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Local federal member quits shadow cabinet amid ongoing disagreement over climate change & energy policies



Labor Federal frontbencher Joel Fitzgibbon, Member for the Hunter, has quit the Shadow Cabinet amid an ongoing disagreement about how the party should approach climate change and energy policies.

The Member for Hunter was the shadow minister for agriculture and resources & the seat of Hunter envelopes coal mining which is its major industry. He said his exit was his own choice and long planned, claiming he had put an 18-month time limit on his frontbench term after the last election. But the timing of the announcement raised eyebrows in Canberra. It came just days after Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese and Labor's left faction signalled they would use Joe Biden's US election victory as encouragement in their push for stronger climate action.

Fitzgibbon said that he supports the Opposition's target for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Labor sources say Fitzgibbon had planned to step out of the shadow cabinet before the next election in favour of fellow New South Wales rightwinger Ed Husic, but the departure was brought forward after internal tensions reached boiling point. His replacement is popular western Sydney MP Ed Husic. "I am worried that being too ambitious in the short term will damage Labor's electoral chances," said Joel. "To win government, the Labor Party needed to make sure it

was also appealing to regional voters whose work-force relies on traditional energy sources. "We have a diverse range of membership and we must speak to them all," he said. "And I think somehow over the course of the last decade, we forgot that and we lost touch with traditional working people. "If you begin demonising coal workers, coal generation workers, you're immediately demonising oil and gas workers, power generation workers. "By the time that message gets through, you're demonising manufacturing workers and it goes on and on. "You've got to give voice to all of those people and you can't win those seats ... without reassuring the community that the Labor Party is heavily supportive of the resources sector." "I believe to make a difference on climate change, you need to be the government and to do this you need to have a policy that the majority of people embrace," he said. Mr Fitzgibbon said he regretted not throwing his hat in the ring for the leadership 18 months ago following the loss at the 2019 election. "I think it could have provided a mandate for my determination to take ALP back to its industrial roots, not at the expense of our newer base, but to help us focus on all our members." Mr Fitzgibbon said he believed in a diversity of ideas at a party room level. "You can't expect a candidate in what used to be Batman in inner Melbourne to be saying the same thing as someone in Flynn in central Queensland." "I believe you have to allow local members to express the aspirations of their local communities." Fitzgibbon has complained Labor's position on coal cost votes at the last election, pointing to a 9.48 per cent swing against him in his NSW seat of Hunter. As reported in The News, in a previous edition, state leader of One Nation in New South Wales, Mark Latham, is intending to move to Newcastle early next year and it has been disclosed that he will reside in the seat of Hunter. His office has denied that he will oppose Fitzgibbon at the next Federal election.



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From the Lions' Den

The Lions Club of Branxton wishes to say.....

"Thank you"

...to all who participated in the Lions Lap the Map event at Branxton Oval on Saturday 14th November 2020. Your participation and support will contribute magnificently towards a donation to the Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation. Your contribution, in return, will flow back to this community through better diabetes support services. Saturday the 14th November was declared World Diabetes Day by the International Diabetes Foundation. Established in 1991, World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations day in 2008 with the passage of a United Nations resolution. World Diabetes Day is marked each year on the 14th November, the Birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, the co-discoverer insulin along

with Charles Best in 1922. After the thunderstorm, rain and hail on Friday evening, Saturday dawned with clear skies, beautiful morning for a little exercise. Participants began arriving well before eight o'clock and they were soon underway on the 2.5 km walk. Half-way through the walk at Miller Park a water stop was available and quite a few participants took a refreshment. The Cessnock City Council Mayor, Bob Pynsent along with his wife Kathy were accompanied by the Deputy Mayor, Darrin Gray, at the event. All three completed the walk and participated in the event and stayed on for breakfast after the walk. Diabetes information was available for discussion over breakfast of bacon and egg rolls and sausage sandwiches.

Over 1.3 million Australians have diabetes, and an estimated 2 million are at high risk of developing the condition – and these numbers are increasing rapidly every day in communities across the country. The Lions national goal of the Lap the Map project is to achieve 25,760 km, a combined circumference distance of Australia including Tasmania & some other larger islands, but just as importantly to promote Diabetes Awareness and of course promote Lions in this area with the hope of attracting new members. President of the Lions Club of Branxton, Brian Thomas, after the event said "the support of the event was fantastic. Each of us knows someone battling diabetes and this event will contribute to the Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation working towards mitigating the effects of the condition and improving the quality of life for those living with the condition. The community may not necessarily see the work of the Foundation, however, the work of the Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation will flow back to this community, through better diabetes support within the

community, as it will for the remainder of Australia." Lion Brian concluded by saying "I can only say, great job, well done, thank you." The Lions Club of Branxton would like to thank the following for donating to the event.
 * Piggotts Pharmacy Branxton.
 * The McAuley Centre for assisting with the tables and chairs.
 * Branxton Greta Vineyard News
 Melbourne Cup Day
 Lions members hung up their BBQ aprons and put on their "glad rags" to enjoy Melbourne Cup Day at the Royal Federal Hotel. An enjoyable lunch and drinks were had along with interesting conversation; however, no one would put up their hand for not backing the winner!! Lions fund raising activities involve community engagement and Lions have a policy of being prepared for the unexpected, so one precaution we take is to ensure members are prepared for unforeseen events that may occur. This month three Lions undertook certified first aid training so as they would be prepared. Lions Brian Thomas, Cathy Murray and Ken Meany attended the course to gain their certification.

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.

Lions District Convention – held at Maitland Showground – Saturday 7th November
 Over a hundred members of 54 Lions clubs in the 201 N3 District in New South Wales attended the Lions District Convention on Saturday 7th November to witness the annual general



Some of the participants pulling into the Miller Park refreshment stop



Cessnock City Council Mayor, Bob Pynsent, Deputy Mayor, Darrin Gray and Club President Brian Thomas, in front of the Lions promotional trailer at the event



Shaun Graham and his son Nate, receiving the raffle prize from club president Brian Thomas

meeting and many other events and activities. District Governor Geoff Kilmurray (Maitland Lions) welcomes the Conventioneers. One of the keynote speakers was Professor Tom Walley, Institute Director, of Hunter Medical Research Institute who gave a very interesting presentation on the



Representatives from Branxton Scouts with Leader, Jean Geale

work of the Institute, focusing on its work on Diabetes. This was very relevant to the Lions members as the World Diabetes Day

and Lions Lap the Map walk for Diabetes are due to take place on Saturday 14th November. Professor Walley said that 70% of Australian adults were over-weight which led to further risk of Diabetes. Some of the work they are doing is clinical trials utilising information about the food

intake of people with Type 1 Diabetes which is measured by an app: OptimAAPP. The Professor said it was important to check food intake of sufferers because: 'People may avoid certain food groups altogether as a way of controlling blood glucose levels and this is unnecessary and can be unhealthy'.

Coming Up
 Upcoming events for the Lions Club of Branxton are:
 * Lunch meeting at the new Huntlee Tavern on Thursday 19th November 2020;
 * Bunnings BBQ at Singleton on Saturday 28th November 2020.

* Meeting at the Branxton Golf Club 4:00 pm Wednesday 2nd Dec. If you would like any information about any of these events please contact Secretary Alan Beckley on 0426 261 948.

More Photos P.5

REFLECTIONS

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25.40



This week we hear that the people of the world will be separated into two groups at the Last Judgement, like a shepherd separating his sheep and his goats. For the people of the world, it will be the way in which we love others or do not love others that will separate us. It will be the way that we love and serve people who are in need. We are called to give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty, to welcome the stranger, to provide clothing for the naked, to care for the sick and visit those in prison. Mother Teresa said, 'What the poor need even more than food, clothes and shelter, is to be wanted.' This is a basic human need. We all need to be wanted, to be included, to be cared for. The hunger and thirst that we satisfy in another may be physical hunger and thirst, but it may also be the hunger for a smile, some understanding and compassion, or a sign of friendship. A stranger who needs and desires welcome may need only a kind word of encouragement or an invitation to join a conversation. Providing clothing for the naked could be building up another person's self confidence and self-worth. Caring for the sick and visiting those in prison may be the simple act of noticing the struggle someone is going through, or the loneliness or isolation that someone feels and doing something about it so that they know they are not alone, that someone cares.

As we become aware and more sensitive to the needs of others, there are so many things that we can do as we love and serve one another in these small and important ways. Living life in loving service requires us to give of our time, our energy, and our love. This year has been a challenge for all of us. There is no better time than today to love the people around us, to notice those who are lonely or isolated, to extend the hand of friendship and love. As we love and serve God's people, we love and serve God. Love comes from God, and we love because He first loved us. May God's blessings be among us and remain with us as we love and serve one another.
 Blessings, Reverend Nicole

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When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct.	Ambulance ... 131 233	Maitland.... 4939 2000
ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	NSW Fire Brigade	Cessnock... 4991 0555
For non-life threatening calls.....	Branxton.... 4938 3396	Singleton... 6572 2799
Police Assistance Line (PAL)....	Rural Fire Brigades	SES132 500
131 444	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
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by Josephine Jennings from Piggotts Pharmacy Huntlee/Branxton



I don't really know what happened to me in my mid-20s. In just a little over 5 years, I gave birth to 4 children, owned two pharmacies and completed a business degree and Master of Business Administration.

Looking back on those years, the issues I found the most difficult were breastfeeding, establishing the children's sleep routines at all different ages, trying to keep sane when the children were sick and being a single, working mother living pay cheque to

pay cheque for many years. I became familiar with the emergency departments of so many different hospitals as with time I discovered that all four of my children required Epipens because they were allergic to different foods, grass and dust mites.

Breastfeeding
During the first few weeks of breastfeeding, I resorted to feeding through nipple shields because my nipples always cracked and bled for weeks. Between feeds I used nipple shields to give my damaged nipples a

chance to heal. I can still hear my mother saying "Persist! Persist! You must persist!" I don't know what I was doing wrong, but I had recurrent bouts of mastitis EVERY month for the 7-10 months that I breastfeed each baby. Mastitis more than 28 times over the 5 years was difficult to cope with! Feeding during mastitis was excruciating not to mention the flu-like symptoms that made it difficult to get out of bed at times. Breast warmers and heat packs stuffed into my maternity bras became my closest friends. I also found Therapeutic Ultrasound delivered by Physiotherapists helpful to aid the breakdown of the painful, hard lumps and of course antibiotics when the lumps

persisted.
Sleep routines
I learnt how important was to establish a feed, wake, sleep routine when the baby was around 3-4 months old. With my eldest, I had no idea what I was doing and before long, she was controlling her own sleep patterns and was too difficult to train as she would jump out of bed and open the door. She was always overtired and irritable. I was so overwhelmed (and pregnant) that I just gave in to her tantrums and demands "No! not your bed! Mummy sleeps in my bed!" Training your baby to sleep is heart wrenching for the first 2-3 days, then suddenly, the baby figures out the routine and thrives! What nobody tells you is

that sleep routines may become erratic again if the baby gets sick and you must start from scratch when the baby has recovered from illness. In some family settings, it is difficult to establish good sleeping routines due to disruption to other family members that may be on night shift or like when my mother stayed over, she couldn't bear to have the baby cry for a few minutes and would literally run to nurse the baby if it as much as whimpered. If this is the case, there are both private and public sleep clinics that you and your baby can attend for a few nights with access to trained sleep consultants that will support and help you and your baby establish a good sleep routine. Gone are the days

where GPs and Pharmacists recommended sedating antihistamines to babies which was a common occurrence over 20 years ago.
Allergies/Anaphylaxis
All four of my children would present with different symptoms depending on what allergen they were exposed to and the amount. The varying symptoms would be mild to severe such as;
Itchy throat, Local rash Eczema, Cracked ear lobes Swollen face, Red body no swelling), Full body rash, Collapsing, Vomiting Diarrhoea and stomach pains & SOB mild to severe
There are ways to help determine what your child is allergic too. Under the care of the Immunology Department at John Hunter Hospital and Dr Rani Bhatia, all four children had skin prick tests and multiple food challenges within the safety of a hospital setting. The quality of life for my two sons has increased noticeably since receiving monthly immunotherapy injections to desensitize them to dust mite, pollen and grasses which has eased the continuous morning sneezing often leading to blood noses. Both boys can breathe so much better and have improved stamina on the

basketball court.
Baby Weight
After each baby, I lost my baby weight using Ultra Lite Nutritional Food Program which I commenced when the baby was ready to wean. I need to keep slim as we have a strong family history of diabetes and heart disease. My dad had heart attacks and bypass surgery at 40 and again at 49. In his late 50s when he was slim, he was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes. I am excited to announce that I can modify the Ultra Lite program to suit those intolerant of Dairy! Why? Because those with allergies should not be excluded.
Aunty Jo's Kids Corner
During the first Pharmacy design meeting, I made it very clear that there must be a dedicated play area for kids. This would be Aunty Jo's Kids Corner. With four children 5 years and under, I would struggle taking the children to the shops as they were likely to destroy everything in their sight, fight and throw tantrums. At Piggotts Pharmacy Huntlee/Branxton all children are welcome to play at Aunty Jo's Kids Corner whilst their parents/grandparents/carers browse, try to relax or ask for health advice. Each child is unique to me and I am looking forward to watching these children grow year by year.



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STEVE'S RANT

Profit with Purpose

A body representing the Industry Superannuation Groups has recently aired a television advert listing the possibilities the funds have for improving the lot of all Australians in addition to the stated aim of providing retirement income for their contributors.

Participating talking heads each outline some motherhood outcome which it is hoped can be achieved by the careful investment of the monies held in trust by all the funds.

All good and well until the last talking head makes the nothing statement "Profit with Purpose". What it is attempting to do is differentiate the profit made by mining companies and arms dealers with profit considered ethical. This is *softcore brainwashing* by the Dopy Wokey Left Lovies who, with their hands on their genitalia, push the greatest threat to humankind as being climate change, Donald Trump, Tony Abbott and Boris Karloff, (sorry – Johnson).

So, how do we define ethical profits? Perhaps a dairy farmer who produces fresh milk and cream and raises poddy calves. Well not really, because cows and calves' fart. Orchards are on the nose because they employ those dreadful backpackers and other drifters and don't pay them a decent wage and

orchards are mono-culture. You may think this is extending the argument a bit too far, but if your only source of news was the ABC or SBS, then the above makes perfect sense. All business, no matter the product or activity, has as its primary aim; making a profit.

No profit, no business, no taxable income, no employment, no civilised society. We can choose what we consider to be an ethical business. Having large NGOs (non-government organisations) trying to manipulate or implant prejudices against what they perceive as 'not ethical' needs to be recognised for what it is and be resisted.

To softly imply that not all businesses are good, and some are better than others because of what they produce is to prepare our mindset to accept further judgemental pronouncements of the woke. The measure of a business's worth is the extent of its profit, the number of people that it employs and the manner in which it conducts its activities.

What we have so far examined is only one example of how our thoughts are manipulated, by organisations both political, bureaucratic and identity posturing groups such as the Doomers, Boomers, and Advertising



Groomers. As discussed in the previous newspaper, Thu 5th Nov, - Doomers are those who believe in catastrophic Climate Change and demand that everybody else also believe it.

Boomers are baby boomers born between WW2 and 1960 or so, and get the blame for all our current woes. We accept everyday commercial advertising which has been part of society since the invention of the printing press and we can make of it what we like. When the adverts for the new Dyson is shown on TV, we think 'gee that's good' until the price is shown. So, with the full disclosure, we can make the right decision.

When non-commercial entities present adverts or written posters it needs to be remembered, only that which supports their argument will be given and anything that might run counter to it will

be omitted. The correctness of the argument will be assumed, i.e., the high moral ground is taken and anybody who disagrees will be labelled as deplorable.

The best example of this is the current controversy of the US election result. The lefty Democrats and the US press have decided the result despite grave concerns about voter fraud and unconscionable behaviour during counting where party observers have been denied scrutiny of the legitimacy of the votes.

In the months leading up to the election, the prospect of a Democratic Whitewash was promoted by the press, the pollsters and every Lefty Loonie in Hollywood. The Democratic Administered States assumed the result. They were thus creating expectations of a Democratic landslide. Well, there was no landslide, and the delayed counting of votes in the

crucial states plus the reversing of the result has rightfully cast doubts on the outcome. Watch as each side presses its case and assumes the moral high ground. Time will tell, but undoubtedly something stinks in the US. Thought manipulation starts in our schools and at home. It used to be accepted that this was desirable to instil family and societal values, promote ambition and the desire to learn.

Many people still expect this or something similar and are willing to pay hefty school fees to ensure this. As the outcomes of our education system steadily decline, we see how the Dopy Wokey Loonie Left has used our public education departments to manage the thought processes of our younger generation.

Whereas the school leaver of forty years ago looked forward to great expectations, today our

children see no future and are afraid of what lies ahead. They are at the mercy of so-called progressives and the 'progressive' hidden agendas.

Cheers, Steve



with Mike Lowing

I have assumed the role of 'Interim President' of the Central Hunter Business Chamber after the resignation of the previous president Brett Wild. With our secretary Tony Gates we have spent a considerable amount of time contacting previous members, possible members, updating data bases, improving the web site (you can now fill in an application to join and pay

through the website centralhunterbusiness.com.au/ Also, MARK OUR DIARY FOR THE AGM WED. 25TH NOV. 2020 - 6.30pm. At the Branxton Community Hall Some of the benefits you will receive when you join:-

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The **NEW \$20 pro-rata membership fee** will apply for the period from October 2020 to end February 2021. Please join, come to the AGM and get involved.

