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2021

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Cessnock City Council adopt new remuneration package for Mayor & Councillors



Mr Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock Council

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCILLORS have endorsed an increase in their remuneration for the coming financial year.

each year what councillors' annual pay will be. The new pay rates are \$61,280 (\$15,920 more than this year), and the 12

The new pay rate was almost a unanimous decision with the exception of independent councillor Ian Olsen. The increase comes as a result of the council's reclassification by the NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal to a Regional Centre. The NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal decides

councillors will each be paid \$24,810 (a \$4010 increase); a years total of \$358,880.

This amounts to 0.35% of CCC income for the financial year ended 30th June 2020.

Looking at the increase in light of the size of the council, its income & expenditure &, generally speaking, the significant amount of hours that councillors spend on council business in their respective wards, the pay rise is insignificant.

Labor councillor Di Fitzgibbon is reported to have said that the pay rise would help councillors who want to cut back their working hours at their regular jobs in order to have more time for their council

commitments.

"I'm sure that there would be those in the community who feel the mayor and councillors shouldn't get paid at all, and it wouldn't matter what we got paid, it would be too much," she said.

"But the reality is that in this day and age, the job of the mayor and the councillors is very different than it was even when I started (in 2016).

"The amount of time that you have to put in to do a good job requires a lot of meetings, briefing, training days - it's not just one meeting a month.

"(The increase) might help councillors who need to adjust their work hours, and I believe they can do that comfortably with this small



• Ward B Councillor Ian Olsen who voted against the pay rise

that a 20 percent increase for councillors and a 30 percent increase for the mayor is an absolute joke in this time and age, when the state government is recommending that the maximum wage rise anyone should get is 1.5 percent.

"I really don't think 20 percent can justify what this council has done," he said. Again putting the new CCC pay rates in perspective: for example, in Queensland a Category 1 council, (as determined by the Local

Government Remuneration Commission), the councillors receive \$54,110 per year with the mayor receiving \$108,222. Aurukun Shire Council, for example, is a Category 1 and has an annual budgeted expenditure of \$17.367m to June 30th 2021.

CCC was just on \$70m. If you again look at a Category 8 Queensland Council the mayor is paid \$258,066 with councillors receiving \$154,006 per year.

The Gold Coast Council is a category 8 council and has an income of some \$353m a year (2020/21). If you do your sums as a percentage of expenditure Cessnock City Councillors & Mayor are very much underpaid compared to our northern neighbours.

Speaking with a Gold Coast Councillor, who wishes to remain anonymous, he stated that the remuneration was a way of enticing good candidates and achieving a good sound council.

"We are spending a great deal of money each year and the responsibility for that alone is quite arduous. Good councillors, generally speaking, make the correct decisions on behalf of their constituents," he said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the NSW Minister for Local Government made an order to postpone the local government ordinary elections that were scheduled for 2020. On 26 June 2020 the Minister made a further order setting the date for the postponed local government ordinary elections as Saturday 4 September 2021.

Nominations for candidates open on 26th July 2021.



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Mega Land Release for Huntlee



the sale starts. Given how hot the market is, we're confident we will sell out on the day.

"Huntlee Display Home Village 2.0 – boasting 18 new homes – will be open, with our building partners on hand to help you select the ideal design to suit your new block, or design a house and land package to your specifications," added Robert.

To turn the day into a celebration of the buoyant market in the Hunter, the event will be a fun family day out, with jumping castles and

face painting to keep the younger ones entertained and goodie bags and food trucks to satisfy all.

Details of the lots available in the **Huntlee Mega Land Release** are available on the Huntlee website: huntlee.com.au. There you can also download an information pack to ensure you have everything you need to secure your land on the day.

Sun rises on solar solutions to transform Council's energy use and cut expenditure



Benefits are set to shine on Singleton Council with an investment in solar panels at 12 sites expected to be paid off in seven years and total energy savings calculated at \$126,652 per year.

Council awarded the tender for the supply and installation of solar panels, inverters and LED lighting at last week's meeting, with the project expected to be complete at the end of the year. The cost of the project amounts to \$977,425.10 (ex GST). The project also revealed solar energy will deliver Council's biggest user of energy, the Gym & Swim at 220.40kW per year, a \$43,381 annual saving in energy bills, while the second biggest user, the sewer treatment plant – which uses 210.6kW per year – would save \$40,211.

The total annual saving across all 12 sites has been calculated at \$126,652.

Council will now work with the successful contractor to order the panels and inverters and schedule installation across all 12 sites by the end of 2021.



"It's about realising the opportunity to reduce our electricity expenditure to divert those savings back into the community, and at the same time to role model good environmental sustainability with the solar panels and inverters," Mark Ihlein, Council's Executive Manager Projects said.

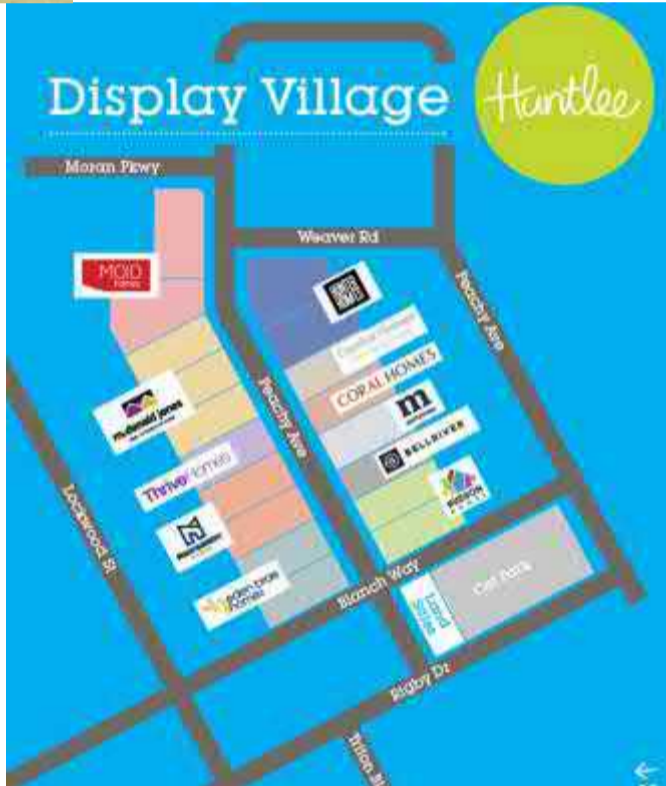
"We know our community takes sustainability seriously as we've seen through the development and adoption of the Singleton Sustainability Strategy 2019-2027. "The installation of solar and LED lighting is another action we can add to what we're doing on behalf of and for our community, now and into the future.

"Best of all, it's an investment that pays dividends in so many

other ways, beyond economics and the environment. Our littlest residents at Colleen Gale and OOSH will be part of the social shift in sustainability from an early age, it's a symbol for our staff to continually look for innovative solutions to minimise our footprint in the way we do things, and hopefully, encouragement for everyone in our community to look at ways we can all play a role in the sustainability of our local government area."

To learn more about the Singleton Sustainability Strategy 2019-2027 and other actions Council is taking, visit the Sustainability Hub on Council's website at singleton.nsw.gov.au

Photograph above: Singleton Council's Executive Manager Projects Mark Ihlein and Electrical Engineer Ibrar Shah at the Sewer Treatment Plant.



Residential land sales in the Hunter are booming, with lots snapped up as soon as they are released to market. The most recent HIA-CoreLogic Residential Land Report shows demand in the region jumped a whopping 88.8% in the September 2020 quarter, compared to the previous quarter.

It's a phenomenon which is starkly evident at **Huntlee**, where new land releases are selling out in record time.

Commenting on the post-Covid lockdown activity, Huntlee Land Sales Director, Robert Crane said the interest in land is unlike anything he's seen in the area.

"We released 86 lots without any fanfare in February and they were all but sold out within 48 hours," said Robert. "In an attempt to satisfy the unprecedented demand, on Saturday 19 June, we're staging a **Mega Land Release**, where we'll be releasing 125 lots across three stages.

"They'll go on sale at 10am and, as it's first in, first served, to secure your dream lot, you'll need to be on site when

REFLECTIONS

Family Mark 3.20-35

There is a lot going on in the life of Jesus. He has been baptised in the River Jordan by John, the Spirit has alighted upon him, and he has received God's blessing. He has called his disciples to follow him, he teaches in the synagogue with authority, and he heals people. Jesus has the attention of the Jewish religious leaders and the Herodians, but they are intent on conspiring to destroy him. How dare he come among them and teach, drawing people away to something new, a new way, a different way? As we encounter Jesus, his disciples, the crowds, his family and the religious leaders in this passage, Jesus is coming home or is close to home. People come in crowds to listen to his teaching, so many that he does not have time to eat. And then his family arrive to restore some sense of order. They hear that the crowds have gathered, and that Jesus does not even have time to eat. They go out to "restrain him" because "he has gone out of his mind." [Mark 3.21] While this could be seen as a family protecting one of their own, it shows a deep lack of understanding for Jesus and his ministry and mission. Jesus' family lack the understanding that Jesus has been called and affirmed by God to bring the kingdom of God near. The religious leaders choose to interpret his behaviour as proof that he is possessed by a demon. And if possessed by a demon, he is a danger to himself and others. In the ancient Greco-Roman world, it was believed that being possessed by a demon caused insanity ... and so being the controversy. Jesus counters these allegations by telling a parable, a story, which poses the question, "How can Satan cast out Satan?" He goes on to explain that a house divided against itself can not stand. So, Satan can not cast out Satan ... and family who do not stand together are divided. There is a new family being formed, a family of disciples, followers, and believers. This new family is defined by one's willingness to do God's will. All who do God's will are Jesus' "brother and sister and mother." [Mark 3.35] So I wonder, do we gather with the crowds, listening to Jesus, learning from his life, death, and resurrection? ... or are we gathered with his family who desire to control him because he is not of sound mind? ... or are we gathered with the religious leaders who do not want their way, or the status quo, changed? Are we in opposition to Jesus? ... or are we a brother or sister? Jesus invites us on a life-long journey of faith, drawing us close to the heart of God, calling us by name and offering us a place in his family. The only thing that we need to do to be a brother or sister is to do God's will. May the blessings of God rest gently upon you as you seek to do God's will. Blessings, Reverend Nicole

MARK 3:35 Anyone who does God's will is my



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STEVE'S RANT

Greater Greta Ground Grab. During the 19th century in Victoria, there were three booms and busts. The first was between 1837 and 1840, which was fuelled by land speculation. As an example of how land prices rocketed; three blocks of land purchased by Mr C.H. Ebden for one hundred and thirty-six pounds in 1837 resold at auction for more than ten thousand pounds. Admittedly these blocks were within the Melbourne city block. By contrast, in the 1990s, blocks of land could be purchased in North Rothbury and Greta for less than six thousand dollars 150 years later. After the bust in 1840, the Port Phillip bank crashed, merchants and graziers were bankrupt, and the price of a sheep dropped from 25s to 1/6d (\$2.50 to 15cents). The Bank of Australasia paid no dividends for five years. The gold rush, which peaked in 1850, led to the second bust, but the continuous flow of gold ameliorated this. Banks held so much gold they ceased paying interest on deposits. The land boom of the 1880s was the granddaddy of all booms and again arose through speculation on the price of land. The bust in 1890-1891 saw the collapse of the whole banking system, which resonated in other states; Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide. A broad section of the community was involved with anybody who could gain credit jumping into the Ponzi scheme. It included lawyers, magistrates, members of

parliament, most of the professions and members of local councils. The poor working class whose savings were held by the banks and the building societies were bankrupted. Many prominent people who were deeply involved in this speculation ended up in court and charged with fraud. Michael Cannon's book "The Land Boomers" explains in great detail the extent of this boom and bust. Land values in Melbourne did not recover value until after the second world war. As a result of the bust, banks became virtually miserly in their caution about lending money. Confidence in the banking system was not re-established until after Federation. The public debt for the mad boom in railways and tramways was still being paid for in the 1950s. When the banking system was computerised, the security standards for investment loans were made easier with banking regulations eased. The period before this was overshadowed by two world wars, the depression and the financial ascendancy of the US. Even in the 1980s, I recall being hauled over the coals by my bank manager, putting at risk other people's money by requesting an overdraft for my business. At this



time, interest rates were 17 to 20 per cent. The easing of banking standards during the 80s and 90s set the world financial system up for the 2008-2009 Global Financial Crisis. So, where is this preamble heading? In every bust, there are individuals who, by luck, good management or fraud, make big money out of the misery of the investing public. One of the best ways to do this is by having insider knowledge, and who is best able to get this knowledge? People in positions of trust, such as bureaucrats, councillors, lawyers and politicians. We still see cases of developers greasing councillors or politicians to avoid planning guidelines or change zoning laws to maximise return on their investment.

In recent times opportunities for this influence peddling has been stymied by new regulations, and a far more aware public ready to call it out. But as history tells us, this was not the case when our cities and towns were first developed. Even when farsighted individuals advocated for and made provision for public lands, parks, and good town planning, the greed for profit in the boom times saw much of our parklands and public spaces alienated and sold off. It is my opinion this makes any public land that remains in our cities and towns a priceless legacy, having survived the rapacious activities of developers. This is not to say there were not developers who have produced model settlements that we enjoy today. 'Huntlee' is an excellent

example as is the city of Adelaide. So how can a Council even think about selling public land or re-zoning an area not yet subject to a private title? To my mind, the reverse should be the policy of every local government. The Council should hold a list of privately titled lands that are seen as likely to enhance already existing parks and reserves or are considered desirable to create open spaces in areas of dense habitation. When the property comes on the market Council purchase it to retain as public land. Cessnock Council has form in this business, and it is good that the people of Greta have called them out concerning the land known as Victoria Park. Notably, Council does not include this area in their list of parks and

public spaces maintained by them. If parks and recreation maintenance programmes cannot be extended to other areas of public land Council should invite the local Tidy Towns to assume responsibility and a free hand to develop the site into a safe and pleasant space. As part of Council, Tidy Towns can be funded on a dollar-for-dollar basis. No Council in NSW should lease public land to an individual who might use it for mainly their use or personal benefit, as is currently observed. It would be a perfect park for people to work their horses on a bridle path where horses have the right of way and a forest of non-eucalypt native trees for displaced native fauna. Victoria Park already has the basis for a beautiful reserve; if access can be made more accessible, people will use it. To say there are already open spaces in Greta, as Council does, is a cop-out. There is never sufficient available space. I commend the actions of the people of Greta and wish them every success. CHEERS, STEVE



Get the jab for your health and the community. The notion that one needs to be given some kind of reward for being vaccinated, such as frequent flier points or a beverage of choice, diminishes the value of this important health measure. For goodness sake, the vaccine is required to save lives and to protect the community and there should be no need to offer some form of bribe. **Rod Evans, Parkville** Too much information Ban from television all images of grimacing people getting jabbed. Many of us are gutless and the images of glistening needles plunging in is a deterrent. **Roger Mendelson** Select few get bonuses More than 700 highly paid employees at NBN Co

received average personal bonuses of \$50,000 last year. Really? I worked for 45 years as a registered nurse, never received any discounts on my health insurance and doctor's visits, and worked many, many hours of unpaid overtime. We are all paid to do our job: why are bonuses paid to high-earning workers? **Breta Cohen, Blackburn** Them's the rules It's hard to follow the reasoning used by some of the opponents of the NRL's current crackdown on dangerous high tackles. They seem to be suggesting that because some players are hard to tackle round the legs, tacklers have to go high and if, by accident or design, the ball carrier is struck around the head or

neck we shouldn't be too hard on them because "it's a man's game isn't it?". They seem to ignore the fact that there is a considerable legal target between the top of a player's legs and the bottom of his neck. It's an unfortunate fact that some of league's modern day enforcers are serial offenders

with above the shoulder contact on opponents. The current campaign to encourage tacklers to play by the rules is already having a beneficial effect. Let's hope the NRL and Peter V'landys stick to their guns. **Col Nicholson, Hawks Nest**

What's Happening & other with Mike Lowing

Had a trip to Mount Tamborine on the weekend of 22/23 May to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. All our family live in the south eastern corner of Queensland so easier for Helen & I to go north than the whole family & grandchildren heading our way. We drove up and back as I am not allowed to fly because, as my wife says .. the planes have been too long on the ground & pilots have to have gotten rusty.

