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THURSDAY 11
NOVEMBER 2021

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

Record number of nominations in Cessnock, Maitland & Singleton LGA's for pending Local Government elections



■ Maitland Mayor Loretta Baker who is seeking another term as mayor at the coming 4 December election

seats available. Maitland has 55, Cessnock 53 & Singleton 19. There are 15 nominees for the position of mayor with Maitland having 7 & Singleton & Cessnock with 4 each. Mayors of both Maitland & Singleton are asking voters for another term with Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent retiring. All major political parties, with the exception of The Nats, are contesting positions in all 3 LGA's. Singleton has one nomination from the Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Party. Of the fifteen mayoral candidates, Liberal endorsed candidate Maitland Deputy Mayor Clr Ben Mitchell, is the youngest at just twenty-nine years of age. Cessnock Deputy Mayor & endorsed ALP nominee for

mayor in Cessnock, Jay Suvaal is 36. Ex-Cessnock 'Green' Councillor James Ryan has put his hand up again and is standing in 'B' ward. It was expected that Independent Cessnock Councillor in 'A' Ward, Allan Stapleford, was to stand for mayor but there wasn't a nomination from him. At the time of going to press I had not determined the reason. The nominees for mayor in Cessnock are Janet Murray for The Greens, Jay Suvaal for the ALP, John Moores for the Libs & independent Ian Olsen. Singleton we have incumbent Mayor Sue Moore (independent),



■ Singleton Mayor Sue Moore who is seeking another term as mayor at the coming 4 December election

Next edition The News will publish all pre-polling venue details. It is expected that pre-polling will be significantly higher than previous elections because of the Covid pandemic & the NSW Electoral Commission are urging voters to consider pre-polling. The election manager, as part of their Covid Plan, has directed that to reduce the risk of infection from COVID-19 where a poster would be displayed, I direct that, in respect of any of the elections of the councils listed in the Annexure to this Direction, a person must not display a poster in or on: (a) a polling place or pre-polling office, or (b) relevant premises within



● Clr Bob Pynsent, now officially the longest serving Cessnock Mayor is retiring after nearly 22 years on council & 5 years 3 months as Mayor

100 metres of - (i) a polling place, or (ii) a pre-polling office on a day during the election period on which voting will be occurring, unless: (a) the poster was displayed by the person before 7 am; and (b) the display of the poster is not adjusted or altered in any way until after 7pm. 2 Without limiting the ordinary meaning of "poster", this Direction includes A-frames and corflutes. Interesting

Philip Penfold, Michael Cooper & Brian Burke. John Brown is standing for The Greens, Ben Mitchell for the Libs, and incumbent mayor Loretta Baker for the ALP. Readers are reminded that voting is compulsory with PrePoll, ivote & postal voting available if eligible.

Danny Thompson (independent), Tony Jarrett ALP & Belinda Charlton (independent). Maitland have four independents; Shahriar Saffari,

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VOTE 1
for Sue Moore as
Singleton Mayor

Written and authorized by S Moore 122 Stanhope rd Elderslie 2335

Cessnock City Council launches 'Tag for a Tag' photo competition



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



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In an effort to promote responsible pet ownership and the importance of ensuring your dogs are wearing a collar and tag, Cessnock City Council's Ranger team has launched a 'Tag for a Tag' photo competition on Instagram.

There are 40 Cessnock City Council branded dog tags to be won which come engraved with your dog's name and your contact details, to ensure your furry friend is returned home safely if they get lost. To enter, simply take a photo of

your dog, post it to Instagram, tag @CessnockCityCouncil (make sure your privacy setting is 'Public') and use the hashtag #PuppersOfCessnock. The competition will kick off on Tuesday 9 November and run through to Thursday 9 December 2021. 40 winners will be chosen and be notified by Tuesday 14 December and tags will be posted out soon after. Cessnock City Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson, said Council's Ranger team works tirelessly to educate residents about responsible pet

residents to get involved in this wonderful initiative. "Dogs are cherished members of the family and collars with tags are the best thing to have your furry friend returned home promptly if they get lost. It's also a legal requirement to wear them in a public place." "We find that most people, if they find a dog, will first look for a phone number to return to the owner directly before calling the Ranger or taking them to the RSPCA," added Lotta. For more details about the 'Tag for a Tag' photo competition, including terms and conditions, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/tagforatag.

Save the date

2021 NSW Local Government elections

Saturday

4 DECEMBER

Voting is compulsory

elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21
1300 135 736

~ Daily Thoughts ~

"You know the world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy, Australia is coming to the aid of the US, France is accusing the US of arrogance and Germany doesn't want to go to war."
Anon.

REFLECTIONS

**"And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations."
Mark 13.10**

As we come to the gospel passage this week, we meet Jesus with his closest disciples, Simon and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John, the four fishermen who have been with him the longest. They are leaving the temple area for the last time and arriving at the Mount of Olives. From here they can look back across the Kidron Valley to the temple. The beauty and grandeur of the temple was a sight to behold, a spectacular feat of ancient architecture, but the leadership was found to be severely lacking. Jesus had found the temple leadership spiritually bankrupt, hard-hearted, and corrupt.

It is to these disciples that Jesus imparts his final words of wisdom, instruction, and encouragement as he speaks of the last things. Jesus tells them of the destruction of the temple, of wars and of natural disasters, all which must take place. There are difficult times ahead, but the disciples are not to live in fear, rather they are to be aware of the signs of the times, of false prophets, and of being deceived. Jesus tells them of the coming persecution that they will face because of their faith in him and encourages them to understand that the Holy Spirit will guide them in what they are to say and how they are to act. They will be persecuted by the religious authorities as well as by the civil authorities. In doing so, they will bear witness to Christ and through this the gospel will be spread throughout the world. The words we speak as Christians are only part of the message that we share. Our actions, service, love, compassion and understanding also speak volumes of the goodness of God. As we too are guided by the Holy Spirit, as we also trust and place our faith in Jesus, and as we continue our walk with God, we share the gospel with those around us, doing our part in proclaiming the good news to all nations. Not everyone will receive and accept the message that we proclaim, the imperative is that the gospel is proclaimed in all lands. We all know people who will not receive the good news that we offer as we seek to share our faith in Jesus. This is when it is vitally important that others can witness the good news by the lives that we live and the love that we give. God equips us for the ministry that he calls us to. All people are known by God, made in his image, and loved unconditionally. The mission of the Church, the people of God, is to proclaim the truth of this in our lives so that there is enough proof or evidence that enables others to come to know this to be true. May the blessings of God rest gently upon you as you proclaim with your life the good news of the gospel.

Blessings, Reverend Nicole



ownership and is encouraging

NOTICE

Cessnock City Council 'C' Ward candidates for the coming Local Government election will be available to answer any questions that you may have on the **4th December 2021 at the carpark Miller Park Tavern near the "Return & Earn" facility.** Don't miss the opportunity to have your say and get your queries answered.
Authorised Clr Ann Sander, Weston NSW

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#NoNewMinesInOurVines Campaign Launched to Stop New Coal Mines in Hunter Valley Wine Country

The Hunter Valley Protection Alliance (HVPA) and local Hunter Valley Wine Country businesses and organisations have joined forces to launch #NoNewMinesInOurVines, a campaign opposing the establishment of new coal mining operations in the heart of the Hunter Valley wine tourism region.

The campaign has been launched in direct response to two Exploration Lease (EL) applications lodged by Chinese-owned coal producer Yancoal that are currently before the NSW Government for review. The ELs are for sites located between the two prime wine growing regions of Pokolbin and Broke-Fordwich, adjacent to the Pokolbin State Forest. HVPA and its supporters are not against mining but believe any new coal mining operations within Hunter Valley Wine Country would result in long-lasting, irreparable damage to the region's thriving wine tourism and accommodation industries, key cultural sites and the environment.

Sally Scarborough, National Sales and

Marketing Manager at Scarborough Wine Co and spokesperson for the campaign said, "Local residents, businesses and organisations alike are overwhelmingly behind #NoNewMinesInOurVines due to the collective belief that the operation of mines in the middle of such an important viticulture and tourism cluster would have detrimental consequences to the industries.

"We are not opposed to mining in general, however cannot support new mining operations within Hunter Valley Wine Country that will negatively affect these thriving and economically sustainable industries. Further to this, the proposed new mines would result in environmental damage, impact prime viticultural land, and ultimately have negative consequences on our region's future economy.

"We are calling on the NSW Government to reject these EL applications and implement protection legislation for this nationally important wine tourism area, just as the South Australian Government has done for the Barossa Valley, and Western Australian

Government has for the Margaret River wine region," said Ms Scarborough.

The #NoNewMinesInOurVines campaign launched with a community awareness and activation program, and an opinion survey driven through digital and social media channels. Undertaken with the support of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association (HVWTA), the survey will gather public sentiment on the issue, the results from which will be shared with the NSW Government.

