



thebranxtonnews.com.au/

The News

Free

...for your enjoyment

Serving the local community since 1997

T: 49381773
M: 0414 757 826

FREE

"Your paper of choice"

All the local news since 1997

THURSDAY 4
MARCH 2021

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

Vale Athol Herbert Partridge

20/7/24 ~ 8/2/21

One of two remaining WW2 veteran members of Branxton RSL Sub-branch has passed away.

Athol Herbert Partridge had been a life member of the RSL since 1975, been vice-president from 1968—1973, president from 1973-1997 after joining the RSL Sub-branch in February 1946 almost immediately after being 'de-mobbed' from the AIF. He also held the following positions in almost 75 years of RSL service:- Social Secretary: 1950 – 1954, President HVDC: 1978 – 1979, Delegate HVDC: 1967 – 1997 Delegate State Congress: 1973 – 1974, a member of Legacy since 1964 & to top it off he was made a Justice of the Peace in 1962. JP since 1962.

All that life long service to the RSL & Legacy may never have happened if not a stroke of luck.

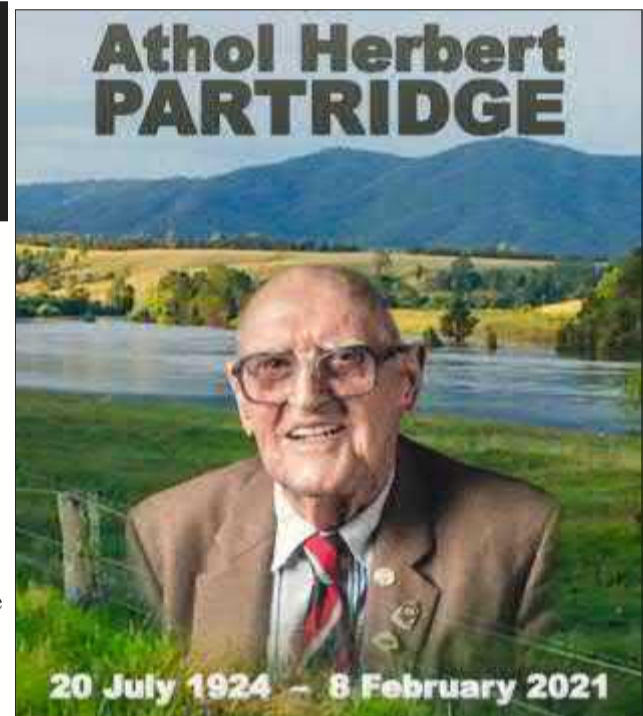
"Athol told the story recently that when he was sent home from New Guinea in WW2 on compassionate grounds, he was bumped of a flight by a Major General George Vasey. That flight crashed just outside of Cairns & all on board were killed. Athol made it home safely after a long flight," said Brian Furner OAM current president of the Branxton RSL Sub-branch

"The awards Athol received were mainly from his longevity within NSW RSL, including the Meritorious Medal. His 75th Anniversary as a member of the RSL was on 28th Feb 2021 & I have contacted RSL NSW for a posthumous award which I have heard, second hand, has been awarded," said Brian.

"Athol was passionate about the work of the RSL and Legacy. In November 1998 Athol was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for services to the RSL," said Clayton Barr MP member for Cessnock.

Athol Herbert Partridge was born on a cold and frosty morning on 20th July 1924 at the family farm Weerona at Elderslie. He was delivered by his Aunt and a midwife and was the son of Albert Oswald and Edith Kathleen. His early life was spent on the farm milking cows, growing vegetables, growing hay and millet and learning the skills of broom making. He even survived a snake bite while picking cucumbers. He was schooled across the river at Elderslie Public School where he was an exceptional athlete.

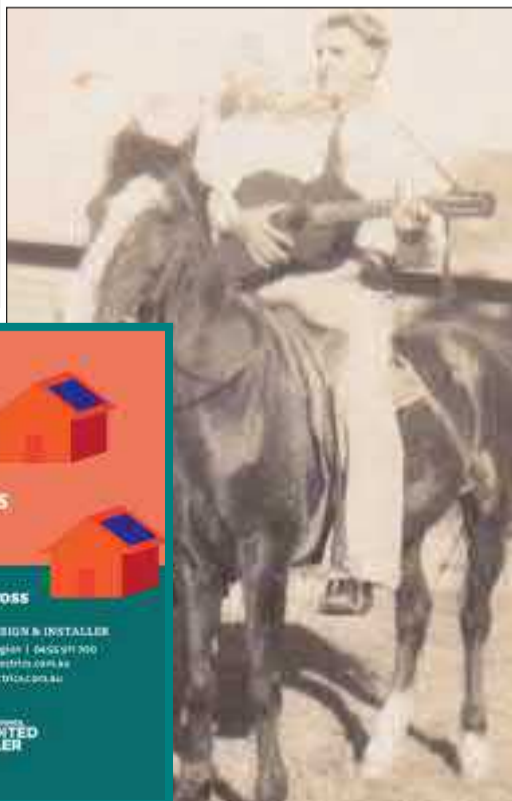
At the age of 18 in November 1942, Athol enlisted in the Australian Army. He was trained at Albury, Greta, Tenterfield, Canungrar and the Atherton Tablelands. He was then deployed to New Guinea with the 2nd 5th Infantry Battalion rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was discharged from the army in March 1945 to return to Elderslie to run the dairy farm. Athol passed away in Dungog on 8 February 2021.



Above: Athol with the then NSW Governor His Excellency General the Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (Retd) at the Governors visit to Branxton in 2018.

Below: Cpl Athol Partridge during his WW2 service in PNG.

At left: Athol loved Australian Country music



GOOD PRACTICE (GP) SURGERY



10 Dalwood Road, East Branxton

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

Dr Chaitali Biswas MBBS, AMC
Dr Jwan Roomi MBBS

Opening Hours
Monday - Friday 8.00 am - 5.30 pm
Offering cosmetic/anti wrinkle therapy

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

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

Hunter Valley Electrics
HVE Pty Ltd

6.6KW solar system \$4,999*
FULLY INSTALLED
FREE ON-SITE QUOTE
*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

We are local installers

Mark Mellross
ELECTRICIAN
GRID-CONNECT DESIGN & INSTALLER
Local to the Hunter Region | 043099 290
mark@huntervalleyelectrics.com.au
www.huntervalleyelectrics.com.au
Licence no. 9164487

REGISTERED & ACCREDITED INSTALLER

Margaret Fulton the Musical



Sang for my Supper. Melbourne-based theatre reviewer Simon Parris describes it as “a joyous celebration of the life of a great Australian, and the country that grew up with her, *Margaret Fulton the Musical* is eighty minutes of delectable enjoyment, as lightly whipped and deliciously sweet as any of the pavlovas on display.” To celebrate this heart-warming night of theatre, CPAC invite you to channel your inner Margaret Fulton by trying your hand at whipping up the perfect Butter Cake! Bring your cake down to CPAC on Wednesday, 31 March between 10am and 6pm and entries will be judged by Ellice Schrader, Vice President of the Cessnock Country Women’s Association (CWA) prior to the performance. The winning entrant will receive a copy of *The Margaret Fulton Cookbook* 50th anniversary celebratory edition, a hamper of selected goodies, and a beautiful Margaret Fulton-inspired apron. For full competition details including judging criteria, head to cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au Tickets to *Margaret Fulton the Musical* are on sale now at the CPAC Box Office, from the CPAC website or by phone on 4993 4266.

Dust off those cake tins and fire up the oven! We’re looking for the region’s best bakers!

Before Margaret Fulton burst into the nation’s kitchens in 1969 with her burnt orange crockpots and chunky stoneware, encouraging housewives to try their hand at Nasi Goreng and Apricot Chicken, Australian food was bland, boring and British - or overly fancy, fancy and French! The first *Margaret Fulton Cookbook* with hundreds of recipes,

tips and full-colour pictures, transformed a generation of Australian housewives into elegant hostesses, serving Chicken Liver Pâté, Sweet and Sour Pork and Chocolate Self-Saucing Pudding. Follow the journey of this culinary icon, from her humble beginnings to super-stardom on Wednesday, 31 March at 8pm as Cessnock Performing Arts Centre present a delightful musical romp based on Margaret Fulton’s best-selling autobiography *I*



REFLECTIONS

The season of Lent is a yearly reminder of the daily call to come home. It is a time of invitation for deeper reflection and meditation on the Word of God and the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

In our Gospel for this week, we see a different Jesus to the popularly portrayed gentle, meek, and mild Jesus. Jesus welcomes children, heals the sick and teaches his disciples. This week we meet Jesus in the Temple and he is not just angry, he is furious! And why is that? Well, the Temple, which is a house of prayer, has been turned into a market-place, so that the Jewish people can perform the rituals of offerings to God and animal sacrifice.

Jesus challenges the commercialisation of religion and the desecration of the Temple, but he does more than that. He also challenges the exclusive nature of religion. The Temple was meant to be a house of prayer for all nations, Jews and Gentiles alike. As he turns over the tables of the money-change and drives the animals out of the Temple, he declares that salvation is for all peoples, not just for some. Jesus was also challenging the nature of Jewish worship. Animal sacrifices and rituals could not bring people to God, but the offering of our lives in worship and loving service could and does. It is spiritual worship that God desires, not sacrificial worship.

And so, Jesus was furious, not for himself but for others. His was a righteous anger, a righteous fury. There are times that we too ought to be angry. Unjust situations should make us angry. When anger at unjust situations has us do something about them to correct them, then anger becomes an act of loving service. Anger can be a dangerous thing, often resulting in us saying or doing things that we later regret. However, standing against unjust situations is a positive outcome of anger.

When our own interests are threatened, it is easy for us to become angry. But how often do we get angry when the interests of others are threatened? Do we stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves? Do we add our voice to other voices of righteous anger that oppose unjust situations, violence, oppression, persecution, hunger and homelessness?

If we do not stand for something, we will fall for anything. The choice is ours to make. Is there something that deserves your righteous anger? something unjust that can be changed by adding your voice to a cry for justice or equality?

May we have the courage and determination to stand up for what is right and correct the things that are unjust.

Blessings, Reverend Nicole

“Righteous Fury”

Making a whip of chords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place.’ John 2.15-16



CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL PLANT GIVEAWAY

Have you built a new home during the 2020/2021 financial year? Did you know you can get up to six free plants for your property from Cessnock City Council?

There is a range of plants available from ground covers like Star Jasmine through to shrubs including Coastal Rosemary, Bottlebrush and Gardenia.

Application forms are available from Council’s Customer Service Officers, Vincent Street, Cessnock or via Council’s website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. Completed application forms must be received no later than **5pm Friday 19 March 2021**.

Any enquires regarding the application for supply of trees and shrubs should be directed to Councils Vegetation & Civic Spaces Coordinator, Lyall Green, on 4993 4100.

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au 62-78 Vincent St, Cessnock 02 4993 4100

Pokolbin, Hunter Valley, takes out top NSW destination and second place across Australia, in the Wotif 2021 Aussie Town of the Year Award

Pokolbin has been announced by Wotif.com as the top NSW destination, and second to Cairns QLD nationally, in the Wotif 2021 Aussie Town of the Year Awards.

Now in its fourth year, Wotif’s Aussie Town of the Year awards recognise ten locations across the country for their contribution to Australian tourism. Designed to celebrate the many Australian cities, towns and regions worthy of the spotlight, the awards provide travellers with inspiration on where to go in Australia in 2021.

The 2021 Wotif Aussie Town of the Year awards are based on a data index which considers a destination’s accommodation quality, affordability and traveller satisfaction on Wotif.com from January 2020 - September 2020.

This year’s winning destinations, which NSW dominated overall, have been awarded based on their accommodation quality, affordability and traveller satisfaction. New to this year, the awards also recognise destinations that have met the changing needs of travellers over the last twelve months, by offering increased flexibility, good-value deals and appealing activities and attractions.

Commenting on the awards, Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it’s no surprise Pokolbin is the top destination in our state. We are home to so many amazing tourism operators who provide a first class experience, surrounded by our natural beauty.

Amy Cooper, CEO of the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association added that they are delighted that Pokolbin, in the heart of Wine Country, Hunter Valley has been recognised by the awards, particularly as they recognise the positive reviews of travellers.

“After a challenging 2020, we congratulate the businesses who have worked so hard to adapt to the changing needs of travellers and who have offered a warm welcome to the many new visitors to our region in 2020”

Interestingly the only 5/5 was given to Deju Vu Estate accommodation. The 2021 top ten destinations are:-

1. Cairns, QLD
2. Pokolbin, NSW
3. Apollo Bay, VIC
4. Mudgee, NSW
5. Lakes Entrance, VIC

6. McLaren Vale, SA
7. Hervey Bay, QLD
8. Exmouth, WA
9. Port Macquarie, NSW
10. The Entrance, NSW



Greta Museum's Street Library - Get FREE Books and DVDs

(Outside when the museum is open)



- Books with kids' lunch box ideas
- Children's story books
- Good fiction, biographies and how-to books etc. - put your feet up!

Also - buy LOCAL -

Greta Museum has an assortment of gifts for any occasion, inside.



Including local history books - well worth a read.



Call into GRETA MUSEUM

Wednesday or Saturday, 11am - 3pm.

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

We have a Covid Safe environment.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000

FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE

It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.

When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct.

ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED

For non-life threatening calls.....

Police Assistance Line (PAL)....
131 444

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

Branxton to Greta Cycleway works kick off

Cessnock City Council has announced that works have started on the construction of the Branxton to Greta cycleway. Council secured \$1,950,000 under Round 4 of the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund to build the 3.3km off-road, shared cycleway & will kick in \$650,000 of its own funds.

The project has been a long time coming. It was first funded and then de-funded in 2004 when the state government provided \$600,000 to be matched by Cessnock City Council but CCC declined the offer from the State Government due to its inability to provide the matching finance of \$600,000 over four years. After reconsidering the offer Cessnock City Council resolved that they would agree to the proposal to provide matching funding of \$600,000 subject to the repayment period being six (6) years, the revised estimate confirming that the funding of \$1.2 million was adequate & that

Council funding be provided from funds allocated towards RTA works and existing programs. The project then stalled up until now where the project cost is significantly higher viz., \$1.2m to \$2.6m. Fortunately, Cessnock City Council will provide a co-contribution of \$650,000 to bring the cycleway to life that will connect the Branxton and Greta War Memorials. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's great to see works starting. "This project has been a shared community vision, driven by the community who have tirelessly advocated to see it become a reality. The Central Hunter Business Chamber and the local RSL sub-branches hard work has certainly been rewarded. It will be a unique way for current generations to recognise the sacrifice of local service personnel." "It will offer residents and visitors another opportunity to enjoy our wonderful local government area and



its rural surrounds. No doubt for many locals it will become a regular part of their weekend for walks and rides with family and friends." Construction will be undertaken in a number of

stages through until March 2022, subject to ground conditions and weather. During works there will be some unavoidable traffic disruptions. Council thanks residents for their

understanding and patience. Further expansion of the cycleway to incorporate a war memorial aspect along the route is being co-ordinated by Hunter Anzac Memorial Limited.

The Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) supports the Australian Government's commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional

Communities into the future.

• Photo above: The official turning of the first sod marking the commencement of construction. (L-R) Brian Furner OAM President Branxton RSL Sub-branch, Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Brett Wild President of the ANZAC Memorial Trust & Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent



ask Piggotts!

local caring service

Saving you money on your Scripts!



The Pharmaceutical Benefit Safety Net Scheme is a way of ensuring that you do not pay too much for your prescription medicines. If you spend more than a certain amount in a year (the Safety Net threshold), you become entitled to cheaper or FREE pharmaceutical medicines for the remainder of that calendar year.

Piggott's Pharmacy will keep a record of how much you have spent on prescription medicines and process the paperwork for you to make sure that YOU get the maximum SAVINGS and discounts which you are eligible for. If you happen to visit another Pharmacy, we can contact them for you and add those scripts to your record.

If you have family, all of your prescriptions can be included on the one Safety Net Record Form.

- Ask Piggott's Pharmacy about the many services we provide:
- Personalised Piggott Pill Pouches
- Home Medication Reviews
- Keep your Scripts on file
- Free local delivery

Pop into any Piggott's Pharmacy or call us today to see how Piggott's Pharmacy can make life easier for you and save you money.



Caring for Newcastle and The Hunter since 1970... ask Piggotts!

PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY BRANXTON

56 Maitland St, Branxton • Phone: 4938 1156

OPEN: Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5:30pm,
Saturday 8.30am – 1pm, closed Sunday

PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY HUNTLÉE

Shop 1, Huntlee Town Centre, Branxton • Phone: 4067 7866

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

STEVE'S RANT

Over the past twelve months, it has become clear how the structure of our society has lost its balance, with the great majority living off the public purse. How else could Dan Andrews, Annastacia Palaszczuk and Kim Jong whasis'-name from the West gain support and approval from the proletariat for their collective program against free enterprise, private ownership, capitalism and democracy? It could only be that the majority are protected from the communist-style attack on business by having a guaranteed income from the Government.

Early last year I stated that there would be a reckoning for government by fiat that has, it seems, become an acceptable way of running this country. Run- as the Chinese Communist Party practises it, The Islamic State of Iran, North Korea, Myanmar and all the 'Tin-Pot' regimes in Africa.

Ned Kelly said 'So it has come to this' on his way to the gallows. Well, it does not have to be. Government for the people, by the people, is what we should expect and demand. The question now is what political party in Australia will hold up the principles of democracy and govern for the majority and not the self-righteous minorities trying to push their agendas to the detriment of freedom, economic viability and national security.

For the National Liberal Party to remain relevant, ScoMo has to assert the national authority and dissolve the national cabinet. He must tell state and territories

leaders that they (as of now) must fund all the consequences of their unilateral decision on shutdown and on travel restrictions they have made in the past. (All Commonwealth funding, including Job Keeper, Job Seeker and grants for specific purposes related to the China Virus to cease).