To make matters worse a friend who has his own Cessna 210 with thousands of hours flying agreed with her ... it appears I am destined to drive or take a ship for quite some time to come. Anyway, some attending the luncheon on the 23rd stayed in the accommodation where the luncheon was held; The Manor House (Circa 1882), Long Road, Mount Tamborine. The establishment is family owned and run; mum, dad and the children. They have been there for 35 years & if you want a definition of hospitality they define it totally as

nothing was a problem to them. It is almost worth the trip to see the furnishings as I would suggest that prior to & probably still are avid collectors; such an eclectic combination. The cost of the luncheon for about 18 came to around \$700 with all alcohol and a la carte meals. My main was \$14.90 which probably explains why it was so costless! Give it a go if you are heading north ... you won't be disappointed. The local business chamber had a breakfast meeting on

the 19th May at The Quinn in Branxton. Guest speaker for the breakfast was Clayton Barr MP our local state MP. He spoke about the history and future of the Hunter Expressway and took a questions on a number of different matters affecting the local area. *Best Mike*



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Central Hunter Business Chamber hears from Clayton Barr MP



• Clayton Barr MP addressing the Chamber Members

At the May breakfast meeting of the Central Hunter Business Chamber at The Quinn Restaurant, Commercial Hotel, Branxton, the visiting speaker was Clayton Barr MP, the title of his presentation was: *'Hunter Expressway and its impact on our town.'* Clayton was introduced by Chamber Treasurer, Mike Lowing.

Clayton's talk covered his memory of the Central Hunter Business Chamber's start in life with Michael Starkey and he linked the Expressway to businesses being able to springboard into life as a result, such as the building we were in: The Commercial Hotel; he said that, and the Royal Federal Hotel, made Branxton become a destination for visitors. He said going forward there were

challenges in relation to population growth, schooling, medical facilities, and policing was another one that was 'occasional and rare' as opposed to regular. Now Branxton is in a larger area, and services will change in line with the population growth as the current model of emergency service provision is not sustainable going forward. Clayton explained that with

population growth at Huntlee and a potential new public primary school, the Education Minister had decided that instead of building a primary school he wanted to build a High School but there are some challenges. First, there are some wonderful local schools in Branxton and Greta, but they are bursting at the seams. There is some confusion over which block of land is to be used for the school and there are a number of questions to be answered before building starts. Clayton said that one of the criticisms of an MP is that you are not getting things done but the question of a school started for him five years ago. Another infrastructure issue was the provision of a new hospital and this, he thought, was a problem as the suggestion of locating the new hospital near the Hunter Expressway had not been taken up; the final decision favouring a new site on the far side of Maitland. Clayton thought that, for people in Branxton and surrounding areas, it might be quicker to get to the John Hunter Hospital than the new Hospital being built at Maitland by using the Expressway. He said: 'We also need more paramedics because they

are doing more but they might be in a bed-block situation when they arrive at a hospital'. Local hospitals will only do triage on less serious cases and then the more serious injuries will have to go further to the John Hunter Hospital. Clayton commended local organisations on their success in bidding for the grants that were available, he specifically mentioned the success of the group that bid for grant money for the Branxton Greta Cycleway, which he described as 'excellent work'. "Since its inception 7 years ago the Hunter Expressway has led to enormous growth in the area. With more families now calling the area home - shopping in our local shops, attending our schools, joining sporting groups, eating in our restaurants and cafes and using our services all of which are first class and help contribute to who we are as a community" said Mr Barr. "It was a pleasure to attend the business breakfast and talk to various members of the Central Hunter Business Chamber Community" Mr Barr said. Mike Lowing thanked Clayton for a very



interesting talk and there was a round of applause. **Clayton's Bio:** Clayton Barr was elected to the Legislative Assembly in March 2011, he is currently Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science, Tertiary Education and the Hunter. As well as a Member of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development. Previously Clayton also

held the position of Shadow Minister for Finance, Services and Property. **Chamber activities:** The Chamber activity for the next few months is a management board meeting on Wednesday 23 June and a breakfast meeting on 21st July; the guest speaker will be Tony Chadwick, Economic Development and Tourism Officer from Cessnock City Council, subject, *Economic Update for LGA FY 2021/ 2022.*



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A CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE

Members say ..



Clr Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Congratulations to the seven recipients of the Mayoral Scholarships 2021. The scholarships valued at \$2500 will support these students as they undertake further education and training. It is important that we continue to upskill our local people particularly in areas that suit the skills needed to support our local industries. Thanks to this year's generous sponsors, which include Lioncrest Education, Cessnock Leagues Club, Rotary Club of Cessnock, Solo Resource Recovery and Cole Cornford.

Now we have finished delivering the spectacular Bridges Hill Park Playground our teams are working on a refresh of Col Brown Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri. The upgrade will improve the current space and make it more enjoyable for those visiting the park, while also ensuring all the best features of the park remain. Residents will see teams constructing new pathways for better access, planting trees, undertaking landscaping works and installing park furniture and lighting. A highlight will be the construction of sandstone amphitheatre that will see this space used for a variety of events in the future. The project is made possible thanks to \$482,198 from the NSW Government's Resource for Regions Fund Round 7. To keep up to date with the upgrade visit Council's website.

It was great to attend the Branxton's Biggest Morning Tea event at Branxton Hall. The organisers did an exceptional job in selling tickets. Well done. It was good to see nearly a full house during COVID-19 times. The Cessnock Leagues Club is also hosting a morning tea at 10am to 1pm today. Biggest Morning Tea events are an opportunity to support the Cancer Council who support those in our community affected by Cancer.

Local residents interested in becoming a Councillor are invited to attend an

information night next month. The two hour LGNSW Candidate Briefings will be held at 2pm and 6pm on Thursday 24 June 2021 in the Council Chambers ahead of the local government election on Saturday 4 September 2021. It would be fantastic to see some younger faces in the chamber. It is important that the next generation are leading the way forward for our community.

If you or someone you know is interested come along and learn more about being a Councillor. It is a role that requires a significant commitment however it is extremely rewarding. The Candidates Briefings will provide an insight into the responsibilities of a Councillor. From Council meetings on the third Wednesday evening of the month, briefings, workshops plus committee meetings, it is a busy role. For more information contact Council's Governance Team on 4993 4100.

Last Saturday, Little Zak's Academy at Nulkaba held an open day to show off the new childcare facility which will open its doors to local families in July. It is pleasing to see a new facility established to ensure local families can seek care close to home. The opening of a new childcare centre is also welcome news as our population continues to grow and more and more families choose to call the Cessnock Local Government Area home.

Last week we farewelled and celebrated the life of former Mayoress Joy Brown. On behalf of the community we acknowledge the contribution of Mrs Brown during her time as Mayoress and express our sincere condolences to former Mayor Bob Brown and family.
Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

The events of the past two years are proof enough that we can't predict the future. But we can set a destination and plot a course of action, which is exactly what we're doing with a review of our 10-year Singleton Community Strategic Plan.

The Community Strategic Plan – or CSP – is the guiding document that will set the vision for Singleton in 2032, and all the actions of Council under the four-year Delivery Program and one-year operational plans for the next term of the elected Council. That's why it's so important for all residents, businesses, organisations and community groups to be involved in Create Singleton 2032.

This is the best opportunity for everyone to have a say in the future of our community – and we're making sure it's easy and accessible for everyone. A whole program of events is underway until 30 September that includes community events, workshops and children's activities to capture your ideas about what you want for Singleton in 2032.

You can write a submission, draw a picture, come along to a workshop, make a comment on social media, chat to us, stick a post-it note on a wall or simply answer a few questions in the online survey. All the details are available at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/createsingleton2032

One of the first events on the program will be at Bulga Community Hall on Thursday 10 June, where people can talk to Council staff about their vision for the future of Bulga or any one of our villages or wider LGA. Children can draw their ideas in a special art competition for the chance to be part of one of the first exhibitions in our new arts and cultural centre, or be part of a writing competition and go into the running for a Spend in Singleton gift card.

We also want to hear your suggestions for the development of a Wollombi Brook walking trail. The Bulga Stock Reserve has been earmarked for recreational walking trails as part of the recently-adopted Plan of Management, and we're already looking ahead to expanding Bulga's potential as a recreational destination. The drop-in session will run from 4pm to 6pm – we'd love to see you there.
Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR

BEING A PUBLIC SERVANT IS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER

A recent report on the workload of teachers outlined some staggering facts about the hours worked. And despite the absence of similar reports into other public sector agencies, I can tell you with considerable certainty that these extreme hours of work are quite common. The report found that the average teacher was working 55 hours per week. Late in the 16th century, some 430 years ago, the King of Spain declared the 8 hour working day. More recently, early in the 19th century, a little over 200 years ago, the catchery was developed for an 8 hour working day for all workers that called for "8 hours work, 8 hours play, 8 hours sleep and a penny a day". In the 1840's, Australia and New Zealand, were early adopters of the 8 hour working day in some industries. But most significantly, the stonemasons of Sydney went out on various strikes to demand the 8 hour day in late 1855 and early 1856. They really gained momentum when they stopped work on the Tooth's brewery and soon after were awarded their 8 hour day.

Fast forward 170 years and we have teachers working, on average, 11 hour days. And some of them are doing this 6 or 7 days a week. A more modern version of the 8 hour day includes an unpaid lunch break of 30mins- 1hour. So a worker would, on average be working 35-37.5 hours per week.

Talk to a police officer and you will find out how often they go in to work on their days off, or stay back well past knock-off time, to catch up on the paperwork and other matters that they just couldn't get done during their shift. The same goes for nurses and doctors and paramedics that ride our ambulance. And the same goes for our public servants working in child protection, our environmental officers, our TAFE teachers, our aged care workers, our disability workers, etc etc etc.

These long hours are completely unsustainable. "Burn-out" of our public sector workers is all too common place and no cares anywhere near enough. And what's worse is that these long hours worked are preventing the bosses (Governments) from employing the right number of people and creating more jobs. But that's not limited to the public sector, it's also widespread in the private sector too.

Imagine if we paid the workers for the hours worked, as opposed to the salary negotiated. Or, imagine if we went to Treasury and asked them to actually adjust the pay of our public sector workers to reflect the number of hours

worked, and not to pay for them for the assumed 35-40 hour working week. As a starting point, based on some pretty simple maths, you would have to increase teachers' salaries by about 40%.

I want to be very clear so that there is no misunderstanding – I am NOT suggesting we increase public sector wages by 40%. I am simply making the point that in dollar terms, the state and we as a people are benefitting by about 40% worth of donated time by our public servants. In doing so, we are failing our wider goals of a fair days work for a fair days pay. We really cannot continue to ignore the facts.

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

Are there lessons to be learned from the Upper Hunter by-election? Absolutely. The first thing to note is that almost half of all electors voted for someone not representing a major political party. While by-elections always produce unusual results, this is pretty extraordinary. The second thing to note is that the primary vote of both the Labor and National Parties declined. This is not so surprising given there were thirteen candidates in the field, but it is unusual still (although the same thing occurred in the Hunter electorate at the 2019 federal election). These points may tell us that people are moving away from the major parties. But what does that in turn tell us? Are they moving because they like another party's person or policies more? Or are they deserting

the major parties as a protest? Of course, it's sure to be a bit of both. One of the great strengths of the democratic system is the secret ballot. When I was younger, it was considered impolite to even ask someone how he or she votes or voted. That is still true but more likely to be so amongst older voters. But one of the weaknesses of the culture, if not the system, is that we don't always know what conclusions to draw from an election result. Of course, sometimes it's easy, I'll never forget the 1988 state election in which proposed gun laws were a powerful issue. It is my conclusion that the 2019 election was mainly about financial security.

But I'm not sure what the recent Upper Hunter by-election was all about. The four top-performers – Nationals, Labor, One Nation and the Shooters, Farmers and Fishers – all gave big assurances on job security and infrastructure investment. As a result, they received around 80 per cent of the vote between them. But what caused 24 per cent of voters to vote One Nation and Shooters rather than Nats or Labor? Was it just a question of trust?

I wish I knew the answer to that question. Not for my own political advantage but in search of the right response. That's the other weakness in our democratic system. If we're not sure why people voted a certain way, or why they did not vote for a particular party, how do we learn from it? Some would say that's the whole point. Each party and candidate should promise only what they believe to be right and in the best interest of the community. That makes some sense, to a point. But if you aspire to be a party capable of forming a government, don't you need to adjust to peoples' views? Wouldn't it be foolhardy not to do so?

Maybe we should make room on the ballot paper to allow voters to say in ten words or less, why they voted as they did? Of course, there will be the occasional rude remark, but we get those in any case. Party scrutineers could be present to take note of the

remarks. This would be raw democracy.

I'm going to risk a barrage of emails by inviting electors to tell me how they voted and why. In ten words or less please. You can do so by via email address: joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au and have in the subject heading 'Upper Hunter vote'. Of course, all submissions will be kept confidential, but I'll report back on the results. They are sure to be interesting!
Cheers, Joel

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News

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Leg cramps

Most people have suffered the excruciatingly painful experience of a leg cramp at least once in their life, often in bed at night. A cramp is a painful spasm of the muscle, usually in the calf, but sometimes in the foot or thigh muscles. During a cramp, the affected muscle feels very hard.

Although they are extremely painful, ordinary leg cramps are more of a nuisance than anything else. Fortunately, they are not usually a sign of anything seriously wrong.

Symptoms associated with muscle cramps

Muscle cramps are a sudden, painful spasm or contraction (shortening) of a muscle. The cramp is involuntary – you have no control over the muscle spasm. Cramps often happen at night, and can wake you from sleep. Cramps usually only last a few seconds or minutes. The affected muscle will usually look or feel as if 'in a knot' and may be in an unusual position (for example, your toes may be sticking up, down or to the side). Cramps usually get better when you stretch the affected muscles. Walking around often helps relieve foot cramps. After cramps, the affected muscles may be sore and tender for a few hours. Sometimes there is even muscle swelling afterwards.

Who tends to get leg cramps?

Leg cramps (especially night cramps) seem to affect people more as they get older, usually affecting the calf muscles in the legs. Pregnant women are also prone to cramps, especially in the second and third trimesters. Pregnancy-related cramps also usually happen at night and affect the calf muscles.

What causes cramps?

Most leg cramps have no known cause and are not serious. These cramps – sometimes called 'true cramps' – are thought to be due to spontaneous overactivity of the nerves that supply certain muscles. True cramps may be brought on by certain activities. Doing more exercise than usual, or prolonged or strenuous exercise, particularly in the heat (heat cramps), can bring on leg cramps. Being dehydrated can also contribute.

In some cases, cramps are a symptom of an **underlying medical condition**, such as:
 *an imbalance of minerals in the body such as sodium, calcium, magnesium or potassium;
 *conditions that affect the body's nerves and muscles;
 *hypoglycaemia (very low blood sugar levels) in people with diabetes;
 *cirrhosis, a condition causing liver scarring;

*thyroid disorders;

*poor circulation in the legs or varicose veins; or
 *some rare genetic conditions that run in families. Cramps that affect muscles other than the calf and foot muscles are more likely to have an underlying cause.

Taking certain

medicines (such as some medicines used to treat high blood pressure) can also increase the likelihood of you having leg cramps. Statins (a type of cholesterol-lowering medicine) are known to be associated with side effects such as muscle soreness and weakness in some people, and may also cause leg cramps. People having haemodialysis treatment for chronic kidney disease are also prone to having muscle cramps.

Tests and diagnosis

Your doctor will ask about your cramps, how long you have been having them and how frequently they happen. They'll want to know what tends to bring them on or make them worse, and whether anything makes them better. Your doctor will want to examine your legs and feet and perform a general physical examination to help rule out serious causes of cramps. They may recommend some tests to make sure the cramps are not a sign of an underlying medical condition. Tests may include blood tests to check:

*the levels of various salts (electrolytes) in the body, such as potassium, calcium and magnesium;
 *kidney function tests;
 *liver function tests;
 *creatinine kinase (a marker of muscle damage);
 *HbA1c test, which indicates average blood glucose levels over the last few months; and
 *thyroid hormone levels. If the diagnosis is not clear, your doctor may refer you to a specialist for further tests and treatment.

How to treat muscle cramps

Cramps can be quickly relieved by stretching the affected muscle. When the calf is affected, this can be done by pulling your toes upwards towards you, massaging the muscle at the same time. When your feet are cramping, walking around can help stop the cramp. You can also try applying heat (using a heat pack or by getting into a warm shower) or using a cold pack.

