



Licence-in-Charge with 30 years Real Estate experience in the local area
BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 02 4938 3300

thebranxtonnews.com.au/

The News Free

Serving the local community since 1997

T: 49381773
M: 0414 757 826

“Your paper of choice”

THURSDAY 28
OCTOBER 2021

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

NSW Electoral Commission ‘dump’ Branxton



Branxton for the local government elections as has been done in previous years on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday prior to polling day. That a copy of the letter be also sent to the General Manager at Singleton Council asking them to consider making a similar request as this pre-poll location has been previously a joint booth between Cessnock and Singleton LGAs. The rationale for the motion was that in the list of pre-poll locations released for the Cessnock LGA the NSW Electoral Commission have not included a booth at Branxton which is different to previous elections. There is a growing population in the Branxton Greta area and a pre-poll booth there would make it easier for them to cast their vote.

The motion was carried unanimously. iVote (electronic voting) will be available for the first time in the local council elections and the NSW Government has implemented changes to pre-poll to ensure that voters have 13 days to cast their ballot, reducing congestion on polling day; but not for Branxton. Postal vote applications are now open. To apply for a postal vote you can either apply online or download and return a Postal vote application form. You may be eligible to vote using a postal vote at this election. In this election, 5.2 million voters will cast their ballots as around 5,000 candidates vie for 1,200 councillor positions across 125 local councils. Voting is compulsory.

'C' ward Councillor Anne Sander & Deputy Mayor Councillor Jay Suvaal moved a motion at the last council meeting to ask the NSW Electoral Commission as to why Branxton is not scheduled to have the normal 3-day Pre-poll at the Branxton Community Hall prior to the coming Local Government elections on the 4th December 2021

At last weeks Cessnock City Council meeting an Urgency Motion was put to councillors by Clrs Sander & Suvaal after learning that Branxton was not scheduled to have its usual 3-day pre-poll for the 4th December local government elections.

The Urgency Motion was that the General Manager urgently write to the NSW Electoral Commission and the Cessnock LGA Returning Officer requesting they open a pre-poll location in

GOOD PRACTICE (GP) SURGERY



10 Dalwood Road, East
Branxton

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

Dr Chaitali Biswas MBBS, AMC
Dr Jwan Roomi MBBS

Opening Hours
Monday - Friday 8.00 am - 5.30 pm

Offering cosmetic/anti wrinkle therapy

To make appointment, please call us on 02 4938 3366

Online appointments available through Hotdoc website

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

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

Greta Historical Museum

Will be REOPENING

On 24th November 2021

We have lovely, new, decorative local maps

FOR SALE

Laminated - \$5, Non-laminated - \$2.



As now seen in the display case in High Street, Greta (Near the pedestrian lights).

Come in and see what else is new!

Greta Museum will be open Wednesdays & Saturdays,

11am to 3pm, after the 24th November.



YES, WE HAVE MOVED

Now at 1705 Wine Country Drive
 Behind the North Rothbury Riot Memorial



Hours:-
8am to 2.30pm Monday-Thursday
8 am to 12.30pm Friday

COVID 19 protocols apply, Masked and QR codes for all drop offs.

\$8.8 million upgrade to Cessnock Airport set for take off



Cessnock airport will look much different by when upgrade is completed by June 2022

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce the \$8.8 million upgrade to Cessnock Airport will kick off in early 2022, after the tender for the project was awarded at its Wednesday meeting.

In March 2019, Council applied for grant funding under the Restart NSW Growing Local Economies Fund and was advised in April 2020 that the application was successful in receiving a \$6,636,100 grant for the Cessnock Airport upgrade. Council is contributing \$2,212,097 towards the \$8.8million project and all works must be completed by 30 June 2022, in line with the funding deed between Council and Restart NSW.

The purpose of the project is to undertake significant infrastructure upgrades to Cessnock Airport, which are sure to unlock business investment growth. The airport upgrade is an exciting project which includes the widening and resealing of

taxiways; provision of aprons and aircraft parking areas, improved fuel area access, runway rehabilitation, water and sewer connections, installation of non-precision GPS approaches for RWY 17/35 and an upgrade to the eastern terminal.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent, said he was excited to see this project kick off as it has the potential to create nearly 60 jobs and will be a welcome boost for the economy. "Our tourism industry has been hit hard in recent times and this project will transform Cessnock Airport into one of the State's top airports for general aviation and improve the visitor experience."

"Some people may not know that the airport

was gifted to the people of Cessnock in the 1990's and comes with a wealth of history, from use in the 2nd World War, to having NASA undertake research at this facility. We can now transform this facility and future proof it for our community," added Cr Pynsent. In breaking news Hotel mogul & owner of Crown Plaza opposite Cessnock Airport, Jerry Schwartz, has indicated that he will pursue direct flights from Bankstown Airport to Cessnock Airport once the upgrade is complete.

For more information on this project, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Airportupgrade.



REFLECTIONS

Which commandment is the first of all?"
 John 12.28

"Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"
John 12.15

Two very different questions are posed to Jesus in the Gospel this week. The first, asked by Pharisees and Herodians, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" and the second, "Which commandment is the first of all?" asked by some scribes.

The Pharisees were religious leaders in Judaism, who were attempting to revive religious observance by making some of the purity rules which usually only applied to the Temple, to be part of daily life for all people. These purity rules were particularly regarding meals. The Herodians are thought to be some Jewish leaders associated with Herod, the ruler of Galilee at the time. The scribes were most likely a professional class of Jewish scholar. This is important, because they were leaders within their community and their example was observed by many.

So, when a community leader poses the questions like these two from our gospel, we do need to wonder what their intention was and where their hearts are. Jesus, knowing their hearts, refuses to be caught in their effort to trap him. When asked should taxes be paid to the emperor, Jesus asks "Whose head is this, and whose title?" (Mark 12.16) and then after they affirmed that it was the emperor's head and title, Jesus proceeded to tell them to "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." (Mark 12.17) In the Greco-Roman world, the coins often bore the image and title of the ruler under whom they were minted. Therefore, the coins belonged to the emperor. However, God is not interested in our taxes or our wealth. God is interested in our hearts and us walking the journey of faith with him. He created us in his image and so we bear the image of God. We therefore are children of God, and we give of ourselves to God.

Later in the gospel, the scribes ask Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answers "Love the Lord your God ... The second is this, ... love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12.30-31) This illustrates for us that the first two commandments are interrelated. Loving our neighbour comes from our love of God, and there can be no true love of God that does not manifest itself in loving our neighbour. When we look to Jesus as our example, we see how to love both God and our neighbour. Two separate things, but both are needed for either to be evident in our lives. The emphasis on love has become the identifying characteristic of the Christian religion. May the blessings of God rest gently upon you as you love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

Blessings,
 Reverend Nicole

Emergency Phone Numbers

| Dial 000 | Police | Electricity |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. | Branxton..... 4938 1244 | Energy Australia..... 131 388 |
| When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED | Lochinvar... 4930 7209 | Hospitals Maitland... 4939 2000 |
| For non-life threatening calls..... | Ambulance... 131 233 | Cessnock... 4991 0555 |
| Police Assistance Line (PAL).... 131 444 | NSW Fire Brigade Branxton.... 4938 3396 | Singleton... 6572 2799 |
| | Rural Fire Brigades | SES132 500 |
| | Belford..... 6574 7149 | Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 |
| | Broke..... 6579 1491 | Poisons Info 131 126 |
| | Greta..... 4015 0000 | Hunter Water 1300 657 000 |
| | Bishops Bdg 4015 0000 | Ausgrid 131 388 |
| | Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 | Gas Emergencies . 131 909 |
| | Pokolbin..... 4015 0000 | Lifeline131 114 |
| | Rothbury.... 4991 1733 | Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 |
| | Bishops Bdg 4015 0000 | Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609 |
| | Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 | Centrelink Self Service 136 240 |
| | Rothbury.... 4015 0000 | Medicare 132 011 |
| | Pokolbin.... 4015 0000 | Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483 |
| | Rothbury.... 4991 1733 | |
| | Scotts | |
| | Flat..... 6575 1200 | |
| | Central | |
| | (Cessnock)... 4015 0000 | |

\$11.5 MILLION FOR UPGRADES AT CESSNOCK RACECOURSE

The NSW Government has announced \$11.5 million for upgrades to the Cessnock Racecourse as part of the Government's \$67 million investment in regional racing.

Cessnock Racecourse was transferred to Racing NSW in August 2020 which ultimately spelled the end of racing at the venue. Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation and Minister responsible for Racing Kevin Anderson said the Hunter is home to some of the best thoroughbred racing in the world and now thanks to the NSW Government, Cessnock will have access to first class training facilities with new stables and a work-track for training horses. "Earlier this year the NSW Government announced the single biggest investment in regional racing and I am pleased to announce that Cessnock racecourse will receive significant upgrades as part of that funding," Mr Anderson said. "The racing industry is the backbone of many regional communities, contributing

over \$3.5 billion annually to the NSW economy and acting as a significant employer for over 6,700 people here in the Hunter." Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Taylor Martin said Cessnock will have some of the best training facilities in Australia. "This funding will enable the construction of 300 additional stables and an additional synthetic training track," Mr Martin said. "Today's announcement, along with the Government's investment in tracks at Muswellbrook and Scone brings the overall investment to over \$35 million in regional racing infrastructure in the Hunter." "There will be significant flow-on effects of these upgrades for Cessnock as people flock to town for the races, staying in local hotels, eating at local cafes,



and shopping locally. "This is the single largest investment by the NSW Government in racing infrastructure and it is great to have secured such a significant investment for Cessnock." Racing NSW Chairman, Russell Balding AO said the NSW Racing Industry is very grateful for the NSW Government's \$67 million investment in regional racing. "This announcement by the NSW Government will not only ensure the ongoing sustainability of racing in the Cessnock region, but importantly it will allow

local trainers to compete with Provincial and City based trainers on an equal footing in respect of access to modern training infrastructure and facilities and allow country horses to be more competitive." Mr Balding said. Cessnock Mayor, Bob Pynsent, said that the \$11.5 million for much-needed upgrades is just fantastic news. "The funding will enable the construction of 300 extra stables and an additional synthetic training track, which will make it a first-class training facility. This is such positive news for both our local racing industry and the community, as it will create over 100 jobs," said Mayor Pynsent.

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



REAL ESTATE CHRISTMAS!

The Covid Era has delivered a wonderfully vibrant property market with sales activity going 'off the charts' and record prices being achieved.

It's like Christmas has come early!

Enjoying a successful sales result doesn't just happen. Having the right agent on the job is imperative. An active agent with experience and sound knowledge of our local area will make a huge difference in helping you generate a successful sale.

How fortunate that we have **Kathryn Steinke** (a local) from Sternbeck's Real Estate here to help. Kathryn is our local real estate professional who has generated more successful sales in our area than any other.

For the best result you need the best agent.

Scan the QR code above to list your property for sale or for the latest information on your property's market value.

M: 0403 090 242

E: kathryn.steinke@sternbecks.com.au



STEVE'S RANT

Hindsight is a beautiful thing when we examine the things we did right and those we regret.

When used in the "Nah Nah Nah sense", "told you so blah blah blah", it is a pointless exercise beloved of siblings and 16-year-olds to take the piss out of each other. When supposed adult politicians and media commentariats do this, it reflects narrow-mindedness and a desperation to remain relevant. Such is the case with the criticism levelled at the Prime Minister about the shortfall in choice for vaccination against the China virus. The decision was made to go with the local production of Astra Zeneca; it was a no brainer. First, we could make it without a long lead time and therefore have the security of supply, and second, it did not need the expensive and complex logistic system required for Pfizer.

Not foreseen was the blood clotting problem, which developed in a couple of cases in Germany and France and hence the restrictions put on it for people under a certain age. This concern was taken up in Australia as a critical shortfall in Astra Zeneca by every commentariat not qualified to judge and presented as a failure by putting all our eggs in one basket. So wide was the criticism of Astra Zeneca from both the left and the right of ideology; we even had the chief health officers

of the States damning this vaccine. Not only for the one in one million chances of death, but that Astra Zeneca was an inferior vaccine to others then becoming available.

The media used this as a beat-up against the Prime Minister, who made a perfectly logical decision at the time. Some rationality has been restored, and expert virologists uniformly agree Astra Zeneca vaccine is as good as any other and certainly a more practical and less expensive option. The advent of the D variant of the China virus has given urgency to mass immunization. Current advice is for adults over 18 to accept Astra Zeneca rather than wait for Pfizer.

Hesitancy about getting Astra Zeneca is not logical given the success of this in the UK. Where a co-morbidity may exist, a decision in this direction should be made on your doctor's advice.

The projections by the Dougherty Institute that 70 to 80% is the desired inoculation outcome before lockdowns stop, are a guide only. As with any forecast, particularly with a dangerous pandemic, a large safety margin is given, and for practical purposes, a much lower



percentage should be acceptable. The Federal Government should be decisive and set a date for when administrations cease to impinge on our freedom of movement, commerce, and education; "A Freedom Day". The Government must enforce our Constitution, dissolve the National Cabinet and reinstate the right of every Australian to determine their own future. All jurisdictions need to get the hell out of our lives. If you do not wish to mask up, that's fine too. Just get vaccinated if you can and observe the standard rules of hygiene. Wash your hands before touching food or your face.

Vaccination does not prevent you from being infected or becoming a vector of the virus, but it will protect you from severe illnesses. The sooner the economy is allowed to set its own pace, the sooner we can begin to pay off our debts and attend to the urgent matters of national

security and the adoption of nuclear energy. Too much has been allowed to slide in the last two years. We have much business to get done very quickly. As for the PM planning to rush off to Glasgow with a net zero CO2 policy, during the haar, is totally wrong when you consider other matters of much great concern are being neglected. No work on water storage and distribution has even been commenced. The reinvigoration of local production is but an aspiration and a reallocation of public monies to reflect the urgency of providing public services such as energy security, health care, workers who are qualified and taxation reform are by, by far, more important than chasing the dead end of climate change. At least the Government has pointed the way to securing Australia's future defence abilities, but there is a long way to go and nuclear submarines are only one part of the plot.

MISSILES. MISSILES. MISSILES.
Cheers, Steve.



with Mike Lowing

I have got to take my hat off to all those parents who have juggled work, domestic duties & home schooling during the pandemic so glad that our lot have left the nest as I think it would have been a nightmare in our case. Anyway well done to you all. Had a mate call into home to deliver some goods very early in the latest lockdown; he had his two school aged boys with him who were giving dad a hand. It was a Friday and his wife, who did most, if not all, their homeschooling had to go into work so he became the principal teacher for the day. He explained that academia was not his forte so when this situation arose he declared it a sports day! On the effects of that it has had on parents and their children UNICEF Australia CEO, Tony Stuart, said that to date much of the debate on

when students will return to face-to-face learning has been from politicians, the health sector and unions, but UNICEF Australia felt it important that we also heard from parents of school aged children. "There is clearly no substitute for face-to-face learning and the many surrounding benefits that the school environment brings to children's education experience. Children's health must come first, but it is also important that we have a clear path back to classrooms and a plan for how to assess and manage learning that has been lost during lockdown. "Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have spoken with more than 3500 children and young people about their schooling and many told us they feel they are falling behind. Social isolation has also had an impact on their wellbeing and they are eager to return to the classroom as soon as it is safe to do so. "We recognise that schools and parents are doing their best to provide learning in very challenging circumstances, but the quality of teaching provided in classrooms simply cannot be achieved remotely while students have limited contact with their teacher and parents have work commitments to fulfil." Do agree.
Cheers, Mike



We all have a say in this On coming to power in 1983, Bob Hawke held the National Economic Summit, bringing together all political parties, unions and employer organisations. Hawke's consensus style of political leadership is needed now, more than ever, to face the existential threat of

our age – climate change. Our current combative political environment cannot achieve a position Australians can all agree on or live with. As noted recently, climate change policy has been the graveyard of many PMs. This issue is all encompassing, with far-reaching effects on all Australians far into the future. We must all have a say – political parties, business, unions, activists, the farmers, experts, the quiet Australians, we are all stakeholders. Scott Morrison should announce a "climate summit" and bring together all stakeholders to thrash out a climate policy in a genuine non-partisan forum and try to achieve a national consensus. "Bringing Australia Together" was Hawke's mantra, and we need it now more than ever.
Wayne Alexander, Eltham

It's a mystery I can't understand people who

refuse to get vaccinated to do their job. Many things in life are compulsory, and mostly for our own and everyone's safety. We all drive on the left-hand side of the road: what an imposition on my freedom. There are many jobs we can't do because we don't have the necessary qualifications or registrations. I want to be a doctor but they won't let me without qualifications. I can't drive a bus without getting a licence, passing an annual medical and holding a "Working With Vulnerable People" registration. Such discrimination. Wake up all those of you with over-developed senses of entitlement. Get vaccinated or get used to not doing the job that you think you should have.
A concerned local resident





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

or

emailed to

thenews@hotkey.net.au

Travel health



Long distance and overseas travel pose health risks for people of all ages. Planning and preparation can help you have a safe and healthy trip. Some of the most common health risks linked to travel are DVT, jet lag, travellers' diarrhoea and malaria.

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)
A DVT is a blood clot that forms in a deep vein in the leg. It can move through the bloodstream to other organs, causing serious problems.
Sitting or lying still for a long time while travelling can increase the risk of DVT.

Jetlag
Jet lag is the time it takes for the body 'clock' to get used to the local time in a new place. The degree of jet lag depends on the number of time zones crossed and direction of travel (it is worse when you travel eastward). Jet lag usually lasts for a few days.
Travellers' diarrhoea
Travellers' diarrhoea (also called gastroenteritis) is very common. It is usually

caused by eating or drinking food, water or ice containing micro-organisms (e.g. bacteria, viruses).

