solely to work, then you’ll need to think about portability. Start with technology.

If you have a choice, a large fixed desktop computer and monitor may not work for you. Consider transitioning to a good light laptop which can be moved at a moment’s notice.

Also, paperwork in general, and specifically large file folders will make your small workspace feel more crowded. Embrace the world of secure online storage, AKA ‘the cloud’ for storing your documents.

Take the time to set up smartly organised files in the cloud and you’ll be able to access anything you need

quickly and easily from wherever you are.

6. Go for multi-purpose and double-duty

Lastly, it’s important to consider the type of furniture you use in your workspace.

If you’re short on space, consider using a bench with storage for seating to give you a little more room to store your work items when you need to convert that space back to its other purpose.

Similarly, think about adding a rolling cart to your space. Being able to roll away your work items and store them out of sight when they’re not being used is really helpful.

Finally, will all of your work items fit neatly into a bin with handles? What if that empty bin were sturdy and when empty turned upside down and used as your seating? Double-duty items are definitely the way to go when working with a small space.

—Famous Quotes—

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” – Eleanor Roosevelt “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present.” – Bill Keane “Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.” – Mark Twain “I can’t give you a sure-fire formula for success, but I can give you a formula for failure: try to please everybody all the time.” – Herbert Bayard Swope “Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.” – Thomas A. Edison “You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take”. – Wayne Gretzky “I could agree with you but then we’d both be wrong”. – Harvey Specter “Be nice to people on the way up, because you may meet them on the way down.” – Jimmy Durante



Create a tiny office space anywhere in the home in 6 steps

Peter Walsh
Working from home is here to stay for many of us. The problem lots of people have, though, is that their homes don’t include dedicated office space.

But surprisingly, there are lots of small space in your home that can be converted to a workspace if you get creative.

As long as it offers you the ability to focus and concentrate, access to the tools you’ll need most and

the ability to function effectively. Here are some tips on getting a makeshift office to work for you.

1. Make sure you have the ability to focus and concentrate

Almost any space in your home can be converted to small office space as long as it has a few key elements. Probably the most important of these, and one often most overlooked, is that it



Branxton Public School

Our gardening crew have been busy preparing the gardens and planting cucumber, capsicum and tomatoes under the watchful eyes of Miss Towns and Mr Onslow. Cross fingers for a bumper harvest! Mrs Melnik organised a fabulous week of activities for Book Week. We had competitions and an amazing Book Fair! The week culminated in a Book Parade for each stage which was shared on Seesaw. Thank you to the parents who supported the book fair and to all the children and staff who dressed up and made it a super fun

day. The open boy's Rugby League team participated in the Kirkland Cup last Friday at Pirtek Park Singleton, accompanied by Mr Tattis and Mrs Smailes. The boys played their hearts out and competed well in their two games against Singleton Public and Scone Public. The first game was a close tussle with Singleton Public prevailing 7-5 in a tough game - Ryan Baker (3), Braydon Quinn and Lachlan Standen scoring the tries. The second game was played against eventual winners Scone, who defeated us 4-1 with Ryan Baker scoring our

only try. The students had a great day out and behaved impeccably. We look forward to the girls now competing in their gala day later in the term. The Branxton Greater Debaters, coached by Mr Tattis, competed in the first round of the State debating knockout round against Gosford Public School after being crowned Zone champions last term. The girls were the negative team with the topic "all children under the age of 18 should be banned from appearing on reality tv". It was a robust argument with some great points raised by both teams on the day. Unfortunately, the girls lost in a very close

result. The team exceeded all expectations and represented the school extremely well. Well done team! We are hoping that Kinder Orientation visits will go ahead later in November. Keep an eye on the Kinder 2021 Seesaw and emails for information. COVID restrictions will continue in schools for the foreseeable future and important updates are shared by Mrs Blakemore as they come to us. Please continue to check SkoolBag regularly to stay informed. **At Branxton Public School students, staff and community are Respectful, Responsible and achieve their Personal Best.**



Gardeners



Debaters



Kirkland Cup RL team

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 19th Century and follow the development of Maitland's sporting clubs. Open Saturdays and Sundays (10.00 am-3.00 pm) until 13th December. Weekday Group bookings, phone 49334450. \$5 adults, children free; for more details

maitlandrmuseum@gmail.com


Australian Government

THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

This year hasn't been easy. And recovery will take time. But this is Australia. We will come back.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS A PLAN FOR OUR ECONOMY.

LOWER TAXES, MORE JOBS.

The Economic Recovery Plan will put more money in the pockets of everyday Australians by lowering taxes. Money that can be spent, with local businesses in our communities that can help to create jobs.

CREATING MORE JOBS.

We're supporting businesses to hire more staff with the temporary JobMaker Hiring Credit. Encouraging more training to give people the skills they need. And thousands of jobs will open up in infrastructure, as new projects get underway.

TO FIND OUT HOW IT BENEFITS YOU AND AUSTRALIA VISIT OURCOMEBACK.GOV.AU

THIS IS OUR COMEBACK
 THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

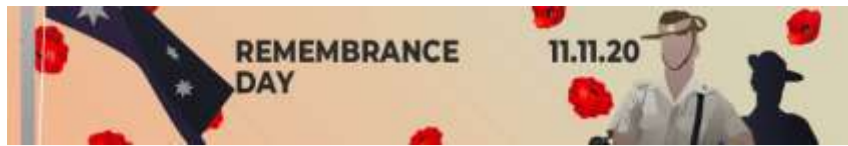
AUTHORISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, CANBERRA.

Coming Events

Armistice/Remembrance Day 2020 & Public Exposé Hunter ANZAC Memorial Cycleway



WITH the commemoration of Armistice / Remembrance Day just 6 days away (11am on the 11/11) it has been confirmed that the local commemorative service will go-ahead. It is to be held at the newly renovated Branxton War Memorial Rotunda in John Rose Avenue. President of the Branxton RSL Sub-branch Brian Furner OAM said that with



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compliance issues faced by the Covid-19 pandemic it had been touch-and-go as to whether the service would be held this year.

"We have completed our due diligence by conferring with RSL NSW, the local council and NSW Health," said Brian.

"The numbers are limited to 100 and, of course, social distancing will be enforced under our Covid-19 plan.

"We will also have the pleasure of the Mayor of Cessnock, Bob Pynsent, being in attendance," said Brian.

The commemorative ceremony will commence at 10:45am with seating available for the senior brigade.

It has also been announced by the Executive Director of the Hunter ANZAC Memorial Cycleway, John Murray, that they are to

hold a community exposé of the proposed memorial aspects of the Hunter ANZAC Memorial Cycleway.

"We have the first detailed draft of the proposed \$2million project which we would like to share with the community," said John.

"The Hunter ANZAC Memorial Cycleway seeks to honour the veterans and families enlisted from Branxton / Greta during World War 1 with a proposed 7 'encounters & engagements' inspired by the people, their stories and the mining history of the local area connecting the two townships."

"The intention is to create spaces that are tasteful, interesting and fun so as to encourage public engagement with the installations and the

Cycleway in general. "This in turn will promote healthy lifestyles, educational opportunities, tourism and the economies of Branxton / Greta. "These 'installations' will be attached to the proposed and approved cycleway constructed and maintained by Cessnock City Council," said John.

Details are:-
Venue RSL Hall Branxton
Day Monday
Date 23rd November 2020
1st session ~ 10am(1000 hrs)
2nd session ~ 2pm (1400 hrs)
(The presentation will take approx. 30 mins with 'Q & A' afterwards with a total duration of approx. 90 mins)
"We would invite all to attend and we are looking forward to presenting our project to the wider community", said John.

Joel Fitzgibbon MP Your Federal Member for Hunter



DO YOU KNOW A HUNTER VOLUNTEER THAT DESERVES RECOGNITION?

This year our community has faced devastating bushfires, drought and of course the current COVID-19 crisis. There is no doubt during these times we have seen members of our community step up like never before. Now is the time to recognise these outstanding volunteers by nominating them in my 2020 Hunter Volunteer Awards.

To nominate a volunteer, go to:
joelfitzgibbon.com/huntervolunteers

GRANTS ALERT

Did you know I regularly send out a Grants Alert? If you or a community organisation you know is in need of funds, subscribe to my Grants Alert at:

joelfitzgibbon.com/grants

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

Did you know you can request a congratulatory message from the Prime Minister, Governor-General or the Queen for celebrating a special birthday or anniversary?

3 Edward Street
Cessnock 2325 NSW
joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au
4991 1022

JoelFitzgibbonMP
 FitzHunter
 FitzyMP

For further details, go to: www.joelfitzgibbon.com
or call my office on: 4991 1022

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



Branxton Lap the Map for Diabetes

Saturday 14th November 2020 — 0800 Registration

Branxton Oval — Miller Park and Return

Registration and Entry — Free

Bacon & Egg Rolls & Drinks on Completion of Meander/Walk/Jog/Run/
Whatever

Fresh Fruit and Vegie Raffle

All Proceeds to Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation

Diabetes Facts

Diabetes is recognised as the world's fastest growing chronic condition.

One in 11 adults has diabetes (415 million). 12 per cent of global health expenditure is spent on diabetes (USD\$673 billion). Every six seconds a person dies from diabetes (5.0 million deaths)



Further Information: Alan on 0426 261 948

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Features include:- Builtins in both bedrooms Sep. lounge room, Air con., eat-in kitchen, slow combustion fire, great block, great shedding, carport and your own chook run

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- Stunning views from elevated sites
- Potential building sites
- Unique lifestyle acreage
- Abundant wildlife and native flora

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Unit 18 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"

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

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an easy build-on.
Wonderful views from the back to the north
overlooking Huntlee & the mountains to the
north.

ASKING \$135,000





From the Lions' Den
World Diabetes Day
 Saturday 14th November 2020 has been declared World Diabetes Day by the International Diabetes Federation. World Diabetes Day was created in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organisation in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes. World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day in 2006 with the passage of United Nations Resolution. It is marked each year on the 14th November, the Birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922. The Lions Club of Branxton is celebrating

World Diabetes Day by conducting Lap the Map on Saturday morning 14th November 2020 at the Branxton Oval. The event shall consist of a meander/walk/jog/run/whatever, from Branxton Oval to Miller Park and return. Bacon and egg rolls along with drinks will be available after the event. A fresh fruit and veggie raffle will also be conducted. Lions Club President, Brian Thomas in encouraging people to come along and participate said, "nearly everyone knows someone living with diabetes, as it is the fastest growing chronic condition in Australia, affecting 1.7 million people in this country alone. Our little event is about raising peoples understanding of the condition and practice



■ Club Secretary Alan Beckley chatting with Lion Glenda Hofland after her presentation on the workings of the Lions Club International Foundation.

some of the good habits which could delay or prevent onset of the condition." Contactless registration will be available for the event and the event, with its COVID-19 safety plan, was

approved as safe by Cessnock City Council in a letter dated 28th October. All monies raised on the day shall be donated to the Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation. The aims of this foundation are two-fold; firstly, to fund research into the causes and to develop treatments of diabetes, and secondly, to raise awareness and provide education so that there may

be improved care for people who have diabetes, or are at the risk of developing the condition. Since the inception of the Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation in 1993, the Foundation has made grants totalling more than \$862,000. **Lions Foundations** Lions donate their time and effort to activities to either directly support a charity or

worthwhile organisation or to raise funds which are directly donated to a charity or donated to a Lions Club Foundation. The Lions Club Foundations are primarily focused on areas of health and welfare and include foundations to support childhood cancer research, eye health, Alzheimer's research, etc. Lions clubs donated more than \$28 million to national projects through Lions Foundations during 2017-18. **Lions Club International Foundation** At the Lions' luncheon meeting on the 22nd October, Lion Glenda Hofland briefed the Lions Club of Branxton members on the current activities of the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) and explained the aims of the foundation and described some of the charitable activities the foundation has recently supported. Glenda explained the Lions Club International Foundation is the charitable fundraising and grant-making arm of the Lions global organisation. The Foundations mission is

to support the efforts of Lions Clubs and partners in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants. The strength of the Lions Club International Foundation is that it pools the strength of over 55,000 Lions Clubs worldwide. Glenda provided examples where the Lions Club International Fund has provided direct support to residents of Australia. One of the most recent and important being the more than \$500,000 donation to the Australian Lions Foundation's National Bushfire Appeal following last year's devastating fires.