What can be done to prevent cramps?
Calf-stretching exercises performed several times each day and before bed may help prevent night cramps in some people. However, there is little evidence showing that stretching is effective for the prevention of cramps.

Sleeping with your legs

and with loose covers or blankets on the bed may also help.

There are no medicines that have been proven to be safe and effective in preventing or reducing the frequency or severity of cramps. **Quinine** tablets were previously used to help prevent leg cramps and reduce their intensity, but are no longer recommended because they provide very little benefit and can cause serious side effects.

Magnesium supplements or **vitamin B complex** may help some people with leg cramps, including exercise-related cramps, but more research is needed to show that they are effective. Treating any underlying medical conditions may also help stop muscle cramps. If your muscle cramps are thought to be a side effect from a medicine you are taking, your doctor may recommend stopping or changing your medication. Always check with your doctor before making any medication changes.

Preventing exercise-related cramps

Athletes can help prevent exercise-related cramps by ensuring they drink enough fluids in the lead up to events. Eating sufficient carbohydrates in the days before competing can also help prevent muscle fatigue and exercise-related muscle cramps.

Stretching your muscles before and after exercise may also be of benefit. Massage and rest following exercise can help too. Make sure you also drink enough fluids (a sports drink is a good choice) after exercise.

Preventing pregnancy-related cramps

Most pregnancy-related cramps happen at night, so make sure you stretch your legs before bedtime if you have been suffering from leg cramps. Making sure you are drinking enough water and other fluids during the day can also help.

Magnesium supplements or B vitamins may be helpful, although there is limited evidence. Always check with your doctor before taking any medicines, vitamins or supplements, especially during pregnancy.

When to see your doctor about leg cramps

If you're experiencing frequent leg cramps or having cramps in other muscles, see your doctor. Also see your doctor if:
 you are having leg cramps that are regularly disturbing your sleep;
 your cramps are not responding to simple self-care measures;
 you have diabetes, kidney disease or liver disease;
 you're concerned that the cramps may be related to medicines you are taking;
 you have associated muscle weakness; or
 the cramps are affecting a leg that's swollen, red or has skin changes

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INGREDIENTS

* 4 green shallots
 * 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
 * 500g **beef mince**
 * 125ml (1/2 cup) teriyaki marinade
 * 2 teaspoon cornflour
 * 500g packet frozen stir-fry vegetable mix
 * 450g packet microwave long-grain rice

METHOD

Finely chop 2 shallots and slice the remaining into long thin strips. Place the long thin strips in a bowl of iced water to curl until needed. Heat the **oil in a large deep frying pan or wok over high heat. Add the beef.** Cook, using a wooden spoon to break up any lumps, for 5 minutes. Combine the **teriyaki mari-**



nade and cornflour in a small bowl until smooth. Add to the beef and stir to combine. Add the **vegetables.** Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until the vegetables are heated through.

Warm the **rice** following packet directions. Add the chopped shallot and toss to combine. Drain the curled shallot. Divide the rice mixture among serving bowls and spoon over the teriyaki beef. Top with the shallot curls to serve.

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What is Personal Injury Law?

Personal injury law focuses on an individual's entitlement to compensation and/or benefits as a result of having sustained an injury, illness or death. It is a broad term that covers off on a range of circumstances in which someone could sustain an injury – be it at work, in a motor vehicle accident or an injury in a public place. Within the general area of personal injury there are many different types of claims and benefits. The different entitlements arise due to varied pieces of legislation and from established schemes within New South Wales.

In some areas, an injured person has an entitlement to statutory compensation without needing to prove that there was any fault in the circumstances of the injury (i.e. a 'no fault' scheme). These schemes are generally focused on assisting the injured person recover. For other areas, before an injured person is entitled to compensation they must establish that their injury was caused by the negligence of another party or parties.

What are some of the similarities across the different areas of personal injury law?

Generally speaking, an entitlement is met by an insurance policy which responds to the claim. An insurance company does not always accept a claim therefore a large part of practicing personal injury law relates to dealing with disputes between an injured person and the relevant insurance

company. Another similarity is that there are thresholds in place across the different areas particularly around determining the degree of any injury sustained. In other words, a person may not be able to claim unless they have sustained a serious injury.

What are some of the common areas of practice within personal injury?

- Work Injuries and Workers Compensation
- Common Law Claims/Damages Claims
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Dust Diseases
- Public and Product Liability
- Occupiers Liability
- Medical Negligence
- Total and Permanent Disablement and Superannuation Benefit Claims

What are some examples of personal injury in the workplace?

Personal injury in the workplace is an injury to the body, either physical or psychological, which arises during the course of a person's employment. Work injuries can arise in many different ways and can include:

- A fatality that occurs on a worksite;
- A frank physical injury, for example a knee twist injury causing an ACL tear;
- A physical injury that arises to the nature and conditions of their employment, for example repetitive use causing carpal tunnel syndrome;

- A psychological injury, for example arising due to workplace bullying and harassment;
 - A gradual disease process, for example sun cancers or industrial deafness.
- You often see lawyers who are specialists in the area of personal injury. Why is this so?**

Within the area of personal injury, there are many sub-areas which can have their own complexities. There has been significant legislative change over recent years which has resulted in different structures and regulations. For example, if you are an injured worker in NSW your entitlements will depend upon what your occupation was as there are different schemes for different workers and also the date upon which you sustained your injury.

It is important for a legal practitioner in this area to stay abreast of any legislative reform. There are strict time frames that apply in which an injured person must give notice of a claim. It is critical that a solicitor understands these limitation periods in order to protect their client's rights.

Lastly – personal injury law tends to attract a certain type of legal practitioner in that a lawyer working in this area brings to the role a level of empathy and understanding. Personal injury clients are often severely impacted by having sustained an injury. It is important for a personal injury lawyer to know the law but to also offer a level of understanding and compassion to the situations faced by their clients.

the tenancy (i.e. they are obliged to repair any damage caused by removing a fixture or to compensate the landlord for the reasonable costs of repair). Landlords should strongly recommend that all changes be carried out by a qualified tradesperson, not the tenant themselves.

Swimming Pools

What you need to know Drowning is a leading cause of preventable death in children under 5 years of age. In 2012, the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* was amended to improve the safety of children around swimming pools in NSW. The changes include:

- swimming pool owners must register their swimming pool or spa pool on the NSW Swimming Pool Register
- accredited certifiers registered with the Building Professionals Board and local councils can carry out inspections of swimming pools



From 29 April 2016 and unless exempted, a copy of the valid certificate of compliance or non-compliance or relevant occupation certificate (as the case may be) must be attached to the sale contract for any property with a swimming pool or spa pool to be sold and, to rent a property with a swimming pool or spa pool, a copy of the valid compliance certificate or relevant occupation certificate (as the case may be) must be given to the tenant at the time of entering into the residential tenancy agreement.

Australia's building boom will be 13,000 homes bigger than first forecast: HIA

By Nathan Mawby
A record year of housing construction in Australia is set to be even bigger than first expected.

The Housing Industry Association is forecasting more than 143,700 new builds this year, and that renovation activity will also hit record levels.

In February, it predicted there would be 130,000 detached homes built in 2021.

What the 2021 federal budget means for property

The new figure is 20 per cent higher than the 120,000 detached home construction record set in 2018.

HIA economist Angela Lillicap said the surge in activity would keep tradies and builders busy until the second half of 2022, and would not be repeated for years or even decades.

"The key challenge for the industry has shifted from a slump in demand this time last year, to having sufficient supply of materials, labour and land to satisfy this demand," Ms Lillicap said.

She noted that with the federal government's \$25,000 and \$15,000 HomeBuilder grants schemes driving many of the builds, a recent extension to the time punters had to get their build underway would alleviate some of the trade and supply shortages issues. The HomeBuilder scheme attracted more

than 121,000 applications around the nation, 99,253 of them for new homes. It is also expected to drive 22,110 renovations.

Applications closed in March, but the timeline to commence construction has since been extended from six months to 18 months.

THE BUILDING BOOM BY STATE:
NSW – 27,880
VIC – 43,770
QLD – 30,930
SA – 11,430
WA – 24,110
TAS – 3,430
NT – 760
ACT – 1,430

However, the association is warning multi-unit projects will decline across this year due to no international migration in more than 12 months.

About 57,100 apartments, townhouses and units are expected to be built nationwide, a 17 per cent decline from 2020.

A return of international migration is also needed to alleviate a forecast 93,500 new housing starts trough anticipated for 2023.

The Federal Government's 2021-2022 budget did not include any significant boosts for the new home sector.

Housing and Homelessness shadow minister Jason Clare said the reduction in construction when HomeBuilder's effects "dry up" were concerning.

Mr Clare touted Labor's \$10bn Housing Australia Future Fund as a means of filling the void in jobs and economic activity.

HomeBuilder extension to benefit NSW and Victoria above others

By Nathan Mawby
Australian builders and tradies are expected to pick up the tools for an extra 12,000 new home builds in 2021 after the federal government extended their HomeBuilder grants scheme.

But it will be NSW and Victoria in the box seat, with measures specifically targeting them unveiled as part of the bonus round. The construction industry stimulus program had been scheduled to end this year, but will now run to March 31.

However, those who sign a building contract after January 1 will only receive \$15,000 – less than the \$25,000 on offer for any signed before December 31.

In addition, Victorian buyers will be able to claim a grant on homes up to \$850,000, while those in NSW will be able to spend up to \$950,000 after the cap on the scheme was raised.

They also apply for those who spend more than \$150,000 on a renovation, however income restrictions will still apply. Individuals earning above \$125,000 and households earning more than

towards a return to pre-COVID levels of home building".

The Association had earlier this month forecast Victoria's construction industry would be hardest hit by COVID-19 with an almost 14,000 home decline expected this financial year compared to last. He estimated the extension would lead to 12,000 new homes being built around the country, with between 3000 and 5000 extra



\$200,000 will be unable to access the scheme.

The program's initial \$680m expected cost has been revised to \$900m.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said it would lead to a further 15,000 homes being built or renovated nationwide and was a "key part" of Australia's economic recovery.

"Extending HomeBuilder will mean a steady pipeline of construction activity to keep tradies on the tools," Mr Morrison said.

The government has estimated 27,000 homes will be built from HomeBuilder's initial offering.

Treasury figures to November 20 show there have been 23,877 applications nationwide. So far 7,636 Victorians have applied for a grant, followed by 5,954

Queenslanders and 4,350 people in NSW.

There have been 2,195 applications in Western Australia, 2,157 in South Australia and less than 1,000 in the rest of the state's and territories.

Housing Industry Association managing director Graham Wolfe said the move was a "step

renovations. "For Victoria and NSW, including the Hunter and Illawarra regions, the adjustments to the price caps will attract additional home buyers to the scheme," Mr Wolfe said.

Victorian construction groups had been lobbying for an extension to the program after Melbourne's second-wave lockdown paused many buyers' plans and left builders without enough time to sign up new contracts before the end of 2020.

Master Builders Victoria chief executive Rebecca Casson said the extra time would "help keep businesses afloat" as well as tradies working.

"The next challenge in Victoria will be monitoring local government activity to ensure that land is quickly freed up and this stimulus can be maximised," Ms Casson said.

Pundits in NSW have warned since the program was announced that it would fall short against Sydney's nation-topping house prices.



Can a tenant carry out changes to the rental premises?

Yes, a tenant can make certain changes of a "minor nature" to the premises. Section 66(2A) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010* (NSW) sets out what changes are prescribed as being of a "minor nature" and that the landlord is not able to unreasonably withhold consent. Further, with respect to certain prescribed minor changes, the landlord may give consent on the

condition that an appropriately qualified person makes the change. Clause 22 of the *Residential Tenancies Regulation 2019* (NSW) lists the changes that are deemed to be of a minor nature.

Tenants should be advised that they are obliged to obtain the landlord's written consent, even if the change is of a "minor nature".

Also, before any changes are carried out, tenants should realise 'make good' requirements at the end of

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Our annual P&C Bunnings BBQ is coming up on Saturday 26th June and they will soon be coordinating the volunteer schedule for the day. Any help is welcome, but they will need to operate under strict CoVID procedures. Stay tuned for further information!

Dates for the Calendar

- May 31st to June 4th – Read-a-Thon
- Monday 7th June – P&C Meeting in the library
- Friday June 11th – Primary Athletics Carnival
- Saturday 26th June – P&C Bunnings BBQ



Girls Rugby League

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



Branxton Public School

Our Read-a-thon is on this week. Mrs Melnik has organised fun activities and reading opportunities for each day. The goal is to read, read, read, but if we raise some money to purchase new books, that will be great too. Thursday is dress as your favourite genre day. We're all looking forward to that!



Students competed in the Zone Cross Country at Tocal in Week 6. They all did their personal best and Ella is off to the State Cross Country, coming 5th in the 12yr girls. Well done to all.



Ella

The girls' soccer team competed in a gala day, beating Beresfield PS 8-0 and then Thornton PS 5-0. The girls' rugby league team also played in Week 6 at the Rebecca Young Gala Day. They had two victories and a draw. Not bad considering that many of them had not played league before. Congratulations to both teams.



Soccer Girls

We say farewell to Miss Blakemore this week with Mrs Ballenden taking over as Principal until the end of Term 2. Mrs Jo Ferguson will begin as our new Principal in Term 3.

AGED 50 AND OVER?

COVID-19 vaccines continue to roll out to those most at risk.

People aged 50 and over can receive their COVID-19 vaccine at one of the selected vaccination clinics or at participating general practices.

It's voluntary, free and the best way to protect you and your community.

Our Therapeutic Goods Administration continues to closely monitor the safety of all vaccines in Australia.

To find out where you can get vaccinated visit australia.gov.au or call 1800 020 080

COVID-19 VACCINATION
KEEPING AUSTRALIA COVIDSAFE



From the Lions' Den



Lions Clubs International 'FIVE GLOBAL CAUSES'

Lions Clubs all around the world have common objectives of providing service in the community for the 'five Global Causes: Diabetes, environment, Hunger, Childhood Cancer, and Vision.

The World Environment Day is held on 5th June, and the Lions Clubs have many ideas to improve the environment just some were listed as:

Go to Your City Council website and look for Environment Initiatives and Recycling Projects. Many councils have trees that can be obtained for planting and have a project for recycling drink cans and bottles. Some councils provide bin collection for general rubbish and another for hard plastics, tins, bottles etc, but may not include soft plastics like bread bags. Some councils provide recycling depots where machinery, metals and large items can be left or provide a kerb service.

Environment Recycling at Officeworks/Pen Cartridge and E-Waste Recycling. Officeworks have a slotted wall labelled for recycling items. What can you recycle at Officeworks to avoid toxic chemicals being put into landfill? Printer cartridges and ink cartridges, Mobile Phones, Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V), Pens and Markers (available at some stores).

E-Waste: Most items in your office with a cord or plug and accessories: Computers and laptops, Monitors, Keyboards, Printers, Mice, Hard Drives, Cables and Chargers, DVDs and CDs, Computer Power Supplies, Printed Circuit Boards, Motherboards. Remember to delete all personal data or documents from your devices before recycling.

Link Environment with Vision: Lions Recycle for Sight Australia is part of the Lions Clubs International Worldwide Eyeglass Recycling Program, headquartered in Queensland and operating throughout Australia and overseas. We receive requests from humanitarian organisations either travelling to a developing country or supplying shipping container loads of suitable humanitarian aid from Australia to groups in these countries. You can donate old spectacles to Branxton Lions Club – just ring Alan Beckley 0426 261948 or see the website: lionsclubs.org/recyclesight

Car Battery Re-cycling: Century Batteries - are dedi-

cated to caring for the environment and believe that scrap batteries should be recycled and disposed of responsibly. The Used Lead Acid Battery (ULAB) program and commitment to environmental sustainability has seen Century achieve SAI Global ISO14001 environmental accreditation, an international standard outlining the requirements for a structured approach to environmental protection and responsibility. centurybatteries.com.au/resources/battery-recycling

OR
Work with your local Lions Club to achieve these crucial objectives. The **Lions Club of Branxton** is always looking for new members – have **you** considered becoming a member? Bringing kind-hearted people together to serve their communities is what Lions clubs are all about. Lions see a problem and then take action to solve it. Lions build relationships with their communities, with one another and with the people they serve. And as a result, everyone's life is improved. Lions Clubs International mem-

bers meet the needs of their local communities and impact the world at large. Our 1.4 million members — who perform community service in more than 200 countries and geographic areas — are different in many ways but share a core belief to serve the community and support the five Global Causes. The Lions Club of Branxton has been serving the community for more than 60 years. Our members are involved in projects such as collecting spectacles, supporting local high school students through Leo Clubs and providing extensive assistance to those impacted by natural disasters.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Are you interested in serving your community?
 - Are you interested in having the opportunity to network with key people in your community?
 - Are you interested in meeting people and having fun?
- Are you interested to learn more?**

Contact Alan Beckley – mobile 0426 261948

Maitland Heritage Fest 2021, 12-13 June 2021 in the historic Church Street, Maitland, and other venues around the City



From indigenous communities dating back thousands of years, the arrival of the cedar getters, conflict, European settlement, land grants, to rapid growth of agriculture and commerce, contemporary Maitland is a product of its rich past.

