



thebranxtonnews.com.au/

# The News Free

Serving the local community since 1997

T: 49381773  
M: 0414 757 826

**“Your paper of choice”**

THURSDAY 12  
AUGUST 2021

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

## Cessnock Council, local sporting groups and the community appalled at latest vandalism attack at Miller Park

A wanton act of vandalism by four known persons has cost the community close to \$3000. The incident happened at Miller Park Branxton on Saturday evening, the 31st July, when they attacked & damaged the new playground at the coming Miller Park Tavern, some colourbond fencing & the safety construction barrier fencing around the new shelter & BBQ. The following Monday morning Dale McNamara, the owner of the Miller Park Tavern, & Councillor Anne Sander inspected the damage & both where horrified at what they saw. Thankfully the incident was caught on CCTV which clearly identified the perpetrators. Cllr Anne Sander said that

Cessnock Council and other Government agencies had invested a great deal of capital expenditure in the various projects around Miller Park and the Branxton area to enhance the outdoor amenity for the entire community. “It is such a shame that a small minority see fit to vandalise the projects that will be utilised by the Branxton and surrounding communities. “A vigilant community may help stem this spate of vandalism by contacting the Police Assistance Line on 131444 to report any acts of vandalism,” said Cllr Ann Sander. Dale McNamara called for a public ‘name & shame’ but, under NSW law, it cannot be



done. “That is a crying shame as all four deserve to be vilified by the community for what they have done. “Miller Park is a credit to Cessnock Council & I maintain it is the best recreational facility in the



Dale McNamara at left with Cllr Ann Sander, far right & Tony Gates & Sophie Palmowski at rear surveying some of the damage caused by the 4 vandals at Miller Park on Saturday night week ago.

Hunter Valley based on the areas population,” said Dale.

At going to press NSW Police where continuing their

investigations & expect to lay charges by this weekend.

**GOOD PRACTICE (GP) SURGERY**

**Accredited General Practice**

**10 Dalwood Road, East Branxton**

<p><b>Dr T Sasi Sasitharan</b> MBBS, AMC, DCH (Syd), FRACGP</p> <p><b>Dr Chaitali Biswas</b> MBBS, AMC</p>	<p><b>Dr Riju Verghese</b> MBBS, AMC, DCH, FRACGP</p> <p><b>Dr Jwan Roomi</b> MBBS</p>
--	--

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

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

---

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

**Cessnock Day Night Pharmacy**

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

**4990 3485**

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock  
(opposite ALDI)

**STANHOPE HANDYMAN SERVICES**

Branxton and surrounding areas

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

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

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

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

**Satisfaction Guaranteed!**

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

# Central Hunter Business Chamber news

The Central Hunter Business Chamber held a lively and well-attended breakfast meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Over 30 Chamber members sat down to a hearty breakfast at the Royal Federal Hotel in Branxton with special guests Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent and Cessnock Business Chamber President Allan Davies also present. Central Hunter Business Chamber President Michael Robinson (Hungerford Meat Company) introduced the invited speaker: Tony Chadwick, Economic Development & Tourism Officer, Cessnock City Council. Tony gave a riveting and comprehensive presentation on the Economic Update for the Cessnock LGA, Financial Year 2021/2022. The overview of his presentation was: COVID-19 impacts and data; development approval data; economic growth data and trends; support opportunities; and useful data and resources. Some of the slides from Tony's presentation are included in this article.



Tony Chadwick giving his presentation .....

Tony accurately summed up the local situation and projected the prospects and opportunities into the future. Many of the attendees asked

for a copy of the presentation he gave which included detailed statistics for the Lower Hunter region and linked many aspects of Federal, State, and local factors that auger well for the

future of the region. During the meeting, Bob Pynsent gave a short address and confirmed that he would not be standing for the Cessnock City Mayoral position in the upcoming (delayed) local elections; he



.....to Chamber members & guests

was thanked by several people for his excellent work in the local community. Local business entrepreneur Dale McNamara also gave a short address about his purchase of the Miller Park Bowling Club and he outlined his plans to continue support of local sporting and athletic clubs. He listed some of his other financial interests in the hospitality business and stated his support of the local area.

CHBC President Michael Robinson also introduced Rod Taylor as the recently elected President of the Lions Club of

Branxton. Rod said he would be working with his Lions Club members to support local causes and assist disadvantaged people. He said: 'To further the Lions causes, Branxton Lions Club is always looking for new members to help the local community'. Michael Robinson announced that the Central Hunter Business Chamber were delighted that they were successful in being awarded a grant for re-development of their website by Cessnock City Council and then announced that the next Chamber event would be a management board meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Following that there would another general member breakfast meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September with a presentation by him entitled: 'Managing a small retail business profitably'. Michael said: 'A big thank you to our guests Bob Pynsent, Allan Davies, guest speaker Tony Chadwick and all the Chamber members who have turned out this morning; the management board of the Chamber hoped you enjoyed the event and will join us again in the future.'



The Hunter Regional Plan

**How is our region placed**

The Cessnock LGA including Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury and Huntlee have a very bright future.

- Population growth is steady and high at 2.1%
- Industrial and commercial land is constrained at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri but it is likely new land will become available for development
- The M15 will continue to accelerate growth within the Cessnock LGA
- We are located near a high value electricity network
- Close proximity to the port, airport and university
- 5 million people live within a 2 hour drive
- Our region offers an affordable lifestyle choice with great access to the wider Hunter

Integrity Respect Teamwork Accountability Excellence  
Assessment of the future for businesses



Local business entrepreneur Dale McNamara, pictured above, also gave a short address about his purchase of the Miller Park Sports & Recreation Club and he also outlined his plans to continue support of local sporting and athletic clubs.

## REFLECTIONS

***'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'***  
**John 6.51**

In our gospel this week, John tells us the things that make the Christian Eucharist celebration nourishing. We are fed with the body and blood of Christ. Though there is no institution of the Lord's Supper in John's Gospel, Christians identify in these words a future gift of Holy Communion. The Eucharist is the meal that we share together in an act of faith, it is a celebration of the Lord's Supper and invites us into the intimate space of Holy Communion. Christians call this shared meal the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. During the Lord's Supper we are invited to come into holy communion with Jesus who for our sake gave his life so that we may have eternal life. We are invited into a personal and intimate relationship with the one who calls us by name and loved us into being. The response that we make to this Jesus' invitation each time we come to receive the body and blood of Christ is one of faith. Christians believe that God is present in all things and in all places. His presence in bread and in wine should therefore not cause us any issues even though Jesus is not physically present. During the consecration of the bread and wine, we pray the words of Jesus, "this is my body ... this is my blood." We cannot fully understand this, but Christians call this "the real presence" because it is presence in the fullest sense. Our belief is an act of faith. We believe that Jesus is the "living bread that came down from heaven" and so we receive the gift of eternal life through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Sacraments are an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. By receiving bread and wine during Holy Communion, we receive Christ Himself and accept the invitation of Holy Communion. I wonder how we translate and incorporate this into our lives? Do we allow this to inform us, change us, challenge us? Jesus says a little later in the passage, those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life." This is a present tense promise. It means that "eternal life" is a life that we live now, from today and for all days, for all time. It is not a promise only for the future, though it is that also, but one that is offered to us now, where we are on the journey of faith. It is a promise and invitation that is made to all who believe In Jesus, who trust in the goodness and mercy of God. I wonder whether knowing that we are living our eternal life now will make any difference to how we live our Christian life today, tomorrow, next week? May the blessings of God rest gently upon you each time you receive Holy Communion and as you live eternal life today and in the days to come.

Blessings,  
Reverend Nicole

Emergency Phone Numbers		
<b>Dial 000</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>Electricity</b>
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	<b>Hospitals</b>
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.	<b>Ambulance...</b> 131 233	Maitland... 4939 2000
<b>ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED</b>	NSW Fire Brigade	Cessnock... 4991 0555
	Branxton.... 4938 3396	Singleton... 6572 2799
	<b>Rural Fire Brigades</b>	<b>SES</b> .....132 500
	Belford..... 6574 7149	Crime Stoppers
	Broke..... 6579 1491	1800 333 000
	Greta..... 4015 0000	Poisons Info ..... 131 126
	Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Hunter Water
	Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	1300 657 000
	Rothbury.... 4015 0000	Ausgrid ..... 131 388
	Pokolbin.... 4015 0000	Gas Emergencies . 131 909
	Rothbury.... 4991 1733	Lifeline .....131 114
	Bishops Bdg 4015 0000	Mental Health Line
	Nth R'bury... 4015 0000	1800 011 511
	Rothbury.... 4015 0000	Domestic Violence Support
	Pokolbin.... 4015 0000	4990 9609
	Rothbury.... 4991 1733	Centrelink Self Service
	Scotts	136 240
	Flat... .. 6575 1200	Medicare ..... 132 011
	Central	Native Animal Rescue
<b>Police Assistance Line (PAL)....</b> 131 444	(Cessnock)... 4015 0000	0418 628 483

## Cessnock City Council calls on the NSW Government to tighten restrictions to keep Cessnock COVID-safe



Cessnock City Council is calling on the NSW Government to tighten restrictions to ensure the safety of the local community from the spread of COVID-19.

Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said Councillors have listened to the community and share their concerns. "The possibility and risks of people entering our region from Greater Sydney is a cause of concern for our many of us. The risk to the regions is real and the people of Orange, Molong, Tamworth & Armidale are feeling that fist hand, as we are. We've managed to avoid the Delta variant making its way into our community and we want to keep it that way."

Council wants to see an increased Police presence in the Hunter region to deter people from breaking the Public Health Order and ensure those doing the wrong thing are caught. Additionally, Council is urging the NSW Government to clarify testing requirements for those travelling from Greater Sydney for work into the regions. Those leaving Greater Sydney for work require a test but there remains confusion around whether they require a negative result before departing Greater Sydney. Council is asking that the Public Health Order be updated to require people to receive a negative test result before leaving Greater Sydney.

## Spotlight back on the Cessnock City CBD Bypass

As Cessnock City continues to grow so does traffic on local roads and Cessnock City Council is looking for opportunities to address congestion and plan for the future.

At the latest meeting of Council the Cessnock CBD Bypass was reprioritised and Council resolved to look for grant funding opportunities to fund the concept plan of this major project. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said as we continue to experience population growth we need to be thinking strategically about the future. "The creation of the Cessnock CBD Bypass will

take huge investment and planning. This isn't going to be an overnight project and we need to start somewhere. This Council wants to start the process now."

Council resolved to include the review of the Cessnock Local Government Area Traffic and Transport Strategy and Concept Plan for the Cessnock CBD Bypasses in the Operational Plan 2021/22.

In the event Council is unable to secure grant funding for the Strategy and Concept Plan other funding options were identified. This includes \$132,000 of repealed development contributions and \$793,000 from the profits from the sale of Stage 8 of Vineyard Grove Estate and 62-76 Cessnock Street, Aberdare.



## TAX RETURNS From \$100

### DIANNE PRESTON ACCOUNTING & TAXATION SERVICES

- Registered Tax Agent/Accountant With Over 20 Years Experience
- Electronic Lodgement (REFUNDS IN 14 DAYS)
- Eftpos & Fee From Refund Available
- Rental Property & Investments
- After Hour Appointments Available

PH 49387023

Email: prestonaccounting@bigpond.com

ADDRESS: 59 Florence St Greta 2334



## PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY BRANXTON & HUNTLEE LOVES YOUR COMMUNITY!



**Piggott's Pharmacy Branxton is taking bookings for AstraZeneca.**

Appointments must be made online:

<https://piggottspharmacy.com.au/covid-bookings/>

*Please note that we are not taking bookings in store or via phone.*

Piggott's Pharmacy Huntlee Open every day of the week.

(Please check times)



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

### PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY BRANXTON

56 Maitland St, Branxton • Phone: 4938 1156

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

### PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY HUNTLEE

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

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

# STEVE'S RANT

## Critical Race Theory

Critical Race Theory is the name of a concept developed in the U.S.A. among academics in the social sciences, law and political studies. The theory maintains that systematic racism exists within the white communities of the U.S.A. and is institutionalised in the federal and state laws, education, the administration of the law and social services. When the history of black slavery in the Americas is considered, it is little wonder that racism persists today. That's despite the Constitution of the USA upholding the principle that all people are created equal and the frightful Civil War in the 19th Century, which tore the nation, communities and families asunder. Is it any wonder that the black citizens of the USA have historical grievances and turn to violence when injustice is perceived, such as the *Black Lives Matter* scenario? Unfortunately, the historical racial apartheid stems from slavery and continues among minority sections of the U.S. population. Much of the older population remember segregation and the struggles fought during the 60s and 70s to get equality. Many whites of this cohort were influenced by what the daddy's and grand-daddies passed down to them. My mother and father

recalled segregated public transport in the 1930s whilst travelling in America. The younger generation has not been scarred by these historical facts and is generally sympathetic to the idea of Critical Race Theory. So, there are legitimate reasons for the Critical Race Theory movement, especially when the postmodern academics pull Derrida deconstructions on history, politics, philosophy, and anything else that can be roped into the argument. By analysis, the advocates of Critical Race Theory can read racism into everything. The problem is that the ideas, albeit debatable, are divisive and contributed nothing to social harmony and the national unity Joe Biden seeks. The concept has been undermined by an oversimplification whereby the whole argument has been reduced to a simple slogan of "White Privilege." The push back to this has been so great, several states in the U.S. have banned the teaching of Critical Race Theory in their publicly funded schools. The polarisation of the people of the U.S.A. sees no resolution, and this political and racial division serves to distract the leading democratic nation of the world from the real problem, which is the imbalance of wealth and economic opportunity. The U.S.



**Do the right thing**  
I am done with people who refuse to get vaccinated. Australians have every right to wrap themselves in the flag and jump off a cliff because they are hurting only themselves. Refusing to get vaccinated affects everyone. Your right to refuse the vaccine ends with my grandchildren's rights to safely go to school or day care and my in-laws' rights to live their final years in community with others. Fear of the side effects of the vaccines should pale in comparison with the prospect of hospitalization and death. The coronavirus — its lethality, transmissibility and variability — is as potent as ever and as demonstrably hard to contain. Do the right thing. Get the shot before someone you love dies.  
**Name & address supplied**

**A great suggestion**  
A good friend of mine offered a great suggestion about COVID shots recently. Instead of trying to entice those who refuse to get the shot(s) with \$300 cash prizes, lottery tickets, movie tickets, etc., why not instead reward those who have already gotten the shots with such amenities. The no-shot believers have had adequate time to make their decision, but if they do change their minds they could still be rewarded with a lesser prize (perhaps an autographed, wallet-size photo of our PM). Some of the best medical science minds in the world have given undoubted assurance that the chance of having severe side-effects from a vaccine is minimal to the chance of severe medical complications if you are unlucky enough to be infected with the new nasty mutation.



deficit doesn't help. So, what you see here is a divisive argument about legitimacy. When the controversy about global warming is raised, the reverse is the case, in my opinion. There is no legitimacy to the supposed threat of global warming. The vast majority of the global warming catastrophists, which is also the majority of people in Australia if you believe the ABC and the woke press, are convinced that human activity is the problem. They will brook no argument; such is their belief. So insidious is this idea that people who you would expect to be intelligent, people in business, banking, parliament, public servants, teachers, university lecturers and administrators, and for goodness's sake, the CSIRO and BOM accept this nonsense without question and fudge their records and observations to support this point of view. A group of misled children have been allowed to take this idea to a court of law, and the judge has agreed with them. Very silly teachers have brainwashed the children to believe their future is threatened by manmade climate change. (Global Warming) They have been encouraged to take this fear for their future to the

courts, where a highly regarded legal expert has agreed they have a case. While being well qualified for the role in legal terms, the judge has no idea about anthropomorphic Global Warming and even less about any of the scientific causes of climate change. Everybody who is equally ignorant applauded the Judge for the ruling. The Business Council of Australia, the banks, insurance companies, industry super funds, governments and even the energy companies are actively taking steps to implement reductions in *Green House Gases* caused by the activities of farming, industry and transport. Their aim being ZERO emissions. They are dreaming. The *Green House Gases* related to anthropomorphic causes is only a fraction of the naturally occurring *Green House Gases*. The more complex molecules of *Green House Gasses* do store reflected infra-red radiation. Technically, they can pass this heat to single atom gasses such as nitrogen and oxygen, thus warming the atmosphere. Nobody has yet been able to measure this. Temperature records do not reflect any effect from CO2 level rises, but nobody is prepared to accept

the simple facts. Sea levels are not rising. The sea temperature is not rising. The Great Barriers Reef is still growing. Atmospheric temperatures are not changing, and the only measurable effect of rising carbon dioxide in parts per million is an acceleration in the growth of vegetable matter i.e., the greening of the planet. The urgent problem is the misallocation of resources and money based on a wrong proposition. In the time of Alexander The Great, a savant, one named Onesikritos, who was on the way to India with Alexander noted that at Susa, (Iran) North East of Babylon; "When the sun is hottest at noon, the lizards and snakes could not cross the streets in the city quickly enough to prevent being burnt to death in the middle of the streets", and that barley spread out in the sun bounces like parched barley in ovens. (popcorn). Ask the people of Iran and Iraq if anything has changed since 331 BC. In 1836 the British Government sent two paddle steamers, the Tigress and the Euphrates, to survey Mesopotamia (Iraq) travelling up the Euphrates River. Cheers, Steve

On a fair, bright, calm day, a vast black cloud suddenly boiled up in the southwest. A survivor described it; "as the cloud neared us, the sky assumed an appearance such as we had never before witnessed, and which was awful and terrific in the extreme. A dense black arch enveloped the whole of the horizon, and the space beneath the arch was filled up with a body of dust, of brownish-orange colour, whirling round and at the same time advancing toward us with fearful rapidity... at this moment, the hurricane came upon us - a warm, dry wind laden with the fragrance of the aromatic plants of the wilderness, followed in a few moments by a tremendous blast of wind with some rain in large drops. The crash broke upon us like heaven's own artillery, and the hurricane seems as if bent upon hurling both steamers at once to the bottom of the foaming river". The sandstorm did capsize the Tigress with the loss of twenty lives. Extreme weather events are nothing new.

