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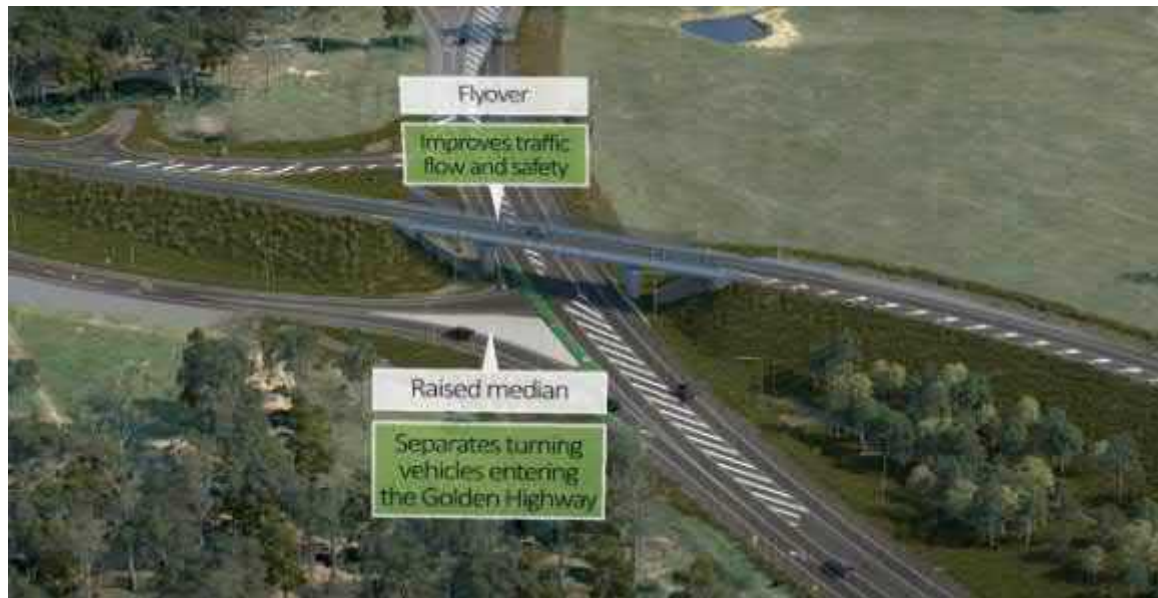
New England Highway upgrade between Belford and the Golden Highway – Construction contract awarded

Work on the New England Highway upgrade between Belford and the Golden Highway will start later this year.

Transport for NSW has awarded a construction contract to Acciona Construction Australia Pty Ltd. The NSW Government has provided \$97 million funding for the upgrade to improve traffic flow, travel times and safety for motorists. The upgrade involves building two travel lanes in each direction from Belford to the Golden Highway, and a flyover for vehicles turning right from the Golden Highway towards Maitland and Newcastle. Early work, including

utility relocations, has been completed and main construction work will start later this year. Work is expected to take three years to complete, weather permitting. The construction contract also includes the Mudies Creek Bridge project on the Golden Highway. The Australian and NSW governments are jointly funding a \$16 million bridge over Mudies Creek to improve travel reliability during flood events. The upgrade will involve building a new 30-metre-long bridge over Mudies Creek, five metres above the current road level and high enough to withstand a one-in-100-year flood. Work is expected to start in 2022, subject to

environmental approval. The project originally got the green-light on the 27th June 2017 so has been a long time coming. The project was justified on the basis that it would help reduce existing congestion and delays experienced at the New England Highway and Golden Highway intersection, improve road safety and provide for effective network performance in consideration of future traffic forecasts. Around 22,000 vehicles travel along the New England Highway between Belford and the Golden Highway every day and congestion is a common issue. In 2017 the RMS said that



the project is needed to meet current and predicted increases in freight and travel demand.

“The existing three travel lanes on the New England Highway in the proposal area would not meet these traffic increases, leading to longer travel times,

reduced travel reliability, crashes and higher vehicle operating costs. The existing New England Highway and Golden Highway intersection experiences heavy traffic and limited turning opportunities during peak periods. This has resulted in safety and reliability issues, increased travel times and

more greenhouse gas emissions due to slower car speeds. The proposal would:
 increase the capacity and connectivity of the New England Highway and Golden Highway for the efficient and reliable movement of freight
 improve safety at the New England Highway and

Golden Highway intersection by reducing the risk of crashes
 increase capacity at the New England Highway and Golden Highway intersection to cater for the predicted increase in traffic movements as a result of future growth in the Hunter.

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An incredible achievement, thank you!



Prime movers of the BMT Julie Farrell, in the frame, & Helen Scott, second from right back row, with their wonderful helpers

Thank you to the beautiful Helen Scott and Julie Farrell for hosting a delightful #BiggestMorningTea at Branxton Community Hall. There were clothing stalls, crafts stalls and other delightful items to purchase throughout the morning while guests mingled and enjoyed a delicious morning tea and listened to an operatic performance by local artist/musician, Jade, the highlight of

the morning, followed by THE TEAPOT CALAMITY which was won by Kathy Pynsent. Thank you also to Mayor Bob Pynsent and his lovely wife for attending and supporting the cause. The beautiful centrepieces by Chasing Daisies of Branxton were sold on the day and the funds went towards the successful event. Many photos were taken and we must thank Patricia Lynch of Branxton for giving up her morning for this for us.

Over \$2000 was raised to assist fund the incredible work Cancer Council conducts within our local community. We must all those who attended and also a HUGE 'Thank you' to the Cessnock Rotary Club for their assistance in setting and packing up, selling raffle tickets & helping in the kitchen and our other volunteers Leanne Cooper & Cathy Darcy.

MAITLAND REPERTORY THEATRE

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Daily Thoughts

Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them and try to follow them. --**Louisa May Alcott**
 Patience is passion tamed. --**Lyman Abbott**
 We have a hunger of the mind which asks for knowledge of all around us and the more we gain, the more is our desire; the more we see, the more we are capable of seeing. --**Maria Mitchell**
 If you want to catch something, running after it isn't always the best way. --**Lois McMaster Bujold**
 The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it. --**Chinese proverb**
 The young do not know enough to be prudent and therefore, they attempt the impossible and achieve it, generation after generation. --**Pearl S. Buck**
 To be stupid, selfish and have good health are three requirements for happiness; though if stupidity is lacking, all is lost. --**Gustave Flaubert**
 We are all living in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars. --**Oscar Wilde**

Cessnock and Wine Country Toastmasters decided to run a public speaking course for interested members of the local community. The club president, John Quinn, said "The course satisfies a major need for lots of people. The quality of this content is acclaimed globally. The club was very pleased with the participants positive feedback."



Public Speaking Course participant Brony Gould, with Martin and Nellie Beggs

This was the second public speaking course Cessnock Toastmasters have hosted in the past 12 months. The first course, in the middle of last year, was planned as a regular workshop but the Covid 19 restrictions turned it into an online course. That was the first time that Cessnock and Wine Country Toastmasters ran an online class. They were the first club in their district to successfully attempt such a task. The recent course saw participants working face to face with members of the Toastmasters club. Five people enrolled in the class that was conducted

over five successive Monday evenings. Another public speaking class is planned to be run in October. Small business owner Brony Gould from Swift Muscle Injury Therapy- Happy Feet- Happy Body, said "This has helped me enormously when talking about my business." "I really enjoyed the course, it will definitely be very, very useful to me." said Reece Flannery. Cessnock and Wine Country Toastmasters meet every Monday night at Cessnock Leagues Club... Starting time is 7pm and visitors are always welcome.



Hope and Faith

Mark 5.21-43

What is it about Jesus that draws the crowds to him wherever he goes? What is it that about him that has a leader of the Jews plead with him to heal his daughter? And what is it about him that gives a woman the courage to seek her own healing by touching the fringe of his clothes? I believe that it has a lot to do with the hope that Jesus gives to all people. We are made in God's image and called by name. Our needs are known by God even before we speak of them. Yet Jesus does not come like a knight in shining armour and save us from all that hurts or harms us. He waits. He waits for us to come to him. In this week's passage, Jesus has returned from the other side of the lake, and again "a great crowd gathered around him." [Mark 5.21] We may find ourselves among those gathering on the shore, waiting for his arrival. Perhaps we are hoping that in our anonymity we may learn or understand something more about Jesus. We may be waiting to be healed, heard, or seen ... or perhaps we are curious about this teacher whom we have heard performs miracles. But then there is no time for teaching because Jairus, a leader of the Jews comes to Jesus begging him to heal his daughter. Jesus goes with Jairus, and the crowd followed him, pressing in on him from all sides. It is at this time, that a woman who is ritually unclean because of continuous haemorrhages, seizes the opportunity to be made well. Her thought ... "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." [Mark 5.28] And she is made well! Jesus immediately recognises that "power had gone forth from him" [Mark 5.30] and asks who touched him. We can understand the disciples' reaction, considering that Jesus is in a crowd. How can anyone possibly ask that question. But Jesus does ... and the woman comes forward to tell the truth. We come to Jesus in so many and varied ways. Sometimes we are part of the crowd, sometimes we come directly and sometimes we come secretly. All of us come in the ways that make sense for us. We come because we hope that Jesus can answer our prayers, our needs, our desires. And we come because our faith enables us to. Our faith enables us to believe like the crowds, like Jairus, and like the woman. Our faith enables us to open our hearts and minds so that we may receive from Jesus all that we need. Jesus is beyond our understanding and beyond our control, but Jesus is never beyond us. He waits for us to draw near. He sees our needs and heals us when we have the courage to come to him in hope and faith. May we indeed have the courage to come to Jesus in the ways that we need to and when asked "who touched me?" may we also have the courage to tell Jesus the reason we have come.

May the blessings of God rest gently upon you as you come to Jesus.

Blessings,
Reverend Nicole

DANCE
BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL
 Saturday 17th July, 2021 at 7pm.
 Old Time, New Vogue & R&R
 Band: '2 id' (4piece)
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Piggott's Pharmacy Compounding can put drugs into specially flavoured liquids, topical creams, transdermal gels, suppositories, or other dosage forms suitable for

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Compounding combines an ageless art with the latest medical knowledge and state-of-the-art technology, allowing specially your Piggott's Pharmacist to prepare customised medications to meet your specific needs. Compounding is fundamental to the profession of Pharmacy and was a standard means of providing prescription medications before drugs began to be produced in mass quantities by pharmaceutical

manufacturers. The demand for professional compounding has increased as healthcare professionals and patients realise that the limited number of strengths and dosage forms that are commercially available are unable to meet the unique needs of many patients. These patients may have a better response to a customised dosage form that is "just what the doctor ordered".

There are several reasons why pharmacists compound prescriptions. Many patients are allergic to

preservatives or dyes or are sensitive to standard drug strengths. With a physician's prescription, a compounding pharmacist can change the strength of a medication, alter its form to make it easier for the patient to ingest, or add flavour to it to make it more palatable. Your Piggott's Compounding Pharmacist can also prepare the medication using several unique delivery systems, such as sublingual troche or lozenge, a lollipop, or a transdermal gel. Or, for those patients who are having a difficult time swallowing a capsule, your compounding pharmacist can make a suspension or suppository instead.

Our compounding Pharmacist can prepare:

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- change the form of the medication for patients who, for example, have difficulty swallowing or experience stomach upset when taking oral



medication.

- medications in dosage forms that are not commercially available, such as transdermal gels, troches, "chewies", and lollipops.
- reformulate medications free of problem-causing excipients such as dyes, sugar, lactose, or alcohol.
- combinations of various compatible medications into a single dosage form for easier administration and improved compliance.
- flavour a medication (to make it more palatable for a child or a pet).

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medications due to gastrointestinal side effects. Working with their physician, a compounding pharmacist can provide them with a topical preparation with the anti-inflammatory or analgesic their doctor has prescribed for them. Compounded prescriptions often are used for pain management in hospice care.

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STEVE'S RANT

Of the problems besetting the Federal Government at present, two could be addressed immediately by simple Acts of Parliament.

The first is to remove the ban on nuclear power and the industry which of necessity accompanies it. The old argument against atomic fission to provide base-load power is no longer relevant for the latest technology of which there are over a dozen different types. Each by the nature of the process within the reactors has applications to different situations, some being applied directly to the manufacturing process but mainly to the power generation. All certainly can be uncoupled from the electrical grid when not needed.

Science can use the energy they continue to produce for chemical reactions converting CO2 to carbon monoxide and with the addition of water, methane or directly producing hydrogen as a transport fuel. The natural progression of the nuclear industry is the reprocessing of nuclear rods into new nuclear rods and the production of a sovereign nuclear capability. We must have nuclear weapons if we are to remain free from the influence of the Communist

Party of China. Nuclear weapons are the only language the Chinese Communist Party understand. We have a short period of grace under the umbrella of US nuclear power, but this cannot be our only protection. A sovereign capability in nuclear weapons has to be built. As Israel has shown, we can achieve this without the need to test them. However, a successful test registered on the world's seismic detectors is an excellent way to announce that we have the capability. If by proceeding in this direction puts us at odds with

the UN non-proliferation treaty, too bad. Whilst communist China is a threat to us and our Indo pacific neighbour's we do not have any options, and we must do it. North Korea and Iran are doing this without regard to any international treaty. Let us hope that all the talks between president Macron of France and ScoMo produce the nuclear power versions of the barracuda attack subs. The French have as good a handle on all things nuclear as

'The old argument against atomic fission to provide baseload power is no longer relevant for the latest technology of which there are over a dozen different types.'



anybody. The second problem is the imbalance between wind and solar energy and the requirement for constantly available electricity 24/7. Allied to this is the removal and disposal of end-of-life solar panels and wind turbines. As far as I know, when approval is given for a solar or wind farm there are no provisions for remedial work at the site. Then there is the disposal of panels and turbines. I have no idea what can be recovered from this material, but there are clever people amongst us who will develop methods as the problem increases over time. Presently the only option seems to be a landfill. The farmers who lease parts of their land for these enterprises are on clover, and good luck to

them a guaranteed income for the life of the project gives the farmer great scope to improve his land and keep his assets in tip-top condition whilst continuing the primary produce the farm is best suited for. This symbiotic activity is viewed by climate catastrophists as win-win situations except for the poor neighbour who has to look at these blots on the landscape every time they glance out of the window. Included in this mess of objects are the transmission lines. For all this, we get intermittent power on average for about 1/3 of any set period longer than a week. A guess on my part, but I'll wager this is well in the ballpark as they say. Coal-fired power stations make up the shortfall but are made uneconomic by having 1/3 of

their output sold out for nothing in a saturated market. The very few of us who have half a brain can see why power-producing companies will not invest in new coal-fired power stations. For this dilemma, the Federal Government (to their credit) propose to build a gas-fired plant in Kurri Kurri. This plant will be owned and run by the Federal Government probably at a loss to fill in the gap made when Liddell Coal Fired Power Station is shut down. The advocates for renewable energy installations plan to use the excess power when available to charge batteries (hideously expensive and environmentally unsound!), pump water uphill for hydro, or make hydrogen via electrolysis for our motor cars. Do you fancy driving around in a

vehicle with enough Hydrogen in the tank to blow the arse off a bulk ore ship? That is, given the right gas-air mix and an idle spark. The trouble is that wind and solar farm owners do not have to integrate their power output to any of these facilities, although some proposed installations plan for this. It is left to others to run around in circles finding a use for this excess and therefore cheap power in an attempt to mitigate shortages when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. An Act of Federal Parliament is needed to make wind and solar farm developers provide electricity continuously or be ineligible to join the national grid. Further, to make any approval of these farms approve these farm's conditional on the deposit of contingency funding, held in trust, for reclamation and disposal costs likely in the future.



Danger of 'open borders'
I agree that our treatment of the Tamil family, and indeed all refugees in detention, is appalling. However, I am cautious of the statement, "we're a big country, we have room". Most of our infrastructure is confined to the narrow, coastal areas. Until we find a way to establish large cities in our arid heartland, we will never be able to have the population of the United States, a country of comparable land mass.

There needs to be some restrictions on who comes here and when. An "open borders" policy would be disastrous as millions of people would want to relocate in a country where the rule of law prevails, the standard of living is high, the health system is world

class, and welfare payments are generous by world standards. The UN Refugee Convention does not cover "country shopping" but sanctions a person moving to a safe place within their own region. Regardless, we must show respect and compassion to those refugees who are already here and end this heartless treatment.