Maitland Heritage Fest 2021 is a community event aiming to share, celebrate and promote Maitland's history by way of historically inspired displays, children's activities, walks, house tours, entertainment, demonstrations and food. For more details: <https://www.facebook.com/MaitlandHeritageFest> <http://www.maitlandheritagefest.org.au> or email maitlandheritagefest@gmail.com

The event is being auspiced by Maitland Regional Museum and planned by a committee consisting of members of Maitland's heritage and community groups and interested individuals. With such a diverse range of activities, the event will be of interest to all, with specific activities for children, family groups, historians, home renovators and mature attendees. Local historians will be on hand for a chat and to lead heritage walks. Food includes: BBQ, cakes & slices, soup & damper, sandwiches & slices, coffee van & drinks. Ticketed events include: *Heritage Dinner (Friday 11th @ Mansfield)*, *Ghost Tour Grossmann House (Saturday evening 12th)*, *Ghost Tour Mansfield (Sunday evening 13th)*, *Heritage Walk & Devonshire tea at Mansfield House (Sun afternoon 13th)*, *Musical Recital-Sun Street Studios-Mindaribba Waltz-Maitland Premiere-Drinks & Canapes Sat 12th*

Daily Thoughts

Are you bored with life? Then throw yourself into some work you believe in with all your heart, live for it, die for it, and you will find happiness that you had thought could never be yours. --**Dale Carnegie** Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it. --**Confucius** What lies behind us and lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us **Anon** "It is the ability to take a joke, not make one, that proves you have a sense of humour." **Max Eastman** "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation." **Plato** "I learned long ago, never to wrestle with a pig. You get dirty, and besides, the pig likes it." **George Bernard Shaw** If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world." **J.R.R. Tolkien** "Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint" **Mark Twain** "A jury consists of twelve people chosen to decide who has the best lawyer." **Robert Frost** "Doubt is the father of invention." **Galileo Galilei** Never miss a good chance to shut up. **Anon** "If we don't change direction soon, we'll end up where we're going." **Professor Irwin Corey** "Nobody realizes that some people expend tremendous energy merely to be normal." **Albert Camus**



Bingo and DINNER
AN EVENING OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP
2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
6PM DINNER
7PM BINGO
at the Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club
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Anglican Church

Thank you to all who supported our Mother's Day Raffle and
Congratulations to our Winners
1st Prize ~ Jenny
2nd Prize ~ Brian
3rd Prize ~ Honey
Anglican Church

Bingo and DINNER
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
BINGO \$10 DINNER \$10
Anglican Church

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Well priced & recommend inspection **ASKING: \$510,000**

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Unit 18 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"



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ASKING \$320,000

Building Blocks

**NORTH ROTHBURY
Vacant building block ~ 809m²**

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ono

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2559m²**

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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



DO YOU REMEMBER?

The news Issue No 57 2nd Dec. 1999 Page 12

Not Just a house

by John S. Bryant

The modest unoccupied cottage of the late June Davies, together with its unique contents has been completely destroyed in a disastrous fire, thus breaking another link with one of Greta's most outstanding and best loved citizens of our time.

Centrally located at 66 High Street, the cottage was a meeting place, full of positive 'vibes', where June's remarkable gifts of art, craft, wisdom, peace & happiness raised the fallen, cheered the faint & brought out talents in people, which enriched their lives in so many ways.

Many treasures and icons have been lost, tapestries, rugs, copper work & writings have been destroyed, along with the treadle sewing machine, chairs & couches of immense sentimental value together with a large collection of classical CD's, tapes, videos, books & all of the furniture & appliances which have made this home so comfortable and complete.

"I am really shocked and upset, after losing June, many of us felt that this place was a shrine and that we could feel her presence here and draw comfort from it. Now, it is gone." These were the words of one of June's closest friends & echoes the sentiments of all who knew her well.

"One thing which cannot be destroyed, remains, fond memories of June and love for her in our hearts".



Daily Thoughts ...

To get something done, a committee should consist of no more than three men, two of whom are absent. --Robert Copeland

People are lonely, because they build walls instead of bridges. --Unknown



PUBLIC EXHIBITION DRAFT ADVERTISING ON RECREATION GROUNDS POLICY

At the Ordinary Meeting of Cessnock City Council on 19 May 2021, Council resolved to place the Draft Advertising on Recreation Grounds Policy on Public Exhibition for **Twenty Eight (28) days**.

The updated Draft Policy continues to provide opportunities for Council, local sporting clubs and organisations to access sponsorship funding for the maintenance and embellishment of recreation facilities.

The Policy can be viewed at the following locations:

- Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section)
- Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 5.00pm, Monday 21 June 2021** via email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post to PO Box 152 CESSNOCK 2325.

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Recreation and Community Facilities Coordinator, Mr Nathan Eveleigh on 4993 4100.

Submissions are NOT kept confidential. Council releases submissions when a request is made in accordance with Privacy Laws and the relevant provisions under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. When a submission is released by law, Council routinely withholds contact numbers, email addresses and signatures. **Should you wish for all personal details or any information that may identify you to be withheld from the public, please advise Council of this in your submission.**

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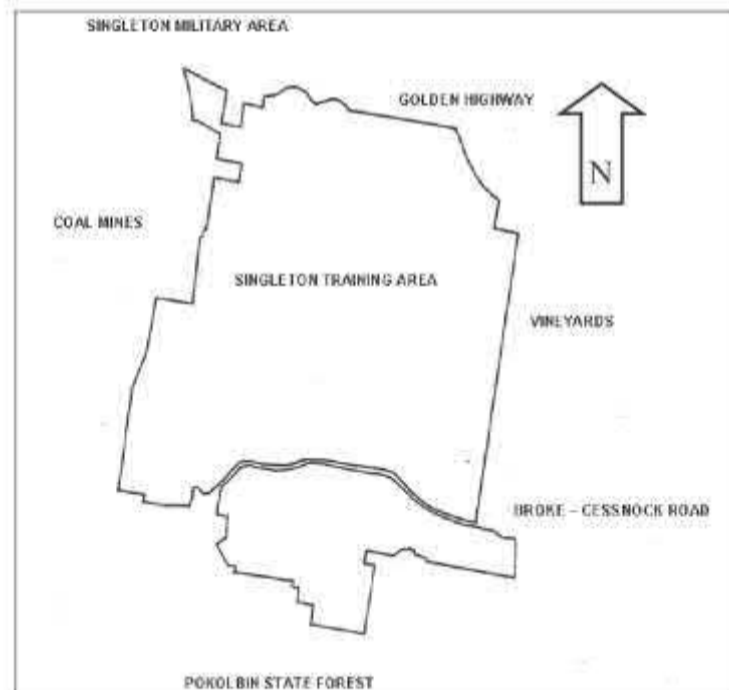
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Australian Government
Department of Defence

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



Report

Axe used in service station robbery – East Maitland

Thursday, 27 May 2021
02:08:23 PM
Investigations are underway into an armed robbery in the state's Hunter region.

About 6.40am (Thursday 27 May 2021), officers from Port Stephens-Hunter Police District responded to reports of an armed robbery at a service station on Newcastle Road, East Maitland. Police have been told that about 5.20am, a man armed with a tomahawk entered the premises before jumping on the counter and demanding cash. He then threatened the attendant, a 28-year-old man, before stealing the draw of the cash register and fleeing; last seen heading west on High Street. The attendant was shaken but not injured. As investigations continue police would like to speak with a man who may be able to assist with their inquiries. He's described as being of Caucasian appearance, aged in his 20s, with an average build and about 170-175cm tall. He was wearing a black hooded jumper with a green coloured jacket, black coloured baseball cap, pants and running shoes at

the time. Anyone with information about this incident – or who may have dashcam or CCTV of the area from around this time – is urged to call Maitland Police Station or Crime Stoppers. **Police investigate stabbing – Muswellbrook**
Issued at 10.15am, Thursday 27 May 2021
About 6pm (Wednesday 26 May 2021), emergency services attended Tobruk Avenue at Muswellbrook following reports a man had suffered stab wounds. Police have been told the 18-year-old was walking in a laneway between Glenbawn Place and Tobruk Avenue when he was approached by two males and assaulted. The injured man realised he was stabbed in back and upper arm. He was able to walk to a nearby residence where he was assisted, and police were contacted. The man was treated at the scene before he was taken to Muswellbrook Hospital.

He was then airlifted to John Hunter Hospital with a punctured lung and remains in a stable condition. A crime scene was established and was forensically examined. Officers from the Hunter Valley Police District are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. **Teen charged over alleged assault at soccer match – Kurri Kurri**
Tuesday, 25 May 2021 12:15:05 AM
A teenager has been charged following an investigation into an alleged assault at a soccer match in the Hunter region earlier this month. About 8pm on Wednesday 12 May 2021, a 16-year-old player was allegedly punched in the face at the conclusion of a soccer match held at Birralee Oval in Kurri Kurri, knocking him unconscious. The teen was transported to Kurri Kurri Hospital before being transferred to John

Hunter Hospital for further treatment where it was revealed he had suffered a broken jaw and underwent surgery. Officers from Newcastle Police District were notified on Thursday 13 May 2021 following an investigation by detectives attached to Hunter Valley Police District, a 16-year-old boy was arrested after attending Cessnock Police Station just after 3pm yesterday (Monday 24 May 2021). He was charged with recklessly inflict grievous bodily harm and granted conditional bail to appear at a children's court on Tuesday 15 June 2021. **Two injured after assault, robbery – Rutherford**
Sunday, 23 May 2021 01:22:21 PM
Investigations are underway after two men were assaulted and robbed in the state's Hunter this morning. About 5am (Sunday 23 May 2021), officers from Port Stephens-Hunter Police District were called

to a service station on Regiment Road, Rutherford, to reports of an assault. Police have been told two men, aged 25 and 28, left a hotel on the New England Highway about 3am and were walking west when they were approached by three unknown men. The trio spoke briefly with the two men before hitting the 25-year-old over the head with a glass bottle and knocking him unconscious, then attacking the older man and demanding cash and both the men's mobile phones. The group then fled and were last seen heading east on Harvey Road. The injured men sought assistance at a nearby service station. They are both now receiving treatment for their injuries at Maitland Hospital. As inquiries continue police would like to speak with three men who may be able to assist with their inquiries. They have been described as being of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander appearance, between 160-

180cm tall, and wearing hooded jumpers. Anyone with information about the incident is urged to call Maitland Police on (02) 4934 0200 or Crime Stoppers. **Livestock truck crash near Muswellbrook**
Saturday, 29 May 2021 11:30:56 AM
Two men have been injured after a truck carrying livestock crashed in the Hunter region last Saturday About 6.30am (Saturday 29 May 2021), emergency services were called to the Golden Highway, south of Muswellbrook near Jerrys Plains, following reports a truck had crashed. Officers attached to Hunter Valley Police District attended and found the livestock truck had crashed into a tree. The driver, a 62-year-old man, and a 59-year-old male passenger were treated at the scene by NSW Ambulance paramedics, before being airlifted to John Hunter Hospital in a serious condition. Their injuries are not considered life-threatening. Five horses being transported in the vehicle died as a result of the collision. Inquiries are continuing.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

Local Band Outlaw Ave dominate the charts



Superstar), Local Band Outlaw Ave continue to go from strength to strength in the Country Music Industry. Their new single "RAIN" recently went to number 1 on the iTunes country charts and number 2 on the Australian Independent Music Charts. Lee has lived in Branxton for 15 years and is integral part of the community. His music prowess has been on display for a number of

on stage is second to none. His unheralded song writing skills, ability with his "axe" (guitar) or his unique vocals has the band Outlaw Ave out of their own when it comes to local live music around the Local Pub/Club scene. Outlaw's band members are all stars and consist of: Leighton o Brien, The stylish bass player, formerly of Mayhem 101, grew up in the Muswellbrook Area and now resides locally in Rutherford. Josh Ludwig, A first class Drummer. He grew up in the Upper Hunter and for the last 6 years has been a resident of Greta. Josh never shirks the task of putting away a schooner and loves a good supportive crowd

to cheer the boys on. The more noise you make the better he plays! The latest addition to the band Jochen Walter (original member of The Viper Creek Band) from Cardiff NSW is a classy guitarist and compliments Lee's vocals with his own. Outlaw Ave have previously toured and played in Nashville Tennessee, and have also supported a number of local charity nights and events. They have played at Tamworth Country Music Festival in 2019, and local Branxton festival Country At The Camp in 2018 & 2019. They have also played at

rodeos. Covid 19 put the bands progress on hold but that gave them the chance to work on some new material and they are very close to releasing their latest EP (album) to back up their original classic "Only Good Can Come from this". **Please don't hesitate to jump on and download some of their Music, and come and kick off your long weekend at Greta Workers Club Friday 11th June for a free entry concert.**

Formed by Front line singer/guitarist/songwriter Lee Thorpe (formally Mayhem 101 and Solo

years and anyone who has watched him perform will whole heartedly agree that his energy

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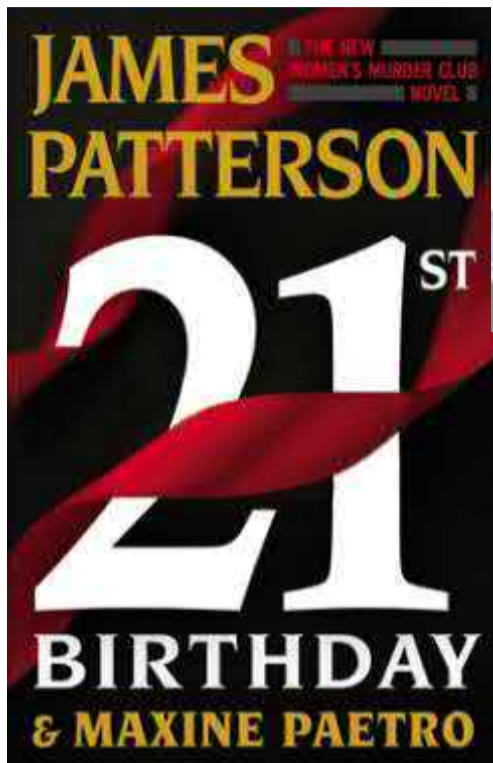
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About the Book

When a distraught mother pleads with San Francisco Chronicle reporter Cindy Thomas to investigate the disappearance of her daughter Tara and baby granddaughter Lorrie, Cindy immediately loops in SFPD Sergeant Lindsay Boxer. The prime suspect is Tara's schoolteacher husband, Lucas Burke, but he tells a conflicting story that paints Tara as a wayward wife, not a missing person.

While the city's chief medical examiner, Claire Washburn, harbours theories that run counter to the police investigation of the Burke case, Assistant District Attorney Yuki Castellano sizes up Lucas as a textbook domestic offender – until he puts forward a theory of his own that could connect the dots on a constellation of killings. As the case grows into something far bigger than any of them could have imagined, the four friends will need each other to help unpick the truth from a web of lies. As the case grows into something far bigger than any of them could have imagined,

the four friends will need each other to help unpick the truth from a web of lies. Well if you are looking for a suspense filled, action packed, female led series then I think this is definitely going to be the one for you. With not just one, but a team of strong female protagonists leading the way, the Women's Murder Club series seems to have everything I love in a book – action, mystery, tension – all written in an assured and confident style which kept me glued to the story from start to finish.