Malaria
Malaria is a serious infection spread by infected mosquitoes.

Symptoms include:
* fever, chills, sweating
headaches, muscle and joint pain

* nausea, vomiting
* diarrhoea
Malaria can cause coma or death.

Self care
Before travelling
Visit a doctor to ensure immunisations are up-to-date at least 8 weeks before travelling, check if any special vaccinations are needed.

For 'adventure' holidays, get advice about relevant

health issues (e.g. altitude sickness, fitness).
Carry a letter from your doctor that lists your medicines and doses.
Leave medicines in original packaging, so they are labelled with your name and dose.

Pack important medicines in your hand luggage. Buy travel insurance, including health insurance. Prepare a first aid/medical kit for the trip.

Get and wear an alert bracelet or necklace if you have a serious health condition or allergy.

Whileaway
Protect your skin from biting and stinging insects. Use insect repellent and protective nets and clothing.

Do not swim in water that may be contaminated.

Wear thongs when showering.

On returning
Get medical advice if you develop:
* fever or flu-like symptoms
* diarrhoea that won't go away
* skin problems (e.g. rash) or
* any unusual symptoms.

Note: Some travel-related illnesses can take several months to develop.



PIGGOTT'S PHARMACY BRANXTON & HUNTLEE LOVES YOUR COMMUNITY!

Halloween at Piggott's Pharmacy Huntlee!

Trick or treaters

We are welcoming you into our pharmacy between 10am - 4pm on Sunday 31st. Are you game enough to try our trick or trick?

MWA HA HA

Colouring competition!

Come in store to collect your colouring in! Bring it back and the spookiest colouring wins a prize. ☐

SPOOKY FRIDAY SPECIAL

☐ Friday 29th Oct ALL boho dresses marked down to \$25!

☐ Get ready for those Halloween costumes with a full body spray tan only \$25!!

Like our Facebook @piggottspharmacyhuntlee for more spooky specials!



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

Members say ..



Clr Bob Pynsent, Mayor
Cessnock City Council

numbers in the Cessnock LGA, and regional travel from Sydney set to be allowed from 1 November, it's so important to take advantage of vaccination centres in our area. Our local businesses have suffered, so as a community we need to do everything we can to support their re-opening and to ensure jobs for our families and friends. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of those in our community who have come forward so far to be vaccinated. While our vaccination rates started slowly, we reached 92% single dose and 70% double dose last week, which is just fantastic, let's keep it up!

In exciting news, a tender was awarded for the Cessnock Airport upgrade at last week's Council meeting, and works are expected to commence in early 2022. Council was successful in obtaining a \$6,636,100 grant under the Restart NSW Growing Local Economies Fund to undertake significant infrastructure upgrades to Cessnock Airport which are sure to unlock business investment growth. Council is contributing \$2,212,097 towards this \$8.8 million project and all works must be completed by 30 June 2022. Stay up to date on this project and more by visiting Council's website.

It's not too late to have your say on the upgrade of the BMX facility at Carmichael Park in Bellbird, as the consultation is open until 31 October! Council wants to know what the community values in a BMX facility and what elements are important to you, so community ideas can be incorporated into a concept plan. There are a number of ways to get involved (and great prizes to be won) including an online survey, online ideas wall, a drawing competition for the kids, and online workshops. This will be a wonderful community facility and I encourage residents to get involved. Visit the 'Have your say' section of Council's website to find out more.

Cheers, Bob



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

We're back in Canberra this week and once again, climate change is dominating the political

debate. That's a shame. I'm tired of writing about it and I fear readers are sick of reading about it. Notwithstanding, here are 10 important facts.

Fact 1: Our climate is changing in threatening ways and human activity is contributing. Therefore, the people around the world should change their behaviour in proportion of their contributions.

Fact 2: Australia accounts for a little more than 1 percent of global emissions and we shouldn't be forced to do more than our share and in doing so unnecessarily and stupidly destroying local jobs.

Fact 3: Reducing emissions need not hurt. Action does not and should not be something that harms our existing industries.

Fact 4: Our coal generators have limited physical and economic lives. Liddell will run out of puff in 2 years' time. The country's youngest generator will run until 2050 as long as of course, governments embrace a sensible approach and avoid policy overreach which forces it to close earlier. Either way, we won't have any coal-fired generators after 2050, it's one of the reasons Net Zero Emissions (NZE) by 2050 is achievable without doing economic harm.

Fact 5: Reducing emissions can and will create other opportunities. In the Hunter we are preparing for the eventual withdrawal of our coal-fired generators by making sure that the new forms of electricity generation are built here. That includes pumped-hydro, thermal solar, photo voltaic solar, hydrogen, battery storage and gas generation.

Fact 6: Committing to Net Zero Emissions will not hurt our coal export industry. Our thermal and metallurgical coal will be in demand at good prices in the markets of Asia regardless of our domestic commitment for decades to come. Of course, most of our coal is exported.

Fact 7: Agriculture need not be disadvantaged by a NZE policy. Indeed, a well-designed scheme will benefit farming as the National Farming Federation has argued.

Fact 8: Net Zero Emissions is a different thing than zero emissions. NZE simply means putting no more carbon into the atmosphere than we are taking out. There are many things we can do to improve carbon absorption including the expansion of the forest plantation estate and improving soil health.

Fact 9: The right path to NZE will include government investment in the things needed to help our regional economies



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the Barr A NEW PREMIER! WHAT HAPPENED?

Two weeks ago, I had already written for this fortnightly column before the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian decided that it was time for her to exit stage left. Fast forward 14 days and quite a lot has happened, so I will do my best to snapshot it all. For the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) to announce a specific and dedicated line of inquiry into a NSW Premier really is quite extraordinary. Yes I know, they did it to Barry O'Farrell and they did it to Nick Greiner but it really is a big step for ICAC. After all they didn't investigate Baird or Keneally or Rees or Emma or Carr or Fahey. ICAC is, by design, meant to watch over the decision makers of the state. At the core of ICAC is the responsibility to make sure that taxpayers' money and state owned property and assets are being handled properly and according to the rules.

The inquiry into former Premier Berejiklian is very specific. The outline of the inquiry is publicly available on the ICAC website. They say that ICAC only asks the questions after they already have the answers. The issue facing Ms Berejiklian is in regard to decisions about granting public money to projects in her former partner's ("boyfriend") Electorate,

sometimes for projects that possibly didn't meet the criteria (to be tested by ICAC) or sometimes for projects that Ms Berejiklian's boyfriend himself may have benefitted from (to be tested by ICAC), will be a key focus of the inquiry at hand.

The really big question that looks set to be put to Ms Berejiklian is whether or not she was always forthcoming with the truth at ICAC. In simple terms it is a really serious crime to not tell the truth at ICAC, with the possibility of two years in jail for lying or misleading. It is also a really serious crime to work with other witnesses during an ICAC inquiry to possibly shape the version of events that will be revealed. Twelve months ago the people of NSW found out that Ms Berejiklian was in a relationship with one of her former MP colleagues and had been for 5 years prior. At that time, the investigation focus was on him and we have all seen some pretty shocking evidence about what he was up to in his role as MP and he has admitted much of this.

Had it not been for the COVID crisis that we were in when the revelations of Ms Berejiklian's secret relationship first came to light twelve months ago, she may well have been forced to resign at that time. In the ten years since the Liberal-Nationals formed Government under then Premier Barry O'Farrell, we have had 3 Premiers - O'Farrell, Baird and Berejiklian. Two of those three have now been the headline of ICAC investigations. I am pretty sure that when Meat Loaf sang the line "two out three ain't bad" he was not thinking of Premiers in public office. For we, the public, in these inquiries, two out of three is shocking!

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can help, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

Cheers, Clayton



Member for Upper Hunter
Dave Layzell MP

COVID ROADMAP STAGE TWO
NEW South Wales' journey on the COVID-19 Reopening Roadmap has shifted up a gear with stage

two rules for reaching the 80 per cent double vaccination target effective last week.

A key change to the draft roadmap is that the resumption of travel between Sydney and regional NSW has been delayed for a fortnight until the start of November. Regional business will continue to access JobSaver for a further two weeks with a \$200 million Regional Recovery Package soon to be rolled out for events, job creation and priority infrastructure projects.

To view the roadmap and check the latest COVID-19 advice got to www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19

NEW SERVICE NSW APP OPTION

You can now integrate your COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate into the Service NSW app with the program being rolled out state-wide. This extra digital service enables you to show the green check-in tick and vaccination status simultaneously.

HARVEST LEAVE
More than 4,500 NSW public servants are now eligible for five days' special leave to assist the state's farmers ahead of a record harvest season. This is the first time leave of this kind has been offered to Department of Regional NSW staff so they can volunteer to help out with any harvest, anywhere in the state.

Staff can use local contacts or the Help Harvest NSW website to help find suitable opportunities to assist in this year's harvest. There is no cost to farmers getting help from departmental volunteers, as staff will be paid at their standard leave rate by the Department with leave managed to ensure there's no impact on service provision.

Cheers, Dave



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton
Council

It might still seem like a long way away, but the countdown has well and truly started to Christmas and what our festivities might look like with the easing of COVID restrictions. It's always a special time of year, but I think our celebrations will take on extra significance with the enduring social impacts of lockdowns and the importance now of bringing people back together.

So I was pleased to move a Mayoral Minute at this week's Council meeting to

provide \$600 for the Samaritans Christmas lunch, an annual tradition in Singleton that delivers a merry Christmas to those in our community who need it most. This year's event promises to be extra special with food and beverage hampers designed for a family of four and including a picnic blanket for people to enjoy an outdoor Christmas Day picnic at Singleton Showground. And, like the busy elves they are, Council staff are cramming months of planning into mere weeks to deliver the beloved Christmas on John Street on Friday 10 December.

Uncertainties around restrictions made it risky to book in advance, so the next six weeks will be jam-packed with organising everything from traffic management to food trucks to face painting. Make sure you mark the date in your diary. Christmas usually means holidays, and the NSW Government's road map out of lockdown may have inspired people – at least tentatively – to start planning a getaway. There's a lot of work being done across our local government area to position Singleton to take advantage of the new freedoms for all of NSW afforded by the 70 per cent vaccination target, including a campaign by the Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association to ensure all roads will lead to Singleton for the double vaccinated to bolster our tourism and hospitality businesses.

Council is also helping the recovery of our local businesses with the launch of Singleton Business Builder, a free mentoring and business development program to support business owners, managers and their employees in the Singleton local government to grow and rebuild their businesses with access to practical advice, coaching, training, action planning and business development in response to a range of impacts, including COVID-19.

The program is run by Council and funded by the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program, with something for every business at whatever stage you're at. The first event kicked off last Tuesday 26 October with the Rebuilding Your Singleton Business webinar.

For more information about the Singleton Business Builder program and Christmas on John Street, visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au

*Cr Sue Moore
Mayor of Singleton*

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

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



HVE
Pty Ltd

Hunter Valley Electrics
Mark Mellross
Owner / Operator

400c Standen Drive
Lower Belford NSW 2335
0455 911 700
mark@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

ASQH
Australian Society of Clinical Hypnotherapists

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

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 L#: 2176530 ARC: AU42682

News

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

**Hunta Karate Martial
Arts Club**

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

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

MPH Cleaning

Specialising in
Domestic/Commercial
Window Cleaning.
Exit Cleans



Call Mark on 0412 980848

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 835 075
4938 7273




**MJZ
PLUMBING**

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

**STANHOPE HANDYMAN
SERVICES**

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

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

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

News

**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



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

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

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

e: deansturf@bigpond.com
460 Elderslie Road Branxton
Inspections welcome by
appointment




Company LIC: 237774C
ABN: 93 149 933 246

P.R.W BUILDING Pty Ltd

PAUL WORTH
MOB: 0429 305 554

818 Lambs Valley Road
Lambs Valley NSW 2335



**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



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

HVE
Pty Ltd

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

Pharmacist Advice *with*



Hypertension
Everyone has blood pressure. It is the pressure of blood against the walls of your blood vessels (arteries) as the heart pumps blood around your body. Your blood pressure will increase and decrease depending on what you are doing. When you are exercising, nervous or stressed your blood pressure will increase. Your blood pressure will decrease when you are sitting or sleeping. However, if your blood pressure remains high, even when you are resting and relaxed, you may have high blood pressure (or hypertension). A National Heart Foundation survey completed in 2010 found one-in-three Australians aged 30–65 years had been told by a doctor that they have high blood pressure. This means that 3.5 million Australians have high blood pressure. Therefore, hypertension is very common and the number of both men and women with high blood pressure increases steadily with age. Blood pressure is measured in millimetres of mercury (mmHg). Your blood pressure is recorded as two figures, for example 120 over 80 (120/80). The top number is the pressure in the arteries when the heart squeezes blood out during each beat. The

lower number is the pressure in the arteries when the heart rests between each heartbeat. It is best to measure blood pressure when you are relaxed, and sitting or lying down.

- Normal blood pressure is generally less than 120/80 mmHg.
- Normal-to-high blood pressure is between 120/80 and 140/90 mmHg
- High blood pressure is greater than 140/90 mmHg and if you have blood pressure above 180/110 mmHg, your blood pressure is very high.

High blood pressure (hypertension) increases your chance of developing heart disease, a stroke, blood vessel disease and other serious conditions. Generally, the higher the blood pressure, the greater the health risk. There are often no symptoms or signs of high blood pressure – you can have high blood pressure and feel well. Certain factors can increase the risk of serious problems associated with high blood pressure including:

- smoking
- having high blood cholesterol

- being overweight
- having diabetes.

Treatment for hypertension often includes lifestyle changes. These changes may include losing weight (if overweight), regular physical activity, a healthy diet, cutting back if you drink a lot of alcohol, stopping smoking, a low-salt diet and reduced caffeine intake. If needed, medicine can lower blood pressure. It is very important to have your blood pressure checked regularly by a health professional, such as a pharmacist. If you want to 'know your numbers' visit your local pharmacy. It is your health destination. Many pharmacies offer blood pressure-testing services. Pharmacists and pharmacy assistants can take your blood pressure using easy-to-use, painless blood pressure machines. They will check your blood pressure in a quiet, non-threatening environment, explain your readings, offer advice on how to lower and maintain lower blood pressure and refer you to a doctor if further testing is required. Pharmacies also offer services that can help you change your lifestyle including stopping smoking and weight-loss clinics. Visit your local pharmacy today and find out what they have available.



Free program aims to build stronger, more resilient businesses

From one-hour webinars to three-month professional mentoring programs, the Singleton Business Builder program has been developed to support Singleton businesses at all lifestages to grow and rebuild in the wake of a range of impacts including natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Run by Singleton Council and funded by the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program, Singleton Business Builder will kick off this month with a webinar on Tuesday 26 October 2021 appropriately called Rebuilding Your Singleton Business. Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity Vicki Brereton said it was a great introduction to what is to follow, including mentoring, coaching and training for businesses covering:

- * Rebuilding stronger business top tips webinars
- * Business improvement and activation coaching program
- * Marketing foundations
- * Building a stronger customer base
- * Business foundations for start ups
- * Business support advisors

She likened the program to a building renovation or repair where some businesses might take the opportunity to upgrade after experiencing damage, others may undergo a complete renovation with a new business plan or a new business model, and others still might just need a simple repair such as a chat with a business advisor.

"We know the past couple of years have been extremely challenging for our local businesses, and we wanted to look at how we could provide practical support for every kind of business at any stage and in any situation to start, rebuild, grow and thrive," Ms Brereton said.

"The result has been a mix of webinars, one-on-one coaching and – if COVID restrictions allow – face-to-face events covering a range of topics from developing a business plan to reconnecting with customers.

"What's even better, each program is delivered by business experts and they are free to any Singleton business to get involved."

Singleton Business Chamber president Sue Gilroy said the program recognised the importance of small businesses to supporting the local economy, and more importantly to bringing the community back together after the latest COVID lockdown.

"These are practical programs providing support and assistance for businesses at any stage and in any situation, whether in crisis or thriving as a result of the impacts of the past few years," she said.

"I encourage our local businesspeople to get involved in the program and hope they achieve the results they want to benefit their own businesses as well as the wider community."

SINGLETON BUSINESS BUILDER PROGRAM
Small Business Digital Marketing Tools webinar
Practical support to understand and navigate the free and powerful digital

marketing tools available to help small businesses expand their digital footprint, build brand recognition, boost customer interaction and attract new clients.

3 November 2021 – 10am-11am Business Development Mentoring
A three-month mentoring program for established businesses looking for improvement and long-term growth.
Program commences 26 October 2021

Strengthening Business Mentoring
For small businesses looking to rebuild and strengthen by focusing on key goals and a 12-month plan.

Bookings available now.

Marketing Mentoring
For established businesses looking to kickstart their marketing and customer connections covering strategy, digital, website and online marketing.

Coming in November. Register your interest now.

Marketing Foundations

For start-ups and small business looking to DIY their marketing and win new customers. The program comprises six webinars covering social media, websites and Canva.

Coming in November. Register your interest now.

For more information or advice, contact Council's Local Business Support Coordinator on T 02 6578 7290 or email council@singleton.nsw.gov.au

For more information about the Singleton Business Builder program or to register, visit W: singleton.nsw.gov.au

Best "off the net"

Teaching Maths in 1950:
A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price. What is his profit?
Teaching Maths in 1960:
A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 20% of the price, or \$80. What is his

profit?
Teaching Maths in 1970:
A logger exchanges a set "L" of lumber for a set "M" of money. The cardinality of set "M" is 100. Each element is worth one dollar. Make 100 dots representing the elements of the set "M". The set "C", the cost of production contains 20 fewer points than set "M".