If you feel you would like to become a Lion and contribute to your community through Lions activities, please give Lion Alan a call on 0426 261 948 and he shall be pleased to give you further information about Lions and the activities of the Lions Club of Branxton.



Signing of MOU between Hunter JO and Committee for the Hunter

Building a unified voice for the Hunter

The Hunter Joint Organisation and the Committee for the Hunter last week signed a Memorandum of

Understanding outlining their shared commitment to providing a unified voice and platform for

collaborative action on issues of strategic importance for the Hunter region. The Memorandum was

signed by Cr Bob Pynsent, Chair of the Hunter JO and Mayor of Cessnock, and Richard Anicich AM, the Chair of the Committee for the Hunter, with CEOs Joe James and Alice Thompson also present. The signing was held at Maitland's Coqun restaurant on the banks of the Hunter River, a natural symbol of the common destiny and con-

nection that exists across our region. Cr Bob Pynsent said that the MoU signifies a shared desire to deliver outcomes for the region. "We owe it to our communities to speak to State and Federal decision-makers with a unified regional voice wherever and whenever possible. As a collaboration of councils in the Hunter region we understand both the challenge of genuine collaboration and its power. This Memorandum of Understanding underpins our intent to work with Committee for the Hunter,

with the region's best interests at heart. The MoU will connect our local government leadership with other thought leaders across the region, to deliver joint advocacy and action on shared priorities for our communities." "The Committee for the Hunter was established in response to a belief that the Hunter needed a unified voice that enabled regional leaders to identify long-term goals for the region and improve collaboration between community, industry and governments to achieve these. The MoU is a

significant step in bringing those key stakeholders together to present that unified voice, which can only lift our influence in Macquarie Street and in Canberra", said Richard Anicich. The MoU speaks to the common strategic objectives of influencing policy in the interest of the Hunter region, attracting and enabling investment, and building capacity within the region. The Hunter JO and the Committee for the Hunter recently collaborated on the 'Ready to Rebuild' campaign aimed at attracting stimulus funding in the 2020-21 Federal Budget for local government infrastructure in the Hunter. This campaign has already seen results, with the Federal Budget announcing an additional \$1 billion to local government led projects. The Hunter was also identified in the Federal Budget as a priority under the Regional Recovery Partnerships program, providing \$100 million nation-wide to support recovery and growth in regions. "The Committee partnered with the Hunter JO to provide a united front on the region's priorities to decision-makers. Working together, we are considered credible and capable delivery partners and we will build from this advocacy to see more investment that reflects the Hunter's size, economic contribution and capacity," Alice Thompson said. The Committee aligns with the Hunter JO on a number of strategic priorities, and although our stakeholders bases are quite unique from one another, this MoU allows us to bring our organisations together to collaborate on key issues for the good of the region," Joe James said.



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



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



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

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



WED 10am

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\$1300 Wed 4/11

\$1300 as at Sun 8/11

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW



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\$4.00 Schooners



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WEDNESDAY**



**Starting Friday 13th
November.**

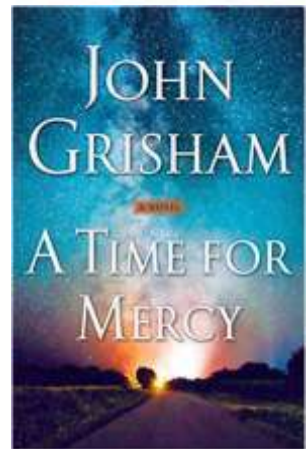
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John Grisham Brings Back His Hero Jake Brigance for a Third Case

By Sarah Lyall

Hello again, Jake Brigance! You've come back at the right time. It's nice to return to the courtroom with someone we trust. It's reassuring to remember that not everyone is crazy and unpredictable, and that books, even books about crime and punishment, can help restore our equilibrium in this season of high anxiety.

"A Time for Mercy" is the third John Grisham novel to feature Brigance, a small-town Mississippi lawyer specializing in unpopular, seemingly unwinnable cases. He first appeared more than 30 years ago in Grisham's debut novel, "A Time to Kill" (1989), which began with a printing of 5,000 copies but became a runaway best seller (and a movie, starring Matthew McConaughey and Sandra Bullock) after the explosive popularity of Grisham's second novel, "The Firm" (1991), which didn't feature Brigance.

Set in 1985 in the fictional town of Clanton, Miss., "A Time to Kill" described Jake's defense of an undeniably guilty but very sympathetic client — a Black man on trial for killing the two white men who brutally raped his 10-year-old daughter. The novel is a nuanced, sensitive portrait of a particular time and place in a rural south still riven by racial discord and infected by the Ku Klux Klan, a fine work wrapped inside a legal thriller. Some readers like it best of all Grisham's books. Jake reappeared in "Sycamore Row" (2013), this time in the service of a recently deceased client with an idiosyncratic view of estate planning. (Among other things, this client left

most of his considerable fortune not to his children but to his Black housekeeper, and not for the reasons you might think.) And now comes "A Time for Mercy." You get the feeling that Grisham, who has written several dozen books by now, has returned to the place closest to his heart.

Thirty-one years have passed in the real world since we were first in Clanton, but only five in its fictional life. (How satisfying to see time plodding along at its own pace, back in those sleepy days before smartphones or the internet.) Jake is still living with the repercussions of the earlier murder trial. Once again, he is broke; once again, he takes on a case nobody else wants; once again, he finds himself saddled with a client whose excellent reasons for committing murder do not change the fact that he is indeed guilty.

Grisham lays out the grisly back story in the tense opening pages. A sheriff's deputy comes home drunk and violent, and proceeds to beat his girlfriend unconscious while her two teenage children cower upstairs. As she lies there, apparently dead, her 16-year-old son, Drew, grabs the cop's gun and kills him in a fit of fury and fear. He's charged with capital murder, which carries the death penalty. Clanton reserves a special level of hatred for cop killers.

Jake knows that no good can come of his decision to represent Drew. He is already tens of thousands of dollars in debt, Drew's family is indigent, and the work will pay next to nothing. Half the town, including the entire law-enforcement community, is furious at him. In the diner where he eats breakfast, longstanding acquaintances turn their backs.

But the judge in the case, with the Dickensian name of Omar Noose, all but orders him to go ahead. "The situation can get dicey and needs a steady hand," the judge says. "I trust you, Jake, and that's why I'm asking you to step in."

The trial doesn't come until three-quarters of the way through the book. This is a leisurely story, told by a master of plotting and pacing, and there's no use in him or us rushing our way through it. Grisham puts us inside the heads not just of Jake and Drew, but also of an extended cast of characters — the lawyers, the cops, the prosecutors, the relatives, Judge Noose, Jake's informal team of advisers. Clanton is a complicated town, a community of old grudges and deep connections driven by forces like race, class, religion, politics and family. Grisham helps us understand, if not quite sympathize with, most everyone in the book.

The trial is riveting, but don't expect anyone to burst into the courtroom at the last minute waving a piece of paper that upends the proceedings.

The jurors aren't secretly sleeping with the lawyers; the judge is not being paid off by the local crime boss. But it's striking how suspenseful the story is anyway, how much we're gripped by the small details.

I was reminded, oddly enough, of the great Danish political TV drama "Borgen," which derives excitement not from soap opera-ish, "House of Cards"-style developments but from the viewers' investment in the outcome of carefully crafted, un-showy plotlines.

In "Borgen," you become caught up in the suspense of whether the Danish Parliament can muster the votes to pass its farm bill. In "A Time for Mercy," you care, very much, whether Drew's mother can pay for a new transmission for her car; whether Drew's schooling can continue in prison before the trial; and whether the judge will let Jake embark on a particular line of questioning. Not all the tangents are fully fleshed-out. Grisham is uncharacteristically insensitive in his portrayal of a pregnancy subplot, and there's an ancillary court case involving a railroad that fades in and out of importance in a way that feels unsatisfying.

But I found this book so useful to my psyche. Reading can be difficult right now. It's hard to escape the anxious noise in our heads, the sense that the world is falling apart right outside our doors. Every reader is different, and some people might well like to fall into flamboyant thrillers with high body counts, corrupt officials and preposterous plot twists.

Clanton is the wrong town for them. There's a quiet goodness in many of its residents.

Sure, tension always shimmers beneath the surface. Not everyone is a decent person. Life is unfair. Neat resolutions are hard to come by.

But the lawyers believe in professional courtesy, and in acknowledging jobs well done. The sheriff believes in playing by the book. The ladies in the church believe that helping the struggling family of a teenage murderer is the right thing to do. Judge Noose is determined to see that justice, or some version of it, prevails. And at a time when our opinions are terrifyingly polarized, Grisham reminds us that people aren't one thing or another, but composed instead in shades of gray.

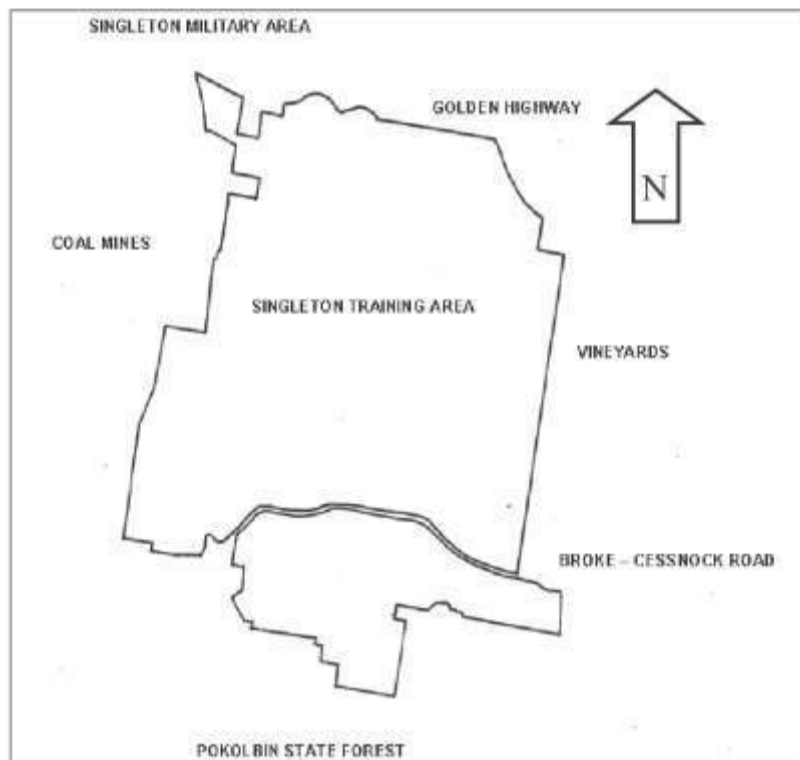
Toward the end of the trial, the jury is struggling to reach a verdict. Fights are breaking out.