I have used this analogy many times to those who are reluctant to have *the jab*; the probability of being involved in a commercial airline crash is in the millions-to-one but the chance of being involved in a car accident is or from the airport is the real danger in flying. With the current pandemic the real danger is not having *the jab*.

**Mike McGregor, Narrabri**



Submit a letter to the editor

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

or

emailed to

thenews@hotkey.net.au



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: [Branton\\_Lions@outlook.com](mailto:Branton_Lions@outlook.com)

**Getting a quart into a pint pot?**

Members of the Lions Club of Branxton were also delighted to move into their new storage facility, the Branxton Lions Community Hub located near the Branxton Community Hall. However, pictured below, they seem to have more equipment and supplies than they thought – talk about trying to get a quart into a pint pot! The Lions on their ‘working bee’ moved all their equipment into the new building but found that some ‘weeding out’ will be necessary to store everything tidily. While they were unpacking the containers, brought from the old storage location, the Lions found some interesting artefacts from Branxton Lions history. As, ‘From the Lions Den’ column has explained previously, Lions Clubs globally are involved in many projects that improve the Environment; one such being the **National Plastics**



Members of Branxton Lions enjoying their lunch with friends and partners



Artefact? No – Bob (Dusty) Rhodes busy washing up

**Plan**, which was launched in Brisbane by the Federal Environment Minister, Sussan Ley, and the

Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management, Trevor Ev-

ans. The plan includes that polystyrene foam commonly used to package consumer goods will be

phased out in Australia by mid-2022 and includes targets to cut plastic pollution from washing machine outflows and from cigarette butts. By July 2022, Australia should have phased out plastic packaging products that do not meet compostable standards. By Dec 2022, it is planned that polystyrene will not be used in food and beverage containers, and that PVC packaging labels will have been phased out. The Morrison government announced it would support “coordinated global action to address marine plastic” through the United Nations. Lions Clubs will be working with



Artefact? Yes - Lions Banners from yesteryear

recycling and public sector organisations to assist with these environmentally-friendly objectives. All members of the community can help by carefully selecting packaging when visiting their favourite supermarket.



The problem



The solution

**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



# Locals supporting locals.

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

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

## #supportlocalcessnock

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

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

Keep safe, please adhere to the social distancing rules.



#supportlocalcessnock

\*Full Terms & Conditions at [advancecessnock.com.au/supportlocal](http://advancecessnock.com.au/supportlocal)



A CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE

# Members say ..



Clr Bob Pynsent, Mayor  
Cessnock City Council

Over the last couple of weeks again our region has experienced change and the impacts of COVID-19. On Saturday 24 July it was announced the NSW Local Government Elections would again be postponed. While it is of course disappointing for the many candidates who had started campaigning and were motivated to achieve for their community, the safety of us all remains paramount. I thoroughly enjoy representing the people of Cessnock and will continue to hold office until a new Mayor is elected in December. Our Council will continue to work hard for this community.

At this time many of us may be experiencing heightened stress levels or anxiety due to the developing situation surrounding the spread of COVID-19 in NSW. Some of us may not be able to see family and friends who live in Greater Sydney or interstate. As a community we must all look out for each other and check-in. Any one struggling can ask for help in many ways. One step is picking up the phone and calling Beyond Blue who are providing information, advice and strategies to help you manage your wellbeing and mental health during the pandemic. They can be reached on 1800 512 348 or visit their website.

Luckily we live in a world that enables us to connect digitally despite the need for our community to be physically distant, and for the second year we have held the School Leaders' Breakfast via ZOOM. Over 250 students participated from 20 schools located across the Cessnock Local Government Area. Students heard from former Newcastle Knight's Player Alex McKinnon who suffered a life changing spinal injury. Alex had an important message to share, he asked students to focus on the things they can control and think about their values and qualities when making a decision. Alex and I share similar values around leadership, he spoke about how leadership is not about being popular but about being respected for

the decisions and actions you make. Thanks Alex for being open and sharing with our future leaders!

2020 Olympian Daniel Repacholi



Congratulations to our very own Daniel Repacholi for competing in the Tokyo Olympics. We are so proud of everything you have achieved. Well done!  
*Cheers, Bob*



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton  
Council

Over the course of five years since this term of Council was elected (acknowledging another extension with a new date for the local government election on 4 December 2021), there has been a number of focus areas for Council that have resulted in a range of improvements, from financial performance to drainage on Kelso Street. Another of those key areas is customer service, with a vision to make every customer interaction with Council not just good, but an exceptional experience. Over the past year, there's been a lot of work done as part of the Customer Experience Strategy to put a framework around delivering the best service for everyone who interacts with Council for whatever reason.

What we need now is your input. Because we can't know if Council is delivering the best customer service unless you tell us that we are, and we can't know how we can improve unless you tell us what we need to do better. That's why Council has launched the Voice of the Customer surveys, which will be directed to all customers following an interaction with Council. It's quick and easy to do – simply rank how satisfied (or not) you were with your experience, how easy it was to deal with Council, and if you like, leave a few comments about what was good and not-so-good. Council staff will be looking at all the feedback that comes in to help tailor customer service

to provide the best possible experience.

Making it easy to do business with Council also extends to making it easy for businesses to respond to quotations or tender with Council – particularly local businesses. Council has launched the Doing Business with Council Guide, which steps out the process for lodging submissions. You'll find the Guide on Council's website. I look forward to more local businesses working with Council to support our community and our economy.

With Round Eight of the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program now closed, Council staff have done an amazing job working closely with community groups to submit 18 applications for Singleton's allocation of more than \$8million.

And what a list of applications it is. From \$1.9million for our mining roads upgrade program and \$700,000 for spectator seating at Cook Park, to \$250,000 each for the Singleton Sustainability Program and Developing Economic and Industry Resilience and Growth, there's a great range of projects and programs that Council can (hopefully) deliver on top of our operating budget that will have significant benefits for everyone in our community. But what's most pleasing for me, and what is the best thing to come out of the changes to the Resources for Regions program that this term of Council worked so hard for, is the involvement of community groups. Resources for Regions is now an avenue for Council and our community to work together to deliver infrastructure and programs identified by the people who need them.

We saw great results in the previous round, and Round Eight is shaping up to be even better. One of the headline projects is \$1.3m for the Singleton Rugby League clubhouse development to be a centre of excellence particularly for women's rugby league, in addition to \$500,000 for the fit out of the new grandstand at Singleton Rugby Club, \$250,000 to improvements to Singleton PCYC, and \$150,000 each to support programs by Singleton Neighbourhood Centre and Soldier On. If that's not enough, we're already working with our community on possible applications for Round Nine.

The announcement of successful applications is expected in September.

*Cheers, Sue*



Member for Upper Hunter  
Dave Layzell MP

## Major Jobsaver Boost to Expand COVID-19 Support

The joint NSW Government and Commonwealth JobSaver program will be significantly boosted to give greater support to businesses and individuals impacted by the extended lockdown. JobSaver payments will now be available to businesses with an annual turnover between \$75,000 and \$250 million, up from \$50 million, which have experienced a revenue decline of 30 per cent or more. The maximum weekly payment has also been substantially increased, with employing businesses that maintain their employee headcount now able to receive between \$1,500 and \$100,000 per week, up from \$10,000, with payments based on 40 per cent of their weekly NSW payroll.

Businesses can expect to receive funds in their accounts within five to ten business days from their approval date, and the arrangements announced will be backdated, so businesses that have already received a first payment on previous settings will be topped up when their next payment is made.

JobSaver payments are available from week four of the lockdown. Non-employing business remain eligible for a maximum of \$1,000 per week. Businesses have also received much needed support from the 2021 COVID-19 Business Grant to cover the first three weeks of lockdown, with more than \$118 million has been paid to businesses so far from more than 56,000 applications received. For more information on COVID-19 support available, visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/2021-covid-19-support-package>.

Support for individuals impacted by the current COVID-19 restrictions and stay-at home orders is also available through Services Australia. For more information visit [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/covid19](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/covid19).

## Applications Open for Youth Projects

Young people in our Upper Hunter electorate will have the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to support future employment, education and training opportunities through a NSW Government grant program which has recently opened. I urge local not-for-profits,

community groups and councils are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 as part of the NSW Government's Youth Opportunities program. These grants will help young people develop tangible skills to support future employment, education and training opportunities. They will also support young people's participation, engagement, and inclusion in the community. The Youth Opportunities grants provide one-off, time-limited grants between \$10,000 and \$50,000 for programs targeting children and young people aged 12-24. Since the program began in 2012, Youth Opportunities has provided \$13.3 million to 282 projects across NSW. The focus this year will be on organisations delivering programs that build tangible skills or qualifications that will help with future job opportunities. We want young people to be engaged in their local communities and participate in grass-roots programs that will provide them with a platform to gain meaningful employment and learn new skills.

*Cheers, Dave*



Member for Cessnock  
Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR RAVO! To Our COMMUNITY

Last week, across most of the Hunter, we were all asked to go into a lockdown. We have delivered in bucket-loads and we should all be very proud and congratulated.

It is quite eerie to see the streets so empty and to have such little background noise as we don't see or hear children playing, people moving about and the general hustle and bustle. None of this is easy. But our champion efforts will help stop the spread of this Delta strain COVID virus. And yes, there are those selfish individuals that ignore the rules. They are not team players. The collective "pain" and challenge of the lockdown will last longer and be more severe if selfish people don't do the right thing – and every time you see them out and about you will know that they care far more about themselves and they care nothing about the rest of "us".

This is a journey that we need our society to succeed in. Almost everyone in our towns and villages knows this and that is why our response to the lockdown has been so outstanding.

Bravo to all!

## CRYSTAL BALL TOLD US

For regular readers of my Crystal Ball column, at the start of each year you will recall that we were warned by the Ball that COVID Vaccinations were a "complicated process and significant money will be needed to help it all happen. Fingers crossed our Federal and State Governments have a plan for all of this."

Sadly, the Prime Minister nor the Premier heeded that warning. The Crystal Ball is all wise and all-knowing and should not have been ignored.

While I am not sure where or how the Crystal Ball sources its predictions, I suspect that it might have simply looked to the complication of vaccine rollouts in other parts of the world, in late 2020, where things were turning out to be much harder than first thought.

And just like my lack of knowing about how the Crystal Ball does its work, I also don't know how the PM or Premier do their work but I suspect that they themselves might NOT be reading and watching the experiences from overseas. Doh!

*My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to [cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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](http://www.claytonbarr.com.au)*

*Cheers Clayton*



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP  
Member for Hunter

I am again writing from an eerily quiet and surreal Parliament House. Less than half of the Nation's Members and Senators are present. Staff number are severely restricted. My other colleagues around the country are locked down and cannot come to Canberra without quarantining here for two weeks before attending Parliament. Along with my Hunter colleagues, I travelled to Canberra well before the Premier locked the Hunter down. I was unable to travel home on the weekend because if I had, I would not have been able to return to Canberra. If we all did that, there would be insufficient MPs here to pass the Bills needed to provide the Government with the authority it needs to make COVID-19 support payments to people and to businesses.

If the Hunter lockdown is extended beyond Friday, Hunter MPs will face a dilemma. The Parliament is not scheduled to sit next week but it is due to meet for the two weeks after. If Hunter region MPs return home on Saturday to a still locked down region then we will not be able to return.

Remembering other regions are affected too, so it would leave the Parliament with too few MPs to function.

It's possible the Government will change the sitting dates to avoid keeping us in Canberra for the non-sitting week. That would be sensible. My own view is that we should debate and pass only immediately essential legislation and allow MPs and Senators to return to their electorates.

Meanwhile, all the mechanisms my team and I use to assist, support and advise constituents continue to function fully. The only thing we can't do is hold face-to-face meetings.

We are as busy, if not busier than usual, and we can be contacted by phone: 02 4991 1022, email:

[joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au), and mail: PO Box 526, Cessnock, NSW, 2325.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you believe we can help. We are also cold-calling residents offering to help, we have been doing so for many months and I have been appreciative of the many messages of thanks we have received.

Meanwhile, please consider getting vaccinated. I know the Government has not made it easy and I won't dwell on that here. But our vaccination levels in the Hunter are far too low. We cannot hope to return to anything like normality until we lift vaccination rates to 70 per cent or more.

If you have an underlying health problem and can't receive a vaccination, that's fair enough. But that is the case for only a few. Please follow the advice of your GP. Let me make this clear, I will give serious consideration to measures which restrict the activities of those who chose not to be vaccinated without good reason not supported by their medical professional. It is my very confident view that in doing so, I will be acting in a way which enjoys the support of an overwhelming majority of my constituents.

It is everybody's right to choose not to be vaccinated. But the majority have rights too. People are entitled to be protected from the virus. Let's get behind the only plan available to stop the health and economic carnage this pandemic is inflicting out our community and country.