Represent the set "C" as a subset of set "M" and answer the following question: What is the cardinality of the set "P" of profits?
Teaching Maths in 1980:
A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80 and his profit is \$20. Your assignment: Underline the number 20.
Teaching Maths in 1990:
By cutting down beautiful forest trees, the logger makes \$20. What do you think of

this way of making a living? Topic for class participation after answering the question: How did the forest birds and squirrels feel as the logger cut down the trees? There are no wrong answers.
Teaching Maths in 2000:
A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$120. How does Arthur Andersen determine that his profit margin is \$60?

Garlic butter salmon wellington



25m prep 35m cook 6 servings
Move over beef Wellington, this version made with Tasmanian Atlantic Salmon will have you hooked.
INGREDIENTS
75g butter, softened
1/3 cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh dill sprigs
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh tarragon
1 eschalot, peeled, finely chopped
1 tbsp baby capers
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 tsp finely grated lemon rind
4 sheets frozen puff pastry, par-

tially thawed
3/4 cup panko breadcrumbs
1.2kg skinless boneless Tasmanian Atlantic Salmon fillet
1 tbsp lemon juice
1 egg, lightly beaten
Extra flat-leaf parsley leaves
Lemon wedges, to serve
METHOD
Step 1
Preheat oven to 200C/180C fan-forced. Line a large baking tray with baking paper.
Step 2
Place butter, parsley, dill,



tarragon, eschalot, capers, garlic and lemon rind in a small food processor. Season with salt and pepper. Process until combined.
Step 3
Place 2 sheets of pastry, side by side, slightly overlapping, on a flat surface. Press pastry together to secure. Place on prepared tray. Sprinkle breadcrumbs, in a thin layer, lengthways along the centre of the pastry. Top with salmon. Spread salmon with garlic and herb butter. Drizzle with lemon juice. Place 2 remaining pastry sheets side by side, slightly overlapping, on a flat surface. Press pastry together to secure. Arrange over salmon. Leaving a 2cm border, trim edges of pastry around salmon. Press edges together with a fork to seal.
Step 4
Brush pastry with egg. Lightly score the top of the wellington at 2cm intervals in a diamond pattern. Season with salt and pepper. Bake for 35 minutes or until pastry is golden and puffed and salmon is almost cooked through. Stand 5 minutes. Sprinkle with extra parsley and serve with lemon wedges.



holding meetings via online meeting software during the last few months and has remained working within the health regulations. The Chamber will soon approve the revised Constitution that complies with the model from Australian Business Lawyers & Advisers and is recommended by Business NSW.

Thank goodness we can all join in a great big sigh of relief now that NSW is opening up from the long COVID lockdown.

The Central Hunter Business Chamber has been operating in 'virtual' mode,



RV park. The Chamber had a management board meeting on Wednesday 20th October

and then holds its AGM on 24th November, further details of which will be announced shortly.

Also, the Chamber is excited to announce ongoing development of its website, which will be

completed with generous funding from Cessnock City Council. The website will feature a Directory of local businesses where potential customers can find details of local businesses and tradespeople. That is something which all Branxton and Greta residents should consider when making any purchase: support your local businesses. New South Wales government and the Tourism Association, plus the Restaurant and Catering Association have published

a guide to opening up businesses that covers: COVID posters, reopening checklists, and relevant links. NSW Government have also announced a stock guarantee relief package for businesses as part of the Economic Recovery Strategy. Details of all of these things can be obtained from: Alan Beckley, Central Hunter Business Chamber Secretary. Email: secretary@centralhunterbusiness.com.au Mobile: 0426-261948



From the Lions' Den – October 2021

The Lions Club of Branxton is springing back into life with the opening up of the Local Government Area from its long COVID lockdown. Our members will soon be organising fund-raising and service events in the

local community and we are always looking for new members. So, if you want a new lease of life, friendship, fellowship, and above all fun, please contact us. Our Membership Secretary is Brian, who can be contacted on: 0417-282440.

Lap the Map for Diabetes

Lions Australia are participating in World Diabetes Day, Sunday 14 November 2021, and Lions Club of Branxton is calling for local Australians to 'Lap the Map' for diabetes prevention.



Can you help us walk a combined distance surpassing the circumference of Australia? (Lions did it last year!) Lions Clubs across the country will be hosting family friendly walks and community events to promote a healthy lifestyle and raise awareness of the diabetes epidemic in Australia. It doesn't matter how far you walk or run, it's about being involved, getting active and moving together. Any funds raised will go towards diabetes awareness, prevention, and research. Branxton Lions are already recording the kilometres they are walking on daily exercise walks or 'dog-walking' efforts, so please add to our distance by forwarding the total of your kilometres to: Branxton Lions Secretary, Alan Beckley, 0426 261948 or email: Branxton_Lions@outlook.com. **Be Connected to friends and family** – courtesy of the Lions Club of Branxton

The Lions Club of Branxton is organizing the **Be Connected** program which will enable the towns of Branxton and Greta to reach senior residents and help them with their IT learning journey in a fun and non-threatening environment. It will enable them to keep in contact with their family and friends.



The **Be Connected** project is an Australian government initiative that aims to provide a family and community-centred approach to supporting, coaching, and teaching Older Australians aged over 50 years to improve their skills and confidence in using digital technology. Greater use of digital technology will have positive social, economic, and health benefits for older Australians, enabling them to stay connected with their families and communities and access the growing number of government and business online services. Branxton Lions Club will deliver the program in partnership with IT 4 Retirees who will manage the training. The Lions Club of Branxton will also work with other service organisations in the area such as Churches, Men's Sheds and Women's sheds to ensure optimum attendance of the over 50s. Courses will start when it is COVID-safe to do so. For further

details please contact the Branxton Lions Secretary, Alan Beckley, 0426 261948.

Christmas Dinners for Seniors in Branxton and Greta

Unfortunately, due to remaining concerns over COVID restrictions and large gatherings of people, the annual Christmas Dinners for Seniors has had to be cancelled this year. The events have been run for many years by Branxton Lions since their Charter event in 1957, but the scourge of COVID has regrettably precluded these long-running and well-loved events. However, please look out for other events organized by the Lions in your community. The delicious and good value Lions Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings will soon be available for purchase in several local shops and outlets - information about that will be published in this newspaper shortly.

Lions Club of Branxton ~ Household Battery Recycling Project
SAVE LIVES – get involved in the Battery Recycling Program

Partnership with Ecycle Solutions

- Lockable and fire safe collection boxes which are positioned on site for customers to access.
- Successfully trialled at Burnings and Officeworks.
- This collection system has been:
- Branding to include the Maroochy North Shore Lions Club logo

The safe collection bin here
Reusable collection boxes inside the lockable collection unit
Lockable collection unit
The top of the collection unit has been retro-fitted with a fire-resistant safety for battery drop-off

Do not drop for the general public to store their and all 40 batteries used their next visit to a collection point.

In Australia, around **20 children a week present to an emergency department with a button battery related injury** – that's over 1,000 children every year. Children under the age of 5 years are at the greatest risk. Current advice for consumers is to dispose of used button batteries immediately given the safety risk of serious injury or death if they are swallowed or inserted into the body. Young children are at the greatest risk due to their narrower

oesophagus and tendency to place small objects into their mouths, ears, and noses.

Here is where **YOU** come in! The lions Club of Branxton will soon be commencing a household battery recycling scheme near you. The Lions Club have formed a partnership with a major battery recycling company (Ecycle Solutions) and a major local retail outlet to place disposal receptacles outside their store. *Further information from: Alan Beckley, Secretary, Lions Club of Branxton. Mobile: 0426-261948.*

Opening up to the future - when the restrictions ease, borders open up again and the travel bug starts biting...here are some things to consider (while also being environmentally-friendly):

- * Cruise lines are offering carbon credits, new modes of waste reduction and recycling and advanced technology to minimise fuel and emissions.
- * Avalon Waterways has partnered with The Ocean Cleanup to deploy 1000 interceptors to prevent rubbish heading out to sea.
- * TTC (which has brands such as Contiki and Trafalgar) has an initiative called How We Tread Right and is aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- * A number of international airlines have pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Some, such as Qantas, offer the option to carbon offset when you buy your ticket.
- * Luxury hotels, such as Melbourne's Quincy and Newcastle's new Crystalbrook Kingsley, offer refillable pumps for all bathroom amenities.
- * Six Senses Hotels and Resorts are committing to going completely plastic-free by 2022.
- * Many hotels and eating establishments are growing food onsite and hotel kitchens are turning to composting food scraps to fertilise vegie gardens.
- * Tourist havens are realising the benefits of replanting programs to rejuvenate their natural surrounds. For example, at the Arkaba lodge in the Flinders Ranges, rare birds, quolls, and the yellow-footed rock wallaby are returning after a decade of replanting and pest eradication.
- * Victoria's Echidna Walkabout tours combine koala spotting with post-bushfire tree planting and wildlife surveys.
- * Many wildlife parks use their entry fees to support habitat restoration and rehabilitation of the species that reside within their boundaries

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

CONCEPT PLAN FOR BMX FACILITY, CARMICHAEL PARK BELLBIRD.

Council has engaged specialist BMX consultants to develop a concept plan to upgrade the BMX facility at Carmichael Park, Bellbird and is calling on the community to have their say.

Residents can have their say a number of ways:

- Completing the online survey – everyone who completes the survey can choose to go into the draw to win one of five \$50 pre-paid visa cards;
- Submitting suggestions via an ideas wall;
- A drawing competition for children 12 years and under – The winner will receive a family pass to Cessnock and Branxton Pools valued at \$386; and
- Participating in online workshops

For further details and to make a submission **by Sunday 31 October 2021**, please visit Council's Have Your Say page at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-bmx or contact Council's Recreation team on 02 4993 4233.

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



LAW REPORT

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

median other dwelling price continues to be the highest amongst the capital cities, 22.3% higher than the national average.

“At \$400,000 Perth has the lowest median other dwelling price across Australian capital cities, 37.8% lower than the national average. Over the 12 months to the June quarter, the weighted average capital city median price for other dwellings increased by 8.6%,” he said.

Mr Kelly said major regional centers and coastal areas continued to pique the interest of those escaping the city, Australians moving interstate and strong interest from repatriating Australians resulting in premiums in home sales. According to the report, significant regional price moments across the year include: Darwin up 21.5%, Broome up 22%, Bendigo up 14.3%, Launceston up 22% with both Wollongong (23.1%) and Newcastle (21.9%) recording major increases. In regional South Australia, median house prices increased in Mount Gambier (12.8%) and Port Lincoln (17.0%) over the year. All regional Queensland zones increased over the past year: the Gold Coast (21.4%), Sunshine Coast (27.0%), Townsville (10.1%) and Cairns (13.2%).

Mr Kelly said the weighted average median rent for 3 bedroom houses in the eight capital cities increased to \$453 per week, a quarterly increase of 0.4%. The median rent for 3 bedroom houses increased in Perth, Canberra, Hobart and Darwin but remained stable in all other capital cities.

“Other dwelling rents During the quarter, the median rent for 2 bedroom other dwellings increased in Adelaide, Perth and Darwin, Sydney and Hobart, but decreased in the other capital cities. Darwin had the largest increase over the quarter (12.4%),” he said.

“Other dwelling rents During the quarter, the median rent for 2 bedroom other dwellings increased in Adelaide, Perth and Darwin, Sydney and Hobart, but decreased in the other capital cities. Darwin had the largest increase over the quarter (12.4%),” he said.

“Other dwelling rents During the quarter, the median rent for 2 bedroom other dwellings increased in Adelaide, Perth and Darwin, Sydney and Hobart, but decreased in the other capital cities. Darwin had the largest increase over the quarter (12.4%),” he said.

“Other dwelling rents During the quarter, the median rent for 2 bedroom other dwellings increased in Adelaide, Perth and Darwin, Sydney and Hobart, but decreased in the other capital cities. Darwin had the largest increase over the quarter (12.4%),” he said.

“Other dwelling rents During the quarter, the median rent for 2 bedroom other dwellings increased in Adelaide, Perth and Darwin, Sydney and Hobart, but decreased in the other capital cities. Darwin had the largest increase over the quarter (12.4%),” he said.

Empowering people experiencing homelessness

By CATH DICKINSON
Frustrated by the lack of dignity shown to those experiencing homelessness, Suzanne Hopman developed a solution with a difference and launched Dignity, a charity that empowers people with dignity and prevents, responds to and ends homelessness.
“When most people think

of homelessness, they conjure an image of a man sitting on the street begging for money,” Suzanne Hopman, CEO of Dignity, said to attendees at the REINSW Women in Real Estate Conference. “But, as the last Census tells us, these ‘rough sleepers’ – the visibly homeless – account for only seven per cent of those experiencing homelessness. The other 93 per cent are the men, women and children we can’t see.” Suzanne said it can happen to anyone, recounting the story of a man who, at the age of 94-years-old, experienced homelessness for the first time.

“He’d worked hard for his entire life and owned his home outright,” she said. “His wife had recently died and he, understandably, was quite depressed and lonely. The man’s son said: ‘Dad, sell your house and come and live with me, so you’ll have some company.’”

Unfortunately, soon after the man moved in, his son lost his business and had to sell his home. So, at the age of 94, this man found himself without a home.

“Anyone can be homeless. I have no doubt that there are people in this room today who have experienced homelessness – and there are also people here who will experience homelessness at some point in the future.”

“Anyone can be homeless. I have no doubt that there are people in this room today who have experienced homelessness – and there are also people in this room who will experience homelessness at some point in the future.”

“Anyone can be homeless. I have no doubt that there are people in this room today who have experienced homelessness – and there are also people in this room who will experience homelessness at some point in the future.”

“Anyone can be homeless. I have no doubt that there are people in this room today who have experienced homelessness – and there are also people in this room who will experience homelessness at some point in the future.”

“Anyone can be homeless. I have no doubt that there are people in this room today who have experienced homelessness – and there are also people in this room who will experience homelessness at some point in the future.”

“Anyone can be homeless. I have no doubt that there are people in this room today who have experienced homelessness – and there are also people in this room who will experience homelessness at some point in the future.”

“Anyone can be homeless. I have no doubt that there are people in this room today who have experienced homelessness – and there are also people in this room who will experience homelessness at some point in the future.”



women and children.”

Creating a home

From that first property in the Southern Highlands, Dignity has now expanded to 25 homes across New South Wales, providing emergency and ongoing accommodation for 250 guests and residents.

From the very beginning, Suzanne was determined to make Dignity’s properties as comfortable and restful as possible, with all the creature comforts of home.

“Our properties are beautiful,” she said. “We’re very proud of them. When a guest arrives – and yes, we call them ‘guests’ – they are welcomed into a safe and secure home, where they can relax, breathe out and get a good night’s sleep.

“Beds are made up with crisp, clean linen and there are lots of fresh, fluffy towels. Our guests are given a new set of pajamas and a bag of lovely toiletries. The lounge rooms feature comfy couches with lots of cushions and throw rugs.

“They are as far from feeling ‘institutionalised’ as you can imagine. We want to provide a home-like environment, where our guests can take the time they need to regroup, seek support and move forward.” Fully stocked kitchens also ensure that guests have access to food and groceries.

“We receive more than a tonne of raw ingredients each week from our partners at Oz Harvest and SecondBite,” Suzanne said. “Our team and volunteers use these ingredients to create nutritious and delicious meals – so the freezers are always fully stocked for our guests.” Suzanne explained that Dignity’s goal is to take their guests from their first night of homelessness to ending their homelessness within 14 days.

“We’re currently achieving nine days,” she said. “The majority of people need that short, immediate assistance and our team is on hand at each of our guest homes to help them navigate the system and secure the support they need.”

In addition to these guest homes, Dignity runs a range of programs to provide longer-term support, including 17 self-contained studios where the residents come together as a community and support each other on their journey from homelessness to independent living.

“We’re also excited to be launching a new employment pathways program,” Suzanne said. “Working closely with our corporate partners, the Ready To Work Housing program will see us providing people with stable housing and employment for a period of 12 months.”

“At the beginning, I wasn’t sure I was the right person

to lead Dignity. But I was passionate, and I knew a change had to happen and someone had to do it. So I bravely took one

step forward at a time to reach where Dignity is now.”

Supporting people

Rather than simply providing the same services as other homelessness support service providers, Dignity actively seeks to do things differently.

“If another organisation is doing something and doing it well, we don’t simply do the same thing,” Suzanne explained. “We look for the gaps and determine where we can have the greatest impact. Everything we do comes from need.”

Being able to measure the social impact of their services and programs is also a key element to Dignity’s approach.

“We’ve embraced technology and, in partnership with a developer, have created our own digital information capture system,” Suzanne said. “Our team are out in the field with their iPads, collecting information from our guests and other people we support. This allows us to identify trends as they emerge. For example, if we see an increase in people of a particular demographic coming through our guest homes, that alerts us to look closely at the support and services we have available to them and what else we can provide.”

“We’ve embraced technology and, in partnership with a developer, have created our own digital information capture system,” Suzanne said. “Our team are out in the field with their iPads, collecting information from our guests and other people we support. This allows us to identify trends as they emerge. For example, if we see an increase in people of a particular demographic coming through our guest homes, that alerts us to look closely at the support and services we have available to them and what else we can provide.”

“We’ve embraced technology and, in partnership with a developer, have created our own digital information capture system,” Suzanne said. “Our team are out in the field with their iPads, collecting information from our guests and other people we support. This allows us to identify trends as they emerge. For example, if we see an increase in people of a particular demographic coming through our guest homes, that alerts us to look closely at the support and services we have available to them and what else we can provide.”