The judge instructs them to try harder. "I want each of you, regardless of how you now feel about this case, to begin anew from the position of accepting the opposing view," he says. "We are in no hurry."



Australian Government
Department of Defence

WARNING NOTICE DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES



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

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

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

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

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

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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

00189

The New York Times Best Sellers (1 NOVEMBER 2020)

1. NEW THIS WEEK - A TIME FOR MERCY BY JOHN GRISHAM
The third book in the Jake Brigance series. A 16-year-old is accused of killing a deputy in Clanton, Miss., in 1990.
2. 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST - THE RETURN BY NICHOLAS SPARKS
A doctor serving in the Navy in Afghanistan goes back to North Carolina where two women change his life.
3. 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST - THE SEARCHER BY TANA FRENCH
After a divorce, a former Chicago police officer resettles in an Irish village where a boy goes missing.
4. 5 WEEKS ON THE LIST - THE EVENING AND THE MORNING 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
5. 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST - TROUBLES IN PARADISE BY ELIN HILDERBRAND
The final installment of the trilogy that includes "Winter in Paradise" and "What Happens in Paradise."
6. 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST - THE BOOK OF TWO WAYS BY JODI PICOULT
After surviving a plane crash, a death doula travels to Egypt to reconnect with an old flame who is an archaeologist.
7. 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST - THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE BY V.E. SCHWAB
A Faustian bargain comes with a curse that affects the adventure Addie LaRue has across centuries.
8. NEW THIS WEEK - RETURN TO VIRGIN RIVER BY ROBYN CARR
The 21st book in the Virgin River series. Strangers help an author during the holidays.
9. NEW THIS WEEK - JINGLE ALL THE WAY BY DEBBIE MACOMBER
A December cruise in the Amazon fosters a potential change in priorities for a career-focused real-estate executive.
10. NEW THIS WEEK - INVISIBLE GIRL BY LISA JEWELL
An ex-schoolteacher accused of sexual misconduct lives near a family led by a child psychologist whose former patient goes missing.



ABOUT: John Ray Grisham Jr. is an American novelist, attorney, politician, and activist, best known for his popular legal thrillers. His books have been translated into 42 languages and published worldwide.

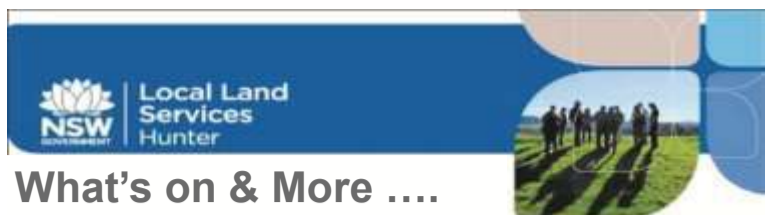
Grisham graduated from Mississippi State University and received a J.D. degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1981. He practiced criminal law for about a decade and served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from January 1984 to September 1990.

His first novel, *A Time to Kill*, was published in June 1989, four years after he began writing it. According to Academy of Achievement his books have sold 300 million copies and he has written 28 consecutive number one bestsellers. A Galaxy British Book Awards winner, Grisham is one of only three authors to sell two million copies on a first printing, the other two being Tom Clancy and J. K. Rowling.

Grisham's first bestseller, *The Firm*, sold more than seven million copies. The book was adapted into a 1993 feature film of the same name, starring Tom Cruise, and a 2012 TV series which continues the story ten years after the events of the film and novel. Eight of his other novels have also been adapted into films: *The Chamber*, *The Client*, *A Painted House*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Rainmaker*, *The Runaway Jury*, *Skipping Christmas*, and *A Time to Kill*. Grisham's latest book (his 42nd published novel), *A Time for Mercy*, is his third story involving the characters established in *A Time to Kill* and further follows the story of Jake Brigance, a Mississippi small town lawyer representing a minor accused of murder.

Grisham married Renee Jones on May 8, 1981. The couple have two children together: Shea and Ty. Ty played college baseball for the University of Virginia.

As a former-Baptist, he advocates the separation of church and state. He once said, "I have some very deep religious convictions that I keep to myself, and when I see people using them for political gain it really irritates me." Later in life, Grisham converted to The Presbyterian Church. He cited a preference for a more highly educated clergy and a desire for a "more dignified" style of worship.



What's on & More



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 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 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

Evans told The Herald Sun his betting agency stood to lose more than \$10m if Trump won another term while Ladbrokes Australia CEO Dean Shannon said his agency faced a \$8-10m disaster if Trump triumphed.

Tabcorp would not disclose how much it stood to lose on a Trump victory but said it would hold more money on the US election race than it did on either the AFL or NRL grand finals.

Betting interest is so intense that TAB will for the first



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 27th October 2020

Good rainfall across the drawing area reduced the penning by half. There was a good supply of yearlings along with heavy grown steers. There was a limited offering of cows. The quality and condition of the offering was mostly good with the majority presenting in forward to well finished condition. All the regular buyers were in attendance, however not all processors got a start. Restocker and feedlot competition was high. Weights were a factor in cheaper average prices for light weight young cattle to restockers. The market trend firm to dearer. There was strong demand for medium and heavy weight yearling steers to restock and feed with the market trend as much as 10c/kg dearer. Heavy trade steers saw some sales as much as 20c dearer. High demand for yearling heifers from backgrounders and feedlotters resulted in significantly dearer market trends across both the medium and heavy weights. Heifers to the trade also sold to dearer trends, however the improvement was not as great. Age and breed were factors in lower averages for grown steers to process, the market trend however was dearer. The well finished grown heifers also sold to dearer trends. The limited supply of cows sold to a dearer trend, up to 8c/kg. Heavy weight bulls sold on a firm to cheaper trend.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 28th October 2020

Consignments decreased, with the high rainfall recorded throughout the supply area the contributing factor. Quality was mixed with greater numbers of the mixed breeds penned. There were good percentages of high yielding and prime conditioned younger cattle yarded and competition was very strong throughout all classes. The vealers to the restockers sold well, with the steers selling from 408c to 514c/kg. The heifer portion made from 450c to 492c/kg, the latter for the lightweights. The yearlings to the restockers also sold to strong competition, with the steers making from 380c to 436c, while the heifers sold from 390c to 448c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers trended dearer, with prices making from 396c to 480c/kg. The older grown steers also trended dearer, with the lighter pens to the restockers making from 364c to 380c/kg. The better finished heavier lots to the processors made from 362c to 368c/kg. The older heifers reached 340c/kg. Cows gained 9c, with the better covered heavy weights making from 284c to 316c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 27th October 2020

Due to the recent high rainfall event, numbers were reduced, while the quality was overall very good. Most categories were represented, with the high yielding younger cattle suitable for the butchers carrying plenty of weight. The market trend was solid throughout. Calves made from 530c to 568c, as the vealer steers to the restockers sold from 470c to 498c/kg. The vealer heifers also to the restockers sold from 446c to 474c/kg. The yearling steers to the restockers received from 428c to 502c/kg, the latter for the light weights. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle to the butchers ranged from 410c to 448c/kg. The single grown steer sold at 376c, while the older heifers made from 338c to 356c/kg. The better covered heavy weight cows sold close to firm and ranged from 296c to 316c, as the very heavy bull reached 250c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 26th October 2020

There was a rain reduced penning following some significant falls over the past week. Yearlings were well supplied and there were quite a few heavy grown steers. The quality and condition of the offering was mostly good. There were limited supplies of light weight young cattle. All the usual buyers were in attendance, however not all processors were active. Strong demand from restockers and feedlotters saw yearling steers sell to dearer trends. The light and medium not carrying too much condition experienced strong gains. The 3 scores were only slightly dearer with quality and breed accounting for some price change. Heavy weight feeders saw a dearer trend of as much as 10c/kg. Strong processor competition for well finished heavy weights resulted in dearer trends. Those dearer trends carried through to all classes of yearling heifers. Grown steers to feed sold to a much dearer trend with breed a factor in price change, a number of pens falling into the heavy weight class. Well finished heavy weights up to 4 teeth attracted both domestic and export processor competition with the market trend slightly dearer. Extra heavy weights and those carrying 6 teeth or more saw no domestic competition and sold to a slightly cheaper trend. Heavy grown heifers up to 4 teeth also sold to a dearer trend. The limited supply of cows sold to a dearer trend with high yielding C muscles up to 7c/kg dearer.

time promote overseas election betting markets during Melbourne Cup day coverage broadcast on Channel 10 next Tuesday.

On betting exchange Betfair, there has been almost \$400m of matched bets worldwide so far on the Trump versus Joe Biden contest.

That figure is expected to nudge \$1 billion by the time polls close.

Trump is the outsider in betting, with as much as \$3 being offered on Thursday

with Biden the clear favourite at \$1.55 or shorter with some agencies.

But bookies everywhere have been swamped by big bets on Trump – Shannon has never seen anything like it. Not even in the great horse race.

"Normally the Melbourne Cup Carnival and even the Cup itself can be a bit of a make or break moment in our financial year," Shannon said.

"Last year with the locally trained Vow and Declare winning, it was a bit of a



wipe-out. But that will be nothing compared to what we are standing to lose on a Trump re-election.

"Not only has the volume of bets been surprising, the sheer size of many of them has been quite puzzling. We have far more bets of over \$50,000 on Trump than we will take on any horse in the Melbourne Cup.

"I have been around the game a long time and this US election is the second biggest single betting event I have seen.

"It is strange because most of the polls and expert

commentary still seem to suggest Trump has very little chance and yet we can barely write a ticket for Biden."

Evans said more than 92 per cent of all bets staked on the presidential race had been for Trump.

"Turnover will surpass the 2019 Melbourne Cup which was the largest betting event in the company's history," he said.

"And it's trending to be five to six times larger than the 2016 (US) election." Tabcorp's Managing

Director Wagering and Media Adam Rytenschild said; "This will be a huge 48 hours. The Melbourne Cup is our biggest wagering event all year and to have the US Election, which has been extremely popular with punters, just hours later makes for an extraordinary couple of days."

● Photo Above: President Donald Trump addresses thousands of supporters during a campaign rally at Phoenix Goodyear Airport Goodyear, Arizona. Photo: Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images/

Racing Review & News

Betting agencies petrified of Trump re-election by Ben Dorries

The US presidential election holds massive interest for punters.

The Melbourne Cup next Tuesday might be the race that stops a nation but it's another race a few hours later which has Australian bookmakers trembling and standing to lose tens of

millions of dollars.

The race for the White House is far outstripping the great horse race in terms of big betting interest and bookies face a staggering wipe-out if Donald Trump wins another term.