In the last issue of The News I did a spiel on 'Literacy & Numeracy' in Australia which showed a need to do something about it; I offered to do a local one-night-a-week for 10 weeks literacy/ numeracy course.

I did receive an offer of help from Branxtonian Joy Bootes who emailed and said *...I am very interested in your recent article, I too feel it is such a shame that so many people, in all walks of life, have difficulty in the areas of literacy and numeracy. If I can be of any help in improving the situation for those who have problems, I would be very pleased to offer my meagre assistance.* Thank you Joy & now with some help the offer is still open but will need to be post Christmas. Call me on 0414 757 826 if you would like further information...

Cheers, Mike



Australia could be in for a shock With Donald Trump stumped, the world looks up with hope as Joe Biden prepares to take control in America. Already experienced in presidential politics, and aware he is the oldest person elected president of the US, Biden could hit the ground running at home and on the world stage. He must urgently implement his key promises to deal with rampant COVID-19 and act effectively on climate change.

issue. To date our Prime Minister and Energy Minister have backed the "Carbon Club" and willingly accepted their donations. Yet is it impossible that our PM may reverse direction, under pressure from Europe and North America plus countries in our region like Japan, South Korea, India, and the submerging Pacific Islands? Our state governments and private investors are already backing renewables.

Neil Wilkinson, Mont Albert

Backing the wrong horse Scott Morrison will be busy doing some strategic backpedalling to wipe the vivid image of the Australian PM and

leading business figures and Coalition supporters shaking the oat bucket in front of the wrong horse in the race for the White House .

Scott Morrison's recent talk of our nations' shared values ignores the reality of the US under Donald Trump, who aligned himself more closely with autocrats than democratic leaders, and will be a burr under the saddle of his credibility as he now claims equal support for Joe Biden's America.

The outstanding speeches of the President-elect and Vice-President-

elect referencing respect for science, justice, compassion and truth stand in contrast to the triumphalism of the Trump regime and its appeal to the politics of power and division . Perhaps the values of the new America are best described by Joe Biden's phrase ringing like the Liberty Bell even over the clangers of the compromised Australian political landscape: "Not the example of our power but the power of our example."

M. McGregor, Narrabri



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Submit a letter to the editor

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

or emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au



From page 2
 From the Lions' Den
 The Lions Club of Branxton wishes to say.....
 "Thank you"



• Lion Ken Meany with Agnes dressed for the event: Lions Melbourne Cup



• Lion Enri Winter at the Lions Melbourne Cup Luncheon



• During the training Lion Cathy Murray became the model for arm bandaging and slings and here she is.



• Conventioners listening carefully

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Members say ..



Clr Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

From behind the Mayors desk

It was good to welcome the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, on Thursday 29 October to the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). It was another wonderful opportunity to highlight our area and some of the challenges we experience as we have done so on previous visits from Governors. Governor Beazley's visit to Wollombi was planned after she took an interest in understanding the impacts of the last bush fire season and more broadly the drought suffered across the Cessnock LGA. Our local people were able to share their stories and Governor Beazley listened with care. Her Excellency also took part in a walking tour of the sculptures as part of the Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival. Her Excellency plans to visit again shortly and we look forward to hosting a second tour. Well done to all of the local RSL sub-branches involved in commemorative services across the LGA. It was important we were able to come together as a community on Remembrance Day and with their commitment and careful planning this was made possible. On Saturday 14 November the Branxton Lions Clubs hosted 'Lions to Lap the Map' an event to raise awareness and funds for diabetes. This involved a group of us walking from the Branxton Rotunda to Miller Park and back. A fantastic way to do something meaningful, be active and enjoy fresh air as a community. It is an Australia wide event and if you would like to show support visit the [Lions Club website](#). NAIDOC Week celebrations have commenced and attending the NAIDOC Week Business Breakfast was a great way to start the week. It was wonderful to hear from guest speakers including Jamie Shackleton who shared their perspective and experiences. It is always important our young people have a platform to be heard. A number of other events were planned up until the 15 November.

Another fantastic community project delivered is the upgrade of Bluey Frame Park Weston. This park is now much better equipped to cater to families and their children. Council is committed to delivering vital upgrades to recreational spaces for the community. Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

There's been a lot of emphasis on advocacy in this current extended term of Council that has seen a lot of letters to parliamentarians and a lot of trips to NSW Parliament House, all aimed at better outcomes for the people of the Singleton LGA. In some cases our Advocacy Agenda has recorded significant wins, including changes to the Resources for Regions program that will see areas like ours get a better return on the mining royalties that help fill the coffers in Macquarie Street. In fact, we are currently waiting on the Deputy Premier's announcement of our successful projects under the new incarnation of the program this month. As the mayor of Singleton, it's my job to make sure the needs of our community are at the forefront of all levels of government, and to take every opportunity to advocate for the infrastructure and programs that will benefit the vibrancy and resilience of our people and our economy. With that in mind, I'm really pleased to have been elected to the executive of the NSW Country Mayors' Association as a platform to further advocate for our community, and for communities like ours across NSW. The NSW Country Mayors Association brings together representatives from almost 70 rural and regional councils to discuss issues specific to areas outside the metropolitan centre, as well as look at the bigger picture of the local government sector in NSW. It also provides enormous value through information and speakers at our regular meetings. In the unusual and challenging circumstances of 2020, when our regions have endured drought, bushfires and COVID-19, the NSW Country Mayors Association has never been more relevant and I'm looking forward to a productive tenure to keep

regional NSW at the forefront of the decisions that are made in the city. That will start with a fair share of the announcements out of this week's budget to support regional areas, including ours, as we recover from the economic impacts of natural disasters and the global pandemic. And my work will continue to get the best outcome for the Singleton bypass of the New England Highway. I have raised a number of issues with the proposed design, including the need for dual lanes and a full interchange at Putty Road to allow motorists the flexibility to get on and off the highway to support businesses in John Street. This week I took the community's case directly to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole at a meeting that also included the Deputy Mayor Cr Tony Jarrett and the General Manager Jason Linnane. Singleton has an excellent working relationship with the NSW Government, which I hope will continue with the best option for the bypass to deliver the most benefit for our community. Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR AN INSIGHT INTO PEOPLE TURNING ON THEMSELVES

Undoubtedly one of the most infamous names in our modern history is the name Hitler. This name, known by most who have had even a basic high school education, is an instant reminder of a time when within one country, one nation, the people were somehow convinced to do terrible terrible things to each other. Fast forward 90 years and we can turn our eye to America and see something frighteningly similar. In that country, the President, has managed to turn the people into a very divided community based on some moral or ideological world view. It has been disturbing to see the violence of the people against each other, with one set of people arming themselves with guns and other weapons, being able to justify, in their own minds, the need to intimidate and murder others. They are killing their own country men and women, not because they themselves have had some great crime committed against them, but only because their neighbour had a different political view.

This level of intimidation continued at the sites of voting booths during the recent democratic elections. Just think about that for a moment and imagine something similar for us here in Australia – imagine having certain citizens, in no role of authority, standing at polling booths with automatic firearms as well as other guns and weapons. How safe would you feel lining up to vote at that booth? This current President of the United States has already survived an impeachment, not because he was found innocent or guilty, but simply because his jurors voted along political Party lines and his Party had more votes. He has declared himself bankrupt on 6 previous occasions leaving tens of thousands of contractors and suppliers out of pocket each time. He has had 26 allegations of sexual misconduct made against him by various women. He has had more than 4,000 lawsuits filed against him. One major media outlet has counted more than 20,000 false or misleading statements from this same President over the past 4 years. Another media outlets reports that he owes that country's own tax office more than \$400M. During recent protests that sprang from the division and hatred, he threatened to put the military on the streets to suppress the voice of those speaking out. He also spent much of the past 4 months seeking to block, postpone and generally interfere with the democracy of voting. And still, half of the country voted for him to be re-elected. I wasn't alive during the time of Hitler and I cannot comprehend how he managed to have such a disastrous effect on his community. But I have watched with fear and amazement, a country that is in many ways culturally very similar to my own, go down a path where the hatred and violence, fanned by the Leader of the country, made sense to a huge part of the population. We must never let that happen here in Australia and we do that by making sure that the moral fibre of our Leader is fit for office. I respect that many people don't vote the same as I do, but please join with me to make sure that no Leader in this country ever allows us to descend to such hatred amongst ourselves. * * * * *

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

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



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

NAIDOC WEEK

Last week was NAIDOC week, which is always a time to celebrate, enjoy and reflect upon the significant history, art, culture and influence of our indigenous peoples. The theme for this year's NAIDOC Week was 'Always Was. Always Will Be' which recognises that First Nation's people have occupied and cared for this continent for more than 65,000 years. Council proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land that takes in our local government area, the Wonnarua people as well as the Awabakal and Darkinjung people, and we strive to work with all local indigenous peoples proudly caring for the land for the benefit of all those who currently reside in this beautiful part of the world. The following is Wonnarua language: Maron oomillaine Pronunciation: marrang uma-layan, which means 'Take care, mind yourself'. REMEMBRANCE DAY COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed for Remembrance Day for groups of up to 100 people to allow the community to come together and reflect on the enormous sacrifice made by our service men and women. It was on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 that silence - not gun shots - filled the air on the Western Front. For more than four years prior, warfare had retained an unrelenting presence on the front. The battles that were fought in

WWI changed the lives of every man, woman and child in Australia forever. For a nation that had a population of under 5 million people, the loss of 60,000 of our own was an enormous number. The loss of life impacted every family member and friend of those fallen soldiers - creating a ripple of devastation that stretched far beyond the battlefields overseas. Another 155,000 thousand Australian soldiers were injured while 4000 were taken as prisoners of war. That is why the sacrifices made by those who served in WWI can, and should never be forgotten. Nor should the sacrifices made by the Australian men and women who have served in other wars, battles, conflicts and peace missions. It is now our duty to ensure the memories of those men and women live on. Lest we forget. UPDATE ON CURRENT WORKS It's wonderful to see the first stage of the Branxton Town Centre upgrade completed, which included more pathways and street planting and upgrades to Branxton Oval entrance, and the memorial rotunda. Miller Park Branxton Masterplan Drainage works are also now complete and the construction of two unisex change rooms and player amenities for the cricket groups has commenced. Further works currently under construction in our local area include: Gingers Lane – Reconstruct Road: Continuing Stage 4 works. Road closures in place with detours via Frame Drive and Sawyers Gully Road. Estimated completion late 2020, weather permitting. Hart Road, Loxford - Construct Roundabout: Continuing construction of permanent roundabout. Closure of roundabout and diversion of traffic onto side track in place. Estimated completion March 2021, weather permitting. Cessnock Road, Abermain – Information Bay: Continuing carpark construction. Minor traffic disruptions. Estimated completion late November 2020, weather permitting. DeBeyers Road, Pokolbin - Pokolbin Park – Information Bay: Continuing construction of carpark in preparation for installation of Information Bay. Minor traffic disruptions. Estimated completion late November 2020, weather permitting. Wilderness Road, Lovedale – Information Bay: Continuing construction of Information Bay. Minor

traffic disruptions. Estimated completion late November 2020, weather permitting. Branxton to Greta – Construction of Shared Cycleway: Preparing to commence construction in November 2020. Minor traffic disruptions. Estimated completion late 2021, weather permitting. Nelson Street, Greta – Bridge Replacement: Preparing to commence power relocation prior to construction. Minor traffic disruptions. Estimated completion February 2021, weather permitting. Deaseys Road, Pokolbin – Road Rehabilitation: Completed Stage 1 works, preparing to commence Stage 2 works early November 2020. Minor traffic disruptions. Estimated completion November 2020, weather permitting. Opp 48 High Street, Greta – Continuing upgrade to Bus Stop 1748 Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury – Commenced upgrade to Bus Stop. If you have any council-related issues, please don't hesitate to contact me at melanie.dagg@cessnock.nsw.gov.au Cheers, Melanie



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Economic Diversity is the Key

Saving and creating local jobs. Making sure every child has access to a good education and a shot at their dream job. Ensuring our workplaces are safe and people are properly remunerated. Delivering good and affordable health and aged care. Identifying our infrastructure priorities and arguing for the funding we need. Fighting for tax and welfare systems that incentivise work and retirement savings. Keeping the community safe. These are the issues that called me to public office, and they remain my top priorities as a local member. They always will be. CONT P 20

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News
P: 4938 1773



Childhood immunisation



Immunisation strengthens the body's immune system. The immune system fights infection in the body. Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way to protect children (and adults) from some life-threatening infections.

Vaccines are injections or oral doses of live but weakened viruses, dead bacteria or viruses, parts of bacteria or weakened bacterial toxins. Immunisation with a vaccine (vaccination) strengthens the body's immune system against a bacteria or virus, before the body comes into contact with that bacteria or virus. Immunisation increases a person's protection against infection caused by that bacteria or virus, reducing the risk of illness.

Some infections that immunisation can prevent

- **Chicken pox (varicella)** – a viral infection that causes an itchy, blistering skin rash. It can also cause serious problems. It may re-appear later in life as shingles.
- **Diphtheria** – a bacterial infection that makes it hard to breathe. It can also cause heart and nerve damage and can lead to death.
- **Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)** – a bacterial infection that can affect the brain, throat, lungs, joints or skin, and can lead to death. It occurs mostly in children under 2 years.
- **Hepatitis B** – a viral infection that affects the liver and can lead to liver failure or cancer.
- **Human papillomavirus (HPV)** – a sexually transmitted viral infection that can lead to cervical cancer and genital warts.
- **Measles** – a viral infection that causes fever, rash, runny nose, cough and conjunctivitis (eye infection). It can lead to ear, lung and brain infections and death.
- **Meningococcal**

disease type C – a bacterial infection that can affect the blood or brain and can lead to death. It can develop very quickly.

- **Mumps** – a viral infection that causes swollen salivary glands (glands that produce saliva). It can also cause serious problems.
- **Pertussis (whooping cough)** – a bacterial infection that can cause a severe cough, lung infection, brain damage and death.
- **Pneumococcal disease** – a bacterial infection that can affect the brain, blood or lungs, and can lead to death.
- **Polio (polio)** – a viral infection that can cause brain infection and paralysis, and can lead to death.
- **Rotavirus** – a viral infection that can cause severe diarrhoea and vomiting in babies and young children, and can lead to death.

• **Rubella (German measles)** – a viral infection that causes swollen glands, joint pain and a rash. If a woman gets rubella during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy, the rubella can damage the baby.

• **Tetanus (lockjaw)** – a bacterial infection that affects the nervous system. It causes severe muscle spasms and breathing problems, and can lead to death.

Who needs immunisation? Australian health authorities recommend immunisation for all children. In Australia, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides immunisation to most children free of charge. The first vaccinations on the NIP Schedule are recommended at 6–8 weeks of age, and are continued throughout childhood. Most vaccinations need to be given more than once to protect against illness. Doctors, immunisation clinics, some hospitals and

Aboriginal health clinics can give children the NIP vaccines.

Adverse effects of immunisation

The benefits of immunisation far outweigh the risks of serious side effects. Common side effects of immunisation are swelling, redness and pain at the injection site and mild fever. Most side effects only last a short time and the child recovers without any problems. Ask a doctor, pharmacist or immunisation clinic about side effects of immunisation. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can reduce fever and relieve discomfort, helping a child to settle after immunisation.

Keep a record

You may need to show proof that a child is fully immunised when you enrol the child for childcare or school. You will also need to prove that a child is fully immunised in order to receive Australian Government family assistance payments. Each time a child is immunised, the details should be recorded in the Personal Health Record given to parents by the hospital or birth centre when a baby is born. If your child has an electronic health record, their vaccinations can also be recorded there. The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) records details of vaccinations given to children, adolescents and young adults under 20 years of age who live in Australia. AIR receives the information from the immunisation service provider who gave the vaccine. To get a copy of your child's vaccination history from AIR phone 1800 653 809, log on to Medicare online services or visit your local Department of Human Services service centre. *Pharmacists are medicines experts. Ask your local Piggott's Pharmacist for advice when choosing a medicine.*



Many thanks from Branxton VIEW Club to all those people who attended our Fashion Parade on 26th October. Your contribution enables us to continue to support the seven disadvantaged Australian

school children whom we sponsor through the Smith Family Learning For Life program. A special thanks to all those husbands and helpers who helped us set up the hall the night before and

came again to pack chairs and tables back in place. Thanks also to the people who made delicious cakes and slices. A most enjoyable day in every way and well attended for a small community. Sales from the donna lou fashions sold on the day added to our funds. Special thank you to our secretary, Bethany Oldfield whose generous hospitality at her home made our Melbourne Cup get together such a

memorable day. Christmas planning took precedence at our last meeting - soon we will be hearing carols ! Blessings to those who haven't been feeling well lately- keep smiling and know that others care about you. I remembered another of grandma's sayings of wisdom..... "Life is only froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone, Kindness in another's' troubles, courage in your own." *Peace and love to everyone Judy Spillard*

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Australia Day Awards

Cessnock City Council is excited to announce that nominations are now open for the 2021 Australia Day Awards.

The Australia Day Awards recognise outstanding achievement during the past year and/or contribution to the local community over a number of years.