“We’ve embraced technology and, in partnership with a developer, have created our own digital information capture system,” Suzanne said. “Our team are out in the field with their iPads, collecting information from our guests and other people we support. This allows us to identify trends as they emerge. For example, if we see an increase in people of a particular demographic coming through our guest homes, that alerts us to look closely at the support and services we have available to them and what else we can provide.”

“We’ve embraced technology and, in partnership with a developer, have created our own digital information capture system,” Suzanne said. “Our team are out in the field with their iPads, collecting information from our guests and other people we support. This allows us to identify trends as they emerge. For example, if we see an increase in people of a particular demographic coming through our guest homes, that alerts us to look closely at the support and services we have available to them and what else we can provide.”

“We’ve embraced technology and, in partnership with a developer, have created our own digital information capture system,” Suzanne said. “Our team are out in the field with their iPads, collecting information from our guests and other people we support. This allows us to identify trends as they emerge. For example, if we see an increase in people of a particular demographic coming through our guest homes, that alerts us to look closely at the support and services we have available to them and what else we can provide.”

“We’ve embraced technology and, in partnership with a developer, have created our own digital information capture system,” Suzanne said. “Our team are out in the field with their iPads, collecting information from our guests and other people we support. This allows us to identify trends as they emerge. For example, if we see an increase in people of a particular demographic coming through our guest homes, that alerts us to look closely at the support and services we have available to them and what else we can provide.”

“We’ve embraced technology and, in partnership with a developer, have created our own digital information capture system,” Suzanne said. “Our team are out in the field with their iPads, collecting information from our guests and other people we support. This allows us to identify trends as they emerge. For example, if we see an increase in people of a particular demographic coming through our guest homes, that alerts us to look closely at the support and services we have available to them and what else we can provide.”

Employer Mandated COVID 19 Vaccines – are they lawful?

At the time of writing, there are certain industries in NSW that must impose mandatory vaccination of their employees in line with public health orders, such as quarantine workers, certain health care workers and all employees at schools.



doesn’t automatically make it reasonable for employers to direct employees to be vaccinated against the virus.

An employer’s direction to employees performing Tier 1 or Tier 2 work is more likely to be

vaccine availability. When undertaking this case-by-case assessment, it may also be helpful as a general guide to divide work into 4 broad tiers:

- **Tier 1 work**, where employees are required as part of their duties to interact with people with an increased risk of being infected with coronavirus (for example, employees working in hotel quarantine or border control).

- **Tier 2 work**, where employees are required to have close contact with people who are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts of coronavirus (for example, employees working in health care or aged care).

- **Tier 3 work**, where there is interaction or likely interaction between employees and other people such as customers, other employees or the public in the normal course of employment (for example, stores providing essential goods and services).

- **Tier 4 work**, where employees have minimal face-to-face interaction as part of their normal employment duties (for example, where they are working from home). A workplace may have a mix of employees, with different employees performing work in different tiers, all of which could change over time. The coronavirus pandemic

reasonable, given the increased risk of employees being infected with coronavirus, or giving coronavirus to a person who is particularly vulnerable to the health impacts of coronavirus.

An employer’s direction to employees performing Tier 4 work is unlikely to be reasonable, given the limited risk of transmission of the coronavirus.

For employees performing Tier 3 work:

- where no community transmission of coronavirus has occurred for some time in the area where the employer is located, a direction to employees to be vaccinated is in most cases less likely to be reasonable

- where community transmission of coronavirus is occurring in an area, and an employer is operating a workplace in that area that needs to remain open despite a lockdown, a direction to employees to receive a vaccination is more likely to be reasonable.

Most employers will employ workers who fall into more than one of the above tiers. Practically, this may mean that an employer cannot adopt a ‘one size fits all’ approach and requiring some employees to be vaccinated may be reasonable while for others it may not be.

So what about those industries that are not affected by the public health orders?

In those industries, employers can direct employees to be vaccinated if the direction is lawful and reasonable. This is fact-dependent and requires a case-by-case assessment. The Fair Work Ombudsman provides some guidance on this issue and things to take into consideration include:

- the nature of each workplace (for example, the extent to which employees need to work in public facing roles, whether social distancing is possible and whether the business is providing an essential service)

- the extent of community transmission of COVID-19 in the location where the direction is to be given, including the risk of transmission of the Delta variant among employees, customers or other members of the community

- the effectiveness of vaccines in reducing the risk of transmission or serious illness, including the Delta variant ...

- work health and safety obligations ...

- each employee’s circumstances, including their duties and the risks associated with their work

- whether employees have a legitimate reason for not being vaccinated (for example, a medical reason)



REIA’s Real Estate Market Facts show housing prices blew out by almost 20%

House prices have inflated by a whopping 18.4% over the year to June 2021, the

latest Real Estate institute of Australia’s (REIA), *Real Estate Market Facts* has

found. (The report records all sales that have settled.) REIA President Adrian Kelly said that over the June quarter, the weighted average capital city median price increased by 4.4% for houses to record \$913,946 and by 2.9% for other dwellings reaching \$632,889. “At \$1,410,133 Sydney’s median house price continues to be the highest amongst the capital cities, 54.3% higher than the national average. At \$515,000 Perth has the lowest median house price across Australian capital cities, 43.7% lower than the national average. “At \$786,175 Sydney’s

found. (The report records all sales that have settled.) REIA President Adrian Kelly said that over the June quarter, the weighted average capital city median price increased by 4.4% for houses to record \$913,946 and by 2.9% for other dwellings reaching \$632,889.

“At \$1,410,133 Sydney’s median house price continues to be the highest amongst the capital cities, 54.3% higher than the national average. At \$515,000 Perth has the lowest median house price across Australian capital cities, 43.7% lower than the national average. “At \$786,175 Sydney’s

“At \$786,175 Sydney’s

HUNTLEE

◆ TAVERN ◆

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY
7AM - 12AM
THURSDAY - SATURDAY
7AM - 1AM
SUNDAY
8AM - 12AM

Monday

HAPPY HOUR FROM
3PM
\$15 LUNCHESES
FREE GARLIC BREAD
WITH ANY MAIN MEAL
PURCHASED FOR
DINNER

Tuesday

HAPPY HOUR FROM
3PM
\$15 LUNCHESES
TOPPER TUESDAY FOR
DINNER

Wednesday

HAPPY HOUR FROM
3PM
\$15 LUNCHESES
WING WEDNESDAY FOR
DINNER
QUIZZAME FROM 7PM

Thursday

HAPPY HOUR FROM
3PM \$15 LUNCHESES
BURGER & BEER
COMBO
POKER FROM 7PM

Friday

R&B FRIDAYS WITH
\$5 SPIRITS FROM 9PM

Saturday

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FROM 9PM

Sunday

COCKTAIL
AFTERNOONS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
EARLY AFTERNOON
POKER FROM 5PM

Everyday

OUR BAR TRADES FROM
OPEN TO CLOSE
OUR BISTRO IS OPEN FOR
BREAKFAST,
LUNCH AND DINNER, 7
DAYS A WEEK
OUR MEMBERS CAN ORDER
MEAL DEALS VIA OUR APP.



Bottlemart



WHEELS

BOOK NOW FOR OUR MELBOURNE CUP EVENT
THE RADIATORS LIVE NOVEMBER 20TH 2021
HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

3 EMPIRE ST, BRANXTON NSW 2335 ● WWW.HUNTLEETAVERN.COM.AU ● PH 02 8866 1899





making our school a beautiful place. Enjoy retirement Mr J! Earlier in the year we received a \$2000 donation from the Branxton IGA through the Community Chest program. With this money we were able to purchase a collection of amazing new toys and games for the students to use at lunch and recess times. They have already been a great hit with our students. Thank you IGA! We are currently having our playground improved, our new electronic sign installed, and some exciting new murals finalised, so as always there is plenty happening at our school. Hopefully it won't be too much longer before we can welcome our families into school again. In the meantime, keep informed with our SkoolBag and Facebook, and engage in your child/ren's learning on Seesaw.

Dates for the Calendar

Friday 26th November – PBL Assembly
 Tuesday 7th December – Presentation Day
 Thursday 9th December – Sports Assembly
 Thursday 16th December – Last day of Term 4



* Mr Johanson



Branxton Public School

Branxton Public School is welcoming ALL students back to school this week after a lengthy and sometimes challenging period of learning at home. Congratulations to the students and their grown-ups for stepping up to the challenge and making the most of home learning. The staff are very excited to have the students back onsite and to be able to teach face to face! We are going to make the most of the final eight weeks together. Over the lockdown period we farewelled a much-loved member of our staff. Mr Johanson announced his retirement which saw him teach for the last time at Branxton Public School on the last day of Term 3. Due to COVID restrictions we were unable to give Mr J the farewell he deserved but this will happen as soon as COVID restrictions allow. Murray has worked at Branxton Public School for over 20 years, and his departure has left an enormous hole in our staff, our community, and our hearts. We are grateful to him for everything he has done to enhance the lives of thousands of students and their families over the years and for the many hours he has spent



* New equipment



* Kinder using new equipment



assistance please call

0414 757 826

Rothbury Water Cartage
 Domestic Mining Civil Rail

Rothbury Water Cartage

- * 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

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

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



Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate 4938 3300



A local business with local knowledge...

Helen Lowing Sales Consultant



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 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.
* Excludes all day other beverages & weekend brunch.

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



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



- Open 7 days, Mon-Sat 10am-1am & Sunday 10am-10pm
 - Huge Kids Playground
 - Outdoor Undercover Beer Garden
 - Indoor Enclosed Beer Garden with a Big Screen TV
 - Pizza & Gelato & Cocktails Bar
 - Live Music ~ Check web for details
- Large Front Bar, TAB and Restaurant areas & upstairs Function Room available for all types of events



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



A CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE



became verbally aggressive towards the worker and left the store. A short time later, the man returned to the store and walked behind the counter, before allegedly assaulting the employee repeatedly and attempting to drag him from the store while threatening him. Customers went to the aid of the injured man, and the man left the scene. The store employee was treated at the scene by NSW Ambulance paramedics for cuts and bruises to his face and swelling to his left eye, before being taken to Murrurundi Hospital. He has since been released. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District were called and commenced investigations. Following inquiries, police attended a home on Rosella Street, Murrurundi, and arrested a 53-year-old man. He was taken to Muswellbrook Police Station where he was charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm. The man was granted conditional bail, to appear at Scone Local Court on 18 November 2021.

Man charged with assaulting store employee after allegedly refusing to wear face mask – Wednesday, 20 October 2021 12:11:27 AM
A man has been charged after refusing to wear a face mask in-store and allegedly assaulting a store worker in the Upper Hunter region yesterday. About 4.15pm (Tuesday 19 October 2021), a 30-year-old man was working at a food store on Mayne Street, Murrurundi when a man entered the store without wearing a face mask. The store employee offered the man a mask, when the man allegedly

Disqualified driver charged with drug offences following vehicle stop – Cessnock
Sunday, 24 October 2021 11:00:18 AM

A man has been charged with drug and driving offences after police seized almost 100L of fertilizer and cannabis plants during a vehicle stop in Cessnock yesterday. About 2.50pm on Saturday (23 October 2021), officers attached to Traffic & Highway Patrol Command were conducting roadside breath testing on Aberdare Street, Cessnock, when they stopped a Holden Commodore sedan. Police will allege the driver, a 36-year-old man, who is disqualified from driving, returned a positive drug test result for methylamphetamine (ice). A search of the man's vehicle resulted in police locating and seizing almost 100L of different varieties of fertilizer, cannabis plants, cannabis, electrical lighting equipment and powered globes. The man's vehicle was also inspected by police, revealing several serious safety defects including an aftermarket steering wheel without an airbag, an unsecure vehicle battery and unenclosed air filter. A red defect label was placed on the Commodore. The man was arrested and taken to Cessnock Police Station where he was charged with driving while disqualified, possess prohibited drug, possess prohibited plant and goods in custody. The man was granted strict conditional bail and will appear at Cessnock Local Court today (Sunday 24 November 2021).

See you at the library!

Library News



Cessnock City Council pleased to announce that Kurri Kurri Library has reopen which happened at 11am Monday 11 October 2021. Council had taken the opportunity presented by the lockdown to repaint the interior of Cessnock Library and it re-opened on 18 October 2021. Following the reopening, both branches will operate 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters said, "We couldn't wait to open the doors and welcome

the community back. As always, the health and safety of our staff and visitors remain our top priority, so we will be strictly complying with the NSW Public Health Orders." This means that visitors (aged 16 and over) will need to be fully vaccinated before they can come into the Library and they will be asked to present their digital or printed vaccination certificate to a Covid Marshall prior to entry as part of the check-in process. Staff will do their best to get customers through the door as quickly as possible and ask for patience during this process. Face masks are also required to be worn at all times. There will also be a limit of 20 people at any time in each building. Initially, the library will be only offering limited services, but services and opening hours will progressively increase over the coming weeks in line with relevant Public Health Orders. Public programs and learning activities will be continue to be delivered online for the time being.

The popular Click/Call and Collect service will also remain available. Customers are able to phone and discuss selections with staff, reserve items from the library collection for free or place orders via the library website. Staff will prepare orders so they are ready for contactless pick up. The 24/7 eBranch is always open and can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection and your free library card. If you are not already a member, residents are invited to head to cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries and click on 'join.' There is a huge range of free eBooks, eMags, eMusic, eFilms, and TV shows to keep you (and the kids) entertained at home.

Instructions to set up these various apps can be found on our website, but If you need any assistance, our friendly library staff are available to help you and you can reach us by calling Cessnock Library on 4993 4399 Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.



THE NEWS No. 278 10th Sept 2009 Page 5

Construction commences at Greta Public School



Federal Member for Hunter, Joel Fitzgibbon last week visited Greta Public School to turn the first sod on the site's of the school's new facilities as part of the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER). Greta Public School received \$2,000,000 to build a new hall and COLA under Round 1 of BER. Bovis Lend Lease is the Managing Contractor for the design and construction of the new facilities in a contract with the NSW Government's Department of Education and Training. Mr Fitzgibbon said that this project is part of the Rudd Government's \$42 billion Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan to support jobs, stimulate local economies and invest in important infrastructure for the long-term. 'This is an exciting phase in the largest school modernisation program in Australia's history,' said Mr Fitzgibbon. 'School communities, parents and tradespeople will work together to deliver these important projects, that once completed, will give our teachers and students the 21st century facilities that they so richly deserve.' Greta Public School Principal John Edmonds said: "We really appreciate the support that our school has been given. The new hall will change the way we do things at our school, giving us an all-weather facility to hold performances and assemblies, and work more closely with our community. In the past we were forced to leave the school grounds to do these things. Now we can do it on site". *Photo above:* GPS 's Toni Dobson helped the federal member Joel Fitzgibbon MP turn the first few sods on the construction site.

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

Next year....



After South Sydney Rugby League first grade (The Rabbito's) qualified to play in the grand final last month a Rabbito's flag was hoisted, full mast, at a property in Bridge Street, Branxton. Knowing full well that The Panthers would beat them I started to wonder what would happen to the full mast flag after their defeat. Bright and early the next day I got my answer which gave me a chuckle (see photo). Geoff Hurst is a Rabbito's tragic but with a great sense of humour & has followed the Bunnies all his life. "My dad passed away in 2019 and we worked out that he had followed them, through good and bad, for 84 years which I am sure holds some great significance for the club & certainly our family ... watch out next year," said Geoff.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021



commemorate this solemn occasion after a particularly difficult time in Australian history. All community members are invited including school groups, all personnel are requested to be at the Greta Memorial, no later than 10:45 AM on Thursday 11th November.

Greta RSL Sub-Branch wishes to invite all members of Greta and Branxton Sub-Branches to attend a Remembrance Day Service at Greta Cenotaph on Thursday 11th November, 2021. RSL Members, their partners and any other interested members of the community are asked to assemble at Greta Cenotaph at 10.30am, for the Service to commence at precisely 10.45am to enable a Minutes Silence to be observed at the designated time of 11.00am. This will be a COVID Safe event with QR Code check-in required, manual registration sheets will also be available. After the Service, members and their partners are also invited to a late morning tea to be held in the Old Greta Courthouse. This also will be COVID Safe as per all restrictions in place on the day. We look forward to being able to

Daily Thoughts
"My father taught me to work; he did not teach me to love it." **Abraham Lincoln**
If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done.
Anon
"The reason why worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work." **Robert Frost**
"I refuse to spend my life worrying about what I eat. There's no pleasure worth foregoing just for an extra three years in the geriatric ward." **John Mortimer**
"The first law of dietetics seems to be: if it tastes good, it's bad for you." **Issac Asimov**
"My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four; unless there are three other people." **Orson Welles**

For Sale



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS
REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

NTH. ROTHBURY



Two bedroom double brick home on large fenced lot
With some TLC this home could be your palace; double brick, extra large bedrooms with builtins, polished floors, leadlight windows, large BBQ covered area at rear, garden shed & large carport.

OFFERS OVER \$470,000

EAST BRANXTON



Easy maintained Modern 3 bedroom home

Features include:-

- * Ensuite & walkin robe to main bedroom
- * Builtins
- * Modern & nicely appointed main bathroom
- * Open plan living area
- * Air Con
- * Modern good sized kitchen with dishwasher
- * Covered BBQ area at rear leading to a good sized back yard



OFFERS OVER \$500,000

NTH. ROTHBURY

NORTH ROTHBURY 14.65HA
STUNNING 34 ACRES BLANK CANVAS READY FOR YOUR DREAM HOME



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

Things You Will Love About This Escape Acreage...