The story surrounds the reported disappearance of a young woman and her daughter by her very concerned mother. The mother claims that her daughter's marriage was strained, her son in law abusive, and yet the police have thus far failed to take her disappearance seriously, especially as the very same husband says it is no entirely out of character. The case is brought to the attention of reporter Cindy Thomas and through her, to SFPD Detective Lindsay Boxer, but I doubt any of them were prepared for what they were about to uncover. I know I wasn't and with a mixture of emotion and apprehension we join the team as they search for a brutal killer.

I really enjoyed getting into this series and getting to know and understand a little of the dynamic between the four lead characters. It's unusual to find a series in which the women really do

rule the roost, and with a Detective, a Medical examiner, a Reporter and an ADA in the mix, all major investigative 'food groups' are covered. This is not simply a case of being inundated with girl power though – there is an equal presence of men who respect and are respected by the ladies of the hour. Neither are dependant on the other, but both acknowledge the strength they gain from one another – possibly because half of the team seem married or partnered with the other half in some way. But I liked the women, liked the fact that as a group they meet up to discuss the case, as far as they legally can, and to set each other on a path towards the ultimate truth, as troubling as it may be.

This is a very twisted tale with two potential perpetrators, each casting the blame for the murders at the other's door. As the team investigates, the more we learn about the main suspects, the harder it is to see where the true guilt lies. Enough doubt is raised, contrasting with the evidence presented, so much so that until the dying pages, we still do not really know the truth. We can suspect, we are driven down many roads towards many potential leads, but the reveal, when it comes, is both shocking and satisfying if ultimately tragic.

This is a story of a psychopath, or psychopaths – who knows. It is full of tension, dramatic action and enough suspense to keep me totally engrossed in the story right to the very end. I got a real sense of place be it in the heart of San Francisco or the remote locations that Boxer and her partner are led to, and I also got all the edge of the seat moments I love. Did I get the resolution I wanted? Maybe, maybe not. Did the end fit the story. Totally. Will I be reading more? You bet I will. Loved this. Just a little angry that it's taken me until book twenty-one to dive in. Still – plenty to be catching up with isn't there? I can't wait.

About the Author/s

Maxine Paetro. From 1975 until 1987, Paetro was a recruiter and EVP creative department manager at several large New York City advertising agencies. In 1979, Paetro published her first book, *How to Put Your Book Together and Get a Job in Advertising*, which received its fourth revision in August 2010. This non-fiction work has been described as "the advertising industry bible and ultimate insider's guide to getting in and getting noticed". Between 1986 and 1992, she published three novels: *Manshare*, *Baby Dreams*, and *Windfall*. In 1993, she collaborated with Dodd Darin to write the biography *Dream Lovers: The Magnificent Shattered Lives of Bobby Darin and Sandra Dee*. In 2005, she began the first of more than a dozen collaborations with best-selling author James Patterson, co-writing *4th of July* for the Women's Murder Club series. Paetro explains in an interview that she and Patterson (who had also worked in advertising before becoming a full-time writer) had known each other since the 1970s. According to British newspaper The Sunday Times, of authors with the most titles to be at number one on The Sunday Times bestseller list over the past forty years, she ranks #16 with eleven separate titles in the #1 position. Her garden, Broccoli Hall, has been featured in national magazines including *House & Garden*, *Victoria*, *Country Garden* and *Country Homes*. Broccoli Hall is on the Garden Conservancy Open Days Program. In 2008, Paetro began a project to refine and develop a unique variety of koi known as Ki Shusui. The project developed a cult following and continues to this day. Her exploits can be followed on Koiphen, the largest board for koi hobbyists. Paetro is married to former surety bond executive, John A. Duffy, the now founder and CEO of consulting company, Manhattan Bridge, LLC.

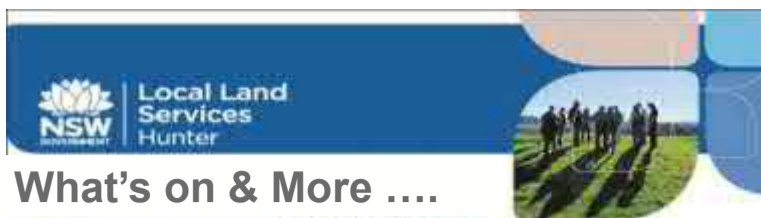
James Brendan Patterson (born March 22, 1947) is an American author and philanthropist. Among his works are the *Alex Cross*, *Michael Bennett*, *Women's Murder Club*, *Maximum Ride*, *Daniel X*, *NYPD Red*, *Witch and Wizard*, and *Private* series, as well as many stand-alone thrillers, non-fiction, and romance novels. His books have

sold more than 300 million copies, and he was the first person to sell 1 million e-books. In 2016, Patterson topped *Forbes's* list of highest-paid authors for the third consecutive year, with an income of \$95 million. His total income over a decade is estimated at \$700 million. In November 2015, Patterson received the Literarian Award from the National Book Foundation, which cited him as a "passionate campaigner to make books and reading a national priority. A generous supporter of universities, teachers colleges, independent bookstores, school libraries, and college students, Patterson has donated millions of dollars in grants and scholarships with the purpose of encouraging Americans of all ages to read more books." Patterson has been criticized for co-authoring many of his books and for being more of a brand that focuses on making money than an artist who focuses on his craft. James is passionate about encouraging children to read. Inspired by his own son who was a reluctant reader, he also writes a range of books for young readers including the Middle School, I Funny, Treasure Hunters, Dog Diaries and Max Einstein series. James has donated millions in grants to independent bookshops and has been the most borrowed author of adult fiction in UK libraries for the past eleven years in a row. He lives in Florida with his wife and son.

The New York Times Best Sellers
(30 May 2021)

1. 21ST BIRTHDAY - NEW THIS WEEK
by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro
The 21st book in the Women's Murder Club series. New evidence changes the investigation of a missing mother.
2. THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME - NEW THIS WEEK
by Laura Dave
Hannah Hall discovers truths about her missing husband and bonds with his daughter from a previous relationship.
3. PROJECT HAIL MARY - NEW THIS WEEK
by Andy Weir
Ryland Grace awakes from a long sleep alone and far from home, and the fate of humanity rests on his shoulders.
4. SOOLEY - 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
by John Grisham
Samuel Sooleymon receives a basketball scholarship to North Carolina Central and determines to bring his family over from a civil war-ravaged South Sudan.
5. WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING - 129 WEEKS ON THE LIST
by Delia Owens
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.
6. THE FOUR WINDS - 14 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.
7. A GAMBLING MAN - 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST
by David Baldacci
Aloysius Archer, a World War II veteran, seeks to apprentice with Willie Dash, a private eye, in a corrupt California town.
8. THE NEWCOMER - NEW THIS WEEK
by Mary Kay Andrews
After discovering her sister dead, Letty Carnahan drives away with her niece and finds potential trouble with a police detective at a Florida motel.
9. THE HILL WE CLIMB - 6 WEEKS ON THE LIST
by Amanda Gorman
The poem read on President Joe Biden's Inauguration Day, by the youngest poet to write and perform an inaugural poem.
10. THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY - 23 WEEKS ON THE LIST
by Matt Haig
Nora Seed finds a library beyond the edge of the universe that contains books with multiple possibilities of the lives one could have lived.

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What's on & More

LOW COST WINTER PASTURE IMPROVERS

Phil Cranney - Senior Land Services Officer, Pastures

There are many ways to improve your pasture this winter. The high cost option of re-sowing a pasture doesn't always have to be the binary option for farmers. With pasture establishment costs running between \$350-\$450/Ha, depending on preparation and seed costs, it is now often matched by the opportunity cost of not using those hectares to derive an income while waiting for the pasture to establish. If we take a paddock out of production in August 2020 with a knockdown herbicide to stop weeds from seeding and to retain soil moisture, then we are potentially looking at a 12 month non-graze period before we can graze the new pasture in August 2021. Assuming a \$40/DSE profit at a stocking rate of 10DSE/Ha, then the opportunity cost of \$400 is added to the pasture establishment cost of approximately \$400/Ha, bring to whole re-sowing pasture proposition around the \$800/Ha. So before ripping up a paddock and re-sowing, please consider doing some objective measurements first to ascertain what percentages of desirable perennial grasses, legumes, annuals, and non-desirable weeds

make up your pasture base of any particular paddock. The ideal pasture has 60-70% productive perennial grass, 20-40% legumes, <10% annual grass weeds and <10% annual broadleaf weeds and no perennial weed species. Therefore, the further away your paddock is away from these desirable species benchmarks, then the less chance you have to manipulate your pasture back to full production without re-sowing. Therefore if your perennial grass pasture composition is still at 40-50%, you have many more financially viable options to manipulate rather than re-sow. My top 8 pasture manipulation options for 2021 cool season pastures are as follows: Ensure sub-clover has access to adequate sunlight at germination – graze or slash. Improve the soil fertility – “don't guess, do a test”. Control broadleaf weeds early and often (at rosette stage) – remove excess pasture residue to improve herbicide contact with the target weeds. Use winter clean methods to remove problem annual grass weeds, such as vulpia – appropriate use of Simazine to remove

silver grass (vulpia) from a productive pasture. Weed wipers can be used to great effect after grazing to clean up un-grazed weeds such as thistles in productive pastures. Spray graze - sub lethal dose of a hormone based herbicide 6-8 weeks after germination of cape weed and thistles, followed by high density grazing to remove the growth points. Spray-topping to reduce viable weed seed set – less reliable and difficult to get timing right. High-intensity grazing to help synchronise non-desirable annual grass weed heading – this can help improve the spray graze and spray-topping methods efficacy. The most under-utilised low-cost pasture improver, in my opinion, is the winter clean. There is no better year to sacrifice a small amount of winter feed if it leads to better control of un-productive less desirable winter grass weeds such as silver grass (vulpia). Remember to always ask your local commercial agronomist for advice.



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 25th May 2021

The numbers showed little change. There were fewer young cattle however cows and grown cattle numbers increased. Overall the quality of the offering was mixed and not quite as good as the previous sale. Feedlotters still had the opportunity to put together some well bred young cattle. The usual buyers were in attendance, however not all orders were utilised. There were varying trends through the young cattle. Vealer steers to restockers saw the light weights and the heaviest weight classes sell to cheaper trends. The medium weights and those to the trade sold to a dearer market. Heavy weight yearling steers to feed sold to a dearer trend, with the highly sought after breeds showing strong improvement. Numbers of those were reduced. Yearling heifers to feed sold to cheaper trends for the most part. There was some breed and quality related price improvement in the heavy weights. Heavy steers over 500kg to feed, including some milk tooth lots sold to a dearer market, posting strong gains. Well finished grown heifers to process sold to a cheaper trend. There was reduced competition in the cow market with this having an effect on market trends. Overall prices were firm to 10c/kg cheaper and more in places. Market reporter: James Armitage.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 26th May 2021

Consignments eased, with the quality fair to good. The majority were younger cattle, with the vealers well supplied. There were numbers of the prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle suitable for the butchers spread throughout the penning, however numbers were limited. There were approximately 45 cows in the market, the majority the better covered heavy weights. The market trend was variable. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers lost 9c and sold from 450c to 618c, as the heavier drafts ranged from 470c to 560c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers improved 12c and received from 420c to 566c/kg. The yearling steers to feed and the restocker orders remained close to firm, with the medium weights ranging from 430c to 492c/kg. The yearling heifers trended dearer throughout the weight ranges, with the best to the restockers and lot feeders reaching 476c/kg. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle suitable for the butchers also trended dearer, with the best heavy vealer heifer topping at 500c/kg. Cows trended cheaper, with the better covered heavy weights ranging from 282c to 298c, as the best heavy weight well muscled bull reached 300c/kg. Market reporter: Neil Geddes

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 25th May 2021

Quality overall was mixed with all categories limited in supply apart from vealers that were well stocked. The high yielding younger cattle in prime condition were scarce. There were approximately 50 cows penned and competition for the export cattle was reduced with some of the processors not in operation. Light weight calves sold well and sold to a top of 765c/kg. Vealer steers over 200kg returning to the paddock gained 5c and sold from 464c to 634c, while the heavier end also to restockers, lost 6c selling from 480c to 554c/kg. The same weight heifer portion to the restockers trended dearer and ranged from 496c to 580c/kg. The yearlings to feed and the restocker orders decreased 5c, with the medium weight steers selling from 434c to 488c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold to a top of 490c/kg. The odd grown steer to the processor reached 330c, with the best weighted heifer making 380c/kg. The cows trended cheaper with the well-presented heavy weights decreasing 8c and prices ranging from 265c to 295c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 285c/kg. Market reporter, Neil Geddes.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 24th May 2021

There was a good increase in the overall numbers. All categories were represented, particularly yearling steers. The quality and condition of the yarding was generally good with lines of well bred young cattle available. There were some plainer quality cattle penned. The usual processors were in attendance and there was extra feedlot competition. Market trends varied through the young cattle. The lighter weight vealer steers to restockers sold to a slightly cheaper trend, with the heavier weights mostly dearer. There was some breed related price change. Medium weight heifer vealers to restockers sold to a dearer trend with strong gains. Medium weight yearling feeder steers sold on a firm to slightly cheaper market trend. Heavy weight feeder steers once again were keenly sought with the market trend firm to slightly dearer, with breed and quality accounting for a large price range. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed were as much as 25c/kg cheaper, quality and condition contributing. Well finished heavy grown steers to process saw a firm to slightly cheaper market trend. The well finished grown heifers saw a firm to dearer trend with age related price variations accounting for the large range in price. There was a good supply of cows, with condition mostly good. The market trend was slightly cheaper. Market reporter, James Armitage.

Racing Review & News

How 'horse girl' Kah became a racing superstar

By Ben Dorries



Jamie Kah with partner Clayton Douglas and their dog Bubbles. Picture: Jake Nowakowski

She's the queen of Australian racing but don't expect to see her in a dazzling tiara. She could wallow in the trappings of her new-found fame but one close observer says don't expect to see Jamie Kah whizzing around town in a flash new car or showing off a new trendy haircut. "A lot of young riders have fast cars and groovy haircuts, she doesn't care about that," trainer Mick Price told The Courier Mail, as Kah prepares to ride Price's Stradbroke Handicap favourite Ayrton at Eagle Farm on Saturday.

"She is an absolute horse girl. "I think in general if you had to sum her up, she rides her horse first and the race second. "She just simply loves her horses, she has got a property down on the (Mornington) Peninsula with her partner Clayton Douglas and that's what she is all about. "She has just rehomed Dollar For Dollar (Tony McEvoy's two-time Group 1 runner-up), she is going to love that horse and she is going to ride it with pleasure. "She lives in her own world

a little bit, which is good, a lot of successful people walk to the beat of their own drum." Kah is rewriting racing's record books, a tearaway leader in the Melbourne jockeys' premierships and on the hunt to raise her bat for 100 wins for the season. The five-time Group 1 winner jetted early to Brisbane this week to beat Victoria's Covid lockdown and ensure she is on hand to ride boom horse Ayrton in Saturday's Fred Best Classic, which offers the winner a golden ticket into the Stradbroke a fortnight later.

Kah also has two chances to add to her Group 1 haul on Saturday when she rides Vega One for Queenslander Tony Gollan in the Kingsford-Smith Cup and Horrifying for Mark Kavanagh in the Queensland Derby. The Courier Mail can reveal it is likely to be the only time Kah is seen in Queensland during the winter carnival. She is flying back to Melbourne on Sunday and would appear unlikely to be able to return for Stradbroke day in a fortnight, given Queensland has now slammed its border shut to Covid-troubled Victoria. Price, who co-trains with Michael Kent Jr, will use lightweight rider Rachel King should Ayrton qualify for the Stradbroke. He said it is no surprise he is using female riders on his unbeaten galloper. "I can tell you now, the girls are taking over," Price said.