The residents of the Cessnock Local Government Area are invited to nominate fellow citizen/s and/or organisations for Australia Day Awards in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Maree Callaghan Award – Young Female Achiever
- Community Event of the Year
- Sports Award
- Environmental Award
- Heritage Award
- Community Award

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's been a tough year, but one which has displayed the resilience and character of the wider Cessnock community. "Between the bushfires and Coronavirus our community has had a very difficult year, but it's revealed that we have some fantastic community heroes who deserve to be recognised," he said. For more information and to make an Australia Day Award nomination before the Monday 7 December closing date, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/australia-day

• Photo above: Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent with Melissa Gontier 2020 Citizen of the Year



Notice of AGM Greta Workers Fishing Club

The Greta Workers Fishing Club will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Saturday 12th December 2020 at Greta Workers Club at Midday. All committee positions are declared open. Plenty to discuss for 2021

Signed: Hon Sec



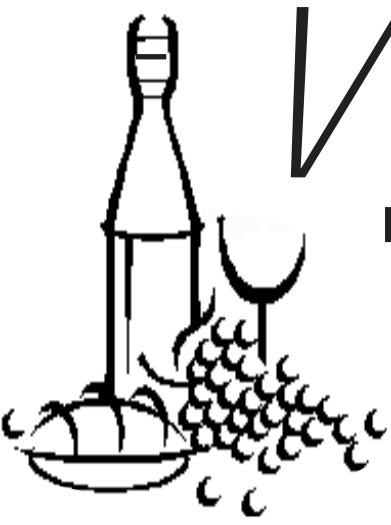
INGREDIENTS
 4 garlic cloves
 4-5 (or to taste) birds' eye chillies
 3 tbsp vegetable oil
 200g (7 oz) pork mince
 2 tsp oyster sauce
 1 tbsp fish sauce
 1 cup Thai basil leaves (or regular Italian basil is fine too)
 2 eggs

INSTRUCTIONS
STEP 1
 Use a mortar and pestle to pound the garlic and chillies to a very rough paste. Remove any large garlic skins and chilli stems.
STEP 2
 Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a wok or frying pan over high heat. Add the garlic chilli paste and stir-fry for half a minute. Then add the pork and stir-fry for a minute. Add in the oyster sauce and fish sauce and stir-fry until the pork is cooked. Toss through the basil leaves, then remove from heat and set aside for later.

THAI SPICY PORK & EGG BREAKFAST



STEP 3
 Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil in a small frying pan over high heat. Crack the eggs in and cook for 2-3 minutes or until the edges are crispy and the yolk is cooked to your liking. Remove the pan from the heat. Spoon over some of the excess oil. Then spoon the spicy pork mixture over the eggs. Serve in the pan.



Wines & Vines

..... enjoying the Hunter wine lifestyle with Andrew Marsh

'Let us celebrate the occasion with wine and sweet words' **Plautus**

acquaintances in the street can often see you wasting valuable time on a conversation that was never really meant to be, but you make the effort all the same. Underneath it all, however, you're zoning. We've all done it in the classroom at school or lecture theatre at university, it's been almost instilled into us from such a young age that many of us have mastered the art of zoning.

Don't get me wrong, everyone has interests, some more than others and people know quite instinctively what interests them and what doesn't. As you mature, interests may change but non-interests remain as does the zoning. It's easier when you're on the telephone because you don't have the extra pressure of putting on an excited or intrigued face when listening to a complete load of twaddle. When someone answers you with the words "...Riiight...oh ok...uhum...really..." you can bet your life the zone is in play.

I hate to say this but there are some people who are not interested in wine. These people can often be wine drinkers yet just lack a complete interest with anything vaguely associated with it. I do understand how people can find themselves in this position.

There is a lot to know about wine, a hell of a lot. The more you think you know, the more you need to learn. It's never-ending which is what fascinates so many. The easy option though for a lot of wine drinkers is to know a few basics but not become too confused. Ask any credible cellar door operator if they can pick a zoner and the answer will be well and truly in the affirmative.

Years ago I would be entertaining some visitors with a private tour and tasting in the winery and near the end I would insist that they ask any questions whatsoever regarding any facet of the vineyard or winery or the wines. There would be a long silence with a few shy glances between them and some uncomfortable shuffling of feet when a scratchy voice from the corner points to one of the many stainless steel tanks and asks "What does that thing do?" A fair enough

question but WELCOME TO ZONELAND!!

In all fairness I do my share of zoning, although it tends to be a lot more frequent whilst in the company of parents, in-laws, fiancées and Canterbury-Bulldog supporters.

People who can't or prefer not zoning can often turn the situation around to suit themselves to avoid anymore agonising boredom. The way they do this is to ask the unanswerable question to completely change the subject. In a cellar door situation it may be "What do you think you'd be if you weren't a winemaker? I reckon you'd make a great...." (and then whatever you're actually interested in). Then the winemaker is curious as to why he or she would make a great "....." and the next thing you know you're not only in control of the conversation but you have captured the full attention of everyone with your cleverly angled question and no-one is zoning anymore.

I have witnessed winemakers giving presentations at wine dinners only to have almost the entire audience of diners quietly talking amongst themselves because they have over-stretched their zoning thresholds. This can be looked upon as the height of rudeness and the reason why it is so important to learn to zone properly.

Zoning is similar to day-dreaming although day-dreaming is often triggered at your own will while zoning is forced upon you.

I must say that I am very aware of zoners and I try my best not to put them in the zone. Kids nowadays just spark up their "Game-Boys" when an adult is trying to converse with them. So many times I have been caught with having to spend time with friends' kids. When the very awkward one word answers to your questions you've tried so hard to conjure up to show some deranged interest have been almost tortured out of them, out comes the "Game-boy" to save the

day. That's the new generation's way of saying "?!#!! off! I'm not interested".

Although wine paraphernalia and wine jargon are almost second nature to wine enthusiasts even an overload of that can send them into the zone. Just to add to last issue's column, while I was in Tasmania visiting cellar doors I copped one chap who had recently picked up the 'wine bug' and thrown in his accounting profession to engage in the wine industry. Even though he was aware that I was involved in the industry it didn't stop him using whatever jargon he could muster to try and sell his wines - "...and this Pinot Noir grown on our south facing block at an exactly 43° angle shows lovely herbs and spices, strawberries, red cherries, raspberries, black cherries, kirsch, a touch of violet with perfume overtones, some black pepper, plums, almost stewed plums with rhubarb and beetroot and a sarsaparilla character...". Sounds like a bloody shopping list. We had to sit there and listen to this for over an hour. I had zoned since the explanation of the first wine. I was extremely edgy, it was very taxing. I'd forgotten how these over zealous types could affect you. The wines were pretty disappointing to make matters worse. When we finally managed to escape, Holly turned to me. "So, where do you want to go now?" she enquired.

"To the nearest toy store to buy a "Game-Boy"!!

Cheers, Andrew

PS "Game-Boys" are not hot, young gigolos as I firstly thought on hearing of them. They are hand-held game devices run on batteries. So come to think of it, technically they do the same job!



(Ed. This article was first published in The News in May 2003. A lot has changed since then as Andrew has changed career course & Marsh Estate fine wines are no longer in existence)

Do you ever find yourself "zoning" away to another place when in deep conversation with someone or in a group situation? You're trying your hardest to look interested and doing a pretty good job of it but in reality you're a million miles away in Homer Simpson land; "...Mmmmm.... Potato chips.... Mmmmm.... Beer....Mmmmm".

It would be almost impossible for human beings to get excited about every facet of life. No doubt you will always make the mistake of asking how someone is only to spend the next 25 minutes suffering the detailed answer. Just running into



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



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The laws relating to gift cards



As Christmas shopping increases over the coming weeks it is important that both businesses and consumers understand the laws relating to gift cards. Gift cards are serious business with more than \$2.5 billion worth of gift cards and vouchers being sold every year in Australia. The expiry dates on gift cards has long been a concern for consumers with approximately 8% of gift card users not using the full balance on the card due to the card/voucher expiring before the recipient has an opportunity to redeem the full value of the gift. As a result of complaints from consumers both state and federal laws now apply to gift card sales.

The Australian Consumer Law (ACL) now provides a national framework for gift cards sold in Australia. The national laws came into effect in November 2019 and are very similar to NSW the gift card laws which came into effect in April 2018. If you carry on business in New South Wales you should comply with both federal and state laws.

The federal law defines a 'gift card' as an article that is commonly known to be a gift card or voucher, whether in physical or electronic form, and is redeemable for goods and services. The law applies to all gift cards or vouchers sold on or after 1 November 2019, unless specifically excluded. This includes gift cards for online stores that trade in Australia.

The federal laws include three main requirements: A minimum three year expiry period for gift cards is required: The law requires that most gift cards or vouchers be sold with a mandatory minimum expiry period of three years. The period begins from the date a gift card is sold to a consumer. Businesses can choose to apply an expiry period longer than three years and no maximum expiry period applies.

Gift cards must display expiry dates: Gift cards must prominently display the expiry date as either the full date or as a period of time. For example: "Supply date: March 2020. This card will expire in 3 years"

or "Valid for 3 years from 11/19". If the expiry date is shown as a period of time it must also include the date it was supplied or purchased so the expiry date can be determined. A gift card must also state if there is no expiry date. Most post purchase fees on gift cards are banned. Once a gift card has been issued, there is a ban on charging any post-purchase fee, including activation fees, account keeping fees, and balance enquiry fees.

The ban does not cover fees that a business can charge as part of a sale to cover the cost of processing a payment. Post purchase fees do not include overseas transaction fees, booking fees, payment surcharge fees, fees charged for the reissue of a lost, stolen or damaged card. Businesses are able to charge an upfront fee when a consumer purchases a gift card. The Federal Government has published Regulations setting out specific exemptions to the federal laws for example the three year requirement does not apply to gift cards that are for example able to be reloaded or topped up. Additional exemptions can be found in the Regulations. The amendments to the ACL introduce strict liability offences for contraventions of the provisions. The maximum penalty for contravention of these offences is \$30,000 for corporations and \$6,000 for individuals. In addition, the ACCC can also impose infringement notices of up to \$11,500 for corporations and \$2,420 for individuals. Cheers, Kerri

past winter by teams at RMIT University and the University of Adelaide ask for a reduction in rent. However, only 50 per cent of those renters who asked were granted one to their satisfaction. Landlords who owned their investment properties outright were better placed to offer reduced rent rather, while those with mortgages felt conflicted with many wanting to avoid falling into financial hardship themselves. RMIT University researcher Dr David Oswald said while JobKeeper and JobSeeker payments had kept the situation at bay for many, it has exposed flaws in Australia's housing system. "Without this government support, many tenants would be in a significantly worse position, including potentially homeless," he said. The pandemic has amplified many weaknesses – such as affordability, rental security, overcrowding and homelessness – in the Australian housing system; and in



The Branxton Greta Community Men's Shed is organizing an Open Day.

We recently welcomed a few new members and they told us that, had they known we existed, they would have joined up a long time ago. So we thought it would be a good idea to spread the word in the community that we exist and what we do. The objective of the Shed is to advance the health and well-being of our members to provide an environment where skilled and unskilled men can pursue their hobbies, pastimes and interest. Most come to the shed and learn new skills or pass on their skills to others. The array of equipment we have allows most to complete their projects to a higher standard than in the backyard shed or garage. But not everyone has to do something. If you just like to watch and learn how things are done that's fine. If you just like to lend a helping hand with the various community projects we do then that is a good reason to come and join us. Or if you just want a bit of social chit-chat at morning coffee then ours is the place to be. And ladies if you've seen our regular ad's in this paper, if he is too much under foot, then send him over or even better come yourself and join our ladies craft group.

For those with difficulties with getting around, call us and one of our members gladly pick you up and deliver you home afterwards.

Why not come and visit us on our special Open Day on Saturday November 28th at the shed, St Marys Public School, Greta. We are there from 9 till one o'clock.



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particular, exacerbated many existing challenges in the rental sector."

The report calls on the government to introduce a protective negotiation framework to structure rent negotiations as a more formal process, policy flexibility on moving house to reduce the risk of homelessness and establishing a landlord hardship fund. The NSW Government has extended its residential tenancy moratorium on evictions until March 31 to ease concerns many renters are facing in this area. The moratorium prevents landlords evicting tenants who are financially disadvantaged by COVID-19, and allows impacted renters to break a lease without penalty.

Ray White Erskineville and Surry Hills head of property management Melinda Fiori said many of her tenants had needed support because of COVID-19. "We had 160 properties impacted, with many tenants going on payment plans, while I know some had to withdraw from their superannuation account to support themselves," she said. Ms Fiori said there is more positivity in the air among renters with the economy in NSW having reopened. "Most tenants are in a much better place than six months ago," she said. "Those still doing it tough have looked at leaving the inner city for suburbs further out where they can get a better deal."

The research follows data released last month that found the Sydney CBD still the hardest hit area since the pandemic started with vacancy rates 10 per cent higher from a year ago at 13 per cent. SQM Research reported apartment rents in the CBD dropped by 7 per cent over September and are now nearly 26 per cent cheaper than a year ago.

How retirement living is evolving

BY KATE JONES

Retirement living is evolving worldwide with standards lifting way above where they were 20, 10, even five years ago. With millions of wealthy Baby Boomers approaching the end of their working years, retirement communities are increasingly becoming lifestyle destinations. Innovative solutions to retirement living are not only making communities more attractive, but also more fun and active places to live. Here, we look at the different ways retirement community operators are moving into the future.

Lifestyle resorts

Retirement living need not be a pared-back version of the life retirees have come to enjoy – in fact, it can be the opposite. Communities are now giving retirees the chance to enjoy the fruits of their labour with a variety of amenities on their doorstep. This is the approach Australian developer GemLife has taken to its communities, the latest of which will be located in the growing Gold Coast suburb of Pimpama. With sweeping views across the coast, the community will feature an

architecturally designed country club, summer house and origami-style pavilion, with a long list of shared facilities to help residents come together socially, keep fit and discover new interests. Communal facilities will include indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a wine room and lounge, yoga spaces, 10-pin bowling alleys, outdoor fitness stations, cinemas, gymnasiums, a tennis court, a championship bowling green and a pickleball court. GemLife chief executive and director Adrian Puljich says this array of recreational options will make the Gold Coast community more akin to a resort and allow residents to enjoy their retirement years to the fullest. "Essentially we're looking to establish a community that supports an active lifestyle, but also enables the average Australians who continue to work, if they enjoy working, or continue to pursue their hobbies and live in a community with like-minded neighbours," he says.

"These are communities that promote an active lifestyle for people who still feel they have a lot to give and want to travel and explore, and GemLife gives them those opportunities." GemLife Gold Coast is also pet-friendly, so residents don't have to leave their furry friends behind when they move. **Architectural edge** In many countries, retirement communities are shrugging off their drab



duds and embracing a bolder look. Architecturally designed buildings are not only eye-catching, but meet the living needs of people as they age.

This is occurring everywhere from Norway, where architects have come up with unique designs that encourage residents to socialise indoors and out, to Canada, where high-rise apartment buildings are catering to style-driven seniors.

Tech savvy

In recognition of the fact that many older people have a good understanding of a wide range of technologies, retirement communities are becoming more tuned into smart devices. This includes voice-activated appliances connected by the Internet of Things, which enables residents to issue simple commands to open the curtains and boil the kettle. It also lets them turn on heating or cooling remotely so that the house is ready by the time they get home. These futuristic homes can also be fitted with sensors to alert family members or emergency services if appliances aren't switched on or doors aren't opened by a certain time. As the demand for retirement living increases, so too does the need for diversity of options. Today's retirees have more choices when it comes to wellness, architectural and technological offerings.



Over half of Australians are struggling to afford their rent as a result of COVID-19

by Matt Bell

Half of Australian tenants are struggling to afford their rent each month as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. New research found 60 per cent of tenants are either facing immediate problems in affording rent, or anticipated they would not be able to in the coming months. The "Post pandemic

landlord – renter relationships in Australia" report undertaken for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) also found financial hardship tenants were experiencing extended to not being able to pay utility bills on time, going without meals and being unable to heat their homes. This saw half of those Australians surveyed this



Branxton Public School

Congratulations to the Year 5 students who delivered their school leader speeches to Stage 3 last week. We had a record number of students who nominated for leadership roles in 2021. Unfortunately, the 29 nominees had to be narrowed down to 10. The students all did an amazing job and should be very proud of their efforts. The students presenting their speeches for the whole school this week are Josie, Gracie, Scarlett, Lachlan, Aden, Claire, Charlotte, Taj, Lucy and Ben. We'll

find out the results at the Presentation Day later in the term. Mrs Melnik and Mrs Tuyl escorted the Junior Choir and Recorder Group to the Civic Theatre to witness some Disney magic in the form of Aladdin Jr presented by St Phillip's Christian College Middle School. They put on an amazing show and our students loved every minute of it. Kinder Orientation visits have been scheduled for Thursday 19th November and Thursday 26th November. Keep an eye

on the Kinder 2021 Seesaw and emails for information about times and what to bring. 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.



Aladdin



Year 5 Nominees



Final 10

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



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



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AUTHORISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, CANBERRA.

\$98,000 to improve infrastructure for public transport customers across Cessnock local government area

A NSW Government grant of over \$98,000 for Cessnock City Council to improve public transport accessibility for customers in Cessnock was announced last week by Catherine Cusack, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter.

The Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme (CPTIGS) provides subsidies to support the construction or upgrade of bus stop infrastructure generally owned and maintained by local councils across rural and regional NSW.

Ms Cusack said the grant will help to deliver five new bus shelters and 26 upgrades across the

Cessnock region which will all meet accessibility standards.

"This grant will help build new shelters in Weston and Heddon Greta, as well as upgrade shelters in Branxton and Kurri Kurri," said Ms Cusack.

"The shelters will help to make public transport and connections between bus stops more accessible for Cessnock and the surrounding communities. They will include accessible features like connecting paths, signage, tactile indicators and seating."

Cessnock City Mayor, Bob Pynsent welcomed the funding and said it will allow Council to deliver

much needed upgrades.

"These public facilities are used by everyone in our community, including both the young and old. It's important we are able to provide comfortable and safe facilities for residents using public transport" said Mayor Pynsent.