*Cheers, Joel*

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

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



**HVE**  
Hunter Valley Electrics

Mark Mellross  
Owner / Operator

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

**Local  
Trades  
& Services  
Directory**

**Local  
Trades  
& Services  
Directory**

**Can Change Therapy**

Psychotherapy, Clinical Hypnotherapy, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP)

Expectations change the structure of our brains! When we learn to expect good things, good things start to happen.  
Want to change something in your life? Weight, Smoking, Alcohol, Anxiety, Depression, etc.  
Phone 0417 949060 today to discuss, first consultation free.  
[www.canchangetherapy.com.au](http://www.canchangetherapy.com.au)

Graham Duncan  
CONCRETING &  
LANDSCAPING

Lic. No. 131164C

Plain or Coloured Driveways, Shed Slabs,  
Footpaths, Retaining Walls  
& Garden Edging

Ph: 4938 7754 Mob: 0415 389 977

**ANDP MC DONALD  
PLASTERING**

\* Gyprock Interior Linings  
\* Decorative & Suspended  
Ceilings  
\* External Cladding  
Systems  
\* Residential/Commercial

For quality workmanship &  
competitive quote  
CALL Wayne

0417 679 619  
mcdplaster@activ8.net.au

**COALFIELDS  
CLIMATE CONTROL**

Air Conditioning / Refrigeration / HVAC / Engineering / Electrical

**0422 493 102**

www.coalfieldsclimate.com.au  
ABN: 89 616 271 277 LA: 2176530 AIC: AU42682

**News**

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

**Hunta Karate Martial  
Arts Club**

Non Profit organisation  
Located at Branxton Community hall  
Train Tuesday & Thursday Night  
Please Contact Jerry  
0407 077 930

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

**MPH Cleaning**

Specialising in  
# Domestic/Commercial  
Window Cleaning.  
# Exit Cleans



Call Mark on 0412 980848

**News**

For all your  
advertising  
needs call  
Mike on  
4938 1773

**Local Trades  
& Services  
Directory**

Less than \$14 a week  
P: 4938 1773

**CHICKEN MANURE**  
Get ready for  
*Spring*

Free Delivery!

Call Mick  
Ph: 0425 836 076  
4938 7273

**MJZ  
PLUMBING**

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

**STANHOPE HANDYMAN  
SERVICES**

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

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

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

**News**

**Branxton &  
Vineyards  
Real Estate**

**4938 3300**

**COMPUTER  
TECHNICIAN  
Repairs, Help  
& Web Design**

Phone Les: 0428 025 509

Midweek share  
accommodation

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

**BAGLEY  
PAINTING**

"Quality painting, affordable rates"

- Over 30 years experience so you can be assured  
of quality & professional service.
- FREE quotes with no obligation  
P: 0409 523 056 or 4938 3178

**Branxton and Vineyards Real  
Estate**

call Mike or Helen on  
**4938 3300**

**Local  
Trades  
& Services  
Directory**

**Less  
than  
\$14 a  
week**

**P: 4938 1773**

**COMPUTER  
TECHNICIAN  
Repairs, Help  
& Web Design**

Phone Les: 0428 025 509

**Deans Turf Supplies**  
Your Local Turf Grower of:  
\*Kings Pride Soft Leaf Buffalo  
& \*Kikuyu

Phone: Scott Dean  
Ph: 0249 381 874 Mob: 0407 006 953

e: [deansturf@bigpond.com](mailto:deansturf@bigpond.com)  
460 Elderslie Road Branxton  
Inspections welcome by  
appointment

Company LIC: 237774C  
ABN: 93 149 933 246

**P.R.W BUILDING Pty Ltd**

**PAUL WORTH**  
MOB: 0429 305 554

818 Lambs Valley Road  
Lambs Valley NSW 2335

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

**Brett Hubner  
Plumbing**

0421 427 596

~ Your Local Greta Plumber ~  
Servicing all areas

Water Services • Gas Services • Hot Water Systems  
Blocked Sewers, Drainage & Storm Water  
Guttering • Bath & Kitchen Renovations

L/No: 140922C

**Bathrooms**

Bathroom renovations  
Laundry renovations  
All floor & wall tiling requirements  
Quality & reliability assured  
Vinyl flooring supply & installation

Please call David  
**0403 606 584**

**HVE**  
Hunter Valley Electrics

Mark Mellross  
Owner / Operator

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

**News**

P: 4938 1773



**Contraception**

Contraception is used to prevent pregnancy. It is also called birth control. There are a number of different methods of contraception. Family planning clinics, doctors, nurses and pharmacists can advise you on the different methods of contraception. Choosing a method

- For contraception to be a success, each woman and couple needs to choose the method that suits them best. When choosing a method of contraception consider:
- each partner's cultural and religious beliefs
  - each partner's age and abilities
  - the woman's health
  - the need to protect against sexually transmissible infections (STIs)
  - each partner's desire for children in the future
  - whether the woman is breastfeeding
  - how often you have sex
  - how effective the method is
  - how easy and convenient the method is
  - side effects and risks of the method
  - other benefits of the method
  - cost of the method.

Types of contraception  
There are three main methods of contraception –

hormone methods, barrier methods and natural methods. Hormone methods use oestrogens and

progesterones (sex hormones) to change the woman's fertility by:

- thickening mucus (fluid) in the cervix so that sperm cannot enter the uterus (womb)
- preventing ovulation (stopping release of an egg from the ovary)
- changing the lining of the uterus (so that it is not suitable for pregnancy).

Hormones can be very reliable contraceptives when used correctly, but they do not protect against STIs. All hormone methods of contraception have some health risks and side effects. They can also interact with some medicines.

Hormone contraception must be prescribed by a doctor. Different types of hormone contraceptives are:

- Oral contraceptive pill (OCP) – hormone tablets that are taken once a day by the woman. Some OCPs contain both oestrogen and progesterone. They are called combined oral contraceptives (COCs) or

'the pill'. Some OCPs contain only progesterone and are called 'the mini-pill'. A woman may need to try several different oral contraceptives before finding one that suits her.

- Vaginal ring (e.g. *NuvaRing*) – a soft plastic ring that releases oestrogen and progesterone slowly over 3 weeks. The woman puts it inside her vagina and leaves it in place for 3 weeks. The ring is then removed, and a new one is put in 1 week later.

- Progesterone injection (e.g. *Depo-Provera*, *Depo-Ralovera*) – a progesterone injection. It's effect lasts for 3 months.

- Progesterone implant (e.g. *Implanon*) – a small, thin rod that a doctor inserts just under the skin of the woman's upper arm. It releases progesterone slowly over 3 years. It can be removed if the woman is having problems or wants to get pregnant.

- Progesterone intra-uterine device (IUD) (e.g. *Mirena*) – a small device inserted into the woman's uterus by a doctor. It releases progesterone slowly over 5 years. It can be removed if the woman is having problems or wants to get pregnant.

Hormone-free IUDs are

also available (e.g. *Copper T*).

Barrier methods  
Barrier methods use a physical barrier to stop sperm reaching the egg. Condoms are a commonly used barrier method, and are the only method of contraception that can protect against STIs. Condoms are available from pharmacies and other shops without a prescription. Different types of barrier methods are:

- Male condom – a thin latex-rubber or plastic sheath that is rolled onto the man's erect penis before sex.
- Female condom – a plastic sheath that a woman inserts into her vagina before sex.
- Diaphragm – a soft, dome-shaped latex-rubber cap that a woman places over her cervix (inside her vagina). It must be inserted before sex and left in place for at least 6 hours after intercourse. A sexual health professional can work out the correct size diaphragm for the

woman.

• Sterilisation – a surgical procedure (operation) that is usually permanent.

Female sterilisation involves blocking the fallopian tubes that carry eggs from the ovaries to the uterus (e.g. 'having your tubes tied'). Male sterilisation involves cutting the tubes that carry sperm from the testes into the semen (vasectomy).

Natural methods  
Different types of natural methods are:

- Timing methods – depend on avoiding sexual intercourse during the woman's fertile times (e.g. Billings method). It is best to be trained properly in these methods by a sexual health professional.

- Withdrawal – the man withdraws his penis from the woman's vagina before he ejaculates. This is not a reliable method of contraception.

Self care  
• Read and follow the product instructions for your contraception.

- Watch out for side effects of hormone contraception (e.g. headache, nausea, sore breasts, acne, mood changes, bloating).

- Don't smoke. Smoking increases the health risks of hormone contraception.

- Use a water-based lubricant with rubber condoms to reduce the risk of the condom breaking.
- Use a fresh condom each time you have sexual intercourse.
- Use

condoms to protect against STIs.

Important  
Talk to a sexual health and family planning clinic, a doctor or a Piggott's Pharmacist if:

- you want advice about contraception
- you miss doses of your oral contraceptive pill
- you have side effects from hormone contraception
- your period is missed, irregular or unusual
- you have unprotected sex (e.g. a condom breaks) and want emergency contraception.

Emergency contraceptive pill

A woman can take the emergency contraceptive pill to reduce the risk of getting pregnant after unprotected intercourse. It is also called 'the morning after pill'. The emergency contraceptive pill is most likely to prevent pregnancy if it is taken as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse. You can get the emergency contraceptive pill from a Piggott's Pharmacist without a prescription.

# EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



**15 Wentworth Close, BRANXTON NSW 2335**  
**9.83HA/24.3AC**  
**Lots 80 (7.72HA) & 81(2.11HA) in DP 1264654**  
**RU2 Rural Landscape under the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011**

To be sold as one or individually.  
 Lot 80 includes a 3-bedroom brick & tile cottage.  
 The property is watered by 20,000litre tank with good shedding & stock yards.  
 Ideal grazing.  
 Inspections can be arranged by contacting Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate.



**CLOSING: Wednesday, 30th July 2021 at 4pm (if not sold prior)**

**BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE**

**P: 4938 3300 M: 0414 757 826/0412 566 041**

## Asian-style meatballs



Serves 4  
 Prep 15m  
 Cooking 10m

**Ingredients**  
 500g Australian Pork Mince  
 2 tsp finely chopped lemongrass or lemongrass paste  
 1 spring onion, thinly sliced  
 1/2 tsp sesame oil  
 2 tbs finely grated ginger  
 4 garlic cloves, crushed  
 1 tbs vegetable oil  
 1/4 cup (60ml) soy sauce  
 1/4 cup (60ml) Chinese rice wine  
 2 tbs sweet chilli sauce  
 2 x 250g pkts Coconut Chilli Lime Microwave Rice  
 Steamed Asian greens, to serve

Sliced spring onion, extra, to serve  
 Coriander sprigs, to serve  
 Finely chopped chilli, to serve (optional)  
**Method**  
**STEP 1**  
 Combine the mince, lemongrass, spring onion, sesame oil, half the ginger and half the garlic in a large bowl. Roll 1-tbs portions into balls.  
**STEP 2**  
 Heat the vegetable oil in a wok or large non-stick frying pan over medium-high heat. Add half the meatballs and cook, turning, for 5



mins or until brown all over and almost cooked through. Transfer to a plate. Repeat with the remaining meatballs. Cover with foil to keep warm.  
**STEP 3**  
 Add the soy sauce, rice wine, chilli sauce, remaining ginger and remaining garlic to the wok or pan. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 3 mins or until the sauce thickens slightly. Return meatballs to the wok or pan and toss to coat.  
**STEP 4**  
 Meanwhile, heat the rice following packet directions.  
**STEP 5**  
 Divide the rice, Asian greens and meatball mixture among serving bowls. Sprinkle with extra spring onion, coriander and chilli, if using, to serve.



# \$1 million in funding to upgrade local RFS sheds



North Rothbury Rural Fire Service

Cessnock City Council has been successful in securing \$1 million, under the NSW Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, to upgrade 11 Rural Fire Service (RFS) Sheds in the Cessnock Local Government Area.

This is welcome news for local RFS personnel as many of the sheds are in need of an upgrade to better support local volunteers and the work they do in protecting our community.

Bucketty and Laguna RFS have attracted the most funding, between them they'll undertake major upgrades worth more than \$500,000.

Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP said it's fantastic news and investment for our courageous and hardworking volunteers. "Where better for a government to invest than in the RFS. The \$1 million tells us that we had quite a list of things that needed to be done at our various RFS stations. I'm sure this funding will allow us to tick a few off that 'to do' list."

Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said its great news for the Lower Hunter RFS and local volunteer RFS Brigades.

"The role the RFS plays in our community is absolutely critical. We want to support them in any way we can as they are the first to help us in a crisis."

"The funding means more capacity for larger fire trucks, more volunteers, improved functionality of briefing/training facilities and a safer facility for community volunteers. This will enable the communities within Cessnock to be better prepared and more resilient to future disasters."

Laguna RFS Captain, Andrew Jones welcomed the funding.

"Our small truck bay will be expanded to accommodate a modern tanker, the outside toilet will be refurbished into male and female toilets and our training/meeting room will be expanded to include a kitchen and storage area. The 2019/20 fire season showed just how important a functional station is to the community. This will allow us to be better prepared for the future."

North Rothbury, Central Cessnock, Benwerrin, Greta, Kearsley, Mulbring, Neath, Pokolbin, and Quorrobolong RFS sheds will also benefit under the funding.

This project aligns with The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience, by improving community resilience to future natural disasters. Upgrades will begin this year and be completed by June 2023.

## Daily Thoughts

"Why can we remember the tiniest detail that has happened to us, and not remember how many times we have told it to the same person." **Francois de La Rochefoucauld**

"The amount of sleep required by the average person is about five minutes more." **Max Kauffmann**

"A stupid man's report of what a clever man says is never accurate because he unconsciously translates what he hears into something he can understand." **Bertrand Russell**



## USE OF COUNCIL'S SPORTING FACILITIES 2021/2022 SUMMER SEASON

Applications for the use of Council's recreation facilities by personal trainers, educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups during the Summer Sporting Season (2 October 2021 to 13 March 2022) are now open.

**Applications should be submitted to Council by Friday 27 August 2021.**

Applications are available via Council's website ([www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)) or from Council's Administration Building, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised sporting activities can take place.

Enquiries should be made to Council's Recreation and Community Facilities Liaison Officer, Kate Hicks on 02 4993 4234.

## USE OF COUNCIL'S OUTDOOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS 2021/2022 SUMMER SEASON

Applications for the use of Cessnock and Branxton Swimming Pools during the upcoming Summer Season by educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups are now open. **Applications should be submitted by Friday 27 August 2021.** Bookings for the Pool season commence Tuesday 5 October 2021. Application forms are available via Council's website ([www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)) or from Council's Administration Building, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised swimming activities can take place.

Enquiries should be made to Council's Recreation and Community Facilities Liaison Officer, Kate Hicks on 02 4993 4234.

## CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR GRANT SCHEME 2021/2022

### SPORTING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Cessnock City Council has \$30,000 available within the Sporting Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme and \$30,000 in the Community Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to Sporting and Community Groups.

All applicants must contact Council's Recreation and Community Facilities Liaison Officer, Mrs Kate Hicks on 4993 4234 prior to lodging an application.

### COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Cessnock City Council has \$25,000 available within the Community and Cultural Development Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to not-for-profit Community, Arts and Cultural Groups.

All applicants must contact Council's Community and Cultural Development Officer, Ms Jo Miller on 4993 4258 prior to lodging an application.

Groups are invited to apply for funds through these Grant Schemes.

Grants will be provided on a Dollar for Dollar basis and Council will assess applications in line with a preset selection criteria. It is preferred that all projects are completed within a twelve (12) month period.

Application forms and Grant Guidelines are available from Council's Administration Building or via Council's website ([www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)). **Completed application forms must be returned no later than 5.00pm Friday, 3 September 2021.**





**WITH .....**

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

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

**SHAW & BUNNER**  
LEGAL

Mr Lowe said gross domestic product was expected to decline in the September quarter, but predicted the economy would bounce back. "The experience to date has been that once virus outbreaks are contained, the economy bounces back quickly," he said. "Prior to the current virus outbreaks, the Australian economy had considerable momentum and it is still expected to grow strongly again next year.



The extended lockdown in Greater Sydney is expected to hit the national economy. Picture: Getty

"The economy is benefiting from significant additional policy support and the vaccination program will also assist with the recovery."

Mr Lowe said the RBA board will not lift the cash rate until actual inflation is sustainably within its 2-3% target range.

"The central scenario for the economy is that this condition will not be met before 2024," he said.

Greater Sydney's extended lockdown has made the RBA's position on rate changes even clearer, according to realestate.com.au economist Paul Ryan.

"There was a lot of speculation a month or so ago that the improving economic climate would mean that the RBA would bring forward policy changes sooner than their stated expectation of 2024," Mr Ryan said.

"What the lockdown means is that they're increasingly unlikely to do that."

While Greater Sydney's nine-week lockdown currently runs until 28 August, there is speculation it will continue into September.