"Perhaps at the moment, in the riding ranks, the proportions of female jockeys don't say that but I can tell you in current intakes of apprentices, the girls outnumber the boys. "I think the boys want to pull their socks up because the days of owners having a bit of a misconception about female jockeys, I think that is fading out pretty quick." The astute Price, a deep thinker on racing, believes it is Kah's equestrian background which has helped shape her as the queen of Australia's riding ranks. Kah, the daughter of Winter Olympic speed skaters John and Karen, was raised in the Adelaide Hills and has an equestrian background, which Price insists is an underrated component of what makes her the total package as a star jockey. Price, who has two daughters who have competed in equestrian, has given his take on why he

thinks Kah has enjoyed such glittering success and become the punters' pal. "She's a different type of rider, she comes from an equestrian background and she's not affected by the normal school that these (jockey) apprentices go to," Price said. "She is a 100 per cent an equestrian girl who loves her horses, those equestrian girls are different in the way they ride. "Their core, and their balance, is more centred and they have a better seat on a horse. "A lot of young jockeys who haven't got an equestrian background tend to want to hang on to their horse's mouth a bit, there is more pressure on the horse's mouth for balance. "Those equestrian kids, and I employ a few of them, I spent 17 years in the equestrian world with my daughters, and I notice the absolute respect they have

for their horse. "I wish a bigger part of apprentice school was equestrian work. "Some of those equestrian kids are even taught to ride bareback ... they are taught about balance and core and that's how Jamie conducts herself on a horse." As for Kah, she admits the rush to Brisbane on Wednesday night, jetting to the Sunshine State early like other Victorian riders to beat the Victorian Covid lockdown announced last Thursday, was stressful. She also knows it will be an odd feeling on Saturday should Ayrton justify his \$1.55 favouritism in the Fred Best, knowing she will hand the reins to King in the Stradbroke. "Rachel is a great choice for him because she suits him so well, but Mick has assured me I'll be able to get back on him in the spring," Kah said.

click's



MOVIE REVIEW

FAST AND THE FURIOUS F9

F9 Is Everything That's Good (and Some Bad) About the Fast and Furious Films
Germain Lussier

CTC

Everyone's an expert...

Here's what one of them had to say...The original iPhone was the first smartphone to use a glass screen instead of a plastic screen. But Apple didn't use just any glass; the company relied on a "Gorilla Glass" developed by a company called Corning. Today, Corning supplies Gorilla Glass for most smartphone manufacturers. Gorilla Glass 6, the newest of Corning's formulas, is tougher than the glass that came on the original iPhone (or even the glass that came with your last phone). Gorilla Glass is harder than the common metals that you'll find in keys and knives, and it can handle being thrown at the ground multiple times. **Hahahaha!** What a load of crock! They can call it whatever they like but it's still just **SUPER THIN** glass and please **DO NOT** throw it at the ground. Do you remember the old Nokia phones we ALL used to own? They were tough as, right? I remember losing mine on the Sled rides up at Nelson Bay. About 10 minutes later and after it had been run over by a dozen sleds,

didn't really think that 'Android Smartphones' would take off because if they did, they wouldn't be at the bottom of the heap today. They partnered with Microsoft to implement a Windows Phone as **Nokia's** primary operating system. This move proved to be catastrophic for the company, with **Nokia** effectively surrendering its market-leading position in 2013. ... Finally, in 2014, **Nokia** came to its senses and made the switch to Android, but it was all too late. The photo below is the CEO of Nokia during an interview. You're in good company mate... same thing happened to Camera Manufacturers, both still and video, and the same happened to watch manufacturers. Seiko and Citizen must be spitting chips that we're all wearing Apple and Samsung watches (most people actually rely on their phones to check out what time it is these days). **Smartphones have taken over the world. They are effectively your computer in your pocket and most people have at least 1.**

protection of your phone just in case you want to throw it at the ground for testing purposes. The best way to start is with a good case. These will help a lot and yes, they cover up the sleek look of your device but it's either an \$80 case or a \$600 screen replacement when the inevitable happens. **Screen Protectors Don't Work!** Well, not as most people think they should. Screen protectors should be renamed to "**Scratch Protectors**" because that is what they are actually designed to do. You see, screen protectors are mostly made of glass and vary in thickness from .1mm to .3mm. There are the types that have glue only around the edges (good for nothing), then there's the Full Glue types (much better), the UV Light Glue Types (better again) and then there's the new generation of vinyl matt finish protectors (really good). Only the last one of the above protectors is NOT glass. Most people fit the glass type because until recently, that's all there was available and that's ok, as long as you don't expect your screen to remain undamaged after a fall.

Remember, most screen protectors are glass AND THEY ARE VERY THIN. If you drop your device and ONLY the screen protector cracks, **lucky you!** 30 bucks for a new one and you're good to go. Screen protectors are designed to prevent scratches, scrapes and absorb light pressure from hitting the screen. A combination of case and screen protector is about all you can do to protect your investment. Even then there's no guarantee that you won't crack your screen and/or rear glass. Every week we have tradies come in with smashed devices and they were in Lifeproof cases. Remember, your device is made of GLASS and only GLASS. Go easy on it, protect it as best as you can and you won't have to come and visit me in the near future. No Gorillas were harmed in the making of this Newsletter. info@macdroids.com.au Have a great month and pop into the Greenhills shop to say hello if you get a chance. *Frank*



some kid yells out, hey mister is this yours? When he handed it over, it had a couple of rips on the leather case but was otherwise unscathed and fully functional. Aside from the fact that the kid was honest, do you reckon that your phone would survive that today? Don't get me wrong, I wouldn't swap my current phone for one of those Nokias. All I'm saying is that as the market leader at the time, Nokia should have done more to future proof its business. Unfortunately, Nokia executives

OK back to the Gorilla glass. I think even the Gorillas would be laughing about this one. The glass on most phones is less than .3mm thick and is done for a reason, to keep the phones thin and light. They've even put glass on the back of the phones now. Look at the new iPhones and Samsung devices, they're super thin. Another issue with 'al round glass' is that they become super slippery and this is how most of my clients damage their devices, they slip out of their pockets onto soft concrete! This means you must improve the

F9—the ninth film in the main *Fast and Furious* franchise—will give anyone who has ever seen one of these movies exactly what they expect and a whole lot more. We mean that in two ways. Of course, you will see some of the most outlandish, unbelievable, jaw-dropping action imaginable, all using super-fast, slick cars. **You're also going to get a plot that's a bit muddled,** melodramatic, and cheesy to go along with it. But **that's what the Fast and Furious franchise has always been,** making F9 possibly the fastest and most furious yet. After two films away, F9 brings back director Justin Lin, who previously helmed the third through sixth films in the franchise. With that comes a certain understanding of the characters and world that began to slip away with 2017's *The Fate of the Furious* and 2019's *Hobbs and Shaw*. From the very first scene, Lin asserts his authority by showing something fans of the franchise had heard about **but never thought they'd see.** Instantly you know this film is in the hands of people who get this world—the emotion, the spectacle, and the overarching, multifaceted story—and you're ready to go on a ride. That ride begins with Dom (Vin Diesel) and his wife Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) trying to live off the grid and raise **Dom's young son, Brian.** This makes sense, since they spent several movies dealing with mayhem, but a distress call from an ally brings them back into the action. It also brings them face to face with a new character, Jakob (John Cena), who is revealed to **be Dom's brother. Now,** everyone knows Dom and the *Fast and Furious* franchise is all about "family," so for the patriarch of it all to have a long-lost brother we've never heard of needs a fair bit of backstory. For that brother to also be a super spy who drives fast like Dom requires even more story. To explain how they both end up on the tail of a mysterious new device called Project Ares, requires—you guessed it— even more explanation. As a result, the second act of F9 feels like someone opened a jigsaw puzzle and just poured it on the ground—it's kind of pretty, but also a huge mess. Dom goes after his brother, which requires several stops along the way, but Tej (Chris "Ludacris" Bridges), Roman

(Tyrese Gibson), and Ramsey (Nathalie Emmanuel) have their own mission, which requires new cars and a manhunt. Meanwhile, Letty and Dom's sister Mia (Jordana Brewster) go after an old friend who has a key piece of the puzzle, and all of these tangents feature mostly-spoiled-in-the-trailer cameos from characters all across the *Fast* franchise. The most important of those, however, is Han, played by Sung Kang. He was famously killed off in the third film, which we later found out took place after the sixth instalment because he reappeared in parts four through six. As you'd imagine, F9 spends a good amount of time explaining how Han is alive and the role he has to play in the acquisition of Project Aries. The character has long been a fan favourite in the franchise, so having him back and seeing Lin, who also co-wrote the movie with Daniel Casey, explain it all while keeping the main story relevant is a lot. It's dense, requires new characters, old characters, suspension of disbelief and more. Sad to say but if all of Han's story was cut, F9 would probably have been a more compact, tighter, faster-paced movie. On the other hand, his scenes are also some of the best in the entire movie. Sure, it's completely over the top and ultimately a little superfluous but it leads to so many incredible moments and interactions between the characters that you basically have to forgive it. Could the very long movie have been shorter and simpler without it? Yes. With it, does the movie have a whole other layer of not just heart, but satisfying narrative connections that makes the whole thing that much better? Yes is the answer to that as well. That dichotomy describes F9 perfectly. **There's no doubt the plot is completely overstuffed and dragged out,** but in that chaos comes constant elation. Lots of that is derived from action scenes and chases that range from planes catching cars midair, cars swinging across gorges like they're Indiana Jones, and ultra-powerful magnets that attract metal debris from all around them, resulting in a symphony of chaos. But **that's all to be expected in this franchise.** What's unexpected is how F9 also has much bigger emotional components, both from the resurrection of Han, but also the complex relationship

between Dom and Jakob. Though this is the ninth movie, the *Fast and Furious* franchise has never really explained much about why Dom is Dom. **We know he's tough. We know he's loyal and loves his family.** But why? Where did that all come from? With the addition of Jakob, F9 really digs into his character in a way that feels, yes, a bit much on top of everything else going on, but also effective in giving him and the rest of the characters new angles to explore. As we learn more about them, an even deeper connection is built, and in turn, everything about the film gets elevated. Two of the characters who blossom the most are Tej and Roman, rivals and friends from way back in the second movie. Their antics and banter are at an all-time high here, including a very tongue-in-cheek, ongoing discussion about how none of these characters can ever be hurt... like maybe they're literally superheroes. It's funny at first, then a little weird to be acknowledging this understood truth in such a matter-of-fact way, but it finally pays off. Tej and Roman end up being the two characters who take the franchise to, as Roman puts it, another level. **If you've seen the most recent trailer (or read a headline on io9 in the past 10 years) you know what that means—but all I'll say here is that it lives up to the hype and then some.** As a longtime fan of the franchise, I can safely say that about F9 as well. **If you find the Fast and Furious movies to be super cheesy, unbelievable, and too wild for your tastes, you aren't going to like this one.** It's just all of that and a whole bunch more. If you're a tangential fan who enjoys them on occasion but doesn't know every little reference, this movie delivers exactly what you are looking for: nonstop thrills, laughs, and maybe a few tears. For big fans though, the hardcore people, the ones who got mad when the character who killed Han wasn't immediately taken to task for it in the subsequent film and got #JusticeForHan trending on Twitter, which then made it into the film's trailer... F9 is everything. It has moments fans have always wanted to see, moments we never thought we'd see, action to spare, and dives deeper emotionally than any other instalment. Thankfully, there's still plenty of gas in the tank of this franchise. Don't forget, Justin Lin has two more movies to make.

For Sales, Service & Advice...

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Cash-for-jobs would deliver both financial and health windfall

Shane Wright ~ Senior economics correspondent

The Sydney Morning Herald

EDITORS' CHOICE



A rolling series of lotteries may be a way to encourage people to get vaccinated.

The latest spread of coronavirus across Victoria precipitated a rush of people to get vaccinated. The threat of contracting COVID-19 acted as a huge incentive for people in the state, and other parts of the country, to get a jab. In Queensland alone, the number of people getting vaccinated jumped three-fold on the day Victoria announced its latest shutdown.

But there is another incentive that has yet to be tested here and may deliver an even larger bang for its buck – a financial inducement.

A survey this month for the *Herald/The Age* found 14 per cent of people were “not at all likely” and 15 per cent “not very likely” to sign up for vaccines in the next few months, even if they were available. Australia’s Chief Medical Officer, Professor Paul Kelly, signalled this week he was open to any sort of incentive to encourage people to get immunised.

The best financial encouragement may be offering people the chance to win a bucketload of cash if they take one in the arm for the country. Lotteries have been used through the years and across the world to get health outcomes.

In 1957, Glasgow in Scotland had the highest death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis in the United Kingdom. A campaign was launched with the aim of getting at least 250,000 people to visit a mobile X-ray unit. There was a weekly draw of names from those who had been X-rayed with a financial prize on offer. After five weeks, 715,000 people had been tested.

This month, the US state of Ohio started a vaccination lottery, with stunning results. Offering \$US1 million in five, rolling lotteries, there’s been a 49 per cent increase in vaccinations among people over the age of 16 since the announcement. Among minorities, vaccination rates are up 36 per cent while there’s been a 65 per cent jump among rural residents.

Ohio not only offers straight cash. For people in their teens, the winner of a lottery will get a full four-year college scholarship (at an Ohio institution).

Republican governor Rick DeWine said this week the word-of-mouth hype surrounding his “Vax-a-Million” campaign had generated \$US23 million (\$30 million) in free vaccine advocacy. That’s not far off the Australian government’s planned \$40

million advertising campaign.

“Vax-a-Million has not been without critics. Some politicians and elected officials have called it ‘a gimmick’, an ‘insane \$5 million bribe’, a ‘misuse of money’ and ‘a waste of taxpayer dollars’. But the real waste – when the vaccine is readily available to anyone who wants it – is not doing enough to save people’s lives,” he said.

The federal government already offers a type of financial incentive for childhood vaccines. The “no jab, no pay” policy means people are barred from accessing the child care benefit, the child care rebate and the family tax benefit (part A) end-of-year supplement if their child is not vaccinated. It’s a form of financial punishment. A lottery would act as a financial incentive to get that jab.

A government that says a tax cut would act as an incentive for Australians to work harder already argues the importance of financial incentives when it comes to employment. A large incentive to get a vaccine surely makes sense.

Over a series of lotteries, starting with one for those who have already had the jab, states or Canberra could offer substantial cash prizes to those who line up to get the vaccine. Throw in an electric vehicle, a free university education for those over 18 or perhaps offer a few years without paying personal income tax.

Economic research has found that small incentives simply won’t do. The more interesting or large the prize, the bigger the incentive. Watch the crowds assemble to get a job.

You could offer a separate lottery in each state and territory, greatly increasing the odds of a person picking up the prize. And run the lottery every week or two, continuing the incentive.

The federal government has thrown hundreds of billions of dollars at propping up the economy through the pandemic. States have offered incentives for people to go to their local restaurants or tourist destinations to support local employment.

In almost all cases, the idea is to use cash as a form of financial incentive. Winning \$100,000 or \$1 million by getting vaccinated would deliver both a financial and health windfall to the country.



THE NEWS | No.534 | THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021 19

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

On Wed 19 May @ 5.20 pm I went to Maccas Greta. In the drive-thru, the young lady at the payment window became peeved because I could not hold my card steady on the payment machine. One day young lady, when you have lived a lifetime, you too may have a hand tremor. Who raised you? I can only say the gentleman who handed my package to me was handsome, smiling, and polite and put a smile back into my heart.

Hey all. Patriotism is not just about Australia Day, Anzac Day. Its more; to vaccinate or not? Well, I have, because patriotism can be defined as love of one’s country, identification with it, and special concern for its well-being and that of other citizens. Patriotism is the awareness of our moral duties to the community (basic units of humanity within which the individual can find freedom not mere sentiment or affection for one’s country). It is an everyday thing.

Cessnock Council, don’t you know forests are the lungs of the earth? Start planting not developing. Greta residents and for that matter North Rothbury residents, your Tidy Towns need you. Anyone can join North Rothbury Tidy Town, even if you live in (end of the earth) Perth. Meetings are kept short, held once every two months, cost a gold coin donation and 5 or 10 dollars a year. For that you get personal insurance for NRTT work, use of equipment at reasonable charge (ride on mower), insurance for NRTT functions and a direct communication in council via Trisha Donnelly at council. Most of all you get to make a difference. Don’t leave it to the aging members. Its time for the 30-and 40-year-olds to step and get you know your community. Its not arduous and you get to know you neighbours. And no, we don’t only pick up other people rubbish, we keep our area beautiful and up to date.