Lance Sterling, Nunawading

Thank you Clr Sander
In wake of Cessnock City Council's failed attempt to re-zone Victoria Park (35 Water Street Greta) from community to operational land (i.e., able to subdivide and sell as residential lots) I would like to publically thank Councillor Ann

Sander for her 'notice of motion' at the last council meeting which was decided favourably & unanimously; the park stays as community land (in this case a community park). Clr Sander attended a meeting at the park prior to the council meeting and

listened to all who attended (see photo above). She also spoke to many residents who did not attend the 'park meeting' and came to the conclusion, very early, that the land HAD to remain as a park. So senior council officers who are, no doubt, looking

to fund the new pound ~ and that's another story on its own ~ stay away from community parks within the LGA; we need more not less!
S. Lind, North Rothbury NSW



with **Mike Lowing**

OUR hard working, all-round good guy, Clayton Barr MP Member for Cessnock, has been relegated to the backbench after the recent change in opposition leadership. Clayton had held the shadow ministries for the Hunter, Innovation, Science and Tertiary Education & water since July 2019 & prior to that was Shadow Minister for

Finance, Services and Property from April 2015 to July 2019. Yasmin Catley MP, Member for Swansea, is the new Shadow Minister for the Hunter. Clayton's relegation the backbench has nothing to do with his parliamentary performance; it's a numbers game & unfortunately he doesn't partake in factional alliance.

Cheers, Mike

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Submit a letter to the editor

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

or

emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au



From the Lions' Den – June 2021



Brian Thomas passed the baton of the Presidency of the Lions Club of Branxton to Rod Taylor with effect from 1st July.



In the Photo Past District Governor Ken Hallam (Cessnock Lions Club) installs the new President, Rod Taylor (centre) and members of the new management Board.

Branxton Lions provided a barbeque to the Market Day event organized by the Branxton Women's Shed at the Uniting Church Hall, Clift Street, Branxton. The market stalls were very successful but, unfortunately, the weather was detrimental to the success of the day. Finally, during the month, the Lions Club of Branxton will be providing the famous Lions sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Singleton on Saturday 26th June, please call and see us there.

Looking forward to 2022 Next year, 2022, is the 75th Anniversary of the introduction of Lions Clubs into Australia. Lions Clubs Australia wide will be encouraged to liaise with their local Communities and Councils for Public Garden Entrance Displays for flowering around September 2022 to coincide with the 75th Anniversary; 'Planting seeds of hope since 1947'. Lions Clubs all round Australia are looking for people in the community who are interested in preserving and enhancing the environment with this project working in partnership with Lions.

The Lions Club of Branxton has been serving the community for more than 60 years.

17th June, Branxton Lions held their annual Changeover meeting, at Greta Workers Club, during which the Presidency of the Club was passed over to the newly installed President, that well-known 'Stanhope Man', Rod Taylor. The current President, Brian Thomas (Lower Belford) has performed sterling service as President since 2016, having faced many problems during the COVID shutdown.

GRAND OPENING

At lunch time on Friday 18th June, the **Grand Opening** was held of the Branxton Lions Community Hub which was attended by many people who have assisted

the Lions Club with the construction, including the Cessnock City Council Mayor, Cllr. Bob Pynsent. Three photographs (below) show the old shipping container, which was the Lions' previous storage facility, to the construction of the Community hub from early days to final completion. Brett Wyborn of Cessnock City Council, who master-minded the construction of the facility said that the building was constructed by the use of local tradesmen and the building materials were all from local sources .. "so all-in-all, it

was a great success for the local area." Secretary of the Branxton Lions, Alan Beckley, thanked Brett personally for his considerable input into

the project and keeping in constant communication with Branxton Lions. Photographs of the event, which was celebrated by a light lunch and the ubiquitous Lions sausage sandwich, record the momentous occasion. Branxton Lions President said that the Branxton Lions are delighted with the Community Hub, and thanked the sterling efforts

of the members of the Cessnock City Council project team and Mayor, Bob Pynsent, for bringing the construction to a very successful conclusion. "The community hub will assist Branxton Lions to carry on their work to help disadvantaged people in the local community." **Women's Shed Market Day** On Saturday 19th June,



Cessnock City Council Mayor, Bob Pynsent handing over the key to the Branxton Lions Community Hub to President Brian Thomas.

June is a very busy time for the Lions Club of Branxton; there are several important events and fund-raising activities for the active community service club. On the evening of Thursday



Members of Branxton Lions take a bit of a breather during the morning of Women's Shed Markets



Branxton Lions members and staff members of Cessnock City Council who helped complete the project enjoy their celebratory lunch. From the right, Natalie McCoy, Nathan Eveleigh, Cathy Murray, and Ken Meany (Branxton Lions), Project Manager Brett Wyborn, and Kate Harris.



From the old container ...



To early days bricklaying



To the finished building



Locals supporting locals.

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

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

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

Keep safe, please adhere to the social distancing rules.

Our members are involved in projects such as collecting used 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 the Secretary, Alan Beckley – mobile 0426 261948

Email: Branxton_Lions@outlook.com



If you require assistance please call 0414 757 826 or 4938 1773



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A CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE

Members say ..



Clr Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

recognised this by naming you the Cessnock Senior Citizen of the Year. Your passion for music and helping people has transpired into something truly special. Many of us have witnessed firsthand the joy your music brings residents in our aged care facilities. Congratulations on being recognised with an Order of Australia Medal. You truly are a worthy recipient of such prestigious recognition.

It was wonderful to attend the Grand Opening of the Branxton Lions Community Hub last Friday. Council was pleased to support the Club with the construction of the new and improved storage facility. Supporting service clubs is more important than ever before. It has been a difficult time to fundraise during the COVID-19 environment, yet despite this our clubs have continued to be a strong presence in our community. We wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

It may not be hard for some people to believe it's been almost a year since the start of construction of the Singleton Town Centre Upgrade – Stage 2. Yet even with a \$408,000 extension in the scope of works to include an additional 30 metres on Campbell Street to the New England Highway and 20 metres to abut the Dunolly Bridge, the days are quickly counting down to the scheduled completion in mid-August.

But we don't have to wait for the benefits the original \$7 million project – funded by the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program and Council – has already delivered. More than new kerb and guttering and a "deep lift" for the road pavement, the project has seen significant improvements including the realignment of the Elizabeth Street intersection, upgrades to drainage infrastructure for property owners on and below John Street, and new water mains at the Campbell and John streets roundabout to address ageing infrastructure from under the intersection. Unfortunately, due to the

nature of the works where Council's contractor, Robson Civil has literally dug up the ground, most people don't realise what has been happening. Yet these improvements will make a very big impact on the amenity of the area and essential services for our community.

In the countdown to the end of July, we can now see more results above the surface, including completion of footpath pavers and asphalt sealing on the road pavement that will provide a 30-year design life where some sections had reached their use by date – meaning less likelihood for roadworks into the future.

When we come together to mark the completion of this project, I hope we can look past the short-term impacts to see what we intended to achieve: a cohesive, connected main street with improved traffic flows and greater pedestrian connectivity, enhancing the gateway to the Town Centre from the New England Highway and the Dunolly Bridge.

And with plans progressing for the New England Highway bypass and a greater focus on enticing locals and travelers alike to stop in town to support our local businesses, Singleton will deliver a fresh, modern experience that befits our local government area and our community.

Thank you everyone for your continued patience as we near completion of this very important project.

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

The Government's belated decision to accommodate the Murugappan family was not an easy or straight forward one. But it was the right one. Making the decision earlier would have saved taxpayers millions of dollars and avoided lots of heartache for the young Biloela family and their supporters.

It was not an easy decision because the family has never been able to convince the authorities or the courts that they face persecution if returned to their homeland. This is the most basic requirement for successfully claiming asylum protection. Nades Murugappan has returned home more than once since seeking protection here. Many say that because the

two children were born here, they are automatically entitled to Australian citizenship and therefore have a right to stay. This is not true. Imagine the vulnerability of our visa system if everyone who arrived on a holiday or work visa was entitled to stay forever if they give birth to a child while on our soil. Others say they pose no risk and that is true, but that is not the test. Remember, there are tens of thousands of people in refugee camps around the world. Each of them is in a queue, hoping that a country like Australia might take them. Australia only takes 20,000 refugees each year (for our size that's more than most), so every person who secures a visa after arriving here unlawfully does so at the expense of someone else in the queue.

Why can't we send them to the United States, New Zealand, or some other country with which we have a settlement arrangement? Because again, they don't qualify, they have not been deemed to be refugees.

The Morrison Government's main argument for denying the family a return to Biloela has been the risk it may trigger a new wave of boat people. While the argument has some legitimacy, I don't buy it. The people smugglers do well when they can convince desperate people it will be worthwhile to pay a lot of money to take a risky journey from South East Asia to Australia. This is easier for the people smugglers when they can convince their potential clients that if they make it, the Australian Government will accommodate them. I don't believe the accommodation of the Murugappan family gives the people smugglers that opportunity.

People thinking about paying a people smuggler may be desperate, but they are not fools. Indeed, many of them are highly educated and qualified. In this 21st Century where news and information are so easy to access, it's easy to check the Murugappan family story. I don't believe that story and the decision to let them stay in Australia provides the people smugglers with the evidence they need to make their case.

The Murugappan story is a unique one in many ways. The Murugappans were well liked members of the Biloela community. They'd displayed a good work ethic and were respected. They enjoyed enormous support not just in their chosen town, but right round Australia. They have suffered the hardship of Christmas Island rather than take their kids to Sri Lanka. This is an unusual story and not one likely to cause a flood of unlawful arrivals. Our laws give Ministers discretion for good reason. Sometimes circumstances require flexibility and I think the Murugappan case justified just that. The fate

of the Murugappan family remains unknown but hopefully last week's decision puts us on a path to a sensible and humane outcome.

Cheers, Joel



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

EDUCATION WILL HELP US FIND OUR NEW FUTURE

In the Cessnock LGA alone, there are some 2,000+ people directly employed by the coal industry. This brings about \$200M in wages into our community every year. On top of that, the coal industry spends around \$400M through thousands of other jobs. We have a wide range of views on coal and its future. Some people are really passionate in their support of coal, others are equally passionate about the climate and the need to end coal-mining ASAP. And there are many people locally that don't really have much of a view one way or the other. In the decades ahead, the means by which we get coal out of the ground, the appetite to buy our coal and the impact of coal on our local economy will all change. That's progress. No matter what changes and how it changes, it is going to be really tough to find other jobs and other industries that will bring the big dollars into our local economy like coal does at the moment.

One thing is for sure, coalminers are often really good spenders of their money. So that \$200M that I referred to above, almost certainly gets spent in all of our local businesses. It might be at the café or the car shop; it might be at the hairdressers or on holidays; but one way or the other, it is definitely going to be helping local businesses, big and small, to survive and thrive.

And the great thing about the big money in coal is that most of it comes into our country and communities from offshore. Other nations are taking their dollars and sending them into our economy just as long as we send them our coal in return. Coal jobs and the coal industry is going to be incredibly difficult to

replace just in terms of simple dollars. The most important thing that our current coal workforce and our children can do, to hopefully make sure that they continue to earn good dollars in the decades ahead, is to get a good education and to keep on learning throughout life.

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



Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP

MORE SENIORS TO BENEFIT FROM REGIONAL SENIORS TRAVEL CARD

The very popular Regional Seniors Travel Card, a \$250 prepaid VISA card designed to ease the burden of travel costs for eligible seniors in rural, regional and remote areas including, Upper Hunter electorate will be extended.

Increased funding will allow the card to be extended from 2022 to additional seniors in the regions, including people of Age Pension age who receive either a Disability Pension or a Carers Payment from Services Australia.

Seniors across regional NSW have benefited from the initial two-year travel card trial, with 337,500 cards issued in 2020 and more than 330,000 cards issued to regional seniors so far in 2021.

The card has made a big difference to the lives of seniors living in the Upper Hunter who often have fewer transport options than those living in big cities like Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong – and it will be offered again in 2022 and 2023.

The Regional Seniors Travel card has provided a significant boost to businesses across the regions.

The card can be used for pre-booked NSW Trainlink Regional trains and coaches, fuel and taxis.

From 2022, eligible applicants will include seniors of age pension age with:

- A valid Pensioner Concession Card
- A Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- A Disability Pension or a Carers Payment from Services Australia
- A Service Pension issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- A Disability Pension through the Department of Veteran's Affairs under the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
- A War Widow Pension issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs

The regional boundaries for applicants will remain the same in 2022. More information about which regional areas are included in this initiative can be found at www.service.nsw.gov.au Applications for 2022 cards will open in the New Year for the expanded list of eligible applicants. Applications for the card can be made online at www.service.nsw.gov.au, by calling **13 77 88** or by visiting a Service NSW Service Centre.

Cheers, Dave

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FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE	Branxton..... 4938 1244	Energy Australia..... 131 388
It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected.	Lochinvar..... 4930 7209	Hospitals Maitland..... 4939 2000
When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct.	Ambulance..... 131 233	Cessnock..... 4991 0555
ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	NSW Fire Brigade Branxton..... 4938 3396	Singleton..... 6572 2799
For non-life threatening calls.....	Rural Fire Brigades	SES132 500
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News
P: 4938 1773



Gout

Gout is a common and very painful type of arthritis. It occurs when uric acid crystals form in and around a joint. It mainly affects men over 40 years of age. Gout can usually be well controlled with medicines and changes to diet.

Uric acid (urate) is one of the body's waste products. If uric acid builds up in the bloodstream, it can settle in and around joints as crystals. Uric acid crystals can irritate the joint, causing inflammation (swelling) and pain.

kidney disease)
 • some medicines (e.g. fluid tablets, cancer chemotherapy)
 • crash dieting or fasting
 • not drinking enough fluids
 • eating foods that increase uric acid in the blood.
 Foods linked to gout
 Foods high in purines may increase uric acid levels in blood. Some of these foods have been linked to gout attacks.
 They include:
 • meat, especially red meat and offal (e.g. liver, kidneys, heart)
 • seafood, especially shellfish, scallops, mussels, sardines, herrings, mack-

prescribed by doctors to prevent gout. Probenecid is sometimes used instead.
 • A 'gout preventer' must be taken every day, whether or not you have any symptoms. It should be continued during a gout attack.
 • A 'gout preventer' will not relieve the symptoms of a gout attack. If 'preventer' treatment is started during an attack, it can make gout symptoms worse.
 Treatment with a 'gout preventer' usually starts after gout symptoms have settled.
 • Gout attacks may continue for a few months after starting a 'gout



People who get gout usually have a high level of uric acid in their blood. Gout usually begins in one joint, most often the big toe joint, but it may spread to more joints. It can affect foot, ankle, knee, hand, wrist and elbow joints.

Signs and symptoms
 A gout attack usually comes on suddenly, often overnight. Common symptoms are:
 • joint inflammation, with swelling, redness and heat
 • a very tender and painful joint, which is sensitive to touch. Sometimes even the weight of a bed sheet can cause severe pain.

If a fever is also present, it is important to get medical advice as soon as possible. Without treatment, a gout attack usually lasts about one week. After the first gout attack, more attacks are likely to occur.

The time between gout attacks can be days, weeks, months or years. If gout is not managed correctly, the time between attacks may get shorter, attacks may last longer and more joints may be affected. Repeated gout attacks can permanently damage joints, and may also lead to the formation of kidney stones.

Risk factors
 Some people are more likely to get gout than others. Factors that may play a role in causing gout include:

• a family history of gout
 • drinking too much alcohol, particularly beer
 • being overweight or overeating
 • joint injury or surgery
 • some medical conditions (e.g. high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes,

erel, anchovies
 • foods containing yeast (e.g. beer, Vegemite).
 Medicines
 There are two types of gout medicine – 'gout reliever' medicines to relieve attacks and 'gout preventer' medicines to prevent attacks.

Relieving attacks
 Medicines that reduce pain and swelling are used to relieve gout attacks. 'Gout reliever' medicines should be started at the first sign of symptoms and taken until the attack has settled, or for as long as directed by your doctor. Taking your 'gout reliever' medicine at the first sign of a gout attack can help to reduce the length and severity of the attack. Ask a doctor or your Piggott's Pharmacist for information and advice.

Medicines that can relieve gout attacks include:
 • anti-inflammatory pain relievers (e.g. diclofenac, ibuprofen, indomethacin)
 • colchicine
 • corticosteroids (e.g. prednisolone, prednisone). Aspirin should not be used for pain relief during a gout attack, as the doses needed for pain relief can increase the uric acid level in blood. Low-dose aspirin can usually be continued – check with your doctor or your Piggott's Pharmacist.
 Preventing attacks
 Gout preventer medicines help to prevent gout attacks by lowering uric acid blood levels. They can help uric acid crystals to dissolve, stop new crystals forming and reduce the risk of kidney stones.
 • Allopurinol is the medicine most often

'preventer'. Your doctor may advise you to also take a 'gout reliever' medicine during this time.
 • Treatment with a 'gout preventer' is usually lifelong. If treatment is stopped suddenly, gout may worsen.

Self care
 A gout attack can often be self-managed. To help reduce pain caused by an attack:

• start a 'gout reliever' medicine at the first sign of a gout attack. Ask a doctor or your Piggott's Pharmacist for advice.
 • hold an ice pack against the inflamed joint to ease pain until medicines start to work. Apply an ice pack for 20 minutes, then remove and allow the joint to return to normal temperature before applying again.
 • protect and rest the inflamed joint. Keep the joint raised whenever possible, to reduce swelling. It is possible to prevent or reduce attacks through changes to diet and lifestyle. Here are some tips:
 • Limit alcohol to no more than two standard drinks per day.
 • Drink enough water every day to satisfy your thirst and to keep your urine 'light-coloured' (unless a doctor advises you not to).
 • Have a healthy diet. Eat a variety of vegetables, fruits, wholegrain/ wholemeal foods, protein-rich foods (e.g. nuts, lean meats, fish, eggs, beans) and low-fat dairy foods every day.
 Limit foods high in fat, sugar or salt.
 • Limit or avoid foods that trigger your gout.
 • Keep to a healthy weight.