Lockdowns to push economy into the red Economists expect the long Sydney lockdown and the short shutdowns in Victoria and South Australia, which both ended a week ago, will lead to negative economic growth in the September quarter.

While acknowledging the economic outlook for coming months was uncertain, Mr Lowe said the RBA's central scenario was for the economy to grow by a little over 4% over 2022 and by about 2.5% over 2023.

"This scenario is based on a significant share of the population being vaccinated by the end of this year and a gradual opening up of the international border from the middle of 2022," he said.

Mr Lowe said the RBA will maintain a flexible approach to its rate of government bond purchases under its quantitative easing program.

"The program will continue to be reviewed in light of economic

conditions and the health situation, and their implications for the expected progress towards full employment and the inflation target," he said.

Mr Lowe said the RBA board remains committed to maintaining highly accommodative monetary conditions to support a return to full employment in Australia and inflation consistent with its target.

"Together, the low level of the cash rate, the bond purchase program, the yield target and the ongoing funding that has been provided under the term funding facility are providing substantial support to the Australian economy in the face of lockdowns in parts of the country and the expected resumption of the economic expansion," Mr Lowe said.

While the RBA's package of monetary policy measures have helped lower funding costs for all borrowers, Mr Ryan said the rate of bond purchases would not have a big impact on borrowing rates.

"The RBA will do what it deems appropriate to keep the cost of borrowing low, consistent with what they expect for the path of policy in the future," Mr Ryan said.

"At the end of the day, the change in the rate of those bond purchases isn't likely to have a huge effect on borrowing rates for say consumers with a home loan. It will be at the margin."

Mr Ryan said while the RBA would expect a lot of short-term weakness, the extended Sydney lockdown was unlikely to have a huge impact on the bank's inflation forecast for the end of 2023 and 2024, and therefore its expectations for the timing of a rate move.

"But it is likely to mean that all of that economic momentum we had pre-six months ago will have been dashed, so it's unlikely that those inflationary pressures will be able to build in time to make the RBA move faster than they expected," Mr Ryan said.

"If anything, it may push out their expectations for when policy changes happen."

Mr Lowe said in the bank's central scenario, it would take some years for the stronger economy to feed through into wage and price increases that were consistent with the inflation target.

Mr Ryan did not expect an early rate move before 2024, given the time it would take for inflation to be sustainably within the RBA's target range.

"Because of this hit to economic growth now, it rules out inflationary pressure building in the next 18 months, certainly," he said.

"It's not my expectation that we will have inflation strong enough to warrant a RBA policy change until 2024 or 2025."

Mr Ryan said the snap lockdown in south-east Queensland, now due to last eight days until Sunday 8 August, would compound the short-term weakness in the economy.

Property prices to soar despite lockdowns Mr Lowe said housing markets have continued to strengthen, with prices rising in all major markets.

"Housing credit growth has picked up, with strong demand from owner occupiers, including first-home buyers," he said

## 10 Hilarious Things Said in a Court Room

Life is chaotic at the moment as we are all feeling the pandemic fatigue. We thought we would lighten up this fortnight's instalment with some funny things that people have actually said whilst giving evidence in Court.

Most trials have stenographers recording everything being said: they record the good, the bad and the occasionally ridiculous.



### Death by Autopsy

LAWYER: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

LAWYER: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

WITNESS: He told me, he says, "I have to kill you because you can identify me."

LAWYER: Did he kill you?

WITNESS: No. Try to get her name right.

wearing a mask. LAWYER: What was he wearing under the mask?

WITNESS: Er...his face. Can you do the thing you just said you couldn't do?

### At least he's being honest

LAWYER: Now sir, I'm sure you are an intelligent and honest man—

WITNESS: Thank you. If I weren't under oath, I'd return the compliment.

LAWYER: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

LAWYER: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!ing Ext

LAWYER: You don't know what it was, and you didn't know what it looked like, but can you describe it?

If two people died and one is still alive... well, you do the math

### The defence calls... the Bearded Lady!

LAWYER: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard.

LAWYER: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town, I'm going with male.

All responses must be oral.

LAWYER: All your responses must be oral, okay? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral...

When witnesses don't have x-ray vision

### First way to identify a murder victim: Are they dead currently?

LAWYER: What happened then?

LAWYER: Can you describe what the person who attacked you looked like?

WITNESS: No. He was

LAWYER: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

LAWYER: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

### Are you drunk right now?

LAWYER: Officer, what led you to believe the defendant was under the influence?

WITNESS: Because he was argumentary, and he couldn't pronounce his words

### as it keeps official interest rates on hold until 2024.

The RBA board kept the cash rate on hold at a record low 0.1% last Tuesday.

RBA governor Philip Lowe said the recent coronavirus outbreaks are interrupting Australia's economic recovery, which had been stronger than initially expected.

"The economic outlook for the coming months is uncertain and depends upon the evolution of the health situation and the containment measures," Mr Lowe said in a statement after Tuesday's monthly board meeting.



## Reserve Bank keeps rates on hold as COVID lockdowns hit economy

Megan Neil

The Reserve Bank of Australia expects the nation's economy to

bounce back quickly once Sydney's extended COVID lockdown ends,



**Helen Lowing,**  
Licencee-in-Charge with 30  
years Real Estate experience in  
the local area

**BRANXTON & VINE-  
YARDS REAL ESTATE**

P: 4938 3300  
M: 0412 566 041  
www.domain.com.au

**Save the date** NSW Electoral Commission

**2021 NSW Local Government elections**

**Saturday**

**4 December**

Voting is compulsory

[elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21](http://elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21)  
1300 135 736

# Church in Community

by Rev Nicole Baldwin



Recently, The Right Reverend Sonia Roulston visited our Parish. Bishop Sonia is with us spiritually each week, but it is particularly lovely for her to be with us in person, to lead us in worship, to celebrate with us and then to share fellowship with us. It was a beautiful day, made more special for the time shared with one another in our community. The morning began at Holy Trinity Lochinvar, where Bishop Sonia presided at Holy Communion. It was a cold morning and yet the warmth of those gathered to celebrate Christ's love amongst us was evident. Due to the restrictions in place at the time of Bishop Sonia's visit, we wore masks and listened to the hymns chosen. We then drove up over Harper's Hill to St John's Branxton, where again Bishop Sonia presided at Holy Communion. The Confirmation of Chelsea was part of this Holy Communion. Chelsea's mother and sister, and our parish family celebrated with her this important part of her journey with Jesus. Chelsea's confirmation was a public declaration of her decision to live as a disciple of Christ. As Christians, we seek to support each other on this journey. Twenty-one of us met a little later in the day to

share a meal and time together at the Royal Federal Branxton. We endeavour to support our local businesses whenever we can and enjoy the opportunity to gather together over lunch and dinner. Thank you to the staff at the Royal Federal for a beautiful lunch. The Church is the people of God. We are here for our community and we seek to love and serve the communities of Branxton, Greta and Lochinvar. We do this in many ways. We pray for all people who live and work in our community, for business owners, for community leaders, and all who travel through our community. We are active members of local community groups. By shopping locally, we support local businesses. Building relationships within our community strengthens our whole community by developing and deepening friendships. Anglicans have been a part of these communities for well over one hundred years. It is our delight and privilege to continue the good work that has been done. As our community continues to grow, we will continue to be Church in community.



Communion service at St John's Branxton



Communion service at Holy Trinity Lochinvar



■ Enjoying a wonderful meal at the Royal Federal



■ Chelsea & Rev Nicole

**Australian Government**

# ARM your work mates AGAINST COVID-19

A COVID-19 vaccine is your best defence and our only way forward. Now's the time to arm yourself, your family, your friends, your work mates, your community – someone you love.

Book your vaccination online or call 1800 020 080.

**COVID-19  
VACCINATION**

**Find out when you can get vaccinated [australia.gov.au](https://australia.gov.au)**

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

# Cessnock Council adopts plans for jobs and economic development

Cessnock City has announced that it has adopted the Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2036 and Economic Growth Agenda. On public exhibition throughout May, the Strategy and Agenda were supported unanimously at the July meeting of Council.

The Strategy outlines economic development priorities and opportunities that will maximise the prosperity of the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). It articulates the plan to accomplish jobs growth, wage growth, education attainment and increased visitor expenditure through productivity, investment, innovation and people.

It is supported by the Economic Growth Agenda, which advocates for external support to achieve Strategy initiatives, and invites the Australian and NSW governments to work with Cessnock City on key projects.

Council also endorsed the creation of an additional Economic Growth Agenda which focuses solely on infrastructure priorities such as the local road network, Cessnock CBD bypass, Wollombi Road upgrade and more.

Council's General Manager, Lotta



Jackson said the importance of jobs and economic development in the growing Cessnock LGA could not be understated. "It is predicted that by 2036 Cessnock's population will have grown to almost 80,000 people, with an additional 5,000 new homes built in the area. The Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2036 and

Economic Growth Agenda represent the groundwork for supporting this growth into the future", she said. The General Manager will report back to Council every 6 months on the progress and delivery of identified Strategy and Agenda opportunities.

## Postponement of the NSW Local Government elections

The NSW Government has announced a new date for the Local Government elections in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation.

Previously scheduled for Saturday 4 September 2021, the new date has been set for Saturday 4 December 2021. The decision was made by Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock following consultation with NSW Health and the NSW Electoral Commission. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent will continue to hold office until a new Mayor is elected in December. Councillors will also retain their positions. Mayor Pynsent said he remains committed to the role until he can officially hand over the reins.

"It's unfortunate COVID-19 has once again impacted the NSW Local Government elections but

I'm committed to staying on as Mayor for the additional time. The priority is to keep our community safe. I will continue to work hard and advocate for the Cessnock LGA and thank all community members for doing

the right thing to keep the virus out of the Hunter Valley", he said. The candidate nomination period has also been rescheduled. Where nominations previously opened on Monday

26 July and closed on Wednesday 4 August, candidates will now be eligible to nominate from Monday 25 October 2021 to Wednesday 3 November 2021. Both voters and prospective candidates can find out more via the NSW Electoral Commission and Office of Local Government websites.

**Rothbury Water Cartage**  
Domestic Mining Civil Rail

- \* 13,000 litre
- \* Operating 7-days a week
- \* Domestic, Mining, Civil & Rail

Call Peter on 0417 499 554 or email  
Grovers384@bigpond.com  
26 Mayne Street, North Rothbury NSW 2335

### Daily Thoughts ...

"When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail." **Abraham Maslow**  
What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant? **Anon.**  
"The scientific name for an animal that doesn't either run from or fight its enemies, is lunch." **Michael Friedman**

**Bingo and DINNER**  
AN EVENING OF FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

**2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**6PM DINNER**  
**7PM BINGO**

at the Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club  
2 West Street, Greta, NSW, 2324  
Inglican Church  
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY... LOVING OUR COMMUNITY

**Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate** 4938 3300

**BRE Branxton**

A local business with local knowledge...  
Helen Lowing Sales Consultant

**C.R. SMYTH & SON**  
FUNERAL SERVICES

24 hours  
7 days

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

Rutherford 4932 7744  
Cessnock 4990 1425  
Kurri Kurri 4937 4811

**Bingo and DINNER**  
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY... LOVING OUR COMMUNITY

**2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**  
**BINGO \$10 DINNER \$10**

~~MAY~~  
~~JUNE~~  
~~JULY~~  
**AUGUST**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**OCTOBER**  
**NOVEMBER**  
**DECEMBER**

Inglican Church



## Lochinvar Hotel

Come and enjoy a great country pub with a friendly atmosphere & great customer service.

We offer great food, Hunter Valley Wines, Live Entertainment, Foxtel, Tab & Keno In our newly renovate d facilities, Large beer garden, comfortable accommodation with a great country atmosphere and ice-cold beer pouring from 26 taps including a Great Selection of Craft Beer and your favourites Toohey's New, Old, Great Northern & more....



Courtesy Bus operates on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Nights from 4.30pm, servicing from Rutherford, Branxton, Bishops Bridge, Lambs Valley and anywhere in between.

The restaurant offers great food,

with a wide range of delicious lunches starting at \$10.00 available 7 days.

Become a Lochinvar Hotel member for just \$5 and receive Discounts on:

Tap Beer, House Wine by the Glass, Post Mix and Main Meals

Call 49307216 to book your table now!!!

## **Come And Make Lochinvar Hotel Your Local!**

Totalizator Act 1997 (NSW) Advisory Statement - Help is close at hand - [www.gambleaware.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gambleaware.nsw.gov.au) 1800 858 858

**MONDAY NIGHTS**

**CHICKEN SCHNITZELS**



**\$10.50**

Includes Schnitzel, Chips or Mash & Gravy.  
Additional added at extra cost.

**TUESDAY NIGHTS**



**\$19.90**

**BURGER & BEER**

\* Purchase any burger & receive a complimentary Beer / Wine or Soft Drink.  
Additional added at extra cost.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

**CRUMBED STEAK**



**\$10.50**

Includes Steak with Gravy + Chips or Mash.  
\*Additional added at extra cost.  
\*The availability of this offer is subject to member demand.

**THURSDAY NIGHTS**

**OYSTERS**

Your choice of  
• Natural •  
• Kilpatrick •  
• Mornay •

**6 for \$15.50**

**SUNDAYS AT THE LOCHINVAR HOTEL**

**ROAST OF THE DAY**



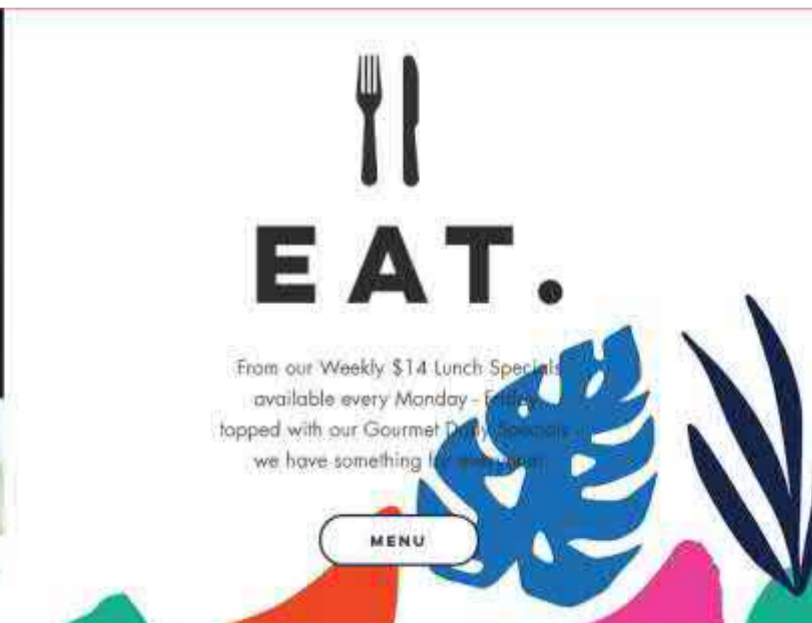
**\$14.50**

Large Roast served with Vegetables and Dinner Roll



- Please check to see what effect the current Covid-19 Lockdown has on operating hours

- Open 7 days, Mon-Sat 10am-1am & Sunday 10am 10pm
- Located 358 New England Hwy Rutherford 2320
  - Huge Kids Playground
  - Outdoor Undercover Beer Garden
  - Indoor Enclosed Beer Garden with a Big Screen TV
- Pizza & Gelato & Cocktails Bar
- Monday- Friday \$14 Lunch Specials
- Live Music every Friday & Saturday Night (not including during Covid)
- Large Front Bar, TAB and Restaurant areas & upstairs Function Room available for all types of events



358 New England highway  
rutherford, nsw 2320  
P: 4932 1842

## Alex McKinnon inspires over 250 local students

Cessnock City Council held its annual School Leaders' Breakfast this morning, with former Newcastle Knights player Alex McKinnon inspiring over 250 students with his personal story.