The NSW Government is committed to providing accessible public transport infrastructure across the state. The Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme supports regional councils, schools and community organisations to deliver



this in their local communities, with all projects required to meet the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport.

More than \$2.1 million in NSW Government grants will see 509 projects supported across more than 40 local government areas including new and upgraded bus shelters, security lighting, new bus stop seats, timetable information boards and tactile indicators.

For more information on the program, visit: <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operations/>

[community-transport-operators/country-passenger-transport-infrastructure-grants-scheme](https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operations/community-transport-operators/country-passenger-transport-infrastructure-grants-scheme)

• Photo above: Catherine Cusack, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter



Demonstrations Exhibits Open Day

The Branxton Greta Mens Shed is having an Open Day on :

November 28th, 2020, 9 am till 13 p.m.

St Marys Public School

49 Branxton Street Greta, NSW 2334

Come and have a look at what is happening at the Menshed. The BGMS is not a production shed and our members enjoy working on their own projects or participate in any of our community projects. We have facilities for wood-working, metal work, gardening, restoration tasks and even our own model rail setup. We invite model builders and toy-makers to come and see how we do things and how you could benefit from our machinery and tools.

We aim to advance the health and well-being of our members and provide a safe and happy environment where skilled and unskilled members can pursue hobby's and pastime, learn new skills and pass on old.

Join us for a tour of our facilities, have a cuppa, talk to the members and learn what it is all about.

There will be an extensive display of items we have produced and some you can purchase.

Oh and Ladies; come too. Meet our craft group ladies and find out what they do and how you can join them

ALL will be conducted in a COVID-Safe way.

NOTICE

Christmas Mass times & Covid-19 Compliance

Catholic Parishes of Branxton-Greta and Singleton
With the changes that 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have brought to the Catholic Parishes of Branxton-Greta and Singleton, Christmas Mass will need to look a little different this year if current restrictions remain in place. *Anyone wishing to attend Mass will need to register for ONE nominated Mass time by 12pm on Wednesday 23 December 2020. Registration can be made by phoning the Parish Office on 5507 4048 or emailing singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au providing the names of all those attending and a contact number.*

St Brigid's Church Branxton will have Vigil Mass at 6pm and 8pm on Thursday 24 December. Maximum permitted in the church is 75.

St Catherine's Church Greta will have Mass at 8am on Christmas Day. Maximum permitted in the church is 45.

St Patrick's Church Singleton will have Vigil Mass at 6pm, Midnight Mass at 12am and Mass on Christmas Day at 10am. Maximum permitted in the church is 80.

Mass in Singleton will be live-streamed and those who don't fit in the church will be able to stand in the church yard and watch online or listen via the speakers. Communion will be offered from the doors for those outside.

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?

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joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au
4991 1022

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For further details, go to: www.joelfitzgibbon.com
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Authorised by Joel Fitzgibbon, Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch), 3 Edward Street Cessnock 2325 NSW.

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Low Maintenance 2 Bedroom Unit

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

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GRETA



Cute 2 bedroom home on large fenced block Original 'Miners Cottage'

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

ASKING \$320,000 NEG

NTH. ROTHBURY



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

Things You Will Love About This Escape Acreage...

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

ASKING 745,000

BRANXTON



SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"

Unit 18 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"

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

ASKING \$320,000

Building Blocks

NORTH ROTHBURY Vacant building block ~ 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ono

BELFORD

Vacant Building Block 2559m²

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

ASKING \$160,000 ONO

NORTH ROTHBURY

Vacant building block

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

ASKING \$135,000



Things You May Not Know About... GRETA, BRANXTON

with Neridah Kentwell

Albert and Benjamin Pryor were born to Phillip and Mary Pryor; Phillip was youngest of the Mr and Mrs James Pryor's children and the couple had arrived from Hertfordshire, England in the 1830s as early colonists. Both Albert and Benjamin were born at Oswald, near Greta, Albert in 1863 and Benjamin in 1868 and the family were strong Methodists.

Besides being Greta mayor for the years of 1899-1900 and 1902-1915, Ben Pryor also had his own store in Greta, established in 1874 as a *Can't B Beat* store. It was purchased by W.H. Sharp in October 1911, but kept under Ben Pryor's name. Unfortunately, it was in liquidation as Ben Pryor Limited on 1 September 1915. Ben Pryor went on to act against another store-keeper, William Suttie, to recover £368 of promissory notes owed to the business. In June 1916 Ben, his wife and family left Greta to move to Hamilton. He died in 1955 in Sydney, aged 92! Albert Pryor was Greta mayor 1895-1896 and 1898-1899. He was also a coroner at Kurri Kurri and inquired into several big mining disasters. In 1908 he moved north to Eastern Dorriggo with his wife and family. Albert died in 1941 in the Coffs District hospital, aged 77 years.

James Joseph Teasey, of *Albert & Teasey*, was born to James and Agnes Mary Teasey in 1894 in Greta, one of four children. James Senior was one of the local coal miners, who later became a confectioner and was listed in the Sands Business Directories in 1904, 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1918. James Joseph had a son they called James Joseph junior.

Albert Speight was two years older than his business partner James Teasey, born in 1892 in Greta to Frank and Emma Speight, with a brother arriving three years later. His parents had arrived for Yorkshire in 1892, sponsored by his mother's father, William Crowell. Sadly his father deserted his sons so he could go to San Francisco in 1897. Albert married Isabell Kirkwood in 1934.

Speight and Teasey are mentioned in 1924, 1929, 1934, 1939 – still going in the Depression, and in 1941 and 1943. In 1926 James Joseph was listed as being a fruiterer in High Street, Greta, as well as in 1932. Albert Speight and James Teasey appeared to start their business together sometime in 1924, although it could have been earlier (it was situated in High Street next to the hairdressers in Greta, where Val Randall's family shopped when she was a young child), and they continued to work on it together.

In 1924 Speight and Teasey were



asking for tenders for alterations to their building through their architects JW Scobie & Son in West Maitland, in an advertisement in the Maitland Weekly Mercury in July. In December 1924, a married employee of *Speight & Teasey*, Herbert Hestelow, fell from his lorry while driving on his rounds and sustained serious injuries to his head and spine. In January 1929, at a time when motor cars were on the increase, Speight and Teasey wrote to Greta Municipal for permission to stand a tray of lubricating oils on the footpath in front of their business during opening hours; Council decided they could not allow an obstruction on the footpath until further particulars were obtained, and an agreement could be entered into regarding the responsibility for the travelling public. In April 1929, Messrs. Speight and Teasey wrote to Greta Council protesting against the raising of the annual fee for petrol bowsers but in December



1929, Greta Municipal Council gave permission for them to erect a double petrol tank in front of their premises in High Street. In December 1934, the partners were doing well with their Christmas trade, despite being in the Great Depression, and had a break-in occur by the forcing of their front door. The burglars tried to steal the takings in the safe which contained a considerable sum, but by trying to take the safe itself, it proved to be too heavy after moving it only a short distance, and they only ended up with £2 worth of tobacco and a few coppers. Detective-Sergeant Munday came out from

Newcastle to investigate, and was assisted by local Greta policeman Constable Jones.

On 31 August 1938, it was reported in the Maitland Daily Mercury (NSW: 1894-1939) and still during the Depression, that Speight and Teasey had offered to donate 100 Jacaranda trees for planting on the Hunter River Reserve, to the Kearsley Shire Council. Kearsley Council had taken on the responsibility of Greta, Branxton and Rothbury areas (Kearsley Council had separated from Cessnock in 1926). The Council needed to have the work of the erection of tree guards to be approved as emergency relief work by the Department of Works and Local Government before it could go ahead with the tree planting.

On 8 November 1940 the business partners gained permission for their building application so they could add a laundry worth £35 to their premises. In July 1941 Speight and Teasey were still going strong and had gained permission for another building application from Kearsley Council, a box shed worth £15.

In 1943 Kearsley Shire Council organised rosters for wardens during the Second World War and Speight and Teasey were rostered on for Greta for the Friday following the 22 May.

Unlike the large city department stores that sometimes appear ownerless because of their high numbers of staff, the country emporiums were once a reflection of the people that set them up and ran them, and when they moved away or died, the shops themselves usually disappeared. They are part of our history and will only live on in a few people's memories and, after that, in the few photographs which were left.

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

Some of the Local Emporiums and General Stores, and an Arcade

Before buying online became fashionable, which became especially necessary in the Covid-19 Pandemic, all country towns needed a variety of goods in a time when people couldn't easily access the outside world by hopping in a car.

Many farmers would have harnessed the horse and cart to come to town once a week, and the more their local town could provide the better off they were. Hence the creation of the mixed business that sold everything from groceries to tools, clothing to blankets. An emporium was another name used for these businesses, described by the Macquarie Dictionary as 'a large store selling a great variety of articles'. Pryor

Bros Arcade and Speight & Teasey were two such shops, owned by family or business partnerships.

Pryor Brothers' Arcade was established in 1873 in Greta, as general merchants, and they displayed this information proudly on the top of their store which was large enough to have two door ways, purpose built. (See the photo taken in 1892.) The shopping arcade was based on an idea originally from Paris in about 1800, designed as a private area of a variety of shops or goods, to lure customers off the street. The brothers themselves were Albert Pryor and Benjamin Pryor, both council aldermen and mayors at various times. They had their headquarters at Kurri Kurri and branches at Greta, Branxton and Cessnock. There was a *Pryor Bros Drapers* at Branxton and a *Pryor Brothers Drapers and Grocers* at Branxton.



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The bricks are the ones left over after the building of the Greta Camp Commemorative Wall, so you will have a little bit of history of your own.



The money will go towards building a much needed shelter over the seat that is



beside the Greta Museum, where the pergola and vine once stood, and is now a hot spot to sit.

Call into GRETA MUSEUM

Wednesday or Saturday, 11am - 3pm.

96 High Street, Greta, in the former Greta Council Chambers building.

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325



Plus Meat
Trays

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Tickets on sale 6.30pm
drawn 7.30pm

SUNDAY

Tickets on sale 11am drawn
12 noon



Members Badge Draw
Every Wednesday & Sunday
\$1500 Wed 18/11
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Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW

WED 10am



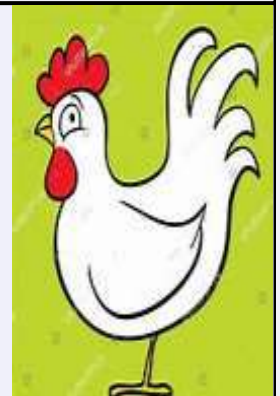
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2 x Seafood Trays
1 x Harvest Bistro Vch



BOWLERS RAFFLE

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS til Xmas



2 x Half Hams
Drawn after free Raffle



Fortune & Glory by Janet Evanovich

* reviewed by **Leslie Chatman**

Continuing the great adventure, Stephanie Plum is off to help her grandma find a hidden mob treasure. Along the way, she encounters exciting fast action, high drama, and startling near-death experiences. Following the success of *Twisted Twenty-Six*, author Janet Evanovich brings back her popular adventure seeking bounty hunter in *Fortune and Glory*, the 27th installment in the Stephanie Plum series. The story follows Stephanie as she works to untangle the mystery surrounding keys left in an old La-Z-Boy recliner by Grandma Mazur's new, now dead, mobster husband Jimmy Rosolli. As the sleuthing begins, Stephanie and her grandma encounter a multitude of dangerous situations, including a creepy underground secret passageway and kidnap-happy gangsters trying to prevent them from finding all the clues that lead to the treasure. Per usual, Stephanie interacts with a bevy of quirky criminals in her day job as a bounty hunter and manages to destroy a few cars along the way. In addition, she ends us with an unlikely new sidekick, George, a neurotic FTA (failure to appear) who feels compelled to protect her,



though it becomes clear that he can't even protect himself. As readers of the series have come to expect, Stephanie continues to bounce indiscriminately between lovers, Morelli and Ranger. Soon she begins to feel threatened as a new woman, Gabriela Rose, who has a penchant for expensive things, appears to be getting a little too cozy with Morelli. It is a fierce race against time to find the treasure. What do those keys unlock? What will happen to Stephanie and Grandma Mazur if they get kidnapped again? Will the hidden treasure be found before someone dies? As a first-time reader of the Stephanie Plum series, I must admit that this was an incredibly easy book to get into and follow. Evanovich has an engaging writing style that draws readers in, making the eccentric characters she creates true to life with real complexity, flaws, and lovable qualities.

Though it may be unconventional to say, this book has the feel of a cozy mystery. There are strong family ties, mostly everyone seems to know one another, and they find honour in their bonds. From the beginning, *Fortune and Glory* is a thoroughly entertaining quick read, filled with drama, humour, and just enough page-turning mystery to keep readers on the edge of their seats until the very end. It is important to note that the introduction of Gabriela Rose in *Fortune and Glory* seems to indicate the launch of a new series. There is a preview chapter of a book coming in 2021 that features her. Of course, this is pure speculation of a new series, but perhaps we will get the chance to get to know her a little better as the mystique that covers her could be lifted. **If you have never read from this series before, give it a try. It is ok to read books out of order. You will not be disappointed.**

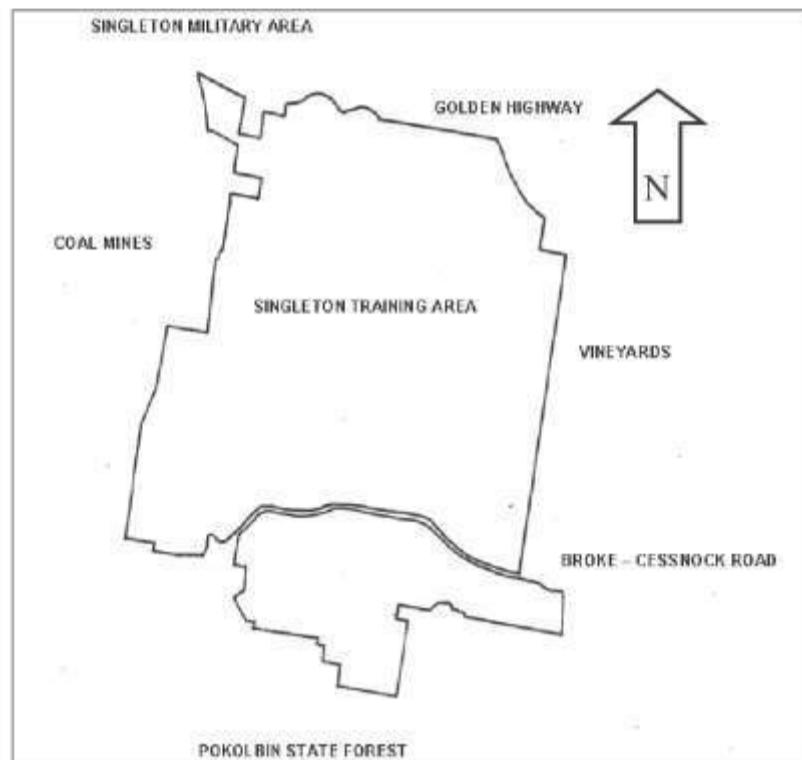
Loveswept. Her work within the romance novel genre helped her learn to create likable characters and attractive leading men. In this time, Evanovich also became known for the humour that filled her novels. She believes that "it's very important to take a comic approach. If we can laugh at something, we can face it." After finishing her twelfth romance, however, Evanovich realized that she was more interested in writing the action sequences in her novels than the sex scenes. Her editors were not interested in her change of heart, so Evanovich took the next eighteen months to formulate a plan for what she actually wanted to write **Stephanie Plum Series** She quickly decided that she wanted to write romantic adventure novels. She wanted to include humour, romance and adventure in her work and this fit into her style of mystery novel. Unlike the style of romance novels, her books would be told in first person narrative. Her new type of writing should contain heroes and heroines, as well as "a sense of family and community." In that vein, she intended her new style of writing to be based on the TV sitcom model. Like Seinfeld, her new books would have a central character that the rest of the cast of characters revolve around. Inspired by the Robert De Niro movie *Midnight Run*, Evanovich decided that her heroine would be a bounty hunter. This occupation provided more freedom for Evanovich as a writer, as bounty hunters do not have a set work schedule and are not forced to wear a uniform. The profession is also "romanticised to some extent." To become acquainted with the demands of the career, Evanovich spent a great deal of time shadowing bond enforcement agents. She also researched more about the city of Trenton, where she wanted her books to be set. In 1994, her initial romantic adventure, *One for the Money*, was published to good reviews. This was the first of a light-hearted series of mysteries starring barely competent bounty hunter Stephanie Plum. *One for the Money* was named a *New York Times* notable book, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 1994 and a *USA Today* Best Bet. Evanovich has continued to write

romantic adventures starring Stephanie Plum. The sixth book in the series, *Hot Six*, was the first of her novels to reach number one on the New York Times Best Seller List. Her subsequent Plum novels have each debuted at number one. *All About Romance* has described her as the "rare breed of romance author who has left the genre and yet not alienated her many romance fans." The Plum novels have taken many attributes from Evanovich's own life. Evanovich shares many commonalities with her character Stephanie Plum. Both are from New Jersey, both devour Cheetos, both had owned a hamster, and both have shared "similar embarrassing experiences." The character Grandma Mazur is loosely based on Evanovich's "Grandma Fanny" and "Aunt Lena." Evanovich claims the spirited elderly lady is "who I want to be when I grow up." Shortly before *One for the Money* was released, Evanovich sold the movie rights to Columbia TriStar for \$1 million. Lions Gate Entertainment released *One for the Money* on January 27, 2012. The film stars Katherine Heigl as Stephanie Plum, Sherri Shepherd from *The View* as Lula, Debbie Reynolds as Grandma Mazur, Jason O'Mara as Joe Morelli, and Daniel Sunjata as Ranger. It was directed by Julie Anne Robinson. Her latest Stephanie Plum novel, *Fortune and Glory: Tantalizing Twenty Seven* was released November 3, 2020. During the week, Evanovich works eight or more hours per day. On week-ends she generally works for an additional four hours each day. She generally creates a brief outline before beginning a new book, with one or two sentences about what will happen in each chapter. Upon the release of a new book, Evanovich regularly goes on book tours. Her book signings attracted thousands of people. Beginning with her third Stephanie Plum book, *Three to Get Deadly*, and ending with *Smokin' Seventeen*, all of the titles have been chosen from fan submissions. Evanovich lives in Florida with her husband, Pete, whom she married in 1964. Members of Evanovich's family are employed by her company, Evanovich Inc., including her husband, Pete, son, Peter and daughter Alexandra. Evanovich's niece (by marriage) is author Stephanie Evanovich.