The comprehensive *Monash Coal Exploration Lease Renewal Submission* undertaken by Insite Planning Services and Edge Land Planning, which highlights the significant negative economic and environmental impacts that will result from new mines being established within Hunter Valley Wine Country has also been presented to NSW government officials. Hunter Valley Wine Country is the region's premier tourist destination, and one of the most visited wine regions in Australia.

The highly sustainable viticulture and wine tourism industry has been thriving in Hunter Valley Wine Country for over 200 years and has the potential to continue for hundreds more if the necessary protection legislation is put in place by the NSW Government.

About Hunter Valley Protection Alliance

The Hunter Valley Protection Alliance (HVPA) is a not-for-profit group that was formed to address the growing and emerging challenges to the Hunter Valley region from unchecked resource-based industrial growth.

The HVPA is pro-business, understanding the importance of the energy and resource industries to the local, state and nation's economies. However, support for these industries cannot come at the expense of the Hunter Valley, its residents, its businesses and its vibrancy as a hub for wine, olives, tourism and other rural activities.

The HVPA is committed to safeguarding Australia's oldest wine area through legislation, regulations and licensing terms to create a better balance for the Hunter Valley between the needs of the energy and resource industries and the needs of the Valley's residents, communities and agricultural, viticulture, olive and tourism industries.

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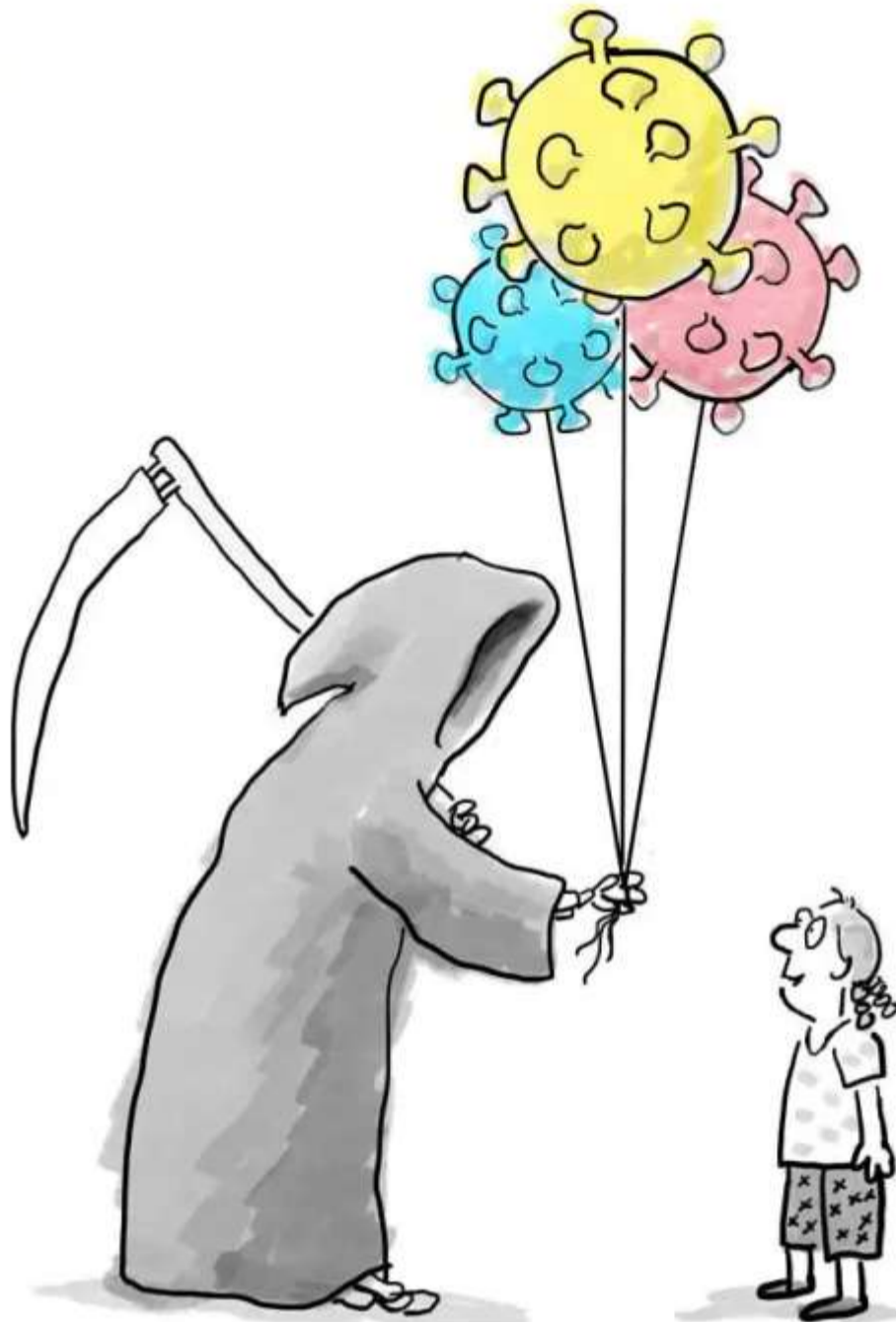
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STEVE'S RANT

There is a sinister shift in the utterances of so-called world leaders in the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, the UK and the Democratic Party in the United States of America. Include here their fellow travellers in 'Woke Canada', New Zealand and the Labour-led states of Australia. When you hear terms like 'Build Back Better', in the future, there will be no private ownership of cars and references to The New World Order; this is code for the adoption of Marx and Engle's utopian dream of the emancipation of man. That means the abolition of private property and family, for they were seen as the most powerful and mutually reinforcing sources of inequality. If you don't know about Karl Marx and Friedrich Engle's, they were friends in the 1840s. They would get well and truly on the piss and have long discussions about laying philosophical foundations for the socialist revolution. Marx worked as a journalist, including ten years at the New York Daily Tribune. Engels was a managerial apprentice in Manchester at one of the notorious cotton mills, co-owned by his father. Marx couldn't earn a proper wage, and Engle's supported him. Their dream was to transform a complex and unequal society organised around property and

procreation into a simple fraternal structure organised around shared beliefs, possessions and sexual partners. The perfect example is the hunter-gatherer society built around small collections or groups where the common good was essential for survival. European leaders have already stated the New World Order will not accommodate private property. The family's status has been under threat from the start of the Millennium. It is occurring in our schools, and the media posits that gender is nonbinary, and we can declare ourselves whatever we wish, man, woman, it, fish or a dog..... I suppose if you can fly, you can register as a bird. The business of raising children is not now seen as the primary function of the family. That has been subcontracted to school teachers of indifferent quality, minders, child welfare and correctional institutions. Marx's philosophical predecessors allowed that the root of all evil was "private property and money" and that no one worships it more than Jews. The God of the Jews has become secularised, and money has become the God of the world." Hence the holocaust.



"You're going to your Granny's house for Christmas? Give her these."



Danger to parties
It was interesting to read that parliamentarians were allowed a conscience vote on the recent abortion reform law. Commendable but dangerous. Did the power brokers realise they had only weeks to train their members to think for themselves? And they did bring about this revolutionary miracle. Future politicians who use their conscience to vote are surely a danger to any

political party?
It is nonsense to suggest this is only one time. Thinking could become a habit and then our present system of government would collapse. Panic! Panic! The sky is falling. It is the end of the political world as we know it.
Mike McGregor, Narrabri

They said?!? WHAT?!
If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. - Socrates
I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. - G. Marx
My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe. - Jimmy Durante
I have never hated a man enough to

give his diamonds back. - Zsa Zsa Gabor
Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. - Alex Levine
My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying. - Rodney Dangerfield
Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP. - Joe Namath
I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. - Bob Hope

The rise of anti-Semitism in Europe, the USA and the Middle East is testimony to the sinister move against Democracy, Judeo-Christian values, the individual and individual responsibility.

The conjunction of the increasing hysteria over climate change (Global Warming) and the disruption to world economies due to COVID-19 and cumulative debt is the trigger for the closet Marxist/Leninist to try again the collective utopian dream of communism, only this time on the world stage. Lenin was the person who put Marx's theory into practice in Russia with the Bolshevik Revolution. The heir to that revolution was Stalin. As in Stalin's communist system, the proletariat would remain the great unwashed, and the new

privileged class would reign supreme. Albeit only for a short time in many cases especially if Stalin considered them as a threat to his leadership. (Sound familiar?). The Question is, how do we ensure we become part of the privileged and don't remain the proletariats accepting BIG BROTHER without complaint in our limited little lives. We should not and probably cannot hope to be part of the privileged. The Answer; take charge of the future and demand, through the ballot box, leaders who will stand up for individual freedom, democracy, and our nation's sovereignty. We do not kowtow to the UN, the Greens or pressure groups such as GetUp, Industry, Unions or the public service bureaucrat.
Cheers, Steve.