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

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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

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Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Braxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 0413161296 Fred

Work Wanted: Need a house cleaner \$25/hr P: 0488 588 333

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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 Braxton Greta Mens Shed meet in the mornings: come and have a cuppa at the Shed. 49 Braxton Street, Greta (in the grounds of the old St Mary’s primary school) For more information contact Richard Wesseling 0417422560 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

May 31st to June 4th — Braxton Public School Read-a-Thon

Monday 7th June — Braxton Public School P&C Meeting in the library

Friday June 11th — Braxton Public School Primary Athletics Carnival

SAT 12 & SUN 13 JUNE 2021 — Maitland Heritage Fest . Heritage Dinner (Friday 11th @ Mansfield)

Ghost Tour Grossmann House (Saturday evening 12th)

Ghost Tour Mansfield (Sunday evening 13th)

Heritage Walk & Devonshire tea at Mansfield House (Sun afternoon 13th)

Musical Recital-Sun Street Studios-Mindaribba Waltz-Maitland Premiere-Drinks & Canapes Sat 12th

Saturday 26th June — Braxton Public School P&C Bunnings BBQ

SAT 11 DEC 2021 — Iconic Scottish band SIMPLE MINDS will be performing at a day on the green Bimbadin winery.

“Dates for your Diary” is free community service which has been included in the News for over 20-years.

Dates for your diary

Please send your event notices and dates to thenews@hotkey.net.au or call me on 0414 757 826. The Editor

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

WHAT'S ON?

www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL ROADSHOW

COMEDYFESTIVAL.COM.AU

Thursday, 10 June 2021 | 08:00 PM

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL ROADSHOW

Join their diverse line-up of the hottest acts direct from the Melbourne International Comedy Festival

DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS Issue No 135 8th May 2003 page 27

Three gold for Rebecca



Rebecca with her three gold medals

A short good sport news item; re Rebecca Gordon, RDA Dressage Rider. Rebecca Gordon, from Harpers Hill has won three (3) gold medals competing on her horse Ragtime Classic in the Trans Tasman Masters Games held at Alexander Park Dressage Club grounds at Salt Ash on the 22nd March, 2003. Rebecca competed in three events in her class, Canter, Trot & Freestyle. Other RDA competitors on the day were Jacqi Armstrong a sight impaired rider and Australian RDA Representative Jan Pike both from Sydney. Local Lochinvar resident & Equestrian Champion Rozzie Ryan presented Rebecca with her Medals.

Congratulations & well done Rebecca

Hunter Valley Golf Club win C grade Pennant ~ first Men's Pennant trophy for club



• 2021 Hunter Valley Golf Club winning C grade Pennant Team

Hunter Valley Golf Club won the 2021 Men's C grade Pennant to become the first Men's Pennant winners in the club's short history. The team were presented with the Bercini Cup and their winners shirts by HRDGA Captain Dave Parkinson in a brief ceremony last Saturday. The team members were: Wayne Cowan (captain) Tony Bowie, Nick Dunn, Michael McNab, Darren Mathers, John Martin, Garry Marsden & Paul Neuss. The club extended congratulations to Wayne & his team for their superb efforts.

NSW bumps up Resources for Regions program to \$75M

LOU CARUANA

MINING communities across regional New South Wales are set to receive a greater share of mining royalties with Resources for Regions Round Eight applications open for projects.

NSW deputy premier John Barilaro said Round Eight had been boosted to \$75 million, which would help deliver even more projects that made a difference to 24 local government areas across regional NSW. This comes as the National Party retained the Upper Hunter state seat in the by-election held on May 22. "Round Eight of the Resources for Regions fund will build on the success of the previous round, which provided \$50 million for 84 projects that helped create new jobs and stimulated local economies through infrastructure and program delivery," Barilaro said.

"We know that the mining industry can put extra pressure on local infrastructure in regional towns and this fund is about giving back to these mining communities that contribute so much to the NSW economy.

"You've heard me say there is more to come and here it is, another \$75 million to fund projects and programs that will ensure our mining communities remain strong for generations to come.

"It's absolutely crucial that we continue to support regional mining towns that supply our state with the resources we need and the Resources for Regions program is just another example of the NSW

Government's commitment to the future of our regions." Under Round Eight, 24 councils will be allocated a base amount of \$1 million, with a further \$51 million weighted to those communities that need it most. Since its inception in 2012, the Resources for Regions program has delivered 149 projects worth \$345 million to the state's mining communities. NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee said the \$75 million of additional funding for the Resources for Regions program was a significant increase on the previous round and would be welcomed by NSW mining communities. The previous round delivered \$50 million for 84 projects across the state, assisting with local infrastructure, the creation of local jobs and building stronger local economies.

"With 149 projects and \$345 million delivered since the program's inception in 2012, it's good to see the NSW government will continue to drive this important investment in mining regions," Galilee said. NSWMC survey data shows its member companies injected \$6.2 billion in direct spending into the Hunter region last financial year, contributing about 28% of the Gross Regional Product of the Hunter economy in 2019-20. The sector also provides about 40,000 direct jobs and supports tens of thousands more in about 7000 mining supplier businesses across the state. "We will continue to work with the NSW government and mining-related councils to ensure these funds are provided for projects that improve quality of life for mining communities," Galilee said.



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Singleton community groups invited to put forward ideas for Resources for Regions applications

Community groups across Singleton are again being encouraged to put forward projects for consideration for inclusion in Singleton Council's applications under Round Eight of the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW the Hon John Barilaro officially announced applications were open for the latest round at a special event at Singleton Rugby Club last week, with \$8,005,210 on offer for the Singleton local government area – almost twice as much that was available in Round Seven.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said Council staff had been working with the community and Regional NSW staff to develop a list of projects to meet the criteria for Resources for Regions funding for future rounds.

She said Council also wanted to hear from community organisations for their suggestions for infrastructure projects worth more than \$250,000 and community programs worth more than \$100,000.

A similar process was executed for Round Seven, in which the Singleton local government area received \$4,571,281 for 15 community infrastructure projects and programs.

"We strongly advocated for the opportunities that are now available to us through the Resources for Regions program, and thanks to Mr Barilaro, we are now at the point where we can work together to deliver outcomes to benefit our entire community that may otherwise never have been possible," Cr Moore said.

"We know there are community organisations and groups that are dreaming of new infrastructure or have a great idea for a program that would make a difference to the people of Singleton, and those are the people we want to hear from.

"But we have to act quickly for Round Eight. As applications close on Monday 12 July 2021, we're asking that anyone with an idea or suggestion contact our Executive Manager Projects, Mark Ihlein in the first instance and submit an Expression of Interest by 4 June 2021.

"Council will then consider the suggestions we receive and may develop some of those ideas further to be included in our application.

"We're also happy to hear from community groups who may not be ready to proceed right now, but may have suggestions for future rounds of the program."

For more information, contact Council's Executive Manager Projects Mark Ihlein on 02 6578 7290, email council@singleton.nsw.gov.au or visit singleton.nsw.gov.au



Photo: Deputy Premier John Barilaro and Mayor of Singleton Cr Sue Moore at the opening of applications for Resources for Regions Round Eight.

Driving the future of young people



Cessnock City Council has partnered with Youth Express and RGH Driver Training to deliver professional driver training and mentoring to young people in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). The training is aimed at breaking down potential barriers to employment.

Transport issues and the lack of a driver's licence are a primary obstacle to gaining employment for young people, particularly in regional areas. The Cessnock Youth Driver Training Program provides a pathway for local youth to achieve a driver's licence.

The program is expected to support more than 50 young residents to obtain their provisional licence. To date, the program has approved 48 applications for driving lessons. Teresa Hughes from Youth Express and Danielle O'Hara from RGH Driver Training have been instrumental in coordinating the delivery of 115 hours of driver training.

Ryan Hodgins is the first person to successfully obtain a provisional licence using this program. He said the program has assisted him to further develop a sense of independence.

"Getting my P's has given me a lot more freedom, and will definitely help me get around and find work."

Council's Economic Development and Tourism Manager Tony Chadwick said the program allows young people to gain a sense of independence and take their first steps toward securing ongoing employment.

"This initiative is a great way to help our young people get their start in the job market, while at the same time developing an essential life skill."

The Cessnock Youth Driver Training Program has been funded through the NSW Government's Resources for Regions Program and will be delivered until June 2022

Photo above (left to right): Danielle O'Hara (RGH Driver Training), Ryan Hodgins, Teresa Hughes (Youth Express) and Cessnock City Council's Economic Development and Tourism Manager Tony Chadwick.

Sports Centre facade to receive a facelift

Work is now underway on the final stage of the Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre (CCISC) refurbishment.

Upgrade works to the facility's external facade commenced on Monday. The works represent the final stage in the Centre's refurbishment, which will provide a quality indoor, all-weather facility that can be utilised by a host of local community sports and specialised interest groups. The scheduled works include painting of external surfaces, the installation of treads over the front step entry, and replacement of



glass louvres and external emergency doors. The work is expected to be carried out over the coming weeks and completed by June 2021. Bookings at the CCISC will not be impacted by the works. Cessnock City Council has completed upgrades to the interior facilities in recent years, including improvements to flooring, lighting, and the Centre's kiosk and change rooms. The upgrades have been partially funded through rental income received from organisations that currently use the facilities.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said all groups will benefit from the additional improvements to the facility.

"The Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre is a great community asset. This work will allow the Centre to be enjoyed by community groups in the Cessnock Local Government Area well into the future."

YOUR friendly team



Mike Lowing: Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator
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"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.

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HOW TO FIX CLAY SOIL

Clay soil tends to become waterlogged and compacted, making it difficult for fledgling plants to establish a good root system. With good soil management practices and a bit of work, you can improve heavy clay to create soil that's a pleasure to garden with. Here's how.

Cultivate the soil. Loosen the topsoil to about a spade's depth and break up the clods to enable water, air and roots to penetrate more easily.

Add sand and gravel. When these larger particles are mixed with the tiny clay particles, it separates the clay, which aids drainage and aeration.

Add calcium. Clay soils that are sodic (high in sodium) tend to have poor structure.

Gypsum (calcium sulfate) is known as the 'clay breaker' because of its ability to replace sodium with calcium.

Add organic matter. Any organic material that you throw onto, or dig into, a clay soil is beneficial.

BENEFITS OF EARTHWORMS IN THE GARDEN

Earthworms help create humus—a dark brown-black type of soil which holds important nutrients in place for plant growth and use. Earthworms also help create good soil structure; their burrows open up the soil and create aeration and drainage channels.

Earthworm castings or excrement are rich in nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium the key minerals needed for plant growth.

Earthworm castings also help bind calcium, iron, and sulfur to soil particles—minerals that also help plants thrive. Adding chopped leaves, grass clippings, semi-rotted compost, and animal manure to your garden will encourage earthworms to take up residence in your garden, be active, and thrive.

Benefits of Earthworms in the Garden

- Earthworms burrow through the soil creating space for air to reach plant roots.

- Earthworms create tunnels that allow rain and irrigation water to penetrate the soil.

- Earthworms break up hardpan—dense soil that is inhospitable to plant roots. Earthworms can burrow to as deep as 6 feet in the soil.

- Earthworms leave behind excrement or castings containing from 5 to 11 times the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium they have ingested.

- When earthworms die their protein-rich bodies return nitrogen fertilizer to the soil.

- Earthworm digestive juices enrich the soil.

What Earthworms Do

- Earthworms eat dead leaves and grass, rotting plants, animal manure, semi-rotted compost, and bits of soil; organic matter

is ground in their gizzards, mixed with digestive juices and enzymes in the stomach then returned to the soil.

- Earthworms remove surface debris and fungal spores from the garden; they clean the garden of unwanted organic materials.

- Earthworms eat their own weight in organic matter and soil each day. A pound of earthworms eat a pound of organic matter and soil each day.

- Earthworms turn soil into humus improving soil structure. Their coil-like castings are stable when both wet and dry thus improving soil structure.

- Earthworms reproduce quickly and increase their population exponentially; one breeding earthworm can produce 96 new baby worms in six months.

How to Encourage Earthworms in Your Garden

If there are few earthworms in your garden it could mean that the soil is compacted or low in organic material. Add chopped leaves, grass clippings, semi-decomposed compost, and animal manure to your garden; these will allow worms to thrive.

If your garden has few or no earthworms, the best way to transfer worms into your garden is to dig up large chunks of soil or turves (section of matted grass) rich in worms and worm burrows and set them whole in your garden so that new earthworm colonies can get started.

Types of Earthworms Earthworms can range in size from microscopic to several feet in length. Earthworms that are most commonly found in home gardens and farmland are Field Worms and Night Crawlers. These worms thrive in cool soil and can be spotted on the soil surface during the darkness of night or during rainstorms when their burrows are flooded. Earthworms do not have eyes but they are sensitive to light; they will retreat into the soil when light is shone on them.

Field Worms and Night Crawlers are not used in worm compost bins, but they can be found in free-standing compost piles in the garden; they will congregate at the bottom of a compost pile where the pile does not become very hot and where they can easily retreat into the soil below the pile.

Earthworms used for compost bins are Red Worms and Branding Worms. These worms do not survive in ordinary garden soil. They are used in worm composting boxes and in compost piles as long as the pile does not become too hot.

Vermiculture is the practice of raising red-worms in boxes and feeding them kitchen waste to create castings.

I would also suggest that if you

are giving it to the children pestering you for a dog, that you look at fostering a dog first to ensure you are ready for a dog, and you can see if the children are actually going to help look after it, which they all promise to do at the start...which very few follow through on.

The best family dogs for kids. So if you've thought about the costs, training and exercise requirements and still want to introduce a fur baby to your home, how do you know what is the right breed?

Shannon says not every dog suits all lifestyles, and if we don't get it right, it can cause issues for both the human and our furry family members.

"When it comes to families with children, breeds that are known to be patient, resilient and friendly are important to choose," she says. Dogs that are great with children and teens of all ages include:

- British Bulldogs
- Beagles
- Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
- Gentle giant breeds (see below for a breed breakdown)
- Boxers
- Mastiffs
- Vizslas
- Cavoodles and other 'oodle' variations
- Staffys



From Cavoodles to Staffys: Just 10 of the best family dogs for households with children.

BY BRONTE CHAPERON

When you have children or are thinking of starting a family, the decision to introduce a pet to your household can become a little ... tricky.

Certain thoughts come to mind, such as: What if the dog is too rough with the baby? What if my young children are too rough with the dog? What if we don't have enough time to meet the dog's exercise requirements? And what if the dog doesn't fit in with our family?

These are all very real concerns, after all, the decision to adopt a dog and give it a loving home deserves lots of consideration – especially if you have a young family.

Lara Shannon, dog trainer and behaviourist and host of Channel 10's *Pooches at Play*, spoke to me about how to choose a dog breed that will complement your family and be beneficial for the pooch as well.

What to know before you even look at breeds.

Before jumping on PetRescue, there are important things you should think about – ask yourself how much time you can dedicate to training, walking the dog and spending time with the puppy and think about the costs associated with desexing, vaccinations, obedience school and pet insurance.

Be sure to take the time to think about what energy levels and temperament would be a good fit for your family, and remember: just because a puppy is cute, it doesn't mean it will fit in with your family's lifestyle.

"Whether you are getting a new puppy or adopting a rescue dog, you need to do your homework," Shannon says. "Research the common traits/temperament of the breed you are thinking about."

Things Shannon says to consider:

- What are their common health issues and dietary considerations?

- Do they have specific exercise needs – mental and physical?

- If you are looking to rescue, ask about and ensure you understand any behaviour issues a particular dog may have. Are you equipped and prepared to put in the time and money that may be required for training and veterinarian care, particularly for any fear and anxiety, aggression, phobias or health issues they may have?

I would also suggest that if you

Tips For Your Dogs



& Cats



Gentle giants

Larger dogs can have terrific temperaments and fit in well with families, but Shannon says to be cautious about their size.

"The gentle giants – the Bernese Mountain Dog, Newfoundland, the Golden and Labrador Retriever and Irish Wolfhound are friendly and loyal and make wonderful family pets, but in small spaces or around toddlers their large size could pose a problem."

Boxers

"Boxers are both energetic and affectionate and are known for their love of children, but they are very bouncy so wagging bums and their energy need to be considered around toddlers."

Mastiffs

"Mastiffs, despite their size and look, are also very gentle with children and are also very protective of the family they love."

Vizslas

"The Vizsla is sensitive, affectionate and gentle, they are also very loyal and energetic so are particularly good for active and energetic families with older kids, particularly those that are keen to get involved in training and obedience as they will excel at this."