- Approx. 34.3 acre rural holding with dwelling entitlement with consent(RU2)
- Stunning views from elevated sites
- Potential building sites
- Unique lifestyle acreage
- Abundant wildlife and native flora

ASKING 965,000



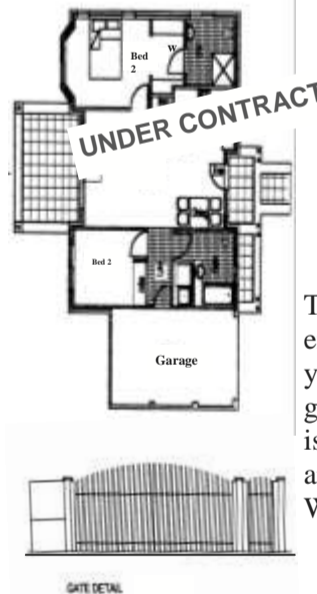
BRANXTON

SENIOR LIVING
"Branxton Gardens"

Unit 16 Branxton Gardens
"Senior Living"

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

ASKING \$360,000



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

Building Blocks

NORTH ROTHBURY
Vacant building block ~ 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

ASKING \$130,000 ono

BELFORD

Vacant Building Block
2559m²

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

ASKING \$160,000 ONO

NORTH ROTHBURY

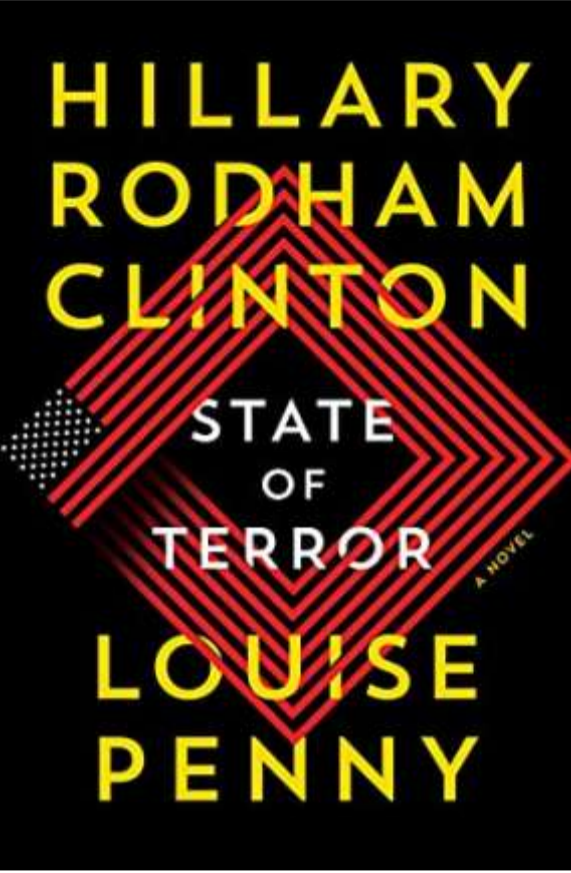
Vacant building block

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

ASKING \$135,000



SOLD



State of Terror by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny review: a topical, zippy read

The verdict on Hillary Clinton's foray into the world of writing political thrillers

Ellen Adams is "medium height, trim with good dress sense" and secretary of state to the President she distrusts. A reckoning with the Trump era will be worn heavily in the next 40 pages: "After the past four years of watching the country flail itself almost to death, she was now in a position to help". The duo of Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny follow Bill Clinton's foray into a masculine thriller genre with his co-author James Patterson in *The President's Daughter*. That sold over two million copies - and Hillary, fairly enough, now spins out her own barely-fiction thriller franchise with Penny, a well-established Canadian writer behind the long-running Canadian Three Pines mystery franchise. Clinton's inside knowledge is clearly the draw here in a book that rests on the instability of geo-politics and America's less certain place as the global policeman. The State Department is "the Harry S. Truman building, still called Foggy Bottom by longtime denizens, maybe even with affection". I can't begin to figure out why that sentence got past the book's editors - and my guess is that no one dared tell the Secretary of State that not ever insider observation is golden. As a wave of terror attacks haunt London (Piccadilly features heavily in US thrillers about London),

Paris and Frankfurt, Ellen considers "the unthinkable" which has been pretty thinkable frankly since page one - namely that the president is somehow colluding or turning a blind eye for *raison d'état*. This demands international co-operation with international figures like Britain's Prime Minister Bellington, "his hair askew as ever", immensely popular with the right-wing of his party and the Conservative voting public". His raddled charm is "replaced by entitlement in random Latin phrases" I have literally no idea who the authors might be thinking of. President Ivanov of Russia is a snake-like dictator with a tight, mirthless smile: "Maxim Ivanov stood in the middle of the room, not moving. Forcing Ellen to go to him, which she did." There's some decent verbal sparring, inspired by Clinton's testy relations with Putin. Soon, a sequence of bombs leads Ellen and her sidekick, ex-teacher friend Betsy Jameson, into adventures, sustained by staunch female friendship, Spanx underwear and liberal references to Chardonnay and yoga. All in all, this yarn could not be more Democrat in its tastes, aversions and self-belief if it wore a blue rosette and was represented by a donkey motif. Ellen might be insufferable were she not also a novice at the job - a press mogul in the manner of the late Washington Post proprietress Kay Graham, who has just turned over the business to her daughter Katherine but can't escape her tangled family web (not least because they all have important jobs - but hey, that's a dynasty for you.) Her boss, the noncommittal President Williams doesn't much seem to like or rate her (echoes of Obama-Clinton froideur for the watchful). The State Department and secret state apparatus are at odds and everyone is suspicious of each other in the wake of the dreadful misrule of "Eric-the -Dim" aka Eric Dunn, the defeated Republican Shrek who is sulking in Florida while his denizens plot to undo the succession in the "vast rightwing conspiracy" that a younger Hillary Clinton once predicted. The plot is breathlessly pacy and topical: a Pakistani scientist is on the run and a state department official with a mysterious background in the Middle East receives oddly encoded messages. The race against the global clock heats up as the "state of terror" creeps close to home and domestic machinations criss-crossing the action in DC. It's a competent and zippy read, if not first-tier thriller plotting. It does however see the mess the world is in with uncomfortable

premonition. The withdrawal from Afghanistan, Ellen tells the President, will be a disaster, bringing yet more opportunities for terror and women and girls

left to the Taliban's untender mercy. "I guess we'll need a strong, internationally respected Secretary of State to let the Taliban know their rights

must be respected," comes the reply. Good luck with that one, Mr President. *Anne McElvoy is Senior Editor at The Economist*

ABOUT.....



Louise Penny CM OQ (born 1958) is a Canadian author of mystery novels set in the Canadian province of Quebec centred on the work of francophone Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the *Sûreté du Québec*. Penny's first career was as a radio broadcaster for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). After she turned to writing, she won numerous awards for her work, including the Agatha Award for best mystery novel of the year five times, including four consecutive years (2007–2010), and the Anthony Award for best novel of the year five times, including four consecutive years (2010–2013). Her novels have been published in 23 languages.

Early life and career with CBC
Penny was born in Toronto^[1] in 1958. Her mother was an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction, with a particular liking for crime fiction, and Louise grew up reading mystery writers such as Agatha Christie, Georges Simenon, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Michael Innes.

Penny earned a Bachelor of Applied Arts (Radio and Television) from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute (now Ryerson University) in 1979. After graduation, at age 21, she embarked on an 18-year career as a radio host and journalist with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. At the start of her broadcasting career, Penny took postings at locations far from friends and family, and to help deal with feelings of loneliness and isolation, she increasingly turned to alcohol. At age 35, she admitted to an alcohol problem, and has been sober since. Shortly afterward, she met her future husband, Michael Whitehead, head of hematology at Montreal Children's Hospital, on a blind date.

Literary career
After her marriage, Penny left the CBC to take up writing. She started a historical novel but had difficulty finishing it, and eventually switched to mystery writing. She entered her first novel, *Still Life*, in the "Debut Dagger" competition in the United Kingdom, placing second out of 800 entries. The novel won other awards, including the "New Blood" Dagger award in the United Kingdom, the Arthur Ellis Award in Canada for best first crime novel, the Dilys Award, the Anthony Award and the Barry Award for Best First Novel in the United States. Penny continues to write, garnering major crime novel award nominations for almost every one of her novels and subsequently winning several of those awards.^[8]

Her work features Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, head of the homicide department of the *Sûreté du Québec*. The novels are set in the province of Quebec but feature many hallmarks of the British whodunit genre, including murders by unconventional means, bucolic villages, large casts of suspects, red herrings, and a dramatic disclosure of the murderer in the last few pages of the book.

In 2009, Penny helped to launch a new award for aspiring Canadian mystery writers, the Unchanged Arthur for Best Unpublished First Novel. Penny currently lives in Knowlton, a small village in Quebec's Eastern Townships about 100 km from Montreal, Quebec. Her husband Michael died on September 18, 2016.

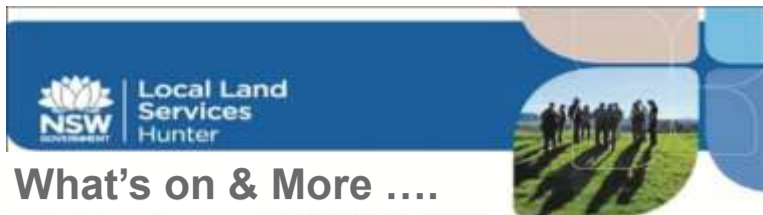
Honours
In 2013, she was made a Member of the Order of Canada "for her contributions to Canadian culture as an author shining a spotlight on the Eastern Townships of Quebec". In 2017 she was made a Member of the Order of Quebec.

Movie adaptations
For several years, Penny resisted selling the TV or movie rights to her books, afraid of losing creative control of her characters. However, when approached by PDM Entertainment and Attraction Images and offered a position as executive producer during film production, she changed her mind and agreed to sell them the rights to her first two novels. *Still Life* went into production in the fall of 2012, with British actor Nathaniel Parker cast as Chief Inspector Gamache. The movie aired on CBC TV in 2013. In September, 2021, production of *Three Pines* began in Montreal and rural Quebec, starring Alfred Molina.

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

The New York Times Best Sellers
(31 October 2021)

- STATE OF TERROR**
by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny **NEW THIS WEEK**
In the wake of the previous administration's mishandling of international affairs, the new Secretary of State Ellen Adams confronts interconnected global threats.
- THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY**
by Amor Towles **2 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
Ranked 1 last week
Two friends who escaped from a juvenile work farm take Emmett Watson on an unexpected journey to New York City in 1954.
- THE WISH**
by Nicholas Sparks **3 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
Ranked 2 last week
Maggie Dawes, a renowned travel photographer, struggles with a medical diagnosis over Christmas.
- APPLES NEVER FALL**
by Liane Moriarty **5 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
Ranked 4 last week
The Delaney siblings suspect their father of causing the disappearance of their mother.
- CLOUD CUCKOO LAND**
by Anthony Doerr **3 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
Ranked 3 last week
An interconnected cast of dreamers and outsiders are in dangerous and disparate settings past, present and future.
- SILVERVIEW**
by John Le Carré **NEW THIS WEEK**
A London spy chief's investigation brings him to a quiet seaside town where Julian Lawndley has relocated and opened a bookstore.
- IT ENDS WITH US**
by Colleen Hoover **18 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
Ranked 10 last week
A battered wife raised in a violent home attempts to halt the cycle of abuse.
- THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME**
by Laura Dave **24 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
Ranked 12 last week
Hannah Hall discovers truths about her missing husband and bonds with his daughter from a previous relationship.
- THE BOOK OF MAGIC**
by Alice Hoffman **NEW THIS WEEK**
The fourth book in the Practical Magic series. Three generations of Owens women try to save a young man's life.
- THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO**
by Taylor Jenkins Reid
16 WEEKS ON THE LIST
A movie icon recounts stories of her loves and career to a struggling magazine writer.



What's on & More

LOCAL HENDRA VIRUS ALERT

Earlier this month a horse infected with Hendra virus variant (HeV-g2) was detected in our local area.

This was the first NSW horse to test positive to Hendra virus outside of northern area of the State. <https://www.outbreak.gov.au> > for-vets-and-scientists has some good advise & reads:- It is important for all horse owners and carers to use good hygiene and biosecurity practices regardless of where they are located.

To help prevent Hendra virus in horses, reduce the opportunity for flying-foxes and horses to interact. Do this by removing feed bins and water troughs from under or near trees. Remove horses or restrict their access to paddocks where flowering or fruiting trees

attract flying-foxes. When working with or around horses, particularly those showing signs of illness or lethargy, practice good hygiene:

- wash your hands regularly
 - cover any cuts or wounds with a water-resistant dressing
 - use appropriate personal protective equipment when handling sick horses & also clean and disinfect equipment that has been in contact with a horse's body fluids.
- The following signs have all been associated with Hendra virus cases in horses, but not necessarily all signs will be found in any one infected horse:

- rapid onset of illness, fever, increased heart rate, discomfort or weight

shifting between legs, depression, rapid deterioration with either respiratory and/or nervous signs. Respiratory signs include:

- difficulty breathing, rapid breathing, nasal discharge at death - can be initially clear, progressing to stable white froth or stable blood-stained froth.

Nervous signs include:

- wobbly gait, apparent loss of vision in one or both eyes, aimless walking in a dazed state, head tilting and circling, muscle twitching, urinary incontinence, inability to rise.

Sick horses must not be moved from their location and should be isolated from other animals on the property.



Over southern and eastern Australia the cold front events with potential to bring widespread rain are now expected about 26 October to 30 October, 30 October to 3 November, and 16 November to 20 November. Rain events originating in the tropics and moving south are possible about 4 November to 8 November, and 16 November to 20 November.

Racing Review & News

Tralee Rose looms as Cup contender after Geelong win



Tralee Rose shakes off Dr Drill to win the Geelong Cup. Picture: Racing Photos via Getty Images

By Brad Waters

One Melbourne Cup dream became a reality while another all but ended in Wednesday's Geelong Cup. The Symon Wilde-trained mare Tralee Rose booked her place in the \$8m Melbourne Cup after fighting off Dr Drill's determined challenge in the \$400,000 feature. Tralee Rose was already on the edge of the Melbourne Cup field in 25th in the latest order of entry for the great race but a possible

weight penalty and the \$240,000 winner's cheque would be enough to secure her spot. "It is dawning on us now that we've got a genuine live hope in the Melbourne Cup," Wilde said. TAB agreed with Wilde's assessment, promoting Tralee Rose to the third line of Melbourne Cup betting at \$15. Wilde said Tralee Rose's position in the Melbourne Cup order of entry left him wondering whether to run

the mare in the Geelong Cup. He was thankful he made the right decision. "We were grappling whether to run or not and I'm glad we did. "It will top her off beautifully. It's not like she's falling in (to the Melbourne Cup field), she's getting stronger as the races go on late." Unfortunately, dual AFL premiership-winning coach-turned-trainer Denis Pagan was bitterly



Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton Last reported 20th October 2021

Numbers more than doubled compared to the last rain affected market and the breed and quality was fair to good. Younger cattle were well supplied, with the majority suitable for the restockers and lot feeders, while fair runs were high yielding and suitable for the butchers and processors. Approximately 37 cows were penned. The restockers and lot feeders competed strongly for their suitable lots ensuring a dearer trend throughout most categories. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock trended dearer and ranged from 642c to 810c, with the heavier end also experiencing strong gains to make from 632c to 700c/kg. The heifer portion also trended dearer, with restockers paying from 598c to 678c and up to 790c/kg for the light weights. The yearling steers trended dearer, some breed and quality related rises, with the light weights to the restockers ranging from 500c to 706c, as the heavier pens received from 484c to 612c/kg. The light weight yearling heifers sold to very strong competition from the restockers and these made from 526c to 618c/kg. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle to the butchers and processors sold well, with the best reaching 584c/kg. The older steers and bullocks to the processors made from 370c to 440c, while the older heifers reached 458c/kg. Cows trended marginally cheaper, with the better covered heavy weights ranging from 370c to 400c/kg. *Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.*

Detailed Cattle report for Scone Last reported 19th October 2021

Consignments increased, with percentages of the vealer steers and heifers compared to the yearlings lower this week. There was extra weight in the penning and breed and quality slipped, with greater numbers of crossbreds penned. The majority were younger cattle suitable for the restocker and lot feeders, with online and the buyers at the rail competing very strongly for the lighter end of the yearling steers. Approximately 35 cows were yarded, with the older heifers making up the bulk of the export cattle. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock trended dearer and ranged from 680c to 800c/kg. The heifer portion also to the restockers made from 570c to 704c/kg, with breed and quality also slipping this week. The lighter end of the yearling steers trended dearer and sold from 576c to 748c to the restockers, as the heavier drafts to feed and restockers ranged from 460c to 622c/kg. Yearling heifers trended cheaper, some breed and quality contributing, as prices made from 470c to 650c/kg. The prime younger cattle sold to strong competition from the butchers and processors, with the better end receiving up around the 556c/kg range. The older steers and bullocks trended a little cheaper and made from 380c to 440c/kg. The well supplied heifer portion reached 506c/kg. Cows sold close to firm, with the better covered heavy weights ranging from 355c to 380c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 330c/kg. *Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.*

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth Last reported 25th October 2021

There was an increase in numbers with young cattle again well supplied. There were some very good heavy weight grown cattle. The quality of the offering was mixed with some good lines of feeder cattle alongside some plainer grades. The majority of the penning presented in forward condition. There was a full compliment of the regular processors and feedlot buyers along with strong restocker competition. Market trends varied through the young cattle. The strong restocker demand saw light weight young cattle sell on firm to dearer trends. Medium and heavy weight yearling feeder steers sold on a firm to cheaper market trend with little change on the top end of the market. Medium and heavy weight yearling heifers to feed attracted strong demand and sold to a dearer trend. The well finished heavy trade yearlings sold to a slightly dearer trend. Heavy weight grown steers to process sold to cheaper trends with weight and age a factor in price change. A strong cow market with increased demand. The heavy weight cows saw improvements of 6c to 9c/kg. *Market reporter, James Armitage.*

Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah Last reported 19th October 2021

The numbers increased by 1,000 head with yearlings offloaded in large numbers. There were fair supplies in the other categories, not many cows. The quality and condition of the offering was generally good. There was a large consignment of HGP treated yearling steers, all purchased by feedlotter. All the regular buyers were in attendance along with the return of a processor, albeit in a limited capacity. It was a very strong market for the young cattle with restocker demand in the lighter weight categories very high. The vealer and yearling steers under 330kg posted a significantly dearer market trend. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers to restock and feed also sold to dearer trends with odd sales much dearer. There was some negative price change in the heavy weight feeders with breed a factor. The HGP treatment also contributed to that change with discounts applied. Light weight yearling heifers to restockers also sold to dearer trends, substantially so in places. The medium weight yearling heifers to feed sold to a dearer trend with strong gains, taking breed into account. Heavy weights saw little but quality related price change. The well finished heavy weight yearlings to the trade saw dearer trends on the back of strong competition from feedlots. Heavy weight grown steers to process, including the yearlings over 500kg sold on a dearer market trend, with those into the domestic market showing the strongest improvement. Well finished grown heifers to process also sold to dearer trends. The cow market was a shade cheaper, despite the limited supply. The extra competition in the bull market resulted in a dearer market trend. *Market Reporter, James Armitage.*

disappointed with Victoria Derby winner Johnny Get Angry's effort. Johnny Get Angry showed little fight in the straight, dropping out to finish 19 lengths from the winner. Johnny Get Angry was safely in the Melbourne Cup field but Pagan said he would need to take time to consider the stayer's future. "It was disappointing," Pagan said.