Well, how to rate the different political parties as to their commitment to government by the people for the people Starting at the top of the table, we see a would-be conservative party white-anted by the WETS (soft liberals in lowercase) who accept that unless we all become hunter-gatherers and live-in caves the world will end. These are the Doomers, and all parties have these twits to a greater or lesser extent. This mediocre bunch are the seat warmers of parliament and contribute nothing to constructive debate but vote for the latest fad hoping that they retain their seat and all the financial benefits they derive from that place e.g., they believe in global warming -human-made climate change because most voters accept that as a fact-so it must be real.

Although this cohort has a responsibility to do their research and make intelligent decisions based on that, it is too easy to just go with the flow; thank providence people such as Craig Kelly who has the wit to examine in detail the claims of the alarmist fanatics and call these twerps out. The sad state of the Liberal Party



is confirmed when ScoMo, the erstwhile leader, tries to shut down Craig Kelly for telling the truth about Ivermectin and hydroxy-chloroquine as treatments for the China Virus. Conclusion; the Liberal Party is unfit to provide democratic government even though some people in the Party are excellent. This can be judged by the constant heckling they receive from the Looney-left and the ABC. The Labor Party, once the Peoples Party (workers) are reduced to puppets of the unions and pulled hither and thither by the 'Chattering Class' and the myopic academic theorists who don't know black from white or anything in between. The Labor Party is not up to providing democratic government as judged by the people in the last three elections despite the crass stupidity of Malcolm Turnbull and his lickspittle followers.

The National Party; again split between timeservers and erstwhile doers who don't hold party politics levers. A great disappointment and the up-and-coming Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party are taking the doers' seats. Unless they can find a strong personality such as Barnaby Joyce to put ginger back in the game the Nationals are just a fading entity.

The Greens, well what can I say? Well, quite a bit. Bob Brown's original Party was formed during the great awaking of humanity to the threat posed by uncontrolled development and ignorance of the importance of protecting existing habitat and biodiversity. They initially achieved many worthwhile missions to this effect and even convinced Bob Hawke, then Prime Minister, to commit to planting a billion trees. We don't know if he achieved this, but we know that many trees are lost each time a severe fire season gets out of hand. Would that the greens had stayed with their initial aims and not become involved with lefty rubbish they could have been a much more powerful lobby to do good. All they represent now is inner-city self-absorbed, self-righteous twits. Ask one of these people how many trees of the non-eucalyptus variety they have planted? The Greens have ruled themselves out as a possible democratic government.

Independent and minor single policy groups are a waste of votes and will never create a government. Parties registered with the Australian Electoral Commission together with those which are not, number 40 parties. Don't waste your vote.

I think I am correct in that we now only have One Nation and the Fishers Shooters and the Farmers Party. The latter is a narrow issue group who have progressed on local issues. They do not represent a large voter base nationally and therefore are unlikely to gain power unless they throw their lot in with a like-minded party.

One Nation has been derided ever since Pauline Hanson was voted into national parliament. The party has been a gold mine for the press to poke fun and belittle, especially the ABC. Since the inception of One Nation, the party has had substantial support from a large base. They have learnt some tough lessons but are now increasingly included in poll calculations and discussions on policy. With the likes of the formidable Mark Latham joining the party and the likelihood of recruiting other outsiders who have become disillusioned by their current affiliations, a continuing future for One Nation is assured. It was One Nation that almost unseated Joel Fitzgibbon in the last election.

Enough of politics. The main point to make is what long term actions can we take to mitigate or even prevent the devastating bushfires our eucalyptus forests present when they are not managed. There is anecdotal evidence from last year's fire season that exotic trees and plant varieties slowed or even stopped fires and certainly saved properties and people.

A property owner on the south coast of NSW described how a stand of European deciduous trees prevented a fire from engulfing his property.

In the high-country west of Surfer Paradise, the rain forest, where it was continuous and did not include eucalyptus trees, prevented the fire's progress into the rain forest. This fire was the fire that destroyed the world-famous Hill Top Resort. The fire could not progress more than 50 to 60 metres into that rain-forest.

When you drive through the foothills of Gloucester Tops between east Gresford to Dungog and Bulahdelah, you travel along relatively high ridgelines with very steep paddocks falling away into densely wooded gullies. These gullies contain remnant rain forest. You ask yourself; how have these remained given that the steep slope has been cleared for grazing in the past and must indeed have experienced grass fires. I have noted similar situations in

PNG. Tropical rainforest that has been cleared by the cut and burn process to make native gardens do not recover and kunai grass takes over. The kunai grass burns after lightning strikes but stops at the edge of remnant rain forest which again was left uncut because the terrain is too steep to cultivate. It was an accepted fact that the rain forest would not burn until the alarmist Doomers cried that it did in SE Queensland in the last big fire event.

The fact was that the area burnt, although thought of as rain forest had eucalyptus mixed in, which provided the fuel for the fire. The fire stopped when it encountered continuous stands of non-eucalypt trees. In a rain forest, a variety of trees provide up to three canopies which allows a micro-climate of wet, humid conditions to persist even in the hottest months of the year.

Besides, the plant growth is ever-green and without the oil and resin of the eucalyptus trees and other dry growth that relies on periodic fire to reproduce.

A continuous stand of rainforest trees such as native figs, lily-pilly, black bean, macadamia, native tamarind, red cedar, kurrajong, lacebark and flame trees is to name a few that will not burn. Planting out stands of these types of trees with their attendant understory growth would provide firebreaks in strategic approaches to built-up areas. Individual property owners who invest the interest and effort to plant and maintain them will also benefit.

The eucalypt trees are adapted to fire, are fast-growing in the right conditions and have the habit of shedding leaves and dead branches continuously throughout the year; hence the highly flammable litter on

the ground. In spring many varieties shed bark for the new hot season growth such as spotted gums. Since the advent of man on this continent, the burn and regrowth process accelerated and slowly over the centuries rain forest has retreated as the eucalypt gained the upper hand and the continent dried out as a result.

An area that has been subject to fire has the topsoil exposed and vulnerable to wind and rain erosion. The eucalypt does not mind this, but any rain forest tree will not survive this environment even if its seeds germinate. Further, the ground's ability to retain moisture is destroyed together with all the microfauna and flora essential to healthy topsoil.

The native people's management of the country with cold season slow burns was ideal for eucalyptus forest. Still, since Europeans' advent of uninformed forest management, fuel loads were allowed to build up, resulting in catastrophic fires. Plantations of introduced pine and the monoculture of native eucalypts exacerbated the problems as was the case in the ACT some time back.

Local authorities, landowners and those responsible for land management must rethink how trees are planted and protected. From the point of view of a forest ranger the scale of native forest is immense and to suggest he or she might change the mix of plant life in the forests is just not realistic. But where it matters in the business of fire breaks and protecting life and property, small changes to the mix of plant species is possible and put into practice on a national scale will, to my mind, have long-lasting benefits in the management of country.

Cheers Steve.



End tech giants' advertisement tax lurk to fund local media. The transnational tech giants have white-anted the media companies, siphoned off advertising revenue and simultaneously ignored any moral responsibility to promulgate a fair reporting of factual news. To add insult to injury, they are also tax bludgers; advertising revenue is diverted to tax havens, minus mere tokenistic payments to the Australian

government. Perhaps the answer is to deny a tax deduction for any advertising that is not paid into an Australian account that can be audited locally. The extra revenue could be used to bolster local media companies that are slowly being eviscerated by transnational behemoths with no loyalty to the truth or to any one nation. - Andrew Moran, Narara

Submit a letter to the editor

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

or emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au

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

HUNTLEE SHOPPING CENTRE UNVEILS COMMUNITY-INSPIRED INDIGENOUS MURAL



Hunter Valley residents will be greeted by the rich culture and history of the Wonnarua Land region this week, as Huntlee Shopping Centre unveils a new, vibrant community mural by a local Indigenous artist John Robinson.

Commissioned by Coles in partnership the Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation, the artwork, called 'Connecting to Country' spans 20 metres

and features the handprints of more than 400 locals throughout the piece. John is a self-taught Bundjalung artist who grew up in the Hunter Valley and has created numerous Indigenous artworks featured in public locations across the Hunter region. Artist John says he was inspired to share and celebrate the region's Indigenous heritage, with the inspiration for his latest artwork coming from all

living creatures in the Hunter Valley region, harmoniously habituating together. "The Rainbow Serpent is the creator of the land, and the Wedge tailed Eagle is the totem of the Wonnarua people. All the other animals represent totems of other Aboriginal people which visit and live in the area," he said. "The white symbols around the landscape represent the Aboriginal elders that watch

and protect their land, the white circle dots are campfires and meeting stop, and the lines connected to them are the tracks were the Aboriginal people have travelled." "The coloured dots are the colours of the Rainbow Serpent and the colour of the land today. The handprints below represent the community of today." The mural is part of a wider Coles initiative to partner with local Indigenous artists

and commission artworks at new Coles supermarkets, with more than 15 murals already in place across the country. Coles Chief Sustainability, Property and Export Officer Thinus Keeve, who leads Coles' Indigenous program, said the project was a significant acknowledgement of the local Aboriginal culture in the Hunter Valley region. "As Australia's largest private sector employer of Indigenous Australians, we know it's very important that our stores and team members are connected to the communities in which they operate," he said. "We've commissioned several Indigenous artworks at our stores across the county and we know the Huntlee community will enjoy this colourful piece for many years to come." Coles is recognised as the largest private sector employer of Indigenous

Australians — with more than 4,700 team members employed across Australia and engagements with more than 130 Indigenous suppliers since the inception of the Coles Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander plan. Huntlee Shopping Centre opened late last year and was the first retail centre in Huntlee, featuring a number of retailers including a full-line Coles supermarket. • Photo at left: Indigenous artist John Robinson and mural

STANHOPE HANDYMAN SERVICES

Branxton and surrounding areas

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

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

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

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

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

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



the

tatt's

hotel

Greta

MONDAY ~ Pool Competition commencing soon with \$120 to start

TUESDAY ~ Happy Hour \$5 Schooners

WEDNESDAY ~ Members Draw that Jackpots each week & Joker Draw

THURSDAY ~ RAFFLES Drawn at 6:30pm \$2ea or for \$5

FRIDAY ~ **'Footy Fever' Big Screen & FREE Sausage Sizzle**

SATURDAY ~ \$9 Cocktails

We also have:-

- * good budget accommodation; 10 rooms
- * Tuk Tuk Thai every day; Lunch (except Mondays) & dinner; dine in or Takeaway
- * TAB & Keno Sports Bar



TATTERSALLS

HOTEL

88 High Street, GRETA NSW 2334
P: 02 4938 7302

Tatt's Family Hotel Greta under new management

The current pandemic has seen a large shift in social norms particularly in workplace environs, dining out & entertainment.

Under their new management the Tatt's Hotel Greta has seen this as a challenge ~ how do we combine dining out & entertainment in a safe family environment?

What about

- Great food & good service staff **ALREADY IN PLACE**
- Sports Bar with TAB & Keno **ALREADY IN PLACE**
- **COMING** ~ Outside areas that can cater for all the family & family special functions
- **COMING** ~ A regular piano bar in restaurant
- **COMING** ~ A covered outside area incorporating a childs' playground
- **COMING** ~ Wednesday Night "Trivia & Thai" commencing at 7:30pm

The "Trivia & Thai" night will be hosted by local Greta resident, Barry Hope, who has been running Trivia nights for the last 20+ years & has had great success with his formula of it being 'informative & entertaining'. "There will be a cover charge of \$5 but if you elect to dine in it will be 'no charge'. We will have 2 session; a general 20 questions & then a 5 question trivia that will jackpot each week until it is won. There will be some great prizes & I guarantee a fun night," said Barry.

The new management is headed by Len O'Mally who has had 32 years experience in hotel management & hotel/club restaurants & is a country boy at heart coming off a property near Bourke in Western NSW.

Len was Executive Chef at Concorde Golf Club, The Riverside Oaks Resort, The Robinhood Hotel Waverley & licensee at the Coach & Horses Hotel Randwick just to mention a few.

"I have been licensee & Executive Chef at a number of hotels in the Sydney metro area and just love the challenge of working in the Hunter Valley. The local area is expanding at an almost exponential rate with residential subdivisions selling fast and we would love to be part of it".

"I have a number of other interests here but, at the moment, Tatts Family Hotel is my main priority," said Len.

• Photo above: The eastern side of Tatts Family Hotel is to have a covered outside area & child playground



Members say ..



was encouraging to hear MR O Kitchen Espresso Grocer have joined in. Council looks forward to seeing more local cafés get involved. We all have a part to play in reducing our waste and this is a simple way to contribute.

The first Council meeting of the year highlighted the fantastic works being carried in our community. Council considered progress against the 2017-21 Delivery Program actions and the Capital Works Program. It is good

Clr Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council



Mayor Pynsent at Mr O's with owner Gerald Morillo and barista Kyle Cervo. The café are participating in the Green Caffein initiative.

Last week Pokolbin was announced as the top NSW destination, and second place nationally, in the Wotif 2021 Aussie Town of the Year Awards. The awards are based on a data which considers a destination's accommodation quality, affordability and traveller satisfaction. It is not a surprise Pokolbin was named the top destination in our state. We are home to many fantastic business who provide a first class visitor experience. Well done to every business in Pokolbin. Council continues to support the local tourism industry and its positive growth. Residents would have noticed various new signage located across the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). The signage, funded by the NSW Government, meets the growing demand for quality tourism infrastructure that is vital to our local economy. Council is also looking for additional funding opportunities to install more suburbs signs across the LGA.

Council is participating in a swap-and-go coffee cup scheme, called Green Caffein. Green Caffein's reusable cup scheme makes being eco-friendly a simple choice for coffee drinkers. Residents can download the Green Caffein app and sign up, then get a reusable cup from a participating café. Enjoy a cup of coffee, then return the cup to any Green Caffein café. And as long as you return the cup within 30 days, it is completely free to use. In fact, it is like a library for coffee cups. It

news for our community, we are delivering a huge Capital Works Program and we continue attracting more funding from both the NSW and Australian Government. Council will soon finish some significant projects such as Bridges Hill Park and Playground, Gingers Lane Upgrade and Hart Round Roundabout Construction, Paynes Crossings Bridge and Millfield Skatepark. Works will then start on an upgrade to Col Brown Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri and the Kurri Kurri Town Centre Upgrade.

To keep up to date with works visit Council's website and view the [Council works section](#). The [Cessnock City eNewsletter](#) is also issued monthly and residents can subscribe



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Last week's appointment of a Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter in Taylor Martin MLC is a positive step in keeping the Hunter front of mind in State decision-making. It's also perfect timing, particularly as we continue to pursue a better design for the Singleton bypass of the

New England Highway and work together with our regional partners, including the Hunter Joint Organisation, on a number of initiatives to promote economic diversity and attract new industries and investment to our region. We're also taking an active stance on the expansion of health services in Singleton, both physical and mental. Working in partnership with the Singleton Local Health Committee, this remains a long-standing issue on our Advocacy Agenda and was highlighted recently as Singleton was one of 20 councils that contributed to a Local Government NSW (LGNSW) submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Access to Health and Hospital Services in Regional NSW. The submission builds on positions supported by councils across NSW through resolutions of the LGNSW Annual Conference that collectively, councils have a wealth of knowledge and experience that can be used to guide and inform health policy and administration across rural, regional and remote NSW. Importantly, it advocates that the NSW Government involve local government in finding locally relevant solutions to improving the provision of medical services outside metropolitan areas, in response to serious issues with the length of waiting times, access, cost and availability of services generally. Partnerships between the State and local governments aren't new, and in fact deliver important infrastructure and social and cultural outcomes for communities. We can see it happening in Singleton right now, as we work together to deliver facilities and programs based on identifying needs at a local level and working with the NSW Government to deliver the projects to make them a reality. That includes the arts and culture centre currently under construction in Townhead Park, the transformation of our Town Centre laneways (with an array of activities to kick off from next month), the Town Centre Upgrade – Stage 2 and the entire Resources for Regions program that is set to deliver \$4,571,283 in projects and programs across our local government area this year. The LGNSW submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry may help to lay the framework that those partnerships also become more prominent when it comes to developing and implementing policy – including health. I am very keen to invite Mr

Martin to Singleton to experience the issues important to our community, so that he can take that first-hand knowledge to influence decision-making in Macquarie Street. Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

THE HUNTER'S THERMAL COAL HAS DECADES AHEAD

There are a range of views out there about coal and the future of thermal coal. The conversation about coal has been driven by climate change concerns and issues affecting the environment. But here is something that we can hopefully all agree on – some of the last thermal coal burnt on planet Earth should come from the Hunter, if we care about the environment. Hunter coal is some of the cleanest and purest. When it is burnt, it is able to generate the necessary heat using much less coal, which overall means that you don't need to burn as much for the same result. Emissions then, per kilo of coal burnt, are lower. By contrast, coal from other sources is much dirtier, less efficient and creates more emissions. In many international countries they continue to build brand new coal-fired power stations, each with a life of 35+ years. Each of these coal-fired power stations, along with the already existing ones, will require coal to fuel them in the years ahead. So, where will these power stations source their coal from? Well, they might get it from other countries, or other parts of Australia, buying dirtier and less efficient coal that requires more to be burnt and hence creates more emissions. Or, they might get it from the Hunter and burn less, creating fewer emissions. The one certainty is – they will be buying coal from somewhere. If we genuinely care about the environment, and if we accept that coal-fired power stations are going to exist based on decisions made by international and interstate Governments, outside of our control, then Hunter coal is the best decision for all. And it looks highly likely that this will continue to be the case for the next 30 or 40 years, at least.