Cavoodles and other 'oodle' variations

"The popular cavoodles, spoodles, labradoodles and groodles also all make great family pets, though their size can vary greatly depending on how big or small the Poodle parent may have been, so don't get caught out there.

"I've seen many a cute groodle puppy quickly become a massive bouncy ball of fluff that continuously knocks a toddler off their feet with its exuberant and energetic displays of love."

Staffys

"The Staffordshire Bull Terrier (commonly known as the Staffy here in Australia) has a known affinity with children. They are friendly and tolerant, and quite fearless so they love to get involved in any activity which is great for older children as well," Shannon says.

However, Shannon cautions that

Staffy owners need to be prepared to do lots of training.

"They do like to be with their family as much as possible though and they won't back down from a challenge so you do need to ensure you are committed to dog training and obedience and everyone in the family is consistent with their leadership, children included."

BITSAs

Then there are BITSAs, which are a mix of a large number of dogs. According to the BITSA website, "A True BITSA does not have a primary, secondary or distant breed, because they have been created by mixing a unique blend of a large number of dogs for so many generations that no single breed is currently detectable in its ancestry."

And there is certainly nothing wrong with that. In fact, Shannon owns a BITSA named Darcy.

"Then there is always a little mutt like my dog Darcy, who loves nothing more than cuddles with kids, so don't overlook those 'BITSAs', but just do ask about temperament if they are a cross-breed and if rescuing or ask the breeder about the parent's temperament with kids."

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Runner up: Jan Scobie 29 points on a count back
Third: Neridah Busch 28 points
N.T.P. Robyn Hoffman
Results for 26th May 2021
It was a stroke round played for the Mabel MacKenzie Brooch
Winner: Sally Lamb 69 Nett
Runner Up: Trish McMillan 79 Nett
NTP: Karen Johanson

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 16th May

The Weekly Challenge has been won by Jim Dempster of the Beerwah GC with 39 points from Andrew McCracken 38 on countback to Nathan Pearson in 3rd place. Ball winners were: Scott Altmann 37, Scott Burgess 37, David Michael-Menzies v35, Phil Small 35, Andrew Roessler v34, Patrick Jakubowski v34, Jai Kumar 34, Dan Storey v34, Chris Stebbing v33, Paul Bathery v33, The Sweeney 33, Phil Douglas 33, Andrew Campbell 32, Darren Hooton v32, Brenton O'Donnell v31, Grahame Mankelov 31, Pete Roderick v31, Ian Wilson v31, Joshua Trappel 31, Lloyd Barrett v31, Stan Jakubowski v31 and Chris Gribbin v30 c/b

Tuesday 18th May

Cooler conditions have taken the edge from the scoring with only one player in the entire field matching Par in the mid-week competition with Wayne Cowan returning 36 points to win the day from Gary Arnold 35 on countback to Greg Ireland 3rd also on countback. Ball winners were: Nathan Sweeney 35, Phil Darcy 34, Bindii 34, John Carmody 33, Damien Porter 33, Lindsay Self 33, Garry Clarke 32, Wayne Barber 32, Ian Newell 32, Col Bradley 32, Darrell Porter 32 & David Peel 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bindii (3rd) David Peel (4th) Col Bradley (8th) & Damien Porter (17th)

Wednesday 19th May

The Ladies also found the scoring tough in the cool with Ruth Scott winning the day on countback to Jill Ramsden after both Ladies returned 33 points, Di Atton claimed 3rd place with 32. Ball winners were: Jenny Chambers 31, Jill Slatter 31 & Dale Hamilton 31 c/b.

Thursday 20th May

The Vets Irish Stableford field were treated to fine day with some great returns. Division 1 to Larry Forbes with 76 points from Wayne Barber 71, Division 2 to Don Bradley 75 from Ken Blackett 74 & Division 3 to Ken McLaughlan with 81 from Greg Ireland with 75. Ball winners were: John Stewart 73, Greg Harder 3, Garry Marsden 72, Col Somerville 71, Gunner 69, Graham Morris 68, Norm Barry 68, Chris Norman 67, Kevin Gibson 67, Ron Findley 66, Dave Fury 65, Dennis Donn 65, Sue Peel 65, Gary Arnold 64, Bruce

Chambers 64, Di Oakes 63 & Paul Smith 63 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Col Somerville (4th) Garry Clarke (8th) John Stewart (10th) 7 John Grayson (17th).

Saturday 22nd May

Saturday Golfers had idyllic weather for the Medley Stableford with visitors taking top spots in A & B grade. Aaron Dries from Maitland has won A Grade from Mick Gilbert on countback after both returned 39 points, Merewether GC visitor Craig Woodcock has won B Grade with 38 points from Bailden Pepperall 37c/b and Sharyn Jones claimed a 1 point win over Tracy Morison in C Grade with 37 points. Ball winners were: Caleb Porter v38, Michael Hughes 37, Aarom McDonald 36, Mark Noble v46, Peter Huckfelt 35, Craig Park v35, Jeff Morton 35, David Dalley v35, Lachlan McDonald v35, Don Bradley 35, Dean Morison 34, Garry Marsden 34, Damien Porter 34, Ron Higginbottom 34, Nicolas Dunn 34, Steve Jones 33, Graham Young 33 & Michael Tsakissiris 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Evan Powell (3rd) Lachlan McDonald (4th) Peter Puerta (8th) James Schofield (10th) & Wayne Drayton (17th)

Sunday 23rd May

The Weekly Challenge was won by Nick Wilson with 40 points from Cypress Lakes GC visitor Steve Abel 38 and John Knuth with 35 on countback 3rd. Ball winners were: Jack Chillingworth v35, Nathan Pearson 35, Marjo Kummeling 35, Graham Mankelov 35, Mitch Tremain v35, Nathan Bendeich 34, Josh Trappel 34, Ben Cole v34, Justin Woodbine v34 & Ben Haywood v34 c/b
Tuesday, May 25
Another solid 39-point round by Caleb Porter saw him win the Tuesday Stableford from Richard Craft with 38 & Mitch Attewell in 3rd with 36 points. Ball winners were: Damien Porter 35, Michael Cunningham 35, Wayne Cowan 34, Nathan Sweeney 34, Sean Henry v33, Larry Forbes 33, Brett Janssen v33, Peter McIntyre 33, Col Bradley 33, Darrell Porter 32 & Mark Fullbrook 31 c/b Nearest-the-Pins went to Caleb Porter (3rd) John Stewart (4th) & Nathan Sweeney (17th)
Wednesday, May 26
Jill Slatter produced a great 38-point round for a clear win in the Ladies Stableford from Joy Provenzano 32 on countback to Dale Hamilton 3rd. Ball winners were: Di Atton 31, Sue Peel 30, Jenny Chambers 29, Sue Williams 29 & Sue Wilson 29 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dale Hamilton (4th & 10th) & Jill Slatter (17th).
Thursday, May 27
Mick Gilbert & Wazza Fairley stormed home on the back 9 to win the Vets 4BBB Championship on countback from Steve Jurd

& Mark Barrow with both teams retuning 45 points. The daily Stableford event saw Phil Marks claim Division 1 with 42 points from Chris Norman 39, Division 2 to Wayne Drayton with 38 from Mark Barrow 37 & Division 3 to Wayne Cowan with 36 points with Ken McLaughlan runner-up with 34 on countback. Ball winners were: Graeme Flynn 37, Ruff 36, Kerry Bartlett 36, Bruce Chambers 35, Fluff 35, Wazza 35, Larry Forbes 35, Tevor Collins 34, Ron Findley 34, Lorraine Clack 34, Greg Harder 34, Mick Gilbert 34, Rod Williams 33, Ken Blackett 33, Marian Radny 33, Marek Bartczak 33, Don Bradley 33, James Schofield 33, John Carmody 33, Peter Perkins 33, Peter McIntyre 32, Dave Fury 32, Bindii 32 & John McLoughney 32 c/b Nearest-the-Pins went to John Grayson (3rd) Fluff (10th) & Jaames Schofield (17th).

Next week the Vets play a Medley Stableford.
Saturday, May 29

Some great scores were recorded in the Medley American Stableford with A Grade decided on the final hole when Craig Sharp 'eagled' to nudge Ben Bradley who had a double bogie 7 on the final hole to lose on countback as both had 57 points, B Grade to Nick Dunn also returning 57 points from Peter Puerta with 53 on countback and C Grade to the 'round of the day' from Aaron Marks with 58 points with Greg Harder runner-up on 56. Ball winners nor NTPs have yet been posted. NB: HVGC won the 2021 Men's C grade Pennant to become the first Men's Pennant winners in the club's short history. The team were presented with the Bercini Cup and their winners shirts by HRDGA Captain Dave Parkinson in a brief ceremony on Saturday. The team members were: Wayne Cowan (captain) Tony Bowie, Nick Dunn, Michael McNab, Darren Mathers, John Martin, Garry Marsden & Paul Neuss.

Branxton Golf Club

Saturday Comp
Saturday, 22 May 2021
SATURDAY COMP
- STABLEFORD

Field: 44
Grades A
Stephen Ross 38
Grades A Nick Wheeler 38
Grades A Lee Hunt 38
Grades B Geoff Geason 37
Grades B Micheal Carling 33
Grades B Kelvin Mather 32
Grades C Colin Hughes 36
Grades C Sam Bridge 36
Grades C Darrell Fletcher 32
NTP 2/11 C 2nd Andrew

Keogh 77cms
NTP 4 C 4th Sam Bridge 285 cms
NTP 9/18 B 9th Neil Jordan 213 cms
NTP 13 C 13th Edward Neale 464 cms
Balls 13 Distributed down to score: 31
Club Captain Steve Ross returned to form to win Saturday's Stableford Competition with an excellent 38 pts in a very close contest with runners up Nick Wheeler and Lee Hunt finishing with the same score. Geoff Geason won B Grade with his 37 pts, well clear of runner up Mick Carling with 33 pts with Kel Mather's 32 pts good enough for third place. Col Hughes won C Grade with 36 pts, also on a countback from Sam Bridge with Darrell Fletcher hitting some form, finishing third with his 32 pts. The shot of the day belonged to Andrew Keogh on the 2nd, a great shot to only 77 cms on this temporary green. Only 31 pts was needed to win a ball. As reported by Captain Steve, the course is starting to look very good at the moment with the greens making steady improvement. The more specialised needle coring next week will ensure continued improvement in the next few months. A couple of stories to share include Dean Fowler draining a 20 metre putt on the 9th from the right fringe all the way across the green to the far left pin—there is fair bit of movement in that putt so that is something to remember. As mentioned, Andrew Keogh hit the shot of the day on the 2nd but his tee shot on the 15th, loudly hit the toilet wall—so loud that Steve's group on the 12th could hear the thunderous sound—luckily no-one was inside at the time! This must have affected his group as one of his playing partners, Peter McKenzie, a very reliable driver of the ball, dunked his shot into the creek! A reminder to all players that Round 3 matches in the singles knockout must be played by the 5th June.

Rules Reminder
Rule 7.3: Lifting your ball to identify it. If a ball might be yours but you cannot identify it as it lies, you may lift the ball to identify

it. **But** the spot of the ball must first be marked, and the ball must not be cleaned more than needed to identify it (except on the putting green)- the ball must be replaced on its original spot. If you lift your ball when not reasonably necessary to identify it, fail to mark the spot of the ball before lifting it or clean it when not allowed, you get one penalty stroke.

Saturday, 29 May 2021
SATURDAY COMP
STABLEFORD

Field: 48
Grades A Stephen Ross 37
Grades A Toby Grant 35
Grades A Adrian Chomiszak 34
Grades B Robert Hale 37
Grades B Neil Bridge 35
Grades B Richard Alley 35
Grades C Steven Primmer 34
Grades C Colin Hughes 33
Grades C James Elphick 31
NTP 2/11 A 2nd Stephen Ross 119cm
NTP 4 A 4th Reece Caldwell 202cm
NTP 9/18 B 9th Neil Bridge 205cm
NTP 13 B 13th Neil Jordan 800cm
Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 28
It's often said that players feed off each other, particularly when one is playing well—that was particularly true on Saturday when playing partners, Club Captain Steve Ross won A Grade with his 37 pts and playing partner Bobby Hale won B Grade with the same stableford points. They were the only two players all day to break their handicap with Steve topping off his day by winning the nearest the pin on the 2nd—a temporary green where any putt that falls in is well struck. Steve actually started his day with birdie (two 4 pointers) —as he said, “a once in a blood red moon,” event! Bob actually played the 2nd well himself although his methodology differed by hitting his tee shot very low and running it to the front of the green—in golf it's not how but how many! Toby Grant continued his good form in running second, on a tough day, with his 35 pts in A Grade with Adrian Chomiszak playing very well from his

low handicap to finish third with 34 pts. Neil Bridge finished runner up in B Grade with 35 pts, which included a nearest the pin on the 9th, with Richard Alley third on the same score. Steve Primmer collected another prize in winning C Grade with 34 pts just ahead of Col Hughes and James Elphick. Steve Ross owned the shot of the day on the 2nd, only 119 cms away and he canned the putt. Neil Jordan's nearest the pin on the 13th, 800 cms away, is worth mentioning as I'm not sure the green is any bigger than that meaning everyone else must have missed this green—it is a tough hole. Only 28 pts was needed to win a ball showing how difficult the day was for all players. From all reports the greens are making a remarkable recovery due to some innovative ideas and treatment from our new greenkeeper so we look forward to seeing the Branxton Course back into pristine condition.

Rules Reminder
Rule 19.2: Relief options for Unplayable ball in General area.

There are 3 options you may take for unplayable ball relief (each with a one stroke penalty). 1. The player make take stroke and distance relief by replaying the ball from where the original stroke was made (can be estimated). 2. The player must take back-on-the-line relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in a relief area based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball. 3. The player may take lateral relief—within 2 club lengths of the original ball, no nearer the hole.

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BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

'Colts' tame the 'Devils'

The News **SPORT**

It was a great day for our Huntlee Tavern reserve grade Colts as they travelled up the golden highway to take on the Denman Devils at Denman. After a bruising opening 10 or so minutes it was the Colts to strike first after five eighth Jacob Barnes turned back rower Travis Sams underneath and with a big right foot step Travis surged through a gap before despite the attention of multiple defenders he threw a neat pass inside to fullback Cain Bonham who streaked away and scored under the black dot. Hooker Haiden Kowalski added the extras and the Colts led 6-0. Another arm wrestle ensued and it was the devils next to score despite the protests of several Colts players who were adamant that they had held the ball up. The try

was duly converted and scores were level at 6 all. With blood flowing from a head wound, coach Hamson pleaded with his troops in the in goal to lift another gear and this, combined with the injection off the bench of the blockbusting Hayden Slade who was returning from injury seemed to do the trick. From deep inside Colts territory Slade ran the ball down the right edge before completely steam rolling his opposite number and ultimately turning the ball inside for debutant Harley Oliver to streak away and score. Kowalski again added the extras and the score was 12-6. Then in the shadows of half time it was that man again Slade who called the ball down the short side before taking on the line and holding the ball up beautifully to put his half-back Ethan Sams through a

hole and over the line to score. Kowalski's attempted conversion from the sideline struck the upright and the score remained 16-6 at oranges. The Colts shot out of the blocks in the second half having kicked off and an unforced error by the Devils on the second tackle of the half saw lock Jimoin Norman scoop up the loose ball before turning inside to Ethan Sams to dive over for his second of the afternoon. Kowalski again added the extras and the Colts now led 22-6. Just as it looked as though the floodgates might open, buoyed by a vocal home crowd, the Devils lifted a gear and were the next to score a rather soft try through the ruck and the score was 22-12. Hooker Kowalski was next to get in on the action after the ball went through multi-

ple sets of hands Kowalski pinned his ears for the corner post and crossed the stripe for the final score of the game. The final score remained 26-12 when the full time siren sounded. Best for the Colts were the young brigade of Ethan Sams, Cain Bonham and Haiden Kowalski with Hayden Slade and Travis Sams also having big games. The Colts were away last weekend at Aberdeen which was sure to be a physical and fiercely contested match. *Full report next issue*



• The Branxton Greta Colts who defeated the Denman Devils 26-12 at Denman. Best for the Colts were the young brigade of Ethan Sams, Cain Bonham and Haiden Kowalski with Hayden Slade and Travis Sams also having big games.

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