YOUR friendly team

The News

Mike Lowing: Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator
Manager Advertising: Helen Lowing

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

Deadlines

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

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Goo(d) for you: MooGoo



Spring has well and truly sprung, and you may have found that your skin is not exactly welcoming the warmer weather. We tend to associate the winter months with eczema, but seasonal pollen in spring can also be a trigger that causes eczema flare-ups.

If you are looking for skincare where the ingredients list does not contain more numbers than letters, MooGoo may well have the products you've been searching for. MooGoo was created by happy accident when founder Craig Jones reformulated a thick

white paste intended for the udders of dairy cows (Goo for the Moos) for his mother who was using it as a treatment for her psoriasis. To this day MooGoo has evolved and continued to create products that are "as edible as possible" using quality natural ingredients that are safe and effective for everybody. MooGoo is very particular about what is in their products, continuing to research new ingredient developments, as well as what is NOT in their products - steering clear from synthetic ingredients such as Parabens and Phenoxyethanol to name a

few. All this has led to products that your skin will love you for, and these are a few of our favourites:
MooGoo Eczema & Psoriasis Cream
 A lightweight moisturising balm that is easily absorbed by the skin for the symptomatic relief of Psoriasis and Eczema - suitable for both adults and children. Their newest cream contains Elderberry for its beneficial anti-inflammatory and antiseptic properties and Marshmallow another

natural anti-inflammatory. For those with sensitive skin that are more likely to react to new ingredients, they have still retained their O.G Eczema and Psoriasis cream without these extra ingredients.
MooGoo Full Cream Moisturiser
 A rich, creamy cream to quench dry skins thirst. This full cream moisturiser contains milk protein which increases the skins elasticity by 20% as well as containing natural healthy Sweet Almond, Coconut and Olive

oil which are full of the fatty acids that the skin needs to stay healthy and hydrated. It is also naturally preserved with Hops Extract - rather than Parabens and Phenoxyethanol.
MooGoo 2-in-1 Bubbly Wash
 Kids love bubbles, but generally bubbles tend to mean chemicals that strip the skin of their natural oils. However, this natural and gentle cleansing wash is made with a combination of coconut and glucose based cleansers and also Colloidal

Rice Bran Oil that replenish and soothe skin rather than harsh synthetic detergents that can dry and irritate skin. This can be used directly on skin or as a bubble bath.
MooGoo Tail-Swat Body Spray
 This is not your average DEET containing insect repellent which can leave you sticky, stain your clothing and smelling horrible. Rather this gentle spray changes the scent of your skin to something those pesky bitey insects don't like (but being based on

lemongrass we happen to think it smells great). Once again it is naturally preserved with Hops extract and is marketed as edible meaning it is suitable for babies as well!
These are just a few of our favourite MooGoo ideas, please pop into Piggott's Pharmacy for a wide range of products in-store!

Our Ingredient Philosophy

Our goal with our products is to make something that works. Not everything we make will work for every one (because we're all so different), and there is no such thing as a miracle cure *insert eye roll here*. But we do the research and our ingredient philosophy is simple: To make effective products using healthy ingredients, that we are comfortable using on ourselves and our loved ones.



As edible as possible
 - although we don't recommend eating it.



Natural over synthetic
 - any day of the week, even if it costs us a little bit more.



Non-irritating
 - because we don't need more irritating things in our lives.



Quality, and family first
 - since our family & friends use our products, we don't skimp on the ingredients.



Safe for every-body
 - we choose ingredients that are safe for everyone, including newborns and during pregnancy.



Effective amounts
 - we use ingredients in a concentration that is actually effective.



Ethical product testing
 - we don't test on animals, and we don't export to any countries that might test on animals.



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 Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 4pm

Members say ..

WITH the Local Government elections on the 4th December 2021, all NSW Local Government areas are now in 'Caretaker Mode' which means elected members can no longer act in their elected capacity.



CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
General Manager Lotta Jackson

I am pleased to announce that Council was successful in securing a \$1,557,411 Fixing Local Roads grant for the rehabilitation of Mount View Road, Cessnock and Quorrobolong Road, Kitchener. Fixing Local Roads is an initiative funded by the NSW Government specifically designed to help regional and rural councils carry out vital repair work and reduce the maintenance backlog on local roads. This welcome funding boost will see \$1,100,037 invested in Mount View Road for a full width pavement rehabilitation and \$457,374 allocated to Quorrobolong Road to stabilise and resurface the existing pavement. I'm sure local residents in these areas will be pleased to hear this announcement and see works get underway to ensure a safer and smoother drive.

It was wonderful to see the kitchen upgrade at Branxton Community Hall reach completion! The much-needed kitchen upgrade involved creating a bigger space with two work areas (food preparation and wash-up), the addition of a large stainless steel bench and new electrical appliances. This upgrade has enhanced this fantastic community facility by providing users with an up to date and modern kitchen, which will also increase the hire potential of the hall. I would like to congratulate the Branxton Community Hall Section 355 Committee who has worked hard for many years to achieve this result for the community.

Council's Economic Development Team have launched a new Support Local competition, this time focussing on our wonderful local accommodation providers. For the month of November, residents are encouraged to tag their favourite accommodation business (or somewhere

they would really love to stay) on Facebook, explain why in 25 words or less, and post a photo of the business. All entries will go in the running to win a luxurious travel voucher for a Hunter Valley staycation valued at \$500. For the entry to be valid, ensure you tag the business and use the hashtag #supportlocalcessnock. This competition forms part of a series of competitions designed to encourage residents to support their local businesses. Find out more by visiting the Advance Greater Cessnock Facebook account @advancecessnock or www.advancecessnock.com.au.

In an effort to promote responsible pet ownership and the importance of ensuring your dogs are wearing a collar and tag, Council has launched a 'Tag for a Tag' photo competition on Instagram. There are 40 dog tags to be won which come engraved with your dog's name and your contact details, to ensure your furry friend is returned home safely if they get lost.

To enter, simply take a photo of your dog, post it to Instagram, tag @CessnockCityCouncil and include the hashtag #PuppersofCessnock. For more details, including terms and conditions, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/tagforatag.

With the continued fluctuation of COVID-19 numbers in the Cessnock LGA and regional travel from Sydney opening back up last week, it's so important to get vaccinated if you haven't already, to protect yourselves and our community. In saying that, I was delighted to see our vaccination rates last week reach over 95% single dose and 85.8% double dose. Thank you to everyone in our community who has come forward to get the jab so far, your efforts will go a long way to supporting our community and local businesses who have suffered during the lockdown period.

The Local Government elections are coming up on Saturday 4 December and the NSW Electoral Commission is on the lookout for more people to work with them. There are lots of paid positions available to work across the Cessnock Local Government Area, which is a great way to earn some extra money in the lead up to Christmas. You can find out more about positions available and the upcoming election by visiting www.elections.nsw.gov.au.

Cheers, Lotta



Member for Upper Hunter
Dave Layzell MP

TIME FOR 2021 HSC STUDENTS TO SHINE NOVEMBER has arrived and I want to wish our Higher School Certificate students every success with your HSC exams starting next week. My thoughts are with you after the challenging preparation that you have endured during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your school is now able to apply on your behalf if you have experienced severe disruption during the learning from home period through the NSW Education Standards Authority's (NESA) new COVID-19 Special Consideration Program for HSC written exams.

The program is open to students whose learning was significantly compromised for six weeks or more due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Whilst the completion of your secondary education has been challenged by events beyond your and your teachers' control, I hope the resilience you have developed over the past two years will come to the fore over coming weeks.

NEW 'GET BUSH FIRE READY' CAMPAIGN A new state-wide campaign by the NSW Rural Fire Service is urging the community to prepare for the bush fire season and to live bush fire ready. The 'Live Bush Fire Ready' public awareness campaign captures the stories and emotive images of people at the height of the 2019-20 bushfire season, and importantly, how they are planning and preparing for this bushfire season.

I encourage local communities not to be complacent or delay preparations with the Bush Fire Danger Period having commenced on 1 September across the majority of council areas in the Upper Hunter electorate.

Cheers, Dave



SINGLETON COUNCIL General Manager Jason Linnane

Sports and recreation

facilities have taken a gold medal focus recently, with a wide net of projects including \$1,431,749 in capital works and planning to deliver facilities to our community now and into the future.

The biggest project currently underway is more than \$1 million for a major renovation of Howe Park that includes \$711,749 in renovations to the playing surface (funded by the NSW Government's Resources for Regions Round Seven) and \$350,000 for the new floodlighting and poles. A \$200,000 project to install irrigation at Allan Bull Reserve is in progress, and \$170,000 is budgeted for four new lighting towers at Alroy Oval which will go to tender shortly.

We also have our fingers crossed for positive announcements for a total of \$2,931,405 in grant funding. On our wish list is \$1,345,000 for a significant extension of the Singleton Rugby League amenities at Pirtek Park and \$700,000 for tiered seating at Rose Point and Cook Park (both submitted to the Resources for Regions Round Eight) and \$886,405 for athletics amenities at Cook Park (under the Stronger Country Community Project). Council is also considering the best delivery of the Alroy Oval masterplan, which has been costed at about \$6.6 million. A concept design package for the amenities building, staging plans and landscape design has been completed which will also be the subject of future grant applications.