COVID GIVES US SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Distribution of the COVID Vaccine has led to some interesting protests in the U.S. One of the "concerns" of anti-vaxxer types is that

the Vaccine has a microchip in it that will allow Government and big business to track our every move. Scary stuff right? But consider this; what if someone invented a product, that contained a microchip that could be constantly monitored, and that we as individuals in a society decided that we would buy these products, pay a monthly use fee and even upgrade these devices as the technology (tracking) improved. Why would anyone bother with a microchip in a vaccine when the great majority of people already carry mobile phones? 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



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

The world is becoming more complex and confusing. Public debate too often seems irrational and conflicted. Conspiracy theories have become all too common. The latest scare campaign comes from the modern-day "anti-vaxxers". The movement is not new, it has been around in some form since the 19th Century. What are they about? That I can't quite work out. I do know that in the past, vested interests have been exposed. In other words, some protestors sought financial benefit in their cause. Then there's the crazies who sign up to "new world order" and "the virus isn't real" type conspiracies. Some people have understandable and legitimate concerns and are reluctant to be vaccinated. They include people with existing health conditions. They should be absolutely free to decline the vaccination. Hopefully, the experts will be in a position to allay their fears over time. But I have little tolerance for those who undermine public confidence in the vaccination program with their conspiracy theories

and scare campaigns. Our only certain path back to a strong economy and our previous freedoms is widespread vaccination. The anti-vaxxers are a threat to the well-being of our communities. Further, we are spending tens of millions of taxpayers' money on information campaigns to build public confidence in the vaccines. The actions of the anti-vaxxers undermine the effectiveness of those campaigns. It is also an offence to our GPs who have joined to give strong support for the vaccination program. It's them we need to listen to. Please, if you have any doubts, talk to your own GP.

I was saddened to receive a call from Yancoal on last week to inform me of the Board's decision to move Cessnock's Austar Mine from "care and maintenance" to permanent closure. Cessnock once boasted up to 40 pits within 30 kilometres of the CBD. Together they directly employed 10,000 workers. On Friday the City lost its last mine, again. Originally Pelton Pit, generations of Hunter workers have worked and trained there. Sadly, too many have lost their lives too. Growing up and well into my adulthood, it seemed everyone worked or knew someone who worked at Pelton-Ellalong-Austar. Austar is home to some of the best coking coal in the world but it has become too expensive and too dangerous to mine. An important chapter in our economic and social history is now closing. It's very sad. Before anyone jumps up to scream "the transition is on", Austar's quality coking coal has no shortage of buyers and is of high value, it's just too dangerous to mine. Austar has closed and re-opened many times but I fear this is the final curtain. However, hope springs eternal and we don't know what opportunities new technology might bring. Certainly, the quality of Greta seam coal will keep investors interested. In the meantime, we are left to reflect on both the tragedies and the wealth, training and jobs the mine delivered for our region. I've spoken with the company and recommended we all work together on a monument of something similar to mark the impact of the mine on our local community. Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

NSW GOVERNMENT SET TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES FOR NAIDOC WEEK 2021 I encourage our Upper Hunter electorate communities to apply for funding for COVID-safe NAIDOC Week events with applications now open for funding for the 4 – 11 July celebrations. NAIDOC Week is a significant time in our communities, sharing and celebrating our ancient culture and diversity. Having helped communities to successfully stage a range of COVID-safe celebrations last year, including fun days, arts projects and online experiences, we're confident of being able to support these again in 2021. Now is the time to start planning for July's events, and I encourage communities to take up this opportunity. The NAIDOC Grants program is an initiative administered by Aboriginal Affairs NSW that aims to celebrate Aboriginal history, culture and achievements during NAIDOC Week. Through a variety of grants, ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, eligible organisations are supported to promote greater awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history and culture within their broader local or regional community.

REGIONAL STRATEGY AND EDUCATION UNIT TO BENEFIT STUDENTS I am pleased to advise that a dedicated regional, rural and remote policy unit will be created within the Department of Education and will be based in regional NSW. The new unit will be devoted to raising regional, rural and remote students' educational outcomes, and implementing the Government's ambitious reform agenda in regional, rural and remote schools. I welcome the new unit, and students in our Upper Hunter electorate will benefit from a billion-dollar regional education investments focused on providing rural students with all the opportunities they would receive in metro schools. Kids in the regions need a team that can drive reforms and implement programs to eliminate the equity gap that exists between the bush and the city. By locating this new unit in the bush, we know that the senior public servants responsible for implementing our reform agenda will have an inherent understanding of the challenges faced by our regional schools.

Cheers, Michael

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

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



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

**Local
Trades
& Services
Directory**

**Local
Trades
& Services
Directory**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

CHICKEN MANURE
Call ready for
Spring
Free Delivery!
Call Mick
Ph: 0425 836 075
4938 7273



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

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

News
For all your
advertising
needs call
Mike on
4938 1773

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



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

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



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

News

**Branxton &
Vineyards
Real Estate**
4938 3300

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


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



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



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



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



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



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



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

News
P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice *with*



by Anthony Piggott of Piggott's Pharmacies Blackbutt, Branxton, Hamilton, Lambton and Merewether.



Men's health

Regular checkups can help you stay healthy, talk about any concerns and pick up early warning signs of disease or illness

Many Australian men do not look after their own health very well. They tend to avoid or delay regular health checks and their health is often poorer than that of women the same age.

Men can often improve their health with changes to diet, exercise and other lifestyle habits.

Some health issues
Bowel cancer – more common in men than women. Risk increases over the age of 50 years.

Depression – depression affects about 1 in 8 Australian men, and men are more likely to suicide than women. Men are more likely than women to describe physical symptoms of depression, but often do not seek help.

Heart disease – men are more likely to die from heart disease than women. Risk factors for heart disease include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking and overweight, which are more common in men.

Prostate disease – more common in older men. The three main prostate problems are:
• benign prostatic hyperplasia/ hypertrophy (BPH) – the prostate gland gets bigger and affects urine flow.
• prostate cancer
• prostatitis – prostate becomes sore and swollen, usually due to infection.

Erectile dysfunction (ED) – ED, or impotence, means being unable to get and/or

keep an erection that allows sexual intercourse. ED is common, but most men do not like to talk about it with their doctor. Some medical conditions can lead to ED (e.g. diabetes, obesity, heart disease, high cholesterol, Parkinson's disease). Drinking too much alcohol, smoking, stress and some medicines can also cause ED.

Low testosterone – testosterone is a male sex hormone. A low testosterone level can be caused by disorders of the testes or pituitary gland, or other health problems (e.g. obesity).

Self care
A number of health issues are more common in men than women. This may be due to the way men deal with health and lifestyle issues.

Have health checks and tests – ask a Doctor or speak with *your Pharmacist*.

- Don't smoke.
- Limit alcohol to no more than two standard drinks in one day.
- Exercise at a moderate level for at least 30 minutes on all or most days of the week.
- Eat regular, healthy meals, including plenty of fruits, vegetables and wholegrain foods. Limit foods high in fat, sugar or salt.
- Keep to a healthy weight.
- Drink enough water every day to satisfy your thirst and to keep your urine 'light-coloured' (unless a doctor advises not to).

- Learn and use relaxation techniques to manage stress.
- Talk about problems with someone you trust – a friend, relative or health professional.

If you need further information regarding your Health, ask a Piggott's Pharmacist today. This year Veterans' Health Week (VHW) will be held from **Saturday, 26 October, to Sunday, 3 November** and the theme will be **mental wellness**. DVA will support ex-service organisations (ESOs) and community organisations with established links to the veteran community to deliver a range of events to highlight the importance of improving and maintaining good mental health. Mental wellness is essential for an individual's overall health and wellbeing which, in turn, strongly influences our physical health and social connectedness with family, friends and community. For further information contact Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling (24/7): 1800 011 046 or the DVA website <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health>

• Learn and use relaxation techniques to manage stress.
• Talk about problems with someone you trust – a friend, relative or health professional.
If you need further information regarding your Health, ask a Piggott's Pharmacist today. This year Veterans' Health Week (VHW) will be held from **Saturday, 26 October, to Sunday, 3 November** and the theme will be **mental wellness**. DVA will support ex-service organisations (ESOs) and community organisations with established links to the veteran community to deliver a range of events to highlight the importance of improving and maintaining good mental health. Mental wellness is essential for an individual's overall health and wellbeing which, in turn, strongly influences our physical health and social connectedness with family, friends and community. For further information contact Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling (24/7): 1800 011 046 or the DVA website <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health>



North Rothbury Tidy Town Christmas Raffle a HUGE success

North Rothbury Tidy Town had to cancel their main fundraiser, the Twilight Markets, last year because of the pandemic. The ever resourceful group decided, in its fundraiser place, to conduct a raffle to raise money for their \$4\$ applications. A BIG thank you goes to The Boutique Hotel, Coles at Huntlee, Radford Park & LWP (Huntlee developers)

for their prize donations & to North Rothbury Tidy Town members who dutifully sold the raffle tickets. A special 'thank you' goes to member & vice-president Mark Stanford for organizing the roster & for delivering the winning prizes. Just under \$2000 was raised. The raffle was drawn on Monday 21st December

2020 outside Coles at Huntlee at 5pm. 1st – Accommodation Voucher Boutique Hotel – Sophie from North Rothbury – Ticket A80
2nd – \$200 Coles Giftcard – Graeme from East Branxton – Ticket F23
3rd – Radford Park Hamper – Kat from Huntlee – Ticket C96
4th – LWP Huntlee Christmas Ham – Tanya from East Branxton –

Ticket A32
Everyone was thrilled to be phoned by Mark and advised of their win! Thank you to all concerned especially the prize donors. Lets hope this year they can proceed with the Twilight Markets.

• Photo below: Tidy Town member Michelle Gontier, at left, helps Deb Warwick, Huntlee Shopping Centre Manager draw the winning tickets



Bring family and friends together at Easter for a feast starring succulent rolled pork roast.

INGREDIENTS
1.5kg boneless rolled pork loin
2 teaspoons vegetable oil
2 teaspoons cumin seeds
2 teaspoons fennel seeds
1 teaspoon dried chilli flakes (optional)
2 teaspoons sea salt

RELISH
25g butter, chopped
2 large red onions, halved, thinly sliced
1/2 cup whole-berry cranberry sauce
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

METHOD
Step 1
Preheat oven to 220°C/200°C fan-forced. Place pork in a large roasting pan. Add 1/2 cup cold water to pan. Rub pork with oil. Sprinkle with cumin, fennel, chilli (if

Roast pork loin with cranberry, onion and balsamic relish



using) and salt. Roast for 15 minutes.

Step 2
Reduce oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Roast for 1 hour 15 minutes or until pork is cooked through. Cover pork with foil. Stand for 10
Step 3
Meanwhile, make relish Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add onion. Cook, stirring, for 8 to 10 minutes or until soft. Add cranberry sauce and vinegar. Cook, stirring, for 3 to 4 minutes or until thick. Serve pork with relish.

Follow the simple steps below & enjoy better health

- drink 2L of water daily.
- ensure my vaccinations are all up to date.
- do 30 minutes of exercise daily.
- always walk the long way and take the stairs.
- eat 2 serves of fruit daily.
- try to get 8 hours of sleep.
- eat 5 serves of vegetables daily.
- schedule in a regular medical check up.
- say 2 positive things about myself daily.
- check in with a mate and ask "RUOK"?



..... find something you love & you will never work another day in your life

Branxton local & regular local sport news contributor for The News, Mark Bercini, has started out on a new adventure in life after 20 years of working in the underground coal mining industry.

The 41-year-old had worked at various mines throughout the Hunter Valley over the past 20 years, but has now taken the opportunity to branch out into his real passion in life – fitness.

His newly formed business “MAB Fitness & Health” is based at the Miller Park Sporting Grounds in Branxton, and caters for a wide range of ages and fitness levels.

With classes from High Intensity Interval Training, Boxing, Weights, Circuit Training and Boot Camps, Mark has a class to suit the needs of every individual. He also offers one-on-one PT sessions for those that prefer that type of service.

“After working in the mines for the past 20 years the time was right for a change, and the old saying goes if you find something you love, you never work a day in your life. After being heavily involved in local sporting communities for the past 22 years I’m now doing something I love for a living. I really get a kick out of seeing people achieve, knowing that I have had some input into that. People’s goals are my goals and I’m very passionate about seeing people reach these goals,” Mark stated.

For further information follow Mark’s Facebook Page “MAB Fitness & Health,” or you can reach him directly on 0408429710.

• Photo: Mark & daughter Tamika. We wish him well in his new venture



Has your phone stopped ringing?



You need to advertise your business

Call Mike at
‘The News’
4938 1773

AUSTRALIA’S COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY.

COVID-19 vaccines will keep Australia safe and protect our way of life. The people most at risk of serious illness and those most likely to be exposed to the virus in our communities will be vaccinated first, including:

- Quarantine and border workers
- Frontline health care, disability and aged care workers
- People living in aged and disability care accommodation

Vaccination offers the best protection from COVID-19, but it’s also important we all continue to remain COVIDSafe.

To find out when it’s your turn, visit australia.gov.au or call the National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline **1800 020 080**.

BE COVIDSAFE

COVID-19 VACCINATION
Safe. Effective. Free.

Cessnock and Wine Country Toastmasters

Visitors always welcome!



Why Toastmasters?

- It’s great for developing public speaking skills
- Overcome fear of public speaking
- A Self-paced program
- It will help with presentation skills and confidence
- It allows you to practice in a supportive environment
- And best of all.....It’s FUN!

To enquire contact

Area 4990 4093

Area www.cessnocktoastmastersclubs.org

www.cessnock.toastmastersclubs.org

Venue:

Cessnock Leagues Club

When:

Every Monday 7-9pm


WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

www.toastmasters.org

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.


WITH

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



SHAW & BUNNER
LEGAL

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



Find us on  

North Rothbury Tidy Towns
House of the Month Caring for our environment



House of the Month - March 2021

21 Reid Street, North Rothbury has been picked by our last winner, as their choice as the best house from North Rothbury, Huntlee and Hanwood. Congratulations on your beautiful home! This month's winners gets to select next month's winner, and with all this rain everyone should be in with an excellent chance!

Buy now - pay later (BNPL) service

When you use a buy now pay later (BNPL) service, you can buy a product and delay payment. You usually pay off your purchase over a few weeks. For bigger purchases, it may be longer. You don't pay interest on the purchase. Instead you're charged fees, and they can add up quickly. While BNPL can be convenient, it can be difficult to juggle repayments with other financial commitments. In 2020, ASIC research into the buy now pay later industry found that in order to meet repayments on time, one in five consumers:



ensure safe practices. BNPL operators have agreed to abide by a new code of conduct after facing criticisms about lending practices. The new code drafted by

payment upfront at the time of the purchase. For transactions between \$2,000 and \$15,000 BNPL firms are committing to using at least some external data, such as a bank statement, in

their assessments. For transactions between \$15,000 and \$30,000 there is a commitment to use two external data sources. The code also says

the Australian Finance Industry Association came into effect on 1 March 2021 and is the first pledge by the emerging sector to improve safeguards for customers. The BNPL code is in response to a report from the corporate regulator and a Senate inquiry which called for greater self-regulation within the industry, after incidents where customers were being charged high late fees, or instalment plans were approved for people under age. For purchases of less than under \$2,000, the code will not require a credit check, but it commits providers to steps including verifying a customer's identity, and requiring customers make the first instalment

BNPL customers must be adults, and it rules out BNPL products being used to pay for gambling or the purchase of guns. BNPL providers are prohibited from allowing additional purchases when a customer is already late on any repayment. Under the code, BNPL providers also have to commit to setting up processes for customer complaints and to not initiate bankruptcy proceedings against customers. BNPL disputes under the code will be administered by Australian Financial Complaints Authority, where a designated committee will have the power to name and shame companies providing substandard lending to customers. Cheers, Kerri

ment's support for tenants adversely affected by COVID-19 has actually been funded by mum and dad Investors. "Property is without question the most important industry in NSW. It contributes more than any other to the state's finances and employment, and is also one of life's essentials. The various shortcomings in the Government's performance in relation to property last year amounts to a 'fail'," Mr McKibbin says. Room for improvement: five major opportunities But all is not lost. The REINSW has outlined a list of measures the NSW Government could - and should - take in 2021 that would be deserving of an A+ grade. 1. Implement actual tax reform and stop disincentivising people. "The housing market has a huge role to play in the prolonged economic recovery, however the lack of affordable homes for people to buy and rent will significantly limit the positive potential of real estate to contribute," Mr McKibbin says. "Most consumers are unaware that about 40 per cent of the cost of new property is taxes and charges. It's a huge disincentive for people to transact property and the prospect of stamp duty or a property tax is particularly unattractive to people who own their home. Staying put, even if that home is no longer suited to their needs, is viewed as a better option. "Tax should be a consequence of a transaction, not a consideration. There's plenty of empirical evidence to demonstrate that reducing stamp duty will increase property transactions, benefiting both Government and the community, with more

transactions easily offsetting any reduction in tax from a revenue perspective. "Segmenting the market is another opportunity for Government to increase property transactions and help the economy. For instance, incentivising an empty-nester to move from a residence that no longer meets their needs might mean a growing family could move in. It is worth noting that on average, 25% of the available space in residential property is not utilised. "The current rates of tax applied to property transactions are over 30 years out of date. Failing to address this issue is simply unconscionable," he says. 2. End the rental moratorium and compensate out of pocket landlords. "The NSW Government is ignoring the fact that the rental moratorium is jeopardising the financial security of mum and dad investors who depend on their rental income to live. It's simply untrue to assume all landlords are wealthy, with around 80 per cent of landlords owning a single investment property that they depend on to pay their living expenses," Mr McKibbin says. "Other states understand that a healthy rental market means supporting both tenants and landlords. In Western Australia, for instance, there's assistance for landlords adversely affected by deferred or reduced rent arrangements. In Tasmania, a Landlord Support Fund has been established in recognition of the need to support landlords too. "The NSW Opposition successfully negotiated an amendment to the COVID-19 legislation that empowered Government to assist landlords. However, Government has elected to not activate this legislative power. "The NSW Government's strategy of supporting only one side of the rental market is having a predictably imbalanced and

damaging impact," he says. 3. Establish a Property Services Commissioner as a more appropriate regulatory authority for the property services industry. "NSW Fair Trading is a high volume, low dollar value, minimal legal complexity regulatory authority. It is spread across 40-plus industries. If your new toaster doesn't work and you need assistance, you seek the help of Fair Trading. But for property transactions, which always involve large sums of money and are by their very nature legally complex, Fair Trading is incapable of providing adequate consumer protection," Mr McKibbin says. "Property is an industry that demands a dedicated, experienced regulatory authority able to work constructively and cooperatively with the industry. "Fair Trading is currently sitting on hundreds of real estate licence applications, preventing fully trained agents, some with a job waiting for them, from commencing work. These delays can be remedied easily by accredited private sector operators capable of processing these applications within two business days. There is a major disconnect and it is costing the economy. "The establishment of a property services commissioner with industry knowledge and experience is essential from a consumer protection and the economy. We look forward to Parliament's consideration and support for this critical reform," he says. 4. Re-invest the revenue collected from property taxes back into the industry.