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CLOSING: Wednesday, 16th June 2021 at 4pm (if not sold prior)

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One-pot creamy Baja chicken

PREP 10m
 COOK 30m
 SERVE 4
This golden one-pan winner is based on a chilli con queso, so it has no tomato and lots of cheese – but still packs a spice kick!
INGREDIENTS:-
 Mexican chilli powder, to sprinkle, plus
 1/2 tsp extra
 6 (about 1kg) chicken thigh cutlets
 2 tsp olive oil
 4 green shallots, sliced, green section reserved to serve
 1 fresh long green chilli, thinly sliced
 125ml (1/2 cup) chicken stock
 250ml tub Philadelphia Cream for Cooking
 400g can black beans, rinsed, drained
 420g can corn kernels, drained
 Lime wedges, to serve
Step 1
 Sprinkle chilli powder over chicken. Heat oil in a large, deep frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook chicken, skin-side down, in 2 batches, for 5 minutes or until golden. Turn and cook for 1 minute. Transfer to a plate.
Step 2
 Reduce heat to medium. Wipe the pan dry, reserving 1 tablespoon chicken fat in the pan. Add the shallots and chilli. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 2



minutes or until soft. Add the extra chilli powder and the stock. Stir, scraping the base of the pan. Add the cream for cooking and stir until smooth.
 Add the beans and corn and stir to combine.
Step 3

Return the chicken to pan, skin-side up. Bring to a simmer then reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer for 20 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through. Remove the pan from heat. Slice the reserved green shallots. Sprinkle over the top and serve with lime wedges.

Huntlee sells out record land release in record time



demands. “We’d like to thank everyone who came up to Huntlee on Saturday to participate in the Huntlee Mega Land Release. People were patient and gracious in the line and enjoyed getting a glimpse of the sense of community they will enjoy when they call Huntlee their new hometown. Special thanks also go to our extraordinary staff for their planning of and participation in this remarkably successful sales event,” added Robert.

Photos:-
The queue at the Huntlee Mega Land Release (right) and Vanessa Matthews pointing out her dream lot (left).



If there was ever any doubt as to how healthy the Hunter’s real estate market is, that was put to rest on the weekend, courtesy of the Huntlee Mega Land Release.

At 10am on Saturday 19 June, Huntlee opened the doors to its sales office and welcomed prospective purchases to take their choice from 125 lots released simultaneously. Within four hours, all 125 lots were sold!

Commenting on the remarkable result, Huntlee Sales Director, Robert Crane, said it was testament to the popularity of the first town to be built in the Hunter in more than 50 years.

“Each time we release a new stage, it is snapped up in no time,” said Robert. “To make the playing field as level as possible, this time we decided to try something different, releasing three stages at once on a first come, first served basis. As far as we are aware, this was the largest single land release in the Hunter’s history.

“By 8am, when we started handing out the price list (which had been kept under wraps up until that point), we had more than 150 groups lined up, ready to take their chances. That number continued to grow, exceeding 200 by the time we opened the doors and started selling at 10am. “We had lots ranging from \$180,000 up to \$450,000 for a very generous 1750m² corner block.

“As the clock ticked 2pm, the ink dried on the final agreement – all 125 sales were completed in four hours.”

Vanessa Matthew from The Entrance first heard of

Huntlee when her grandmother moved into the area. When she went to visit, she immediately knew, the beautiful location, surrounded by bushland, was where she wanted to raise her three sons, aged 6, 5 and 3.

“I finished work late on Friday night and drove straight up to Huntlee,” said Vanessa.

“I managed to get the 53rd spot in line but wasn’t sure my dream lot would still be available when it was my turn to go in. My mum was waiting with me and when we got to the head of the line and walked into the sales centre, we couldn’t believe it when we looked at the plans on the wall and saw the block I wanted was still available! We started jumping up and down screaming with excitement.

It was literally the only block left in Stage 30 without a sold sticker on it. “My partner and I and the boys can’t wait to build our home and move to Huntlee!”

Robert Crane said, as expected, not everyone was able to secure their dream site on the day. However, all in attendance were given the option to sign up to a VIP List for the next release.

“Those on the list will be prioritised in the same order in which they lined up on Saturday and will be given first choice of the lots in our next release,” said Robert.

“Of course, the great thing about Huntlee is, that next release won’t be far off. Given our fully master planned town will eventually comprise more than 7500 lots, we can literally produce new stages as the market



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Why you need a property lawyer or conveyancer when buying a property?

Buying a property is a huge milestone and likely to be one of the biggest purchases a person will make in life. So when it comes to buying a property – why is it that a property lawyer or a conveyancer is needed?

A property lawyer or conveyancer can gather the right documents, ensure that your finances are in order and review the contract when you buy. Here are some things a property lawyer or conveyancer can do to support your next property purchase:-

Conducting a title search

- there are many reasons why you may need to conduct a title search such as buying or selling property, proving ownership or refinancing your mortgage. A Certificate of Title (CT) is a public and legal record of land ownership, including interests and restrictions on the land. In Australia, state land registries hold the title information. It can be viewed by doing a Title Search through an authorised provider. A title search includes the names of the property owner(s), restrictions on the land, mortgage details, lease details and other relevant information associated with the property.

Alerting you to environmental hazards and upcoming development applications (DAs)

– a property lawyer or conveyancer knows where and what to look when it comes to what may impact your property of choice. For example, does the land have a history of contamination? Are

there any applications for development in the area that will likely affect the value of your property. A good lawyer or conveyancer will do their due diligence to ensure you feel secure making your property purchase.

Contract and tax advice

– stamp duty and taxes are often changing. For example, the NSW Government recently updated its stamp duty requirements as part of the COVID 19 Recovery Plan to encourage first home buyers into the market. A property lawyer or conveyancer can help you get your calculations right to ensure you maximise your deposit funds.

Safely exchanging contracts and funds – in the current market, there is often pressure from real estate agents who say the seller will move on to another offer if you do not sign the contract straight away. There is always time to call your property lawyer or conveyancer and securely share with them a copy of the contract to get advice before exchange.

It is also important that any transfer of funds is done securely. Unfortunately, the property industry is a prime target for hackers purely because of large amounts of funds and private information being electronically transferred. It is integral that lawyers, conveyancers and real estate agents communicate safely and securely when it comes to sharing contract information and trans-

ferring funds between buyers and sellers.

If your purchase is off plan, is it still correct at time of settlement?

As development and construction of an off-the-plan property goes ahead, the plans can change. While although some changes are okay, it's important you get them checked out. A property lawyer or conveyancer can help you understand the property lots being developed. A property lawyer or conveyancer can also go through the contract before settlement to confirm any change is reasonable.

What do you need to settle? In different states across Australia, the process for property settlement is different. Some states have mandated electronic conveyancing (such as PEXA in New South Wales) while others have not. So, if you're buying interstate, it pays to have a property lawyer or conveyancer on your side who understands the legislation and what to do.

When you buy a property, it pays to seek professional advice. Property lawyers and conveyancers know all the steps required in purchasing a property, so no stone is left unturned meaning less chance your new purchase falls through. If you read the contract yourself, you risk misunderstanding important elements of the contract or missing clauses. A property lawyer or conveyancer will make sure you are protected during a purchase, checking for the right inclusions and exclusions and any unfair clauses in the contract.

Cheers, Kerri

states [and territories]. If we think about regional areas, they tend to sell properties much slower there, so the fact that on average we've come down to 32 days, that's quite remarkable."

Ms Flaherty said strong buyer demand, fuelled by record-low interest rates, is exceeding the supply of properties for sale, leading to stiff buyer competition and speedy sales.

"In order to compete, buyers are putting in offers sooner than they did in the past."

In May, all states and territories recorded a drop in the average number of days a property was listed on realestate.com.au compared to a year ago. Queensland and Western Australia experienced an increase over the month, while days on site were at historic lows in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT.

Ms Flaherty said she expected properties to keep selling at record speed over the winter months, with demand remaining strong and housing supply dropping even lower.

"Generally in winter, we often see things cool off slightly, but we're still continuing to see strong demand. Even though search volumes have decreased slightly over recent months, they're still high relative to historic levels," she said.

"On the other hand, winter is a less popular time for people to sell their properties and often they'll hold off until spring, which could mean a decrease in supply of properties for sale [during winter]. But even with slightly fewer buyers in the market, a decrease in supply of properties for them to buy means properties will continue to sell very quickly," Ms Flaherty explained.

The report shows weekly sales volumes remain well above the levels recorded in 2020 and 2019. Sales volumes were up 75% last week compared to the same week in 2020, despite easing from their pre-Easter highs.

7 things you may not have known about bushfire safety

Is your home prepared for bushfire season?

This expert advice will ensure your property is as safe as it can be.

As we brace for bushfire season – some of us sooner than others – it's the perfect time to make sure there aren't any blind spots in your preparation and planning. Brush up on your bushfire knowledge and reduce hazards around

your house with this handy advice.

1. Know when bushfire season starts

It's a common misconception that bushfire season starts in summer. In sunny Queensland it actually starts in winter! "Bushfire season in Queensland usually starts in August. The last couple of seasons have actually started a bit earlier,"

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Executive Manager of Bushfire Mitigation, James Haig, says.

"It will usually run through until late in the year, around Christmas. Although this varies depending on the climate."

The season typically starts later in other states – usually around October or November.

2. Reduce vegetation

Dried leaves are ideal kindling, so keep on top of leaf litter and debris around your home. Pay particular attention to your roof and gutters where leaves can accumulate.

It's also a good idea to keep your lawn trimmed during bushfire season.

Finally, cut back any low-hanging branches on trees near your property. Lop off any branches that sit less than two metres from the ground or anywhere near your roof.

3. Move fire-risk material If you have piles of wood, outdoor wooden furniture or other materials that may become fuel in a fire, move them away from your home.

Similarly, if you have any portable gas bottles in your yard, ensure nozzles and outlets are pointing away from your home.

4. Ensure your property is accessible

In the event fire and emergency crews need access to your land, home or yard, having clear entry and access points can help them out tremendously.

This includes having a house number that is clearly visible from the street.

"If we get a call for a bushfire emergency at or near your home, it will often come in with an address," James says.

"Time is really important. Being able to find you quickly and easily is handy. "Furthermore, think about how we are going to get in to help protect your home.

So, if you have an overgrown driveway or there are potential obstructions, think about that in advance."

5. Stock up on fire safety essentials

Ensure you have fire safety equipment already in your home. For example,

- * A long hose and attachments (ensure it's in a good condition and is long enough to reach all of your property)
- * Buckets
- * Batteries and charge packs
- * A torch
- * A ladder
- * Wool blankets

There are more non-property related items you

should stock up on for your fire safety kit – including first aid supplies and bottled water.

6. Check under your house

Most of us remember to clear our roof and gutter, but the space under your house is just as crucial. Clearing this area of debris will help prevent fires sparking in this space.

"People don't often think of clearing underneath their deck or something where they may have stored fencing material or other forgotten things," James begins. "The area under the house can catch embers and burn from underneath."

7. Have a survival plan – and share it

There are extensive resources to help you build a bushfire survival plan.

This includes vital preparation for and during an emergency fire event, including templates and visual guides to help you make a plan of attack if bushfire does strike.

The most important thing, however, is to communicate a plan with your family or household in advance.

"What can easily happen is that your children might be at school or you might be at work or at the shops when the fire erupts," James says. "You don't want to be left wondering what to do because only one person in the family knows the plan. Make sure you communicate the plan as soon as it's made and know what to do if you aren't all together."

National vacancy rates plummet, residents return to Melbourne and Sydney CBDs

RACHEL WELLS The total number of rental properties sitting empty across Australia has plunged to just 1.8 per cent in May, a level not seen since October 2012, new research reveals.

The latest national vacancy rate data from SQM Research reveals the total number of residential properties sitting vacant stands at 62,144 in May, down from 66,441 in April when the vacancy rate was 1.9 per cent.

The May figures also reveal that vacancy rates in the Sydney and Melbourne CBDs, which soared last year during COVID-related lockdowns, have also fallen substantially.

Sydney CBD vacancy rates peaked at 16.2 per cent in May last year. This May, they have fallen to 6.8 per cent.

In Melbourne's CBD, vacancy rates for May stood at 8 per cent, down from a high of 10.8 per cent in September last year.

However, they still remain elevated due to an oversupply of apartments and

lower demand from international students while borders remain closed, SQM Research managing director Louis Christopher said.

"Those vacancy rates could begin a downward trend over the second half of 2021, particularly in Sydney, as life resumes relative normality," he said.

"However, the loss of international student tenants, along with unit oversupply, will keep vacancy rates relatively high as the COVID-19 pandemic continues." Elevated vacancy rates in the Melbourne and Sydney CBDs means overall vacancy rates in both cities remain higher than other capital cities across the country.

Melbourne's overall vacancy rate was 3.7 per cent in May, down from 4 per cent in April and in Sydney is at 2.9 per cent, down from 3.1 per cent in April.

This compares to Brisbane, where the city's vacancy rate in May fell to 1.3 per cent, down from 1.4 per cent and Perth, Adelaide, Canberra, Darwin and Hobart, where the vacancy rate remains below 1 per cent.

Mr Christopher said the low vacancy rates were forcing up rents in many areas. "Rental vacancy rates have fallen across the board in May, driving rents higher, especially in regional locations," he said.

"This trend is likely to remain through the second half of the year, given the fierce competition for rental accommodation in many areas.

"We are still seeing falling vacancies everywhere from Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, the Gold Coast, right through to inland areas like the Murray Regions of NSW and South Australia to outback Northern Territory, along with Darwin, which is having the effect of boosting rents as tenants compete for rental homes," he said.

Over the past year, national median rents rose 15.1 per cent for houses and 6.6 per cent for units, fuelled by strong rises in rents in regional locations where there is a shortage of rental accommodation.

Capital city median rents rose 3.9 per cent for houses but fell 3.5 per cent for units over the past 12 months. Over the month to June 12, they rose 0.5 per cent for houses to \$559 per week but fell 0.2 per cent for units to \$410.

The capital city median rent for units has been dragged down by Melbourne and Sydney, where unit rents have fallen by 11 per cent in Melbourne and 5.1 per cent in Sydney over the past year.



Aussie homes 'fly off' the market petition

Stephanie McLean Australian homes are selling faster than ever as the property market

enters what is expected to be an unseasonably active winter season, according to new analysis from realestate.com.au.

The latest REA Insights Housing Market Indicators Report shows the typical property listed on realestate.com.au in May had been on the site for just 32 days, compared to 37 days in April and 62 days in May 2020.

In releasing the report on Wednesday, realestate.com.au economist Anne Flaherty said the 32-day national average was a historic low, highlighting strong selling conditions across Australia currently.

"We're seeing properties fly off the site faster than we've ever seen," Ms Flaherty said. "That average takes into account every area across the



NEWS



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



Branxton Public School

Our Read-a-thon was a huge success. Not only did we read, read, read, but we also raised over \$17000. Thank you to Mrs Melnik for her wonderful organisation and to our school community for supporting us. We can now look forward to seeing plenty of new books in the library. In other library news, congratulations to our Star Readers who were drawn out to win a book of their choice last week. The Primary had a perfect Winters day for their Athletics Carnival and students had a wonderful day. Thanks to Miss Ridge for organising the event. Ribbons for Athletics and Cross Country were presented last week. Well done to all. Congratulations to Mr Johanson on receiving his PSSA Life Membership. He has committed many, many hours to running sporting events across the Maitland area so this is well deserved. Mr Kelly was very proud of the boys' soccer team who had a draw with Paterson PS last week. Unfortunately, they will not progress to the next round they lost on corners, but it was a great achievement. Congratulations to the Butcherbirds debating teams who beat Jerry's Plain PS last week. They put forward some excellent arguments for a convincing win. 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. We are currently taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2022. If you have or know of someone who has a child starting Kindergarten next year, we would love parents and carers to contact the school office to register their children. Information will be sent out at the beginning of Term 3 about our transition process.



Boys Soccer Team



ButcherBirds Debating Team

Dates for the Calendar

- Friday 25th June – last day of Term 2
- Saturday 26th June – P&C Bunnings BBQ
- Tuesday 13th July – first day of Term 3 for students
- Friday 23rd July – Kindergarten Zoo Excursion
- Monday 26th July – P&C Meeting in the library or via Zoom
- Saturday 28th August – P&C Trivia Night



OUR ECONOMY IS ON TRACK TO COME BACK

Australia's economy is on track to come back. In fact, our economy outperformed all major advanced economies in 2020. In the second half of 2020, it grew at the fastest pace on record and there are now more people in work than before the pandemic.

CONTINUING OUR COMEBACK

To build upon the progress we've made, the next steps in the plan provide more support for individuals, families and businesses to help secure the economy and create more jobs.