Just as important as delivering infrastructure is planning, and we're kicking goals there as well. For the first time, a unified approach to investment in sports infrastructure has been developed with the draft Singleton Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2031 currently on public exhibition.

Developed in consultation with sports clubs, State sporting organisations and 238 survey responses from our broader community, the draft Strategy sets out a 10-year capital plan for each of the 14 community sports-grounds and active recreation reserves for the short, medium and long-term. It includes projects amounting to almost \$11 million in playing surface upgrades, lighting and new developments; \$12.4 million in amenities improvements; and \$160,000 in site and facility masterplanning.

But the robustness and relevance of this Strategy depends on our community's acceptance, and that's why it's now on public exhibition for feedback. You can view the draft Strategy on Council's website at singleton.nsw.gov.au and I invite you to let me know what you think via email or drop me a line in the post. Cheers, Jason



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR SHOULD ICAC OVERLOOK LIES?

I pose a few questions to us all, as a society. Should we have an ICAC? Should we have an independent body, a commission, that can keep an eye on the political decision makers and make sure nothing dodgy is happening? I think yes.

What about you? If you think that we should have someone watching over the decisions makers, do you think that people asked to go and talk to that body, that commission, should be expected to tell the truth? I think yes. What about you?

If people are asked to help that body, the commission, in their search for the truth, do you think that two or more of those people should be allowed to get together and discuss the answers/evidence that they might give? I think no. What about you?

Finally, I put this question to you. If someone is being investigated by this body, or being asked by this body, to help with their investigations, but it turns out that they don't tell the truth, or that they work with others to cook up a set of answers, should the body, the commission, go after them for not telling the truth? I think yes. What about you? The NSW ICAC has uncovered some terribly bad behaviour by politicians and public servants. Long may they continue this work. But if they let people tells lies, and cook up false stories, and don't throw the full force of the law at those that do these types of things, then the ICAC will become a powerless circus of lies and b-s. And if you think that you already don't trust politicians, imagine what would happen if politicians had no one to answer to!

OUR OWN NEW COP SHOP Well, it's official! Last week we officially opened our new Police Station in Cessnock. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we couldn't have the big public celebration that might have attracted thousands of us to the ribbon cutting ceremony, but, in a low key event with just 30 people, we got it done.

Ten years ago, when you first put your trust in me to be our voice in Parliament, I began my campaign for more police. At that time one of our experienced local officers quietly said to "Clayton, we can't have more cops in Cessnock until we get a bigger Police Station". Wise words.

Since then, I have pestered and hounded 3 different Police Ministers for the new Police Station. The real breakthrough came when the then Police Minister Troy Grant agreed to visit our local station and informed me that he had previously worked in that very same station, as an officer of the law himself, back in the '90's. In short, he already knew that it was well past its use-by date. Former Minister Troy Grant worked his backside off to secure the funding for our local men and women in blue. This was supported by the current Police Minister, David Elliott, who himself has family ties to Cessnock. In the end, we got the job done and now we have a once in 100 years facility that will let our local police do the very best work that they can, in the very best working conditions that we can offer. I am so proud and privileged that you let me serve our community.

Cheers Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

It's time to open our country up: properly and fully. It's a credit to our communities that our vaccination rates have accelerated so rapidly. We have now effectively established herd immunity. The threats posed by COVID-19 are now less than the risk of doing more harm to our economy and collective sanity.

Throughout the COVID-19 crises, the biggest concern for policy makers was the intensive care capacity of our hospitals. Surely that threat has now passed or at least, it has significantly diminished.

Journalists retuning from Italy and Scotland after covering the Prime Minister's visits tell me it's weird to return to Australia and our hard borders and other restrictions. While our European friends are living a normal life, Australians continue to be denied access to sick and dying relatives living interstate. Enough is enough!

I was taken back by the Government's failure to mention forestry in its latest climate change plan. New plantation estates will not only absorb lots of carbon, they also create lots of jobs and more forests would help turn back our growing reliance on imports for the timber we need for our housing construction sector. Trees take a long time to grow and only attract investors who are looking for long-term returns, superannuation funds among them. The best way to attract more investors and more plantings is to allow

the forestry sector to fully participate in carbon markets. But the Government refuses to give the sector that opportunity.

The stubbornness flows from a misplaced belief that additional trees will compete with the agriculture sector for water (trees drink water) and land resources. This need not be true with the right policy framework. Forest and forests sector jobs exist in plantings, forest management, harvest, transport, manufacturing, wholesale, and retail. New wood products can now displace energy intensive cement and steel construction material. We need to back the plantation sector in.

I've rarely had so many international media outlets contact me than has been the case in the last few weeks. The US cable television giant CNN and the Washington Post among them.

The interest in the Hunter region is generated by the COP 26 (Conference of the Parties) gathering in Glasgow. Australia is a small contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions but global media players know we have plenty of skin in the climate change policy game.

Here at home, we need to keep fighting to make sure that so-called "scope 3 emissions" (emissions from our coal and gas when burned overseas) and methane from livestock are not part of the rules individual counties are expected to follow when developing their responses to any COP 26 agreement. That will be crucial to ensuring the on-going strength of our coal mining industry. We also need to hope that those gathering for the COP don't conclude that the only way to reduce emissions is to punish certain industries. Carbon constraints including carbon taxes were a 20th Century solution to what is now a 21st Century challenge. Technology is moving at sufficient pace to get us to Net Zero Emissions by 2050 without taxes. And by 2050, all of Australia's coal-fired generators will have retired.

International journalists often ask me to direct them to coal miners they can speak with about the global push for more robust climate change policy. If any reader is interested in talking with these journalists (or Australian media) please drop me an email - joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au.

Cheers, Joel

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News

P: 4938 1773

Kitchen makeover complete at Branxton Community Hall



Cessnock City Council has announced that the kitchen upgrade at Branxton Community Hall is now complete.

The Branxton Community Hall started out as a YMCA hall at Greta Army Camp during WW2. From 1949 to 1960's the hall was used by the migrants at Greta Migrant Camp and was then sold to the Branxton School of Arts for the community to use.

The much-needed kitchen upgrade involved creating a bigger space with two work areas (food preparation and wash up), the addition of a large stainless steel bench and new electrical appliances.

Cessnock City General Manager, Lotta Jackson said the Branxton

Community Hall Section 355 Committee has worked hard for many years to achieve this result for the community.

"This upgrade has enhanced this wonderful community facility by providing users with an up to date and modern kitchen, which will also increase the hire potential of the hall."

The hall is currently booked seven days a week for things like yoga, Hunta Karate, Barre Vida dance class, GymBaroo, youth groups, dance time, Japanese martial arts, church services and fundraising events. The new kitchen will allow for larger bookings and events to take place like weddings, baby showers and cooking classes.

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.

Pharmacist Advice with



Haemorrhoids

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO PREVENT HAEMORRHOIDS:

- Never delay washroom calls.
- Don't turn the bathroom into a reading room.
- Have plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- Moderate exercises.



heavy manual labour. Sitting on hard surfaces for long stretches of time can also contribute to the development of haemorrhoids.

Prevention and treatment for haemorrhoids

Both treating and preventing

Haemorrhoids, or piles, are varicose veins of the rectum or anus. Straining on the toilet because of constipation usually causes them.

Both prevention and treatment rely on changing your diet to include plenty of fruits, vegetables, cereals and water.

Haemorrhoids, or piles, are varicose veins of the rectum or anus. They are common in middle and later life, often caused by years of chronic constipation.

Types of haemorrhoids The three different types of haemorrhoids include:

- internal haemorrhoids – found inside the rectum. They are painless but tend to bleed
- prolapsed haemorrhoids – a more severe and painful form of internal haemorrhoids. These veins push through the anus and hang out of the body, particularly after going to the toilet. Sometimes, the anal sphincter (ring of muscle) can strangulate veins that hang out permanently

(external haemorrhoids – are like small haemorrhages (bleeds) under the skin around the anus. They feel like hard lumps)

Symptoms of haemorrhoids Bleeding is the most common symptom of haemorrhoids. Most people with internal haemorrhoids notice a smear of bright red blood on the toilet paper, or perhaps streaks of blood in the faeces. It is important to see a doctor, because bleeding

from the bowel can be caused by other conditions too (some of them serious), including bowel cancer.

Causes of haemorrhoids Haemorrhoids develop slowly over time. Small blood vessels and veins in and around the rectum and anus carry deoxygenated blood back to the heart. If this return blood flow is hindered, then these tiny blood vessels and veins can distend with blood and eventually grow fat and knobly.