"The most recent stamp duty revenue collections show that the NSW Government, in the five months to December 1 2020, pocketed \$3.378 billion, which is \$297 million more than for the corresponding period in 2019. In other words, in the context of the COVID-19 economic fallout, the property industry is a revenue-raising juggernaut," Mr McKibbin says. "With this enormous pool of additional funds, the capacity for Government to support the industry that delivered the windfall is clear. Landlords who are providing support for tenants should be supported by Government, as it clearly has the money," he says. 5. Reform a clunky planning system that constrains new supply and help NSW build affordable homes. "COVID-19 may alter the design of new housing projects but the fundamental need to increase the number of homes built remains critical in metropolitan and regional locations. Tax disincentives for developers, discrepancies between state and local Government priorities and delays in approvals all contribute to unnecessary costs and constrain supply, while preventing the broader economic benefits of a healthy construction market from playing out," Mr McKibbin says.



NSW Government 2020 Report Card

The REINSW has marked the NSW Government's role in the property market in 2020 as a 'fail' but has identified five key ways it could perform to an A+ standard this year. For its efforts in navigating COVID-19 and defending the health of the community, the NSW Government deserves much credit, REINSW CEO Tim

McKibbin says. However, Government has ignored issues of huge importance to the property sector created by COVID-19 and failed to address matters that have plagued the industry for decades, which is extremely disappointing, he says. "Sadly, if property was a subject, the Government came up short in 2020," Mr

McKibbin says. "The opportunity for tax reform was not seized upon. The potential move from stamp duty to a property tax is subject to consultation but either way, swapping one bad tax for another is hardly reform. The proposed property tax cannot be called a broad-based tax when it taxes only property, and at a time when the state desperately needs tax reform, Government has delivered a discussion paper. "From an employment perspective, hundreds of jobs remain in limbo as Fair Trading's bureaucratic inefficiencies keep people out of work, at a time when the industry needs more qualified people to service the needs of the community. "For people who have scrimped and saved to purchase an investment property for their retirement income, or who are paying off a property for their retirement nest egg, the impacts of the rental moratorium have been devastating. The Govern-



Helen Lowing,
Licencee-in-Charge with 30 years Real Estate experience in the local area
BRANXTON & VINE-YARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300
M: 0412 566 041
www.domain.com.au



Miss Bunn with students

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



Branxton Public School

At the end of last year, we farewelled Mrs Mungoven who had been a valued part of Branxton PS for many years. This year we welcome Mr Cliff to our school as a new permanent member of staff. After a year of grandparenting, knee surgery and golf, Mr Johansen has returned to his role of Assistant Principal on Stage 3. Over the holiday break, Mrs Osborne welcomed her 3rd son into her family and Mrs Blakemore is successfully recovering from her knee surgery. Mrs Ballenden is relieving Principal this term.

In 2021 we are fortunate to have 2 additional roles. The COVID intensive learning support program is for the full year and provides additional support to all schools ensuring identified students benefit from high-quality literacy, numeracy or specific subject area small group tuition that best meets their learning needs, led by teachers and educators working in partnership with classroom teachers. These teachers, Mr Tattis and Miss Bunn, along with Mrs Wicks and Mrs Singleton, our LaST teachers, have completed training and have identified the students they will work with. A great opportunity for our students. Congratulations to our Kindergarten 2021! They have had a great start to school. Well done parents for your fantastic preparations! We have so many things to see, hear, do, experience and learn every day at school. Miss Vicary, Mrs



Kinder lunch time

Nimmo, Mrs Turner, Mrs Singleton and Mrs Quilty are looking forward to a wonderful year teaching and learning with Kinder Kookaburras, Magpies and Emus.

The P&C are running a Thompsons Pie Drive which will be delivered on Wednesday 24th March 2021. Perfect timing for the school holidays, so fill up your freezers. All online orders are due in by Friday 12th March at 6pm. Orders can be placed on Flexi schools and will need to be collected from the Branxton Scout Hall on Wednesday 24th March. All profits will go towards a new CiviQ Water Bottle Filling Station.

A big thank you to the P&C for providing funds last year for new maths equipment for each classroom. They have also provided funds for Kindergarten to purchase decodable readers this year.

On Friday 5th February 65 students attended the swimming carnival at Branxton pool. The students demonstrated their personal best at all times.

Dates for the Calendar

Monday 8th March – School Photos

Monday 15th March - P&C AGM 6:00pm in the school library

Australia's COVID-19 Vaccine Roadmap

STAY INFORMED ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES.

Visit health.gov.au for the latest information.

We are working to make sure everyone in Australia has access to safe, effective and free COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines will give us the protection to go about our everyday lives.

To keep up to date with the latest progress, and to ensure your information is reliable, visit health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Safe. Effective. Free.



Australian Government

WHAT TO EAT FOR YOUR TEETH!



Brittany Trudgett - Oral health Therapist
While most of us understand that toothbrushing is essential to the health of our teeth and gums, it is important to note that the foods we eat and drink play a major role in the condition of our oral cavity.

Dental decay is caused by a combination of sugar/carbohydrates and bacteria, and therefore the foods we consume can either be part of the solution or the problem with poor dental health.

In dentistry we like to talk about everyday foods, and sometimes foods. Dentists and Oral health Therapists themselves are no strangers to enjoying the occasional sugary treat, however it is important to note that foods high in sugar (including naturally occurring ones) are sometimes foods. Reoccurring offenders aiding in tooth decay include fizzy drinks, fruit juice, confectionary, baked goods, other foods high in added sugars and in some cases even excess consumption of fruit.

Interestingly, it has been found that when consuming foods high in sugar with a dairy product, the effects of the sugar on the teeth are significantly reduced. This can be used as a tool in aid of the teeth when consuming sometimes foods, like the ones mentioned above. Here is a list of our best tips for healthy

food and drink alternatives for your teeth and gums:

- * Switch fizzy drinks and sports beverages for water
- * Instead of having a glass of fruit juice, enjoy a piece of the whole fruit instead
- * Avoid snacking to avoid the frequency of sugar/carbohydrate exposure on the teeth
- * Enjoy foods including vegetables, nuts and seeds, dairy products and fruit, e.g.;
 - ~ vegetable sticks with hummus or avocado dip
 - ~ Greek yogurt
 - ~ Almonds, walnuts or brazil nuts
 - ~ Popcorn
 - ~ Cheese

When enjoying the occasional sweet treat, follow that by consuming dairy products to reduce the damaging effect on the teeth

Ensure effective toothbrush is completed both morning and night for 2 minutes

Follow the *Healthy Food Pyramid* established by the Australian Government

At Hunter Dental Group, as part of our regular check up appointment, dietary advice and education is provided. If you or your child are experiencing poor oral health in relation to a diet high in sugars/carbohydrates/acids, our team of Oral Health Therapists and Dentists can provide you with achievable advice to ensure better oral health outcomes moving forward. The advice contained in this article is general in nature and does not take into consideration your personal circumstances, allergies or food intolerances. Visit us at either our Greta (02 4938 7281) or Huntlee (02 4088 8084) clinics!

Cheers, Brittany

Smelter site remediation approval paves way for new development and jobs



Plans to remediate a former hydro aluminum smelter site at Kurri Kurri in order to create a new commercial and industrial precinct have been approved by the NSW Government.

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Rob Stokes said the approval to remediate the 80-hectare portion of the site as a containment cell for contaminated material had the potential to create thousands of new jobs for the region.

“This exciting step forward means plans can progress to redevelop the broader 2,000 hectare hydro site to create new jobs in the Hunter while maintaining approximately half of the land for environmental conservation,” Mr Stokes said.

“Its proximity to the Hunter Expressway makes it ideal for a new commercial and industrial precinct and we look forward to working with the landowner and councils to develop a masterplan for the site.

“This is an area with great potential, especially considering the Government recently declared Snowy Hydro’s plans for a new \$610 million gas fired power station as critical state significant infrastructure.” Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey said the NSW Government had also agreed to take on the ongoing management of the containment cell once all the remediation works have been completed and

certified.

“This agreement is crucial to the site’s remediation and future redevelopment,” Mrs Pavey said.

“It ensures adequate arrangements are in place for the long-term management of the containment cell, safeguarding human and environmental health so we can unlock the potential of the site for business and the people of the Hunter region.”

Under the voluntary planning agreement, the Government’s Waste Assets Management Corporation (WAMC) will take on the ownership and environmental management of the containment cell once it has been suitably constructed and passed a five-year warranty period. WAMC’s management of the containment cell will be wholly funded by a \$6.5 million development contribution.

Last coal mine closes in Cessnock LGA



Sad news last week. The Yancoal Board met and decided to transition its Cessnock Austar mine from “care & maintenance” to permanent closure.

The Cessnock LGA once boasted up to 40 pits within 30 kilometres of the CBD. Together they directly employed 10,000 workers.

Last week the City lost its last mine.

Originally Pelton Pit, generations of Hunter workers have worked and trained there. Sadly, too many have lost their lives too.

Growing up and well into my adulthood, it seemed everyone worked or knew someone who worked at Pelton-Ellalong-Austar.

Austar is home to some of the best coking coal in the world but it has become too expensive and too dangerous to win. An important chapter in our economic and social history is now closing. It’s very sad.

Before anyone jumps on to scream “the transition is on”, Austar’s quality coking coal has no shortage of buyers and is of high value, it’s just too dangerous to mine.

Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter

C.R. SMYTH & SON

FUNERAL SERVICES

24 hours
7 days

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



Rutherford
4932 7744

Cessnock
4990 1425

Kurri Kurri
4937 4811



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826

For Sale



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS
REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

EAST BRANXTON



"Older style large family home with new 2 bedroom granny flat"

Older style large family 3 bedroom home with tastefully renewed kitchen & bathroom + just completed free standing 2 bedroom granny flat.
On a large fully fenced block. Easy walk to CBD & schools.
The brand new Granny flat could be utilised as a B & B or permanent rental which would help pay the mortgage.

ASKING \$585,000

NTH. ROTHBURY



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

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

Things You Will Love About This Escape Acreage...

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

ASKING 745,000



Radford Park lets you live large.

Don't miss out! Selling fast

PRICE ~ STAGE 2

Lot No	Area (sq m)	Notes	Status
201	1984	29.7	SOLD
202	2259	Corner	SOLD
203	3551	43	SOLD
204	3127	37.5	DEPOSITED
205	3397	40	\$395,000
206	3343	39.8	\$395,000
207	3459	42	\$395,000
208	4243	46.5	\$395,000
209	4631	40.7	SOLD
210	3828	18.5	\$365,000
211	3385	32.5	DEPOSITED
212	3623	51.1	SOLD
213	3403	96.5	SOLD
214	3055	39.4	SOLD
215	3086	36.5	SOLD
216	3398	33.1	\$375,000
217	3645	32.9	DEPOSITED
218	5022	52.2	DEPOSITED
219	2239	34.5	SOLD
220	2388	34.1	SOLD
221	2964	Corner	DEPOSITED
222	3056	33.4	DEPOSITED
223	2747	33.4	SOLD
224	2573	37.1	SOLD
225	2442	32.44	SOLD
226	2477	32.49	SOLD
227	2669	32.5	SOLD
228	2891	32.5	SOLD
229	3104	32.5	SOLD
230	3282	32.5	SOLD
231	7036	54.82	PLANNING
232	5094	22.58	DEPOSITED

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





From the Lions' Den

The Lions Club of Branxton would like to welcome 2021 by wishing all of our readers a very happy and prosperous 2021. Lions President Brian Thomas welcomed the New Year by saying "2021 will be a big year for the Lions Club of Branxton. We finished off 2020 with the replacement of Branxton's two cemeteries, no hospital signs along with commencing construction of the Branxton Lions Community Hub building. There are plenty of fund raising opportunities in planning for 2021 to ensure the Lions continue to support both the community and others in need."

Vale Alan Becker
Lion (Francis) Alan Becker passed away on Thursday 7th January 2021 aged 70 years. Alan passed in hospital and had experienced poor health for some time. Alan provided exemplary service to the Lions Club of Branxton for the 33 years of

his membership and during those years, Alan served in many key roles; being the Club President for four years: 1997-1999, 2004-5, and 2013-14.

At the time of his passing, Alan was fulfilling the highly regarded and important role of Lion Tamer, as well as assuming the role of the club's unofficial quartermaster, taking organisational management of the club's food supplies, Lions Christmas cakes, Lions mints as well as the BBQ's, eskies, and all of the club's paraphernalia that supports the club's successful fund raising activities.

Club President, Brian Thomas said, "it is clearly evident Alan enjoyed working on projects to benefit the local and the broader community. Alan willingly contributed whenever he could, and clearly appreciated the company of his Lions mates.

Alan's fellow Lions Club members will miss him, his



Vale Alan Becker

dedication, hard work and friendship."

Rest in peace, Alan Machinery Sale

On the 30th January 2021, Lions provided a BBQ along with tea and coffee for a farm clearance sale at Standen Drive, Lower Belford.

A large crowd attended the sale and the Lions did brisk business with the BBQ running hot. Lions would like to thank all those who supported our fund raising on the day.

An amount in excess of \$550 was raised at the event, and these funds are pooled with the proceeds of other Branxton Lions fund raising activities, for distribution to needy causes.

Lions Donations

On the evening of the 3rd February, Branxton Lions held their monthly meeting and it was resolved that donations would be made to the Branxton Scouts, Childhood Cancer appeal, Lions District

Disaster Fund, Australian Lions Foundation and the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Additionally, donations of \$200 each were made to five local schools to be used to support students at the Principal's discretion. Club President, Brian Thomas said "Our donations are lower than usual because of the restrictions on activities bought about by Covid-19, however, the Lions activities calendar for 2021 is filling quickly and we hope to increase our fund raising activities to benefit the community during 2021."

Branxton Lions Community Hub – Building Progress

The Branxton Lions Community Hub building is progressing nicely towards its anticipated finish date after Easter. The floor slab for the building was poured prior to Christmas and since the conclusion of the Christmas break, the brick walls have been erected and the majority the roof trusses installed.



Lion Alan Becker, seen here on the left, in one of his favourite roles, providing a sausage sizzle along with some of his fellow Lions of the Branxton club.

Led lighting installed Branxton Tennis Club - Miller Park Branxton



State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP, attended by Miller Park, Branxton to view the newly installed LED lights at the Branxton Tennis Club facilities. The club received funding from the 2019 Community Building Partnership Program.

The Community Building Partnership Program (CBPP) introduced by the Labor Government in 2009 has provided funding to thousands of community groups, sporting clubs and councils across NSW to build or upgrade local facilities.

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

Branxton Tennis Club Inc were successful in gaining \$18,120 under the CBPP for the purchase and installation of the LED lighting.

Mr Barr said "It is always great to see funding being injected into our community and that local groups are able to purchase necessary equipment."

Across the Electorate of Cessnock 21 projects received a total of \$300,000 in grant funding under the 2019 Community Building Partnerships Program including Kearsley Community Sporting Association, Mulbring Public School P&C Association, Branxton Greta Little Athletics, Cessnock Minor Rugby League, Abermain-Weston Hawks, Edgeworth Community Pre-school Inc, Weston Masonic Centre, Cessnock City Hornets Football Club and West Wallsend Amateur Soccer Club.

■ Photo above: Clayton Barr MP and Mr Justin Priddis (Branxton Tennis Club President)

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

Greta Workers Sports & Rec Club Ltd

2 West Street Greta Ph 4938 7325



**WEEKLY
RAFFLES
FRIDAY**
TICKETS ON SALE
6.30PM
DRAWN 7.30PM

SUNDAY
TICKETS ON SALE
11AM
DRAWN 12PM



Members Badge Draw

Every Wednesday & Sunday

\$3000 as at Wed 3/3

\$3000 Sun 7/3

Jackpots \$100 EACH DRAW

Thursdays

\$4.00 Schooners

**HAPPY
HOUR**



4pm to 6pm



BINGO

Wednesdays

10am

SOCIAL BOWLS

Thursdays—5pm

Names down by 4.45pm



**CARPET
BOWLS**

2pm Mondays

Members
Free Chook Raffle

5.30pm



Every Wednesday

2 GOOD REASONS
FRIDAY 5TH MARCH

8.15PM TIL LATE

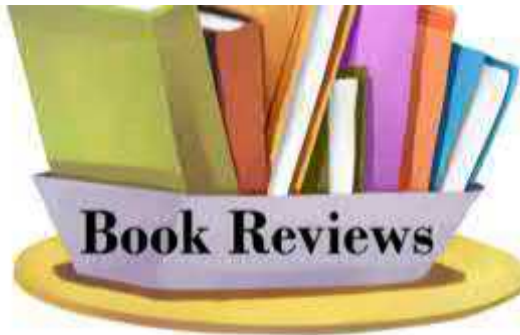
JUSTIN NGARIKI
FRIDAY 12TH MARCH

8.15PM TIL LATE

FRIDAY 19TH MARCH

MAX JACKSON

8.15pm til late



Kristin Hannah

the University of Washington, she worked at an advertising agency in Seattle. She graduated from

They travel to California in search of a better life, but there, they find even more hardship, even more poverty. Through it all, Elsa refuses to stop fighting for her family -- no matter what.

"The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah is a captivating, heartbreaking tale of a family who will do anything for each other -- and everything to survive. The strength of Hannah's prose brings the characters to life in a way that will make you unable to tear yourself away from them. You will celebrate their triumphs, mourn their tragedies, and commend their bravery. Through it all, it is easy to feel Hannah's desire to honor those who lived and fought through this devastating time in history. "The Four Winds" is also an ode to the strength and ferocity of mothers, and a declaration that sometimes, love is the only thing that holds us together.