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.

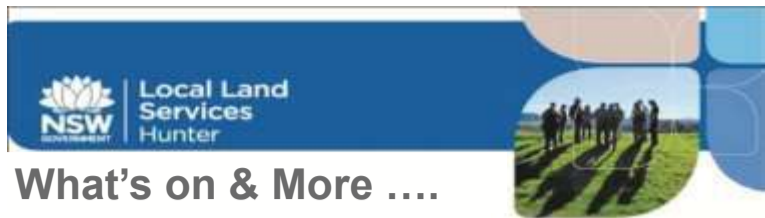
Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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 (22 NOVEMBER 2020)

- FORTUNE AND GLORY** by Janet Evanovich
NEW THIS WEEK
The 27th book in the Stephanie Plum series. Stephanie deals with a soldier of fortune from Little Havana.
- A TIME FOR MERCY** by John Grisham
4 WEEKS ON THE LIST
The third book in the Jake Brigance series. A 16-year-old is accused of killing a deputy in Clanton, Miss., in 1990.
- THE SENTINEL** by Lee Child and Andrew Child
2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
Jack Reacher intervenes on an ambush in Tennessee and uncovers a conspiracy.
- THE RETURN** by Nicholas Sparks
6 WEEKS ON THE LIST
A doctor serving in the Navy in Afghanistan goes back to North Carolina where two women change his life.
- THE EVENING AND THE MORNING** by Ken Follett
8 WEEKS ON THE LIST
In a prequel to "The Pillars of the Earth," a boatbuilder, a Norman noblewoman and a monk live in England under attack by the Welsh and the Vikings.
- THE SEARCHER** by Tana French
5 WEEKS ON THE LIST
After a divorce, a former Chicago police officer resettles in an Irish village where a boy goes missing.
- THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE** by V.E. Schwab
5 WEEKS ON THE LIST
A Faustian bargain comes with a curse that affects the adventure Addie LaRue has across centuries.
- THE VANISHING HALF** by Brit Bennett
23 WEEKS ON THE LIST
The lives of twin sisters who run away from a Southern Black community at age 16 diverge as one returns and the other takes on a different racial identity but their fates intertwine.
- WHITE IVY** by Susie Yang
NEW THIS WEEK
Years after being sent to China as a punishment by her mother, Ivy Lin reconnects with her teenage crush but her past threatens to catch up to her.
- ANXIOUS PEOPLE** by Fredrik Backman
9 WEEKS ON THE LIST
A failed bank robber holds a group of strangers hostage at an apartment open house.



What's on & More

EVERY BIT COUNTS!

Small landholders have big responsibilities too!



We know every landholder, no matter the size of their property, is passionate about looking after their piece of the landscape puzzle. That's why Local Land Services has developed the new Every Bit Counts program to help small acre landholders manage the risks and rewards of rural land ownership. The project is working directly with landholders on the North Coast, Hunter, Greater Sydney and South East regions. From caring for backyard chickens and being aware of farm safety to managing weeds and water, Every Bit Counts has the right tools to help you understand the environmental, production and biosecurity

considerations of rural land management. Every Bit Counts Project Coordinator Jane Lloyd-Jones said the four-year program is all about connecting people with their local networks and building their land management knowledge and skills. "Small farm managers and lifestyle block owners play an important role in our landscape and the rural community," Jane said. "Our experience is that many want to support their neighbours, environment and local farming industry, but don't know where to start. "Through funding from the NSW Environmental Trust we have been able to support on-ground extension officers and build this

online education portal that will help connect the more than 130,000 small landholders with properties from 2-20 hectares across our state." The Every Bit Counts education portal can be found at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/ebc and contains resources full of tips and tricks for managing smaller pieces of the landscape puzzle. Jane is encouraging small farm managers and 'lifestyle' landholders to visit the site and sign up to the 'Blockies Bootcamp' – a free email education series designed to cover the fundamentals of rural land management. "The web portal explains the common questions and topics our staff get asked, covering everything from weeds to pest animals, to habitat, fencing and working with neighbours," Jane said. "You can also look up your local small farm network and connect with other like-minded land managers. "If you are interested in learning more, visit the site, look up your local program officer and sign up to the bootcamp." To find out more visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au/ebc

FIRST FALL ARMYWORM DETECTED IN HUNTER

Landholders and producers have been urged to be on the lookout for signs of damage and the presence of fall armyworm larvae in crops following the first detection of the pest in the Hunter. Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) Pastures Officer David Deane said fall armyworm larvae was found at a property near East Maitland. "This is the first detection of fall armyworm in the Hunter and we need all growers throughout the region to be vigilant, and keep an eye out for signs of fall armyworm," Mr Deane said.



"The best thing landholders can do to reduce the spread and impact of this pest is to identify the signs and symptoms early, and report any suspect cases as quickly as possible – that's how this detection came about. Landholders should be looking for windowing of leaves where larvae have hatched and small shot holes as leaves expand, caused by larvae feeding in the developing leaf whorl. While this pest is known to feed on more than 350 plant species, particularly sorghum and maize, it has the potential to impact any crop where food choice is limited."

Fall armyworm moths have been found at various locations across NSW, including the Liverpool Plains and Central West, as a result of the early warning trapping network established by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and LLS. Anyone who suspects the presence of fall armyworm should immediately call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

In most cases, DPI will be able to identify larvae from clear photographs which can be sent via an online form or to biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au with your contact details.

For small larvae, DPI and LLS recommend retaining samples with food, such as host crop leaves, and allow them to grow to enable photographs to be taken.

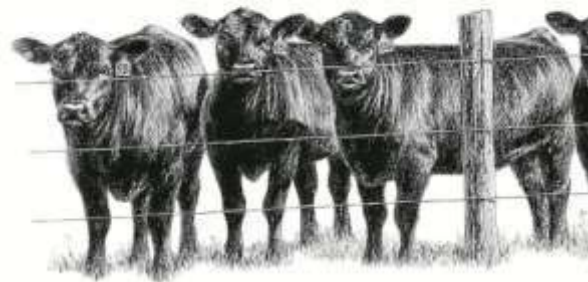
More information on identification, treatment options and resistance management is available on DPI and LLS websites. Farmers should contact their LLS staff or regular agronomist for advice on fall armyworm management. Landholders can also register for a free fall armyworm webinar hosted by the Grain Research and Development Corporation on November 12, to hear from QLD experts who have been dealing with the pest for months. Register: <https://grdc.com.au/events/list/submitted/2020/grdc-grains-research-update-online-fall-armyworm>

Racing Review & News

Cup deaths: Imports need extra time Down Under by Ben Dorries
As racing's investigation into Melbourne Cup

deaths begins to drill down into potential factors in both hemispheres, a Cup-winning trainer believes many European raiders need

extra time to acclimatise and grow bone strength before competing in Australia's greatest races. Racing Victoria has vowed to leave no stone unturned as part of its sweeping Melbourne Cup fatality review with Anthony Van



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah Last reported 10th November 2020

There was a small reduction in numbers. The quality and condition of the cattle penned showed greater variation this week. Young cattle were well supplied with some high quality lines available. There were more mixed pens and a few more showing less condition than previous weeks. This was not the case however with the cows. A full field of buyers were in attendance and operating. Strong demand through the young cattle, wealers to restockers saw averages and some prices cheaper, however this was attributable to weight and breed variations. A small number of wealers to the trade sold to dearer trends. Strong feedlot demand saw medium and heavy weight yearling steers remain firm. Restocker competition pushed medium weights returning to the paddock to dearer trends. There was not a lot of change in the market trend for yearling heifers to restock and feed, any price change mostly breed and quality related. Well finished medium and heavy weight trade yearlings saw a firm to dearer market trend. Strong feedlot demand for heavy weight steers saw grown steers remain firm with a quality and breed related price change. Demand from both domestic and export processors was very strong with a dearer trend resulting for the well finished high quality lines of heavy grown steers. The heifers following a similar trend. The cow market was also dearer, 5c and more in places with the strongest gains for heavy cows on the upper end of the fat score ranges. Heavy weight bulls were as much as 7c/kg dearer.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton Last reported 11th November 2020

Numbers decreased for a mixed quality penning of mainly younger cattle, with greater percentages of plainer drafts yarded this week. There were also some high yielding younger cattle to suite the butchers and processors, with the wealers and yearlings well supplied. The export cattle were limited in supply. The usual buyers competed in a dearer market. The over 200kg wealer steers returning to the paddock improved 11c and sold from 458c to 562c/kg. Greater gains were recorded for the heavier pens, with some well bred drafts yarded, the restockers paid from 400c to 554c/kg. The wealer heifers gained 12c with the over 200kg pens selling from 430c to 494c as the heavier lots made from 460c to 506c/kg. Yearling steers sold to strong competition, as the medium weights to feed and restockers sold from 414c to 454c while the light weights reached 478c/kg. Yearling heifers to the feed and restocker orders made from 398c to 448c as the very light drafts reached a top of 518c/kg. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle to the butchers continue to sell well with some carrying plenty of weight as the best sold from 392c to 486c/kg. The export cattle also trended dearer, with the heavy weight steers making from 376c to 378c, as the heavy weight heifers reached 358c/kg. There were very few heavy weight cows penned, the majority entered the medium weight category and prices trended dearer. The plainer pens sold from 288c to 302c, as a single heavy weight reached 312c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone Last reported 10th November 2020

Consignments increased and the breed and quality remained fair to good. The wealers and yearlings were well supplied, with the majority suitable for the restocker and lot feeder orders. There were ample numbers in prime condition and purchased by the local butchers and processor orders also in the competition. Cows were well supplied with the bulk well being covered heavy weights. The market trend overall was substantially dearer. The wealer steers to the restockers increased 15c to 30c with the medium weights making from 480c to 566c, while the heavier end ranged from 438c to 558c/kg. The heifer portion also to the restockers gained 25c and made from 450c to 526c/kg. The yearling steers to the lot feeder and restocker orders trended from 15c to 25c dearer with the medium weights making from 424c to 490c as the lighter drafts reached 516c/kg. Yearling heifers also to the restockers and feeder orders improved 15c and sold from 384c to 470c with the light weights reaching 492c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold to strong competition with the highest yielding lot reaching 470c/kg. The older steers to the processors made from 334c to 372c while the older heifers sold from 312c to 370c/kg. The better covered heavy weight cows lifted 17c and sold from 306c to 329c as the heavy weight bulls improved 20c and reached 356c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for TRRX Tamworth Last reported 9th November 2020

Yearling cattle were well supplied in a slightly smaller penning. Well finished heavy grown cattle were also well represented. The majority of the cattle presented in forward to well finished condition, however there were a few plainer in condition. Overall the quality of the offering was good. The full field of buyers were in attendance with all participating at some level. Demand was strong. Restockers were active on the light weight young cattle with yearling steers up to 330kg selling to dearer trends. The medium weight feeder steers remained firm, odd pens to restockers dearer. The heavy weight feeder steers sold to a slightly cheaper trend with both breed and quality impacting price change. A good supply of yearling heifers suitable to feedlot sold to a dearer trend, up to 8c/kg on medium weights. Heavy trade yearlings sold on a firm to slightly dearer market trend. Strong demand from both export and domestic processors resulted in a dearer market trend for both heavy grown steers and the well finished grown heifers. Feeder steers with 2 or more teeth sold to a dearer trend. There was strong processor competition for a very good penning of mostly heavy weight cows. The market trend dearer, up to 8c/kg.



Dyck the latest in a growing number of internationals to perish on Cup Day. As part of its investigation, RV will be interviewing Irish training maestro Aidan O'Brien who lost Anthony Van Dyck and Wichita this spring and Thecliffsofmoher in the 2018 Melbourne Cup. Top industry voices have suggested internationals need to arrive earlier in the future if they want to run in the Melbourne Cup. Trainer Mike Moroney, who won the 2000 Melbourne Cup with Brew, believes tougher European training regimes plus the short gap between imports arriving on Australian shores and running in the

Cups is one factor that must be put under the microscope. "The science says that all the horses in England, that are kept in work for 12 months a year, the minute you stop on them ... they start growing new bone," Moroney told RSN. "That's why we have trouble with them, because they are in quarantine, and you can't do much with them in quarantine, and they start growing new bone. "That's why some have got to come over here and wait for that to settle down and then they adapt to our conditions and off they go. "Their horses come over here without having had a

run for a long time and then they are asked to back up two weeks later which is not normal, if they are going Caulfield Cup into the Melbourne Cup "I think you will find a lot of the ones who have had trouble, it would basically be their second run here in pretty quick succession which they are not really used to. "They do take a while to acclimatise to our way of doing things." Moroney also suggested vetting Melbourne Cup horses closer to the first Tuesday in November — rather than a week out from the great race — could be of benefit. He floated the possibility of Melbourne Cup horses needing to be passed by a vet on the morning of the race before being allowed to line up. Meanwhile, Racing Victoria has ruled out appealing the Victorian Racing Tribunal's decision to slash Kerrin McEvoy's \$50,000 fine for over-use of the whip in the

Melbourne Cup to \$30,000. "We acknowledge and accept the tribunal's decision regarding Kerrin McEvoy's penalty," an RV spokesman said. It comes on the eve of a Racing Australia board meeting where Racing Victoria will ramp up its push towards whips eventually to be used only for safety purposes by jockeys in races. RV won't get agreement from the majority of other states, with many of the states suggesting a public education campaign about padded whips is needed rather than moving towards abolishing whip use. RV pitchforked their push for the gradual banning of the whip, for other than safety measures, into the public domain in September but now says it won't comment further until after the RA board meeting.

● Picture above: Anthony Van Dyck is the latest in a growing number of internationals to perish in the Cup.

click's



MOVIE REVIEW

TENET

Spy guy meets sci-fi in Christopher Nolan's 'Tenet'

By Mark Feeny

"Tenet," which is finally opening in theaters, is two things: a movie and an event, though the nature of the event has radically changed.

It was always going to be an event, because Christopher Nolan wrote and directed it. Since the "Dark Knight" trilogy (2005-2012), Nolan's movies have had event status, and deservedly so. He's a superb technician, with a mastery of action and scale and sweep unmatched among contemporary directors. Nor is Nolan afraid of putting that mastery to use. Thrillingly ambitious, he's an imperial filmmaker in the tradition of Stanley Kubrick, with whom he shares a no-less-imperial coldness and precision. Because of COVID-19, that ambition now extends beyond art to economics.

This is how "Tenet" has become an event in a very different way. Nolan is the rare director working today whose films exalt the big screen. With most movies, waiting for them to stream or come out on disc only marginally diminishes the viewing experience. With Nolan's, something is definitely lost. So "Tenet" is the movie the Hollywood studios and theater chains hope will be big enough, exciting enough, pent-up-demanded enough to get people back in theaters.

So what about the movie? "Tenet," which I saw on an IMAX screen at a press screening last week, begins with a terrorist attack during an orchestral concert in Kiev. The sequence encapsulates the 2½ hours that follow: bravura action, consistent unexpectedness, far-flung locations (others include Mumbai, London, Oslo — where a 747 goes rogue in a parking lot — the Bay of Naples, Vietnam, Siberia). Simply as filmmaking, the sequence is phenomenally assured. You may not even notice how confusing everything is. Even if you do, you may not even care. It's not fog-of-war confusion. It's what-exactly-is-going-on-here confusion. Who's doing this? Why are they doing this? Where are they doing this? (We only learn much later that it's Kiev.) Nolan is so good at showing *how*, which is the movies at their most elemental, that for those 10 minutes nothing else matters. Moviemaking doesn't come any tauter or with more velocity. But that confusion is a warning. It's going to apply to the entire movie; and the longer "Tenet" lasts, the more of an issue confusion becomes. A CIA agent (John David Washington) is involved in

the attack as a double agent, trying to foil it. Whys and wherefores aren't forthcoming. Neither is his name, though he's in nearly every scene that follows. Whether intentional or not, his namelessness is a reminder that personality and emotion have always mattered less to Nolan than spectacle and execution.

What is forthcoming is the agent's next assignment. Spy guy has to go sci-fi. It turns out that the future has been sending objects to the present. "We think it's a kind of inverse radiation," a scientist explains. "Tenet" is a movie where a lot of explaining takes place. Explanation punctuated by action would be an accurate, if uninteresting, plot summary. These "inverted materials" — "Tenet" also involves a lot of inverted commas — are "technology that can alter an object's entropy." Worse, it "can invert the entropy of the world" — meaning complete annihilation.