The main causes of haemorrhoids include:

- straining on the toilet because of constipation
- pregnancy, because of the extra weight and pressure on the bowels
- hereditary factors

haemorrhoids rely on eliminating constipation. A diet high in vegetables, fruits, cereals and water will help produce soft bowel motions that are passed easily and regularly.

Apart from improvements to your daily diet, there are a number of other treatments for haemorrhoids, including:

- astringent ointments or suppositories to shrivel the haemorrhoids
- band ligation of haemorrhoids- small bands are placed via a proctoscope to reduce the haemorrhoids & surgery as a last resort. Where to get help
- **Your doctor**

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Best "off the net"

A Kiwi and an Aussie are fishing one afternoon and have a couple of cold beers. After a while the Aussie says to the Kiwi, "If I was to sneak over to your house and made wild passionate love to your wife while you were at work, and she got pregnant and had a baby,

would that make us related?" The Kiwi after a great deal of thought, says, "I don't know about related, but it sure would make us even."

Bruce the Aussie builder was going through a house he had just built for the woman who owned it. She

was telling him what colour to paint each room. They went into the first room and she said "I want this room to be painted a light blue." The builder went to the front door and yelled, "GREEN SIDE UP!" When he went back into the house, she told him that the next room was to be bright red. The builder

went to the front door and yelled "GREEN SIDE UP!" When he came back, the woman said "I keep telling you colours, but you go out the front and yell 'green side up' - what is that for?" The builder said, "Don't worry about that, I've just got a couple of Kiwis laying the turf out front."

Easy Aussie octopus salad



Cooking with Australian Octopus couldn't be easier when it's in this refreshing summer salad.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 long red chilli
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 tsp finely grated lime rind
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 800g cleaned Australian Octopus, tenderised, halved (see note)

- 1 large mango, diced
- 1 large mango, diced
- 1/2 red onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh coriander leaves
- 80g baby spinach
- Lime wedges, to serve



METHOD

- Step 1**
 Finely chop half the chilli and thinly slice remaining chilli. Place finely chopped chilli in a bowl with garlic, lime rind, half the lime juice and half the oil. Stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper. Add octopus. Toss well to evenly coat. Cover. Refrigerate for 10 minutes.
- Step 2**
 Meanwhile, combine mango, avocado, onion, coriander and remaining lime juice and oil in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.
- Step 3**
 Preheat a barbecue or chargrill pan on medium-high heat. Cook octopus, in batches if necessary, turning, for 5 to 6 minutes or until charred all over and cooked through. Transfer to a board. Cut into bite-sized pieces.
- Step 4**
 Add octopus and spinach to mango mixture. Toss gently to combine. Serve salad, topped with sliced chilli, with lime wedges



Discovering local History & People

Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA



With the recent closing of postal services in Greta, after 147 years, I thought it appropriate to recount some of the history of postal services in Greta.

It was pointed out to me that the first postmaster in 1874 was Alexander Taylor & the last Mr David Taylor. The Following article was published some time ago. Ed

Greta Post Office from 1873

As many would know, Greta's post office is presently housed in Greta's newsagency, considered to need only a small facility in the Greta village. It began life in much the same way, starting life as a tiny office on Greta's railway station.

In October 1873 a petition was created from the residents of Anvil Creek, the now ghost village that was behind the railway, to beg for a post office for the area, for either Greta or Anvil Creek. The nearest was four miles away in Branxton, a long trip by horse or on foot. The population then was between 400 and 500 people.

The post office was granted and opened on the 15th October 1874, in a small room on the railway station platform. No one knew what to name it, whether it should be Anvil Creek, Farthing's Platform (after the station name which was named for William Farthing, the first mine owner in Anvil Creek) or Greta. The rail line ran through Greta Colliery but the station was in Anvil Creek. Alexander Taylor was appointed Telegraph Station Master at 104 pounds per year. A newspaper clipping in November stated "an inverted old shoe trunk is only half a post office after all. It has been named Anvil Creek Post Office, and only Anvil Creek letters are sent there. Greta letters are still forwarded to Branxton, as formerly."

By September 1879, new railway, post and telegraph offices had been erected at Anvil Creek, after an estimated cost of 1800 pounds. In October the postmaster, Alex Taylor, says he couldn't get his key to the new post office from the station master, Sydney Drew.

Sydney Drew requested to be allowed to work the 'Farthing's' Station, and the post and telegraph office, with the help of one lad.

In November 1876 the Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs replied that it was undesirable for a station master to act as a telegraph master. But in December the post master, Alex Taylor, was still pleading to be allowed into his new office. He and his letter carrier continued to occupy the old five foot square office, the "upturned shoe box", for about thirteen hours a day.

In January 1877 another letter arrived at the Superintendent's from Alex still waiting to get into his new post office. In February 1877 business was finally able to commence in the new telegraph office.

However, the key game then turned against the station master. A letter arrived from Farthing's Station GNR, written by Sydney Drew to say he had now been locked out by the post and telegraph. He couldn't get to his food and was 'very unhappy'. He also couldn't understand why three youths and a horse were needed to look after a handful of letters. He said he had almost shot at one in the dark of late night, thinking he was a burglar. The result was that Alex Taylor was transferred to Muswellbrook and a new postmaster was appointed, James Clarke O'Hara.

In March 1877 Sydney Drew finally got his wish and was appointed postmaster as well as station master. But in June 1877 he requested an increase in salary to match his new duties which now also include the Savings Bank and Money Order Department.

In January 1878 there is a request to change the station name to Greta, from Farthing's Station, to avoid confusion. In May and August there are also requests to have the post office moved to Greta, one mile away.

In December 1888, the requests were answered by a letter from the Honourable JF Burns, MP, saying he had visited Greta and found it had nearly doubled in population during the last two years and was now one

of the most thriving of the smaller towns in the Northern district. He was of the opinion that the importance of the locality will justify the opening of an office in the township. That same month a notice was placed in the Government Gazette inviting tenders for suitable premises.

In January 1889 the Inspector received a long letter from Sydney Drew, Postmaster, giving twelve reasons why the post office should NOT be moved from the station to the town. Some of the points were ridiculous. The tenders went ahead. In February the Inspector from Singleton inspected six properties at Greta for rent. In March he recommended Mr Jones's house (the mayor of the Greta Municipality) for a 2 year lease at 75 pounds per year. In June the new postmaster, Montgomery J Sheppard began work.

In July 1889 permission was received from the Department of Railways to erect a pillar box on the Greta Station platform. In November Postmaster Sheppard requests an increase in salary. He receives 150 pounds a year, but in June 1890 he put in another request for an increase as he has a wife and four children to keep on his 150 pounds. His return reply was that he had to wait his turn for promotion.

In December 1890 the lease was renewed on Mr Jones's property for another 2 years, to take it up to 1893, still at 75 pounds per year. In June 1892 Mr Sheppard asked for a wage rise again, and again he was told that he must wait his turn.

In June 1892 Mark North, the Greta Municipal Council Clerk, put in a request on behalf of the council for a new building to be used as a post office because the present one was unsuitable. In August 1892 a letter arrived from Mr Bossley, Postal Inspector, to say that because the present post office building consisted of four small rooms and an office and was only worth half the rent paid, and as there were no other suitable buildings, 700 pounds would be used for a new building. So in September

tenders were called for a suitable centrally situated site. In December 1892 Tulloch's two story house and shop was chosen after a three page report was sent in recommending it. It had been built in 1891 by the Tulloch brothers (in the name of Mr. AJ Tulloch) as a general store.

Also in December 1892 the Post and Telegraph Department made an enquiry to the Justice Department regarding buying some of the land next door to Tulloch's shop which the Justice Department had already purchased for a court house. The inspector suggested the court could take over the railway station building, built at a cost of 2000 pounds, although they would have problems with the Railway's Department as they had possessed it for the last three years. In the same month the Postmaster General agreed to purchase Mr A J Tulloch's premises on High Street for a post and telegraph office for the sum of 1000 pounds at 7% yearly interest until the money was made available. Possession was to be given one week, or more, before 5th March 1893. This site adjoined the site purchased for a court house.

In March 1893, Postmaster M J Sheppard submitted two tenders for alterations to the new post office. He sent a telegram on the 6th March 1893 from Greta to the PMG Department to say he had removed the office to the new premises and handed the key of the former premises to the landlord after 'expiration of our lease on 4th Instant'.

In May 1893 an agreement was drawn up between A J Tulloch, J Y Tulloch and the Queen, which set out the conditions of sale, but in February 1894 the money was still not available from the government, so interest has to continue as before. The principal sum of 1000 pounds was finally paid on 10th July 1894.

In December 1898 Postmaster Sheppard was replaced by Mr R Galloway at Greta. In February 1903 Greta Postmaster Galloway sent a letter to the Postmaster General requesting a reduction in staff due to the lack

of business following the closure of the local coal mines in December 1900. He said the inhabitants were still leaving the town as fast as they could to find work elsewhere. Postmaster Galloway predicted the town would soon be nearly deserted.