JOB CREATION IS ON TRACK

Over the next 10 years, many more local jobs will be created and secured through investment in roads, rail and community infrastructure.

More homes will be built in more communities thanks to HomeBuilder and the New Home Guarantee.

More training will be available through JobTrainer. And there'll be new apprenticeships, traineeships and more places in higher education.

And there'll be more opportunities for families to access work with more affordable childcare.

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE ON TRACK

We're supporting hard hit industries such as aviation, tourism and international education.

And continuing tax incentives, such as the Instant Asset Write-off, to encourage

businesses to invest, to grow and to create more jobs.

We're improving employment services so that employers and job seekers are more easily matched.

And our \$1.2 billion investment in digital infrastructure, skills, and incentives means that more businesses in communities right across Australia can be part of the thriving digital economy.

LOWER TAXES & GREATER SUPPORT FOR MORE AUSTRALIANS

Tax cuts for 10 million low and middle income earners will put more money in their pockets to spend at local businesses, creating more economic activity and more jobs.

It's a plan that will not only help Australia come back, but come back better than ever.

TO FIND OUT HOW IT CAN BENEFIT YOU VISIT
OUR COMEBACK.GOV.AU THIS IS
OUR COMEBACK
THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

GEORGE WILLIAM SWINTON

Just Another Name on a Memorial, or Two

By Kevin L. Driscoll



George William Swinton

George William Swinton joined the AIF under the assumed name of George William Wilson at the age of 15 years and 8 months.

George Wilson is described in his initial medical examination as being eighteen years and seven months of age, standing 5 ft. 8 in. (1.72 m) tall, weighing 135 lb. (61.3 kg) with a medium

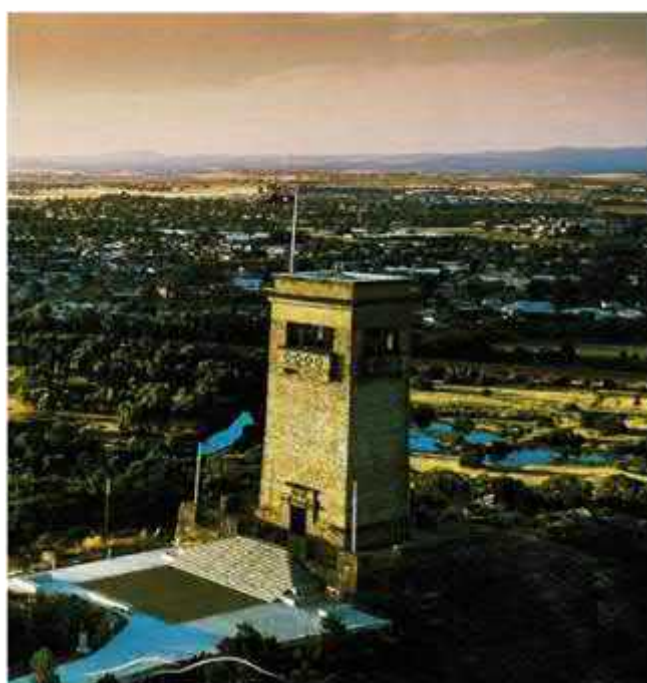
a consequence was fined five shillings, a day's pay. The 3rd Reinforcement of the 55th Battalion embarked at Sydney onboard HMAT A37 Barambah bound for Plymouth, England which they reached on the 25th August 1916. The Reinforcement entered camp on the Salisbury Plain where Private Wilson was transferred



Greta Memorial Cenotaph (Courtesy Greta Museum)

complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. According to his Attestation Papers, George Wilson was a single man at the time of his enlistment without previous military service. Private Wilson completed his initial training at Liverpool and was allocated to the 3rd Reinforcement of the 55th Battalion on the 30th April 1916. Soon after joining the 55th Battalion, on the 8th May 1916, Private Wilson absented himself without leave for one day and as

from the 55th Battalion to the 35th Battalion with effect the 23rd September 1916. Just after joining the 35th Battalion, Private Wilson (Swinton) wrote to his mother (Mrs Wholert) on the 28th September 1916, to let her know where he was. There had been a breakdown of family relationships some two years earlier when George Swinton left Greta to work as a farm hand near Goulburn. On the 25th November 1916, Private Wilson proceeded overseas to France, via Southampton, to join the 35th Battalion. On the 13th January



Rocky Hill Memorial, Goulburn

1917 Private Wilson was admitted to the 9th Australian Field Ambulance suffering the effects of scabies. Eight days later, after successful treatment of his scabies, Private Wilson re-joined the Battalion in the field.

George's letter to his mother caused his mother to write to the Army in Australia to highlight George Swinton had enlisted under an assumed name and that he was underage. The Army looked at the situation and requested a formal statement from Mrs Wholert and supporting documentation to confirm her assertions. This information was provided to Army by Mrs Wholert and on the 4th July 1917, Private Wilson made a Statutory Declaration declaring he had joined the AIF under an alias and his true name is George William Swinton. During the first week of July 1917, when Private Swinton made his declaration, the 35th Battalion occupied support trenches behind the front lines at Messines and for the remainder of the month rotated between the front-line trenches and the support positions. The Battalion suffered steady casualties during

the month and on the 9th June 1917, during the Battle of Messines, Private Swinton was buried by an exploding shell. The following day, 10th June

1917, Private Swinton was knocked down by an artillery explosion and was evacuated to the Divisional Rest Station at Steenwerck. Private Swinton remained at the Divisional Rest Station for three days before returning to his unit.

After the Battle of Messines, the 35th Battalion continued to rotate between the front and support trenches and the 9th Brigade War Diary records on the 20th July 1917 the enemy fired an estimated 5,000 shells into the 35th Battalion Sector. At approximately 1500 hours Private Swinton left the trenches without authority. Private Swinton was Court Martialled for the offence and his record reads as follows: Field General Court Marshall. Held Bailleul 12th August 1917.

President: Col. C.F. Stevens Charge W.O.A.S. Desertion. In that he while his Battalion was in the front-line trenches Messines Sector, left the said trenches without permission about 3:00 pm 20th July, and remained absent until surrendering himself to Military Mounted Police at

Steenwerck about 9:40 pm on same date.
Pleaded: Not Guilty
Finding: Guilty
Sentence: Death
Recommendation:

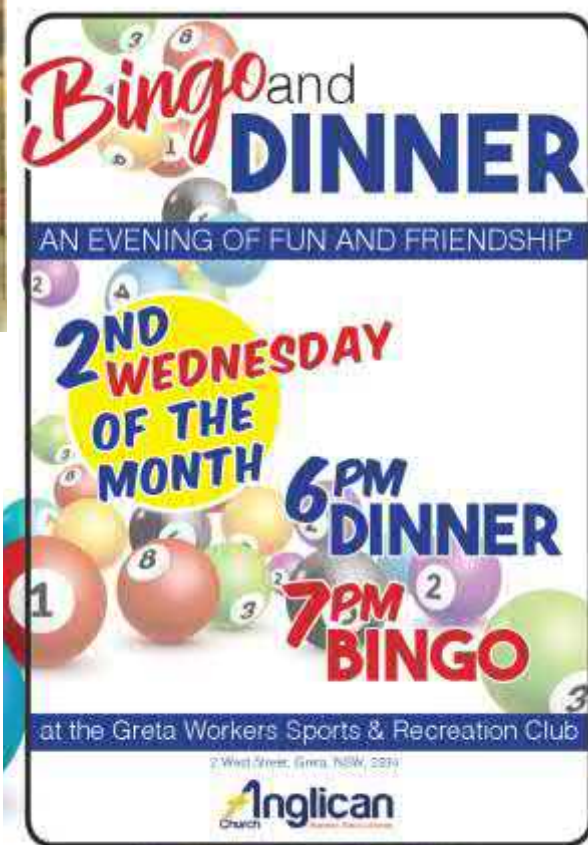
Recommended to mercy, on account of the prisoner having been buried by a bursting shell during Messines offensive. Also, on account of his previous good conduct.

Confirmation: Army Commander, 2nd Army, has confirmed the conviction for desertion but commutes sentence to 10 years penal servitude, and directs that same be suspended. Dated 1st September 1917

Time under charge: 24 days
Sentence: 10 years penal servitude remitted

On the 20th September 1917 authority was given for Private Swinton to be returned to Australia because of his age. The authority stated: — *As this man made a false declaration as to his age on attestation, he will forfeit all pay not drawn by him for the period prior to the date of his discharge.*

Private Swinton then served a period in the Divisional Compound, before, on the 13th November 1917, his sentence of ten years Penal Servitude was



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY... LOVING OUR COMMUNITY



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY... LOVING OUR COMMUNITY

remitted. On the 17th November 1917, Private Swinton was transferred to England and on arrival was granted furlough to report to No. 2 Australian Command Depot at Weymouth, on the 29th November 1917. The decision that Private Swinton would not be paid was reversed and Private Swinton was paid until his discharge. Private Swinton remained in England until boarding HMAT A14 Euripides on the 30th January 1918 to return to Australia. Private Swinton was discharged at 2nd Military District Headquarters on the 22nd March 1918 at the age of 17 years and 10 months. George William Swinton served in the AIF for two years and two months, with one year and nine months spent overseas. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal and the name G.W. Swinton is inscribed on the Greta Memorial Cenotaph. The name G.W. Swinton is also inscribed on the Honour Roll of the Rocky Hill War Memorial Tower at Goulburn, NSW, where he enlisted.

George William Swinton passed away at the Repatriation General Hospital, Concorde, on the 28th January 1978 aged 78 years. He was preceded by his wife, Florence, and three of his four daughters.

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

ASKING 745,000

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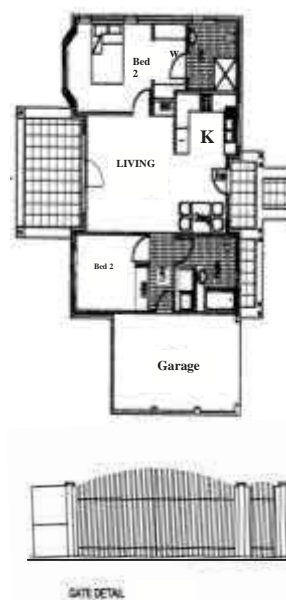
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BRANXTON

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Unit 18 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"



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Vacant building block ~ 809m²

Vacant Building Block
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Vacant Building Block
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Wonderful views from the back to the north overlooking Huntlee & the mountains to the north.

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Exploring our faith through friendship, fun, and food ~ a Youth Group with a difference!



As we seek to respond to the needs of families in our Church and in our wider community, the Anglican Parish of Branxton Greta Lochinvar has launched a new Youth Group. We are excited to offer this new ministry and to be part of building community in this area for families. Children and parents are welcomed together and encouraged to develop friendships and to have fun. An important part of any ministry is in the sharing of food ... and so there is always a meal to

with all people the unconditional love of Jesus and encouraging each person to be their best self. In our Youth Group you will find acceptance, respect, welcome, belonging, friendship, and fun. Being a part of this Youth Group gives me life and energy. I look forward to Friday afternoon each week. Children with their parents and/or grandparents are most welcome among us. Jesus teaches us that there is a place for each of us and that we are all loved and known



birthday. It was wonderful to see Dustin's smile as he realised that we were all celebrating his birthday with him. It was also wonderful

St John's Anglican Church, Cessnock Road Branxton each Friday afternoon of school terms from 5pm to 7pm. If you would like more



share together. We sing, we laugh, we talk, we learn, we explore, we play, we pray ... and we don't take ourselves too seriously. There is room for everyone in our Youth Group. It is through all of these ways, and others that we are yet to experience, that we are exploring our faith in Jesus.

Reverend Nicole said: "I am passionate about sharing

by him. As a Youth Group we are exploring our faith through friendship, fun and food and in doing so living into Jesus' teaching that there is a place for us and that we are known and loved."

We celebrate the things that are important to us. Recently we celebrated Pentecost, the "birthday of the Church" and we celebrated Dustin's



to hear laughter and to see everyone having fun playing birthday games in our Church.

We also had a visit from the North Rothbury Rural Fire Service. They did a Fire Safety Demonstration for us. They reminded the children and the adults that in an emergency we need to call 000. Then they showed us how to use the fire extinguishers. It was then our turn! The children were also encouraged to use the fire hoses on the fire trucks to put out the pretend fires. The evening was educational and a lot of fun for all.

Youth Group is meeting at



Cessnock and Wine Country Toastmasters

Visitors always welcome!



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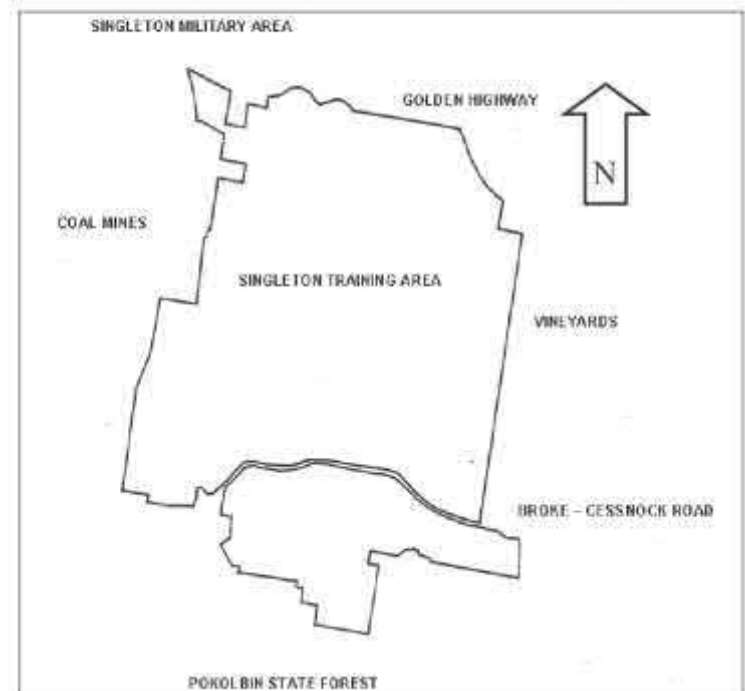
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Australian Government
Department of Defence

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

- point.
2. Incorrect use of fog lamps fine \$ 52 and deduct 1 point.
3. Eat on the road or make-up court fine and deduct 3 points.
4. Waving or honking your horn while driving is a fine of \$337 and 3 penalty points.
5. Touch or use a mobile phone on the road fined \$1000 and deducted 4 points

Some unusual/unknown NSW road rules:

- Splashing a bus passenger with mud after driving through a puddle can incur a fine of \$165.
- Running an orange traffic light will cost \$397 and a loss of 3 DP.
- Parking on a footpath \$99 fine.
- A driver or passenger can be issued a ticket for having a part of his or her body outside a window of a moving car, \$298 but no demerit points.
- A passenger failing to wear a seat belt will cost the driver a \$298 fine and 3 demerit points. If 2 unbelted double the fine and demerit points. 4 will

be \$1258 fine and loss of 6 demeritpoints. (more fine and loss d.p.)

- Failing to wear a seat belt correctly \$298 + 3 d.p.
- Using an incorrectly fitted or non-approved child seat \$298 + 3 d.p.
- Taxi drivers cannot be fined if infants are not in a child restraint.
- Driving at night with your headlights off \$99 + 1 d.p.
- Failing to dip your high beams attracts the same penalty.
- Reversing along a one-way street &232 + 2 d.p.
- Using a radar detector or speed evasion device \$1556 + 9 d.p.
- Leave your car unlocked, leave the key in the ignition or leave the windows open if you are more than 3 metres away from your vehicle \$99 each.
- Driving with a TV, DVD (or similar) displaying moving pictures in view of the driver \$298 + 3 d.p.
- The driver of a car with a TV or DVD screen "likely to distract other drivers" can also be fined \$298 but no d.p.
- Failing to keep left on a

freeway (or a road with a speed limit of 90km/H or more) unless overtaking \$298 + 2 d.p.

- "Unsafe overtaking" \$298 + 2 d.p. - Speeding up while being overtaken.

Two charged after pursuit - Cessnock

Monday, 21 June 2021

A man, and a woman wanted on outstanding warrants, have been charged after a pursuit with police in and around Cessnock.

Just before 12.30am (Monday 21 June 2021), officers attached to Hunter Valley Police District were conducting routine patrols on Old Maitland Road, Cessnock, when they observed a Subaru Forrester allegedly accelerate and speed away from them. Police attempted to stop the Subaru, however, it failed to stop and a pursuit was initiated, travelling at 110kmph in a posted 80kmph zone.

A short time later, the Subaru lost control and crashed into a tree on Lomas Lane, Nulkaba. The

two occupants fled into nearby bushland.

Officers, with assistance from the Dog Unit, tracked the pair approximately two kilometres through heavy bushland, onto farmland at Ironbark Lane, Nulkaba. The occupants, a 38-year-old man and a 21-year-old woman, were arrested and taken to Cessnock Police Station.