In practical terms, inverted materials go backward. We see them travelling through time as well as space. The scientist tells the agent, "You're not shooting the bullet. You're catching it." Responds the agent, sensibly enough, "Whoa." Not only do we see bullets go backward, but smoke, cars, explosions. That sounds pretty cool. Nolan likes doing stuff like that. In "Inception" (2010), when those Parisian buildings roll up in Ellen Page's dream it's crazy — and visually stunning. The backwardness in "Tenet," which doesn't happen all the time, of course, but often enough, is also crazy — and visually confounding.

Nolan takes this stuff seriously. References are made to free will, cause and effect, the nature of time. The Nobel Prize-winning physicist Kip Thorne is mentioned in the end credits. Time twisting isn't new for Nolan.

"Memento" (2000), the movie that put him on the map, is told backward. "Interstellar" (2014) has moments of dippy-doodle chronology; and "Dunkirk" (2017) did some temporal card-shuffling, too. Telling a story backward sounds bizarre — it is bizarre — but it works. The backward stuff in "Tenet" sounds bizarre — worse than bizarre, goofy — and for a while it works. But once it doesn't, it really doesn't.

You might well wonder how the present, in the person of Washington, can try to defeat the future. The future isn't employing just inverted objects. There are

nuclear warheads from the former Soviet Union. No, wait, the danger comes from caches of plutonium. Wrong, some world-ending algorithm gets mentioned toward the end of the movies. It's all a bit . . . confusing. Infinity stones, anyone?

The future also has an agent in the present. He's a Russian oligarch. Of course he is. Kenneth Branagh's performance is a very thick slice of ham, with a side order of borscht. Elizabeth Debicki plays his art-dealer wife, Kat. She looks vexed and wan, except when she's looking wan and vexed. "If I can't have you, no one else can," Branagh snarls at her. Dialogue (remember that "Whoa"?) is not a Nolan strength. What elicits that snarl is the Lancelot-like intimations of romance between Kat and Washington's agent. Their tentativeness is another source of confusion.

Washington, Denzel's son, was the best thing in Spike Lee's "BlacKkKlansman" (2018). He offers a capable, if stolid, performance. The stolidity from Washington is needed. The occasional raised eyebrow that makes Robert Pattinson so enjoyable as the agent's sort-of sidekick would pull the rug out from under the movie. The movie, or at least the rug, would itself become an inverted object.

Nolan is a superb craftsman, lucid and exacting in his shooting and editing — all praise, respectively, to Hoyte Van Hoytema and, especially, Jennifer Lame. If Nolan's lines were any cleaner, they could be pages in a geometry textbook. That's not a criticism. The same could be said about Fritz Lang or Kubrick. You always know where you are in a scene. This is no small achievement, considering how busy, even hectic, the action sequences are. What you don't know, necessarily, is why the characters are there. As to why moviegoers are in theaters to watch them, that's another matter altogether.

★★½
TENET

Written and directed by Christopher Nolan. Starring John David Washington, Elizabeth Debicki, Kenneth Branagh, Robert Pattinson. At Boston theatres, suburbs. 151 minutes. M (intense sequences of violence and action, some suggestive references, brief strong language)

Will there be a Windows 11 and more?

There's no sign of a successor to Windows 10, but that was Microsoft's plan all along. Will we ever see Windows 11?

Shortly before Windows 10 was launched in 2015, Microsoft's Jerry Nixon proclaimed it would be 'the last version of Windows'.

The announcement came as a shock to many at the time, particularly considering it looked like the company was establishing a regular three-year update cycle.

The overwhelmingly negative reaction to Windows 8 forced Microsoft's hand somewhat, but few truly believed Windows 10 would be the last major release.

Five years on and it's technically true, although that doesn't tell the full story. The short answer is that it isn't needed.

Despite Microsoft falling short of its target to have Windows 10 on one billion devices within three years, there's no doubting it has been a

success. The company went back to basics, moving away from the live tiles that had proved so unpopular and returning users the familiarity of a Start Menu and traditional desktop. This tried and trusted design was an easy way to get users back on side. In some ways it was a safe release, but it also marked a change in strategy for Microsoft.

As was the case with its Office 365 subscription service (now Microsoft 365), it ditched big releases every few years in favour of new feature updates every six months.

Now, each May and November Windows 10 users get a number of new features. Alongside this, there are monthly security updates and bug patches whenever they are discovered.

This means Windows 10 has had countless updates since that initial release in July 2015. Microsoft decision to stick with

Windows 10 will due in part to the widespread popularity of Windows 10.

According to StatCounter, more than 70% of all Windows devices were running Windows 10, making it installed on around 54.7% of all desktop devices.

If the reception to it had been as negative as Windows 8, we'd have surely seen Windows 11 by now. It's important to note that Windows 10 doesn't follow Microsoft 365's subscription model for software. The operating system is considered fundamental to the way a device works, so you can keep updating as long as you have a device running Windows 10.

This means it's unlikely that devices now running Windows 10 won't be compatible with a future update, with the major limiting factor being a slowing device that is unable to handle a more advanced operating system.

You might have seen the countless Windows 11 concept videos online, but in reality Microsoft can implement many of these features gradually without the need for a major new release.

However, Microsoft is focusing much of its attention on optimising Windows 10 for dual-screen devices, including the Surface Neo (A culmination of Microsoft's much-reported 'Project Centaurus', the Surface Neo is a folding PC running a modified version of Windows known as Windows 10X). The Surface Neo is a dual-screen, foldable device which is reminiscent of the Lenovo YogaBook.



Microsoft says there's nothing else out there like it, and it's certainly right.

The Surface Neo has two 9in screens, is 5.6mm thin and weighs 655g. There's also a magnetic keyboard which can be positioned in various ways, either on top of one screen so part of it is used, say, for a touchpad, or it can be removed entirely and used separately on the desk. If you put the keyboard at the bottom, you also get the 'wonder bar' which is a little like the touchscreen above the keyboard on a MacBook Pro.



Request for Donation:

Greta Branxton United Cricket Club:

Mental Health Awareness Intra-Club Cricket Day -

Dixie Duggan Day

The Greta Branxton United Cricket club is hosting an intra-club cricket event at Miller Park Branxton to raise money for a number of mental health related charities.

The event will have four local teams which include the "Beyond Blue" Southern Stars, "Mates in Mining" Eastern Suburbs Espressos, "black dog institute" Central Branxton Strikers and the "Lifeline" Greta Giants.

Each team will be responsible for raising money for their respective charities. The event will be held on Sunday 29th November.

Our fundraising goal for each charity is \$5000.

Any donation you could make towards any or all of the charities would be greatly appreciated. The club will be promoting the event on our Facebook page and across some of the local newspaper media outlets, this will include the promotion of all businesses that support any of the charities involved.

MacDroid's

For Sales, Service & Advice...

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

1300 622 376

'AN ARSE-COVERING EXERCISE BY MILITARY LEADERS OBSESSED WITH PC'



News Corp

War crimes inquiry: Joel Fitzgibbon lays responsibility with the national cabinet. Joel Fitzgibbon believes the responsibility for any war crimes committed by Australian special forces in Afghanistan goes right to the top - national cabinet. Defence top brass and politicians were condemned yesterday for sending special forces troops to Afghanistan up to 16 times, in a cultural failure that went right to the top. Former Labor defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon said SAS troops had been sent on too many deployments for too long and the responsibility lay with the national cabinet. Mr Fitzgibbon was defence Minister from the end of 2007 until the middle of 2009 – during the period Prime Minister Scott Morrison said was at the centre of the damning report to be released next week.

Mr James said the high tempo “stressed unit cultural norms, taxed individuals psychologically” and may have “diluted accountability mechanisms”. Another major problem was that, under international law, the conflict was not defined as an international war but as a conflict within one country. “And that’s why they had the stupid catch-and-release policy where you could capture someone but three days later they had to let them go.” Mr James said that might prompt soldiers to think “why should I risk my life to catch someone who



“Culture comes from the top and when poor culture emerges we must all take responsibility, all the way up the chain of command and into the National Security Committee of the cabinet,” Mr Fitzgibbon said. He was pushing through Defence strategic reform when he was forced to resign over a breach of the ministerial code of conduct. Suggestions at the time that Defence officials had secretly investigated his relationship with a Chinese businesswoman were dismissed. Mr Morrison said his government had never received any word of the alleged atrocities listed in the report. “The matters contained in the report were never raised ... with government, with ministers at the political level,” he said. Mr Fitzgibbon said the SAS had been deployed too often.

keeps getting released and why don’t we put a bullet in them”. He said: “You should never put someone in that situation.” Australian Defence Force Academy academic at UNSW in Canberra James Connor said it was time to think about “what created the conditions for the special forces to do this – how did they get away with it for so long?” “This is about command, people not being responsible, the band of brothers idea and how special forces are bonded tightly together which goes with how they look after one another, but it sometimes means covering up or allowing bad things to happen.” Dr O’Connor said the report would inevitably lead to major changes. “There is something very problematic within the culture of the special forces and perhaps more widely in the ADF.”

Former soldier Bernard Gaynor said top brass in Defence were focusing too hard on cultural

“Members of our Special Forces were sent to Afghanistan too often and rotations were too long,” he told The Daily Telegraph.

“Our boys were operating under their Rules of Engagement and international law. Their enemy was not constrained by rules or Western values. It’s no wonder things went wrong”. Former defence force chief Sir Peter Cosgrove said last month: “Some of the people who are swept up in this have had multiple tours in a very, very dangerous place. This has to have an impact.” Australian Defence Association executive director Neil James said the average number of Afghanistan tours of duty were between eight and 12, and they were of between three and four months, shorter than the usual regular army deployments. “I have heard of one person who did 16,” he said. “That’s part of the problem. The reason for this is governments because they feared the political blowback of higher casualties. “The ADF should have protested, they should have said you need a balance of conventional forces. This is a big lesson for next time around.”

shifts – such as advertising female-only infantry jobs – and political correctness rather than the business of soldiering. “I think this inquiry has been nothing but an arse-covering exercise by military leadership obsessed with political correctness,” he said. The alleged war crimes were brought to light in a 2016 report by sociologist Samantha Cromptvoets, who was hired to examine cultural issues in the ADF and SAS. “I am very concerned that this investigation will do nothing more than provide an opening for military-hating leftists to impose their radical agendas in the SAS,” Mr Gaynor said. “I would not be surprised if we soon hear the usual mantras that the SAS is too patriarchal and too masculine to stamp out micro-aggressions and unconscious bias,” he said.



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

Unfortunately in the early hours of Saturday morning someone has decided to light up the garbage bins under the cricket shed at Miller Park Branxton! As you can see this has done major damage to their shed. A huge shout out to The Branxton Fire Brigade for coming and getting it under control before they lost everything. Being a small rural club they have worked hard to provide cricket to our community usually with limited resources and losing their shed would have been a huge blow for to provide this valuable community service. For the people that did this, if you need something to do, come and register to play cricket instead of almost ruining the season for everybody else! If anyone saw or has heard any information that would assist the police in their investigation please call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Andrew Hughes from A-Plus Contractors & Poly Welding & The News are offering \$500 for any information that leads to the apprehension & conviction of the perpetrator/s.



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

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for ½ hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362
For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
For Sale: 2 ton chainblock \$100, Hardwood Timber beam 4800 x 290 x 75, \$50. 2470 x 140 x 100, \$20, Humes prime coat solid exterior door, 2040 x 820 x 35, New \$120, sell \$50, Painted solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, \$20, trailer axle with Holden hubs and stub axles, \$20, 4 White roll down security shutters 1800, 1860, 1760, 1650 wide with 2000 drop, Free Ph.0437312905
For Sale: 2002 Rover 75 in need of a good home. Restoration project. Full leather interior, GPS, fully optioned. Needs new headliner, bonnet respray. Good tyres. Unregistered. P: 0414 757 826
For Sale: 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
FREE TO A GOOD HOME - 34 halogen ceiling light fixtures, transformers and globes. Can be taken in a smaller amount or as a whole. Please contact Roger 0414 963 678
Moving house garage sale! Everything must go! Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd Start at 7am and finishes at 12pm. Furniture, DVD, FWD equip, baby gear, fish tank equip....everything must go! 5 Russell street Branxton

Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. 0407 453 494
Share Accommodation: East Branxton \$180 + share utilities cost P: 0407 383 026
Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Branxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 0413161296 Fred
Work Wanted: Need a house cleaner \$25/hr P: 0488 588 333
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

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

Dates for your diary

Dates for your diary

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY MORNINGS — The Branxton Greta Mens Shed meet in the mornings: come and have a cuppa at the Shed. 49 Branxton Street, Greta (in the grounds of the old St Mary's primary school) For more information contact Richard Wesseling 0417422560
Leagues Club. For information: Phone Anna 49904093
FRI 20 NOV — North Rothbury Tidy Town Christmas Get together. 6:30pm at Ayrefield Memorial Park. BBQ provided. All welcome
MON 23 NOV — Cessnock Toastmasters Meeting. 7pm at Cessnock Leagues Club. For information phone Anna 49904093
MON 23 NOV — Hunter ANZAC Memorial Cycleway Public Expose RSL Hall Branxton 10am & 2pm
WED 25 NOV - Central Hunter Business Chamber AGM at Branxton Community Hall
THUR 26 NOV - Cessnock City Council is holding a free Learner Driver Supervisors Workshop running from 6pm to 8pm. Those interested in attending to become a more confident and informed supervisor must book to receive the ZOOM meeting link which will be issued via email. To book call Alison on 4993 4311
SAT 28 NOV - Branxton Greta Mens Shed Open Day at the shed, St Marys Public School, Greta. We are there from 9 till one o'clock.
MON 30 NOV — Cessnock Toastmasters club speech contests. Visitors welcome. 7pm at Cessnock Leagues Club. For information: contact Anna 49904093
TUES 8 DEC 2020— Branxton Greta CWA Mthly Mtg— Old St. Brigids Staff Room, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Morning Tea following. Visitors and New Members welcome. Contact Marie Shearer 0402015850 for any information.
SAT 12 DEC 2020— The Greta Workers Fishing Club will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Saturday 12th December 2020 at Greta Workers Club at Midday. All committee

positions are declared open. Plenty to discuss for 2021
Upcoming Concerts
SAT 26 MAR 2022 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate
SAT 10 APR 2021 — “Hunter Valley Gin & Jazz festival” @ Hope Estate
SAT 11 DEC 2021 — Iconic Scottish band SIMPLE MINDS will be performing at a day on the green Bimbadinj winery.

Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre
WHAT'S ON?
GO TO ON?
www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

JAZZ
TERENCE KOO TRIO

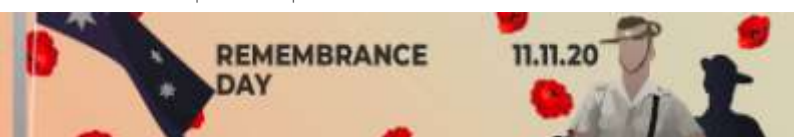
FRI 6 NOV 2020—CPAC Studio Sounds presents Terence Koo Trio CPAC Studio Sounds Featuring Newcastle Jazz Virtuosos: Terence Koo (piano), Andrew Wallace (double bass) and Rob Coxen (drums).

THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD

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.

CASH
THE CONCERT
BACK TO SAN QUENTIN

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



A larger than expected crowd was on-hand to commemorate this years Remembrance Day at the Branxton Memorial. The service included students from Branxton Public School & the presence of Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent. Remembrance Day 2020 marked the 102nd anniversary of the Armistice which brought World War I to an end after four brutal years on November 11, 1918.

“A century ago the world was in the throes of the Spanish flu, which claimed the lives of 50 million people, including 12,000 Australians. That was on top of a long lasting legacy of Australia's World War I. Of the 420,000 who had served in the war, 213,000 became casualties. Of them some 60,000 had died,” said Brian Furner OAM President of the Branxton RSL Sub-Branch
“Lest we Forget”



FROM P. 6

Members say ..

During my period as a local member climate change has emerged as both a very real issue and one we must address. But the topic is sucking so much oxygen out of the political discourse that there is barely any room for the other things which matter in people's lives. “Renewable Energy Superpower” is a slogan, not a policy or a plan. Net zero emissions is an ambition I support, but it's not a strategy. Everyone keeps telling me our region is in economic transition. I agree – it always has been. That's why I've spent my political career energetically encouraging greater local economic diversity. But why cost local jobs by accelerating this transition through government policy? The market is already doing it. I've been accused of not having a “transition plan”. But I've been working on transition for 25 years. I haven't been waiting for more wind turbines to be built or for Japan to stop buying our coal. The Hunter Expressway and other road upgrades, enhancing our schools and TAFEs, tourism grants, renewable energy grants, new hospitality schools and support for our manufacturers. I've been a part of all these things for our communities in the quest for greater economic diversity. I've often been accused of being too “pro-development” – one such example is Weston's “dross plant”, still employing 80 people and yet to do any harm. For me it's all about people. The day will come when other countries stop buying our thermal and steel-making coal. But it's a long way off yet, decades in fact. Meanwhile we are attracting renewable energy and gas generation projects to our region. When last in Government, Labor brought the CSIRO Energy Centre to the Hunter to help us leverage the opportunities. It's happening. Hopefully one day the Hunter Gas Pipeline will be transporting green hydrogen manufactured in our own backyard, and our region will be home to lithium battery manufacturing. Since AGL announced the closure of Liddell Power Station, I've been working with the company on projects to replace it with gas, pumped hydro and battery storage. And of course, the upgrade of Bayswater Power Station. The transition is on, but we need to be inclusive, not exclusive in our policymaking. We need to take care of one another, to have one another's back. That's always been our way, here in the Hunter.

Cheers, Joel



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.

The ‘new’ Women’s Shed in Branxton



Are you aware of the new Women's Shed in Branxton?