The now, 29 year old, opened up about his life, from growing up in Aberdeen to chasing his dream to play professional football, to making it into the NRL and playing for the Newcastle Knights and then suffering a devastating spinal injury that changed

his life. Alex spoke honestly to students about the daily struggles he faced and the unimaginable challenges he came up against. Alex said after he was injured he identified and focused on the things he could control. "Things happen in life that we don't expect or don't understand. We have to look at what we can control and educate ourselves on things we don't know about. We need to respect these things, get out of our

comfort zone and then we will achieve growth." Students were asked to think about their own values and personal qualities. Alex urged students to reflect on these when making decisions as leaders. Alex talked about his six month stay in hospital and how he thought deeply about how his injury was affecting his family and friends. This helped his mindset and attitude during recovery. Another tip for students was about the

importance of practicing gratitude. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said Alex had a fantastic message around leadership. "Alex stressed that a leader isn't always popular but must be respected for their actions. This resonates with me personally and is a great piece of wisdom for our future local leaders."



## Dollar for Dollar Grants Scheme opens for community, cultural and sporting groups

Cessnock City Council's Dollar for Dollar Grants Scheme is open for community, cultural and sporting groups. The scheme will see \$85,000 invested into the local community.

\$30,000 is available to support local sporting groups kick off important projects. This could include improving sporting facilities or purchasing equipment for the long term benefit of a sporting club and its members.

Another \$30,000 is on offer for Council owned community facilities such as halls and other buildings in need of an update. The grants scheme supports the completion of minor capital works or the purchase of equipment that will help residents enjoy a facility more.

Not-for-profit community, arts and cultural groups can apply for funding with \$25,000 available. The grants can be used to undertake projects, activities and events that increase opportunities for community participation and improve community well-being or that benefit cultural or artistic development for the wider community. The grants scheme can also be used to undertake improvements to Council owned facilities that contribute to the cultural or artistic use of the facility.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encouraged organisations to look at the guidelines and talk to the relevant Council officer about their project.

"This grant scheme has delivered some fantastic projects and upgrades in our community. From a new safety rail at the Branxton Croquet Club, kitchen appliances at the Cessnock District Hockey Association and grandstand flooring for the Mulbring Cricket Club."

"While in the arts it has funded the restoration of four Kurri Kurri murals, machinery and tools for the Cessnock Wood turners and provided support for Sculpture in the Vineyards."

All applications must be discussed with the relevant Council officer. Applications close 5pm Friday 3 September 2021.



### Tatt's Family Hotel Greta under new management

Tattersalls at Greta is an authentic Country Pub. Located at the gate way to Hunter Valley Wine Country and the Horse Racing Industry of the Hunter Valley, the pub has a long rich history that makes it well worth visiting. From the 1800s welcoming coal miners, then many nationalities from the Migrant Camp, Soldiers from the Army camp. If only the walls could talk.. Today Covid has held development up in bringing Tattersalls back to a Family Hotel where everyone in the community is welcome. We are welcoming back the coal miners, with our Early Opener miners breakfast, including a beer and/or barista coffee. Weekends will see the lazy day Brunch gourmet breakfast for locals and tourists alike followed on by lunch and dinner at the bar in the dining room or the beer garden.

Tattersalls is Greta's Local Pub where the locals gather to catch up with friends and to support each other in good times and bad times. It's a place for the travelling public to stop and for the tourist to be welcomed to enjoy a cold icy beer, cocktail, coffee, and a chat as well as being able to stay overnight.

Reggie, the courtesy bus, picks up through out the neighbouring villages of Greta, Branxton, Huntley, Lochinvar, Lovedale, Allandale and to the resorts by booking one hour prior to your pickup time and there is an abundance of off street parking for vans and larger vehicles.

The veteran motorcycle enthusiasts gather annually to the delight of the crowds admiring many types of bikes. Tattersalls is the place for Remembrance on ANZAC day with 2-up and family activities.

If you are looking for a place for a celebration, reunions, wakes, club meetings, ladies days out, Tattersalls is the place. You can even have a hair cut or treatment while you have a beer or coffee.

Tattersalls have combined beer, wine, accommodation and horses. Trail riding, including pony rides, pony birthday parties (and for older ones as well) picnic rides, marriage proposals, tractor-hay-rides to feed the animals and Peddle Go Karts. Special days will have pony rides at the pub. A horse tie-up rail and watering trough will be available for Greta's equestrians who wish to ride their horse to the pub for a drink. and for the faster and more exhilarating horse enthusiast, jump on a tour for a day at the races, have a great day and return to recapture the moments over a cold beer. TAB and KENO facilities are at the bar.

Once Covid is gone there will be entertainment returning as well as Pool Comp and dart competitions. Quizbiz Trivia and karaoke will resume and the beautiful piano will be playing again.



**TATTERSALLS**  
HOTEL

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

# BULLETON

Br 16.1hh

- Dam - BEAT THE BULLET by Bite the Bullet, 10 runners ALL WINNERS (1000-2500m) incl G1 HOLLOW BULLET, LAST BULLET, RED HOT MAMA - 91 cheques (17 in Group/Stakes races)
- Second dam - 4 runners ALL WINNERS - 29 wins 1000-1500m.

Early comers, prolific winners breeding on with million dollar results in the ring and on the track.

- Sire - RUBITON Horse of the Year and outstanding sire incl dam of REDZEL. The only horse to win and sire winner of Australia's greatest weight for age race, the G1 Cox Plate since Heroic!

Sire of tough, versatile winners that train on.

BULLETON's first 3 runners are ALL money winners including 2017 Randwick Highway Plate winner Mr. Spin \$100,090. His bloodlines nick well with Northern Dancer, Mr. Prospector, Sunday Silence.

Bulleton returns to the breeding barn after being lost to breeders for 5 years due to owners health.



2018

RE-INTRODUCTORY

FEE: \$3,300

(discount for successful mares) free return

PHONE: (02) 6846 8208 M: 0447 674 320

EMAIL: \* stuarttownstud@activ8.net.au

# For Sale



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS  
REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

## NORTH ROTHBURY



**Lots 521 & 523 Littlewood Road,**  
Vacant blocks

4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks. Fully Fenced & within minutes to Hunter Wine Country

**ASKING: \$420,000 each**

## EAST BRANXTON



**Three bedroom family home on large fenced block**  
This property is exactly what most would like; a wonderful family home on a 809 square metres fully fenced in a very good area of town. Three good sized bedrooms with built-ins in main bedroom, an extra large lounge room and good sized kitchen eat-in dining area. It comes with ducted air conditioning, a single lock up garage, a good sized patio & BBQ area in back yard.

Well priced & recommend inspection

**ASKING: \$510,000**

## NORTH ROTHBURY



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

Things You Will Love About This Escape Acreage...

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

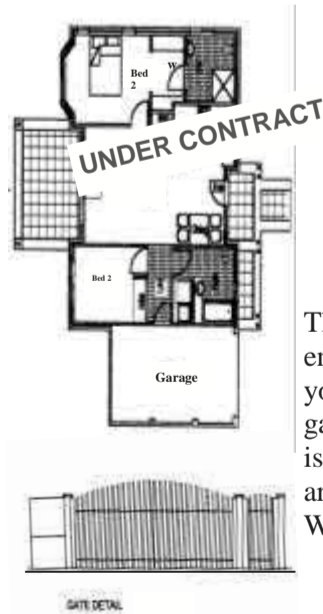
**ASKING 745,000**



**Thinking of selling?**  
Prices currently are at record highs. Please give us a call for a **FREE** property price appraisal

## BRANXTON

### SENIOR LIVING "Branxton Gardens"



#### Unit 18 Branxton Gardens "Senior Living"

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

**ASKING \$320,000**

## Building Blocks

**NORTH ROTHBURY**  
Vacant building block ~ 809m<sup>2</sup>

Vacant Building Block  
Fantastic visage

**ASKING \$130,000 ono**

## BELFORD

**Vacant Building Block**  
2559m<sup>2</sup>

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

**ASKING \$160,000 ONO**

## NORTH ROTHBURY

**Vacant building block**

A 809 square metre flat which is relatively flat; an east-west orientation.  
Wonderful views from the back to the north overlooking Huntlee & the mountains to the north.

**ASKING \$135,000**





"A hypnotic and beautiful novel." Rebecca Starford

# The Labyrinth



## Amanda Lohrey

### Miles Franklin Literary Award 2021 shortlist & winner

By Kate Evans for *The Bookshelf*; Claire Nichols and Sarah L'Estrange for *The Book Show*  
**The Miles Franklin shortlist for 2021 was announced earlier this year: six novels by Australian writers that are deemed by the judges to be of high literary merit in representing "Australian life in any of its phases".**

Besides being Australia's most prestigious literary prize, it's also one of the richest, with the winning author receiving \$60,000. This year's shortlist was notable for spanning from early-career to established authors, with three debut novels (Andrew Pippos's *Lucky's*, Madeleine Watts's *The Inland Sea* and Daniel Davis Wood's *At the Edge of the Solid World*) up against the fourth novel by Booker Prize winner Aravind Adiga, and the eighth book by award-winning author Amanda Lohrey. Sydney featured heavily in the shortlist, as a key setting for *Lucky's*, *The Inland Sea* and Adiga's *Amnesty*, and a lesser



setting in Lohrey's *The Labyrinth*. Robbie Arnott's *The Rain Heron* might be considered a surprising choice for a prize focused on literature about Australia, given that it's set in an unnamed country that has experienced a recent coup — suggesting that the judges read the novel's setting as a non-literal version of Australia. **The winner of the 2021 Miles Franklin Literary Award was announced on July 15 & was won by Tasmanian author Amanda Lohrey for *The Labyrinth*** It was praised by the judges as "a beautifully written reflection on the conflicts between parents and children, men and women,

and the value and purpose of creative work". She is the second Tasmanian to win the award in its 64-year history, following the late Christopher Koch (for *The Doubleman*, in 1985 and *Highways to a War*, in 1996). Accepting the award from Palawa country on the north-east coast of Tasmania, where she lives, Lohrey thanked her agent of 30 years, Lyn Tranter, her editor, David Winter and Text Publishing, "[which] has always put literary values ahead of commerce". She also thanked her family and friends "for putting up with a very vague and distracted writer". In *The Labyrinth*, hotel receptionist Erica Marsden moves from Sydney to a small town on the south coast of New South Wales to be closer to her son Daniel, a mentally disturbed artist who is serving a life sentence for homicidal negligence. As she looks for a suitable house to buy, she is guided by a mission sent to her in a dream: to build a labyrinth, defined in the book as "a single path that leads in a convoluted unravelling to its centre, and back out again". Why dream about a labyrinth? Erica used to play in one as a child, when she lived on the grounds of an asylum where her father worked as a psychiatrist. Dreams, psychiatry, labyrinths — yes, Jung is a clear influence in this book. An epigraph reads: "The cure for many ills, noted Jung, is to build something." To underscore the point, Lohrey makes sure the reader knows right off the bat that a labyrinth is "unlike a maze, which is a puzzle of mostly blind alleys designed for entrapment." Erica takes the reader on a journey into herself — as well as a more external journey, through which

she mends her damaged relationship with her son and finds her place within her new small-town community. Richard Neville, Mitchell Librarian of the State Library of NSW and Chair of the judging panel, describes it as "an elegiac novel, soaked in sadness". But it's fundamentally a novel about hope and resilience. **The idea of a labyrinth** Lohrey, like most writers — and certainly all great ones — is a keen observer. She says *The Labyrinth* started with her observation that around the world, labyrinths were proliferating. So were related things like "walking meditation", where people walk these paths as a form of spiritual activity or mindfulness practice. Which led her to wonder: Why? "I'm really interested in how people create special places [or] special spaces," she tells ABC Arts. "People who are not religious nevertheless go about creating a place that's sacred to them: special and meaningful. With the decline of religion, that's become even more the case." Lohrey has a long-standing interest in spirituality, evidenced in her novels *A Short History of Richard Kline* (2015) and *The Philosopher's Doll* (2004), which she has previously ascribed to being raised Catholic. She also took up meditation as a young woman and has been interested in how (and why) people gravitate towards that as a practice. More recently, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she observed the boom in renovation and saw it as a symptom of a similar, fundamental urge: "To create an ideal refuge." Jung might have agreed: "He was very, very big on making; using the hands," Lohrey says. "And he himself, at his home, had this extraordi-

nary sort of semi-tower thing that he spent most of his life building and never finished. And that was where he would go and think and resolve tensions. You know, he practised what he preached. "It's commonplace psychology now that we can get fixated and overthink a problem but, as soon as you start to use your hands and construct something, you become more grounded in both space and time. And also forgetful — in a good way," says Lohrey. "And the labyrinth stands in for that. And I think that's why so many of them are being built around the world now. Because people don't have the consolations of religion to the same degree that they used to have. And they look to create new forms of sacred space." I ask Lohrey what her own "coping" mechanisms are, and she says: "Oh, well, I'm hopelessly impractical — like, couldn't build anything. And I'm fascinated and in awe of people who can." She pauses. "I suppose my making is writing." **Making the novel** As Kate Evans notes in her review on ABC RN's *The Bookshelf*, *The Labyrinth* is light on plot — and heavy on ideas. It's also entirely about craft — as a subject, but also in its form. "My aim was to write a narrative that felt like a meditative walk into and out of a labyrinth," Lohrey told Claire Nichols on ABC RN's *The Book Show*. "And so — to get technical about it — it takes a lot of very careful control to do that. "You really cannot afford a loose word or a spare word: the prose has to be very tight and you have to kind of hit your mark. "You know, actors when they're acting in front of the camera have to hit their mark every time: well, in this kind of story, you've got to hit the mark every time or you break the spell.

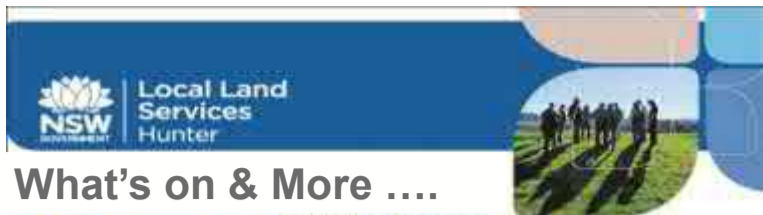
"So needless to say, it took many drafts." On a broader level, the novel takes the form of an English "pastoral" novel — but subverts it. "It's the classic story of the jaded, sophisticated city person who goes to the country to be revitalised by coming into contact with virtuous shepherds — or rural virtue," she says. "Of course, we all know that small country towns are not full of rural virtue, they're as complex and difficult as cities." In *The Labyrinth*, Lohrey writes the coastal hamlet of Garra Nalla from a degree of personal experience. "I've lived in small coastal towns, and that's pretty much how I've found them," she told *The Book Show*. "Most small coastal towns have their share of eccentrics." She points out that the neighbour Ray, in *The Labyrinth*, is conceived as an alternative "shepherd" figure — literally a laid-off roustabout — who is actually fairly unpleasant. Interestingly perhaps — particularly given the structural conceit of *The Labyrinth* — Lohrey says she's not "a planner" when it comes to her writing. "I don't plan anything, what usually happens is that an image, or snatch of dialogue even, takes hold of me and won't let me go. "And so I sit down to work with it and then it evolves into something — or it doesn't: it may just fizzle out and end up in the bottom drawer," she told *The Book Show*. "But if it develops, it develops — and I don't know where I'm going with it. Sometimes I think I do and then I turn out to be wrong. And that's half the fun, really: not knowing where you're going. "I mean, if you knew where you were going, when you started — or if I knew where I was going when I started — I'd be too bored even to start."