Sportsbet CEO Barni

click's



Computer Maintenance Checklist

When I loose productive time at work it is *usually* because of a problem I have encountered with my computer. And any time I have a computer problem it is *usually* related to one of the following items. In order to be a little proactive I have build this little checklist. I have automated as many of them as I can and if much of your livelihood depends on your technology functioning smoothly I suggest you consider doing the same.

Checklist

At system setup

- * Install a surge suppressor/emergency shutdown power strip
- * Register your software products
- * Schedule automated updates
- * Read the maintenance section of your manual
- * Set up your email to auto-archive older messages
- * Install anti virus software
- * Install anti-advertising software
- * Put your software drivers in a pocket sleeve 3 ring

binder

Weekly

- * Run a disk scan to check for hard drive issues
- * Run a defragmentation program
- * Run a clean up to delete unneeded files
- * Back up your files to a remote location
- * Empty your recycle bin
- * Delete your Internet files
- * Clear your browsing history
- * Delete your cookies
- * Update your virus definitions
- * Run a full virus scan

Monthly

- * Check for updates
- * Delete/uninstall unneeded or unused programs

Quarterly

- * Clean your keyboard
- * Clean your monitor
- * Clean your peripherals
- * Rebuild your desktop
- * Change all your passwords

Yearly

- * Renew your software update and anti virus subscriptions

Clean out your hard disk

If you've got a bloated hard disk filled with files you don't need, you could be slowing down your PC. Cleaning it out can give you a speed boost. Windows 10 has a surprisingly useful built-in tool for doing this called Storage Sense. Go to Settings > System > Storage and at the top of the screen, move the toggle from Off to On. When you do this, Windows constantly monitors your PC and deletes old junk files you no longer need — temporary files, files in the Downloads folder that haven't been changed in a month, and old Recycle Bin files.

You can customise how Storage Sense works and also use it to free up even more space than it normally would. Underneath Storage Sense, click "Configure Storage Sense or run it now." From the screen that appears, you can change how often Storage Sense deletes files (every day, every week, every month or when your storage space gets low).

You can also tell Storage Sense to delete files in your Download folder, depending on how long they've been there, and set how long to wait to delete files in the Recycle Bin automatically. You can also have Storage Sense move files from your PC to the cloud in Microsoft's OneDrive cloud storage if they're not opened for a certain amount of time (every day, or every 14 days, 30 days or 60 days). You can also delete old versions of Windows that might be hogging space. At the bottom of the screen, check the box next to "Delete previous versions of Windows." Storage Sense will then delete old versions of Windows ten days after you've installed an upgrade.

(Note that if you do this, you won't be able to revert to the older version of Windows)

MOVIE REVIEW

RAMS

PG

Rams review – Sam Neill and Michael Caton's unpretentious sheep farmers will

move ewe by Luke Buckmaster

Don't judge this warm, funny, tender and down-to-earth rural drama about odd-couple brothers by its garish marketing materials he poster for Rams depicts a perturbed-looking Michael Caton next to a smug-looking Sam Neill, both standing behind a sheep, which, like them, is staring into the camera. Going by this advert alone you'd be forgiven for thinking this was a bone-headed comedy about cack-handed country types and their livestock – something with a tagline like "they're baaaaaad to the bone" or "just ewe and me".

How wrong you would be. Rams is a lovely, even-tempered drama about men and rural life, gentle but firm of spirit, with a down-to-earth pith and a way of entertainingly and unpretentiously exploring potentially difficult subjects such as masculinity. Director Jeremy Sims and screenwriter Jules Duncan faithfully remake the excellent Icelandic film of the same name, which won best film in the Un Certain Regard category at Cannes in 2015 and tells the story of two brothers who live on neighbouring sheep farms but haven't spoken in many years.

In the Australian version, the protagonist Colin (Neill) is the more affable of the pair, a sensible chap with savoir-faire, who gazes upon his cattle with love and reverence, literally telling them how beautiful they are. Les (Caton) is quite the opposite: a stink-eyed "get orf my lawn!" type, with zero patience and a glowering disposition, prone to epic solo drinking sessions followed by marinating while comatose in the sun. Handsomely shot by Steve Arnold in and around Mount Barker in the Great Southern region of Western Australia, with occasional roving drone shots that make the film look a little touristy, much of the drama takes place on the brothers' farms, the MacGuffin arriving in the form of a terrible disease that infects one of Les' prize-winning rams. Authorities decree that every sheep in the valley must be killed for the sake of containment, which



means, in addition to the brothers losing their livelihood, the potential end of their prized bloodline. A small group of local farmers meet and spitball ideas on how to react, with Les on the side (illustrating his outsider status) kvetching loudly, while preparing himself a scone. "They don't know, do they?" he bellyaches, "they just come here and—" then he abruptly stops mid-sentence, upon discovering there's no more cream left in the bowl in front of him. Les never concludes that line. Sims chops the sentence off and lets it linger; lets the silence take hold for a beat or two. Usually scripts deliver neat lines with neat finishes, filmmakers turning the loose threads of real-life into smooth contrivances. The incompleteness of this moment gives it something paradoxically interesting: a special kind of mundanity, and an imperfection that suits the film's earthy tones. It is indicative of an experience that is not going to rush for you. Like the television series Rosehaven, similarly full of country air and wide open spaces, the audience will adjust to its tone and rhythms – and most likely find that adjustment process rewarding.

It isn't clear where the plot of Rams is heading, particularly for those who haven't seen the Icelandic film. That uninspiring poster, and a wishy-washy trailer stamped with a line of text reading "Where there's a wool there's a way" (groan) seems to indicate the brothers might do something to please the gods of genre algorithms, joining forces for instance in some kind of sheep-shearing competition and returning home triumphant, lugging a big golden trophy. But that is not the case at all. Sims has learned from Grímur Hákonarson (who directed the original) important lessons about containing a film tonally, with few of the stark

switches between "happy" and "sad" that made his previous feature Last Cab to Darwin a limited, dictatorial experience emotionally. At the heart of the picture are two very appealing performances from Neill and Caton, who feel even from early moments like real, lived-in characters, well cast to reflect their differences as actors. Caton has always been a bit scruffier and Neill a bit slicker. The former is the kind of bloke who eats rissoles and goes to Bonnie Doon for the weekend; the latter looks good in a leather jacket. The "neighbouring brothers who don't speak to each other" setup could have felt like high-concept gimmickry, but it rings true in a funny sort of way. By contrasting geographic closeness with emotional distance, Sims explores a truth we are all confronted with: that there are certain things – particularly those involving our bloodlines and backgrounds – none of us can ever really escape; things that follow us everywhere even if we never move. In this respect I was reminded of director Clayton Jacobson's dark comedy Brothers' Nest, another film about starkly different siblings existing in the shadow of their parents – or in the words of one of the characters, another film about "family shit".

The setup of Rams also develops into an interesting perspective on loneliness and masculinity, with messages blokes in particular may relate to: how men often shrink inside ourselves; how we so easily shy away from expressions of feelings; how we deploy various techniques to shield ourselves from the tabs of memory. See? I told ewe this wasn't a dopey comedy about sheep. It's funny at times – but also tender and touching: the cinematic equivalent of a gently moving turn of phrase.

• Rams is out in Australian cinemas now 4/5



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1300 622 376

This is why we'll always have SCAM phone calls....

Last month I wrote about Computer Scammers and how to avoid them, or at least recognise them so you don't fall into their trap. This month, I'll try to enlighten you about phone scammers. So, if you're one of the few people who don't receive scam phone calls, congratulations! For the rest of us, if we're caught in a moment of poor judgement, it may cost us thousands! Anyway, a couple of years ago I was chatting to a high level Telstra technician (yep they exist) and we were talking about a variety of problems and one was 'do I have the ability to turn OFF overseas incoming calls', even if they have been diverted from another number. The answer was YES! It was as simple as literally flicking a switch. However, it's not something they want us to know about. Now I get that many Aussies have a reason to take calls from overseas for family or business reasons, but why can't we also 'whitelist' those numbers much the same way that we can block and whitelist emails? For the rest of us who don't want overseas callers AT ALL...ever, we simply flick the switch to NO and the rest of us can be selective in the calls we take. They could even make it an option on our devices. Sounds easy, right? Well there are a few reasons why it won't happen.

1. If most of us in Australia turned off overseas callers, ALL of the Australian businesses with Call Centres overseas would have to bring back their Call Centres to Australia (the banks, the telcos, insurance companies etc). For them it probably means more expense to have this service for clients but let's face it, many of us complain about these call centres because we can't understand what they're saying. Now we have an even better reason to bring them back...to get rid of the scammers!
2. Another reason is that Governments in Australia won't support it. I've spoken to a few local politicians over the years and they're not interested in make these sorts of changes. They say it's a commercial decision for businesses to decide on whether or not they want to employ overseas people instead of Australians.
3. Another reason is 'it's just too hard'. Unless we all make a loud enough noise about this type of thing, it'll just be another one of those interesting things you read in the News paper. Government stats shows that Aussies lose a few million every year to these scammers and they tell us how to handle this type of event. Wouldn't it be easier NOT to have this event AT ALL, rather than put most of us through the anxiety of wondering who's on the end of the next phone call? If we can collectively force the Telcos and the Government to provide the 'Switch off Overseas Calls' option, we'll not only stop the scammers in their tracks, but we'll probably solve the unemployment problem in Australia as many if not all of the call centres will have to come back to Australia. Having been a technician for ALL of my working life, it's been my job to find solutions to all kinds of problems. Some are harder than others. This is one of the easiest hard ones I've come across. It's easy to do, but not easy to get it done. Maybe this is another one for my friends at 'A Current Affair'? They seem to be able to get stuff done.

Cheers, Frank

The Coalition is spooked by Australia's credit rating when it should be scared of Recession

Greg Jericho



'Just remember – ratings agencies don't care about your welfare, standard of living, or employment prospects.'

One of the funniest things this week was the federal government bragging about rating agency Standard & Poor's reaffirming its AAA rating for Australia. I guess we shouldn't laugh, but it is all rather pathetic.

Just a reminder, late last year S&P's was warning Australia if any "fiscal stimulus" designed to lift the economy out of the rut it was in involved "substantial spending initiatives and changes the trajectory of the budget, then doing so could increase downward pressure on our rating and outlook for Australia."

At the time the government was planning net debt by June this year to be 19.5% of GDP and for it to fall to 16% by June 2023. Spending in this financial year was expected to be \$510.5bn.

Now net debt is above 25% of GDP and on track to reach 44% of GDP by June 2024 and the government

plans to spend \$677bn this financial year. I guess not all "substantial spending initiatives" are the same ... So much for worrying about debt.

But, bless them, S&P's is still keeping up the pretence that it matters and once again this week it rolled out the "downward pressure" phrase.

It noted that "expects fiscal deficits to narrow from fiscal 2022 onwards, even with proposed tax reforms and new expenditure measures announced". But that "should this scenario not pan out as we expect, downward pressure on the rating may intensify."

Please. Any government worth its salt should tell S&P's to take its downward pressure and shove it. Back last year when S&P's was worrying about stimulus that might actually boost economic growth (something that was needed given 2019 was the worst year of economic growth in 28 years) the government was paying a record low interest rate of 1.15% on its 10-year borrowings.

Now, despite massive increases in debt, the government this week borrowed \$2bn over 10 years with an interest rate of just 0.7672%.