They have been going now for a couple of months & meet every Thursday at 9:30am in the Branxton Uniting Church Hall.

They have a couple of men attending too. They chat, crochet, knit, sew and chat again...the purpose of the group is to make face-to-face connections and create new friendships, learn new skills and share their stories, expertise and passions. They will have a stall at the local Twilight Markets at Branxton Community hall 28 November & have been making items to sell.

They are keen to share their story with the community. They have a Facebook page and website as well.

To contact the group please email womenshedbranxton@aol.com

LOCAL AREA DIRECTOR WINS TOASTMASTER AWARD

Nellie Beggs has been Area 12 Toastmasters Director for the past two years. In addition she been a club member at Cessnock and also at Singleton Toastmasters. Nellie is currently Vice President at Cessnock as well as a Club Coach.

At the recent District Awards Ceremony Nellie was acknowledged for her work by being announced as the Area Director of the Year. Our local Area includes the clubs at Cessnock, Singleton, Maitland, Muswellbrook and Port Stephens. Area 12 is just one of more than 30 different Toastmaster Areas in Sydney and Northern NSW. It is a huge honour to be selected as the “best of the best.” Cessnock club is really happy to have Nellie as a club member. She initially came to support the club as Club Coach. But she stayed and has offered a great deal to the local group.

District 90 Director of Educational Programs, Tanya Wickham said “Nellie, as Area Director, visited her clubs over and above the required formal visits. She has offered constructive and helpful support to the clubs and to individual members.”

Cessnock Toastmasters meet every Monday night at Cessnock Leagues Club, 7pm.



**Open 7 days
8am - 8pm**

4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)



**BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL
Saturday 28th Nov 2020**

From 4pm to 8pm

Bring your family and friends for a festive community evening of fun & gift shopping.

All Welcome

COVID 19 Rules & Social Distancing

Check out the fb page & 40 stalls

Funds to Palliative Care



LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Cessnock City Council announces dollar for dollar grants for heritage projects



Owners and managers of heritage listed properties and residencies in Heritage Conservation Areas may be eligible for up to \$2,000 financial assistance as part of Cessnock City Council's Local Heritage Fund.

The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance for heritage conservation projects such as maintenance works, adaptive re-use projects, building code upgrades, interpretive projects, and conservation management plans.

Council's Acting Director Planning and Environment, Martin Johnson said it's important that Council supports residents to deliver on a broad range of heritage outcomes.

"These Local Heritage Fund grants will help owners, custodians and managers value and care for heritage in the Cessnock Local Government Area", said Martin.

"We have some beautiful heritage buildings in the Cessnock region so I'm pleased we are able to contribute to projects that maintain them for future generations", he said.

The fund will be administered in accordance with the Council's Local Heritage Fund Guidelines which outline the type of projects that can be funded, who can apply, timelines, and how funds are to be matched. Applications are due by Friday 20 November 2020. Find out more on Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/heritage

• Photo above: Now a museum and gallery, the Rising Sun Inn in Millfield is a heritage-listed building which has undergone maintenance work in recent times

Supervising a Learner Driver? We're here to help!

Cessnock City Council is holding a free Learner Driver Supervisors Workshop on Thursday 26 November running from 6pm to 8pm.

The two hour workshop will be held using the online presentation platform ZOOM and will provide practical information for those teaching someone how to drive. Council's Road Safety Officer Alison Shelton is hosting the workshop and is looking forward to answering any questions supervisors may have.

"These workshops provide current information about laws for Learner and Provisional Licence holders. It's important those teaching drivers new to our roads know the correct rules from day one. This will contribute to making our roads a safer place for all."

The workshop will cover a variety of topics from filling out the learner driver log book, low risk driving practices and the benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.

Those interested in attending to become a more confident and informed supervisor must book to receive the ZOOM meeting link which will be issued via email. To book call Alison on 4993 4311.

There's a magazine for everyone in Singleton Library's expanded online collection

Celebrity gossip has stepped up a gear with an explosion in Singleton Library's online magazine offering from 150 titles to 3,603 from around the world.

In partnership with neighbouring councils Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter, Cessnock and Maitland, the Library now has access to the full magazine collection provided by RB Digital, which can be accessed now via the Library page on Council's website. All you need to register is your Library card number and pin number available from the Library.

The result is thousands of magazines covering a range of topics for both adults and children that can be "borrowed" free of charge anytime for Library members. Anthony Egan, Council's Director Business and Community Services said the magazine expansion followed an increase in use of the Library's online services during the COVID-19 lockdown.

"Our digital collections definitely have a growing audience, especially with COVID-19, and it's good to be able to invest a little bit more in those collections that are well used," he said.

"Our monthly statistics show that online magazines are very popular, and it's interesting to note that celebrity gossip seems to be a favourite topic among our borrowers."

"And now there'll be even more to read about with the collection growing from about 150 magazines hand-picked by our Library team to the full 3,603 from around the world."

"Of course that means plenty more choice for adults, but there's also a really good number now for kids as well." The full suite of the Library's online collection includes e-audio books, streaming music, e-books, and streaming movies and documentaries.

"All are available on the website, and most of the platforms we use have an app that you can access on your phone or device," Mr Egan said.

"The platform for online magazines, RB Digital, will notify you when the next edition of your favourite magazine is available."

"It's also expanding in the next few months to include some ebooks that users can access at the same time, so it's good for book clubs or if you want to read the same book as your friend and talk about it."

Despite the growing online collection, Library lovers are still welcome in person.

Mr Egan said children's programming was very popular with additional storytime sessions to accommodate smaller groups of people in keeping with COVID-19 guidelines.

"Tickets are available a week in advance and they are snapped straight up – plus we have people on a waiting list. We've had to expand so there's two storytime sessions and two baby storytime sessions each week, to try to have as many people come along as possible," he said.

"We've now heard that restrictions are easing to increase the number we can have from 20 to 30 people, and we're working through the logistics of how that would work in the space we have available in keeping with the four square metre rule."

"We're also busy working on our Christmas holiday activities, so whether you're online or in the building, there's plenty happening in our Library."



• Photo above: Singleton Council Team Leader Library Resources Kylie Tatt

Draft Cessnock Housing Strategy and Urban Growth Management Plan on public exhibition

Cessnock City Council is seeking feedback from the community on both the draft Cessnock Housing Strategy and draft Urban Growth Management Plan. The documents are now on public exhibition and until Wednesday 9 December.

The draft Cessnock Housing Strategy considers the unique housing needs and aspirations of the Cessnock community now and into the future. The Strategy explores expected population growth, the changing characteristics of the community and housing preferences.

The Strategy makes a series of recommendations to help support the delivery of appropriate, affordable and diverse housing across Cessnock.

The draft Urban Growth Management Plan guides the release of land to support the future growth. The plan quantifies existing land supply and identifies areas for investigation that may be suitable for development in the future. The Plan is an action from Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement that was adopted by Council earlier in the year.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said, "Our area will continue to experience growth and we need to have a way to guide growth in a positive direction."

"The secret is out about the great lifestyle enjoyed when you call our area home. As more people choose to live and work here we need to ensure infrastructure meets population needs, while maintaining the local amenity and liveability."

For more information or to view these documents visit [Council's Have your Say section](#) on the website.



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



"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton
Recent sales

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



HANDY TIPS

Top 5 Summer Vegetables To Grow In Your Backyard

Take advantage of the long hours of sunlight to grow the best crops you'll ever taste

by Monica Nye

Produce picked at its peak then eaten straight away is one of the healthiest, most cost-effective and satisfying ways to reap the benefits of summer gardening.

Summer is a great time for eating fresh fruit and veg planted during spring, but it's also the ideal time to get planting for a salad crop and autumn soups. Tomato, zucchini, pumpkin and more are all perfect to pop in right now.

Summer gardening requires a few tricks to help your plants beat the heat, but they just involve a little planning. And there are delicious crops to suit every sized garden.

1. Zucchini

Sometimes called courgettes, zucchinis are sold both by cultivar name and by colour. Most are dark green, but there are also golden yellow types, which are more mould-resistant and even round varieties. Plant seedlings when the weather warms up and you can be harvesting in six weeks, just make sure to keep the water plentiful. Pick zucchini young for the most flavour and biggest crop. They're packed with powerful health benefits, being high in potassium, fibre, vitamin A and antioxidants.

Slice or grate them raw into a salad, fry, grill, bake, steam, boil or stuff them and serve with sauce. Or cook in a slice, frittata, quiche, cake or muffin. You can even eat the flowers. **TIP** Zucchinis are low in kilojoules, so you can eat as much as you like.

2. Tomato

Rich in Vitamins A and C and the antioxidant lycopene, tomatoes are staples of both the kitchen and garden. Plant seedlings now and you'll have crops in February.

There are almost as many varieties of tomato as there are sizes and uses. For cooking, try Grosse Lisse or Reggae Roma, which both need staking in the garden, or San Marzano or Pot Prize, which are ideal for growing in pots.

In sandwiches and salads, use Mama's Delight or any of the beefsteak varieties, including Black Russian,

with its purple-black fruit. Yellow tomatoes are mellow in flavour, less acidic and sweeter, making them the best pick for sensitive stomachs. Cherry varieties are tough survivors despite their small size and also highly resistant to disease.

TIP To ripen green tomatoes, put them in a paper bag with a ripe banana.

3. Pumpkin

Although we think of pumpkin as a winter food, summer is the time to get growing. Sow seeds directly into the garden where they are to grow, and you'll be harvesting by autumn.

When harvesting, leave as much stem as possible attached to each pumpkin as it helps them last longer. Pumpkins are full of vitamins, including E, A and C. Their high folate and iron content makes them a great food choice for pregnant women and vegetarians.

There are dozens of different pumpkins, but the best eating varieties are the type with thick grey skins that are usually about 4kg each, or butternuts, which are smaller and easier to cut.

Grey-skinned varieties include Kent, which is a medium size with relatively easy to cut skin. It's great for steaming, stir-fries and baking.

West Australian-bred Jarrahdale is larger, with a thicker skin that makes it a great keeper. It's a drought-tolerant variety that is excellent in soups and bread. Sweet Grey is similar, with higher yields and sweeter flesh.

Butternut pumpkins are best for warm areas. Their sweet flesh is particularly good for soups, or they can be roasted with the skins on.

While most pumpkins require several square metres of space, Golden Nugget is perfect for small gardens. They're best stuffed and baked.

TIP Dried pumpkin seeds from any variety also make a tasty snack and contain dietary fatty acids.

4. Cucumber

A sprawling vine in the garden, cucumbers can be grown up a trellis in full sun to save space.

They're ready for harvest in as little as eight weeks, and the more you pick them, the more they grow. Just use them quickly as they don't store well.

Cucumbers are mostly water, which makes them a great diet food. They also contain useful amounts of calcium and phosphorus for

healthy bones and silica for connective tissues.

For pickles and relishes, try firm varieties like County Air and Pickle Bush.

Burpless varieties are less acidic, and live up to their name.

Regal is a high yielding and disease resistant variety so it's a popular gardener's choice and the all-purpose Saladin is good for both pickling and salads.

Lebanese cucumbers are great all-rounders and fruit prolifically.

TIP Slice cucumber and use it to treat sunburn, tired eyes, swelling or even dermatitis.

5. Eggplant

Grow eggplant in pots as well as the garden.

Transplant seedlings into a warm, sunny spot in early summer and you'll be harvesting in 12 weeks. Just keep an eye out for snails.

They're rich in fibre, Vitamin K and folate, as well as manganese and nasunin, which assist brain function.

Cook classic purple and Lebanese eggplants in a moussaka or baba ganoush. White eggplants have a creamier texture and tougher skin, use them for stuffing and casseroles.



1. Zucchini



2. Tomato



3. Pumpkin



4. Cucumber



5. Eggplant



Tips For Your Dogs

& Cats



WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING MY PET DESEXED?

Dogs and cats on heat attract a surprising number of interested members of the opposite sex, commonly leading to fights, disturbed nights for owners and often, irate neighbours.

Discharges from dogs in 'heat' can be a nuisance, especially with indoor pets. The risk of uterine infections is high in non-desexed females and that risk increases with age. Mammary cancer (breast cancer) incidence in later life is much lower if the pet is desexed before puberty (6 months).

Unwanted puppies and kittens can be an emotional and financial burden and can add to the already enormous problem of stray animals. Stray dogs also present a public health risk from droppings and dog bites. It is every pet owner's responsibility to ensure that their pet does not add to these problems.

WHEN IS IT BEST TO HAVE MY PET DESEXED?

Generally it is considered best done before puberty (around 6 months of age). This avoids the problems of caring for a pet in season and reduced the risk of unwanted pregnancy.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

You should arrange your pet's surgery for any weekday, preferably giving a couple of days notice. Generally, they will admit your pet during consulting hours on the morning of the surgery or the night before if that is more convenient. Your pet should be fasted prior to the anaesthetic so give a small meal the night before then remove food, allow access to water overnight. No food or water should be given on the morning of surgery.

THE OPERATION – AN OUTLINE

Desexing surgery involves intra-abdominal surgery under a general anaesthetic. Before the

BENEFITS OF DESEXING DOGS

Male Neutering	Female Spaying
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes the risk less likely of a hernia forming beside the anus • Eliminate the risk of testicular cancers • Reduce the risk of prostatic diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female puppy desexing makes the risk of mammary tumours less likely • Eliminate risk of tumours in ovaries, uterus, cervix • Prevent accidental pregnancy with all its risks and complications

anaesthetic your pet will be given a "pre-med" which is a combination of drugs to relax them and prepare them for the general anaesthetic. The combinations will vary depending on your pet's species and age.

The anaesthetic begins with a short acting intravenous injection and in most cases your pet will then be maintained by inhalation of anaesthetic gases. Surgical staff will monitor your pet's species and age.

The anaesthetic begins with a short acting intravenous injection and in most cases your pet will then be maintained by inhalation of anaesthetic gases. Surgical staff will monitor your pet's anaesthetic throughout the procedure. In addition pets are given pain relief before surgery starts so the surgery and recovery are non-painful.

The surgical site, usually along the midline of the belly, will be clipped then cleaned and sterilised with an antiseptic solution. Sterile drapes are used to cover the surgical site and prevent hair etc. from contaminating the cleaned area. An incision is made through the skin, fat and

connective tissue lying beneath it, continuing through the muscles of the abdominal wall and the lining of the abdominal cavity. The ovaries are located and the main blood vessels supplying them are "ligated" or tied off after clamping. The same is done for the blood vessels supplying the uterus (all internal sutures/stitches are tied using a dissolving suture material). Once all blood vessels have been tied, both ovaries and the majority of the uterus are removed from the abdomen.

Again using a dissolving suture material, the abdominal wall muscles are stitched together then the fat and connective tissue lying beneath the skin. Generally the sutures/stitches used in the skin are of a non-absorbable type which will require removal



in 10-14 days. Your pet is then woken from the anaesthetic and will have some time in hospital to recover (generally a few hours is all that is required). For the first 24-48 hours, pets will be a little groggy and uncoordinated but should soon return to normal. They will need to be kept clean, warm and dry during this time. Usually food and water should be offered. Their activity level should be kept to a minimum until after the sutures are removed as this will promote faster healing of the surgical site and minimise the risk of infection.

An important part of a successful spay is the home-care provided. **COMMON FALLACIES REGARDING DESEXING** Bitches and queens will make better pets if they have had a litter first. **NOT TRUE!**

There is no evidence to support this commonly heard tale. After my pet has been desexed it will become fat. This need not be so. After desexing, pets usually require less food to maintain body weight so you may need to reduce the amount you feed (around 20%) and/or increase the amount of exercise your pet has.

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SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 5-11-20 Stableford

Div 1 Winner P Conroy 31 pts R/u N Wheeler 30 pts 3rd M Ryan 29 pts
Div 2 Winner A Hackett 32 pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u B Smith 32 pts 3rd J Atton 29 pts
Ladies Div Winner R Friis 25 pts R/u J Harris 24 pts 3rd J Scobie 22 pts
NTP Ladies M Hunt - Gents J Sheedy
Members draw - Won (P Sekulich)
A heavily clouded sky, with rain threatening greeted our players for to-day's event. Light rain commenced around mid morning and developed into heavy showers. Some of the early players dodged a wetting, however the same cannot be said for the later groups. Congratulations to Alan Hackett on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day" and a well done to 11 other winners and place getters.

Results 12-11-20 Stableford

Div 1 Winner K Anderson 35 pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u M Ford 35 pts 3rd S Ross 29 pts
Div 2 Winner R Showman 32 pts R/u P Sekulich 29 pts 3rd L Bootes 26 pts
Ladies Div Winner C Caldwell 30 pts R/u R McCarthy 26 pts 3rd M Hunt 24 pts
NTP Ladies R McCarthy
Gents T Seamer
Members draw - Not won
A fine sunny Spring day, light cloud and a gentle breeze. What more could you ask for when contemplating a round of golf at the "Ultimate 9" golf course, Branxton, a jewel on the edge of magnificent vineyards. Well worth the visit to sample their product. Congratulations to Keith Anderson 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

Saturday, 7 Nov. 2020 STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL - STROKE

Field: 51
Winners A David Kinch 66
Grades A Peter Wilton 67
Grades A Anthony Bentley 70
Grades A Gregory Tearle 70
Grades B Nick Wheeler 69
Grades B Richard Crooks 70
Grades B Ken Radunz 70
Grades C Pip Lancaster 71
Grades C Steven Primmer 72
Grades C Ted Zawirski 73
Balls 15 Distributed down to score: 74
A GRADE M TRACEY
B GRADE N HUGHES
C GRADE P LANCASTER
Saturday's Monthly Medal,

a stroke round, always ensures all players are on their game. Dave Kinch continued his good 2020 form in winning the overall Monthly Medal with an excellent 66 nett. Only 3 players broke 70 highlighting Dave's great round. Peter Wilton, fresh from a very solid Club Championship, won A Grade with a fantastic 67 nett from his 2 handicap—a one under par scratch score. Pete's consistency is unbelievable as he rarely finishes out of the placings. Anthony Bentley, another 2 marker, bounced back to form in finishing second with his 70 nett with Gregory Tearle third with a similar score. Nick Wheeler won B Grade with a very pleasing 69 nett, just ahead of Club President Richard Crooks with his 70 and Ken Radonz with the same nett score. Pip Lancaster, also fresh from a pleasing Club Championship, won C Grade with his 71 nett score, with Steve Primmer back to form, finishing runner up and Ted Zawirski picking up another prize, finishing third with his 73. A 74 nett score was needed to win a ball.