### The New York Times Best Sellers (15 August 2021)

1. THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME  
BY LAURA DAVE (13 WEEKS ON THE LIST)  
Hannah Hall discovers truths about her missing husband and bonds with his daughter from a previous relationship.  
Ranked 2 last week
2. PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION  
BY EMILY HENRY (12 WEEKS ON THE LIST)  
Opposites Poppy and Alex meet to vacation together one more time in hopes of saving their relationship.  
Ranked 4 last week
3. THE PAPER PALACE  
BY MIRANDA COWLEY HELLER (4 WEEKS ON THE LIST)  
After an extramarital dalliance, Elle must choose between her husband and her childhood love.  
Ranked 5 last week
4. THE CELLIST  
BY DANIEL SILVA (3 WEEKS ON THE LIST)  
The 21st book in the Gabriel Allon series. A private intelligence service plans an act of violence that will aid Russia and divide America.  
Ranked 3 last week
5. IT ENDS WITH US  
BY COLLEEN HOOVER (7 WEEKS ON THE LIST)  
A battered wife raised in a violent home attempts to halt the cycle of abuse.  
Ranked 11 last week
6. NOT A HAPPY FAMILY  
BY SHARI LAPENA (NEW THIS WEEK)  
Questions arise when a rich couple are murdered after an Easter dinner with their three adult children.
7. DEVIL IN DISGUISE  
BY LISA KLEYPAS (NEW THIS WEEK)  
The seventh book in the Ravenels series. Lady Merritt Sterling falls for a Scottish whisky distiller who is in danger.  
NEW THIS WEEK
8. CLAIMED  
BY J.R. WARD (9 WEEKS ON THE LIST)  
The first book in the Lair of the Wolfen series. Lydia Susi becomes a target when she opposes a hotel chain that wants to develop a tract of land next to a preserve.
9. MALIBU RISING  
by Taylor Jenkins Reid  
Ballantine  
An epic party has serious outcomes for four famous siblings.  
Ranked 9 last week
10. BLACK ICE  
BY BRAD THOR (2 WEEKS ON THE LIST)  
The 20th book in the Scot Harvath series. The American spy faces dangers in the Arctic Circle.

**Helen Lowing,**  
Licenced-in-Charge with 30 years Real Estate experience in the local area  
**BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE**

**P: 4938 3300**  
**M: 0412 566 041**  
[www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au)



## What's on & More ....

### PRESENTERS WANTED FOR 2022 NSW LANDCARE AND LOCAL LAND SERVICES CONFERENCE

Farmers, Landcarers and community groups with a story to tell are being encouraged to submit their ideas for an opportunity to present at the 2022 NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference in Tweed Heads.

The conference theme is 'Rethink, Renew, Recharge' with presenters and workshop hosts being sought to share their experiences of recovering from natural disasters, as well as their ideas for creating a more resilient and sustainable future.

Local Land Services Board Acting Chair, Allison Harker said this is a fantastic opportunity for passionate individuals and community groups from across the state to present and discuss their insights with the broader Landcare community.

"Throughout NSW, we know there are incredible projects being carried out that are building more resilient, sustainable and productive

landscapes and farming systems," Ms Harker said.

"This conference is the perfect place to showcase them, so we can all learn from each other.

"Whether it's regenerative agriculture, integrated pest management, or innovative ways to capitalise on the emerging natural markets like carbon farming, we want to hear from you."

Interested presenters can find out more information and download their expression of interest form at [www.nswlandcareconference.com.au/presentations](http://www.nswlandcareconference.com.au/presentations), with submissions closing on Tuesday, 31 August 2021.

Landcare NSW Chair, Stephanie Cameron encouraged Landcarers from across the state to submit an expression of interest to share, learn and connect as a community.

"Given the recent challenges we have all faced and are still facing now, we are looking for presentations and workshops

that showcase resilience, as well as how we can rethink, renew and recharge to create a sustainable future," Ms Cameron said.

"We encourage anyone involved in Landcare, natural resource management, sustainable agriculture, resilience and community empowerment to apply."

Presenters will join the program alongside Resilience NSW Commissioner, and former Rural Fire Service Commissioner, Shane Fitzsimmons, who will be making the keynote presentation.

The Conference will take place on 15-17 March at the Mantra Twin Towns in Tweed Heads. Tickets will go on sale later this year. Interested delegates and exhibitors can find updates at the conference website and by following 'NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference' on Facebook.



#### Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah Last reported 3rd August 2021

There was a good increase in the overall numbers. Vealers and yearlings were well supplied and there were greater numbers of grown cattle. The quality and condition of the offering was generally good, however there was a great deal of variation in breed quality. The usual processors were in attendance as were the regular feedlotters. Restocker activity was high on a very good quality penning of light weight young cattle. Demand was high over all categories. The quality of the vealer steers on offer was very good. This, combined with high demand and preferred breeds, resulted in all weight categories showing a substantially dearer trend. However, there were varying trends in the heifer portion. The light and heavy weights sold to dearer trends, while a greater selection of middle weights averaged cheaper. Demand for yearling steers was very high from backgrounders and feeders alike. Market trends were 10c to 20c/kg dearer on the feeders and more for those to restock. An improved quality penning and increased supply of yearling heifers sold to a significantly dearer trend, the aforementioned factors contributing. Well finished trade yearlings also sold to dearer trends. Heavy grown steers to feed followed the trend of the yearlings to sell to a dearer trend. This category also included yearlings weighing in excess of 500kg. The well finished steers purchased by processors were much dearer, with the grown heifers to process also posting strong gains. High demand for cows continued, with the market trend up to 16c/kg dearer. Bulls also posted strong improvement. *Market Reporter, James Armitage.*

#### Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton Last reported 4th August 2021

Numbers reduced only slightly for a penning of mixed quality cattle. Included in the yarding was an offering of well-bred weaner steers, a token number of cows and a well-presented draft of grain assisted and supplementary fed school show steers, which ultimately sold to processors. All the regular buyers were present, with backgrounders and feeders competitive. Weaners were in strong demand from backgrounders, with steers under 200kg selling \$9/head dearer to 734c/kg. Light and medium weight weaners sold to significantly higher trends. Heifer weaners sold to cheaper trends on average, with the quality not matching the steer drafts. Trade veal sold to a dearer trend of 17c/kg. A draft of well-finished, grain assisted school show steers were offered and sold to the trade from 514c to 540c/kg. A lack of quality through the secondary yearling steers, saw medium and heavy feeders sell to cheaper trends. However the heifer portion sold to 15c/kg better with restockers also competitive through the heifer penning. There were no numbers of grown steers or heifers to quote. Cows were in a minority with only eleven head offered. Restockers were busy through the yearling bull offering. *Market Reporter, Stephen Adams.*

#### Detailed Cattle report for Scone Last reported 3rd August 2021

Numbers increased to see a lift in quality for weaner steers, although the heifer portion saw drafts slip in quality and sell to a softer trend through some sales. There was not a lot of trade veal on offer and cows were in a minority. All the regular buyers attended with strong demand for the younger steers. Backgrounders put in a strong floor for the younger steer weaners, particularly for the well presented calves. The trend for these categories saw a rise of 16c/kg. Light feeders sold to significant rises. A lack of quality through some of the heifer drafts saw a correction, although restocker competition was still strong through the better bred offering. A limited offering of trade veal saw both heifer calves and yearling heifers sell to dearer trends. Light and medium weight feeder steers sold to cheaper trends for the most part, although the heavy drafts saw a dearer trend. No grown steers to quote, however, heavy grown heifers were slightly dearer. Cows were dearer with the medium weights up to 25c better and heavy cows up 5c to 8c/kg. Heavy bulls made to 330c/kg. *Market Reporter, Stephen Adams.*

#### Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth Last reported 9th August 2021

Numbers reduced this week with a limited supply of vealers. Yearlings were well supplied, while supplies of grown cattle were down. The quality of the offering overall was fair to very good with some high quality yearling steers and heifers penned. There was a small gallery of buyers in attendance, however most regular orders were in place. Not all processors were in attendance or active. The small number of vealers sold to cheaper trends. Light weight yearling steers to restocker and feeder buyers sold to dearer trends, posting strong gains. Medium weight yearling steers to feed sold to a slightly cheaper trend, however those to restockers were dearer. There was little but quality related price change in the heavy feeders up to 500kg. Well finished medium and heavy weight yearling heifers to restock and feed sold to dearer trends with an improvement in quality. The medium weight trade heifers were also dearer, however the heavy weights averaged down. A line of milk tooth steers in excess of 500kg included in the heavy grown steers category sold significantly dearer. Heavy weights to process also sold to dearer trends. The cow market was slightly cheaper with reduced processor competition. *Market Reporter, James Armitage*



The hemispheric long wave pattern has remained stable in recent weeks. There are five main troughs. Currently the most significant troughs are near the longitudes of South Africa, the Indian Ocean, eastern Australia, the south Pacific, and the Atlantic Ocean.

#### Summary:

Over southern and eastern Australia the cold front events with potential to bring widespread rain are now expected about 19 August to 23 August, 27 August to 31 August, and 8 September to 12 September. Rain events originating in the tropics and moving south are possible about 21 August to 25 August, 25 August to 29 August, and 8 September to 12 September.

## Racing Review & News

### Iconic Birdsville races cancelled for 2021



Birdsville Race Club president David Brook at the historic track. Picture: Nell Brook

**By Trenton Akers**  
The iconic Birdsville races have been called off due to the growing uncertainty over Covid-19 border restrictions in Queensland. Organisers made the decision to postpone the event, originally scheduled for September 3 and 4, until next year as they attempt to maximise the potential attendance.

With huge crowds traditionally descending on the tiny town of just 115 people, the decision had to be made to move the event for the second consecutive

year. The two-day event will now be held on April 10 and 11 next year, meaning the club will hold a historic two race meetings in 2022. "We are now less than a month away from the event, and more than 85% of our ticket holders reside in locations that are interstate and unable to currently enter Queensland, or in lockdown or discouraged from travelling to regional Queensland," Birdsville Race Club vice president Gary Brook said. "The fact that key staff and

contractors cannot make it to Birdsville now also jeopardises our ability to stage a successful event. "We consulted key stakeholders and feel that postponing now while our patrons and local businesses in the region can plan for it is the responsible and right thing to do. It's not what we wanted to do but it is the responsible decision. "To run the 2021 TAB Birdsville Cup in 2022 is unprecedented but if it's good enough for the Olympics, it's good enough



Birdsville Cup race day

for us." With extreme temperatures in the southwest regions, organisers said moving the event to later in the year was not an option.

"Our unique racetrack is in the Simpson Desert, and the temps regularly hit 45-50 degrees as we head into summer. We've gone with April next year when we'll

have lovely temperate weather similar to what we have in September," Brook said. It will mark just the third time since the event started

in 1882 that it has been cancelled or postponed with Covid-19 in 2020 and equine flu in 2007 the previous obstacles.

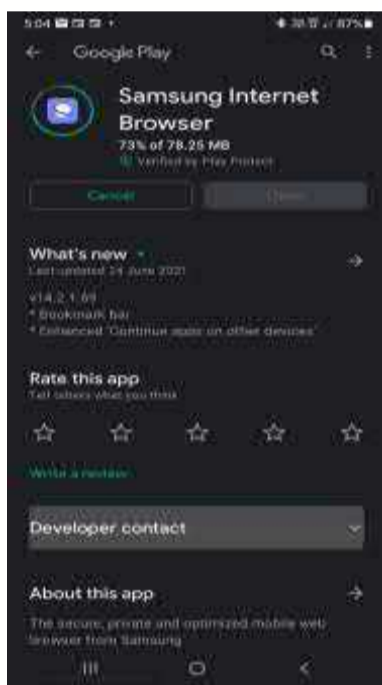


**I used to believe that phones lasted 2 years, then you bought a new one! Geez was I wrong.**  
**You should get 4 to 5 years out of your devices, minimum.**

When I owned my TV repair Business (Newcastle Telefix & Quickfix) we tried repairing the Nokia phones of the time. The charging sockets used to break and seeing as we had a dozen of them in the business, it made good sense to replace the socket rather than spend another \$1,000 and get stitched up for another 2 years on pretty much the same type of phone. At the time, nobody repaired them. The first challenge was getting the parts. Eventually we got them from Europe. The next challenge was to get through the resin "bath" that the inside of the phone had been sealed in. So, 3 hours later, it was done. These days, most people think the same about their phones and tablets but it's no longer the case. No matter

what the device brand or model, Macdroid's has the technology available to repair virtually any device that breaks...even if it looks like it's not repairable, we can normally do it. So if you've smashed the screen on your \$800 iPad, we can change it. If you've dropped your iPhone 12 or Samsung 20 Ultra and the screens and rear glass is smashed, we can fix it and we only use Genuine parts where available. Got a laptop screen that's cracked? It can be replaced. We've even done a few in-car / dash display units. All it takes is expensive equipment, good research and patience. Replacing batteries on devices is the riskiest type of repair as the screen has to be removed to access the battery (nope, the backs don't clip off anymore) so they may crack while removing it. Most repairers won't risk having to replace the screen during the process and that's why most people have been told that batteries can't be replaced. Well, if you don't know what you're doing, it's true. So, whatever device you have and think CAN'T be repaired, pop it into Macdroid's as the only things preventing it from being fixed are *Parts Availability* and the size of your credit card. Let's face it, some things just aren't worth fixing but it's your device and your money so we'll do whatever you need us to do. New phones today cost more than my 1st car! (Holden *Shaggin Wagon*). It was a great car and like many older model phones, a little bit of maintenance to make it work like NEW could easily save you thousands. I recently upgraded my Samsung Note 8. There was nothing wrong with but the new Note 20 Ultra 256gb had just

been released... Buy a \$2,000 5g phone they said. It'll be 100 times faster than your 4g phone they said. As you can see from the screenshot below, I'm in a 5g zone and I'm downloading a 70mb update file....not 70gb or 7gb or even 700mb. A lousy 70mb. 2 minutes later it was done. It should have taken 5 seconds tops! Stick with your perfectly functioning 4g phone for as long as you can. If it's not perfectly functioning, pop into Macdroids @ Greenhills so we can sort it out for you. **It's free to find out.**



**Has your phone stopped ringing? You need to advertise your business**  
**Call Mike at 'The News'**  
**4938 1773**

**Brett Hubner Plumbing**  
**0421 427 596**  
 ~ Your Local Greta Plumber ~  
 Servicing all areas

Water Servicers • Gas Servicers • Hot Water Systems  
 Blocked Sewers, Drainage & Storm Water  
 Guttering • Bath & Kitchen Renovations

L/no: 140922C

**MacDroid's**  
 Hi-Tech Gadgets Sales • Service • Support

**For Sales, Service & Advice...**

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

**1300 622 376**

# MOVIE REVIEW

## Jungle Cruise

**Jungle Cruise Review: Entertaining, But A Bit Redundant** by Kaitlyn Booth

Join fan favourites Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt for the adventure of a lifetime on Disney's JUNGLE CRUISE, a rollicking thrill-ride down the Amazon with wisecracking skipper Frank Wolff and intrepid researcher Dr. Lily Houghton. Lily travels from London, England to the Amazon jungle and enlists Frank's questionable services to guide her downriver on La Quila--his ramshackle-but-charming boat. Lily is determined to uncover an ancient tree with unparalleled healing abilities--possessing the power to change the future of medicine. Thrust on this epic quest together, the unlikely duo encounters innumerable dangers and supernatural forces, all lurking in the deceptive beauty of the lush rainforest. But as the secrets of the lost tree unfold, the stakes reach even higher for Lily and Frank and their fate--and mankind's--hangs in the balance.



also obvious that everyone involved does have a lot of love for the original attraction. The ride is absolutely nothing special, but the thing that makes it fun is having a good skipper who tells so many terrible puns and jokes that you just have to laugh. The opening scene with Frank shows him giving a jungle cruise tour while making all sorts of jokes and puns worthy of any skipper on the ride in Disney World or Disneyland. That sort of comedy will go over the heads of anyone not familiar with the ride, but for the Disney lovers in the crowd, they will love and appreciate that.