Borrowing has never been cheaper, even though debt has never been higher.

But while S&P's and other agencies might be just a figure of amusement for some, the problem is too

many – especially those in the Morrison government – think they matter. Just remember – ratings agencies don't care about your welfare, standard of living, or employment prospects. They overwhelmingly care about the budget balance as though the government is a business or household that might not be able to pay its bills. And this is important because thinking that ratings agencies matter is especially stupid during a recession.

Consider that S&P's is already suggesting we need to start reducing the deficit in 2022. That is at a point the Reserve Bank is currently estimating unemployment will still be 7%, and wage growth will be just 1.75%.

That doesn't strike me as a point where the economy is overheating.

The history of recessions is that they take a long time to recover from. The 1980s recession

took around eight years for the level of employment hours to return; the 1990s recession took 17 years, and the recovery from the GFC was so poor that when the Covid recession occurred we were nowhere near the peak level of 2007, let alone the previous peaks. The history of recessions is one of long recovery and governments taking their foot off the accelerator too soon.

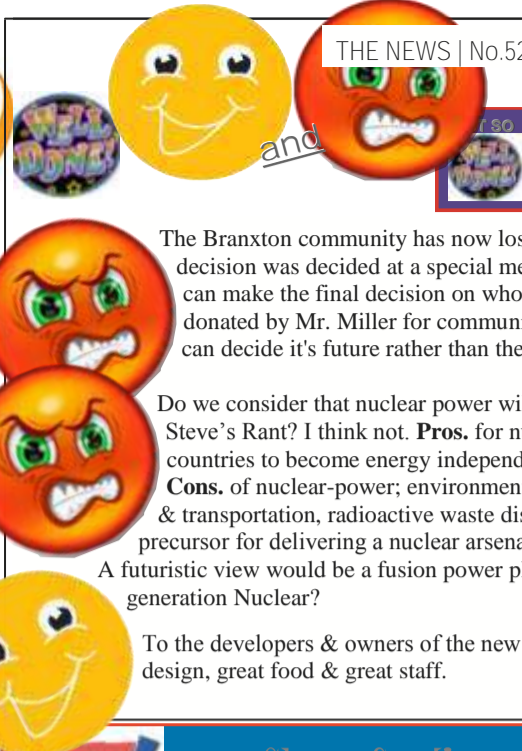
It happened in 1996 when the Howard government thought it was time for austerity. Were it not for the mining boom, we likely would never have recovered to the pre-1990s recession peak level of hours worked.

Even the ALP government in 2011 became too spooked about debt and deficit at time when the recovery was not yet complete.

But yes, we kept our AAA rating. The celebration this week of our AAA ratings suggests this mistake is set to continue.

It would be nice if just once we had a government that cared less about the nation's credit rating and more about its people.

Australia will need economic stimulus for far longer than the treasurer thinks



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

The Braxton community has now lost a great community meeting place as the final decision was decided at a special meeting that the board of Greta Bowling Club can make the final decision on who can buy our community club. The land was donated by Mr. Miller for community use and it's a shame that now a few people can decide it's future rather than the community.

Do we consider that nuclear power will solve human energy problem according to Steve's Rant? I think not. **Pros.** for nuclear-power; low CO2 emission & allows countries to become energy independent with low operating costs.

Cons. of nuclear-power; environment radioactive waste, requires mining, refining & transportation, radioactive waste disposal, limited availability of uranium and a precursor for delivering a nuclear arsenal. Good gosh....how sick.

A futuristic view would be a fusion power plant. Why has only 15% of worlds power generation Nuclear?

To the developers & owners of the new pub at Huntlee a very big 'Well Done'; great design, great food & great staff.



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: Braxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460

For Sale: 2 ton chainblock \$100, Hardwood Timber beam 4800 x 290 x 75, \$50. 2470 x 140 x 100, \$20, Humes prime coat solid exterior door, 2040 x 820 x 35, New \$120, sell \$50, Painted solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, \$20, trailer axle with Holden hubs and stub axles, \$20, 4 White roll down security shutters 1800, 1860, 1760, 1650 wide with 2000 drop, Free Ph.0437312905

For Sale: 2002 Rover 75 in need of a good home. Restoration project. Full leather interior, GPS, fully optioned. Needs new headliner, bonnet respray. Good tyres. Unregistered. P: 0414 757 826

For Sale: 2000 Holden Rodeo LXTRF9 Dual Cab lpg/petrol (WSE547) rego 27/6/20. 156,239 bull bar ute liner canopy silvergrey \$2950 neg. olwynca@gmail.com P: 0249387430

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

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

For Sale: Collectable rabbit traps from \$10 P: 0421 102 711

For Sale: Alpacas Ph 0400697148

For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809

Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

Share Accommodation: East Braxton \$180 + share utilities cost P: 0407 383 026

Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Braxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 0413161296 Fred
Work Wanted: Need a house cleaner \$25/hr P: 0488 588 333

Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292

Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601

Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701

Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567

Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081

Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.

Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804

Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153

Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing

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

Upcoming Concerts

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY MORNINGS — The Braxton Greta Mens Shed meet in the mornings: come and have a cuppa at the Shed. 49 Braxton Street, Greta (in the grounds of the old St Mary's primary school) For more information contact Richard Wesseling 0417422560
TUE 3 NOV - Melbourne Cup
SUN 8 - SUN 15 NOV - NAIDOC Week 2020
MON 9 NOV — Cessnock Toastmasters – Demonstration Speech Night. Cessnock Leagues Club at 7pm. All welcome. For information: contact Anna 49904093
TUES 10 NOV 2020— Braxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
SAT 14 NOV - Braxton Lions Lap the Map for Diabetes at Braxton Oval commencing at 0800. Contact Alan Beckley on 0426 261 948 for further information.
MON 16 NOV — Cessnock Toastmasters Meeting. 7pm at Cessnock Leagues Club. For information phone Anna 49904093
MON 23 NOV — Cessnock Toastmasters Meeting. 7pm at Cessnock Leagues Club. For information phone Anna 49904093
WED 25 NOV - Central Hunter Business Chamber AGM at Braxton Community Hall
MON 30 NOV — Cessnock Toastmasters club speech contests. Visitors welcome. 7pm at Cessnock Leagues Club. For information: contact Anna 49904093
TUES 8 DEC 2020— Braxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg – Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.

SAT 26 MAR 2022 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate
SAT 10 APR 2021 — "Hunter Valley Gin & Jazz festival" @ Hope Estate
SAT 21 NOV 2020 — A Day on the Green (James Blunt & Jason Mraz) at Bimbaden, Hunter Valley (CHECK)
SAT 11 DEC 2021 — Iconic Scottish band SIMPLE MINDS will be performing at a day on the green Bimbadin winery.

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
WHAT'S ON?
GO TO ON?
www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

JAZZ TERENCE KOO TRIO
FRI 6 NOV 2020—CPAC Studio Sounds presents Terence Koo Trio CPAC Studio Sounds Featuring Newcastle Jazz Virtuosos: Terence Koo (piano), Andrew Wallace (double bass) and Rob Coxen (drums). 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.

EDITORIAL

Like all good journalists it is instinctive to question purported facts put to you that just don't seem to be correct. As a working journalist I always go through all copy sent to 'The News' for publication just to be sure that I won't be liable for a defamation action or there is something derogatory said about the editor; I always leave the nice things said! Anyway, I received 'Steve's Rant' last week &, as always, read & checked the veracity as best I can. The statement that I queried was ... 'A further startling fact is that 45% of Australians cannot read and rely solely on television or social media for their information' (you can read it in full context on page 3 of this edition).

I took it up with Steve & he referred me to a SMH article published roughly 10 years ago written by John Bailey. (<https://www.smh.com.au/national/you-wouldnt-read-about-it-20100508-ul30.html>). The most astounding revelations & with facts supported by some amazing research. The clincher to me was that "46 per cent of us viz., Australians, don't have the literacy and numeracy skills required to participate effectively in modern Australia". When I questioned Steve he asked me if I knew anyone who had literacy and numeracy skill problems & I had a problem trying to remember anyone except for an acquaintance of mine

was rated on a five-level scale, with level three considered the minimum capacity needed to effectively negotiate the complex demands of modern society. The survey presented real texts - medicine labels, consumer awareness articles, finance graphs and newspaper reports - and tested participants' abilities to interpret and respond to these items. Rather than working in the abstract, it sought to determine how well people could follow health instructions or understand the implications of financial documents, for instance.

So congratulations, again. If you're reading this, you're probably perfectly able to write a birthday card or count your change at the supermarket. But, as the survey reveals, a troubling number of Australians find things more difficult when it comes to calculating interest or understanding obtuse packaging labels or parsing the terms and conditions of a workplace agreement.

Our perceptions of our skills can be at odds with the reality, according to the survey. Although 17 per cent were found to have the lowest level of literacy for reading prose, only 4 per cent had described their own skills as poor. What's more, people facing difficulties in these areas often compensate in other ways. Once upon a time, "I can read and write" was probably a very good response, says Geri Pancini, president of the Australian Council of Adult Literacy. The increasing sophistication of the texts that determine many areas of our lives make this position less tenable today.

I would like to think that our respective state & federal governments would fund some community programs to address this problem.

Locally I am prepared to run a literacy & numeracy class.... say one night a week for 10 weeks and see where that goes.

If you would like to join please email me on thenews@hotmail.net.au or phone 0414 757 826 and register your interest.

Your interest will remain confidential.

Cheers, Mike

Out & About

With Mike Lowing

The Central Market is held in Branxton every Saturday from 9am-2pm. It has a great range of fruit, veges, meats, good coffee & burgers. All fruit & veges are organically grown & are, almost, straight from the garden to the market. If pecan nuts are your go then this is the place to be



• Cath Harvey & Tony Gates from Branxton enjoying the market last Saturday morning

Cessnock Day Night Pharmacy

Open 7 days
8am - 8pm

4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)

from Walgett who, unfortunately, never really attended school as his parents were drovers and so spent most of his youth in the 'long paddock'. Steve then recounted a number of friends who don't have the literacy and numeracy skills to manage their respective businesses but are very successful thankfully for their wives/partners input. An excerpt from John Bailey's article ... *The Adult Literacy and Lifeskills Survey conducted by the ABS in 2006-07 closely examined 9000 Australians and their ability to negotiate the sorts of language and calculations they would encounter in everyday life. Each*



GIVE US A BREAK

DUMPING ISN'T GIVING

STOP DUMPING Take your garbage to the Waste Management Centre.

CHARITY OPERATORS ARE NOT GARBAGE SERVICES

REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING 131 555

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



LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Singleton's outstanding citizens to be recognised via livestream this Australia Day

The search is on for Singleton's most outstanding residents with nominations now open for the 2021 Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year to be announced via livestream on 26 January 2021.

While COVID-19 restrictions have put a question mark over what Singleton's Australia Day festivities will look like next year, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said it was more important than ever to recognise those unsung heroes who make a difference in our community. Nominations are open until Friday 27 November 2020. "There is no question this has been a particularly challenging year for everyone, and yet there are people in our community who freely give their own time and energy to keep on helping others," she said.

"And it's not just this year: there are people among us who just want to make life a little easier for someone else, regardless of their own personal circumstances, and who don't go looking for awards or accolades. "The reward they value most is the satisfaction of doing a good turn for someone else.