During a search of the vehicle, police seized a number of items including a balaclava and two mobile phones. These items will be forensically examined. They were charged with enter prescribed premises of any person without lawful excuse.

The Cessnock woman was also charged with five outstanding arrest warrants and refused bail to appear at Cessnock Local Court that day.

The Cessnock man was given condition bail to appear before Cessnock Local Court on Wednesday 21 July 2021.

Inquiries are continuing.

NSW's new traffic rules, PLEASE read and drive carefully.

1. Flashing lights to warn other speed cameras cars fined \$133 and deducted 1

Information sessions to assist prospective candidates ahead of local government election

Prospective candidates in the Singleton local government election in September are being invited to attend one of two Candidate Information Sessions to learn more about the responsibilities of local office. Facilitated by Local Government NSW, the workshops are designed to provide people with the information they need to make an informed decision prior to nominating, including the key requirements of becoming a councillor; rules and processes for registering as a candidate; the role of the elected Council; and key elements of council meetings.

To make the experience as authentic as possible, the sessions will be held in the Singleton Council Chambers on Thursday 1 July 2021 from 5.30pm to 8.30pm, and Friday 2 July 2021 from 9am to 12pm.

The Candidate Information Sessions will be run by a facilitator who has been both a Mayor and a Councillor and will cover:

- * the benefits and importance of local government
- * understanding the role of Council and the role of a councillor
- * a typical Council structure
- * challenges of the role and how to meet them
- * the importance of diverse representation on Council
- * the importance of speaking out on key issues
- * an introduction to meeting procedures and rules of debate
- * support available including information and networks

* an introduction to local government jargon and what it means

Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane said councillors had an extremely important role to play in making decisions now and for the future of the local government area, and the Candidate Information Sessions would be extremely helpful for prospective councillors to find out what will be expected of them.

"The local government election is fast approaching and if you're passionate about what happens in our community, becoming a Councillor is a great opportunity to make a difference and to represent the interests of our residents," he said.

"The role of a councillor is rewarding and challenging and these sessions are designed so that you are fully briefed on the

expectations placed on our Councillors should you be elected, so that you're able to make an informed decision before putting yourself forward as a candidate.

"The next term of Council is for three years, and it's a commitment that requires an unquantifiable number of hours over that term attending meetings and briefing sessions, as well as reading and understanding agenda documents.

"I encourage anyone who has the drive to make a difference in our community to attend one of these sessions prior to nominating."

Numbers for each of the sessions is strictly limited. To secure your place, please register

your attendance by contacting Council on T 6578 7290

The next Local Govt. Election will be held on Saturday 4 September 2021. For more information, including key dates and the information pack for candidates,

visit <https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/369/Elections>



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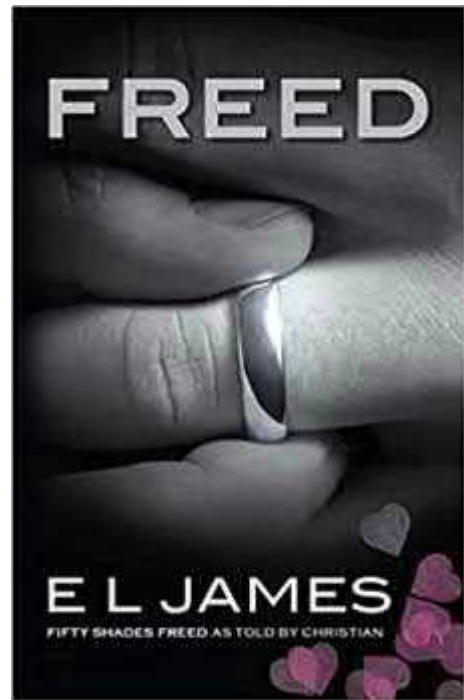
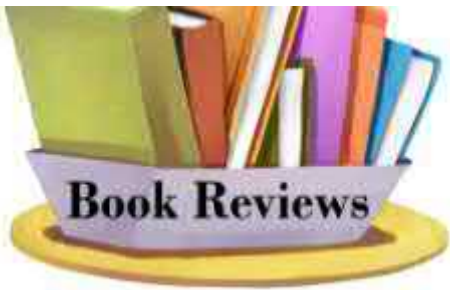
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The 'Fifty Shades of Grey' Author Finishes What She Started (and Restarted)

E L James, whose new book, "Freed," continues the "Fifty Shades" story from the man's perspective, talks about spicy romances, joining Clubhouse and reconnecting with Christian and Anastasia.

By Alexandra Alter

For a novelist who became famous writing hard-core erotica, E L James is surprisingly introverted. "I'm incredibly shy under all of it," she said.

It is hard to reconcile the notion of James as a quiet, reserved homebody with the billion-dollar fetish franchise she created. Since "Fifty Shades of Grey" was released in 2011, her "Fifty Shades" trilogy has sold 165 million copies worldwide and was adapted into a feature film series that James co-produced. It helped popularize niche sexual fetishes involving bondage, blindfolds and nipple clamps, bringing

them into the commercial and cultural mainstream. James trademarked and licensed "Fifty Shades"-branded wine, lingerie, floggers, vibrators and handcuffs, designing many of the products herself. ("I set about trademarking everything because I didn't want things on lunchboxes," she joked. "Just don't put it in a Happy Meal.")

Fans still wanted more. So James gave them more. In 2015, she published "Grey," which retells the steamy saga of the billionaire Christian Grey and his "submissive," the demure Anastasia Steele. James, who first wrote "Fifty Shades" as "Twilight" fan fiction, rehased the same plot but narrated it this time from Christian's point of view instead of Anastasia's.

James followed "Grey" with "Darker," a second book from Christian's perspective, then took a detour with a stand-alone romance novel titled "The Mister." Dissatisfied readers begged her to finish the Christian-centric trilogy, sometimes posting photos of their bookshelves with an empty spot to fill. When the pandemic struck last spring, James decided it was time to finish the project.

"It kept me occupied during lockdown," she said. "There's only so many jigsaws you can do. It kept me sane during this insane year."

In "Freed," which Bloom Books will release on Tuesday, Anastasia and Christian are planning their wedding and fighting over their vows, while obsessive exes, ruthless corporate rivals and overbearing parents threaten their happiness.

"Freed" seems like the end of their story — marriage, happily ever after — again. But James isn't quite ready to shut it down, it seems. When asked if this marks the end of Christian and Anastasia's story, "I never say never," James said. "We'll see."

During a recent video interview from her home office in west London, James spoke about the evolution and impact of the series. These are edited excerpts from that conversation.

"Fifty Shades" itself grew out of fan fiction, and your readers were already writing their own versions of "Fifty Shades" from Christian's point of view. Was that partly what inspired you?

It was an interesting thing because, when it was fan fiction, I did write a

couple of chapters from his point of view. So, you know, then people said, Oh, we want some more of this. Then, of course, they made the movies and as everyone knows, the first movie was a very trying time for me, so I came back, and I just wrote the book, and I didn't tell anyone. I just thought, I need to get back in touch with these

characters, and that's what I did. I didn't

realize that people would want more. That was probably a little shortsighted of me, but I'm always amazed people read what I write anyway.

So it grew out of wanting to reclaim the characters for yourself after being dissatisfied with the first movie?

Yes. Definitely. It was not a happy experience. I've not really said anything about it, and I don't particularly want to say anything about it. Just to say, I was very pleased to be back in the book world.

The books from Christian's perspective have been very popular with many of your readers, but there were some fans who said it feels like you're trying to milk this franchise without advancing the story. What do you feel like the new book adds to the story?

It's written for those hard-core fans who want it. It's not written for anyone who doesn't want to read it, you know? It's very simple. And also, it goes back to seeing those five books. I feel the sense of, it wasn't complete, and now it is, and that goes back to the question, have you finished with this? I have for now. This, hopefully, will give me some freedom to go and explore something else.

Rewriting your own books is almost like writing fan fiction of your own novels, but it's tricky too, because you don't want to contradict the plot of your earlier works, right?

Exactly. And that's what it's like writing fan fiction. It's so funny because I'm now in Clubhouse. I love it. And there's lots of authors talking in groups and what have you, and you see the difference between pantsters and plotters. You know, people who plot things out, or people who fly by the seat of their pants. I'm a complete fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants. I've got a vague idea of where I'm going, not sure if I'm going to get there.

When did you join Clubhouse? What do you do on there?

Probably, maybe, March, April or maybe February of this year, but because time has no meaning anymore, that's the way it goes. Is it Thursday? Is it Saturday? Who knows! So some time this year, and I've been on there for at least two months. It took me a long time to actually speak up, because I'm incredibly shy. There's a fantastic community of authors. And there's a bunch of magicians and comedians that I talk to as well. They're hilarious. A friend of mine, she's a standup comedian, and she was in Clubhouse, and I was a bit mischievous about it, but I followed her into this room, and it was full of magicians and comedians. What better company?

What do you make of the impact that your books have had on publishing, after they helped bring more intense erotic romance into the mainstream?

It constantly surprises me. I will always be surprised by this kind of aberration. I would have been delighted to sell 5,000 books, and I thought I'd carry on working in telly and doing all that stuff, and, you know, living my life peacefully and what have you, and it's completely changed my life. Yeah. It's humbling and staggering, and I still can't quite believe it.

I also think the series helped erase the stigma that was previously attached to hard-core erotica and proved that it can be massively profitable.

Women want to read this kind of stuff, you know? It's no secret. We all want to fall in love again. If you can do it in a book, it's a fairly safe place to do it as well. So, I think, you know, anything that's female-centric is generally scorned, and you kind of get used to that, really, but it's actually, you know, a billion-dollar industry. I'm flabbergasted, really, by sometimes how dismissive people can be. And then, you see the movies did an amazing business as well, because people want to see a love story that's got some spicy bits. Now we say spicy. This is the word. Spicy is the word. This is what I'm learning on Clubhouse. Spicy.

What was the previous word?

Hot. Sexy. You know. All of those type words. Spicy is good. There's more going on there with spicy.

The books also had a huge cultural impact, in allowing women to feel like it's OK to be more sexually adventurous, and open about it.

Absolutely. Yeah. Women are shamed. We're shamed all the time for whatever, you know? That's life for women. You're not a good enough mother. You're not this. You're not that. You don't read this or that. It's exhausting is what



Author E L James, whose new book, "Freed," continues the "Fifty Shades" story from the man's perspective,

it is. So, yeah. It's something I feel quite passionately about. Stop shaming us. We're just getting on with our lives.

Given the extent to which some fans have embraced "Fifty Shades" as not just a story they enjoy, but one that they emulate in some ways, do you see yourself as a lifestyle guru?

No. No. No. It's not how-to. It's not a list. It's just an entertaining story for women.

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Somebody to 'Work for Rent'

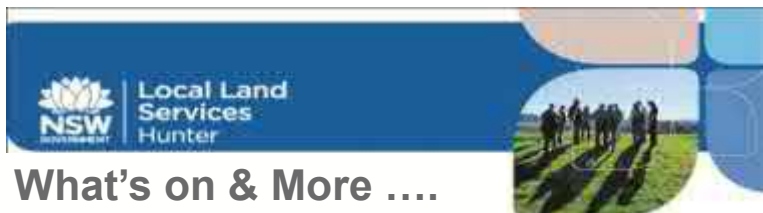
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The New York Times Best Sellers (20 June 2021)

1. FREED by E.L. James
NEW THIS WEEK - THE FINAL CHAPTER OF THE FIFTY SHADES AS TOLD BY CHRISTIAN TRILOGY DELVES INTO THE WEDDING BETWEEN CHRISTIAN GREY AND ANASTASIA STEELE.
2. GOLDEN GIRL by Elin Hilderbrand
NEW THIS WEEK - A NANTUCKET NOVELIST GETS ONE FINAL SUMMER TO WATCH WHAT HAPPENS FROM THE GREAT BEYOND.
3. MALIBU RISING by Taylor Jenkins Reid
NEW THIS WEEK - FOUR FAMOUS SIBLINGS THROW AN EPIC PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE END OF SUMMER. BUT OVER THE COURSE OF 24 HOURS, THEIR LIVES WILL CHANGE FOREVER.
4. THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME by Laura Dave
- 5 WEEKS ON THE LIST - HANNAH HALL DISCOVERS TRUTHS ABOUT HER MISSING HUSBAND AND BONDS WITH HIS DAUGHTER FROM A PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP.
5. ONE LAST STOP by Casey McQuiston
NEW THIS WEEK - AUGUST MEETS THE GIRL OF HER DREAMS ON A NEW YORK SUBWAY ONLY TO FIND SHE'S FROM ANOTHER TIME.
6. PROJECT HAIL MARY by Andy Weir
- 5 WEEKS ON THE LIST - RYLAND GRACE AWAKES FROM A LONG SLEEP ALONE AND FAR FROM HOME, AND THE FATE OF HUMANITY RESTS ON HIS SHOULDERS.
7. LEGACY by Nora Roberts
- 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST - THREATS PUT IN RHYMES AND SENT FROM SHIFTING LOCATIONS ESCALATE AS THE DAUGHTER OF A SUCCESSFUL FITNESS CELEBRITY'S OWN YOGA BUSINESS GROWS.
8. WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens
- 133 WEEKS ON THE LIST - IN A QUIET TOWN ON THE NORTH CAROLINA COAST IN 1969, A YOUNG WOMAN WHO SURVIVED ALONE IN THE MARSH BECOMES A MURDER SUSPECT.
9. PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION by Emily Henry
- 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST - Opposites Poppy and Alex meet to vacation together one more time in hopes of saving their relationship.
10. SOOLEY by John Grisham
- 6 WEEKS ON THE LIST - SAMUEL SOOLEYMON RECEIVES A BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP TO NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL AND DETERMINES TO BRING HIS FAMILY OVER FROM A CIVIL WAR-RAVAGED SOUTH SUDAN.

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What's on & More

MICE MANAGEMENT

The NSW Government is rolling out a mice control support program to help farmers, small businesses and households manage the high levels of mouse activity across the state.

CONTROLLING MICE IN NSW

NSW is currently experiencing high mouse numbers in cropping regions. Monitoring, detection and integrated management across farm are crucial for reducing the risk of mouse impacts. Reducing access to and covering food, together with baiting with zinc phosphide, can control local mice populations.

To assist landholders control mice, the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and CSIRO have compiled the 'Tips and Tactics: Better Mouse Management' guide. This practical guide provides tips and advice on a range

of issues, including:

- integrated control advice - year-round, at sowing (autumn), during crop growth (winter) and prior to harvest (spring and summer)

- baiting recommendations

- monitoring techniques to understand local activity. If landholders have concerns over the potential impact of mouse numbers on their livestock health, please contact your local district veterinarian.

BAITING MICE WITH ZINC PHOSPHIDE

NSW Department of Primary Industries has successfully applied to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to allow the use of zinc phosphide bait on bare fallows prior to the 2021 sowing period. The permit allows for bait to be applied late in the

afternoon to maximise consumption of bait by mice, which generally feed at night, and is in effect until August 2022.

The approval requires users of zinc phosphide to report any bird kill incident following application of the bait to fallow land to either NSW Department of Primary Industries or NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Producers should not harvest crops or allow livestock to graze baited areas for 14 days after application. NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services have produced a factsheet on APVMA registered zinc phosphide products for mouse control in paddocks.



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 22nd June 2021

The numbers doubled following the previous short week. Young cattle and cows were well represented and there was a greater number of heavy grown cattle. The quality of the offering was mostly good. The majority of the offering carried good condition. Most regular buyers were in attendance with demand strong. High restocker and feedlot demand saw vealer steers returning to the paddock remain firm with some quality related price change. Yearling steers to restock and feed sold to a substantially dearer market, with the heavy weights attracting the keenest demand. The price gap between the specialised pens and the mixed lots was not great. Medium and heavy weight yearling heifers to feed also sold to a dearer trend. Well finished heifers to the trade were significantly dearer. Heavy grown steers to process in greater numbers sold to dearer trend, however the increased supply brought about a variation in quality, with this reflected in price change. Strong demand for well finished cattle resulted in the grown heifers selling to a dearer market. A very good quality penning of cows attracted strong competition to sell to a dearer trend of 12c/kg and more in places.

Market reporter: James Armitage

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 16th June 2021

Numbers lifted with vealer steers and heifers making up the majority of the cattle penned. Yearlings were limited in supply, while the cows were mainly prime heavy weights, with PTIC cows suitable for restockers also in the penning. The market trend was firm to dearer although younger vealer steers to the restockers struggled in places to maintain firm prices. Vealer steers over 200kg to the restockers remained firm for the better bred end, while the overall average trended cheaper with prices ranging from 478c to 600c, and up to 536c/kg for the heavier pens. Vealer heifers also to the restockers trended dearer in places with breed and quality contributing and returned prices from 450c to 556c/kg. Yearling heifers to the lot feeders also trended dearer, with medium weights making from 474c to 482c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold at a premium, with the best vealers topping at 518c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers showing 2 teeth reached 360c to the processors, with the well finished lighter weights to the lot feeders topping at 448c/kg. Cows trended 15c dearer, with restockers paying up to 368c for the PTIC light weights and 364c/kg for the heavier drafts. Heavy weight cows to the processors ranged from 280c to 320c, while the better heavy weight bulls reached a top of 300c/kg.

Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 22nd June 2021

Numbers remained close to equal, with the vealers well supplied. The yearlings were reduced in number, while the cows were well represented with approximately 150 head in the penning, with large runs of PTIC lines suitable for the restocking orders. The market trend was dearer throughout. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers gained 20c, and ranged from 528c to 610c, as the heifer portion also to the restockers improved much the same in price and sold from 518c to 570c/kg. Strong gains were recorded for the yearling steers to feed and the restocker orders, with the lighter end topping at 534c/kg. The medium weights ranged from 450c to 504c, while the heavier pens received from 435c to 500c/kg. The well-finished veal to the butchers reached 506c/kg. The export cattle trended dearer, with the older heifers to the processors making from 350c to 423c/kg. Cows sold to very strong competition, with the PTIC lots to the restockers ranging from 334c to 362c/kg. The better finished heavy weights to the processors improved 6c, and received from 294c to 330c/kg. Cows with calves ranged from \$2000 to \$3000/unit.

Market reporter, Neil Geddes

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 21st June 2021

YARDING 1270

There was an increase in supply following a week off from sales. Yearlings made up the bulk of the offering with cows also well supplied. The other categories were all represented with low numbers. The quality of the offering was quite mixed as was condition. There were a few straight lines of well-bred yearlings and the overall market competition increased. Strong demand from restockers and feedlots resulted in vealer steers selling to dearer trends. Demand carried through to the yearling steers where medium and heavy weights were as much as 20c/kg dearer. The market for yearling heifers showed some variation with the better quality lines showing a firm market trend while the balance sold to a cheaper trend. Increased processor competition saw the well finished heavy grown steers sell to a dearer trend. That, combined with increased demand, saw the well finished grown heifers follow a similar trend with some strong gains posted. Competition was strong and demand high for cows with the market trending up to 18c/kg dearer on the well finished lines. Those showing an excess of condition saw similar price improvements. Increased processor competition resulted in a significantly dearer market for heavy weight bulls.

Market Reporter, James Armitage



SUMMARY:

Over southern and eastern Australia the cold front events with potential to bring widespread rain are now expected about 26 June to 30 June, 2 July to 6 July, and 7 July to 11 July. Rain events originating in the tropics and moving south are possible about 22 June to 26 June, and 11 July to 15 July. Over Western Australia the strongest cold fronts should occur about 22 June to 26 June, 26 June to 30 June, and 1 July to 5 July.

Racing Review & News

\$67m boost for NSW country race-tracks



Deputy Premier John Barilaro at Scone Cup Day. Picture: NCA NewsWire / Peter Lorimer

By Anna Caldwell

The sport of kings will reign -supreme in the bush with a \$67m budget boost for infrastructure upgrades at rural thoroughbred racetracks.

The biggest investment in regional racing in the state's history will enable the upgrading of tracks and facilities, driving jobs and boosting the economy. The investment was contained in last Tuesday's budget.

Racing NSW defied the odds to keep the sport alive in the pandemic and the investment is an

acknowledgment of the contribution of racing to regional jobs and the economy.

The funding will be allocated to regional race-tracks that are identified as a priority by the government in consultation with Racing NSW. The allocation will be based on which tracks and upgrades will bring the biggest economic benefit to the regions.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro and Treasurer Dominic Perrottet stood alongside racing supremo Peter V'landys and Racing NSW chairman Russell

Balding in Scone last Thursday to make the announcement.

"We are actively supporting a regional renaissance giving people in regional NSW access to the best quality amenities and recreation facilities," Mr Barilaro said. Mr Perrottet said racing would "continue to emerge as an employment and economic powerhouse". NSW Racing Minister Kevin Anderson said regional cups like Scone, Tamworth and Gunnedah attracted large crowds in the past year. "Thoroughbred racing was



Funds will be allocated to regional tracks for upgrades. Picture: AAP

the shining light amongst sport and recreation during Covid and Australia was the only jurisdiction which did not suffer widespread

racing closures," he said. "Thoroughbred racing is the lifeblood of many country towns, accounting for around 14,000 jobs in the

regions and contributes \$1.9 billion to the state's economy." Mr Barilaro gave credit to Mr Perrottet, saying:

"There has never been a treasurer who travels the state as much as Dom."



MOVIE REVIEW



DREAM HORSE



The film tells the inspiring true story of Dream Alliance, an unlikely race horse bred by small town bartender, Jan Vokes (Academy Award® nominee Toni Collette). With very little money and no experience, Jan convinces her neighbours to chip in their meagre earnings to help raise Dream and compete with the racing elites. Their investment pays off as Dream rises through the ranks and becomes a beacon of hope in their struggling community.



Chomping at the bit for this light hearted comedy, Gemma Creagh goes to the races.

Warm, well-paced and a wonderfully satisfying watch, *Dream Horse* tells the outrageous, true story, about how a group of villagers in a forgotten Welsh town pooled together to achieve the impossible. Toni Collette plays the fiery bartender/check out assistant, Jan Vokes. Exhausted by working two jobs while caring for her elderly parents and lazy husband, Brian (Owen Teale), Jan longs for something more. When she overhears the somewhat pompous financial advisor Howard Davies played by Damian Lewis (back in the acting saddle on a break from *Billions* – the polar opposite of this film in every way). Howard spins an impressive yarn about his time on a syndicate that owned a winning race-horse, which leads Jan to start researching... A long-time animal lover with a penchant for rearing pigeons and dogs, Jan decides no matter what her dad or husband thinks, she is going to breed a race-

horse. And that is that. With limited resources and no experience, Jan still manages to convince her local community to chip in a tanner a week in order to create a syndicate of her own. This “Dream Alliance” breathes new life into its mismatched collection of members. From Howard and his city-based finance friends, to local butchers, politicians and one rowdy drunk, all these intersecting lives are changed forever when, against all odds, their horse, Dream begins to compete. Rising up through the ranks of the racing elite, Dream’s success touches the Welsh nation – but this upward journey is not without its hurdles. This film merges everything enjoyable about underdog sports films with the spirited working class comedies we all know and love; if *The Full Monty* and *Billy Elliot* ended up in a polyamorous relationship with *The Mighty Ducks*, this would be their collective lovechild. The warm portrait of small town life, the foray of funny, well-drawn characters, and the simple clean writing means this film delivers everything it promises in the trailer. The biggest draw of Dream House is by far is the familiar figure of matriarch Jan Vokes – a woman who will do anything for anyone, but takes absolutely no shit if it comes from above. From

zany mental health comedies (*United States of Tara*) to unsettling folksy horror (*Hereditary*) I have never seen Aussie native Toni Collette give a bad performance, and her tender embodiment of Jan was no exception. Although my knowledge of the Welsh accent is limited, and based solely on owning a Catatonia album as a tween, and watching Rob Brydon in *the Trip* – to my untrained ear, both Toni and the very English, flame-haired, Damien, did a decent job embodying the singsong lilt of our Celtic neighbours. With Welsh-born director Euros Lyn and *Paddington DOP* Erik Wilson at the reins, the visuals of this film are a well-paced, love letter to horse racing, interspersed with a striking destination advert for Wales. The stunning drone footage of the rural countryside, teamed with the shots of Cardiff as a towering metropolis, all while showcasing the rustic, charming villages, will surely get the yanks visiting, buying dragon-key rings in droves. If you’re a fan of impromptu Welsh-themed musical numbers, great performances delivered through strong regional accents, and films that wear their heart on their bridle, then you’ve hit the trifecta with *Dream Horse* – a film well worth catching on the big screen. 4/5

Today is Tech Day

Extending the time your phone rings...On ANY Phone

Hi everyone. Don't you hate it when your phone rings and just as you're about to answer it, it stops ringing!!! Remember the days when you had to go to Telstra or Optus to get it done? Well not anymore. Here's the solution and instead of me reinventing the wheel, I've found a nice easy video for you to watch. Do what it shows here and it will extend the ring time to 30 seconds. This will work on ANY phone carrier. If you're with Telstra, the extra code is 101.



That should be enough time even for Granny who's 90% deaf and got 1 leg to get there in time.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RFRHr1rJko>

Passwords

I've had a lot of people come in this week where they couldn't remember their Apple, Google or Email passwords. Do yourself and me a favour, write them down in a small book and keep them safe at home. Crooks aren't going to steal your devices and the "secret" book.

If you are asked to change your password, DON'T try to come up with a whole new one, just make a small but significant change. Here's an example.

Password: **Chillydog069** To change it, decide on a favourite symbol and change it like this **\$Chillydog069\$** Or **!Chillydog069\$** or **!ChillyDog069!** That's all you need to do to change your online passwords. Keep it simple but most importantly **WRITE IT DOWN**.

Recycle and Gift your old phone. Many people throw out their old devices because of a flat battery or slight crack on the screen, WHY? I'm certain that there's a young person in your family or friends list that would love to have that device and it doesn't cost that much to get it going and looking like new again.

Here's an example: You've got an old iPhone 6s with dead battery, cracked screen and rear camera lens damaged. Instead of tossing it in the bin, for less than \$150 you can have all the faulty

parts replaced with a new screen protector too and it'll look like new. And if you had it done at Macdroid's, you'd also get our famous 'Lifetime Guarantee on Repairs'.

The iPhone 6s has the same operating system inside as the iPhone 12..current Version 14.6 so it'll be useful for years to come.

Do I have to have a case on my device?

That's like asking "do I have to wear a seatbelt". The short answer is no, you don't have to. Unlike the seatbelt example, there's no law to say you should protect your new \$2,000 phone which is as slippery as Avocado on an egg and one high impact drop may mean it could cost you half what you paid for it, or worse.

In both cases, a severe impact will cause substantial damage.... it's your choice and if you choose not to protect your device, I'm always available to repair it for you. We also take 'Afterpay' now

Protect Your Data.

Do you remember what it felt like to lose your wallet or phone and the impact it had on you? OMG!!! Every phone has Apps and links built in to help you protect your data. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to do it, you just need 10 minutes of quiet time. In the settings of your phone or tablet, look for **Accounts and Backup**. From there you will have a variety of options to

backup your photos, contacts and anything YOU CHOOSE to back up. Remember, the big players are 'herding us like sheep' and your phone will soon be your NEW Wallet so protect it. It's easy to set up but if you need help, for just \$49 we'll be happy to set it up for you.

On virtually any phone you'll have these features:

- * Find Your Phone (if you've lost it)
- * Backup Your Phone to a Cloud Service (someone else's computer like Google or Apple etc)
- * Erase your phone remotely (in case you've lost it and can't find it)
- * Passcode or Swipe to get into your phone. (Keep these simple, they're easy to forget)
- * Facial Recognition is an easy way to use your phone.

Apple or Android?

You can decide which format you go with but try to stick with one or the other because they don't talk to each other very well, and they do it on purpose.

For Apple, stick with iPhone, iPad, Macbook, iMac, iPods and accessories

For Android stick with Samsung Phones, Tablets, MP3s, Accessories and Windows computers.

If you insist on mixing devices and want to copy data from one to another, it's not as easy as they make it out to be. So, if you're not able to do it, you know where to come ... right?

Have a great month
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Plan to end the 9am to 3pm school day in NSW

By Alexandra Smith

The Sydney Morning Herald



The school day is set to be overhauled in NSW to increase productivity and flexibility for families. CREDIT: SIMON SCHLUTER

The traditional 9am to 3pm school day will be overhauled as the NSW government starts trials in primary schools to stagger start and finish times to boost productivity and flexibility for families.

In a radical move from typical school hours, the government will encourage principals to work with parents and students to find innovative ways to modernise the school day.

As well as reflecting the needs of working families, the school hours project will be a key productivity measure contained in Tuesday's budget, as NSW emerges from a pandemic-induced recession.

Staggering when students travel to school would reduce the rising cost of traffic congestion in Sydney, which the NSW Productivity Commission forecasts to hit \$13.1 billion in 2031.

It would also provide more flexibility for shift workers, who have been integral to the state's COVID-19 response.

Schools will have the option of taking part in trials, which will include a range of measures such as earlier starts or later finishes, as well as extended hours of a day.

School-based before and after care, with a teacher in attendance, could be an option, or schools could choose to split when students attend, such as one cohort attending 7am to 1pm.

Public schools can set their own start and finish times with decisions made by principals in consultation with school communities.

Some schools have already adopted changed school hours, including Merrylands East Public, which operates from 8am to 1.15pm, with playground supervision from 7.30am. It has a recess break and no lunch break but offers the same amount of teaching time as all public schools.

NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the "status quo is not always the best approach" when it comes to education.

He said schools needed to modernise to adjust to the 21st century, where female workforce

participation was increasing and the traditional school day no longer suited all families.

"This is an opportunity for us to rethink how our students learn and how we can make life easier for many working parents," Mr Perrottet said.

"This project will allow us to establish a range of alternative make-ups of the school day that work." NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell said the plan would allow schools to work with their local community to identify opportunities to provide flexibility.

Ms Mitchell said it would also improve educational outcomes, which have been flatlining or slipping particularly in international primary school maths.

"The reality is that the traditional school day, like the 9 to 5 workday, is a 20th century concept which may not always be relevant for schools in the 21st century," Ms Mitchell said.

"This project is an opportunity to identify measures which remove pressure from parents and carers and improve the educational outcomes for students by being flexible with school hours, and then see how they might be scaled to similar schools."

The project will not impact standard lessons with any changes undertaken in consultation with the school's community, Ms Mitchell said. The trials will start next year.

Ms Mitchell said the government had already created an extra 10,000 before and after school places, which was a 2019 election commitment.

"This process included surveying parents and carers which has provided us with a better understanding of the work requirements of families and how schools can support them and our students' educational outcomes," Ms Mitchell said.

The government will provide funding in the budget for the project, alongside other key education initiatives such as money for 44 new and upgraded school projects including new primary schools in Gregory Hills, in south-west Sydney and Westmead.



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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

More than 64,000 people are in Australia illegally after overstaying work and tourist visas, with the federal government estimating as many as 12,000 have been here for more than 20 years. As a society we must ensure that the politicians who make the rules do so with compassion and empathy, not just hide behind "weasel words". How long can we allow this government to lock up refugees on Manus Island or in hotel rooms? The Murugappan family have shown us that most people coming here only want what we all want: security, peace and a better life for our children.

I remember reading, in the Braxton Greta Vineyards News, a long time ago where Val Randal had retired from community service in Greta. As the saying goes you can never hold a good person down. Val, Clr Sander and a good portion of the Greta community have had a welcomed victory over bureaucracy with a unanimous decision by our elected councillors not to lose Victoria Park in Greta to residential development ... well done to all involved particularly to our elected councillors who, obviously saw through their bureaucratic intentions, and voted accordingly.

to the lunatic who continues to regard East Braxton as a racetrack for him and his bright shiny Quad bike. You look old enough to know better but there is obviously more brains in your tyres than your head. When you have that inevitable accident can we hope that you are the only person involved and not one of the many children who are on the streets in your pleasure hour ? Police to be informed.

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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
 FRI 25 June – Braxton Public School – last day of Term 2
 SAT 26 June – Braxton Public School P&C Bunnings BBQ
 TUE 13 July – Braxton Public School – first day of Term 3 for students
 SAT 17 July - Dance Braxton Community Hall; bring your supper with free tea & coffee. More info call 6572 1738
 FRI 23 July – Braxton Public School – Kindergarten Zoo Excursion
 MON 26 July – Braxton Public School – P&C Meeting in the library or via Zoom
 SAT 28 Aug – Braxton Public School – P&C Trivia Night
 SAT 11 DEC 2021 — Iconic Scottish band SIMPLE MINDS will be performing at a day on the green Bimbaddin winery.
 SAT 26 MAR 2022 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate

Dates for your diary >



THE TAP PACK



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

Next date: Wednesday, 30 June 2021 | 07:30 PM
 Picking up where The Rat Pack left off, The Tap Pack conjures up a modern twist to the crooners and artists from the 50s through to the nighties! Featuring songs from Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr to Sheeran, Buble and Beyonce.
 The Tap Pack mix slick humour, high energy entertainment and world class tap dance. A show of pure entertainment inspired by the legendary kings of swing, The Rat Pack, freshly created for the audience today.

Over 600 Cessnock youth say YES to a brighter future

Cessnock City Council is inviting community feedback on its Strategy to improve the lives of young people in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA).

Now on public exhibition, the Youth Engagement Strategy 2021 - 2025 (YES) provides direction for Council to support better life outcomes for young people in the area. It identifies ways Council and other agencies can better facilitate the LGA being a vibrant place of opportunity that promotes their growth, education, safety, sense of belonging, and ability to work and meaningfully contribute to the region.

The YES is an initiative of Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) and was developed in close collaboration with young people aged 12 to 25 who are living, working or studying in the Cessnock LGA. Through online engagement, discussion forums with focus groups and pop-up stalls held at local schools, over 600 people provided feedback during the consultation period from October to November 2020.