Jungle Cruise is Disney very much trying to do the Pirates of the Caribbean thing again, and when the movie manages to nail its tone, it works very well and is extremely entertaining. However, the moments when it doesn't work, it feels very redundant, like it has brought exactly nothing new to the table. The first three Pirates of the Caribbean were lightning in a bottle that probably shouldn't have worked as well as it did. They did work, though, and they brought in massive returns at the box office. However, after the third one and the downfall of **Johnny Depp**, it makes sense that Disney would want to make that lightning strike twice with another movie based on another classic theme park attraction. Jungle Cruise isn't bringing anything new to the table when it comes to this adventure genre despite how much they want to say that they are reinventing it or bringing it to a new generation. It's trying to hit a very specific note, and when it hits that note, that is when the movie shines. All the main cast is here for it, and the script must be given some credit for making **Dwayne Johnson's** Frank into an asshole for most of the movie. Unlike Elizabeth in Pirates or many other women in adventure movies, our female lead doesn't bother to go through the usual arc of straining against society. The movie makes a big deal out of the fact that she is wearing pants from the moment they set foot in the jungle with all the subtlety of a 2x4 to the face. "Our

main character is wearing pants in a time when she wasn't supposed to wear pants," the movie screams into a bullhorn. "Therefore, she is empowered. Just look at the pants." Lily is a decent character all around, but she and her brother are the ones that fall into cliché more than anyone else. For Lily, it's the fact that she doesn't care what society thinks of her, so, therefore, she is a strong woman. For MacGregor, it's a bit more insidious with its cliché. MacGregor is once again being billed as one of Disney's "out" characters [this is the fourth or fifth time this headline has been written for those of you keeping track]. Still, they decide to show that he is out by having him obsessed with his clothing and looks, constantly drawing attention to the fact that Lily is more competent than him. When they try to make it feel sincere, there is a moment that might have worked if the movie hadn't leaned so heavily into damaging clichés about queer men. This isn't a subtle movie, but the moment when MacGregor reveals that he isn't straight is subtle and would be well done if it didn't feel so out of place in the rest of the movie. You don't get to lean on the queer character for comedy because he cares about his clothes and then tries to have a sweet moment when he reveals why he would follow his sister wherever she goes. It doesn't work. While it does seem like there is a fair amount of cynicism when it comes to this movie, and there is, it's

The action scenes are pretty fun though they can get a little chaotic with the various creature designs. There are times when it could be a little hard to tell who is where in the midst of a bunch of admittedly well-designed monsters, but that is sort of to be expected. **Jesse Plemons'** villain feels like he wandered onto set from another movie, but he also steals every single scene that he is in. He's just so ridiculous that you can't look away. Jungle Cruise isn't going to change anyone's life in terms of its story or script, but it more or less finds the right balance between adventure and comedy. The puns seem to indicate at least a base knowledge, if not a love for the original attraction. The characters lean a bit too hard into cliché but are generally likable, and the over two-hour runtime breezes by, so it's well-paced. Does Disney have another franchise in the works? It's possible, and maybe the next instalment could be a bit more original and lean into its weird mythology more. **7/10** Jungle Cruise is Disney very much trying to do the Pirates of the Caribbean thing again, and when the movie manages to nail its tone, it works very well and is extremely entertaining. However, the moments when it doesn't work, it feels very redundant, like it has brought exactly nothing new to the table.



# Lost and found: How Japan's 'father of the marathon' vanished midrace

By Rick Maese

The Washington Post

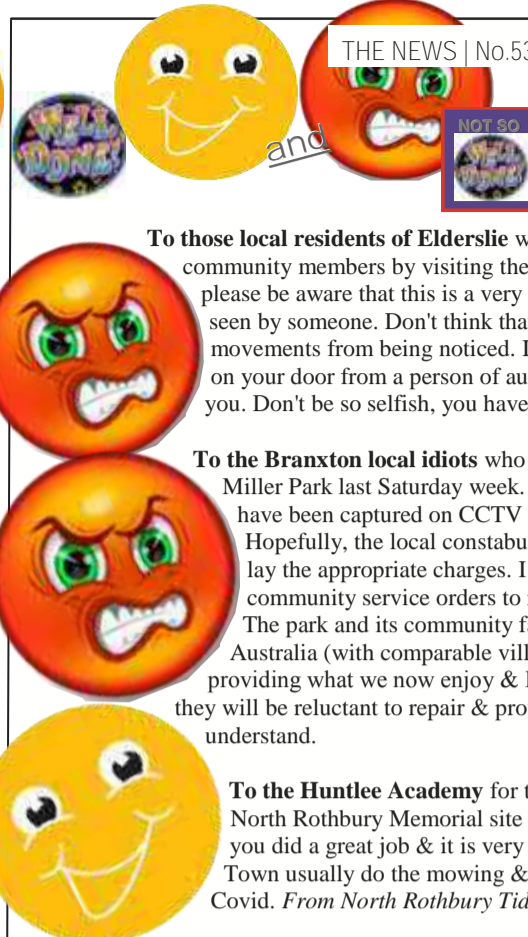
EDITORS' CHOICE

Reaching the Olympic starting line took weeks. Finding the finish took decades. And in between, the young long-distance runner — considered the “father of the marathon” in Japan — seemingly disappeared into thin air, a Swedish mystery that marked one of the most bizarre chapters of perhaps the Olympics’ most storied event. The marathon was the final medal event of this summer’s Tokyo Games. One hundred and fifty or so women and just as many men lined up in Sapporo, Japan, for separate races last weekend, their every move easy to follow with cameras all along the course, GPS tracking in every wristwatch and transponder timing chips on each runner. That was not the case at the 1912 Olympics, where the world’s best marathoners lined up at the Olympic Stadium in Stockholm for an out-and-back course. It was just the fifth edition of the modern Olympic Games, and the temperatures in Stockholm were unforgiving that day. Runners were struggling from the start and dropping out every mile. One was especially determined. Shizo Kanakuri, the first Japanese athlete to qualify for an Olympics, carried the pride and expectations of his country into the race. Just getting from Japan was a two-week ordeal that required trains, boats and patience. The 20-year old had set what was widely believed to be the record for the marathon a year earlier, and Kanakuri was taking aim at history in Sweden. But barely 16 miles into the race, he vanished off the course. A pair of South Africans were the first runners to cross the finish line back at the stadium, and one by one, others followed, exhausted and relieved.

Kanakuri never showed up, though, and race officials couldn’t find him. The Olympics eventually packed up and left town. The world would soon go to war, international sporting events were canceled, and for decades in Sweden, Kanakuri was considered missing. “Kanakuri was a good runner and a very important runner in Japan,” said Kazuo Sayama, the Japanese sports historian and Kanakuri biographer. “But it was vanishing that day that made him famous to many.” Kanakuri grew up in a rural town called Nagomi, located on western island of Kyushu, in a family of modest means that made and sold sake. His grade school was nearly four miles away, and he got there each day by running. This informal training would prove invaluable years later when he received proper coaching as a college student and began to set his eyes on competing at a higher level. He was trained by Kano Jigoro, the founder of judo who is responsible for Japan’s entree into the Olympic world. Olympic officials were eager to welcome Asian countries, and Kano tapped a pair of pupils to compete at the 1912 Games. The logistics were not easy. Kanakuri and a young sprinter would represent Japan, but sports weren’t highly valued in Japan in the early part of the 20th century. The athletes were denied government support and had to raise funds and plead for donations to travel. The trip to Sweden took 17 days. Countries such as the United States were able to take huge ships, taking advantage of training opportunities onboard. Kanakuri, on the other hand, took the Trans-Siberian Railway, stealing quick workouts whenever the train stopped at a station, running on the platform before hurriedly reboarding. When he arrived in Sweden, the travel had taken its toll, and the local food didn’t sit well in his stomach. To make matters worse, the July temperatures were climbing. On race day, it was 90 degrees, according to some reporters. Kanakuri had only flimsy street shoes that were no match for the scorching gravel course. There were 68 starters in the 1912 race, and just 34 would reach the finish line in the punishing conditions. One Portuguese runner was hospitalized and died the next day, the first reported death during an Olympics. Kanakuri was about two-thirds of the way through when he stumbled off course and into a garden area. Many reports suggested he passed out, perhaps because of heat stroke, though others suggested he simply wandered into an outdoor party. Regardless, the race continued, and the Japanese runner found himself at a farm home along the race route, owned by the Petra family. The family fed him raspberry juice, fruits and cinnamon rolls and gave him new clothes and a place to sleep.

“He was very lucky,” Sayama said. “He’d never run abroad and was suddenly in a strange country and had no idea what to do. So when the family offered to help, he took it.” Kanakuri had to grapple with the disappointment of what had happened and the shame that was taking hold. He wrote in his journal the next day: “It’s the morning after my defeat. My heart is aching with regret for the rest of my life. It was the most significant day of my life. But failure teaches success, and I can only wait for the day with fair weather after the rain so that I can clean up my shame. If people want to laugh, laugh. I showed the lack of physical strength Japanese people have and their immature skills. I can’t fulfill this burden but dying is easy, and living is hard. To wipe off this shame, I will work with all my strength to brush up my marathon skills and raise the prestige of our country.” Race organizers, meanwhile, couldn’t locate Kanakuri. He never notified Olympic or Swedish officials of his whereabouts. He instead quietly left the country and returned to Japan. With his whereabouts unknown, authorities considered him to be missing, and urban legends grew around the country’s lost marathoner, many suggesting he had been running around the country for years, in search of the finish line. Kanakuri continued running in Japan, determined to bring honor to his name and country. Like his mentor, Kano, he went into education. He’s credited with creating the Ekiden race, a multistage long-distance relay that is still popular in Japan. And he made it his mission to involve as many people as possible in athletics. He took a special interest in recruiting and coaching female athletes and also trained blind students by having them hold on to a string to guide their runs. “He wanted everybody to have the opportunities that he had,” Sayama said. Kanakuri did not talk much of these athletic accomplishments, and though he stayed in touch with the Petra family in Stockholm, he spoke little of the 1912 incident. “It was so long ago,” said his daughter, Yoshiko Sakaya, 88. “He never really showed signs that he was at the Olympics. It was nothing he volunteered. He would occasionally talk about it but only if someone asked.” It’s not clear why the Swedes couldn’t solve the curious case of the missing marathoner. He was hardly in hiding and resurfaced to compete at two ensuing Summer Olympics. He placed 16th at the 1920 Games but failed to finish the Olympic marathon in 1924. The story of his disappearance started gaining attention around the 50th anniversary of the 1912 Games. The missing Japanese runner had become much more famous than any of the race’s medalists, a folk legend many were surprised to learn was alive and well in his home country. In 1967, Swedish officials arranged for Kanakuri to return to Stockholm, where he was reunited with the Petra family and also invited to finish the marathon. “When I went over to Sweden, I was surprised to find that he was very much more famous there than in Japan,” Sayama said. “Everybody knows about him for going missing.” They held a ceremony, which was covered heavily in the Swedish media. When he finally crossed the finish line, his time was announced as 54 years 8 months 6 days 5 hours 32 minutes 20.3 seconds — an unofficial time but surely in the running for slowest marathon ever. A stadium announcer blared, “This concludes all the events from the 1912 Stockholm Games,” and Kanakuri joked he had six children and 10 grandchildren during the course of the epic marathon. Kanakuri was 92 when he died in 1983. Until his final days, he would take long walks each day, eager to talk running with any young athlete he encountered. “Most of my memories are of him wearing a kimono, reading the newspaper on our porch,” his daughter said. “But even when he was older, running was important to him. Exercise was important to him. Throughout his life, he took special care of his physical health.”

Akiko Kashiwagi and Julia Mio Inuma contributed to this report.



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

To those local residents of Elderslie who didn't respect the rights of other local community members by visiting their neighbours during the current lockdown, please be aware that this is a very small community and everything you do is seen by someone. Don't think that sneaking around in the dark stops your movements from being noticed. If there is a next time, there might be a knock on your door from a person of authority, who will have a very large fine for you. Don't be so selfish, you have no idea who may be carrying the virus.

To the Branxton local idiots who decided it a good idea to vandalise parts of Miller Park last Saturday week. Thankfully the term *idiot* does suit as you have been captured on CCTV whilst destroying fences and other. Hopefully, the local constabulary have caught up with you by now and will lay the appropriate charges. I would like to see, as part of your punishment, community service orders to repair and work on the facilities at Miller Park. The park and its community facilities is one of the best I have seen in Australia (with comparable villages). Cessnock Council have done a great job providing what we now enjoy & I'm sure that if there is anymore vandalism they will be reluctant to repair & provide further amenities which I quite understand.

To the Huntlee Academy for their clean-up work & mowing around the North Rothbury Memorial site a couple of weeks ago. Thank you so much; you did a great job & it is very much appreciated. North Rothbury Tidy Town usually do the mowing & cleaning but have been unable with the Covid. From North Rothbury Tidy Town



Classified's

Classified's

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128  
Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for ½ hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362  
For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460  
For Sale: 2 ton chainblock \$100, Hardwood Timber beam 4800 x 290 x 75, \$50. 2470 x 140 x 100, \$20, Humes prime coat solid exterior door, 2040 x 820 x 35, New \$120, sell \$50, Painted solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, \$20, trailer axle with Holden hubs and stub axles, \$20, 4 White roll down security shutters 1800, 1860, 1760, 1650 wide with 2000 drop, Free Ph.0437312905  
For Sale: 3xwheel motorized scooter. 2 new batteries; excellent condition P: 0417 413 316  
For Sale: Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused. or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on 0458721077  
For Sale: Collectable rabbit traps from \$10 P: 0421 102 711  
For Sale: Alpacas Ph 0400697148  
For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809  
Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. 0407 453 494  
Share Accommodation: East Branxton \$180 + share utilities cost P: 0407 383 026

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



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

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY MORNINGS — The Branxton Greta Mens Shed meet in the mornings; come and have a cuppa at the Shed. 49 Branxton Street, Greta (in the grounds of the old St Mary's primary school) For more information contact Richard Wesseling 0417422560 Leagues Club. For information: Phone Anna 49904093  
WED 25 Aug – Central Hunter Business Chamber Board meeting  
SAT 28 Aug – Branxton Public School - P&C Trivia Night  
SAT 4 Dec – Local Government Elections  
FRI 3 SEPT – Applications close 5pm for \$for\$ grants Cessnock City Council  
WED 22 SEPT – Central Hunter Business Chamber Breakfast meeting with presentation by Chamber president 'Managing a small retail business profitably'. All members & Guests welcome  
Upcoming Concerts  
SAT 11 DEC 2021 — Iconic Scottish band SIMPLE MINDS will be performing at a day on the green Bimbadin winery.  
SAT 26 MAR 2022 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate

“Dates for your Diary” is free community service which has been included in the News for over 23-years. Please send your event notices and dates to thenews@hotkey.net.au or call me on 0414 757 826. The Editor



CRAZY FOR LOVIN' YOU: THE LIFE AND SONGS OF PATSY CLINE  
Next date: Saturday, 21 August 2021 | 08:00 PM to 10:10 PM

There are few female singers of her era who had more hits - certainly none had a greater and more lasting impact in both country and pop music. Her rich booming voice filled the room, awakened hearts & stoked imaginations. Almost 60 years after her untimely death on March 5 1963, Patsy Cline is more popular than she was in her lifetime. Undoubtedly one of the most exciting shows to hit Australian stages in 2021, Crazy For Lovin' You: The Life and Songs of Patsy Cline recreates country music history with stunning replica costumes reflecting Patsy's unique style, bringing you an unforgettable country music concert experience, bound to set fire to stages across Australia.



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

## Street lighting partnership delivers sustainable savings for Singleton

The streets of Singleton are significantly more energy-efficient with Singleton Council and Ausgrid's partnership to replace local streetlights with new, more reliable LEDs now 99 per cent complete.

The replacement of 989 Ausgrid-owned lights has occurred over three years, beginning in 2019. And while the project is expected to pay for itself within the next three years, energy consumption has already been slashed by almost a quarter.

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning said the project was a win-win because it supported Council's ongoing improvements to financial management, as well as reducing our environmental footprint and commitment to sustainability.