Above all else, "The Four Winds" is merely a really good story, one that hits you in all the right places and will keep surprising you until the end.

ABOUT Kristin Hannah

Kristin Hannah (born September 25, 1960) is an American writer. Her published books include *Winter Garden*, *The Nightingale*, *Firefly Lane* and *The Great Alone*. Kristin Hannah was born in California. After she graduated with a degree in communication from

the University of Puget Sound law school and practiced law in Seattle before becoming a full-time writer. Hannah wrote her first novel with her mother, who was dying of cancer at the time; the book was never published. Hannah's best-selling work is *The Nightingale*, selling over two million copies and published in 43 languages.^[3]

Hannah lives on Bainbridge Island, Washington, with her husband and their son.

Single novels
A Handful of Heaven (July 1991)
The Enchantment (June 1992)
Once in Every

Life (December 1992)
If You Believe (December 1993)
When Lightnings

Strikes (October 1994)
Waiting for the
Moon (September 1995)
Home Again (October 1996)
On Mystic Lake (February 1999)
Angel Falls (April 2000)
Summer Island (March 2001)
Distant Shores (July 2002)
Between Sisters (April 2003)
The Things We Do for

Love (June 2004)
Comfort and Joy (October 2005)
Magic Hour (February 2006)
Firefly Lane (2008)
True Colors (2009)
Winter Garden (2010)
Night Road (March 2011)
Home Front (2012)
Fly Away (2013)
The Nightingale (2015)
The Great Alone (2018)
The Four Winds (2021)

YOU are cordially invited to join the Lions Club of Branxton To celebrate Lions Awareness Day AND Clean Up Australia day

WHERE: Lions Park, Branxton Dalwood Road, Branxton (Opposite Miller Park)
DATE: Sunday 7th March
TIME: 0900 am
CONTACT: Alan Beckley
 Lions Club of Branxton.
 Mobile: 0426 261948
 Email: alanbeckley2001@yahoo.com

Dear Members of the Branxton/Greta community YOU are cordially invited to join the Lions Club of Branxton To celebrate Lions Awareness Day AND Clean Up Australia day Please come and help Clean up the environment in your community

WHERE: Lions Park, Branxton Dalwood Road, Branxton (Opposite Miller Park)
DATE: Sunday 7th March
TIME: 0900 am
CONTACT: Alan Beckley
 Lions Club of Branxton.
 Mobile: 0426 261948
 Email: alanbeckley2001@yahoo.com

The Branxton Greta Community Men's Shed has decided for a trial period to open for an additional day during the week (Thursday). This means the 'Shed' is now open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning from 7 till 12. The ladies group continuous to meet on Tuesday morning. Why not come and visit us or even better join us. Drop in on one of our weekday mornings at the old St Marys school 49 Branxton Street Greta. Come and have a cuppa.

Appointment of Taylor Martin MLC as Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter



I welcome the announcement of Taylor Martin MLC as Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter as a stronger presence for our region in the NSW Parliament. I will write to Mr Martin to congratulate him on his appointment, and most importantly to invite him to Singleton to meet with us about those issues that are of high priority to the people of our local government area. Those issues are outlined in our Advocacy Agenda, including a better design outcome for the Singleton bypass of the New England Highway, increased passenger train services to and from Singleton, upgrades to Singleton Police Station, ongoing commitment to Resources for Regions funding for mining communities and expansion of health facilities for Singleton. A copy of the Singleton Advocacy Agenda will also be provided to Mr Martin. In his maiden speech to Parliament, Mr Martin included the Hunter in his vision for a region where individuals, families and communities could continue the tradition of leaving behind more than we found when we came. In this regard, I feel Mr Martin and I share a common goal. I look forward to working together with Mr Martin, and the NSW Government, to continue to build a vibrant and prosperous Singleton for the generations who will come after us.
Cr Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton

* At age 28, Mr Martin is the youngest member in the NSW Parliament and one of the busiest. In addition to his Upper House duties, the Central Coast-based MLC has been given the job of spokesperson for 12 state seats taking in Port Stephens, Newcastle, Lower Hunter and Central Coast.



Kristin Hannah's 'Four Winds' an ode to the strength and ferocity of mothers

It's 1921 in Texas, and 25-year-old Elsa Wolcott is considered by her own parents to be an ugly, unmarriageable spinster. Elsa's family is wealthy, but she is horribly unhappy. She dreams of a life where she

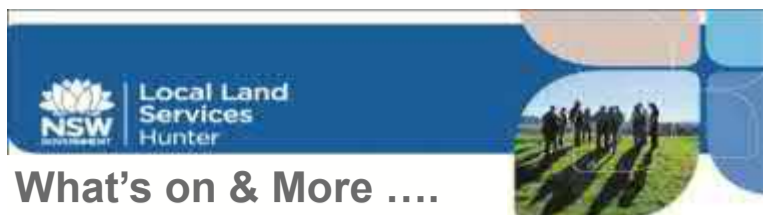
is loved and where she also feels brave. One day, Elsa becomes entangled with a young man named Rafe, who she is forced to marry when he gets her pregnant and her parents disown her. They build a comfortable life and family together on Rafe's family farm. But then the Great Depression hits, and so does the Dust Bowl. The family is broke and miserable, and it falls to Elsa to fend for her two children. It breaks Elsa's heart to abandon the land she loves, but as the dust storms worsen, she knows the family must leave.

The New York Times Best Sellers (28 FEBRUARY 2021)

- 1. THE FOUR WINDS**
 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 by Kristin Hannah
 As dust storms roll during the Great Depression, Elsa must choose between saving the family and farm or heading West.
- 2. FAITHLESS IN DEATH**
 NEW THIS WEEK
 by J.D. Robb
 The 52nd book of the In Death series. Eve Dallas investigates the murder of a young sculptor in the West Village.
- 3. FIREFLY LANE**
 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 by Kristin Hannah
 A friendship between two women in the Pacific Northwest endures for more than three decades.
- 4. RECKLESS ROAD**
 NEW THIS WEEK
 by Christine Feehan
 The fifth book in the Torpedo Ink series. One of the motorcycle club's members needs a second chance after thinking an intimate encounter was just a dream.
- 5. THE DUKE AND I**
 7 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 by Julia Quinn
 The first book in the Bridgerton series. Daphne Bridgerton's reputation soars when she colludes with the Duke of Hastings. The basis of the Netflix series "Bridgerton."

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate
P: 4938 3300
0412 566 041

FREE PROPERTY MARKET APPRAISALS



What's on & More

BUSTING THE MYTHS ABOUT MISTLETOE



Did you know that mistletoe plants are an important component of a healthy ecosystem and are a valuable resource, particularly during drought? Many people are surprised to learn that while mistletoes are parasitic, they do not kill their host trees. In fact, mistletoes provide valuable nutrients and habitat for beneficial insects and birds, as well as possums and gliders which are important pollinators of our forests.

"Mistletoes also provide important nesting habitat and nectar for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and other threatened woodland birds," said Carolyn Jenkinson Senior Land Services Officer for Natural Resource Management with Hunter Local Land Services.

"A pair of Regent Honeyeaters were observed in our region a few months ago, feeding their chicks insects and nectar exclusively from

mistletoe flowers." With funding from the 'Bringing Back the Regent Honeyeater' Program, Hunter Local Land Services (Hunter LLS) helped to bust the myths about mistletoe by holding two workshops with Mistletoe expert, Professor Dave Watson and Birdlife Australia's Woodland Bird expert, Mick Roderick. Landholders and the broader community will be able to view the highlights of these workshops in a video that will be released in the next few months. Hunter LLS have also teamed up with experts to produce the brochure 'Breaking Down Myths about Mistletoe', plus an additional video, 'Mistletoe of the Lower and Upper Hunter and their ecology', showing the common types of mistletoe in the region and the importance of mistletoe for the survival of many threatened and endangered woodland

birds, including the Regent Honeyeater. These resources can be found using the links below: https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1271899/HLLS-Mistletoe-Myths_Brochure_2020.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h313xfYd910&list=PLC7J5DHnm63D1o5x6dFSLtB3oUmzrRTw&index=3&t=16s>

The 'Bringing Back the Regent Honeyeater' Program is designed to assist with the recovery of this critically endangered species and associated woodland birds in the valley.

"Hunter LLS is also working with landholders to develop grant funded projects to protect, restore, and revegetate Spotted Gum-Ironbark and Box Gum Grassy Woodland vegetation communities, and riparian vegetation in priority Regent Honeyeater habitat," said Carolyn. "This five year project is funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program until 2023."

To find out whether you are in a priority habitat area for this species, or to seek support on improving habitat on your property, including incentives funds for the Regent Honeyeater, go to: <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter/grants-funding-scholarships>

Racing Review & News

Top trainer to fight fine for 'F-bomb' jockey spray

Ben Dorries

Multiple Group 1-winning trainer Rob Heathcote will engage a high-powered legal firm to launch an appeal after being found guilty of a misconduct charge which he insists arose out of a private post-race conversation with a jockey.

Heathcote does not deny saying "f--- you" to Mark Du Plessis in a heated debrief at Eagle Farm when the trainer claimed Du Plessis did not follow instructions to lead when Stuttering finished third as the \$3.40 second favourite

in a race on February 6. But Heathcote is adamant no one else on course heard his remarks, which the trainer taped on his phone and sent to Stuttering's owners. Brisbane stewards only became aware of the matter when the 49-second audio clip of the exchange was circulated on social media. Stewards last Saturday convened an inquiry and found Heathcote guilty of a misconduct charge, stating he "did misconduct himself after the running of Race 9 by way of inappropriate

language directed to jockey M Du Plessis."

Heathcote was fined \$500, half of which was suspended, after being found guilty of the charge, which falls under the category of conduct detrimental to the interests of racing.

It could become an interesting test case for the racing industry with Heathcote to lodge an appeal. He is determined to fight the matter on principle. "I said 'f--- you, Mark'. Never at any other time did I swear," Heathcote told Racenet.

"No one was around me and I only recorded it for my owners. "No one except me and the jockey heard what I said at the time.



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 23rd February 2021

There was a further reduction in supply. There was a good selection of young cattle, mostly yearlings. Grown cattle were also well supplied. The quality of the offering was fair to good as was condition. There were more cattle in the heavy weight classes than in the light and medium weights in all categories. The same number of processors were in attendance, while all regular feedlot orders were in place. Keen restocker demand resulted in the vealers selling to a significantly dearer market trend. Trade vealers also slightly dearer. Medium weight yearling steers to restock and feed varied a little in price, with odd feeder sales slightly dearer. Overall however the market trend was generally cheaper. Heavy weight yearling feeder steers sold on a firm market trend, where breed and quality had an impact on price change. Medium and heavy weight yearling heifers to feed saw a significantly cheaper market trend. Medium weight trade heifers to domestic and local trade orders showed improvement. Heavy grown steers to feed sold to cheaper trends of as much as 10c/kg. Heavy steers to process sold to a dearer trend with premiums for the younger age groups. There was an influx of plainer quality light and medium weight grown heifers, those with no more than 2 teeth attracted keen demand from feedlotters, while the older heifers attracted less demand. The best of the heavy weight cows remained firm with some quality improvement. The balance of the cows sold to a cheaper trend, up to 9c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 24th February 2021

Numbers eased slightly to a reduction both numbers and some quality through the trade veal offering. The average of the light steer weaners saw cheaper trends due to some plainer calves being offered. The heifer portion, on the other hand sold to dearer trends. All the regular buyers attended to a varying market, with restockers competing strongly on most weaner types. Very light weaner steers saw trends reduce significantly with the offering of some secondary calves. Heavier offerings, however saw the next weight range to 29c/kg dearer. All the light weight through the heifer penning sold to substantial rises, again restockers dominating the demand. Trade competition varied, steer veal seeing a 25c/kg rise. Medium weight heifer veal, however, sold to a cheaper trend. Medium weight feeder steers saw falls of 6c/kg, heavy feeders more so. Yearling trade heifers also sold to a dearer trend. Heavy export steers sold to 310c/kg, however, no grown heifers to quote. Light weight cows to a restocker were 18c/kg better. Limited heavy cows were back 10c, making to 290c/kg. There were drafts of yearling bulls available, selling back 24c, heavy bulls up 17c/kg.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 23rd February 2021

Numbers increased slightly to see reduced numbers of trade veal on offer, a good number of feeder cattle and an increase in cow numbers, particularly heavy cows. Not all exporters present, but all other regular buyers attending to a market of mixed values. Restockers again were dominant, particularly in the demand for light weaners. Steer weaners under 200kg topped at 700c to sell to a 10c to 24c/kg rise. Heifers, however, sold to a cheaper trend to top at 612c/kg. There were heavier that eased 25c/kg. Isolated sales of trade veal saw rises of 9c, however some heifer drafts were back 5c/kg. Medium weight yearling steers to feed sold firm, some of the heavier offerings eased 3c/kg. Medium feeder heifers sold to a cheaper trend, back 6c/kg, the heavy offering however were dearer by 13c/kg. The best of the export steers sold to 320c, heavy heifers dearer, up 14c/kg. Medium weight cows were firm, heavy 2 and 3 scores eased 6c, while heavy 4 and 5 score cows sold to correction of 13c/kg. Quite a few bulls penned, many in the yearling bracket, selling to 422c and up to 300c/kg the heavy section.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 22nd February 2021

There was a small reduction in numbers with yearlings well supplied. All other categories were represented in some form. The quality and condition of the offering showed more variation this week. The usual feedlot orders were in place, however there was reduced export processor competition. Restockers were also a little subdued. Market trends through the young cattle to restock and feed were mostly cheaper. Breed and quality contributed to some significant price variation in the vealer steers to restockers. Medium and heavy weight yearling feeder steers saw the best quality straight bred lines remain firm, while the secondary and crossbred lines sold to cheaper trends with reduced demand. Trends were similar through the yearling heifers to restock and feed, where the better quality lines attracted premiums. Well finished trade cattle sold to dearer trends, processors competing with feedlotters on some lines. Heavy weight grown steers to process saw a firm to cheaper market trend with some quality related price change. There was an isolated firm sale in the cow market with all other classes selling to cheaper trends, under reduced processor competition. Heavy bulls remained unchanged.



Rob Heathcote was fined by stewards for his remarks to jockey Mark Du Plessis. Picture: Tara Croser

"It was just me and the jockey, the jockey hasn't made a complaint. "I said what I said on the day for the benefit of my owners so they could hear my response to the jockey and the jockey's response to me. "It was a private thing between me and the jockey. "One of the owners posted it on social media and the stewards came up to me two weeks later." Heathcote, who has won 11 Group 1s, including seven with the champion Queensland sprinter Buffering, is engaging legal eagles to fight the matter. He says he couldn't care about being \$250 out of pocket but wants to clear his name and says he should never have been charged over what he says was a private



not the money, I couldn't care about the \$250, it's the principle."

The vast majority of Australian trainers send post-race audio or video reports to owners, usually featuring an interview with the jockey, and the point Heathcote case could raise the spectre about whether some trainers may ask owners to sign nondisclosure agreements to receive post-race information. The stewards' report regarding the Heathcote inquiry initially indicated Heathcote had pleaded guilty to the charge — but Heathcote insists he didn't. He contacted stewards and the wording of the stewards' report has now been changed. Brisbane stewards are also understood to be investigating another local trainer after his remarks about a jockey on a post-race audio were sent to owners and circulated on social media.

communication. "An appeal is going to be lodged and I'm going to be represented by a law firm because there is no way I should have been charged," Heathcote said. "It was a private thing between myself and the jockey. "Jockeys make mistakes — am I not entitled to point that mistake out to him? "I'm taking this on — it's

click's



So you want to be a technical genius?



When I talk to young people about any form of training/education, they generally complain about the length of the course, the cost of the course or whether they will have employment at the end of the course.

When I ask them what they'd expect to pay to do a course that would get them employment, they reply \$10k to \$20k. So I ask "if I trained you for the next 6 months to start your journey as a technician, would you pay me the \$20k?"

The reply on each occasion was an emphatic "NO WAY, if you want me to work here, you'll have to train me and pay me to do it".

Sure, it would be great to leave school and slot straight into my job, but that's rarely going to happen. I wish I knew at 20 what I know today. And at my age, there's a good chance it all starts to go downhill from here on ☹️
The great thing about being a technician is that you turn smashed up stuff into brand new again...20 to 30 times a day!

Pick One of these:

1. I want to go to Uni for at least a year or 4, pay anywhere from \$10k to \$50k to do some form of electronics course, then come out the other end potentially unemployable... but I will have a certificate or
2. I want to FAST TRACK my learning curve, pay up to \$20k and be being trained by some of the best people in the industry straight into

eventual employment within 3 to 6 months.

I have often spent up to \$10k to fast track my learning on a variety of subjects...normally the ones that I need to learn more about quickly. This puts me in a position where people pay me not for what I do, but for what I know. Everything in life is easy to do, when you know how!

Additionally, the PED industry (Personal Electronics Devices) really doesn't have any formal training or qualifications to speak of. So, how do you get into the game? These are the key elements you should focus on:

1. You have to be super motivated to do what we do.
2. It should be a hobby for you too.
3. You must have a basic understanding of how electronics works (TAFE can help with that)
4. You'll need a willingness to find solutions when none exist
5. You'll need to improvise a lot especially when you have NO manufacturer product support
6. BUT most of all, you MUST have patience and persistence.
7. You'll also need good eyesight and 'soft' hands for the delicate work you're about to take on.
8. This is NOT a 9-5 job, it's a 24/7 lifetime adventure. Every day brings new challenges, not only from the devices you'll be working on but the clients you serve as well.

You have to be prepared to invest in yourself...in your personal

development. What I mean is, if there is a problem with something in your life, try not to blame other people or things for what's happening around you.

In a lot of cases the person at fault is the one staring back at you in the mirror. If you can accept that notion, you'll be a great analyser of not only technology, but have great outcomes in life too.

I also quite often have people coming in looking for a job saying "how hard can it be?" These are the same people that want to be paid the top going rate from day 1.