Feedback informed a list of 60 actions Council will undertake in the key areas of Health and Wellbeing, Recreation, Education and Employment, and Community Participation. The YES also provides action items for consideration by external agencies. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the YES demonstrates Council's commitment to a brighter future for young people growing up in the Cessnock LGA.

"It's so important that young people have an opportunity to advocate for themselves and know that they've been heard. We're so pleased over 600 young people wanted to be part of this conversation about their future."

"The YES shows Council's dedication to improving opportunities for young people through better access to services, activities, facilities and support," he said.



Council gears up for a huge year with a \$43

is not the only good news, despite the economic impact of COVID-19, a surplus is forecast for the upcoming 2021-22 budget. Highlights of the 2021-22 Budget include: \$8.8 million will be

Capital Works Program

Cessnock City Council adopted the 2021-22 Operational Plan and Budget at the latest meeting of Council.

It was a positive atmosphere in the chambers with the impressive \$43 million Capital Works Program welcomed by Council. Council's General Manager Lotta Jackson said Council staff are prepared for the busy year ahead.

"We understand our community want to see more upgrades of our roads and local infrastructure.

Council is working extremely hard to meet these expectations while also making sound financial decisions. The significant Capital Works Program is largely possible due to Council securing grant funding from the NSW and Federal governments. We're focused on ensuring we seek out every opportunity on offer and this proactive approach has seen us secure more than \$27 million in external funding."

The program will see over \$14 million invested in local and regional roads. The huge program of works

invested in upgrading Cessnock Airport.

Over \$2.1 million to be invested in Kurri Kurri Town Centre including the upgrade of Lang Street and Col Brown Rotary Park.

Big ticket roads projects include: \$2.3 million for upgrading Old Maitland Road, \$1 million for Cessnock Road, Weston, \$1 million for Mitchell Avenue, Kurri Kurri and just under \$840,000 to upgrade Wollombi Road, Millfield.

Council's Safer Roads Program will see over \$1 million invested in Sandy Creek Road, Cessnock and \$1.7 million for George Downes Drive Bucketty.

The bridge construction program is valued at over \$4 million. This will include the replacement of Yango Creek Bridge in Wollombi, Kline Street Bridge in Weston, demolition of Cunneens Bridge in Wollombi, replacement of Watagan Creek Bridge Number 1 in Laguna and a new bridge for Westcott Street, Cessnock.

RECORD INVESTMENT IN NSW RACETRACKS TO BENEFIT SCONE AND MUSWELLBROOK

David Layzell MP, Member for Upper Hunter today announced that the NSW Government is making a record investment of \$67 million for regional racetracks including \$20 million for Scone racetrack and \$4.2 million for Muswellbrook racetrack.

Mr Layzell said this funding is a huge boost for the sport in the spiritual home of thoroughbred racing in Australia, the Upper Hunter.

"The funding will see upgrades to infrastructure and the tracks, providing better facilities for punters and racegoers as well as the horses. We have the best thoroughbred horses in the world right here in the Upper Hunter so it makes sense that we also have the best facilities. This funding will enable the construction of a new Polytrack training surface and stables at Scone and upgraded patron's facilities at Muswellbrook enhancing the Upper Hunter as a regional centre for thoroughbred excellence. "This is fantastic news for the whole region as race goers will visit every corner of our community as people flock to the epicenter of regional racing. That means visitors staying in local hotels, eating at local cafes, drinking local wine and shopping in local stores," Mr Layzell said.



Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation and Minister responsible for racing Kevin Anderson said through this record funding for the racing industry, \$67 million will be split across Racing NSW venues across regional NSW.

"The recent Cups Carnival in Scone attracted large crowds with people keen to get back on track. Thoroughbred racing was the shining light amongst sport and recreation during COVID and Australia was the only jurisdiction which did not suffer widespread racing closures. In fact, under the Nationals, industry charged ahead with its racing calendar, keeping thousands of people in work. Thoroughbred racing is the lifeblood of many country towns, accounting for around 14,000 jobs in the regions with over 6000 of these right here in the Hunter. This investment by the NSW Government will ensure those numbers keep growing with more money coming into our country towns. Under the NSW Government, NSW has cemented our position as the leading jurisdiction for racing in the Southern Hemisphere, easily outranking Victoria in prestige and prizemoney," Mr Anderson said.

My Layzell continued, saying this investment is yet another example of the Nationals in Government commitment to racing and breeding in the Upper Hunter Electorate. "This is the single largest investment by the NSW Government in racing infrastructure and I am very pleased to announce that the NSW Nationals were able to secure such a significant portion of it for our Upper Hunter Electorate," Mr Layzell concluded.

■ Photo above: Dave Layzell MP with Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Kevin Anderson, and members of the Muswellbrook Race Club executive.



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Rothbury... 4991 1733
Bishops Bdg 4015 0000
Nth R'bury... 4015 0000
Rothbury... 4015 0000
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Electricity

Energy
Australia... 131 388
Hospitals
Maitland... 4939 2000
Cessnock... 4991 0555
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Businesses and community come together to talk about men's health

A special Singleton Business Chamber breakfast served up a greater awareness of men's health as industry and community leaders came together to discuss health issues and the services available for men and boys last week. Singleton Council supported the breakfast at Club Singleton as part of Men's Health Week which aims to provoke thought and discussion to raise awareness and encourage early detection of health conditions in males. The event included a panel discussion featuring community and industry leaders, and a Community Connect expo with local service providers. Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said it was a timely reminder to all men not to ignore their physical or mental health. Men's health facts show:



(L-R) Vice President Singleton Business Chamber Danny Eather, Mayor of Singleton Cr Sue Moore and KCE Project Engineer and Business Chamber Committee Member Alexander McNally.

...men live 4.4 years less than women, men are more likely to die from heart disease at earlier ages, men are at a significantly higher risk of dying from liver disease, 80% of spinal cord injuries occur in young men, 70% of developmental and learning disabilities affect boys & Men have an increased risk of dying from diabetes. "There's a very strong stereotype that men tend to shrug off any aches or pains they might have and think 'it'll be right' - but sometimes it's not all right," Cr Moore said. "Men's Health Week sends a message to men and women in our communities and across Australia to encourage men and boys to acknowledge when they don't feel well and seek advice, treatment or help. "And with suicide one of the top three reasons for reduced lifespan in men, that includes your mental health as well as your physical health." Singleton Business Chamber Vice President Danny Eather said the Men's Health Week event was a great inclusion on the Chamber's program. "As a Chamber, it might be easy to assume we focus a lot on maintaining the health of our businesses and industries, but Men's Health Week specifically targets the health and wellbeing of our local businesspeople," he said. "Men's Health Week highlighted more males die at every stage through the life course, more males have accidents, more males take their own lives and more males suffer from lifestyle-related health conditions than females at the same age. "But the facts for both men and women are that we can't perform our best for our businesses, our community, or our families when we don't listen to what our bodies are telling us, and the first step is knowing where we can find help."

No time for waste



(L-R) Carrie Barrett from Regional Illegal Dumping Squad (RID), Glen Crombie from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Katrina Gray from NPWS, Rob Robertson from RID, Karinda Stone from Cessnock City Council and Tara Dever from Mindaribba LALC.

Our community is tired of seeing our beautiful Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) spoilt by illegal dumping. In response, a number of organisations have decided to tackle anti-social behaviour together and increase surveillance. Representatives from Cessnock City Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Police, Hunter Regional Illegal Dumping Squad, Crown Lands, State Forests, and Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council have committed to increasing surveillance activity and resources to combat illegal dumping. Whilst the groups already work collaboratively, all agree there is a need to strengthen these partnerships to combat this behaviour. Each of the agencies and organisations have a shared goal, to reduce the rate of illegal dumping and are committed to delivering a strong message anti-social behaviour is unacceptable, environmentally damaging and will not be tolerated. Cessnock City Council's, Sustainability Officer Karinda Stone said this collaborative approach means the chances of getting caught illegally dumping have increased significantly. "During the remainder of 2021, in addition to the day to day activity undertaken by each of these organisations, we'll be doing routine blitz's to hold people accountable for their dumping. Collaborating with these agencies and organisations means we can pool resources, get more feet on the ground and undertake better investigations to identify offenders." A large question for the group was around the absurdity that some people believe indiscriminate dumping in bushland is OK. Where do they think it goes? Another challenge is the cost of clean-up which is transferred back to the community through both their rates and taxes. RID Squad Coordinator Rob Robertson said 90% of people caught illegally dumping domestic waste are local. "The main driver for this behaviour is often timing, laziness and lack of planning." Individuals caught illegally dumping can face a fine of up to \$250,000 and criminal charges. The penalties for corporations are even more severe. Residents are also encouraged to do their bit to support efforts to reduce illegal dumping locally. Any illegal dumping or suspicious behaviour should be reported to ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au which can include photos and be completed with a mobile phone OR by contacting the EPA Hot Line on 131555.

All Hunter Region councils commit to climate

The Hunter region of NSW has committed to collaboratively tackling shared challenges of changing global energy markets and climate change impacts, joining Australia's largest local government climate network the Cities Power Partnership. The Hunter Joint Organisation (Hunter JO) and each of its member councils have signed an agreement to accelerate clean energy initiatives and jobs in an effort to move towards a cleaner tomorrow for their communities and set the region up for a prosperous future. Hunter JO Board Chair and Cessnock City Council Mayor, Bob Pynsent said the collective agreement, coordinated by the Hunter JO, strengthens the Hunter's reputation as a region that supports meaningful regional responses on to forces beyond its control. "In order to deal with the simultaneous challenges of changing global energy markets and climate change impacts, our councils need to be able to support one another and coordinate our efforts to benefit our communities across the region. By partnering with Cities Power Partnership our councils and the Hunter JO are ensuring that we take joint action for our region and our communities," said Mayor Pynsent. Cities Power Partnership director Dr Portia Odell welcomed the program's newest members Maitland City Council, Dungog Shire Council, Singleton Council and the Hunter JO and commended the region for committing to work collaboratively on clean energy and climate related initiatives. "Right now, local governments have an opportunity to get on the front foot of Australia's energy transition and accelerate projects that will deliver local jobs quickly, drive new investment and tackle long term challenges like climate change." said Dr Odell. Councils taking part in the Cities Power Partnership pledge five actions to tackle climate change locally, from ramping up renewable energy through to planning sustainable transport systems. The Hunter JO is the first Joint Organisation nationally to join the Cities Power Partnership, creating a new regional partnership model that can be replicated across the country. The sustainability and future of the Hunter region has been a key strategic priority of the Hunter JO since its establishment in 2018, with a range of different projects driving this agenda within the organisation and across its member councils, including their Circular Economy and Hunter 2050 Foundation programs. Through partnering with the Cities Power Partnership, the Hunter JO and its councils are further building the Hunter into one of the most liveable, inclusive, resilient, sustainable and connected regions in Australia. With thriving people, natural environments and progressive primary industries there continues to be untapped potential for development and growth.

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How to grow roses from cuttings

Our step-by-step guide. - by Roger Fox



Just as with many other shrubs, roses can be grown from cuttings. It's not a fast process – it may take a couple of years before your new plant produces flowers. But if you have a favourite rose variety, it can be fun to try.

To propagate roses, the cuttings need to be taken fresh from a healthy plant – don't try to grow a new rose bush from a bouquet of roses you have sitting in a vase. As rose bushes are pruned during winter, this is the most convenient time to take and pot up your rose cuttings.

Here is our step-by-step guide for how to grow roses from cuttings.

How to propagate roses

1. Cut pieces of stem about 20 – 30cm long (remove flowers, if there are any)

2. Remove all leaves

3. Re-cut the bottom of the rose cutting, just below a node (the swelling on the stem, where the leaves emerge)

4. Remove the thorns on the bottom half of the rose

5. Dip the end of the rose cutting into a rooting hormone gel (or use honey if you don't have any hormone gel)

6. Plant rose cuttings into a pot filled with propagating sand. Poke a hole in the sand first, so you don't rub off the hormone gel, and then carefully firm the sand around the stem. Water gently. You can plant about 4 cuttings in a 200mm pot

How to plant and care for roses

Aspect

Give roses a position in full sun and ensure the plants have good airflow. Avoid growing them near big shrubs and trees that will cause them to compete for light and nutrients.

Water

During the warm months, regular water is key. Avoid overhead watering to reduce the risk of disease such as powdery mildew and black spot.

Fertiliser

They're hungry plants, so feed them well. Use a slow-release fertiliser for roses and supplement with liquid feeding.

Pruning

Prune roses in winter, and deadhead for more blooms during the growing season.



Dog Care Tips

Whether you've just adopted a new puppy or you've had dogs your whole life, there's bound to be something in this list of dog care tips that you didn't know - but should.

1. Don't overfeed your dog, it will significantly impact their health and happiness

More than 50% of dogs are obese and this number is on the rise. Overweight dogs are at increased risk of metabolic abnormalities, cardiovascular disease, joint diseases, a lowered immune system, and many other health problems. They also are less mobile and can't run, play, or do other activities as much as they'd like. Do your pet a favour, feed them the amount recommended by their vet and don't give in to those puppy dog eyes when they ask for more!

2. Touch your dog's nose
Your dog's nose should feel wet. The level of moisture will vary between dogs and by time of year, but a healthy dog will have a cool and slightly wet nose because dogs secrete sweat through their nose to cool down.

3. Make annual vet appointments
Let the experts examine your dog regularly to screen them for any health issues and to provide you with the best, personalized information to keep your precious pup healthy for many years.

4. Make a "pet first aid" kit
Accidents and emergencies happen and being prepared with all the essentials to help your dog is a crucial step in being a responsible pet owner. This is especially important if you take your dog out hiking or camping, whenever you may be far away from help. A DIY pet first aid kit is something every dog parent should have.

5. Get pet insurance (See above)
Emergency and unexpected accidents and illnesses often cost \$800 to \$1500. With as many as a third of pets needing emergency care per year, this can quickly become a financial burden. Pet insurance can help to cover these unexpected costs,

prescription medications, long term health conditions and more, making it an important investment for the furry members of your family.

6. Brush your dog's teeth
Brushing your dog's teeth is often overlooked, but hugely important to their overall health and avoiding expensive dental treatments in the future. Make this a part of their normal routine and make sure to use a toothpaste made specifically for dogs. With a little bit of time and training, teeth brushing can be a fun activity for your pet every day!

7. Have an emergency plan in place
It's not pleasant to think about, but it's crucial that you have a plan for your dog in place should anything happen to you. Make a list of important information about your dog's lifestyle including how often they're fed, how much they're fed, medications, their vet's phone number, etc. Give copies of this to someone in your life that could take care of your dog in the case of an emergency. It's also worth your time to ask around and make sure you have at least one or two people who live close-by that could help your dog on short notice.

8. Play with Purpose
When petting and playing with your dog, especially when they are young, intentionally play with their feet, ears, and mouth. By doing things like touching their feet, toes and nails during positive play experience, you will desensitize them to being touched in these areas when its time for nail trims. Looking in their ears and mouth and getting them used to being handled in this way will make it much easier for your vet to examine your dog when they go in for check ups. This will make your vet's job easier, your pup will be less stressed during their exam, and your vet will be more likely to catch any abnormalities in the event that there is something wrong with your dog.

9. Keep your trash secured

Dogs are drawn to the delicious smell of your trash and may eat things that are toxic, harmful, or not digestible, so make sure your trash is secure. Ingestion of foreign objects or toxic substances could lead to costly emergency surgeries.

10. Give your dog a safe space
Have a temperate area of your home with your dog's bed or blanket, some toys, and a water bowl, where your dog feels safe and can easily take naps during the day. This can help your dog to self-soothe during stressful situations, like parties, a baby crying, or thunderstorms. If your dog was crate trained as a rescue puppy or when joining your family, keeping their crate open and available even after they no longer need it for training may provide them with a perfect place just for them that they'll love to have.

11. Lock up household toxins
Always keep your household chemicals, such as cleaners and pesticides, out of reach from your dog. Many clever dogs can and will get into products kept under the sink or in the garage. Try using baby proof locks to seal cabinets with toxic products.

12. Regularly wash your dog's things
Germs, dirt, pollen, and more end up on your dog's bedding, soft toys, and blankets. Make sure you're washing these items weekly to keep them fresh and clean for your dog. If your dog suffers from seasonal allergies, this can be especially helpful in reducing their pollen exposure.

13. Keep your dog away from human food
Many human foods, such as chocolate, avocados, or onions, are toxic to dogs and can have serious ramifications to their health. Keep human food out of reach and be especially careful with gum and lollies, as many contain xylitol which is a sugar-like substance toxic to dogs. Don't feed your dog human foods on purpose unless recommended by your veterinarian. Some human foods, like plain chicken, canned pumpkin, or plain rice may be recommended intentionally by your vet for specific reasons such as digestive upset, diarrhoea, to help hide oral medication or as highly motivating training treats in small quantities. In these instances "human food" may be appropriate for your dog, but they certainly don't need to lick your dinner plate clean or eat your leftovers.