"Never before has local action had such potential for global outcomes, and with an ever-growing emphasis on climate change and conversations happening around the world about the future of energy and consumption, there has never been a more critical time for tangible local action," he said.

"With the street light replacement roll out almost complete, we've already seen a 24 per cent reduction in energy usage, which is projected to continue to decrease by over 76 per cent – that's a reduction of 244.9 tonnes of CO2-e each year.

"The new LEDs last up to 20 years, and use just 17 watts to power -- that's up to 82 per cent less than the old streetlights.

"In terms of financial savings, Council recorded a reduction of \$40,375.19 in electricity for the 2020/2021 financial year compared to the previous year, and over \$33,000 the year before that, which is a significant saving for ratepayers.

"The new LEDs will also cut Council's long-term costs of street lighting and reduce exposure to higher energy prices in the future, so we will feel the benefits of this program long after it has paid for itself."

Mr Fitzpatrick Barr said perhaps most importantly, the energy efficiencies of LEDs would deliver a 76 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the lights being replaced over the next 10 years.

"There are also significant social advantages to the LED lamps because they deliver higher quality white light, which improves transport connectivity, security and wellbeing outcomes for our community," he said.

"Our community told us they want meaningful action that minimises our environmental footprint and does not compromise the economic viability and social vibrancy of our community into the future, and this is another way Council is acting to reduce our impact."

## Sponsorship program awards \$126,100 to support local business



Towns with Heart Toby Thomas, Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent, Towns with Heart Community Project Manager Towns with Heart, Council's Economic Development and Tourism Manager Tony Chadwick and General Manager Lotta Jackson.

Cessnock City Council is supporting local business through the annual Economic Development Grants and Sponsorships Program awarding \$126,100 to support local business and stimulate economic growth.

The program offers funding to Advance Greater Cessnock Partners, this includes business chambers, tourism bodies, training providers and community organisations. Council has approved funding for twelve applications.

Cessnock Chamber of Commerce, Central Hunter Business Chamber, Wollombi Valley Chamber of Commerce, Kurri Kurri Towns with Heart, Hunter Region Business Hub and Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association will all benefit from this years' program.

This crucial funding is being invested into vital initiatives including small business training, business service awards, tourism projects and the Kurri Kurri Visitor Information Centre. Sponsorship has also been granted for Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival and for the town coordinators in both Cessnock and Kurri Kurri. Council's Economic Development Manager, Tony Chadwick said the local business community is highly engaged and proactive, making Council's decision to support business programs and initiatives an easy one.

"As a community we need to be collaborating and working together to recover from what has been an incredible difficult period. These projects will have flow on effects to our entire business community."

"I'd also like to use this as a reminder for people to continue to participate in our Support Local campaign and shop locally. Your support really does have a huge impact on our operators, so put on a mask, grab a coffee, eat lunch and scratch that retail itch."

For more information on support available for local business and resources, visit Advance Greater Cessnock.

## Maitland Liberal Council Team Seek Re-Election

Cr Ben Mitchell to Stand for Mayor

The NSW Liberal Party has endorsed Maitland's four Liberal Councillors to stand again for election this December.

Councillor Ben Mitchell will head the ticket as the Mayoral candidate and will also re-contest the West Ward. Cr Sally Halliday, Cr Kanchan Ranadive, and Cr Mitchell Griffin will contest the Central, East, and North Wards respectively.

"The Maitland Community has been well served by the Liberal Council team over the last four years, and I am proud to be leading this team into the September Council election.

Decisions facing this next term of Council will impact the quality of life, sustainability, and cost of living for our city and its residents.

In voting for the Liberal team, Maitland residents can be assured that they are electing Councillors who will carefully manage financial resources, keep cost of living pressures down, and put community and sporting groups at the heart of our decisions." Cr Ben Mitchell said.

The Hon. Taylor Martin, Liberal MLC for the Hunter and Central Coast endorsed the Maitland Liberal Councillors saying:

"The Liberal Council team has the experience, commitment, and energy to steer Maitland through the challenges facing the city as it balances sustaining its regional identity with increasing population growth.

Electing Councillors who will manage rate payer money in a responsible way and ensure that rate payers are not slugged with new or increasing costs should be at the forefront of voter's minds."

"I am proud of the adoption and implementation of the Social Media disclosures and accountability policy that I put to Council."

"In adopting my policy motion the Councillors 'code of conduct' was strengthened as was community confidence in the use of Social Media when reporting on Council matters.

For too long Facebook and websites with no identifiable owner were being used and abused in reporting on the activities of council. This misinformation and fake news had eroded confidence in Maitland's elected representatives.

Councillors are now required to disclose to the public websites and social media pages that they administer."

In 2017 Cr Ben Mitchell was the youngest person elected in Maitland City Council's history. When asked about the prospect of potentially being the City's youngest Mayor, Cr Mitchell dismissed age as being a barrier to the city's top job. Maitland is growing rapidly as a city and we cannot continue to do the same thing over and over again expecting different results. Maitland needs fresh leadership whether that comes in the form of a leader who is thirty or eighty. It is the ideas that are important and the leadership to deliver them that matters."



Cr Ben Mitchell - Maitland City Council-West Ward & Deputy Mayor

**Save the date**

**2021 NSW Local Government elections**

**Saturday**

**4 DECEMBER**

Voting is compulsory

[elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21](http://elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21)  
1300 135 736

WANTED

**RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE**

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

**BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE**

P: 4938 3300

GATE DETAIL

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton

Recent sales

UNIT 2

UNIT 10

UNIT 12

UNIT 18



## Catch up now for spring



The first whiff of spring is a joyful time for gardeners – unless you left your run a bit late, or didn't even get started! Here are some ways to salvage the situation so you can still enjoy the flowering and planting pleasures of the season.

**Spring-flowering bulbs** If you're still sitting on a bag of daffodils, tulips or hyacinths, then get them into the ground or a pot now. Bulbs aren't like seeds, which can be left unplanted for years – they need to go through the growing cycle each year or they will shrivel and die. Planting this late means you're unlikely to get good flowering, but give them an application or two of fertiliser, and hopefully they'll do well for you next year. To get your fix of spring-bulb flowers this year, splash out at the nursery or florist on a few pots of flowering bulbs.

**Unpruned roses** Most established repeat-flowering roses need a winter prune to stimulate new growth and better flowering. And, yes, unless you live in a very cold region, it should have been done by now. The solution is to simply pretend that you live in a very cold region and do what they do there by pruning later. And by later we mean *now*! Your first flush of flowers will be delayed but it will be a much better flush than if you hadn't pruned at all.

**Vegie-patch failures** If one look at your vegie patch tells you you've been more successful at growing weeds than cauliflowers, then now is the time to prepare for success with the next crop. Yank out weeds and any weak vegies that have failed to flourish. Apply a generous layer of manure, compost and organic pellets. Finish with a dusting of dolomite, then dig it all in. Water in with liquid seaweed, cover with sugarcane mulch and leave for a couple of weeks to allow the worms and microbes to do their thing. By then, your patch will be ready for planting or sowing warm-season crops, and you'll get that spring-planting endorphin rush.

**Last-minute plantings** Winter is the time to plant a range of ornamentals and edibles as bare-rooted plants or dormant crowns – think roses, stone fruit trees, ornamental cherries, rhubarb, asparagus and berry canes. Even this late in the season, it's worth checking online and at garden centres to see what they have left. Potted (leafed) versions of these plants do appear later in the year, but often the range of choices is limited – so act now.

## Take hardwood cuttings



Making hardwood cuttings in winter is an easy way to propagate deciduous favourites, such as mulberries, grapes, roses and hydrangeas.

Because the plant is dormant and has no leaves, water loss is minimal and successful propagation is greatly enhanced. Once the leaves have finished falling, cut a firm-barked piece of stem. Remove any soft tips and trim the cutting to 10–12cm long, including at least 2–3 nodes (leaf joints). On one side, near and down to the base, slice off a narrow vertical strip of bark. Dip the base into hardwood cutting gel or honey. Make a hole with a pencil down into moist potting mix and carefully push in the cutting. Firm the mix around the cutting and water well. A number of cuttings can go into one pot as long as each stays clear of the others. Put the pot into a semi-shade position and be patient. You may not see new growth on hardwood cuttings until well into spring.



## Brrr it's cold outside! Top tips for pet owners this winter



The wind is picking up, the rain is setting in and temperatures are starting to drop as winter fast approaches. It's nearly time for woolly socks, hot drinks and warm coats.

While planning for winter, responsible pet owners should also start thinking about the comfort levels of their furry companions. If you are starting to feel cold and uncomfortable, then your pet is likely feeling the same way. Luckily, there are a number of simple ways you can keep your pet safe and warm this winter.

**Winter Coats** Although many cat and dog breeds have luxurious thick fur to keep them warm, when they are outside or on walks in the cold, they will still likely benefit from an additional winter coat. This is especially important if you have a thin, older or short haired breed. A good pet-coat or jumper will give coverage from the neck to the base of the tail while also giving protection to their belly. Make sure your pet's coat is the right fit and isn't restricting movement. Check out World for Pets range of dog coats to suit all shapes and sizes. Remember, don't leave your pet's coat on once they are in a heated indoor environment as they may over-heat under all those layers!

**Better bedding** As the weather gets cooler, you might notice your pet is spending more time snuggled up in their bed. You can make a few simple adjustments to their bedding to ensure they are properly protected from the cold.

Make sure your pet's bed is away from drafts and elevated off cold, hard surfaces. You should raise the

bed off the ground and add an extra blanket for warmth and comfort. Try not to place the bed too high though, as cold temperatures are especially tough on older dogs or cats with stiff joints who may have difficulty in movement after long periods of rest.

You can place a heating pad or disc in their bed (avoid hot water bottles as there may be the temptation to chew!) to gently warm up the bedding and create a cosy, warm and safe sleeping environment.

Check out RSPCA World for Pets range of Cat and Dog Beds.

**The great indoors** If your pet spends a lot of time outside, then appropriate shelter is essential. Pet stores like RSPCA World for Pets have a great range of kennels for dogs and enclosures for cats, that will give protection from rain, frost and wind. Choose a spot for your pet's housing that is protected from the elements in a warm elevated position. Fill your pet's shelter with dry blankets that are washed regularly.

If your dog is usually kept outside, you could bring them indoors to sleep at night, somewhere warm and dry, away from cold drafts and damp.

**Keep on moving** The temptation in winter is to stay indoors, safely snuggled under a warm blanket. But your dog or cat still needs exercise and boredom busting stimulation. Keep playing indoors with soft toys or a ball to get the blood moving. Both Cat toys and Dog leads are stocked by RSPCA World for Pets.

Or, brave the cold, grab the lead, put on both your winter coats, and

head out for a brisk walk together! Your dog will still love the joy of their walk even if it's a bit colder, and you will feel better for the exercise too.

**Heat seekers**

Cats are notorious for finding warm spots around the house, like the afternoon sun through a window, or sitting close to heaters. Dogs too will seek out sources of heat during colder weather. Be wary of your pet sitting too close to heaters or fires as they can fall asleep and end up with dried out skin or worse, burns.

Pet heating pads and disks are a safe alternative that can be placed in their bedding or on a favourite chair. This will become your pet's favourite warm spot this winter!

**Senior care**

Cold weather can be harder on our older cats and dogs as, just like with people, the drop in temperature can aggravate joints stiff with arthritis. You should be mindful of keeping a healthy exercise regime during winter without over-doing it. Dog walks should take no more than 20 minutes a day over even ground. Exercise encourages good circulation and develops muscle tone. Extra weight on your pet will only worsen joint pain.

Make sure your pet has a warm, comfortable rest area away from drafts and elevated off cold, hard surfaces. If you notice your pet is showing signs of discomfort associated with arthritis, you should take them to their vet for a check-up. Signs of pain or discomfort include stiffness, chewing or licking certain joints, difficulty walking up or down stairs, eating slowly and noticeable

behavioural changes.

We recommend pets go for 6 monthly check-ups to stay on top of any potential health issues. There are a number of good products which can make your pet feel much happier.

Your vet may recommend a number approaches to help treat arthritis:

- **Supplements:** There are natural supplements of Omega 3 fatty acids, like 4Cyte™, you can get from your vet to give your older dog at meal times. This will encourage healthy joints and help to reduce stiffness.

- **Medication:** Your vet may recommend a regimen of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication.

**Injection:** Many owners of older dogs have seen great improvements in their pet's arthritis with a 4 week injection course of a product with pentosan eg; Cartrophen Vet. The frequency of treatment varies from once a year for mild cases and up to three times a year for severe cases of arthritis. Cartrophen Vet is a prescribed veterinary medicine which is provided by your vet. Be mindful that all medications have side effects, so be sure to discuss the prescribed drugs in detail so you can decide the best course of treatment for your pet.

**Heart warmers** Pets are wonderful companions and loving members of the family. Snuggle up and stay warm together this winter, and remember, there's nothing like lots of cuddles to keep the winter blues at bay

Advise by RSPCA



# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The NEWS SPORT



Greta Workers

## Fishing Club June/July News

The long weekend in June was an Open weekend and it saw a heap of members gather together at Sandbar and the remainder travel to other secret spots. The weekend started on a high with Outlaw Ave rocking the Greta Workers Club in front of a healthy crowd. A great night was had by all and everyone can't wait for them to come back!! Loads of fish were weighed in, but the overall winner of the weekend was current leader

Matt Wielgasz with Tailor, Trevally, Tarwhine, Bream and a Jewy. Matt fished Sandbar, Hawks Nest and Newcastle Harbor throughout the weekend and deserves loads of credit for the commitment he shows. He was closely followed by a huge effort from Mark Dever with a big haul of Bream, Salmon, Tailor and Flathead. Special mentions to Ruby Nevin who weighed in a Freshwater Catfish just under 2kg to put herself on the scoreboard and Emma Nevin logged her first ever score with an Australian Bass. Micah Platt also deserves a mention for spearing a nice 1kg Luderick. Also full credit to Riley Mckewen

who continues to dominate the juniors and scored a bag full of Tailor and a Bream to show his father Jason up again!  
Bad weather and a number of cancellations saw low numbers brave the Seal Rocks weekend in July. The only ones to venture out and have a fish were Fee Jacobs, Steve Nevin, Joel Platt, Tom Field, and Anthony Field. Andrew Jacobs made an appearance so he could see what all the fuss was about regarding the "party shack" and have a few BV's (VB's). Fee weighed in a nice whiting, Nevo 2 Tailor, a Bream and a Whiting and Salami weighed in 2 Bream. The clubs next outing is

20/21/22 August and it is Harrington. A reminder to members to book in. Generally in the past fishos have shared houses, stayed up the beach, towed their caravans or hired cabins in the Caravan Park. A reminder that the Fishing Club raffle runs every Wednesday and is drawn about 545pm. There are now 4 prizes which include 2 Seafood Trays from The Sea Shanty Rutherford, a voucher from The Harvest Bistro and now a voucher from The Bottlo at Greta. Thanks to our other awesome sponsors the Greta Workers Club, GoCon Rural, and McDougall Concreting.



■ Matt Wielgasz with his Mulloway caught in Newcastle Harbour.

# A PLUS

## CONTRACTING & POLY WELDING

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

**EXPERTS**

POLY WELDING  
CIVIL EARTHMOVING  
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT  
SPECIALISED SERVICES

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

[WWW.APLUSCONTRACTING.COM.AU](http://WWW.APLUSCONTRACTING.COM.AU)

Advertising and news information may be phoned direct to our office at 49381773 or M 0414 757 826, or call in personally to the office at 12 Cliff Street, Branxton. The 'Branxton Greta Vineyards News' is published by B&VRE, 12 Cliff Street, Branxton NSW 2335 & is printed by Spot Press. The Editor reserves the right to refuse to print advertisements and contributors' letters and accepts no responsibility for the veracity of statements made by advertisers and contributors. NEXT ISSUE: 26/8/21