"Most of us know someone in our local government area like this, who makes a quiet contribution that makes a big impact.

"This is our opportunity to let those people know we see what they do for all of us, that we appreciate it, and to say thank you. Don't assume someone else will do it – head to Council's website and put their name forward."

A formal Australia Day ceremony will be held on 26 January 2021 to announce the Singleton Citizen and Young Achiever of the Year, which will be livestreamed to the community because of current COVID-19 requirements that limit the number of attendees.

Singleton Australia Day Committee chairperson, Cr Danny Thompson said the committee was working through options and ideas to bring people together for a wider community celebration in place of the usual family-friendly events that have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

"The global pandemic doesn't change that Australia Day is a great occasion for us to learn more about each other, reflect on what we love about Australia and celebrate what makes this the best country in the world," he said.

"Equally importantly, it's the day we celebrate our outstanding citizens and welcome our new Australian citizens. We are making sure that still happens and involves as many people as possible through a livestream.

"The Committee is also looking at what our wider community celebrations will look like next year, with a host of ideas and suggestions that we're currently working through. I hope everyone will keep an eye on Council's website and Facebook page to keep up to date."



• Photograph above: Singleton 2020 Citizen of the Year Gary Holland and Young Achiever of the Year Darcy Gilson.

Cessnock City's Public Art Policy is now open for community input



Residents from the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) now have the opportunity to provide feedback on Council's draft Public Art Policy. An important part of Council's Community Strategic Plan, the draft Policy supports the development and commissioning of art in public spaces, and provides a transparent and planned approach to managing art on Council land. Following a recent review Council identified the need for the Policy to be updated to reflect changes to current plans and legislation, as well the needs of the Cessnock community.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said that public art not only improves the quality of the built environment but supports our sense of heritage and identity.

"We already have some fantastic public art in Cessnock and I look forward to an updated Policy facilitating more opportunities for art to enhance the connection between the community our urban landscape," he said.

Council's Community and Cultural Engagement Manager, Natalie Drage said it was important that the Policy be open to community feedback.

"Active community participation in public art, and how it is managed in public space, can only strengthen future projects and the social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes they may bring," she said.

The draft Public Art Policy is now on exhibition and will be open for feedback until Monday 23 November 2020.

View the draft Policy and make a submission online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Council/Have-your-say/Public-Art-Policy

• Photo above: Commissioned mural by Silky Street Art at Bridges Hill

Thousands of local government jobs at risk in regional NSW under government's rural roads reclassification plan

NSW Labor is demanding the Government guarantee the transfer of 15,000 kilometres of rural and regional roads to the State will go ahead without hurting local Councils.

It comes after the Government issued a Request for Information regarding roads maintenance contractors, throwing into question the job security of thousands of Local Government employees. The Government is seeking to understand the suppliers available, the geographical area they can service and their capability.

The Shadow Minister for Local Government Greg Warren said the Government should be prioritising the thousands of Council workers who maintain the roads, instead of outsourcing to contractors.

"This means those Council workers now have no protection or job security going forward. How can the Government put the future of thousands of Local Government jobs at risk in the middle of a pandemic?" Mr Warren said.

"The Government's election commitment to transfer 15,000 kilometres of road to the State was meant to help ease financial burdens on Councils. Instead it will mean less funding and job losses across regional NSW. It's disgraceful."

Active transport grant helps get infrastructure and people moving in Cessnock

The NSW Government will provide more than \$1.5 million grants to Cessnock City Council to help deliver new infrastructure to promote walking and cycling in their community.

The new infrastructure will make it easier for the community to get around their local area using active transport, Catherine Cusack, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter said today.

"This grant from the NSW Government will enable the construction of more than 3 kilometres of shared path linking the Cessnock CBD with public schools, sporting complexes and community centres," said Ms Cusack.

"Active transport is a great way for the local community to get around and this new infrastructure will help to provide safe access for pedestrians and cyclists to schools and other local facilities."

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's a fantastic announcement that will increase pedestrian connectivity in Cessnock.

"Council will construct shared paths, for pedestrian and cyclists in the Cessnock CBD and a number of pedestrian refuges that will make it easier and safer for residents moving around the town centre. The paths will better connect Bridges Hill Park to the CBD," said Mayor Pynsent.

"The project also includes pathways that provide safe passage for both pedestrians and cyclists looping the Cessnock CBD, connecting to two public schools and the Cessnock Youth and Outreach Service."

The creation of this shared path is part of an investment of around \$710 million in walking and cycling infrastructure over the next four years that will bring the NSW Government's total investment to almost \$1.1 billion – the largest in the State's history.

"The NSW Government continues to encourage people to walk and cycle as part of their everyday commute, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle while also helping to relieve congestion on the roads and public transport," said Minister for Transport and Roads, Andrew Constance.

Further information about these projects will be available from Cessnock City Council as the project progresses.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

There is a strong demand for residential rental accommodation in the local area & our office needs more properties to sate the current demand. If you are contemplating renting your property please contact either Helen or Mike on 4938 3300

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS
REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300





HANDY TIPS

The Dirt Detective

Whether you're getting started on a home veggie garden, or a market garden, it's important to get to know your soil before you start dropping plants into the ground. Taking the time to observe, dig a few holes and get your hands dirty before planting will save you time, money and grief in the long run; get to know what lies below – the soil.

Here's some tips on how to garden from the ground up.

1. Check your profile
Dig a few holes to about 50cm so see how your soil profile changes. It's usually made up of topsoil in the first 15cm, which is full of living organisms; subsoil below this without as much life but still important in making nutrients available and allowing drainage. At the base is usually clay. It's important not to disturb this profile and bring the clay to the surface as plant roots and water won't be able to penetrate.

2. Check the colour
Soil colour is a great indicator of its drainage and nutrient levels.

- Black - high in organic material
- Red/Brown/tan - has organic matter and good drainage
- Pale soils - tend to be in high rainfall areas and show soil is leached of nutrients
- Yellow soil - has organic matter, prone to waterlogging, easily leached of nutrients
- Green-blue soil - low in organic matter, poor drainage, easily compacted

3. Have a sniff
It should smell fresh; poorly drained soil is anaerobic and smells bad like rotten eggs.

4. Have a feel
The best soils are a blend of clay, sand and silt, and are called loams. Put some in your hand, add a little water, mix it with your finger and test the texture. Sand feels gritty, silt feels like moist talcum powder and clay feels slippery.

• Too much sand and it drain well but not hold nutrients

• Too much clay will hold nutrients but not drain well.

• Too much silt and it is prone to erosion.

5. How to fix it
Adding compost or other organic material is a great way to correct any soil; it

improved drainage and helps retain moisture and nutrients.

Bee Garden Basics:

Types of Bees and Useful Tips For Making A Successful Bee Garden

Bee garden is a concept for attracting bees into your garden and by doing this, increasing your pollination success rate and increased yields. but before focusing your efforts on making a bee garden, you need to know about different types of bees.

There are nearly 20,000 known species of bees. But here we will focus on 5 main types.

Types of Bees:

Here are 5 most popular types of garden bees



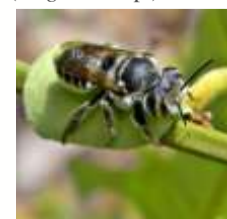
Bumble Bee (Bombus terrestris):
Bumblebees are larger in size (10 to 23 mm in length). They have round bodies covered with soft hair making them appear and feel fuzzy. Because of the buzzing sound, they are called bumblebee.

They build their nests on the ground. Some species, such as *Bombus impatiens*, are used to pollinate greenhouse crops. Like their relatives the honeybees, bumblebees feed on nectar.



Honey Bee
The first distinguishing feature of honey bees is they can produce and store honey and can create nest made of wax. This European species is used for pollination and for honey, propolis, and beeswax production. Bees are 10 to 15 mm in length and colonies survive winter on stored honey.

Leafcutter Bee (Megachile sp.):



Leafcutter and mason bees

are solitary. They are 3 to 20 mm in length, and usually nest in cavities.

Leafcutter bees use bits of leaves and flowers to wrap brood cells for their young, whereas Mason bees use soil.

Blue Orchard Bee (*Osmia lignaria*):



The blue orchard bee is a mason bee (11 to 15 mm in length) that uses mud to divide its brood cells. Bee belongs to the same family as leafcutter bees and is an important fruit pollinator.

Mining Bee (*Andrena* sp):



Basic Rules of Bee Gardening

When gardening for bees, here are a few general rules of thumb:

Choose a range of flower shapes and colours to attract the most bee species. Bumblebees can easily collect pollen from complex flowers, while smaller bees appreciate simple flower shapes and a flat place to land.

Plant season-long blooms to support garden bees from early spring until fall. Provide areas of undisturbed ground or vegetation for nesting sites. Bees and flowers have evolved in tandem, so make sure to choose non-hybrid natives.

Plant in masses for efficient pollen collection. Sunny areas are most attractive. Avoid using pesticides. Even some organic mixtures can harm insects. Provide a muddy area or shallow trough for water.



Tips For Your Dogs

& Cats



Why is my dog barking?

If your dog has a barking problem, this can be a nuisance for both your own family and your neighbours. *You love them and give them everything they need, right? So why can't they just be quiet?* Generally, if a dog is barking there's a reason why. And it's important to identify the underlying causes, so that you can then take appropriate action to fix the issue quickly.

Why do dogs bark?
Barking is a very normal behaviour for dogs – after all, they can't speak to us, so this is how they communicate. Dogs may bark when calling out to other dogs, expressing emotion, being territorial or when trying to grab their owner's attention. Any noise, no matter how slight, can stimulate a barking response – for example rustling leaves, a banging window, lightning or thunder, or a ring of the doorbell.

Dogs also bark because of behavioural issues. For example, a dog may bark out of fear, boredom, or when they're anxious to be left alone.

Again, barking is a normal behaviour and is simply our dogs trying to communicate with us. However, when dogs bark excessively (as in, for many hours of the day or repeatedly in certain situations), this usually indicates an underlying issue. To diagnose the issue, you may need to find out from your neighbours how long your dog barks for after you leave the house.

How to stop your dog from barking?

Find the trigger
The first step is to work out the cause of the problem. *Is your dog barking repeatedly in a certain situation because they're scared of something (also known as a 'barking trigger')? Are they barking to get your attention? Are they barking to protect their territory? Are they barking when you're not at home because they're bored?*

Common trigger situations can be when a dog is scared

of another dog, when they're around objects like vacuums, lawn mowers or cars, or when they've been conditioned to be alarmed by something that we usually wouldn't recognise as frightening, for example people in high visibility clothing, glasses or hats. Retrain their behaviour
Once you've identified the trigger, it's time to do some simple obedience training to retrain your dog's brain to not associate the trigger with a need to bark. Behavioural modification training involves using rewards-based, or positive reinforcement, to teach your dog what 'good' behaviour is.

Slowly expose your dog to their trigger, and reward them whenever they don't bark. For example, if your dog's trigger is someone walking past the fence, have someone approach the fence a number of times, starting out a few metres away and then getting closer and closer each time. Every time your dog doesn't bark, reward them with a treat. If they do bark, simply ignore them and try again. Likewise, if your dog's barking is a way of gaining your attention, only give this attention when they are quiet.