"His trackwork and everything has been terrific but I've got to go and get him checked out. "I doubt we'd be going anywhere after that. I'll just have to think about it." While Pagan was left to search for answers, the Geelong Cup panned out perfectly for Tralee Rose's jockey Dean Holland. Holland was able to save ground on the inside of the leader Knights Order on the home turn but he still had to



Tralee Rose was elevated to equal third favourite for the Melbourne Cup. Picture: via Getty Images

get the best out of Tralee Rose when Dr Drill headed his mount. Even though Tralee Rose had enjoyed a good run, Holland said he was concerned the \$2.60 favourite would be beaten halfway down the straight.

"To be honest, I thought I was beat at the 200 (metre mark) but she was tough," Holland said. "Dr Drill probably put a head on me and in the end I was always going to draw away. "The hardest part of my job

is pulling her up and that's a good sign going into the Melbourne Cup." Dunaden was the last Geelong Cup winner to win the Melbourne Cup in 2011, a year after American completed the double.



MOVIE REVIEW



No time to die

Cleaning the computer and its components

Cleaning your computer, components, and peripherals help keep everything in good working condition, helps prevent germs from spreading, and helps allow proper air flow. The picture (at right) shows a good example of how dirty the inside of your computer case can get. Looking at this picture it's immediately obvious that all the dust and dirt is going to prevent proper air flow and may even prevent the fan from working.

General cleaning tips
Never spray or squirt any liquid onto any computer component. If a spray is needed, spray the liquid onto a cloth. You can use a vacuum to suck up dirt, dust, or hair around the computer. However, **do not** use a vacuum inside your computer as it generates static electricity that damages your computer. If you need to use a vacuum inside your computer, use a portable battery powered vacuum or try compressed air.

When cleaning a component or the computer, turn it off before cleaning. Be cautious when using any cleaning solvents; some people have allergic reactions to chemicals in cleaning solvents, and some solvents can even damage the case. Try always to use water or a highly diluted solvent. When cleaning, be careful to not accidentally adjust any knobs or controls. Also, when cleaning the back of the computer, if anything is connected make sure not to disconnect the plugs.

When cleaning fans, especially smaller fans, hold the fan or place something in-between the fan blades to prevent it from spinning. Spraying compressed air into a fan or cleaning a fan with a vacuum may cause damage or generate a back voltage.
* Never eat or drink around the computer.
* Limit smoking around the computer.

Cleaning tools
Although computer cleaning products are available, you can also use household items to clean your computer and its peripherals.
Cloth - A cotton cloth is the best tool used when rubbing down computer components. Paper towels can be used with most hardware, but we always recommend using a cloth

whenever possible. However, only use a cloth when cleaning components such as the case, a drive, mouse, and keyboard. Don't use a cloth to clean any circuitry such as the RAM or motherboard.

- **Water or rubbing alcohol** - When moistening a cloth, it is best to use water or rubbing alcohol. Other solvents may be bad for the plastics used with your computer.

- **Portable Vacuum** - Sucking the dust, dirt, hair, cigarette particles, and other particles out of a computer can be one of the best methods of cleaning a computer. However, do not use a vacuum that plugs into the wall since it creates lots of static electricity that damages your computer.

- **Cotton swabs** - Cotton swabs moistened with rubbing alcohol or water are excellent tools for wiping hard to reach areas in your keyboard, mouse, and other locations.

Foam swabs - Whenever possible, it is better to use lint-free swabs such as foam swabs.

Case cleaning
Why? Cleaning your case keeps the appearance of the computer looking new. While cleaning, if you see ventilation slots, these can be cleaned or cleared to help keep a steady airflow into the computer and keep all components cool.

Procedure: The plastic case that houses the PC components can be cleaned with a slightly damp lint-free cloth. For stubborn stains, add a little household detergent to the cloth. Don't use a solvent cleaner on plastics. Make sure all vents and air holes are hair and lint-free by rubbing a cloth over the holes and vents. It is also helpful to take a vacuum around each of the hole, vents, and crevices on the computer. It is safe to use a standard vacuum when cleaning the outside vents of a computer.

CD-ROM, DVD, and other disc drive cleaning
Why? A dirty CD-ROM drive or other disc drives

can cause read errors when reading discs. These read errors could cause software installation issues or issues while running the program.
Procedure: To clean the CD-ROM drive, we recommend purchasing a CD-ROM cleaner from your local computer retailer. Using a CD-ROM cleaner should sufficiently clean the CD-ROM laser from dust, dirt, and hair.



You can also use a cloth dampened with water to clean the tray that ejects from the drive. However, make sure that after the tray is cleaned that it completely dry before putting the tray back into the drive.
Hard drive cleaning
Why? Computer hard drives cannot be physically cleaned. However, they can be cleaned with software utilities to help it run fast and efficiently. Utilizing these utilities prevent the hard drive from slowing down.

Keyboard cleaning ~ Dust, dirt, and bacteria
The computer keyboard is usually the most germ infected items in your home or office.
Procedure: Before cleaning the keyboard, first turn off the computer or if you are using a USB keyboard unplug it from the computer. Many people clean the keyboard by turning it upside down and shaking. A more efficient method is to use compressed air.

Compressed air is pressurized air contained in a can with a very long nozzle.

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

In *No Time To Die*, Bond has left active service and is enjoying a tranquil life in Jamaica. His peace is short-lived when his old friend Felix Leiter from the CIA turns up asking for help. The mission to rescue a kidnapped scientist turns out to be far more treacherous than expected, leading Bond onto the trail of a mysterious villain armed with dangerous new technology.

Director: Cary Joji Fukunaga
Producer: Michael G. Wilson, Barbara Broccoli
Writer: Neal Purvis, Robert Wade, Cary Joji Fukunaga, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Scott Z. Burns

'No Time To Die' review: Bond never dies! The last with Daniel Craig in the lead, the film brings together the various aspects of his nonconformist interpretation of James Bond in a most satisfying way by Namrata Joshi

It seems just yesterday that the world welcomed Daniel Craig to the pantheon of James Bond with trepidation and circumspection. Was he a little short and stocky to be the suave and smooth MI6 agent? Was his persona a trifle brusque and dour for the witty, charming and, might one add, superficial character we had gotten to love so much?

Fifteen years and four films later, the reinvention of Bond as Craig in the origin story, Martin Campbell's *Casino Royale* (2006), comes a full circle in the fifth, Cary Fukunaga's *No Time To Die*. Fittingly, it's also the last with Craig in the lead and brings together the various aspects of his nonconformist interpretation of Bond in a most satisfying way.

No Time To Die sets off with a spectacular, edge-of-the-seat opening sequence that, ironically, has nothing to do with Bond. A young girl taking care of her ailing mother is caught in a bind: while she believes her dad to be a doctor who heals, her mother tells her that he kills people for a living. On cue a masked stranger enters their home to avenge the murder of his family. A cold-blooded killing and shootout later the action shifts to the picturesque, wintry landscape outside as the girl flees onto a frozen lake and falls through the cracking ice.

We cut to the present to find that she is Dr Madeleine Swann (Lea Seydoux), daughter of Bond's adversary Mr White, the one for whom his heart had skipped a beat in *Spectre*. She is in Italy with Bond following the arrest of Blofeld (Christoph Waltz), Bond's arch enemy and the head of the crime syndicate Spectre. Things appear to get serious between him and the brooding lady, but the tryst is short-lived as Spectre, with its Octopus like tentacles, comes in

pursuit of Bond much as he is forced to go chasing it. Meanwhile, the troubling question looms large—did Swann betray him to Spectre—forcing him to cut ties with her and go into retirement in Jamaica.

From terrorism in *Casino Royale*, ecology and environment and water crisis in *Quantum of Solace* and surveillance in *Spectre*, Craig's Bond has a thing for contemporary issues. Here the focus is on biological weaponry—Project Heracles which is all about nanobots spreading on touch like virus is eerily resonant in the times of the pandemic. Additionally, there is the sinister, masked terrorist from Swann's past, Lyutsifer Safin (Rami Malek), who is intent on using it to bring the planet to its heels, forcing Bond to come back from his sabbatical, for another big mission.

Craig continues to flaunt a sexy pout and a buff body that is often wrapped up in a sharp tuxedo. Additionally, there is the grey holiday/retirement stubble. He continues to travel the world—from Italy to Jamaica to Cuba to Norway to back home in England—to be in the centre of pulse-racing action set-pieces set against majestic backdrops. There are impossible stunts, gravity-defying encounters, outrageous cat-n-mouse chases, dry wit, wry one-liners and some easy wisdom with Bond telling Safin that "history is not kind to people who want to be gods". Hear, hear! However, the adrenaline rush and emotional engagement are intermittent as the film gets too protracted, the plot gets spread too thin. Thankfully, a lot else still holds.

Ever since Craig rose from the sea in *Casino Royale* like Ursula Andress in *Dr No*, the

voyeuristic gaze has been overturned a bit, fixated on him for a change. In fact, the so-called Bond Girls seem to have developed a mind of their own than being mere eye candies. Women have found more centrality and connect in his life—be it his love interest Vesper Lynd (Eva Green) in *Casino Royale* whose memory continues to haunt him even in *No Time To Die*, or the boss M (Judi Dench) earlier or Swann now. Even Ana de Armas in a small role as CIA operative Paloma is a lively, likeable presence, delivering perfect action chops despite the six-inch heels and a barely-there gown. In fact, with Nomi (Lashana Lynch) taking over as 007 in Bond's absence in the film, there is hope that more could be possible for women in this entirely male universe. Meanwhile, we find Bond himself struggling between the professional—the mantle of 007—and the personal—love, trust, togetherness, betrayal, memories, secrets, paternity, family et al. The rough action of *Quantum of Solace* meets the romance and heartbreak of *Casino Royale*. Bond bashes and pummels, gets bruised himself, both physically and psychologically. The picture that emerges is that of a complicated guy—troubled and haunted, steely and gritty but tender and vulnerable as well, in control of life yet resolved in embracing his fate. The final note struck is that of pathos. Things get capped with a most moving conclusion—for the film, the character and most so for Craig himself. A perfect exit that makes you feel that a lot more was still possible to explore with Craig's Bond. That it could still be taken in an entirely new direction. If only he could die another day



MacDroid's
Hi-TECH GADGETS SALES - SERVICE - SUPPORT

For Sales, Service & Advice...

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

1300 622 376

Berejiklian's exit shows why Morrison doesn't want an integrity body

by Michelle Grattan

The Sydney Morning Herald

EDITORS' CHOICE

THE NEWS | No.538 | THURSDAY 28 October 2021 20
 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



* Prime Minister Scott Morrison paid tribute to former NSW premier Gladys Berejiklian, noting she was "a dear friend of mine."

Those critiquing the dramatic fall of Gladys Berejiklian, who resigned when the Independent Commission Against Corruption announced it was investigating the probity of her conduct, have divided into two camps.

Some cast ICAC as the ogre that's brought down a good leader, and a woman at that, over what seems to them relatively small matters.

Others argue propriety is paramount, regardless of the broader qualities of a leader, and Berejiklian's position as NSW premier became untenable after her revelation last year of her relationship with a dodgy colleague.

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce portrayed ICAC as a rogue player that gets in the way of politicians.

"ICAC out of control means that the bureaucracy reigns supreme and politicians are basically terrified to do their job," Joyce told Channel 7.

"Politicians at times have to make hard decisions. It's not that they're corrupt, they're making decisions. There might be some disagreement with the bureaucracy, but that's their right. That's why people go to a ballot box, and they see the name of politicians on the ballot paper, not the names of bureaucrats."

Joyce's line ignores a couple of salient points. Politicians' decisions in some cases are made for improper reasons. And without sharp oversight, the voters may not be the wiser when they look at that ballot paper. Remember, it was the auditor-general who documented the egregious sports grants rorting.

With the Morrison government due to introduce its legislation for a federal integrity commission within weeks, Berejiklian's resignation has brought into even sharper focus the powers and conduct of the bodies charged with investigating integrity in politics.

Morrison was blunt in his view about ICAC. "I'm sure there are millions of people who've seen what's happened to Gladys Berejiklian, they'll understand that's a pretty good call not to follow that [ICAC] model," he said. Many people, however, will not think that's such a "good call".

We haven't got the final version of the government's integrity commission legislation. But the draft model put out by then attorney-general Christian Porter was spineless in its provisions relating to politicians and public servants. And it would take a major change of direction for the government to insert a significant spine when it makes its revisions.

The point is this: the government doesn't really want an integrity commission. It has been dragged to it by political necessity.

In the draft model, the proposed commission has tough provisions covering the scrutiny of law enforcement bodies. But politicians, their staff and bureaucrats would be given heavy protections. These would make it hard for allegations against them to reach investigators, limit what matters the body could probe, and ban public hearings during inquiries, as well as public reporting. Under Morrison's model, Berejiklian's self-damning evidence of last year would not have been given in an open forum.

In a report released this week the Centre for Public Integrity, an independent think tank with a board of legal heavyweights, compared the government's planned



* Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce argues ICAC can get in the way of politicians doing their job. CREDIT: ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN

commission with others around the country and concluded that its public sector division "would be the weakest integrity commission in the country". The centre pointed out such a body wouldn't, for instance, be able to investigate rorting in the sports grants scheme and commuter car parks project, the allegations of conflict of interest involving minister Angus Taylor's family business, or claims about ex-ministers' potential breaches of the ministerial code of conduct.

This list, however, does invite a knotty question. Should all alleged integrity breaches by politicians, staff and public servants be examined by the same body?

Gary Sturgess, who as cabinet secretary to the NSW Greiner government designed ICAC, argues for having one body to look at serious "corruption" allegations (with no special protections for the political class), and a separate one to deal with less serious alleged integrity breaches by public figures. Sturgess warns against confusing corruption involving potential criminality with other (but still important) breaches. "Treat all politicians as crooks, and there is the danger that we will end up with less integrity in public office, not more," he wrote in The Conversation this week.

In designing its model, the Morrison government has been more concerned about the political damage a robust body could do than about corruption and other integrity issues. It doesn't want any more opportunity than presently exists for "scandals" to be probed.

Critics of having a federal body at all have in the past argued that "corruption" is found more often at state rather than federal level.

But there's no doubt federal governments of both complexions, and individual politicians, will often be willing to subvert proper process when it's expedient to do so – and if they think they can get away with it. And the role of donations in buying access to ministers and their offices involves serious integrity concerns. It doesn't have to be a matter of cash in a brown paper bag.

Potential exposure of integrity breaches has the dual advantage of serving the public's right to know and acting as a deterrent to bad behaviour. But the fear that an integrity commission can be weaponised politically is legitimate. Strong protections are needed for those investigated and witnesses as well as stringent arrangements for oversight of the commission's activities.

Michelle Grattan is professorial fellow at the University of Canberra. This article was first published on The Conversation.