Want a career as a PED Technician? We have limited opportunities for people who want to be trained by us so if you're keen to kickstart your electronics career, send me some info about you to info@macdroids.com.au And if you're wondering whether this is a growing industry, think about this. How many people have phones, iPads/tablets, electronic watches, laptops and PCs? A lot right? Now look at your devices; how would you remove the screen? See what I mean.

Most of these devices are made of glass, front & back and glass is glass, you drop it, it breaks. Around 3% of the repairs we do are for clients (and other repairers) that tried to repair it themselves...after watching a Youtube video.

How hard can it be, right? Have a great day, Frank

MOVIE REVIEW

THE DRY



SYNOPSIS

Federal Agent Aaron Falk returns to his home town after an absence of over twenty years to attend the funeral of his childhood friend, Luke, who allegedly killed his wife and child before taking his own life – a victim of the madness that has ravaged this community after more than a decade of drought. When Falk reluctantly agrees to stay and investigate the crime, he opens up an old wound – the death of 17-year-old Ellie Deacon. Falk begins to suspect these two crimes, separated by decades, are connected. As he struggles to prove not only Luke's innocence but also his own, Falk finds himself pitted against the prejudice towards him and pent-up rage of a terrified community.

Eric Bana stars in gripping, tough and psychologically intense adaptation

Jane Harper's best-selling novel *The Dry* is one of those books that feels written with a feature film adaptation in mind: a genre narrative (crime mystery-thriller) that's pacy, plot-driven and full of dialogue, with a central location ripe for cinematic imagery. Extensive use of flashbacks is built into its structure, and they're even presented in italics as if to say, "This is where the cuts and scene changes go". Director Robert Connolly's adaptation is a very gripping and polished film, commandingly performed and directed, with an airtight sense of tonal cohesiveness – despite lots of, well, air in the frame, derived from countless mid- and long-shots capturing barren exterior locations in a fictitious Australian outback town. Written by Connolly and Harry Cripps, the script – like Harper's book – hinges on dual mysteries: one concerning the recent and the other a distant past; both involving deaths that were potentially but not necessarily murders. Binding the threads together is the protagonist Aaron Falk (Eric Bana), a Australian federal police agent who returns to his fictional hometown of Kiewarra following the apparent murder-suicide of his old friend Luke (Martin Dingle Wall), who it seems killed his wife and child before turning the gun on himself. Clipped introductory images show the aftermath of the incident, leading into location-establishing shots of the town presented in dusty yellowish tones that go on to define the film's aesthetic.

By contrast, brief fleeting visions of Melbourne are rendered steely blue, with Bana doing that thing that actors often do when positioned in skyscrapers: staring pensively through the glass at the concrete jungle around them, with a look on his face that screams "I'm in deep

thought". (Is it possible, I wonder, for characters in dramas and thrillers to *not* be in deep thought when looking out a floor-to-ceiling window? Is it possible they're just thinking "I'm hungry, is it time for lunch yet?") Falk hits the road, arriving at Kiewarra for his friend's funeral, where the priest mentions a "devastating drought" – his eulogy placing *The Dry* in a context of Australian films that contemplate droughts (others include the 1920 silent film *The Breaking of the Drought*, John Heyer's influential 1954 documentary *The Back of Beyond*, the Disneyfied family movie *Bushfire Moon* and the recent *A Sunburnt Christmas*).

The dryness in Connolly's film communicates that things could catch fire at any point: literally, given Kiewarra is a danger area for bushfires, but in other ways too – for instance the mental temperature of the locals, many of whom react in hostile ways to Falk's presence.

The deceased man's parents (Julia Blake and Bruce Spence) are convinced he didn't do it and ask Falk to investigate. When he does accusations are thrown back at him relating to the unsolved death many years ago of Falk's teenage friend Ellie (BeBe Bettencourt). Falk was implicated in her passing, with a general consensus among locals that he lied about his whereabouts on the day of her death. This is voiced throughout the film, shading the protagonist in interesting ways, making him a morally murky figure – far from a clear-cut hero, and possibly, in relation to those past events, a legitimate suspect.

Falk soaks up the stories, attitudes and personalities of the townspeople, among them Sergeant Greg Raco (Keir O'Donnell), Ellie's belligerent father Mal (William Zappa) and cousin Grant (Matt Nable), an uncooperative farmer (James Frecheville), the school principal (John Polson) and Falk's long-time friend and sort-of love interest Gretchen (Genevieve O'Reilly). Bana's performance delivers a morosely

convincing take on the "bad cop" trope, his character also fleshed out through visions of a younger version of himself, played by Joe Klocek, in those regular jumps back to the past. Connolly (whose oeuvre also includes *Balibo*, *Paper Planes* and the miniseries *Barracuda*) understands how heavily the novel relies on flashbacks – a very cinematic device – and calibrates the film accordingly. While flashbacks have literary and theatrical precedents, as Maureen Turim explained in her book *Flashbacks in Film* (which I plucked from my shelf after returning home from the screening), the term emerged only after the advent of cinema, which provided visceral and decisive new ways to, as Turim puts it, "return to a narrative past inserted in a narrative present".

In this narrative past BeBe Bettencourt is very engaging as Ellie: personable but mysterious, relatable but ghost-like, navigating the outback and the schoolyard with a Picnic at Hanging Rock vibe, as a doomed teen with vaguely apparition-like qualities. All the supporting performances are bang on, adding a psychological intensity implied but not dictated by Stefan Duscio's cinematography; despite the arid settings the real heat comes from the humans. Harper's book was skilfully constructed, but has a bit of an airport novel vibe, particularly towards the end – which, loaded with the inevitable red herrings and reveals, feels a little like a box-ticking exercise. The film remains rock solid throughout: taut, tough and tense, matching wide-open spaces with uncomfortably close drama.

It's not the environment that terrorises, as it does in classics like *Wake in Fright*, but the people who move across it – with their hidden agendas, clashing motives and obscured pasts.

• *The Dry* opened in Australian cinemas on Friday 1 January
Luke Buckmaster



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

Our polities are woefully unimaginative, but Ross Garnaut has a new plan for lifting Australia above mediocrity

Ross Gittins

The Sydney Morning Herald



Ross Garnaut has recommended corporate tax changes and a universal basic income to supercharge the economy. CREDIT: EAMON GALLAGHER

If your greatest wish is for the virus to go away as we all get vaccinated, and then for everything to get back to normal, I have bad news. You've been beaten into submission – forced to lower your expectations of what life should be bringing us, and our nation's leaders should be leading us to. Without us noticing, we've learnt to live in a world where both sides of politics can field only their B teams. Where our politicians are good at dividing us and making us fearful of change, but no good at uniting us, inspiring us and taking us somewhere better for ourselves and our kids. Scott Morrison hopes that if he can get us vaccinated without major mishap and get the economy almost back to where it was at the end of 2019, that should be enough to get him re-elected. He's probably right. Even his Labor opponents fear he is. Fortunately, whenever our elected leaders' ambition extends little further than to their own survival for another three years, there's often someone volunteering to fill the vision vacuum, to supply the aspiration the polities so conspicuously lack. Among the nation's economists, that person is Professor Ross Garnaut, of the University of Melbourne. In a book published on Monday, *Reset: Restoring Australia after the pandemic recession*, Garnaut argues we need to aim much higher than getting back to the "normal" that existed in the seven years between the end of the China resource boom in 2012 and the arrival of the virus early last year. For a start, that period wasn't nearly good enough to be accepted as normal. Unemployment and underemployment remained stubbornly high – in the latter years, well above the rates in developed countries that suffered greater damage from the global financial crisis in 2008-09, he says. "Wages stagnated. Productivity and output per person grew more slowly than in the United States, or Japan, or the developed world as a whole," he says. (If that weakness comes as a surprise to you, it's because our population grew much faster than in other rich countries, making it look like we were growing faster than them. We got bigger without living standards getting better.) So that wasn't too wonderful, but Garnaut argues if that's what we go back to, it will be worse this time. Living standards would remain lower, and unemployment and underemployment would linger above the too-high levels of 2019. We'd have a lot more public debt, business investment would be lower and we'd gain less from our international trade, partly because of slower world growth, partly because of problems in our relations with China. Continuing high unemployment would devalue the

skills of many workers, particularly the young. Many of our most important economic institutions – starting with the universities – have been diminished. The new normal would be more disrupted than the old one by the accumulating effects of climate change and continuing disputes about how to respond to this. So Garnaut proposes radical changes to existing economic policies to make the economy stronger, fairer, and to treat climate change as an opportunity to gain rather than a cause of loss. At the centre of his plan is returning the economy to full employment by 2025. That is, get the rate of unemployment down from 6.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent or lower – the lowest it's been since the early 1970s. This would make the economy both richer and fairer, since it's the jobless who'd benefit most. Returning to full employment would take us back to the old days when wages rose much faster than prices and living standards kept improving. Returning to full employment, he says, would require a radical change to the way businesses pay company tax and the introduction of a guaranteed minimum income, paid to almost all adults at the present rate of the dole, indexed to inflation. It would involve rolling the present income tax and social security benefits into one system. This would benefit people working in the gig economy and other low-paid and insecure jobs, and greatly reduce the effective tax rates that discourage women and some men from moving from part-time to full-time work. Changing the basis of company tax would cost the budget a lot in the early years but then raise a lot more in the later years. The guaranteed minimum income would cost a lot but would become more affordable as more people were in jobs and paying tax. Much of the economic growth Garnaut seeks would come from greater exports. Australia's natural strengths in renewable energy and our role as the world's main source of minerals requiring large amounts of energy for processing into metals creates the opportunity for large-scale investment in new export industries. We could produce large exports of zero-emissions chemical manufactures based on biomass, and also sell carbon credits to foreigners. Of recent years, Australia has fallen into the hands of mediocrities telling us how well they – and we – are doing. Surely we can do better.

Ross Gittins is the economics editor.



A grandmother is giving directions to her grown grandson who is coming to visit with his wife. "You come to the front door of the apartments. I am in apartment 301. There is a big panel at the front door. With your elbow, push button 301. I will buzz you in. Come inside and the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with your elbow, push 3rd Floor. When you get out, I'm on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell. OK?" "Grandma, that sounds easy, but, why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?" "What You're coming empty handed?"

THE NEWS | No.528 | THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2020 9 19
 You can e-mail, fax or simply drop your ©WD or ©NSWD into our office:- 12 Clift Street, Branxton or
 Fax: 4938 3301 or
 E-mail: thenews@hotkey.net.au
 All contributions welcome

I don't mind paying my share of council rates, provided I see the money of the people, equally put back into the community. The state of Camp Road from Greta Train station to Wine Country Drive needs some urgent maintenance, and would have to be one of the worst roads in need of repair in the area. Let's not wait until someone dies on Camp Road before Cessnock Council takes ownership of this issue.

When I first saw the new Greta 'town sign' that Cessnock City Council had put up I could not believe my eyes. Firstly, why not copy the one Greta Tidy Towns had designed? Which is a miners belt & was the official stamp for the Greta council (1890-1935 when it merged with Kearsley Shire) surrounding a Silky Oak flower. Let me give you some other parts of our history that could have been used:-
 * Mining ~ we had Farthings Anvil creek pit early 1860's, Central Greta (Grace Chapman's farm), Ebbwmain, Broxburn, Leonfield & Whitburn just to name a few.
 * Mechanisation 1890, a Stanley Header (believed to be the first coal cutting machine used in NSW)
 Greta Colliery * Greta Jockey Club 1891 & Greta Coursing (Greyhound racing) 1879 * The home of Norman Brown * February 21st 1874 ~ Anvil creek and Greta vintage had begun * One of the largest Army camps in NSW * The movie Eureka Stockade was filmed in part here.
 Yes, there was a very big Migrant camp here, but it is only a fraction of our towns history and I am not saying it should not have been mentioned on the town sign, but that sign should have been a collage of all our history, not one tiny part. Council has told me that a survey was run, on their web page and in the Cessnock Advertiser. Well we don't get the Advertiser out here, and as for their web page, well less said about it the better. Val Randall

To the idiot vandals who went on a rampage a couple of weeks ago destroying two of the newly planted sidewalk trees in the main street in Branxton ~ hope there is some CCTV footage

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
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.

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
Upcoming Concerts
 SAT 26 MAR 2022 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate
 SAT 10 APL 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 Bimbadjin winery.



Dates for your diary

"Dates for your Diary" is free community service which has been included in the News for over 20-years. Please send your event notices and dates to thenews@hotkey.net.au or call me on 0414 757 826. The Editor



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





Branxton/Greta CWA held their last meeting for 2020 in the old staff room at St Brigids. Due to several members work commitments, only five were in attendance.

Noeleen Bendeich and Marie Shearer attended the Hunter River Group Council Meeting on 25th November, 2020 and reported all that was dis-

cussed at the meeting to members.

After the meeting, members and partners enjoyed a wonderful lunch at The Royal Federal Hotel. Wonderful service and food. Thankyou to the Royal Federal Hotel. Our new President, Terri Collins and all members and their families look forward to catching up in 2021. It was voted unanimously

by all members at our last meeting in 2020 and re-affirmed at our first meeting for 2021 to postpone all functions until further notice, due to health and safety concerns for all in the community and their families and also our members. We look forward to seeing you all in the future and enjoying your company at our functions. Until then, take care.

*President and Members,
Branxton/Greta CWA.*



CENTRAL HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER - FIRST MEETING

The Chamber first meeting for 2021 was preceded by the Management meeting with new President, Michael Robinson presiding over the meeting. Secretary, Dr. Alan Beckley was quick to remind all attending that the Chamber program for the year will require funding. Dr. Beckley will be sending payment requests to all members with details for payment options. Any queries regarding fees should

be directed to Alan at secretary@centralhunterbusiness.com.au or mobile number 0426 261 948

**SPECIAL NOTE Breakfast Meeting 31st March
The Quinn
7am**

ANNUAL MEMBER FEES ARE DUE 1ST MARCH 2021

The general meeting was attended by an enthusiastic group of members. There were some interesting matters raised and 3 guest speakers led by Cessnock Council, **Tony Chadwick** discussed the economic growth of the Local LGA and included some handy hints for members to get grants for a range of business activities.

The Hunter App was represented by Nicky Ainlee, Editor and founder of the Hunter App with an information segment about the App and its focus on local news, views and events and its usefulness as a business tool.

Noel Lambert, a Chamber Member addressed the meeting with an enlightening expose of his business and how he has built a local business, with international clients, specialising in industrial services with local support. His main point was that local is valuable both for staffing and expertise as well as business generated from other local business.

Dr. Beckley said "The Chamber is setting up a new program for the year and all members of the board look forward to seeing you at the next meeting"

Tourists and local businesses to benefit from new wayfinding signage!

Visitors exploring the beautiful Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) can do so with ease! Cessnock City Council has celebrated the roll out of signage across the LGA to make a trip to the area even more enjoyable.

The project included the installation of suburb entry

signs, city gateway signage, information bays, tourist wayfinding signage (these are the brown tourist location signs), community facility signs and over 400 new street blades.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the new signage is fantastic, as it reflects and promotes the variety of tourism experiences on offer.

"Hunter Valley Wine Country has boomed over the past 15 years with the establishment of many large vineyards, restaurants and tourist accommodation facilities. Businesses and tourists expressed a need for better wayfinding and we've delivered. The information bays are located in great spots for people to stop off, take a break, pick their next stop, use the amenities or a play-

ground and then hit the road again."

Council's construction crew and local contractors worked to minimise disruption and provide high quality infrastructure. This work is part of the implementation of Council's Wine Country Signage Strategy and Cessnock LGA Signage Strategy.

Member for Upper Hunter and Parliamentary Secretary

for Agriculture Michael Johnsen said the signage will help visitors to the Cessnock area locate the areas many places of interest.

"Cessnock is a great place to visit, and these signs will help travellers find their way to the numerous local attractions, whether that be the Hunter Valley Zoo, or one of the many local wineries," Mr Johnsen said. "The NSW Government is building a

stronger safer NSW, investing in tourism in regional towns to keep important tourism dollars flowing through our regions who have suffered through drought, bushfires and the

global pandemic."

This project is funded by a \$2.26 million grant from the NSW Government's Regional Growth – Environment and Tourism Fund.

• *Photo below:* (from left to right) General Manager Lotta Jackson, Councillor Mark Lyons, Jay and Julia Tulloch, Cessnock City Mayor, Cr Bob Pynsent, Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP.



Man dies following two-vehicle crash near Singleton

Sunday, 28 February 2021 05:44:27 PM
A man has died following a crash near Singleton. About 1.45pm today (Sunday 28 February 2021), emergency services were called to Putty Road, Putty, after two cars crashed head-on.

The driver and sole occupant of one of the vehicles died at the scene. The man has not yet been formally identified. The three occupants of the other car have been taken to hospital with non life-threatening injuries. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District established a crime scene and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. A report will be prepared for the Coroner.

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

4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)



If thou are a master, be sometimes blind; if a servant, sometimes deaf.
--Thomas Fuller
I am still determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may be. For I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions and not upon our circumstances.
--Martha Washington
Accomplishing the impossible means only that the boss will add it to your regular duties.
--Doug Larson
The trouble with learning from experience is that you never graduate.
~Doug Larson
You can stand tall without standing on someone. You can be a victor without having victims.
~Harriet Woods
"I can't do it" never yet accomplished anything. "I will try" has accomplished wonders.
~George P. Burnham
Being defeated is often only a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent.
~Marilyn vos Savant

YOUR friendly team

The News

Mike Lowing: *Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator*
Manager Advertising: Helen Lowing
The "Branxton Greta Vineyards News" is bound by an industry code of ethics. If you have a complaint, contact the newspaper first. If the matter is unresolved, then call The Australian Press Council on 1800 025 712. Complaints about advertising should be directed to the Editor and if the matter isn't resolved contact The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission on (02) 9230 9133.

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

PHONE: (02) 4938 1773 or after hours (02) 4938 3451
MOB: 0412 566 041 0414 757 826
Email: thenews@hotmail.com
Office: 12 Cliff Street, Branxton, NSW 2335



GIVE US A BREAK

DUMPING ISN'T GIVING

STOP DUMPING Take your garbage to the Waste Management Centre.