In July 1903 a report by Inspector Golding considered the loss of postal business due to the closure of the Greta Coal Mining Company's Colliery, but allowed for the fact there was still 115 householders within the municipality and 16 others in the district that were served by the Greta Post Office. To reduce costs he curtails some deliveries.

Further reductions are made in June 1905 by the recommendations that the Postmaster and Letter Carrier be transferred and the Greta Post and Telegraph Office be converted into a contract post and telephone office, with the Morse instruments to be removed and a telephone connection to be provided. So in August 1905 a notice appeared in the Government Gazette asking for applicants to conduct the post office on a contract basis for three years. Thirty nine applicants in total applied. In November 1905 the successful applicant was Thomas E Jackson, with his sister as joint contractor due to his being under 21, and was signed up.

In 1906 and 1907 problems occurred due to the terms of the contract, which said the mail only had to be delivered within a mile radius from the post office. This meant that people living at Anvil Creek had to collect their letters and telegrams from the post office themselves. Complainants included Mrs Redgrove, who had lived at Anvil Creek for thirty years, Mrs Maughan, and Mr J Batey who had an office at Anvil Creek. Greta Mayor, Ben Pryor complained his mail was always late, as young Postmaster Jackson delivered to the outskirts of the town first, then the town's businesses. Ben Pryor also ran the Can't B Beat Store and described himself as "Mayor, Commonwealth Registrar, State and Federal Returning

Officer, Secretary for Road Trustees, Agent for leading Fire and Life Insurance Companies, besides controlling the largest business in town and receiving double the mail of any other person in town."! He also complained about the untidiness of the post office and that Thomas Jackson wore a hat while working behind the counter. After young Jackson's three foolscap pages reply was sent he transferred to another contract and left his sister in charge. So in March 1907 Miss M E Jackson officially became the Post Mistress of Greta. From 1907 to 1930 the portorage of mail between the Greta Railway

Station and the Greta Post Office appeared to be rotated between six Greta inhabitants, each time being granted to the person who offered the cheapest rates. These included Mr A J Campbell, Mr W MacKinnon, Mr T Quick, Mr R MacKinnon, Mr G H North and Mr T H Harper.

In 1925 the Greta Telephone Exchange closed and its subscribers were serviced through Branxton. The beginning of the end for the town in having a full service?

With many thanks to the compiler of the information in 'Greta Post Office, 1873-1930', available to be read at Greta Museum.



THE NEWS Issue No 135 8th May 2003 page 34

All the best Frank



Frank, at left, & Doug on Frank's last day as Sec. Manager.

Frank Garment, Secretary Manager of Greta Workers Club since February 1995, has resigned & taken up the same position with Maitland Golf Club.

Frank said that he was approached by their board & accepted their offer about a month ago.

"The Maitland Golf Club is just about to commence construction of their new club-house at an estimated cost of \$4.5 million & should be completed by this time next year".

When asked had he enjoyed his time in Greta he said that had enjoyed it immensely & that he felt that during his time he had taken the club from a pub with pokies to one of the most modern clubs in the Hunter. "The only downer was that it was very taxing on my family & extended family & I also won't be here to see the extensions to the club finished", Frank said.

His new position does put him closer to home as Frank lives in Maitland. "There has been a running joke at Greta Workers Club: when someone asks where I am the stock standard answer has always been "he's playing golf". In my new position they will probably be correct!"

Doug Dennis, President of Greta Workers Club, said that he and the board wished him all the best & they hope to see him back from time to time.

"Frank is a lawn bowler as well as a golfer & we'll see him here when we host special area bowl days. On the serious side Frank was always there to help me & the board with matters that occasionally arose from our positions held & we thank him for that," Doug said.



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Fair Work rules farm workers entitled to minimum wage



The Fair Work Commission has recently ruled that workers who pick fruit on a piece rate, must be guaranteed a minimum wage under the Horticulture award as the existing piece rate systems are not fit for purpose and do not provide a fair safety net. A piece rate is where a worker is paid according to the amount of produce they harvest, which means the more produce that is harvested, the more a worker is paid. The change comes after The Australian Workers Union (AWU) lodged a claim with the Fair Work Commission last December, arguing that every worker should be entitled to a minimum casual rate, which is currently \$25.41.

The AMU secretary Dan Walton described the ruling as one of the most significant decisions of modern times. He stated that Australian fruit pickers have been routinely and systematically exploited and underpaid and that farmers have been able to manipulate the piece rate system to establish pay and conditions that are below Australian standards. The National Farmers' Federation has opposed the changes arguing that changes to the award could drive farmers out of business and could disrupt productivity of workers. The Federal agriculture minister David Littleproud suggested the ruling could result in Australian being asked to pay higher prices

for their produce at the supermarket. Mark King, a grape grower in south-west NSW and the chairman of Dried Fruits Australia, said the decision was "shocking" and it would result in labour costs climbing and critical labour shortage make it hard for farmers to dismiss unproductive workers. The concern from farmers is that, now the workers will be receiving a minimum wage, their production may decrease as they will feel they do not have to work as hard to earn money. All parties must lodge responses by November 26, with a final hearing, if necessary, to be held next month. No date has been set for the start of the provisions.

The RBA has left its other policy tools unchanged: the cash rate target remains at 0.1% and their QE bond buying program will continue (and will now include purchases of the bond maturing in April 2024, just without an explicit yield target). This is the first indication from the RBA that rates may rise earlier than the 2024 guidance it has previously provided. The RBA will continue to be led by the outcome of both wages growth and inflation as to when the cash rate will start to increase. And they have emphasised patience: their upgraded forecasts, due to be released in full on Friday, only have inflation at 2.5% – in the middle of their target band – in late 2023. This suggests cash rate increases are still some way off, and the RBA explicitly batted down suggestions the cash rate would change next year. But it has signalled the upside surprises in the recovery following the COVID-19 recession have led to increased uncertainty about when conditions in the economy will warrant higher interest rates. What does this mean for borrowers? This change represents a slight tightening in financial conditions and increases the expectation that interest rates will increase within the next couple of years. This means rates for longer-term fixed mortgages will continue to increase, but we are unlikely to see upward pressure on variable rate mortgages in the near term – particularly for owner-occupiers, for whom competition among lenders is strongest. For existing borrowers, they may see higher interest rates, and increased repayments, earlier than they had expected. But the RBA is likely to increase rates slowly as we move out of a period of exceptionally low interest rates. The other question is about lending standards and further possible macroprudential measures that restrict the flow of credit. There was not much new information on that front on Tuesday, but Governor Lowe did welcome APRA's increase in the interest rate buffer from 2.5 to 3 percentage points, but noted he did not have any concerns about deteriorating lending standards. Further action here will depend on continued strong housing price growth and market activity by investors and highly indebted borrowers. When will we hear more

from the RBA? The RBA will release its updated forecasts in its Statement on Monetary Policy on Friday, and the Governor will give a speech entitled "Recent Developments in the Domestic and Global Economies", which will go into more detail on economic conditions in two weeks. Expect to learn more about the RBA's thinking on the evolution of wages and inflation and what that means for the outlook for interest rates. *Paul Ryan is an economist at REA Group's PropTrack. Prior to that he was an economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia for more than a decade.*

Australia's hottest property topic soars past the point

Angus Moore for realestate.com.au **As property prices surge, news coverage of the issue of housing affordability has more than doubled in the past six months, according to new data from Stroom.**

And while the cost of buying is growing rapidly, there's a silver lining. With record low interest rates, it's easier to service a mortgage now than it has been for much of the past decade. Instead, it's getting in that's harder – and we need to remember this distinction when we discuss possible solutions to the affordability problem. It's no secret, property prices have skyrocketed in 2021. Over the year to September, prices shot up by more than 20% in capital cities and by nearly 25% in regional areas. Those gains have driven a huge accumulation of wealth for some households. While rising home prices boost household finances overall, not everyone benefits. More than a third of Australians rent. For those wanting to buy, higher property prices mean having to save a larger deposit. As prices have surged, the discussion has focused on affordability. Rising concerns about accessibility for first homebuyers are evident when analysing the national discussion about property. Using unique data from the media monitoring service Stroom, we can see how many times "housing affordability" was discussed in mainstream and trade publications, both print and online. Over the past six months, housing affordability has been discussed more than twice as frequently as it was in the months prior. In the month of September, coverage of the topic was