I remember going to the first meetings about a footpath (that was what it was called) back in 1990's early 2000's. All we wanted was a footpath between Greta and Branxton, but 'no' the RTA would not put any money towards it. CCCouncil were ready to pay their half but the RTA said 'no'. We were told that a Cessnock Council grant was then spent on building the original footpath between Branxton and North Rothbury, so more then 20 years later we are still waiting. All we have is the pathway to nowhere & it's bloody criminal that some areas in this State can get 5.5million plus for a Clay Shooting park and all Greta, a small town (but growing very fast) in the Hunter Valley wants is a 5km footpath. It makes me so mad! Could someone please tell the people of Greta and Branxton when and if the pathway will be finished; has there been any meetings with the committee, council and the community on its progress and costs? if not, why not. I also heard that the R S L is not part of the said committee. Why? *Val Randall, Greta*

To the non-vaccinated and anti-vaxxers; you are putting a roadblock to our road to recovery coming out the other side of the pandemic. I am DV and waiting for a booster but with you lot running around willy-nilly I don't feel safe going anywhere in public...maybe it should be mandatory for you lot to wear a body sign identifying your status and giving us a chance to keep a wide berth.

My great concern as a resident of Greta is the use of motorbikes and quad bikes in Greta Park. Not only is it absolutely illegal but very, very dangerous for others that wish to use the park. The parents of those children who are continually doing it should know the seriousness of their children's actions as it could lead to serious injury or worse. After discussions with other park users who like to enjoy the amenity they are afraid and fearful of high speed vehicles buzzing around them. Could you please desist; we have notified the local police ~ there is a penalty infringement if caught.

Classified's

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>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 1/2 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</p> | <p>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</p> |
|--|--|

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY MORNINGS — The Branxton Greta Mens Shed meet in the mornings: come and have a cuppa at the Shed. 49 Branxton Street, Greta (in the grounds of the old St Mary's primary school) For more information contact Richard Wesseling 0417422560 Leagues Club. For information: Phone Anna 49904093
 WED 24 NOV – Central Hunter Business Chamber Breakfast meeting with presentation by Chamber president 'Managing a small retail business profitably'. All members & Guests welcome
 FRI 26 NOV – Branxton Public School PBL Assembly
 SAT 4 Dec – Local Government Elections
 TUE 7 DEC – Branxton Public School Presentation Day
 THUR 9 DEC – Branxton Public School Sports Assembly
 THUR 16 DEC – Branxton Public School Last day of Term 4
Upcoming Concerts
 SAT 11 DEC 2021 — Iconic Scottish band SIMPLE MINDS will be performing at a day on the green Bimbadgin winery.
 SAT 26 MAR 2022 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate

Dates for your diary >

ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR

Next date: Friday, 21 January 2022 | 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- Presented by Hunter Drama - Join Alice, one of literature's most beloved heroines, in her madcap adventures. Featuring updated songs from Disney's thrilling animated motion picture, Disney's *Alice in Wonderland JR*. is a fast-paced take on the classic tale.

The ever-curious Alice's journey begins innocently enough as she chases the White Rabbit. Her adventures become increasingly more strange as she races the Dodo Bird, gets tied up with Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum, raps with a bubble-blowing Caterpillar and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own game!

A show for the young and the young at heart!

"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 of call me on 0414 757 826. The Editor

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Singleton is clearing out with annual Bulk Waste Collection to get underway on 1 November

Households across the Singleton local government area are being encouraged to clear out with the annual bulk waste collection to begin on Monday 1 November 2021 and run for four weeks.

The bulk waste collection service offers residents who receive a domestic waste and recycling service a one-off opportunity each year to dispose of bulkier waste items free of charge, simply by placing them on the kerbside for collection.

The four-week collection schedule is:

Week 1 (commencing 1 November): Singleton

Week 2 (commencing 8 November): Darlington, Dunolly, Gowrie, Hambleton Hill, Hunterview, Maison Dieu, McDougalls Hill, Singleton Heights, Wattle Ponds, Wylies Flat

Week 3 (commencing 15 November): Belford, Big Ridge, Branxton, Bridgman, Camberwell, Clydesdale, Combo, Dalwood, Dyrring, Elderslie, Falbrook, Fern Gully, Glendon, Glendon Brook, Gouldsville, Greenlands, Hebden, Lambs Valley, Leconfield, Liddell, Lower Belford, Middle Falbrook, Mirannie, Mitchells Flat, Mount Olive, Obanvale, Pokolbin, Ravensworth, Reedy Creek, Rixs Creek, Roughit, Scotts Flat, Sedgefield, Stanhope, Westbrook, Whittingham

Week 4 (commencing 22 November): Appletree Flat, Broke, Bulga, Doyles Creek, Dural, Fordwich, Glennies Creek, Glenridding, Jerrys Plains, Lemington, Long Point, Milbrodale, Mount Thorley, Redbournberry, Warkworth
Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning said eligible residents could place up to two cubic metres of domestic waste on the kerbside the week before their collection.

"The bulk waste collection is one of our most popular services, and we expect it to be even more so this year given the recent COVID lockdown where people were spending plenty of time at home," he said.

"Items that will be accepted include general household waste, fully dismantled swing sets and trampolines, scrap metal, rolled floor coverings up to 1.5m in length and furniture.

"This year we also ask that waste is separated into piles of general waste and scrap metal for collection so that we can recycle materials and dispose of waste sustainably.

"Council's Rangers will be conducting patrols during and after the collection to check that items left on the kerbside comply with requirements, as well as ensure the safety of our community and staff completing the pickup."

Each property is serviced only once.

Acceptable bulk waste items include general household waste, fully dismantled swing sets and trampolines, scrap metal and whitegoods (excluding fridges), rolled floor coverings up to 1.5m in length, and furniture.

Items that will not be accepted include mattresses, fridges, airconditioners, e-waste, green waste, hazardous solids/ liquids and batteries, commercial builders' rubble and bricks, tyres, mirrors, glass table tops, window panes and sliding glass doors.

For more information, visit <https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/bulkwastecollection>, head to Council's Facebook page or call Council's Customer Service team on T 02 6578 7290.

Council's Customer Service Centre reopens

Cessnock City Council has reopened its Customer Service Centre on Vincent Street, Cessnock to fully vaccinated residents.

While the Customer Service Centre has reopened, there will be strict guidelines in place to adhere with the Public Health Order, including only opening to fully vaccinated people. Customers are required to wear a mask, check in via the QR code out the front and adhere to the one person per 4sqm rule.

The Customer Service Centre operates from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Duty planner, building surveyor and environmental health officer services will still be available via phone on 4993 4100.

If you're not fully vaccinated, there are still a number of ways to connect with Council's customer service team, including:

- phone 4993 4100
- email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au
- live chat with the team via Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Due to the high volume of calls, Council has also implemented a call back service so customers can opt to receive a call back, rather than losing their place in the queue.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it will be fantastic to welcome back customers and deliver face-to-face customer service again.

"Council's customer service team are committed to delivering a positive customer experience and have been doing a great job despite the challenges posed by COVID-19."

"It will be wonderful to be able to deliver face-to-face services to our community again and I ask that residents are kind and respectful to all frontline staff working across the LGA," added Cr Pynsent

Cessnock City Library also reopened on Monday 18 October.

Under the NSW Government Roadmap to Reopening, the 1 December 2021 will likely see all Council facilities and services return to normal.

Friendly COVID vaccination rate bet between Hunter mayors a win for rescue service

Courtesy of ABC Upper Hunter / By Amelia Bernasconi and Paul Turton

A friendly wager between six country mayors has seen Hunter Valley vaccination rates surge and led to a \$1,200 donation to the region's rescue helicopter service.

Upper Hunter Shire Mayor Maurice Collison issued the challenge to his colleagues in the Dungog, Liverpool Plains, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Mid Coast local government areas last month.

Each mayor put \$200 from their own pocket on their community to reach the 70 per cent full vaccinated milestone first.

"We were all rising at the time we put the challenge out, but I think it worked it was a talking point," Cr Collison said.

He was proud his community "got across the line first".

"The good part about it is all the local government areas are rising in their first doses and more importantly, the second doses are really really taking off," Cr Collison said.

As of October 18 Muswellbrook Shire was still closing in on the 70 per cent target, according to statistics from the Federal Health Department.

Mayor Rod Scholes laughed at the idea that the Upper Hunter should have had a handicap.

"I think Maurice set me up a bit when we went into this bet — I think he was about 10 points in front, but congratulations to the Upper Hunter on achieving the high vaccination rates that they did," he said.

Cr Scholes said the Muswellbrook community is now "surging ahead".

"We are lagging a bit with second doses but that's only because our run was left a bit late," he said.

The latest statistics have Upper Hunter Shire residents at 84.8 per cent fully vaccinated, Dungog at 76.1 per cent, Mid Coast 73.8 per cent, Singleton 72.7 per cent, Liverpool Plains 72.5 per cent and Muswellbrook 68.6 per cent fully vaccinated.

Cr Collison said the leaders decided to donate the pot to the region's rescue helicopter service.

"The helicopter covers the whole range of all our LGAs and we did have a patient transported [recently] with COVID," he said.

The service's chief executive, Richard Jones OAM, said the team was thrilled to be "top of mind".

"It's really heart-warming and we're ever humbled by the thoughts of people," he said.

Official launch *Motorcycling the Hunter* publication

The 2021 *Motorcycling the Hunter* publication was officially launched last week in a joint effort by Cessnock City, Maitland City, Mid-Coast, Muswellbrook, Port Stephens, Singleton and Upper Hunter councils.

The launch coincides with Motorcycle Awareness Month which is an initiative of the Motorcycle Council of NSW which runs in October each year. There has been a recent

rise in the number of fatalities on NSW roads involving motorcycles, so it's more important than ever to make sure that we help motorcyclists ride to live.

Motorcycling enthusiasts across the Hunter are set to benefit from the new guide which showcases the most popular motorcycle rides in our region — from pristine coastlines to wine country roads and beyond. Cessnock City Mayor, Cr Bob

Pynsent said *Motorcycling the Hunter* is aimed at ensuring a motorcycle trip to the Hunter is both enjoyable and safe.

"The Hunter is home to some of the most popular motorcycling routes in NSW. Sadly, in the five years 2015-2019, there were 1,479 crashes with motorcycle involvement in the Hunter region."

"For over a decade, councils in the Hunter have actively worked with our communities to

promote motorcycling and improve rider safety. This our third and most comprehensive publication," added Cr Pynsent. *Motorcycling the Hunter* showcases the best routes in the Hunter and active motorcycle riders were heavily involved in development of this resource. The printed publication will be distributed through Visitor Information Centres, Council offices, motorcycle outlets, with an online version available on participating Council websites.

Change in Singleton Council's Executive Leadership Team with departure of long-time director

Long-time Singleton Council Director Business and Corporate Services Anthony Egan has announced he will leave the organisation on 5 November 2021.

In 21 years with the organisation, Mr Egan has overseen Council's finance, governance, information technology, information management, community services and customer service functions at one time or another, and supported four general managers.

He has also been involved in capital works projects such as the Town Centre Upgrades, the Singleton Regional Livestock Upgrade and lease arrangement, and the administration of several special rate variations.



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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300



"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton
Recent sales

SOLD UNIT 2, SOLD UNIT 10, SOLD UNIT 12, SOLD UNIT 18

GATE DETAIL



How to test and adjust your soil pH

Knowing your soil pH level is essential to growing healthy plants in your garden. Here's how to make sure you get it right.

Why it's important to know your soil's pH level

The pH level is a measure of acidity that is represented by a value between 0 and 14. Acidic soil has a pH value below 7.0 and alkaline soil has a value above 7.0. Different plants thrive in different soil conditions, and because soil provides many of the nutrients and minerals that plants need, getting the right pH level is important. The wrong pH level will mean that your plants may become nutrient deficient and struggle to grow.

When to test your soil

It's a good idea to test the pH level of your soil before designing or planting a new garden, creating a vegetable plot or planting varieties of fruit. You should also test when you are disappointed in the growth of your garden or some foliage is starting to show evidence of yellowing. You may even want to consider testing your soil in a few different parts of your garden. You'd be surprised how much the pH levels can vary.

Another thing to note is that if you've already added lime, fertiliser or organic matter to your soil recently, you'll need to wait three months before you get an accurate reading.



How to test for soil pH

To test your soil pH level, a simple and effective way is to use a home testing kit. A good tip when taking soil samples from your soil is to get a sample from just below the surface for an accurate reading. Another way to test for the pH level is by using an electronic pH meter. They come with a probe that is inserted into the soil that quickly gives you an accurate reading.

Adjusting and balancing alkaline soil pH

After testing your soil, if you have a pH value over 7.0, it indicates you have alkaline soil. This will mean that your soil is low on nutrients like phosphorus, iron and manganese.

To increase the acidity in your soil, you can add things like compost and manure, leaf matter or clippings from your garden or mulch. However, make sure you avoid using mushroom compost and poultry manures as these will drastically increase the alkalinity. A powdered sulphur may be needed to help if the pH reading is excessively high.

Some vegetables like a slightly alkaline soil with a value between 7.0 and 8.0. These include asparagus, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, grapevines, leeks and turnips.

Adjusting and balancing acidic soil pH

If your soil has a pH value below 7.0, it is acidic, which is the case with most Australian soils. This may be a problem as many soil nutrients become more soluble under these conditions and can be easily washed away by rain or watering. Nutrients you may lose include calcium, potassium, magnesium and copper. Another thing to note is that in very acidic soil, bacteria can rot organic matter resulting in plant damage. The easiest way to balance acidic soil is to add lime, dolomite or poultry manure.

There are many vegetables and fruits that will thrive in acidic soil with a pH value below 7.0. These include blueberries, beans, broccoli, beets, garlic, kale, lettuce, peas, potatoes, onions and spinach.



Is it worth getting pet insurance for your cat or dog?

TAMIKA SEETO

Like your dog's favourite game, the decision whether or not to get pet insurance can be a tug-of-war. On the one hand/paw, you want to make sure your pet is protected if something goes wrong. On the other, a pet insurance policy can be expensive and can come with exclusions and limitations. This begs the question – is pet insurance worth it?

How much are vet fees?

If you're tossing up pet insurance, one factor to consider is whether you could afford to pay vet bills if your dog or cat was sick or injured – and what you would do if you couldn't.

To give you an idea of costs, RSPCA insurance data from the 2019 financial year found the average claim for cancer was \$3,503.74, tick paralysis was \$1,156.87, diabetes was \$1,952.39 and snake bites was \$2,133.31. Bear in mind these are just average figures and the cost may be higher or lower depending on your circumstances.

What are some of the advantages of pet insurance?

Arguably the main benefit of pet insurance is knowing you'll be covered financially in case certain large vet bills arise. Provided your pet's condition is not excluded, pet owners can claim back a portion of vet fees – usually somewhere between 65% to 85%, depending on the policy (an excess and limits may also apply).

Ashleigh Chadwick-Jones decided to take out pet insurance for her dog and cat about three years ago. The decision came after Ashleigh's Doberman, Lexy, needed a leg operation, setting Ashleigh back \$3,000.

More recently, Lexy injured her neck. This has racked up \$1,700 in vet bills and Ashleigh was told that five-year-old Lexy will need medication for the rest of her life. Having paid the total cost of Lexy's leg operation out of pocket, Ashleigh told Canstar having insurance to cover 80% of Lexy's current neck-related bills was a big financial relief.

"It's a huge perk," Ashleigh said. "Lexy will need two different medications costing \$70 and \$90 each month for the rest of her life. This will add up over the years and I can claim back most of the cost." Some pet insurance policies will also cover routine care as a standard or optional inclusion. This generally includes certain preventative treatments such as de-sexing, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm control and flea, tick and worm control. The cost of vaccinations alone can

add up over the years. Research from the Australian Veterinary Association puts the average cost of vaccinations at around \$80 to \$90 each year for an adult animal. **What are some of the disadvantages of pet insurance?**

Exclusions

Pet insurance won't necessarily cover everything. While all policies are different, generally insurers will exclude pre-existing conditions – these are typically defined as injuries or illnesses that your pet had before you took out the policy.

Other common exclusions include elective treatments (like de-sexing if your policy does not cover routine care) and illnesses that could be prevented by vaccines (such as kennel cough). It's important to carefully read the product disclosure statement of any policy you're considering, so you understand what you will and won't be covered for.

You usually can't claim everything back

You can typically only claim back a percentage of your vet costs. For example, you may only be able to claim back 65% or 85% of eligible vet bills, depending on your policy. Insurers will usually also have an annual benefit limit. Once this has been reached, you will need to pay any further costs out of pocket.

If you choose a policy with an excess, your insurer may deduct the excess from your benefit amount. Other insurers may require you to pay the excess before or when they process a claim. There are a number of insurers who offer no excess pet insurance or give you the option of paying no excess. However, if you choose this option, bear in mind that it may make your premiums more expensive.

Limited options for older pets Generally, it can be beneficial to buy pet insurance when your cat or dog is still a kitten or puppy. This is because as your pet ages, it's more likely to develop health issues that could be excluded as pre-existing conditions if you decide to switch policies. This means you may not be able to get better coverage for an older pet with pre-existing conditions if you decide to change policies down the track.

Additionally, older cats and dogs are generally only eligible for accident-only cover. According to Canstar's database, accident and illness policies are typically offered for pets between eight weeks and eight to nine years old. On the flipside, there is typically no upper age limit for accident-only plans. **Waiting periods**

Pet parents will typically also need to sit through a waiting period before they can make a claim. For example, about a month after taking out pet insurance, Ashleigh was told Lexy would need an operation on her other leg.

Even though Lexy was now insured, the policy had a six-month waiting period for certain leg injuries. This meant Ashleigh couldn't claim on this surgery and had to foot another \$3,000 vet bill.

How much does pet insurance cost?

Another factor to weigh up is cost. The cost of pet insurance depends on a combination of factors, including the type of animal you are insuring, as well as its age, breed and gender. Premiums tend to be more expensive as your pet ages and its risk of injury or illness increases.

The cost will also differ depending on the level of insurance you choose (for example, accident-only, accident and illness or comprehensive) as well as the any excess and annual benefit limit you select.