CHARITY OPERATORS ARE NOT GARBAGE SERVICES
REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING **131 555**
A NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the Waste Levy
EPA logo

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Development Application lodged for Cessnock Performing Arts Centre refurbishment



Fantastic news for local lovers of the arts and creative industries, with the development application now lodged for the proposed refurbishment of the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre (CPAC). The project, valued at \$2 million, will enable CPAC to be transformed into a working 'cultural hub' as more funding is secured. The proposal involves the establishment of an exhibition space and artist studio. These exciting new additions to the facility will cater to exhibition style events and a workshop area to host a diverse range of events. The project will also involve the addition of a retail space and relocation of the box office. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it's an investment in the arts.

"It's fantastic we can provide an upgrade to this wonderful facility which already offers so much to both residents and visitors. The team work tirelessly to put together a wonderful program each year and it's great to see we can continue growing the offering in an even better equipped facility."

"The plans include a new access ramp along Aberdare Road and an internal lift to the exhibition space providing better access to the arts for all in our community."

Council's Curator of Performing and Creative Arts Vicki Sienczuk is looking forward to bringing the cultural hub to life.

"The cultural hub will provide the community with an exciting facility able to deliver high quality, energetic and accessible art, performances and cultural programming. Our team now await the outcome of the Development Application."

Council secured \$309,700 in funding from NSW Government's Resources for Regions Program Round 7 for stage one works. Council also endorsed the allocation of repealed funds, totalling \$975,730.51, which were collected under the Residential Section 7.11 Plan, to fund the establishment of a cultural hub at CPAC. Council will continue to identify other opportunities to fund the upgrade.



Maintaining your pool barrier can save lives

Cessnock City Council is strongly encouraging swimming pool owners to check and maintain their pool barrier, specifically self-closing gates and latches in response to a recent Victorian Coronial Inquest into the death of a 3 year old child.

The Coroner's Investigator noted that while the pool and barrier appeared to have been originally constructed to the required standards in 2007, over the years, weathering and lack of maintenance resulted in the pool gate failing to self-close and latch. The child opened the back door of the house while his mother was taking an afternoon nap. The child accessed the pool enclosure through the unlatched gate and sadly drowned. Council's Acting Director of Planning and Environment Martin Johnson said it is always tragic to learn of incidents like this where a child's death may have been prevented by the simple routine maintenance of a pool barrier.

"I cannot stress strongly enough the importance of having a compliant pool barrier around every swimming pool but to especially ensure the gate is always self-closing and self-latching."

Australian Standards require pool gates to be fitted with a self-closing device that will close the gate from any position and without needing to be physically closed. The gate must also automatically latch closed and unable to be opened again without operating the manual release of the latch.

"While the pool owner has the responsibility to maintain their pool barrier at all times, Council encourages pool owners to obtain a Certificate of Compliance which involves an inspection of the barrier by trained and qualified Council staff."

The Coroner's Inquest revealed the pool gate was able to close and latch when swung, but when let go without force, the gate failed to self-close and self-latch. What's significant in this instance is the hinge and latch appeared to have deteriorated through lack of use as opposed to overuse or wear and tear" Ms Jackson explained.

"Yes, there is no substitute for supervision, but this tragedy is a reminder that maintaining your pool barrier can save lives" concluded Mr Johnson.



Fitness overhaul at the Singleton Gym and Swim with over a quarter of a million-dollar investment in new equipment

Singleton Council is flexing its investment muscles in 2021 with \$269,000 to keep the Gym and Swim at the top of the game. All fitness equipment in the health club has been replaced, including the introduction of weightlifting platforms, more variety in cardio machines, and a brand-new spin cycle studio. The gym overhaul is another example of Council's commitment to sport and recreation infrastructure in 2021, which also includes a new surface for Howe Park, sport lighting upgrades and the continued roll out of irrigation systems for sporting fields. Anthony Egan, Council's Director Business and Community Services said the new equipment was an investment in the health and wellbeing of the Singleton community.

"We are starting 2021 off on the right foot – and that means the best possible facilities to get people stuck into their new year's resolutions and fitness goals," he said.

"We've seen during COVID that exercise is a really important component for one's physical and mental health and we are really proud of the facilities right across Singleton, from sports fields to cycleways.

"We have a great partnership with Belgravia Leisure to deliver programs to help you get where you want to be, and ensuring the Gym and Swim offers members state-of-the-art fitness equipment goes a long way to support this."

Belgravia Leisure Area Manager Amanda Lenton said with a new fitness challenge launched at the gym on Monday, the arrival of the new equipment was well-timed.

"It's a new year, a new gym, and a new challenge. Whatever your fitness goals, it's always nice to work out on state-of-the-art, brand new equipment, and with that, we now offer an improved experience to our members," she said.

"The cardio machines and pin-loaded cable machines have mostly been replaced like-for-like, and we are really excited to introduce some new additions to the gym like s-force machines, stair master, woodway curve, Jacobs ladder, assault bikes, SkiErgs, and new kettle bells.

"Equally as exciting, in the strength room, we've also introduced new weightlifting platforms and bumper plates, a hack squat machine, as well as more duplicates in our free weight rack.

"It gives people something to be excited about, and a little bit of motivation and a reason to get back into the gym after a really hard year."



Photo above: Belgravia Leisure Personal Trainer Nicky Moody, Singleton Council's Manager Corporate and Community Services Mark Wiblen, Coordinator Community Services Nicole Lonsdale and Belgravia Leisure Area Manager Amanda Lenton

WANTED

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

GATE DETAIL

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton

Recent sales

SOLD

UNIT 2

SOLD

UNIT 10

SOLD

UNIT 12

SOLD

UNIT 18



HANDY TIPS



How to design a herb garden

Turn your back or front yard into a beautiful, productive space by creating an edible garden that looks good and will taste even better. For this project, we're grouping our herbs into three pots – one for tea, one for smoothies and one for cocktails.

Tools and materials
 Ceramic Pots (different colours and sizes)
 Dust Mask
 Gardening trowel
 Gloves
 Seasol
 Quality potting mix
 Various plants
 Watering can

1. Prepare your pots
 The best part about growing your own organic produce is that anyone can do it! You don't need a huge backyard – balconies are just as good. But you'll need some outdoor pots. Once you've picked yours out, it's important to group plants together that prefer the same conditions. For example, some culinary herbs prefer a lot of light – some don't; some like a well-drained soil; some like it nice and moist. Choose which plants will go in which pots, and head to the nursery section of your local Bunnings to pick up your herb punnets.

2. Get ready for potting
 Once you've picked out your seedlings, grab some potting mix and Seasol to add after you've potted your plants – this will help them recover from any 'transplant shock'. Grab your gardening gloves and a dust mask (some soils can contain a bacteria when dry) and you're ready to start potting!

3. Plant your cocktail herbs
 What's not to like about the concept of a 'cocktail jug'? Just snip off a sprig or two of your chosen herb to add to your favourite tippie! We're potting rosemary and sage – these are great

aromatics for bitter and/or savoury drinks. Use your rosemary sprig as a swizzle stick or muddle some sage with sugar syrup for a delicious earthy beverage. Sage and rosemary don't like conditions that are too wet, so they'll be perfect grouped together in this pot. Plant your herbs and give them a good water once they're settled in.

4. Plant your tea herbs
 We're potting mint, lemon balm, peppermint and chamomile – all lovely when infused with hot water for a refreshing, restorative brew. The mint family are really good pest controllers too, so peppermint, mint and lemon balm are particularly good when planted in your yard.

These plants enjoy a nice, partially sunny position and moist, well-drained soil. When picking chamomile, the best time is first thing in the morning after the dew has dried – just nip off a flower head and infuse into your tea. Easy! All these herbs are also great in summer salads and quinoa dishes – delish! Water them well once they're settled into their new pot.

5. Plant your smoothie greens
 If you're a health nut, you'll know just how expensive it is to stock up on healthy greens each week. Which is why our last pot is dedicated to smoothies! We've chosen to plant sweet basil, spinach and kale – all great when added to your morning pick-me-up (the basil gives your drinks an extra pop – try it!). They're also great basics to have ready for cooking. These plants like full sun or partial shade, and moist, well-drained soil.

6. Get sipping!
 Whether it's an afternoon cocktail, a morning smoothie or an any-time tea, you're all set with these three potted herb selections. Bottoms up



ALLERGIES IN DOGS: SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT

There are primarily two types of dog allergies: food allergies and environmental allergies. If your dog gets itchy during spring, summer or autumn, he's probably reacting to seasonal, environmental allergens. But if symptoms continue all year round, then it is more likely that his sensitivity has something to do with either his environment or his diet.

Unfortunately just like people, dogs can show allergic symptoms when their immune systems begin to recognise certain everyday substances - or allergens - as dangerous. Even though these allergens are common and harmless to most animals, a dog with allergies will have an extreme reaction to them. Allergens can be problematic when inhaled, ingested or come in contact with a dog's skin.

These allergens normally include mould and mildew, pollen, and dust mites. As his body tries to rid itself of these substances, a variety of skin, digestive and respiratory symptoms may appear. The good thing is that there are now several ways to treat seasonal allergies in dogs.

What are the general symptoms of Allergies in dogs?

- * Itchy, red, moist or scabbed skin (also referred to as allergic dermatitis)
- * Increased scratching or chewing
- * Itchy, runny eyes
- * Itchy back or base of tail (most commonly flea allergy)
- * Itchy ears and ear infections
- * Sneezing
- * Vomiting
- * Diarrhea
- * Snoring caused by an inflamed throat
- * Paw chewing or swollen paws
- * Constant licking

How to help your dog cope with Seasonal Allergies

1. To provide your dog with complete and immediate relief from itchiness, try to bath him regularly to wash away the allergens on his coat and skin. Select a dog shampoo specially formulated for inflamed or sensitive skin.
2. To lessen the significant amount of allergens that your dogs spread all over your house, wash their paws thoroughly each time they come inside the house.
3. Try keeping the spots in your place where your pooch spends most of his time as free from allergens as possible. You can do this by cleaning and vacuuming the floors and his bedding on a regular basis using non-toxic cleaning agents.
4. Since allergies are basically an immune system response, it is

crucial to keep your dog's immune function at its optimum levels and ensure he's eating a well-balanced diet, free of unnecessary fillers and animal by-products.

5. If your dog is highly susceptible to seasonal allergies, see to it that his diet is remarkably low in grain content, since foods rich in carbohydrates can trigger and worsen inflammation.

The same ways that you cope with seasonal allergies will only help your dog as well. Make sure your air conditioner filters are changed every month, use a vacuum with an allergen filter, and maintain a healthy diet.

For mild allergic reactions and mild itching, your vet can recommend an antihistamine or provide the proper dosage of over-the-counter allergy medication to treat him.

Which Dogs are at risk of getting Allergies?

Any dog can develop allergies at any point during his lifespan. However allergic reactions seem to be especially common in Terriers, Setters, Retrievers, and flat-faced breeds such as Pugs, Bulldogs and Boston Terriers.

What Substances Can Dogs Be Allergic To?

- A few common allergens include:
- * Tree, grass and weed pollens
 - * Mould spores
 - * Dust and house dust mites
 - * Feathers
 - * Cigarette smoke
 - * Food ingredients (e.g. beef, chicken, pork, corn, wheat or soy)
 - * Prescription drugs
 - * Fleas and flea-control products (only a few flea bites can trigger intense itchiness for two to three weeks!)
 - * Perfumes
 - * Cleaning products
 - * Fabrics
 - * Insecticidal shampoo
 - * Rubber and plastic materials

Can dogs be allergic to food?

Yes, but it often takes some detective work to find out what substance is causing the allergic reaction.

Dogs with a food allergy will commonly have itchy skin, chronic ear infections or sometimes gastrointestinal problems like diarrhea and vomiting, and an elimination diet will most probably be used to determine what food he is allergic to.

If your dog is specifically allergic to chicken, for example, you should avoid feeding him any products containing chicken protein or fat.

What should I do if I think my dog has allergies?

Visit your veterinarian. After taking a complete history and



dog's bedding once a week and vacuum at least twice weekly- this includes rugs, curtains and any other materials that gather dust. 4) Weekly bathing may help relieve itching and remove environmental allergens and pollens from your dog's skin. Discuss with your vet what prescription shampoos are best, as frequent bathing

conducting a physical examination, he or she may be able to determine the source of your dog's allergic reaction. If not, your vet will most probably recommend skin or blood tests, or a special elimination diet, to find out what's causing the allergic reaction.

How are dog allergies diagnosed?
 If your dog's itchy, red or irritated skin persists beyond initial treatment by a veterinarian, allergy testing, most often performed by a veterinary dermatologist, is likely warranted.

The diagnostic test of choice is an intradermal skin test similar to the one performed on humans.

The only way to diagnose a food allergy is to feed your dog a prescription or hydrolyzed protein diet exclusively for 12 weeks.

It is essential not to feed your dog anything but the diet. This means no treats, table leftovers or flavoured medication. This diet will be free of potential allergy-causing ingredients and will ideally have ingredients your dog has never been exposed to. He'll remain on the diet until his symptoms go away, at which time you can begin to reintroduce old foods to see which ones might be causing the allergic reaction.

If a hypoallergenic diet doesn't work, you may want to try a bones and raw food (BARF) diet, which uses a combination of foods similar to those wild dogs eat, such as:

- * fat
- * muscle meat
- * organ meat
- * bones

This omnivorous diet is believed by many to be healthier for your dog, but it may require an unusual meat source to be successful for your dog, who may be allergic to beef or poultry since both are commonly used in commercial pet foods.

How can dog allergies be treated?

- 1) The best way to treat allergies is to remove the offending allergens from the environment.
- 2) Start a flea control programme for all pets before the season starts. Remember, outdoor pets can carry fleas inside to indoor pets. See your veterinarian for advice about the best flea control products for your dog and the environment.
- 3) If dust is the problem, clean your

with the wrong product could dry out their skin.

5) If you suspect your dog has a food allergy, she'll need to be put on an exclusive prescription or hydrolyzed protein diet. Once the allergy is determined, your vet will recommend specific foods or a home-cooked diet.

Are there any allergy medications for dogs?

Since certain substances cannot be removed from the environment, your vet may recommend medications to control the allergic reaction:

In the case of airborne allergens, your dog may benefit from allergy injections. These will help your pet develop resistance to the offending agent, instead of just masking the itch.

Antihistamines can be used but may only benefit a small percentage of dogs with allergies. Omega-3 Fatty Acids might help decrease inflammation throughout the body. Adding them into the diet of all pets - particularly pets struggling with seasonal environmental allergies - is very beneficial. The best sources of Omega 3s are *krill oil, salmon oil, tuna oil, anchovy oil and other fish body oils*.

There are also shampoos that may help prevent skin infection, which occurs commonly in dogs with allergies. Sprays containing oatmeal or aloe are also available. There are several flea-prevention products that can be applied topically to your dog's skin. If the problem is severe, you may have to resort to cortisone to control the allergy. However these drugs are strong and should only be used under the guidance of your vet.

Are Allergies and Bronchitis related?

Chronic exposure to inhaled irritants (including cigarette smoke) may be a cause of bronchitis in your dog. Bronchitis is characterised by a persistent cough due to inflammation of the airway and excessive mucus production. Treatment may include medication to open breathing passages, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory agents.

SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 11-2-21 Stableford
 Div 1 Winner R Crooks 32 pts R/u L Hunt 31 pts 3rd M Ryan 30 pts
 Div 2 Winner M Kingston 32 pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u A Hackett 30 pts (c/b) 3rd G Bailey 30 pts
 Ladies Div Winner C Caldwell 30 pts (c/b) R/u J Harris 30 pts 3rd J Scobie 23 pts
 NTP Ladies - R McCarthy
 Gents P Conroy
 Members draw - Not won
 Another 'bonser' Summer's day for golf. Congratulations to Murray Kingston on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to all other winners and place getters

Results 18-2-21 Stableford
 Div 1 Winner G Gazzard 31 pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u J Sheedy 28 pts (c/b) 3rd A Cannon
 Div 2 Winner R McMillan 32 pts R/u G Bailey 30 pts (c/b) 3rd D Wright 30 pts
 Ladies Div Winner H Venner 24 pts R/u J Scobie 23 pts 3rd J Harris 18 pts
 NTP Ladies- J Scobie
 Gents - G Anderson
 Members draw - Not won
 A shower or two did not dampen the spirits of some 50 players who gathered for to-day's event. Congratulations to Gary Gazzard on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to all other winners and place getters

Results 25-2-21 Stableford (Millennium Trophy)
 Div 1 Winner G Sheldon 27 pts (c/b) R/u M Barrett 27 pts 3rd J Sheedy 26 pts
 Div 2 Winner G Cuthbert 31 pts (SOD) R/u M Kingston 29 pts (c/b) 3rd R Brooks 29 pts
 Ladies Div Winner J Scobie 25 pts R/u T Martin 22 pts (c/b) 3rd R Friis 22 pts
 NTP Ladies- C Miller
 Gents - G Sheldon
 Members draw - Not won
 Despite the heavily overcast sky and the ever present threat of precipitation, our eager band of players enjoyed contesting to-day's event. Not to put a damper on the round, the very wet grass did have an adverse effect on the scoring. Congratulations to Garry Cuthbert on winning the Millennium Trophy and a well done to all other winners and place getters.