out to be a significant 141% year-on-year. While getting into the market is harder, servicing an existing mortgage is easier. Surging house prices make it harder to save a 20% deposit. But low interest rates mean that serviceability – how easy it is to pay a mortgage – is actually relatively good. Serviceability today is easier than it was as recently as 2018, when the Reserve Bank of Australia cash rate was 1.5%. And serviceability is much better than in 2008 when the cash rate peaked at 7.25%. Today, the cash rate is just 0.1% and the average rate for a new variable mortgage is 2.7%. These low rates mean that even with today's larger mortgages, average repayments are smaller than in the past. With low interest rates and high house prices, it's accessibility, not serviceability, that has worsened. No matter the price or interest rate, housing is very affordable for the 30% of Australians who have paid off their mortgage. Governments and commentators are looking for solutions to help first homebuyers. Governments are responding to these concerns. We've seen new and expanded policies to tackle affordability. The federal Falinski review is looking at affordability. Some of the discussion and submissions have focused on how to ease local planning constraints to make it easier to build new housing. This focus has shown up in the media's coverage of property, with mentions of "housing stock" increasing 86% in the past 6 months. We've also seen increased discussion of "negative gearing" (up 102%), "investors" (up 35%) and "capital gains" (up 64%). These areas are frequently

touted as changes that could help alleviate high housing prices. There are also other programs that have either been announced or expanded in the past 18 months. Two key examples are the federal First Home Loan Deposit Scheme and the Victorian Home Buyers Fund. Both are designed to reduce the deposit first home buyers must save. Finally, we've also seen the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority tighten how banks conduct serviceability assessments. This policy wasn't designed to address affordability. Rather, this so called "macroprudential" policy was designed to reduce risky borrowing in response to rapidly rising house prices. As regulators have grown concerned about risks from rising debt, we've seen discussion of these types of "macroprudential" policies increase 134%. These discussions of affordability, and policies to help, are important. Home ownership rates have fallen over the past three decades, particularly among younger Australians. But as we debate these policies, it's critical we keep in mind the distinction between servicing a mortgage and saving a deposit. If we conflate the two into all purpose "affordability", we could end up with counterproductive policies that hurt those we're trying to help. Making housing cheaper by locking out first-home buyers helps no one.

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Reserve Bank signals earlier than expected rate increases possible

Tuesday (Melbourne Cup day) marked the Reserve Bank formally dropping

one of the support measures for the economy

introduced following the COVID-19 crisis. This signals an improvement in the economic outlook and increased likelihood, but not yet an expectation, that interest rates will start to increase earlier than the previous guidance of 2024. So what's changed? The RBA has formally dropped its yield-curve control policy. This had the RBA buying bonds maturing in April 2024 until their yield hit 0.1%, to push down longer-term interest rates. This follows the improvement in the economy and the earlier-than-expected progress towards their inflation target.



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* Branxton Public School Debaters

events through SkoolBag and Facebook and engage in your child/ren's learning on Seesaw.

Dates for the Calendar

Thursday 18th November – Book Week Celebrations
Thursday 16th December – Last day of Term 4

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



Branxton Public School

Congratulations to our debaters who fought hard against Mayfield West PS in the Senior Debating Finals. The topic was 'Private tutoring and private tutoring colleges should be banned' with the Branxton Butcher Birds arguing the affirmative. Despite a close debate, and receiving glowing feedback from the adjudicators, the Butcher Birds were defeated. Mrs Martin was very proud of their efforts throughout the competition.

Time to get even more excited about books at BPS! We are finally celebrating Book Week! Mrs Melnik has organised a fabulous Book Fair in the library for our students and we will celebrate on Thursday November 18th with a dress up day. Certainly something to look forward to.

The Kindergarten teachers have been meeting our 2022 Kinder students via phone and Zoom calls recently. We are all very excited that we will be able to have Orientation visits for our new students in a couple of weeks. Keep an eye on Kinder 2022 Seesaw for details as we don't want anyone to miss out!

A huge thank you to our parents/carers for adapting so well to the new routines under the COVID guidelines, especially with our afternoon pick-ups. Your patience is very much appreciated by all staff. Remember to keep informed of changes and upcoming



Charges laid after firearm produced – Hunter Valley PD

Thursday, 28 October 2021
06:16:37 AM

A man has been charged after allegedly producing a firearm in the state's Upper Hunter Region.

About 9.15pm on Wednesday (27 October 2021), police were called to a licensed premise on Olgivie Street, Denman, following reports a man had allegedly produced a weapon. Police were told a man – who had earlier been at the hotel – got out of his car outside the location and pointed a firearm toward the premises.

He then left the scene and police were called. No one was injured. Officers from Hunter Valley Police District attended and commenced an investigation.

Following inquiries and a search of surrounding areas, officers stopped the driver of a Holden Captiva on the New England Highway, near Singleton Heights, about 10.10pm. The driver – a 46-year-old man – allegedly returned a positive result to a roadside breath test.

In a subsequent search of the car, police located a firearm, which was seized for forensic examination. The man was arrested and taken to Singleton Police Station, where he underwent a breath analysis, returning an alleged reading of 0.146.

He was charged with six offences including; not keep firearm safely, handle/use firearm under the influence of alcohol/drug, holder of Category A or B licence not have approved storage, drive with middle range PCA, armed with intent to commit indictable offence and stalk/intimidate intend fear physical harm (personal).

The man was refused bail and appeared at Muswellbrook Local Court the same day. (Thursday 28 October 2021). *Inquiries are continuing.*

Woman saved from burning home – Kurri Kurri

Wednesday, 27 October 2021
12:46:10 PM

A woman and her dog have been saved from a burning home in the Hunter Valley.

About 1.20pm Tuesday 26 October 2021, a 28-year-old man was walking along Alexandra Street, Kurri Kurri, when he heard a smoke alarm emitting from a nearby home and observed smoke coming from the back door of the property.

With assistance from a nearby council worker, the pair ran inside to assist a 58-year-old female resident and her dog from the home which was quickly becoming engulfed in flames.

The passer-by contacted emergency services, with crews from Fire and Rescue NSW attending a short time later, extinguishing the blaze.

Officers from Hunter Valley Police District attended and commenced inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the fire.

Hunter Valley Police District Crime Manager, Detective Inspector Matt Zimmer, would like to thank the members of the public who ran in to save the occupant of the home before the blaze took hold.

"It's the heroic actions of these two men which saved this woman and her dog's life yesterday, and on behalf of all the emergency services involved, we would like to thank this pair. Both of these men will be considered for bravery recognition for their actions," Det Insp Matt Zimmer said.

The circumstances surrounding the cause of the blaze remains under investigation.



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'Enough is Enough'

North Rothbury residents have been very patient over many years awaiting the promised provision of a reticulated sewage system for their village. Almost surrounded by sewered households in Huntlee New Town & Branxton many residents have now said 'enough is enough' and are demanding that Hunter Water come through with their promise that it would be done after the Wyee sewer project was completed. As residents realise as a septic system owner you are responsible for ensuring that your septic system is safe and working properly. A failing septic system is a health risk to family's and the community and may be causing harm to the environment. In 1999 leaking septic systems were identified as a possible contributing factor in several cases of hepatitis and a major food safety crisis in the oyster industry. Leaking septic systems can also have more insidious effects, seeping into and contaminating groundwater supplies, and mixing with the water in our favourite swimming holes without us even being aware of it. "There is a growing crisis facing areas where septic systems predominate. Many of these septic systems are leaking, posing health risks to families and communities and to those further down stream," said a resident who wishes to remain anonymous. A number of North Rothbury residents had approached Clr Ann Sander asking for Cessnock Council support & she has agreed to put the following motion at the

next meeting 17/11/21:-
MOTION
 1. That the General Manager writes to the Hunter Water Corporation, the Minister for Water, Property and Housing Hon. Melinda Pavey MP and Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Hon Taylor Martin MP seeking a further urgent review and update in relation to the provision of sewerage reticulation services in North Rothbury and other villages within the Cessnock Local Government Area as a high priority.
 2. That Council writes to the State Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr, MP requesting ongoing support for Council's decision.
 It is my intention to move the above motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17 November 2021.
RATIONALE
 The community of North Rothbury and other surrounding villages within the Cessnock LGA have been continually frustrated by the lack of urgency shown by Hunter Water to provide a solution to the ongoing lack of sewerage services in these areas. North Rothbury is seeing impeded growth of their community due to the absence of what should be a normal everyday amenity in what can now be identified as a **urban area due to North Rothbury's** proximity to the Huntlee New Town. The growth in North Rothbury is also impacted by the lack of a reticulated sewerage system as it limits the number of bedrooms and bathrooms in new homes. The majority of homes in North Rothbury are still using the old septic system with large transpiration areas that negate the owners ability to build in that area. A failing septic system is also a health risk to the community and the environment that is why a further review by Hunter Water to reconsider the options for North Rothbury sewer infrastructure is critical. The community of North Rothbury are aware of the delay in providing this service it has been ongoing since 2014 which is unacceptable especially when the original back log program identified North Rothbury as the next project to be



Photo: (L-R) Sophie Palmowski (endorsed ALP candidate Ward C Cessnock Council), local resident Fran Finch, Clrs Sander & Suvaal & local resident Peter Finch. Hopefully the septic system they are standing around will be redundant if Hunter Water agree to provide a reticulated sewage system for North Rothbury
 completed after the Wyee sewer project was completed. It is now 2021 and no further advancement has been realised. The Branxton Sewerage Treatment Works some 15 years ago was upgraded to cater for 17,000 households this facility seems currently under-utilised. The Huntlee new town development has circumvented the Branxton treatment works by installing their own which will cater for 10,000 homes and other amenities. The community of North Rothbury would appreciate a more positive response from Hunter Water as the systems that are currently utilised require servicing at a cost and will age and obviously fail eventually, a further cost to replace. The preference to this option is a reticulated sewer system sooner rather than later to negate all the issues that septic systems realise. It is simply unacceptable that all the residential areas and commercial precincts that are now completely surrounding North Rothbury are all sewered and yet no realistic date or further consultation with Council or the community for the provision of basic sewerage services has been reconsidered or reviewed by Hunter Water.