Saturday, 14th Nov. 2020 KCE SPONSORS DAY – 2BBB STAB + SINGLE

Field: 59
2BBB WINNERS
DAVID KINCH/
MICHAEL CARLING
49PTS
RUNNERS UP
MCGEE/ ALEX HANNAH
47 PTS
THIRD PLACE
BRENDON MULLER/
FRANK MULLER 44 PTS
C/B
FOURTH PLACE
GARLAND/ GEOFF
GEASON 44 PTS C/B
FIFTH PLACE
MARK MOYLAN/ PAUL
BUSH 44 PTS C/B
SIXTH PLACE
GEOFF JONES/ GRAEME
MCFARLANE 44 PTS C/B
SEVENTH PLACE
NEIL BRIDGE/ BEN
BRIDGE 44 PTS C/B
INDIVIDUALS
WINNER
RODNEY MOYLAN
40PTS C/B
RUNNER UP
MICHAEL TRACEY 40
PTS C/B
THIRD
TRENT MCGEE 40 PTS
NTP
A GRADE
PETER WILTON
B GRADE
NOEL HUGHES
C GRADE
STEVE PRIMMER

LADIES PENNY MULLER Sunday, 15th November Mixed Foursomes Championships

Overall Scratch Winners: Lee Heuston and Kerri Fry 79
Overall Nett Winners: Ben Bridge and Sally Lamb 69.5
Scratch Runners Up: Mick Tracey and Melita Watson 82
Nett Runners Up: David Kinch and Fiona Doyle 73
Nett Third: Robert McMillan and Trish McMillan 74
Saturday's beautiful weather ensured the 59 players competing in the Annual KCE Sponsored day enjoyed themselves. KCE have been regular sponsors to Branxton which seems fitting considering their recent involvement in the Huntlee Development and the Wyndham Ridge Estate, both major developments around the Branxton area. David Kinch and Mick Carling teamed together to win the 2BBB for the day with an excellent 49 pts, just ahead of Trent McGee and Alex Hannah with 47 pts. Third was closely fought with 5 teams finishing with 44 pts—the lucky team to finish third was Brendan and Frank Mullen. The highlight of the day belonged to Lee Heuston who aced the second—a great Christmas present as a hole in one pays his membership for next year. Lee has been in stellar form of late so an ace to him is no real surprise. Club Captain Steve Ross played his first round of golf as a single figure marker—off 9 for the first time—his coach Marcus was also rather chuffed with his achievement—well done Steve. On Sunday the Mixed Foursomes Championships was played with Lee Heuston teaming up with Kerri Fry to win with a very creditable scratch score of 79, just ahead of Mick Tracey and Melita Watson with an excellent 82. Ben Bridge and Sally Lamb won the nett with their 69.5 with Dave Kinch and Fiona Doyle runners up with 73. Robert and Trish McMillan came third a stroke further back.
Branxton Lady Golfers
4th November 2020
Stableford
Winner: Trish McMillan with 35 points
Runner up: Ruth McCarthy with 28 points
3rd: Jan Scobie with 27 points
11th November 2020

Stableford
Winner: Ruth McCarthy with 34 points
Runner up: Carol Miller with 34 points
3rd: Neridah Busch with 33 points
Hunter Valley Golf Club
Sunday 1st November
The annual inter club challenge with Wyong has been played and won by HVGC with an aggregate score of 346 to Wyong's 333. All who took part have had a most enjoyable day. The 2021 event will be held at Wyong. Mark Barrow has won the Weekly Challenge with 38 points from Jason Hyde from Kooindah Waters GC 37 and Angello Wood 3rd with 36 points on countback. Ball winners were: Steve Abel v36, Andrew Bond v35, Alex Hannah 35, Drew Dewar 34, John Knuth 33, Joshua Rose v33, Marjo Kummeling 33 and Jarad Hofman 33 c/b
Tuesday 3rd November
Eric Smith has produced a solid 43 point round to win the Tuesday Stableford from Forster-Tuncurry GC visitor Saxon Hulsman 41 and Col Bradley 3rd with 40 points. Ball winners were: David Spruce 38, David Curry v38, Simon Nicholson 37, Dennis Donn 37, Wayne Barber 37, John Grayson 37, Angello Wood 36, John Carmody 36, Rex Talbot 36, Geoff Tolson v36, Drew Dewar 35, Paul Smith 35, Wayne Burgess 35, Lindsay Meyn 35, Shaun Hefferman v34, Rick Turchini 34 and Richard Craft 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Burgess (3rd) Paul Campbell (4th) Col Bradley (8th) & Rick Turchini (17th)
Wednesday 4th November
The excellent weather & Course conditions has contributed to several Ladies returning 40 + scores for the first time in ages. Jenny Chambers did best with 43 points to nudge playing partner Dale Hamilton to 2nd on 42 and Chris Le Brocque 3rd with 41 points. Ball winners were: Ann Grace-Smith 40, Jeanette Irwin 36 & Sue Williams 36.
Thursday 5th November
Heavy mid morning rain has seen many of the Vets field fail to finish, those who did produced some great scoring. Michael Gilbert has won Division 1 with 40 points from Peter McIntyre 38, Fluff with 43 points claimed Division 2 from Donald Bradley 41 and Bruce Mathews with 44 has won Division 3 from

Anthony Neale with 37 points on countback. Ball winners were: Ray Boyd 40, Rob Hannah 40, John Stewart 38, Bindii 37, Greg Harder 37, John Grayson 36, Robert Wilton 36, Ken Harris 36, Darrell Preston 36, Bruce Chambers 36 and Phil Marks 36 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Michael Gilbert (3rd) Ken McLaughlan (4th) Rex Talbot (8th) & Tony Bowie (10th & 17th).
Saturday 7th November
A fine day turned on for the Medley Stableford with some solid rounds handed in. A Grade went to Ben Bradley with 40 points from David Hollis 39, B Grade to Dylan Palmer 40 with Branxton GC visitor Phil Baker 2nd with 38 on countback and C Grade to Sharon Jones with 39 with Murray Flannigan runner up on 37 points. Ball winners were: Adam Jackson 38, Hieu Le 38, Melita Watson 38, Stephen Zok 37, Shannon Attewell 36, Nick Wilosn 36, Dean Morison 36, Paul Bullock 36, Peter Huckfelt 35, Luke Johnston 35, Michael McNab 35, Bill Mitchell 35, Evan Powell 35, Wade Attewell 35, Darren Mathers v35, John Hopkins 34, Terry Webb 34, Doug Wand 34, Ron Higginbottom 34, Angello Wood 34, Peter Puerta 34, Ron Findlay 33, Michale Goldman 33, Graeme Smith 33, Wayne Cowan 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) Matt Lorenz (4th) Peter Puerta (8th) & Peter McIntyre (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford
Sunday 8th November
The Weekly Challenge has been won by Maitland GC visitor David Hanna with 42 points from Mrewether GC visitor Tania Hutchins 39 and Jeff Shanahan 38 on countback. Ball winner details have not been posted at this time
Tuesday 10th November
Nicholas Cowburn from Toronto GC has won the

Tuesday Stableford with 42 points from Wayne Cowan 41 & Singleton GC visitor Brett Janssen 3rd with 40 on countback. Ball winners were: Denis Donn 40, Ryan Wilson 38, Chris Taggart 38, Rob Hannah 37, Jason Cowburn 37, Richard Craft 36, Stephen Morgan 35, David Peel 35, Joe Scuglia v34, Mark Fullbrook 34, Robert Wilton 32, Steve Piggot 32, Col Bradley 32 & Charles Vella v31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Col Bradley (3rd) David Peel (4th, 10th & 17th) Rick Turchini (8th)
Wednesday 11th Nov.
Inform Melita Watson has shot another sub 80 round to record 41 points to win the Ladies Stableford event from Jenny Chambers 37 with Marlene Rooney 3rd with 36 points. Ball winners were: Sue Williams 34, Isabel Skeates 33, Ruth Scott 33, Mary Fortey 33, Chris Le Brocque 33 & Brenda Mannix 33 c/b.
Thursday 12th November
Along with the great weather and conditions the Vets handed in some great scoring. Division 1 went to the much improved Geoff Boyd with 39 points from Michael Gilbert 38 on countback, Division 2 to Ian Cutriss with 43 from Greg Burke 42 and Division 3 to Muz with 40 from Ryan Wilson with 39 points. Ball winners were: Stephen Morgan 41, Paul Ireland 40, Bindii 39, Wazza 38, Ray Boyd 38, Wayne Berry 38, Steve Rawlings 38, Sue Peel 38, Chris Taggart 38, John Kolbas 38, Dnny Schofield 37, Ken Harris 37, Richard Craft 37, Kerry Bartlett 37, Marek Bartzczak 37, Paul Smith 36, Fluff 36, Wayne Drayton 36, Steve Piggot 36, Eric Smith 36, David Peel 36, Norm Barry 35, Rob Hannah 35, Dennis Donn 35, Wayne Cowan 35, Bruce Chambers 35, Anthony Neale 35, Drew Dewar 35 and Ruff 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to

Tom Bell (3rd) Steve Piggot (4th & 10th) Graeme Flynn (8th) & Sue Peel (17th).
Saturday 14th November
Friday's storm took some 'sting' out of the ground for the Medley Stableford field on a Cracking day for Golf, A Grade went to Paul Bullock with 38 points from David Peel 37, B Grade to David Preece with 40 from Brian Connolly 39 on countback and C Grade to John Martin with 'the round of the day' 41 points with Ron Findlay runner up with 40. Ball winners were: Jeremie Morton 39, Michael Goldman 37, Luke O'Donnell 37, Jason Mould 36, Trevor Collins 36, Max Hindmarsh 36, David Hollis 36, Doug Wand 36, Shannon Attewell 35, Joseph Doueihi v 35, Evan Powell 35, Aaron Marks 35, Harrison Preece 34, Mike Carter 34, Craig Mould 34, Geoff Boyd 34, Murray Flannigan 34, Kevin Smith 34, Stephen Warham 33, David Agnew 33, Garry Ackers 33 & Peter McIntyre 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bruce Chambers (3rd) David Agnew (8th) & Peter McIntyre (10th & 17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford.
**** Correction** Last Saturday the NTP on the 3rd was incorrectly awarded when it came to light after being released to the Press that Melita Watson had in fact 'Aced' the 3rd during her round which has now been corrected at club level. Congratulations Melita, they don't come very often.
******Members Please Note:** The Board are running a Christmas Raffle with prizes including an Accommodation Package at the Crowne, Miscellaneous Hamper, Golf & Breakfast Package at The Vintage & \$50 Fuel voucher. Tickets are \$2 each and can be sourced from any Board Member or from the Pro Shop. To be drawn on 29th November at the AGM / Presentation Day

Do you REMEMBER when.....

Winners are Grinners!



Above: Our local champions, at back L-R, Tegan Bard, Kristy Harris, Nicole Smith, Rebecca Thrift, Leah Thomas, Kerri-Ann Clark, Annie Bolton & front, Elissa Nevin & Haley Folpp. The photo was taken just after their 'back-to-back' win.

Our local netball team has won their grandfinal for the second year running. The girls went into the semis with only one loss for the season. Most of the team have been together since they played in the under tens with only a few changes along the way. Under the guidance of their coach, Sue McGregor, the team has shown some great skills, but, as Sue said the most important thing is, they are great friends. The team has two representative players, Kristy Harris (Goal Keeper) & Haylie Folpp

(Goal Defence). The team was adamant that their success is because of their coach Sue & they would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her time & the effort she put into their team throughout the season.

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!!!

YOUR friendly team

The News

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BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The **News**SPORT

Local senior cricket off to a mixed season start

LOCAL CRICKET REPORT



with Mark Bercini

Cricket Report - Week 4
Week Four of district cricket saw Greta/Branxton first grade claim their first Coalfields Cup win in a thrilling final over finish, second grade were narrowly defeated, both fourth grades also went down, with third grade being washed out.

First grade took on Singleton heavyweights PCH at Cook Park no.3. The Blues' poor batting start to the season continued, all out for just 122 in the 35th over, with veterans Greg Andrews (49) and Darren Holz (16) leading the way. PCH were steady in reply, and with the match in the balance they required 6 to win from the final over with one wicket in hand. They were dismissed three deliveries later to hand Greta/Branxton an unlikely win. Darren Thomson was as usual very economical with 3-24 off 10, Connor Thomson was also very tidy with 2-27 off 10, with Mark Bercini picking up an unlikely 2-2 off 1.3 at the death. Second grade went down by just the one wicket against Wine Country on Miller 1. Greta/Branxton made 9-134 batting first, with Will

Regan leading the way with a crafty 52. James Shoulders snr (20), Blake Kellett (19), and James Shoulders jnr (15no) all made starts. Wine Country fell over the line in reply with one wicket in hand and two overs to spare. Regan completed an excellent all round game with 2-30 off 9, with Anthony Brunson (2-14 off 10), Shoulders snr (2-52 off 9) and Tanveer Singh (2-18 off 5) also bagging a brace of wickets each. Fourth grade Blue went down by 57 runs to Chelmsford Hotel on Miller 2. Chelmsford made 127, with Daniel McCann claiming 5-16 off 5.2. Zach MacBeth (3-38 off 8) and Noah McNamara (2-19 off 6) chipped in with the other wickets. The Blues were skittled for 76 in reply, with skipper Sam Dagg (35no) and MacBeth (11) the only

batsmen to reach double figures. Fourth grade White suffered the same treatment as they went down by 8 wickets at the hands of Cessnock Hotel at Drain Oval. Greta/Branxton were dismissed for 114 batting first, with skipper Malcolm Hedger (37), Andrew Wright (34) and Otto Gerner (13no) providing the majority of the runs. Cessnock Hotel cruised to victory inside 21 overs, with Hedger (1-17 off 6) and Wright (1-22 off 3) claiming the wickets. **Cricket Report - Week 5**
Week five of district cricket saw Greta/Branxton claim victories in second grade and fourth grade blue, with first grade, third grade and fourth grade white suffering defeats. First grade were humbled by 69 runs at the hands of competition front runners Bellbird on Miller 1. Bellbird were sent in to bat and posted a healthy 9-228 from their forty overs. Brent Watson (4-40 off 10) and Cliff Newling (4-62 off 8) picked up Greta/Branxton's wickets. In reply the Blues' batting woes continued, losing early wickets to prevent any sort of momentum. The tail wagged to add some respectability

back into the scorecard, but they were eventually all out for 159 in the 32nd over. Nathan Holz led the way with 34, father Darren was productive with 24, with Darren Thomson (20) and Watson (16) also making starts. Second grade recorded its first win of the year with a nine-wicket thumping of the Piranhas at Turner Park. The home side were skittled for just 63 batting first, with Brett Bridge bowling outstandingly with 6-11 off 9.2. Will Regan chipped in with 2-23 off 8. The Blues breezed to victory in reply inside 14 overs, with Blake Kellett (26) and Jason Haines (21no) getting the job done. Third grade remain winless after five rounds after succumbing to Wine Country White by 76 runs at Baddeley 1. Wine Country made 8-122 batting first, with Lewis Jacobs (3-27 off 8) and Dave Seabrook (2-28 off 6) taking wickets. Greta/Branxton were all out for just 46 in reply, with Jacobs the only willowman in double figures with 13. The local derby fourth grade match between Greta/Branxton Blue and Greta/Branxton White finished very early, with the Blues

claiming a 10-wicket victory. The Whites batted first and were skittled for just 27 without a batsman making five runs. Dan McCann (3-7 off 4), Correy Stone (3-11 off 5) and Riley McKewen (2-4 off 3) took the majority of the wickets. The Blues completed the wrought inside 6 overs, with Doug Engel (25no) completed the formality in a hurry. **Points Tables 2020-21**
Coalfields Cup
Bellbird 24, Valley 21, Creeks 15, Piranhas 15, Wine Country 15, PCH 15, Glendon 15, Greta/Branxton 12, Mulbring 9, JPC 9. Second Grade
Chelmsford Hotel 22*, Wine Country 22*, Bellbird 18*, Greta/Branxton 17*, Piranhas 13*. * byes received, 0 points allocated. Third Grade
Wine Country White 26, Wine Country Blue 25, Bellbird 22, Mulbring 22, Piranhas 19, Greta/Branxton 18. Fourth Grade
Chelmsford Hotel 29, Cessnock Hotel 25, Bellbird Maroon 22, Greta/Branxton Blue 21*, Wine Country 19*, Bellbird White 18*, Piranhas 15*, Supporters 14*, Greta/Branxton White 14. * byes received, 0 points allocated. Club Championship
Bellbird 260.40, Wine Country 231.70, Piranhas 159.60, Greta/Branxton 120.40.



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