You will need to be consistent and patient, and resist any urge to react to barking by shouting at your dog, as this only encourages them to continue. You may hear about aversive techniques such as various kinds of 'anti-barking' collars, but besides being cruel, these approaches are ineffective and can also lead to other behaviour problems such as aggression. Address their environment
Retraining your dog is a great way to encourage them to stop barking, however it may also be necessary to make some changes to their

environment so that they're less likely to bark when you're not around. If you think your dog might be barking because they're not getting enough exercise, take them for a walk each morning before you go to work and see if that makes a difference. Also make sure that your dog has adequate stimulation in the form of entertaining toys or food to keep them occupied during the day. This could come in the form of raw bones (but not too many as they can be fatty), but a safer option would be Kong toys or old-fashioned chew toys. If you think your dog may be barking because they're being left alone for long periods of time, explore options like a dog walker or doggy day care to keep them company. Remember that dogs are social animals and generally don't like to be left alone!

Sometimes when dogs bark excessively in response to a particular stimulus, such as people passing by the front gate, a simple environmental solution such as blocking their view can resolve the problem. Be aware that if your dog sleeps outdoors, there will be many sounds that could potentially trigger barking, such as possums in trees, other dogs barking, or even the wind, so you should bring your dog into the house at night where they will learn



Are you at risk of a dog barking complaint?

If your neighbours are getting annoyed at your dog barking, there's a number of avenues they can take. The first option (and the best for you) is for them to write you a letter/note or come and speak to you in person. This is ideal as it will give you the opportunity to have an honest conversation with them and let them know that you're addressing the issue. If you're potentially not

close enough with your neighbours to warrant a conversation, they may speak to a Community Justice Centre, or, in more extreme circumstances, contact the local council. The council will investigate the matter and potentially deliver you a prevention notice, which will instruct you on the steps to need to take the rectify the matter. However, if you think your dog may have a barking problem, it's best to prevent the issue from escalating by having an honest and open chat with your neighbours as soon as possible.

How to know when to see a veterinarian

In some excessive barking cases (or if you just need a bit of help with your training), you may need to speak to your veterinarian, who can provide you with advice and maybe refer you to a rewards-based animal behaviourist or veterinary behaviourist. A veterinary consult is advisable if your dog is a compulsive barker, which means they bark for long periods, accompanied by other repetitive behaviours such as circling or jumping. Your veterinarian may need to prescribe a medication for your dog in conjunction with the behavioural modification. In all cases of excessive barking, your veterinarian can also identify and treat any underlying medical causes, such as chronic pain or cognitive decline.

If you do choose to get outside help, avoid any dog trainer who uses negative punishment, as this has been known to create fear in dogs and essentially make the issue worse in the long-term. You can also contact your local RSPCA for advice.

Keeping your dog's barking in check

You love your dog, and obviously want them to be happy and healthy. However, excessive barking really can be an issue for your dog, you, and your neighbours. Be sure to take steps like behavioural modification training or seeing your veterinarian if you suspect your dog has a barking problem, and you'll be able to avoid having the matter taken to your local council.

Author
Rosemary Elliott, BVSc (hons) MPsych (clin) BA (hons), MANZCVS (Animal Welfare)

'It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.'
Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

'Technological progress is like an axe in the hands of a pathological criminal.'
Albert Einstein

'The wireless telegraph is not difficult to understand. The ordinary telegraph is like a very long cat. You pull the tail in New York, and it meows in Los Angeles. The wireless is the same, only without the cat.'
Albert Einstein

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SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 22-10-20 Veterans Championship (Rounds 1 & 2)

Men's Div 1 -
Scratch - Winner J Sheedy
119 R/u E Barrett 124 (c/b)
3rd M Barrett 124
Nett - Winner M Ford 99
R/u G Gazzard 101 (c/b)
3rd G Sheldon 101
Stableford - Winner G
Anderson 56 pts R/u G
Wilton 53 pts 3rd
D Sheppard 52 pts
Men's Div 2 -
Scratch - Winner B Smith
141 (c/b) R/u J Flynn 141 \
R D Showman 143
Nett - Winner L Bootes 83
R/u D Taylor 94
3rd A Hackett 95
Stableford - Winner
R Chalmers 65 pts R/u
P Sekulich 57 pts
3rd M Kingston 54 pts
Ladies Div
Scratch - Winner
C Caldwell 141 R/u R Friis
149 (No Nett - Winner
R McCarthy 149
R/u M Hunt 179 (Third
Stableford - Winner
C Miller 50 pts R/u N Busch
40 pts (Place
NTP - Ladies -
R McCarthy
Gents - D Kinch
Members draw - Not won
A fine Spring day for a
round of golf and an exciting
finish to our Championship.
Congratulations to all
winners and a jolly well
done to the place getters. A
special mention must be
made in regard to our
octogenarians, finishing 1st
& 3rd in Div 2 Nett
section. Still able to mix it
with best.

Results 29-10-20

Stableford
Div 1 Winner T Seamer 31
pts (c/b) (SOD) R/u M Ryan
31 pts 3rd D Sheppard 29 pts
Div 2 Winner P Lancaster 29
pts (c/b) R/u J Atton 29 pts
3rd D Taylor 28 pts
Ladies - Insufficient
numbers to form a division
NTP Ladies M Hunt
Gents E Barrett
Members draw - Not won
The rain clouds rolled away,
the sun shone, making very
pleasant playing conditions
for our Veteran play-
ers. Congratulations to Tony
Seamer on winning his
division and achieving the
"Score of the Day". Well
done to all other winners and
place getters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec Branxton Golf Club Championships—Round 3 Sunday Seeded Groups

A Grade: Corey Lamb 203
(69,67,67) Joshua Tracey
207 (66,73, 68) Cameron
Johanson 210 (71,69,70)
Peter Wilton 217 (71,74, 72)
B Grade: Zac Hayes 243
(77,84,82) Ben Bridge 248
(81,82,85) Toby Grant 251
(82,78, 91) Colin Ford 252
(87,81, 84)

C Grade: Matthew Bain
285 (92,88, 105) Rob
McMillan 287 (96,95,96)

Pip Lancaster 291 (98,97,
96) Richard Turnbull 297
(100,98, 99)

Juniors: Zac Hayes 243
(77,84,82) Riley McClung
248 (87,77,84) Hugh Dilley
318 (104,102,112)

Saturday, 24 October 2020 CLUB CHAMPS RD 3 - STABLEFORD

Field: 56

Grades A Mark Moylan 39

Grades A Joshua Tracey 38

Grades A Victor Matt 37

Grades B Paul Bush 36

Grades B Colin Ford 36

Grades B Murray Johanson
35

Grades C Robert McMillan
35

Grades C Pip Lancaster 35

Grades C Lennard Porter 30

Balls 17 Distributed down
to score: 31

A GRADE D TURNER

B GRADE N WHEELER

C GRADE L PORTER

Saturday's 3rd Round began
with a change in weather

with a wet course facing all
competitors although the
rain managed to stay away
all morning allowing good
scores to be recorded. Mark
Moylan enjoyed the
conditions to win A Grade
with an excellent 39 pts, just
ahead of Joshua Tracey's 2
under par 38 pts, with Victor
Matt turning back the clock
to finish third with his 37 pts
from his 5 handicap. Paul
Bush continued his solid
championship form to win B
Grade with his 36 pts, just
ahead of Colin Ford on the
same score. Former long -
time Club Captain Murray
Johanson finished third with
a very pleasing 35 pts after
making a sterling return to
golf after knee surgery this
year. Rob McMillan won C
Grade with his 35 pts
defeating Pip Lancaster on a
countback with Lennie
Porter third with his 30 pts.
Pip's round was very
pleasing after a lost ball on
the first an excellent
come-back. Dan Turner's
NTPin on the last was very
impressive finishing around
20 cms from the cup. The
championships are really
hotting up in each grade
with the cream rising to the
top, especially in A Grade
where Corey Lamb leads
with his 7 under par. Joshua
Tracey continues to impress
at 3 under par with Cameron
Johanson at even par.
Young Zac Hayes has a 4-
shot lead in a very competi-
tive B Grade with Matthew
Bain hanging onto a 2-shot
lead. (See back page for
final championship round)

Saturday, 31 October 2020

SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 50

Grades A Lee Heuston 40

Grades A Troy Felan 38

Grades A Peter Wilton 38

Grades B Neil Jordan 36

Grades B Paul Bush 33

Grades B John Bowen 33

Grades C Andrew Keogh 36

Grades C Ted Zawirski 34

Grades C Lennard Porter 34

Balls 15 Distributed down
to score: 33

A GRADE L HUNT

B GRADE B TURNER

C GRADE B BAILEY

The Annual Captain V
President event was played
on Saturday with the
Captain's team winning
narrowly 751-749. The
teams were formed
randomly from the time-
sheet. The last group out had
the President's team in front
by 3 but a brilliant 40 pts by
Lee Heuston got the team
over the line. Lee, a two
marker, had a two under 68
which included a lip out on
the 13th which could have
taken him to 5 under. Lee
played with Club Champion
Corey Lamb and runner up
Joshua Tracey who both had
35 pts so the quality of golf
was fantastic. Mick Tracey,
playing with them had 35 pts
as well from his 5
handicap—not bad for the
elder statesman in this
group! Troy Felan made a
welcome return to Branxton
golf to finish runner up in A
Grade with an excellent 38
pts with Peter Wilton third
with his 38 pts (an even par
scratch score—gee we have
some good golfers at
Branxton!). Neil Jordan
turned back the clock to win
B Grade with 36 pts well
clear of runner up Paul Bush
(fresh from a solid
championship) with John
Bowen third with the same
score. Andrew Keogh won C
Grade with his 36 pts, just
ahead of the ever- consistent
Ted Zawirski with legendary
Lennie Porter third with 34
pts each. 33 pts was needed
to win a ball. I was also
informed that the Club
Captain contributed the
lowest score to his group—
obviously the stress of
leadership affected his game.
I'm also reliably informed he
also bogged his cart on the
7th hole—the Club President
did the same after driving
through some water—what
happened to our fearless
leaders! Bobby Hale
provided some entertainment
for his group (and some
other golfers who witnessed
his play) by hitting his drive
on the 6th tee into the social
markers and rebounding
under the fence behind the
tee—he still made a six so he
gets the "play of the day".

The encouragement award
goes to Luke Matt who
played his first competition
game today with his Dad
Victor. Welcome aboard
Luke—you certainly have a
great mentor with your
father a wonderful golfer and
excellent sportsman. Next
week the Singles Final will
take place with Troy McCaw
and Dan Turner to vie for the
title. Well done boys and
good luck next week!

HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

Sunday 18th October

Diane Grant from Cronulla
GC has won the Weekly
Challenge with 43 points
from Greg Sprong from
DuntyLeague GC 43 and
Beau Willet of Toukley GC
with 41 points. Ball winners
were: Jeff Shanhan 39,
Ralph Grant v39, Robert
Wood v38, Phil Douglas 37
& Dylan Palmer 37 c/b

Tuesday 20th October

David Spruce has produced a
solid 42 points to win the
Tuesday Stableford from Ty
Cowley with 40 on count-
back to Peter Wilson in 3rd
place. Ball winners were:
Peter Franks 37, Ian Smith
37, Peter Tierney 37, David
Peel 37, Graeme Flynn 37,
Gary Arnold 36, Greg
Ireland 36, Wayne Barber
36, Dean Morison 35, Matt
Zechel 35, Angello Wood
35, Lindsay Meyn 34, Leigh
O'Connell 34, Andrew Cau-
sey v34, Paul Neuss 34,
Lindsay Self 33, Jeremy
Smillie v33, Dennis Donn
33, Lloyd Barrett 33,
Andrew Edwards 33, Rick
Turchini 33, Eric Smith 33,
Michael McNab 32, Arthur
Cuttriss 32, Wayne Burgess
32, David Michael Menzies
32, Dylan Palmer 32, John
Stewart 32, Ian Newell 31,
Ken Scott-MacKenzie 31
and Anthony Mudd v30, Rex
Talbot 30 & Phil Darcy 30 c/
b. Nearest-the-Pins went to
Phil Darcy (3rd) & David
Peel (4th,8th & 17th)

Wednesday 21st October

Melita Watson has taken
benefit from the
accommodating course
conditions to have
consecutive rounds of 79 at
Hunter Valley Golf Club,
bound to come under the
handicapper's eye, the score
in the Ladies Stableford
worked out to 41 points and
the winning round from
Maureen Donaldson with 40
& Jenny Chambers 3rd with
36. Ball winners were: Mary
Fortey 35, Ruth Scott 35
and Dale Hamilton 34 c/b.

Thursday 22nd October

Once again fantastic scoring
featured in the Vets Irish
Stableford with excellent
course conditions providing

the platform for these
results. Division 1 has gone
to Guntha Shilko with 89
points from Peter McIntyre
82, Division 2 to Geoff
Boyd with a staggering 90
point haul from Ray Boyd
with 80 on countback &
Division 3 to Norm Barry
with 80 points from Phil
Wetzler 77, Ball winners
were: Ken Harris 80, Paul
York 80, Steve Jurw 78,
Curly 77, Gerry Irwin 75,
Boss Hogg 75, Dave
Balckburn 74, Mark Barrow
74, Fluff 73, Bill Freeman
73, Ken McLaughlan 72,
Wayne Berry 72, Steve
Rawlings 71, James Hogg
71, Anthony Neale 70, Kerry
Bartlett 70, Doug Harley 70,
Denis Donn 70 & Paul
Ireland 69 c/b. Nearest-the-
Pins went to Garry Marsden
(3rd) Rob Hannah (4th &
10th) Ken Harris (8th) &
David Peel (17th).

Saturday 24th October

The much needed early
Saturday rain left many of
the Stableford field at home
with only a small number of
players turning out. Lindsay
Meyn found conditions to
his liking with a 41 point
round, runner up went to
Stephen Zok with 39 on
countback to Twin Creeks
GC visitor Tyler Bratusa
also on countback. Ball
winners were: Nicholas
Hain 39, Shannon Attewell
38, Craig Sharp 38, Brian
Connolly 37, Ron Felsch
v36, Andrew Zok 36, John
Kitchin v35, Michael
McNab 34, Nick Looby 34,
Aaron Marks 34, Jeremy
Holden 34 and Wayne
Barber 33 c/b. Nearest-the-
Pins went to Craig Sharp
(3rd) Peter McIntyre (4th)
Michael McNab (8th) &
Shannon Attewell (17th).
Next weeks event will be a
Medley Stableford

Please Note:

***Bookings are now open
for the Mixed 4BBB
Championship Sunday 8th
November

Due to current Covid -19
restrictions on gatherings, to
assist in the planning for our

AGM & Presentation to be
held on Sunday 29th
November beginning at
10:45 am the Board are
requesting all who intent to
attend to please notify be-
fore 14th November, don't
forget to include your part-
ner in the reply if they are
planning to attend with you.
The Board email is:
hvgcboard@gmail.com
or notify any Board Member
of your intentions. Thank
you to all who have already
taken the time to reply.

Sunday 25th October

The Weekly Challenge has
been won by Tony Krishna
with 42 points from Ma-
genta Shores GC visitor
Damend Naidu with 41, no
other details are available at
this time.

Tuesday 27th October

Mathew Zechel has re-
corded 49 individual points
to easily win the Tuesday
Stableford, bound to be
playing on a new handicap
next outing, Ty Cowley
produced another solid
round to take 2nd place with
42 on countback to Chris
Taggart. Ball winners were:
Mathew David Ford v39,
Andrew Cawsey v39, Tom
Vaughan 38, Steve Piggot
37, Jason Cowburb 36, Mi-
chael David Menzies 36,
Geoff Boyd 36, Wayne
Barber 35, Phil Darcy 35,
David Peel 35, Michael
Ridgeway 34 & Wayne
Burgess 33 c/b. Nearest-the-
Pins went to Geoff Boyd,
Phil Darcy & Gary Arnold.

Wednesday 28th October

Constant early showers
hurried the Ladies who
started from the course with
no results handed in. Next
week the Ladies will play
Individual Stableford

Thursday 29th October

Kinder weather greeted the
Vets field who turned out in
the Medley Stableford,
scores reflected the heavy
ground which reduced the
'run' may of the Vets rely
on. Division 1 went to Steve
Piggot with 37 points from
Jeff Taylor 36 on countback,
Division 2 to Kevin Smith

38 from Don Bradley 37 c/b
and Division 3 to Ron
Findley 34 from John Hatti-
son 33 c/b. Ball winners
were: Bruce Chambers 37,
Ken Harris 36, Michael
Gilbert 35, Kerry Bartlett 35,
David Peel 35, Lloyd Barrett
35, Lindsay Meyn 34, Steve
Rawlings 33, Robert Logue
33, Wayne Drayton 33, Paul
Smith 33, Wayne Barber 33,
Geoff Sweetman 33, An-
thony Neale 32, Graham
Donaldson 32, Graeme
Flynn 32, Fluff 32, John
Pascoe 32, James Hogg 31,
John Grayson 31, Wayne
Berry 31 and Darrell Preston
31 c/b

Nearest-the-Pins went to
David Peel (3rd & 8th)
Guther Shilko (4th) John
Carmody (10th) & Dave
Gellwiler (17th). next week
the Vets will play a Medley
Stableford

Saturday 30th October

Early drizzle cleared quickly
leaving a great day for the
members and visitors
playing in the Medley
American Stableford. A
Grade has been won by
Stephen Zok with 58 points
from Shannon Attewell 56,
B Grade to Cabramatta GC
visitor Steven Thomson with
55 points from Jerry Bow-
den with 53 on countback
and C grade to George Co-
pas 59 from Scott Jones with
58 points on count-
back. Ball winners were:
Bill Mitchell 58, Nicholas
Hain 56, Lex DeBock v56,
Murray Flannigan 55, Jason
Stoker v55, David Johnston
55, Richard Craft 54, Trevor
Collins 54, Peter Tierney 54,
Dean Morison 54, Peter
Huckfelt 54, Brian Ferrao
v54, Alan Provenzano 53,
Graham Morris 53, Nicholas
Dunn 53, Edward Bagoly
v52, Fluff 52, Peter
McIntyre 52, Paul Bullock
51 and Geaoff Boyd 51 c/b.
nearest-the-Pins went to
Peter Tierney (3rd) Tracy
Morison (4th) Dean Morion
(8th) Nathan Sweeney (10th)
7 Stephen Morgan (17th).
Next week's event will a
Medley Stableford

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Branxton Greta Swimming Club end year in a true competitive spirit!

24 THE NEWS No. 376 28 January 2014



The last race night, just prior to
Christmas, for the first half of
the summer season of Branxton
Greta Swimming Club was held
in excellent weather after a few
cancelled race nights due to
rain. Individual medley events
push swimmers to perform their
best, a distance of each stroke
is swum - butterfly, backstroke,
breaststroke and free-
style. Megan Searle, Chantelle

Jones, Logan
Ratley, Cooper Wilton and
Brodie Grant had fantastic
races completing the strokes
with correct technique.
Toby Wilton and Charlotte
Martin also put in great effort in
the individual medley races.
Matthew Wenham not only
swam a great medley race but
a fantastic 33m freestyle also.
Brianna Crothers was also a

stand out in the freestyle
events. Appreciation is
extended to all the helpers
during the first half of the
season. Don't forget the
intensives in January
checkout our facebook page.

■ Photo Above - Club members
on the last swim night prior to
Christmas.

YOUR friendly team

The News

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Photographer & Administrator
Manager Advertising: Helen Lowing
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BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News **SPORT**

Corey Lamb 'A' Grade Club Champion 2020

Full Report ~ Branxton Golf Club Sunday, 25th October Last Round of 2020 Championships
 Sunday's weather ensured the last round of the Club Championship would be challenging with the daily stableford event proving that being the case. The day's winner in A Grade was Gregory Tearle with a pleasing 38 pts, just ahead of Club Championship runner up Joshua Tracey who had an excellent 37 pts (one under par). Ben Bridge who finished runner up in the B Grade Championship finished third with 37 pts as well. Colin Ford won B Grade with his 34 pts, a score good enough for him to win the overall Vets title as well. Rod Moylan had another good day to finish runner up with 32 pts with Barry Turner third with his

31 pts. Matthew Bain had an excellent day winning the day's C Grade Stableford with 33 pts, a score good enough for him to win the C Grade overall title. Young Hugh Dilley finished runner up with the same score with Richie Turnbull winning another prize with 31 pts. 32 pts was needed to win a ball. **The Club Championships Titles** proved to be great viewing throughout the day in each grade with the cream rising to the top, especially in A Grade where our very promising local prodigy, Corey Lamb, won the title with an overall 9 under score 271 (69, 67, 67, 68). Joshua Tracey once again finished runner up with a wonderful 4 under total score 276 (66, 73, 68, 69). The quality of golf on display would put most Pro-Ams to shame. To see two players finish under par after

4 rounds is something to see. They combated like prize fighters all day, both playing well enough to be a few shots better. Defending Champion, Cameron Johanson finished third with a one over par score of 281 (71, 69, 70, 71)—a score good enough to win past championships quite easily. Young Zach Hayes battled hard to win B Grade from last year's champion Ben Bridge, finishing in style by holing a difficult putt on the 17th to maintain a 2-stroke lead and sinking a 20 footer on the last to seal his victory. In C Grade Matt Bain lead for the 4 rounds, winning by a few shots in the end, just missing a birdie on the last as well. The seeded group were all first timers in the last group so congratulations to Matt, Rob, Pip and Richie. The course was in wonderful condition

throughout the championships, with Club Captain, Steve Ross very thankful to everyone involved.
A Grade Scratch Winner - Corey Lamb
 A Grade Nett Winner - Josh Tracey
 A Grade Scratch Runner Up - Cameron Johanson
 Field: 42
 Grades A Gregory Tearle 38
 Grades A Joshua Tracey 37
 Grades A Benjamin Bridge 37
 Grades B Colin Ford 34
 Grades B Rodney Moylan 32
 Grades B Barry Turner 31
 Grades C Matthew Bain 33
 Grades C Hugh Dilley 33
 Grades C Richard Turnbull 31
 Balls 13 Distributed down to score: 32
A GRADE C JOHANSON
B GRADE J BEREZA
C GRADE R MCMILLAN



A Grade & Club Champion, Corey Lamb, & dad Tony



C Grade Champion Matt Bain

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