Exercise and Mental Stimulation

14. Walk your dog for both their health and happiness
Regular walks provide many benefits for your dog, including preventing boredom, helping the digestive tract, keeping them at a healthier weight, and helping them to burn off excess energy. By giving them a constructive outlet, you may find bad behaviours, like chewing, barking or digging, decrease too.

15. Fight boredom by adding variety
Break up your dog's normal routine by adding in extra walks or outings. Take them to a dog-friendly place or drive-in for a change of scenery. Take them on errands with you and switch up their toys to keep them mentally stimulated.

16. Challenge your dog mentally
Just like us, dogs need plenty of mental stimulation to stay happy and healthy. Give your dog a puzzle toy, teach them new tricks, and play new games with them to keep them engaged. Puzzle toys are a fantastic way to give your dog something fun to do when you can't devote 100% of your attention to them.

PRO TIP: This is extra important while social-distancing with your dog.

17. Slowing down a super eater
If your dog or puppy eats their meals very quickly they increase their risk of having stomach issues or upsets that may lead to vomiting. Slowing down your dog's eating is good for their digestive health and can be done easily. One option is to buy a puzzle feeder from a pet store or online.

Alternatively, a cheap easy solution is just to put a large tennis ball in their bowl. Both the ball or puzzle toy will work similarly making your dog have to work around the inedible obstacle to eat their meal.

18. Exercise together
Race your dog in the park, try dog yoga, climb stairs with your dogs, or take them on an adventurous hike. You'll both reap the benefits of exercising as you have fun together.

Bonding

19. Be a friend to your dog
Dogs need love and affection to thrive. Make sure they're spending plenty of time inside with you and your family. Give them attention, treats, and play games with them.

20. Have patience with them
It can be challenging when your dog acts out or isn't picking up on a new training technique, but with some grace and patience, they'll be more likely to continue trying. If you're feeling frustrated, take a break from training and consider consulting your vet or local training professional. Dogs are very good at reading our body language and won't respond well to training if you are tense or angry.

21. Hang out with them while they eat

Dogs are by nature pack animals and you're their pack. Stay near them when they eat and make this an ongoing communal act. Picky eaters might also show more interest in their food when they see you take an interest.

Training

22. Applaud your pet when they successfully relieve themselves outside

Potty training can be difficult, especially with stubborn dog breeds. Applaud and cheer your dog on when they go outside and do their business every time and they'll eagerly continue this behaviour until it becomes a habit. For dogs who are learning to be house-trained, bring treats outside with you and immediately reward your dog after they finish peeing or pooping somewhere you approve of. If you do this every time, and take your puppy out frequently enough (including after every meal, after every drink of water, and at least every 4-6 hours) house breaking will be significantly easier.

Tips For Your Dogs

& Cats





Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 3-6-21 Stableford

Div 1 Winner J Bereza 31 pts (c/b) R/u J Sheedy 31 pts 3rd P Conroy 27 pts
Div 2 Winner C Hughes 31 pts (SOD) (c/b)
R/u G Bailey 31 pts
3rd B Turner 29 pts
Ladies Div Winner
N Busch 27 pts R/u M Hunt 25 pts (c/b) 3rd J Scobie 25 pts
NTP Ladies N Busch -
Gents E Barrett
Members draw - Not won
Despite the threat of rain during to-day's round, we are still encouraged by the good number of our members, who turned out to play. Congratulations to Col Hughes on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to all other winners and place getters.

Results 10-6-21 Stableford

Div 1 Winner M Ryan 27 pts R/u K Anderson 26 pts 3rd A Jack 24 pts
Div 2 Winner G Bailey 32 pts (SOD) R/u C Hughes 25 pts 3rd J Flynn 21 pts (c/b)
Ladies Div Insufficient numbers to form division
NTP Ladies Nil
Gents L Hunt
Members draw - Not won
Believe it or not, 18 of our hardest players defied the rain and the near freezing weather to gather for to-day's round. The 2BBB Multiplier has been rescheduled for next week. Congratulations to Gary Bailey on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to all other winners and place getters.

Results 17-6-21 2BBB Stableford multiplier

1st J Atton & R Friis 61 pts
2nd G Scobie & R Yandle 54 pts
3rd S Dunker & P Tracey 53 pts
4th T Seamer & B Turner 52 pts
5th S Condran & J Flynn 49 pts
Best individual score - L Bootes 33pts
NTP Ladies
R Friis
Gents M Ford
Members draw - Not won
A bright sunny Winter's day, although the chilly wind added a degree of discomfort for to-day's round. Congratulations to John Atton & Robyn Friis on winning the event and a well done to all other winners and place getters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec Branxton Lady Golfers Muswellbrook Open Day 2nd June 2021

Kerry Fry won Division 2 Nett
Karen Johanson won Division 3 Stableford
Jan Scobie won most accurate drive
Sally Lamb won the raffle
9th June Stableford round,

Winner: Neridah Busch 31 Points
Runner up: Jan Scobie 28 points
Third: Trish McMillan 24 points
16th June was a Stableford round,
Winner: Jan Scobie 31 points
Runner up: Trish McMillan 26 points
Third: Neridah Busch 25 points

**Hunter Valley Golf Club
Sunday 30th May**
Brad Murray has won the Weekly Challenge with 45 points from Nick Bates with 37 on countback to Nicholas Wilson in 3rd, Ball winners not posted at this time.

Tuesday 1st June
Larry Forbes has won the Tuesday Stableford on countback to Joe Laughlin after both returned 38 points with Angello Wood 3rd with 36 also on countback. Ball winners were: Luke McArthur 36, Lindsay Meyn 36, David Spruce 34, Graeme Flynn 34, Bindii 33, Lindsay Self 33, Drew Dewar 33, Brad Baker v33, Matt Lorenz 32, Ian Newell 32, Ian Smith 32, Dean Morison 32, Luke Meyers v31 & Tom Bell 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Andrew Edwards v(3rd) Col Bradley (4th) Angello Wood (8th & 17th) & Nathan Sweeney (10th)
Wednesday 2nd June
Dale Hamilton has won the Ladies Par event with a fine round of +4 from Christine Tancred +3 & Lorraine Clack 3rd with +2 on countback. Ball winners were: Glenda Williams +2, Isabel Skeates +1, Di Oakes +1 & Sue Peel sq. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dale Hamilton (3rd&4th) Sue Peel (8th) & Sue Wilson (17th).

Thursday 3rd June
Bill Freeman with 41 points has won the Vets Medley Stableford from Peter Threadgold with 40 on countback to Don Bradley in 3rd spot. Ball winners were: John Kolbas 39, Greg Ireland 38, David Archibald 37, Wayne Cowan 37, Kevin Gibson 37, John Carmody 35, Fluff 35, Greg Amlöh 34, Ian Newell 34, Chris Taggart 34, Dave Fury 33, Norm Barry 33, Tony Lorrinan 33, Peter McIntyre 33 & Rod Williams 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Kevin Gibson (8th) Wayne Barber (10th) & John Carmody (17th).

Saturday 5th June
Craig Sharp has won the Monthly Stroke round & A Grade with 68net from Danny Schofield 71, B Grade to John Chenery with 69 from Fluff 71 on countback and C Grade to Aaron Marks with 73 from KurriGC visitor George Norris with 74. Ball winners were: Tracy Morison 71, Dean Freebairn 71, Dan McLeod 72, Brendan Connor 72, Michael Goldman 72, Col Somerville 72, Stephen Zok 2, Matt Lorenz 72, Adrian Kent 72, Bruce Chambers 73, David Crowley 73,

Mick Gilbert 73, Peter Tierney 73, Brad Oldfield 74, Jordan Burton 74, Tom Vaughan 74 & Sunil Mishra v74 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Tierney (3rd) Alan Provenzano (4th) Brad Oldfield (8th) Zac Hayes (10th) & Paul Neuss (17th).

Sunday 6th June
Blake Medway of the Merriwa GC has won the Weekly challenge with 39 points from Ken Blackett 36 on countback to Nick Wilson also on countback. Ball winners were: Joshua Trappel 36, Tom Vaughan 33, Tom Rumbei 33, Nathan Holz 32, Shannon Attewell 31, Jeff Shanahan 31 & Brenton O'Donnell v31

Monday 7th June
A freezing start to the Pacific Dunes visit did not slow the visitors with 4 pairs on the Podium in the first 5 placings in the 2 Person Ambrose event. John & Linda Morey won the day with 64.5 net from Ken & Ann Leo 65 3/4, 3rd place to Bill & Rhoda Pitt with 66, 4th to Kevin Smith & Bindii with 66.5 and 5th to Brian Butterworth & George Anderson with 67. The Ladies NTP's have been won by Karen Kirk (3rd) & Carolyn Ramsey (4th) and the Gents to Darrell Porter (3rd) Adam Jackson (4th & 8th) John Miller (10th) and Kevin Dunn (17th). The Longest Straightest drive on the 5th to Kevin Smith. Ball comp went to 84.5 net. The winners of the rounds of golf at HVGC raffle are Max Holz & Don Carlill. Many thanks to Bill & Rhonda Pitt from Pacific Dunes for their contribution of the ball comp and assistance on the day.

Tuesday 8th June
Hugh Le has returned an excellent 42 points to win the Tuesday Stableford from Ian Smith 38 & Maitland GC visitor Andrew Cawsey with 37 in 3rd place. Ball winners were: Blake Glennie v36, Nick Bates 35, Larry Forbes 35, Wayne Barber 35, Gary Marsden 35, Peter Payne 35, Steve Piggott 34, Wayne Burgess 34, Luke McArthur 34, Gary Arnold 33, Darrell Porter 33, Brett Taylor v32, John Carmody 32, Tom Vaughan 31 & Caleb Porter 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Col Bradley (3rd) Peter Franks (4th) & Larry Forbes (17th)

Wednesday 9th June
The start of the bleak weather left many of the Ladies undercover with only 5 braving the elements, no results have been posted as yet.
Thursday 10th June
Constant rain led to only the very keen taking to the course for the Vets event with no results posted as yet. The 2 Person Ambrose championship will be re-scheduled for next Thursday.

Saturday 12th June
Finally a sunny day greeted the good field for this year's 2 Person Ambrose Championship where Steve Piggott & Adrian Kent have

claimed the major prize with 67 scratch, Alan Provenzano & Peter McIntyre have won the handicap section with 61.75 Net
The Daily Comp run in conjunction has been won by Cody Fisher & Kerrie O'Connell V59.25 Net from Alan Provenzano & Peter McIntyre 61.75 with Jeremie Morton & Wade Attewell 3rd with 63.25. Ball winners were: Steve Piggott & Adrian Kent 63.75, Terry Webb & James Schofield 63.75, Steve & Sharon Jones 63.75, John Martin & David Hollis 64, Paul McCudden & Richard White v64.25, Adam Jackson & Ben Bradley 64.5, Stephen Zok & Mike Carter 64.75, Ben Pickering & Dan McLeod 64.75, Peter Tierney & Nick Hain 65.25, Mick Gilbert & Graham Morris 65.5, Tom Foster & Tom Lundy 65.5, Matt Hopley & Young Fluff v65.75, Greg Amlöh & Nic Dunn 66.25, Peter Huckfeldt & Ron Higginbottom 66.5 & Nathan Pearson & Joshua Trappel 66.75 c/b .
NTP's went to Petre Huckfeldt (3rd) Shannon Attewell (4th) Wade Attewell (8th) Steve Piggott (10th) & Adrian Kent (17th).

Branxton Golf Club Saturday Comp Saturday, 5 June 2021 MONTHLY MEDAL STROKE

Field: 40
Winners A Daniel Turner 62
Grades A Mark Moylan 68
Grades A Peter Conroy 72
Grades B Gary Musialik 71
Grades B Robert Hale 73
Grades C Darrell Fletcher 71
Grades C Garry Cuthbert 75
NTP 2/11 A 2nd Michael Tracey 280cm
NTP 4 B 4th Joel Hafey 442cm
NTP 9/18 A 9th Peter Wilton 108cm
Pro's N.T.P - 18th Hole Peter Wilton 108cm
Balls 12 Distributed down to score: 78
Dan Turner produced one of the rounds of his life in winning Saturday's Monthly Medal with an outstanding 62 nett (73 off the stick), a score made possible after some recent swing modifications with our golfing guru Marcus. His winning score is further exemplified by the fact Mark Moylan's A Grade winning score of nett 68 was the only other score to break their handicap. What a great effort! Peter Conroy

ensured the senior brigade was represented in the winner's circle, finishing third in A Grade with his 72 nett score. Gary Musilak, another veteran, won B Grade with his well complied 71 nett, with Robert Hale playing well again to finish runner up with his 73 nett. Darrell Fletcher finally put it together, after some recent golf lessons, to win C Grade with a very pleasing 71 nett, well clear of runner up Garry Cuthbert's 75 nett. A nett 78 was needed to win a ball showing that the course was again the winner overall. The shot of the day undoubtedly belonged to Peter Wilton on the last, finishing only 108 cms away. What made this extra special was he won the new initiative, the Pro's NTPin, winning \$76 in the process as he won the pool with 38 players paying an extra \$2 to compete for this prize.

Mick Carling caused quite a stir on the 6th tee with his tee shot going through the toilet window. Many descriptions about his shot do come to mind! Karen Johanson can consider herself very unlucky on the last as her tee shot finished 109 cms away—Captain Steve had to adjudicate—this is especially unfortunate with the new Pro NTPin on offer. Captain Steve wants to remind everyone that the Branxton Open is on June 20th and all Pairs Knockout matches need to be played by the same date—we need 8 teams to proceed.
Another rule Reminder
Rule 11.1 Your ball in motion accidentally hits person or outside influence
11.1a No Penalty to any Player; If your ball in motion accidentally hits any person or outside influence, including you, any other player or any of your caddies or equipment, there is no penalty to any player. Exception: On Putting Green. If your ball in motion hits another ball at rest on the putting green and both balls were on the putting green before the stroke, there is a 2 stroke penalty.

**Saturday, 12 June 2021
SATURDAY COMP -
STABLEFORD
Field: 31**

Grades A Sam Edmonds 35
Grades A Toby Grant 34
Grades B Bradley Oldfield 34
Grades B Robert Hale 32
Grades C Lennard Porter 32
Grades C Richard Turnbull 30
NTP 2/11 C 2nd Lennard Porter 50cm
NTP 4 A 4th Toby Grant 102cm
NTP 9/18 B 9th Neil Jordan 216cm
NTP 13 B 13th Richard Alley 480cm
Pro's N.T.P 18th Hole Neil Jordan 216cm
Balls 9 Distributed down to score: 30
A small field competed on Saturday, enjoying some good conditions on the Long Weekend, with no player breaking their handicap. The wind that sprung up during the morning ensured scores were well earned. Sam Edmonds won A Grade with his 35 pts, just ahead of Toby Grant on 34 pts. Brad Oldfield, despite his adventures on the 5th hole, won B Grade with 34 pts with Bob Hale once again winning a prize with his 32 pts—a score which included a great chip in for birdie from 80 metres on the 10th. Lennie Porter won C Grade with his 32 pts which also included the shot of the day on the 2nd, only 50 cms from the pin. Richie Turnbull finished runner up with his 30 pts ensuring his group, once again, finished in the prizes. Brad's adventures on the 5th are hard to explain—suffice to say that the group behind (Captain Steve Ross's group) watched in awe as he played his second shot from the 4th greenside bunker after he teed off on the 5th—I think Brad has some stories to tell about this golfing adventure! Neil Jordan finished his day well winning the Pro's NTPin ensuring he has some extra money to spend in the pro shop. 30 pts was needed to win a ball. Next weekend is the Branxton Open with many great prizes on offer, with the 2 Person Ambrose Championships scheduled for the 26th June. .

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The NEWS SPORT

Next year Mike!!

20 YEARS AGO.

THE NEWS Issue No 91 7th June 2001 Page 40



THE Hahn Premium Light Premier League Series is considered the 'holy grail' of lawn bowls. The series is a state wide event that runs for four months of the year ~ February to May ~ and is covered by all bowling clubs. Some of the larger clubs go to unusual lengths to have the

trophy reside at their club. For example, one of the 16 competing clubs this year imported a South African national player to join their ranks for the duration of the series: airline tickets, accommodation & whatever was needed to make him

happy. Another club flew over from New Zealand two of their National players each weekend to play for them!! That is the intensity of the comp.

Local, Mike Beesley of Branxton who teamed up with Beresfield Bowling Club again this year has seen the highs and lows of this huge competition.

In 1999, the inaugural year, he played for Charlestown & his side was defeated in the final.

In 2000 he played for Beresfield & narrowly (*one point*) missed relegation. This year his side, with almost the same personnel, finished only one win short of being minor premiers! *There are some highs there.*

This year Mike, who was the only player from either side to have played in a grand final prior to last Sunday's decider between Beresfield & Cabramatta, was again a member of a beaten side!

"It hurts, but looking at our team on paper, we really shouldn't have made the final. It was only the great team spirit of all 12 members of the side that saw us there. So close!", Mike said.

Well done Mike (*ed., I tried to find the 2002 results but not available*)

Photo: Mike Beesley of Branxton who says he was shattered by his second final loss in the Hahn Premium Light Series.

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