LN Bootes, Hon. Sec
Branxton Golf Club Saturday Comp
Branxton Golf Results Saturday, 13th February- Stableford Summer Cup Rd 5
 Field: 45
 Grades A Greg Gillard 40
 Grades A Steve Eccles 38
 Grades A Anthony Bentley 37
 Grades B Joe Bereza 40

Grades B Barry Turner 36
 Grades B Gary Walsh 35
 Grades C Luke Matt 35
 Grades C Steven Primmer 31
 Grades C Matthew Bain 30

N.T.P
 NTP 2/11 2nd Peter Wilton 58cm
 NTP 4 4th Benjamin Bridge 182cm
 NTP 9/18 9th Peter Wilton 140cm
 NTP 13 13th Corey Lamb 307cm
 Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 31

A very resilient field of 45 players endured some wet conditions to compete in Saturday's Stableford competition. Greg Gillard showed how it can be done in winning A Grade with an excellent 40 pts, just ahead of Steve Eccles with 38 pts. I'm sure Steve quietly enjoyed the wet cooler conditions bringing back memories from his Irish heritage days. Young gun, Anthony Bentley, played near par golf to finish third with his solid 37 pts. Mr Steady, Joe Bereza, easily won B Grade with the day's equal best stableford score of 40 pts, with Barry Turner, playing the last hole in heavy rain, finishing runner up with his 36 pts. Gary "Barney" Walsh finished third with 35 pts. Luke Matt showed some of his family's talent in winning C Grade with 35 pts, well clear of runner up Steve Primmer on 31 pts, with Matthew Bain's 30 pts good enough for third place. 31 pts was needed to win a ball on a day when the low markers went on a birdie barrage with Corey Lamb, playing off plus 5 had 5 birdies and Peter Wilton off scratch had 4 birdies including a NTPin on the last. Bob Biles wasn't so impressed as he hit a great shot to around 130 cms to this hole only to, once again, being beaten by Pete's great iron play.

Pennant Results last week-end
 Unfortunately our Pennant teams have started this season rather poorly with our very talented A Grade losing their third match in a row—this time 3.5 -1.5 to The Vintage at Maitland. B Grade lost a very close match to Kurri 3-2 at Kurri whilst C Grade lost as well, 3.5-1.5 to Paterson at Hunter Valley.

**More Slow Play Tips*
 Don't chat approaching your ball when you could be working out club selection, distance, etc. In general be ready to play your shot when it's your turn to play. Walk briskly from the green and between shots.

Saturday, 20th February GRUESOME FOURSOMES
 Field: 48

NETT WINNERS DEAN FOWLER / TOBY GRANT
 NETT RUNNERS UP VICTOR MATT/ PETER WILTON 74.5
 NETT THIRD ROD WILTON/ IAN BARNES 75
 NETT FOURTH TIM LANE/ NICK WHEELER 76.5
 SCRATCH WINNERS MICHEAL TRACEY/ JOSH TRACEY 77
 SCRATCH RUNNERS UP

MARK MOYLAN/ PAUL BUSH 84
 Balls ~ Everyone who didn't win a major prize receives a ball..

Saturday's event was a new event, the Gruesome Foursomes where your playing partners get the chance to be really nasty to your team. Each player tees off, then your partners select the worst shot from where you then play alternative shots—as per the usual four-somes play. Saying sorry at the start may not be enough! Mick and Joshua Tracey showed how it can be done by recording a scratch score of 77—it certainly helps when both players can hit the fairway! Great score from two excellent players. Dean Fowler and Toby Grant had a great day in winning the Nett Prize, very easily, with a 69.5 score. Victor Matt and Peter Wilton finished runner up with their 74.5 (which would have been an excellent scratch score from these two talented golfers). Rod Wilton and Ian Barnes finished third with their 75, just ahead of Tim Lane and Nick Wheeler. Mark Moylan and Paul Bush had a scratch score of 84 to finish runner up overall. All players outside of the major prizes won a ball—fair enough in such a tough event. Well done Captain Steve for introducing something different to a Saturday event—it certainly gets the creative juices going!

Pennant Results
 A Grade: Won 3-2 against Cypress Lakes at Muswellbrook
 B Grade: Won 4-1 against Muswellbrook at Hunter Valley
 C Grade: Lost 3-2 against Hunter Valley at Maitland
 Vets: Lost 3-0 to Murrurundi at Murrurundi (sand greens—a tough gig)
More tips to Improve Slow Play
 If possible watch each players ball and try and get a marker on where it landed. Start to read you putt when you're approaching the green or when other people are putting, not when it's your turn to play.

Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 14th February
 Marrickville GC visitor Alan McKenzie had won the Weekly Challenge with 43 points from Maitland GC member James Wand 42 and Mick Barrett 3rd with 39 on countback. Ball winners were: Patrick Wand 39, Nigel Brenton 38, Steve Piggot 37, John Knuth 36, Nathan Sweeney 36, Nic Bates 34, Adrian Warham 34, Marjo Kummeling 32, Lorraine Clack 32, Lloyd Barrett 32 & Nathan Bendeich 32 c/b

Pennants
 The A Grade team have remained undefeated after splitting the points with Kurri in the matches played at Muswellbrook. The B Grade side have backed up last week with another win 3 1/2 to 1 1/2 over Singleton at home and the C Grade have secured their first win at Maitland defeating Branxton 3-2. The Seniors began their season with a0-3The Ladies will begin their 2021 campaign on the 1 March at Cypress Lakes v Branxton

Tuesday 16th February
 Rob Hannah handled the heavy conditions best in the Tuesday Stableford to claim the event with 39 points from Richard Craft 37 on countback to Caleb Porter from Kurri GC 3rd. Ball winners were: John Stewart 36, Damien Porter 36, Robert Wilton 35, Joe Laughlin 35, Teedubs Waite 35, William Waite 34, Ian Smith 34, Luke McArthur 33, Darrell Porter 33, Andrew Edwards v33, Biindi 33, Graeme Flynn 32 & Wayne Burgess 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Gary Arnold (3rd) Damien Porter (4th) Rob hannah (10th) & Richard Craft (17th)

Wednesday 17th February
 The heavy conditions with the ongoing showers we are experiencing has made scoring very hard for our Lady Golfers in the last round of this years Summer Stableford. Isabel Skeats did best with 30 points with Jill Slatter taking 2nd place on countback from Dale Hamilton after both had 29 points returns. Ball winners were: Ruth Scott 27, Toni Fisher 27 and Lorraine Clack 27 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went Dale Hamilton (3rd,4th & 10th) & Marlene Rooney (17th) Next week the Ladies will begin their season with a 2 Person Ambrose with all players arrive in enough time for an 8am Shotgun start.

Thursday 18th February
 The heavy rain which arrived during the Vets round has seen 1/3 of the field not completing their round. Those who played before the rain and during had some excellent returns, Division 1 went to Graeme Flynn with 68 net from Paul Bullock 70, Division 2 to Bill Freeman 68 from Graham Donaldson 72, Division 3 has gone to Geoff Sweetman with 'the round of the day' a fine 67 net from Hi-ho Peterson 71.

Ball winners were:Maureen Donaldson 71, Rob Hannah 71, Norn Barry 73, Doug Harley 73, Eric Smith 73, Ian Newell 73, Muz 74, Jeff Taylor 74, Trevor Collins 74, Greg Amlöh 75, Paul Ireland 75, John Stewart 75, Wazza 75, Bruce Chambers 75, Spot 76, James Schofield 76, Bobby Logue 76, Graham Morris 76, Geoff Boyd 77, Peter Perkins 77 & Tony Neale 77 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went Spot (3rd) Richard Carft (4th) Paul Bullock (10th) & Tom Bell (17th).

Saturday 20th February
 The Blue Tee Challenge was played in humid conditions with soft greens following recent rain which led to solid results. A Grade has been won by John Stojanovski with a solid 40 points from Steve Piggot with 39 points in a 4 way countback, B Grade to Caleb Porter with a standout 44 point round from Luke Johnston 42 and C grade to New South Wales GC member Angus Sprod with 42 from Ben Newton with 39 points. Ball winners were: Nathan Sweeney 39, Shannon Attewell 39, Wade Attewell 39, , Dan Mcleod 38, Patrick Wand 38, Andrew Zok 38, Terry Roughan 36, Darren Desmid 35, Russ Lightfoot 35, Nic bates 35, Ben Pickering 35 & Craig Sharp 35 c/b Nearest-the-Pins went to Graham Morris (3rd) Andrew Zok

(4th) Caleb Porter (8th) Ben Pickering (10th) & Steve Piggot (17th).

Sunday 21st February
 Marc McGee from Branxton GC has won the Weekly Challenge with 40 points from John Knuth with 38 & Lloyd Barrett 3rd with 37. Ball winners were: Dean Ferris 36, Adrian Kent 35 & John Kopkins wiyj 34 on countback

Pennants:
 A Grade have been beaten for the first time this season going down to Maitland 1-4 , The B Grade team have suffered a 1-4 loss to a hot Maitland team played at Branxton, C Grade continued on their winning way with a 3-2 result v Muswellbrook at Singleton & the Seniors have drawn with Murrurundi to get their first points this year without hitting a ball as Maitland were unable to supply carts for the Pennant players.

Tuesday 23rd February
 Joshua Noble from Youkley GC has won the Tuesday Stableford with 42 points from fellow club member Mark Noble who carded 40 points to claim 2nd place on countback to Terry Baas in 3rd, ball winners were: Drew Dewar 39, Angello Wood 39, Arthur Cuttriss 39, Eric Smith 39, Garry Marsden 38, Mathew David Ford 38, John Stewart 37, Graeme Flynn 36, Greg Piper v36, Nic Bates 36, Thomas Vaugh 35, Wayne Burgess 34, Bob Prentice 34, Greg Ireland 33, Rod Teasdale v33, John Carmody 32, George Makras v32, Paul Campbell 32, Rick Lantry v31, Gary Arnold 31, Chris Taggart 31,Albert Boccuccia v31, Richatd Craft 31 & Geoff Sweetman 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Stewart (3rd) Garry Marsden (4th) & Mathew David Ford (10th & 17th)

Wednesday 24th February
 The Ladies played the Season Opening 2 Person Ambrose with at time of writing no results have been released.
Thursday 25th February
 The Vets Medley Stableford was interrupted by several shows of rain which led to uncompleted round by some of the field, in tough going several players returned some solid scores.Division 1 went to Scott Walker with 39 with Fluff runner up with 38, Division 2 to Kevin Dick with the 'round of the day' 42 which included a Hole-in-One on the Par 3 10th, 2nd place to Gary Arnold 37 and Division 3 to John Knuth with 35 points on countback to Alick Bender. Ball winners were: Beepa 36, Peter Payne 36, Dave Archibald 34, Wayne Burgess 34, Doug Wand 34, Kerry Bartlett 34, Graeme Flynn 34, Wayne Barber 34, Tom Bell 33, Jock 33, Gilly 33 & Muz 32. Nearest-the-Pins to Rob Hannah (3rd) Graeme Flynn (4th) Tom Bell (8th) Kevin Dick (10th Ace) & Muz (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley 4BBB Par.

Saturday 27th February
 Improving conditions has resulting in some great scores returned in all grades. Stephen Zok with 42 points has claimed A Grade from Craig Mould 41, Jeremie Morton 45 has won B Grade from Mike Carter 41 and

Nick Hain with 45 points C Grade from Angus Sampson v42. Ball winners were: Col Somerville 40, Mark Makin 40, Jason Mould 40, Lloyd Barrett 39, Mick Goldman 39, Shannon Attewell 38, Terry Roughan 37, Robert King 37, James Schofield

37, David Agnew 37, Andrew Zok 37, Nick Dunn 37, Angello Wood 36 & Adam Pratten 36 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bindii (3rd) Mick Gilbert (4th & 10th) Gary Arnold (8th) & Mark Makin (17th).



with Mark Bercini

Week 18

The Cessnock District Cricket played its penultimate round of competition last Saturday, with second, third and fourth spot still all up for grabs in the top grade. Greta/Branxton wrapped up the minor premiership with a convincing eight wicket win over an out-of-sorts Wine Country at Miller 1. Sent in to bat, the Wood Ducks were skittled for 70 inside 29

overs. Greta/Branxton's Patrick Andrews (4-10 off 7), Darren Thomson (3-19 off 10) and Cliff Newling (2-9 off 2.2) combined nicely in taking the wickets. The Blues reeled in the target in 21 overs, with openers Mark Bercini (31no) and Joey Butler (20) among the runs. Second grade picked up an important win by two wickets against Wine Country at Miller 2. Chasing 100 for victory, the Blues got there with an over to spare after losing eight wickets. Ben Van Haren led the way with a patient 20, with Jason Varley (18) and Blake Kellett (17) playing vital roles. Earlier in the day Brett Bridge (3-19 off 8), Anthony Brunson (3-36 off 10) and Hayden Regan (2-21 off 10) provided the wickets. Regan finished the game off in style with a maximum over the square leg boundary.

Third Grade remain alive following their five-wicket victory over the Piranhas at Baddeley 1. The Piranhas were all out for just 29 batting first, with Jamie McNamara ripping through their line up with 7-11 off 4, with son Noah chipping in with 2-16 off 4.5. Greta/Branxton lost five wickets in reply, with Brett Stephenson leading the way with 10.

The "Grudge Match" between Greta/Branxton Blue and Greta/Branxton White in fourth grade went to the Blues by four wickets at Baddeley 2.

The Whites made a modest 75 batting first, with Mitch Fallon timing the ball nicely for 48. Correy Stone (3-16 off 10), Zach MacBeth (3-9 off 4) and Riley McKewen (2-15 off 6.2) did the damage with the ball for the Blues.

The Blues reached the target with four wickets left in the sheds. MacBeth capped a fine all-round game with 29, with Zac Watkins making 15. James Shoulders jnr was the Whites' best with the ball, collecting 2-4 off 1.

Points Tables 2020-21

First Grade Greta/Branxton 42, Bellbird 33, Wine Country 33, Mulbring 29, Piranhas 25.
Second Grade Chelmsford Hotel 69, Wine Country 53, Greta/Branxton 50, Bellbird 47, Piranhas 37.
Third Grade Wine Country White 69, Bellbird 65, Wine Country Blue 64, Greta/Branxton 62, Piranhas 62, Mulbring 54.
Fourth Grade Bellbird White 6.43, Chelmsford Hotel 6.33, Bellbird Maroon 6.33, Greta/Branxton Blue 6.00, Cessnock Hotel 4.71, Wine Country 4.33, Piranhas 3.67, Greta/Branxton White 3.57, Supporters 3.00.
 * Fourth Grade points calculated on average due to uneven number of byes.
Club Championship Greta/Branxton 600.60, Wine Country 548.10, Bellbird 532.00, Piranhas 423.50.

Kirkton Public Schools' budding champion footballer

Nayte is one of Kirkton Public Schools' captains this year. He went to Aberdeen to trial for the Upper Hunter PSSA Rugby

League team last Wednesday & competed against students from all the other Singleton and Scone area schools and, not surprisingly, made the Zone team. He now travels to Raymond Terrace on 11th March to play a gala like tournament against the other zone teams in the region where selectors will choose competing students on the day to form a regional PSSA representative rugby league team.

Well done Nayte & good luck on the 11th March!



BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The **News**SPORT

Greta Workers



Fishing Club; a new year

2021 has begun and the Greta Workers Fishing Club is off and away for another big year. A big thanks to the following 2020 sponsors GoCon Rural,

The Bottle-O at Greta, The Harvest Bistro Greta, and The Sea Shanty Rutherford who have signed back up for 2021. Also 2020 major sponsor McDougall Concreting is back onboard as our Major Sponsor and is joined by new Major sponsor The Greta Workers Club.



Without these businesses generosity the club wouldn't be possible. The January Open outing was held on the Australia Day weekend and we had 17 weigh ins. With the new under 13 years individual prizes up for grabs we saw Ruby Nevin (Whiting) and Charlie Fox (Bream) log their

first fish for the club. New member Jamie Langlands logged his first fish on debut (0.7kg Flathead) and Terry Roulston recorded a nice Jewy (3.4kg), but was upstaged by another new member Matty Wielgasz who managed a bigger 5.51kg Jew. Matt cleared out to an early lead in the standings with 13 fish in total (8 different species-Skipjack, Tailor, Samson fish, Squire, Bream, Trag, Salmon, Jewy) and scored a mammoth 223.5 points.

2020 runner up Steve Nevin started strong finishing behind Matt with 109.5 points (6 species-Morwong, Bream, Whiting, Flathead, Trag and Squire). Mark Dever closely followed with his 105.4 points (Bream, Trevally, Whiting and Flathead). Kerriann Dries leads the Women with 48.9 points and Tyson Nevin leads the Juniors with 49.8 points.

Records were broken that weekend also with the first ever Samson fish (Anthony Field and Matty Wielgasz) and first ever Cobia (Troy Field) weighed in for the club.

February Fishing Recap

February 12th to the 14th was the latest Open weekend for the Greta Workers Fishing Club. Two months in a row new records were added with the first ever Mack Tuna (1.3kg) weighed in for the club by Junior Cohen Spliet-Miller. Cohen also got a massive Flatty (2.89kg) which will give him bragging rights around town for some time. Cohen ended up with a personal high 95.1 points.



The star of the weekend again was Matty Wielgasz with Bream, Snapper, Tailor, Salmon and Trag (153.4 points) off Newcastle. His biggest Snapper weighed in at 2.8kg.

Steve Nevin scored well (88) and Mattys deckhand Micah Platt (64.5) fished well, Mick "Mouse" Edwards weighed in 4 different species (63.8 points) on Hawks Nest Beach and Jason Mckewens kayak provided him with Flathead, Whiting and Bream in Lake Macquarie (72.2 points). Summer Spliet-Miller flew the flag for the ladies with 7 Flathead (29.6 points) and out fished husband Jayden "Boxhead" Miller. Major Sponsor Aidan McDougall took his Marlin

hookup tally to two in a month and also weighed in 8 pan sized Snapper (55points)

Our next outing is the 12th, 13th and 14th March at Hawks Nest, and members are talking about staying at Riverside or Jimmys Beach Caravan Park.

Don't forget to get down to the Greta Workers Club Raffles every Wednesday from 5pm and support the Fishing Club.

For any information on how to join the Fishing Club or for any enquiries in general contact Steve Nevin 0457 547 478.

■ Photo above: Cohen with his big Flatty

A PLUS

CONTRACTING & POLY WELDING

**PHONE
4938 3425
ON CALL
24 HOURS
7 DAYS**

EXPERTS

POLY WELDING
CIVIL EARTHMOVING
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
SPECIALISED SERVICES

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

WWW.APLUSCONTRACTING.COM.AU