According to Canstar's research, the average annual premium on our database for an accident and illness policy for a small dog who is less than one year old is \$825 at the time of writing. For a small five-year-old dog, the price jumps up to \$1,096 per year.

Pet insurance is typically cheaper for cats compared to dogs. The average annual premium for an accident and illness policy for a kitten under one year old is \$495. These figures are based on quotes obtained for Canstar's 2020 Pet Insurance Star Ratings.

What's the alternative?

While it can have its benefits, paying hundreds of dollars a year for pet insurance is unlikely to get many tails wagging. So what are some possible alternatives?

Instead of buying pet insurance, one alternative is for pet owners to regularly put money into a savings account and use these funds to pay for vet fees that crop up. However, a potential flaw in this plan is that you don't know when your pet could become ill or injured, making it a cost that can be



* Ashleigh decided to take out pet insurance for her dog Lexy following an expensive leg operation. Source: Supplied.

difficult to budget and save for.

For example, if something happened to your pet when you were just beginning your savings plan, this could put you in the position no pet owner wants to be in – choosing between footing a large vet bill or seeing your pet in pain, or even put down, because you haven't built up enough savings to cover the treatment.

It could be worth asking if your vet offers payment plans. However, this will be up to the individual clinic and not all vets will have this as an option. If your vet does offer plans, remember to check if any fees and charges apply.

An alternative could be to both get pet insurance and open a savings account and use the money you set aside to pay for any out-of-pocket costs that your policy doesn't cover. A savings account may also come in handy if you haven't finished the waiting period on your pet insurance.

At the end of the day, what's best for you and your pet will depend on your personal circumstances. It's worth taking your financial situation into account, as well as your pet's age, its current health and whether it may be prone to future health problems. If you're considering taking out a policy, Canstar's latest Pet Insurance Star Ratings and Awards compared 151 policies from 25 providers to find out which ones led the pack in terms of both price and features.

This article was reviewed by our Sub-editor Tom Letts and Finance Editor Sean Callery before it was published, as part of our fact-checking process.

Pins to Hopper (3rd) Shannon Attewell (4th) Mick Gilbert (8th) Matt Lightfoot (10th) & Larry Forbes (17th).

Sunday 10th October
The Weekly Challenge has been won by Sharyn Baker with 41 points from Teedubs

Waite on 40 with Pam Snaddon 3rd with 38. Ball winners were: Dave Hollis 37, Justin Preece 37, Young Fluff 36, Josoh Knott 34, Christine Tancred 34, Adam Jackson 34, Ryan Wilson 34, Nathan Bendeich 33, Mitch Foster 33, Luke Meyers 33, Ian Cook 33, Scott Ling 32, Alan Jamieson 31, John Tancred 31, Greg Snaddon 31 & Don Curran 31 c/b

Tuesday 12th October
The arrival of much needed rain has left many of the Tuesday Stableford field indoors with only a very small field taking the damp challenge on. Geoff Sweetman showed his many years of experience returning 41 points in the tough going from Michael Ridgeway 37 & Rex Talbot 3rd with 34 points.

Thursday 14th October
The Vets 2 Person Ambrose has resulted in a win for Trevor Collins & Muz with 63 net, 2nd Mick Gilbert & Col Somerville with 64 1/4 & 3rd Scrum & Steve Jurd with 64 3/4

Ball winners are: Peter McIntyre/Geoff Sweetman 65, Doug Harley/Anthony Neale 65 1/2, John Harrison/Ray Boyd 66, Peter Payne/Garry Clarke 66, Wazza/Curly 66 1/2, Steve Piggott/Scott Ling 66 1/2, Gary Arnold/Wayne Burgess 66 3/4, Fluff/Silver 66 3/4, Mick Tsakissiris/Bomber 67, Lindsay Meyn/Beepa 67, G Flynn/Paul Smith 67 1/4, Gunner/James Schofield 67 1/2, Wayne Drayton/Mark Barrow 68, Norm Barry/Dave Archibald 68 1/4 & Dave Gellwiler/Tony Lorrimer 68 1/2 on countback

Nearest-the-Pins: Spot Mitchell (3rd-Ace) Peter Perkins (4th) Michael Tsakissiris (10th) & Ray Boyd (17th) Congratulations to Spot for his Hole-in-One on the 3rd.

Saturday 16th October
The Saturday 2BBB has been won by Terry Roughan & David Cullen with 45 points on countback to Steve Piggott & Peter Puerta with Rob & Bailey Pockett 3rd with 44 points. Ball winners were: Scott Jones & Bindii 43, Peter Perkins & Scott Vowles 42, Mick Gilbert & Col Somerville 42, Peter Huckfeldt & Ron Higginbottom 41, Adrian Kent & Stephen Morgan 41, Darrell & Damien Porter 41, Wayne Drayton & Paul Bullock 41, Fluff & Banjo 40, Wayne Barber & Gary Arnold 40 and Peter Payne & Garry Clarke 40 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jeremy Holden (3rd) Adrian Kent (4th) Danny Schofield (8th) Peter Puerta (10th) & Wayne Drayton (17th). The Individual Stableford played in conjunction has been won by Darrell Porter with 39 points from Paul Bullock 36 on countback to Glenn Williams. Next weeks event will be a Medley Stable-

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB

Saturday, 2 October 2021 STROKE MEDAL STROKE

Field: 60
Winners A Benjamin Bridge 65
Grades A Corey Lamb 71
Grades A Rodney Wilton 71
Grades A Peter Mackenzie 72
Grades B Geoff Geason 74
Grades B Neil Bridge 74
Grades B Gary Walsh 75
Grades C Charlie Rae 68
Grades C Sam Bridge 69
Grades C Max Rae 74
NTP A 2nd Joshua Tracey 65cm
NTP B 4th Joseph Curnow 150cm
NTP C 9th Peter Cox 43cm
Balls 18 Distributed down to score: 77

PRO'S NTP 18TH HOLE JOSH TRACEY 65cm \$116 PROSHOP VOUCHER

Ben Bridge easily won Saturday's Monthly Medal with an outstanding 65 nett score, one of only 3 players from a strong field of 60 to break their handicap. Last year's Club Champion showed his class to win A Grade with his 71 nett, a sub-par round (67 off the stick) from this very talented player. Rod Wilton finished runner up with his 71 nett with Peter McKenzie third with a nett 72. Geoff Geason won B Grade with a 74 nett, just ahead of Neil Bridge and Gary Walsh, whilst C Grade was won by Charlie Rae with an excellent 68 nett. Sam Bridge finished runner up with his 69 nett with Max Rae third with a 74. The shot of the day belonged to Joshua Tracey on the last, only 65 cms away, earning him the Pro Pin prize of \$116 voucher. A 77 nett score was needed to win a ball.

Branxton Golf Stableford Saturday, 9th October

A Grade:
Winner: Mick Simpson 40 pts
Runner Up: Ben Bridge 38 pts
3rd: Bob Biles 38 pts

B Grade:
Winner: Jeff Haywood 38 pts
Runner Up: Brendan Connor 35 pts
3rd: Geoff Geason 34 pts

C Grade:
Winner: John Martin 40 pts
Runner Up: Murray Kingston 38 pts
3rd: Lennie Porter 36 pts
Balls to 32 pts

NTPins:
Pro NTP: Rob Wilton 160 cms
A Grade: Greg Gillard 209 cms
B Grade: Neil Bridge 17 m
C Grade: Sam Bridge 432 cms
Mick Simpson has certainly struck a purple patch of form, and belief, as again won A Grade with an outstanding 40 pts from his 4 handicap—a par round for this talented golfer. Ben Bridge continued his recent good form to finish runner up with 38 pts with Bob Biles, also in good form third with the same score. Jeff Haywood's 38 pts easily won B Grade with Brendan Connor runner up with 35 pts with Geoff Geason third, a point back. John Martin's recent return to Branxton earned him another cheque,

winning C Grade with an excellent 40 pts, with Murray Kingston and Lennie Porter filling the minor placings. Rob Wilton won the Pro's NTPin with 32 pts needed to win a ball. Captain Steve has announced the new COVID changes with our new freedoms—they are all on the club's website. He has also stated that the Pennant names for 2022 are now being taken in the Pro Shop. Some of the new changes include:

Must be in a Regional LGA area; proof of address needed; 4 per group for fully vaccinated players—2 per group for unvaccinated; 2 in cart permitted—1 for unvaccinated; flagsticks stay in hole, no rakes in bunkers—preferred lies; mask wearing as per NSW Health and Golf NSW guidelines; no swapping score cards.

Saturday, 16th October A Grade: Winner: Joshua Tracey 32 pts
2nd: Mark Moylan 31 pts
3rd: Peter Wilton 31 pts

B Grade Winner: Brendan Clark 38 pts
2nd: Terry Partridge 35 pts
3rd: Tony Seamer: 33 pts

C Grade Winner: Andrew Keogh 33 pts
2nd: Nicholas Redgrove 32 pts
3rd: Col Hughes 31 pts

Eagle on 7th: Corey Lamb

NTPins: A Grade: Greg Tearle 236 cms
B Grade: Murray Kingston 162 cms
C Grade: Luke Matt 282 cms

Pros NTPin: Mick Tracey 151 cms \$106 voucher
Ball Winners to 29 pts
59 players endured the strong westerly winds on Saturday with only one player, all day, breaking his handicap, that being Brendan Clark in B Grade with his outstanding 38 pts. Terry Partridge finished second with his 35 pts with Tony Seamer, on the comeback trail after a recent operation, finding some old form to finish third with his 33 pts.

In A Grade Joshua Tracey won with 32 pts from his 2 handicap, with Mark Moylan (8) runner up with 31 pts and Peter Wilton (3) third with his 31 pts. Andrew Keogh's 33 pts was good enough to win C Grade, with Nicholas Redgrove and Col Hughes filling the minor placings. Mick Tracey had the shot of the day on the last, winning the Pro's NTPin and the \$106 pro shop voucher. From all reports it was a very tough day with all scores struggling to go near their handicaps—the wind was so strong that on the 15th hole, young Zach Hayes tee shot finished in front of the 12th tee—the boomerang ball was certainly in play. Captain Steve wants everyone to know that the 2022 Pennant names are now being taken in the Pro Shop.

Greta Workers Fishing Club
Fresh from a couple of months on the sidelines due to Covid 19 The Greta Workers Fishing Club were back into action on the weekend of 15th, 16th, 17th October. Members who fished braved the strong westerly winds that would have blown a dog off its chain. From Broughton Island, Lake St Clair, Hawks Nest, Stockton, to Sandbar many lines were wet but few were tight. New member Daniel Johnson raised his bat with a century score on debut scoring 106 points with a feed of Salmon and Bream. He was trumped however by the Club leader with an unassailable lead Matt Wielgasz with Salmon, Dart, Tailor, Bream and Squire (167.5 points). Aidan (Muttonbird) McDougall (pictured below holding his 0.77kg Drummer off the rocks at Broughton) scored 69 with a Pearl Perch and Flathead to add to his bag. Jayden (Box) Miller scored 28.3 with a Squire and a Flathead, but son Cohen (36.4) with a Nannygai and Flathead was not to be out done. In the Jacobs family duel Andrew (24.7) beat his son Lippy Lewis (20.5) but still failed to take the chirp out of him. The next trip is November 12/13/14 at Forster/Tuncurry followed by an Open December 3/4/5. Presentation will be at the newly renovated Workers Club on Sunday 12th December around 1pm with band Carrot Bowen And The Collective playing on day. The AGM potentially will be held the day before again at Middy (at the Club). Finally the Fishing Club meeting will be Wed. 10th November after the raffles (approximately 5:45PM).

Sports Results proudly sponsored by Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate ... for all your real estate needs 02 4938 3300 0412 566 041

KEMP GOES BACK-TO BACK WITH 4-SHOT WIN AT BRANXTON



winner Rachel Bailey posted a final round 3-under par 69 to finish in outright 3rd place on 4-under par 140.

With both Kemp and Fleming paired in the last group, it turned out to be virtual match-play with Bree Arthur and Bree Turnbull falling away early in the piece. Both players started with a par at the difficult par-4 first, however, Fleming quickly lost the lead with a bogey at the 2nd while Kemp eagled the 3rd to move in to a one shot lead.

Kemp's lead was extended after Fleming found trouble on the 6th hole to record a double-bogey and Kemp held a 2-shot buffer at the turn. From there on it appeared as if it would be 'by how many?' for Kemp. She added three birdies on the par-5's around the back nine to skip to a four shot lead with just the 18th hole to play. She made a regulation par there to post her 7th ALPG victory and her second in a week.

Asked whether she expected to win being the red-hot favourite, she said, "No, I have had to play really well to win the events I've won. I don't want to put pressure on myself." Her score of 67 was

surprising even to the rising star as she expected "the scores to be three-to-four shots worse than yesterday. Anything under par would have been good enough I think." The ALPG Tour moves into the Christmas Break with three Pro-Ams in January before the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Ladies Classic kicks off the run of five major events on 28 January 2010.

Forster-Tuncurry's Sarah Kemp recorded her second victory from her last two starts after she added a 5-under par 67 to her first round 68 to post a two round total of 9-under par 135. Her superb final round saw her overtake first round leader Jody Fleming, who could only manage a 1-over par 73, albeit finishing second, her best finish since turning professional last season. Last year's

Photo: Sarah Kemp

Greta Workers Fishing Club

Fishing Club Returns After The Covid Shackles Are Broken

Fresh from a couple of months on the sidelines due to Covid 19 The Greta Workers Fishing Club were back into action on the weekend of 15th, 16th, 17th October. Members who fished braved the strong westerly winds that would have blown a dog off its chain. From Broughton Island, Lake St Clair, Hawks Nest, Stockton, to Sandbar many lines were wet but few were tight. New member Daniel Johnson raised his bat with a century score on debut scoring 106 points with a feed of Salmon and Bream. He was trumped however by the Club leader with an unassailable lead Matt Wielgasz with Salmon, Dart, Tailor, Bream and Squire (167.5 points). Aidan (Muttonbird) McDougall (pictured below holding his 0.77kg Drummer off the rocks at Broughton) scored 69 with a Pearl Perch and Flathead to add to his bag. Jayden (Box) Miller scored 28.3 with a Squire and a Flathead, but son Cohen (36.4) with a Nannygai and Flathead was not to be out done.



In the Jacobs family duel Andrew (24.7) beat his son Lippy Lewis (20.5) but still failed to take the chirp out of him. The next trip is November 12/13/14 at Forster/Tuncurry followed by an Open December 3/4/5. Presentation will be at the newly renovated Workers Club on Sunday 12th December around 1pm with band Carrot Bowen And The Collective playing on day. The AGM potentially will be held the day before again at Middy (at the Club). Finally the Fishing Club meeting will be Wed. 10th November after the raffles (approximately 5:45PM).

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

Big season ahead for Cessnock cricketers

Rod Thompson *Courtesy Newcastle Weekly*



With community sport finally receiving the “green light”, it’s now all systems go for the CDCA, who will start its season on Saturday 30 October. And, five clubs – champions Greta/Branxton, Wine Country, Piranhas, Mulbring and Bellbird – are vying for the honours in the

ball to be bowled,” Bercini said.

“With the CDCA, we’re going to play a full round – five weeks – kicking off in the top grade at the end of the month.

“Then seconds and fourths will begin on 6 November.

“However, due to the lack of double vax rates, we’ve decided to hold off the thirds until 4 December.

“Singleton District Cricket Association (SDCA) is also starting that same weekend.

“Then we’ll combine with them for the Coalfields Cup.”

Bercini admitted there would be plenty of action in the middle between now and April.

“Cessnock players will contest a full round in the

CDCA, before joining with SDCA for the Coalfields Cup,” he said.

“Ten sides – Greta/Branxton, Mulbring, Piranhas, Valley, Glendon, Creeks, Wine Country, PCH, JPC and Bellbird – are scheduled to play nine fixtures in that tournament; one game against everyone.

“There’ll be four matches before Christmas, we’ll return on 22 January and complete the remaining showdowns.

“The plan is to stage a six-team semi-final format this season.

“It’s something a bit different but it keeps those sides in the bottom half of the table in the comp a little longer.

“We’re really looking forward to it.

“When the Coalfields Cup wraps up, CDCA will host a grand final for the top two Cessnock teams.

“That’ll be for the Ross Smith Shield.

“Hopefully, if COVID-19 subsides and we can return to normal, we’ll conduct two rounds of the Coalfields Cup the following season.”

In 2021/22, the CDCA will boast a total of 23 sides – five each in firsts and seconds, six in thirds and seven in fourths.

It’s a drop of two teams from the past 12 months.

“Bellbird and Greta/Branxton have withdrawn sides from fourth grade, so we’ve only lost a couple,” Bercini said.

“We’re not too badly placed overall.

“However, post-lockdown, everyone’s chomping at the bit.

“We’ve worked hard to implement COVIDSafe plans to get the competition up and running.

“We also had to check with the clubs to see where we were at with vaccination rates.

“All of them seemed to have enough numbers to field teams, hence why we opted to start on 30 October.”

2021/22 Cessnock District Cricket Association

Ross Smith Shield

Round 1 (30 October)

Greta/Branxton v Wine Country (Miller 1)

Piranhas v Mulbring (East End)

Bye: Bellbird

* Cessnock District Cricket Association secretary & Branxtonian, Mark Bercini, is looking forward to the start of the 2021/22 season

“Let’s get onto the paddock” is the simple message from Cessnock

District Cricket Association (CDCA) secretary Mark Bercini.

Ross Smith Shield. “I think everyone’s excited and can’t wait for the first

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