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Central Hunter Business Chamber
 The Notice of the Annual General Meeting has been circulated to Chamber Members which will take place at Branxton RSL Memorial Hall, Maitland Street, Branxton on Wednesday 24th November, 6 for 6.30pm. The Agenda is as follows:

AGENDA

Time	Item
6.00 – 6.30	- Registration
6.30 – 7.00	- Keynote Speaker (To be advised)
7.30 onwards	- Annual General Meeting of Central Hunter Business Chamber
	- AGM Minutes from 2020 – to be accepted as a true record
	- Presentation of Annual Report from President, Michael Robinson
	- Summary – Financial Position – Treasurer Mike Lowing
	- New Constitution and proposed adoption
	- Update on CHBC renovated website
	- Election of new Management Board 2021-2022.
	- Mix and mingle – light refreshments.

All members of the community and business people in the Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury and Huntlee areas are very welcome to attend, but only 'financial' members have the right to vote on Management Board positions and Motions. The Chamber is asking members to endorse the proposal to adopt the new draft Constitution which is recommended as the standard 'blueprint' document for Business Chambers in New South Wales. Also, information will be given on the exciting new Chamber website which is being renovated and updated currently.

Alan Beckley, Central Hunter Business Chamber Secretary.
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From the Lions Den....



Regent Honeyeater – Photo from Birdlife Australia

Branxton Lions President, Rod Taylor, presented Mayor Bob Pynsent with a Lions International Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding service to the Lions and the Branxton / Greta / North Rothbury / Huntlee communities.

Regent Honeyeater – our local endangered species.

Regular readers of this newspaper will remember that the Lions Club of Branxton has been discussing a project in partnership with the local Landcare Network to protect the critically endangered species of the native bird, the Regent Honeyeater. Birdlife Australia recently announced the excellent news that there has been the largest ever release in New South Wales of 58 zoo-bred Regent Honeyeaters in the Hunter Valley. Members of Branxton Lions Club own land that covers the ideal habitat for the endangered bird and are looking into making the new inhabitants at home with their favourite



Branxton Lions President Rod Taylor presenting the certificate of appreciation to Bob Pynsent.

food and lifestyle. The Birdlife Australia press release said: ‘The Regent Honeyeater Recovery Team has been working alongside the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Taronga Zoo Sydney Conservation Society Australia, Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and other local stakeholders to coordinate this release. It’s been a

huge collaborative effort; months in the making. All 58 of the birds have been banded, and some have also been fitted with tiny, state-of-the-art radio transmitters so that we can track their movements and survival over the coming months. They were released on Wonnarua Country, on ecologically and culturally significant land owned by Mindaribba LALC. This site was carefully chosen



Clayton Barr MP (front far left), Mayor Bob Pynsent (far right) and Branxton Lions at the Branxton road safety signs.

for its rich breeding and feeding habitat – and we’re expecting we’ll see one of the best flowering events here in years.

With just a few hundred Regent Honeyeaters left in the wild, captive breeding and release could mean the difference between extinction and survival. Since 2000, the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Team have now released 373 zoo-bred birds into the wild across south-eastern Australia.’

Do you know the way to Lions Park, Branxton?

Another item for eagle-

eyed local readers, in addition to keeping an eye out to see Regent Honeyeaters is to follow the clues to locate Lions Park in Branxton. In fact, you have probably passed Lions Park many times in your journeys in and around the town. According to the plaque: Alderman Trunk (who lived in Branxton) proposed that this site be reserved for a park in September 1962. The park was then developed by Branxton Lions Club with approval and a donation from Cessnock City Council.

Singleton Council local government voters

Please return Sue Moore as Singleton Mayor at the 4th Dec Local Govt. elections



VOTE 1

for Sue Moore as Singleton Mayor

I ask for your number 1 vote on both the Mayor and Councillor ballot papers. I will not be doing preferences so please make your own choice numbering to at least 5 with the remainder of the ballot paper and following the directions to ensure your vote counts.

Thank you

“Let’s keep it Going”

Written and authorized by S Moore 122 Stanhope rd Elderslie 2335



you will not REMEMBER when....

Greta & Branxton Gazette

March 26th, 1892

Ed. I found the below 'letter to editor' while looking through my archives for something else. It was published on the 26th March 1892 in the Greta & Branxton Gazette. If the same sentiments were expressed nowadays in a public forum/newspaper you would be looking for a good defamation lawyer!

To the Editor

Sir,—Will you kindly permit me, through the medium of your paper, to enlighten the aldermen and ratepayers of Greta as to the best plan for retaining a good supply of typhoid fever in our midst for next summer. It will require no scientific knowledge nor difficult process to keep a latent stock on hand. All that is required is for a few of our town residents to do, as a leading townsman does, and allow their cesspits to overflow and drain on their neighbour’s property, thereby polluting and defiling everything on or about the place.

This is my unfortunate position, and up to the present I have not looked for the law to redress my wrong, but trusted to my neighbour with the overflowing cesspits to do what was necessary in the matter to quench the nuisance. But no, though he should be the first to set an example, the nuisance still continues. And no later than last week he had the unblushing of frontery to speak of the sanitary measures taken by his own egotistical self to secure the health and cleanliness of the town.

Fellow citizens, what can we think of a man like this?—who has the arrogance to stand up and laud his own actions in public, knowing at the same time that the excremental drainage from his property was poisoning the air and undermining his neighbour’s health without one effort on his part to prevent it, though it had been brought under his notice twice.

When we find such a man posing as an earnest disciple of Sanus in public, and acting so contrary in private, though for humanity’s sake he ought not, we shall have no need to wonder if others act in the same way, and I should like to ask my fellow townsmen if they can make his public utterances agree with his private actions. If they cannot he stands a self-condemned hypocrite.

W. G. PHILLIPS

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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

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- * Modern & nicely appointed main bathroom
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- * 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



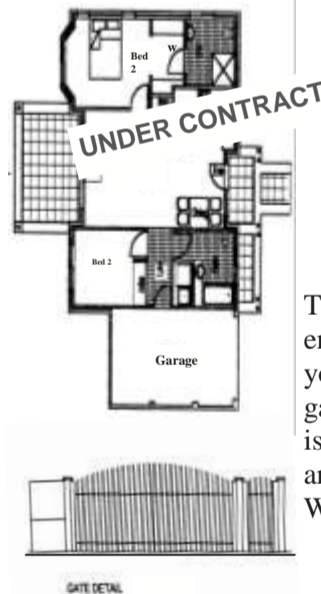
BRANXTON

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.

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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 east facing block.
Wonderful views from the back to the north overlooking Huntlee & the mountains to the north.

ASKING \$135,000



SOLD



Trent Dalton was born in Ipswich on the outskirts of Brisbane, Australia, and raised by a suburban wingless angel and a tattooed bibliophile mud crab fisherman with a soft spot for drunks. He's a novelist, a two-time Walkley Award-winning journalist, a screenwriter and, coolest of all, the father of two girls. Author of *By Sea and Stars: The Story of the First Fleet and Boy Swallows Universe*, winner of the 2019 Indie Book Awards "Book of the Year". His latest work is 'Love Stories' & his earliest memories are of love. As a five-year-old boy, the two men he adored were his criminal stepfather and a family friend named Arthur "Slim" Halliday, a convicted murderer and prison escapee known as *The Houdini of Boggo Road*. His fiercest love was for the woman caught up in that

dark and violent world. Trent Dalton's antidote is a smorgasbord of real-life love stories to make you grin and sob, all at once. (Read an extract below) He spent two months asking 200 strangers one simple and direct question: "Can you please tell me a love story?" The result was his new book; an uplifting, moving dive into our most powerful human emotion. This extract is just one of the many stories he found, which interweave into an extraordinary collection looking at love from all sides.

"Cold morning wind pushing through the city and a large McDonald's soft drink lid sliding along Adelaide Street. The clear plastic lid seems to roll for a magic trick moment on its side like a wagon wheel. These are the John Lennon mornings of our lives. Just watching the wheels go round and round. We all love to watch them roll but where do we find the sacred time? Guess that's what writing the *White Album* buys you. The time. Robert McCulley is taking his time because he bought it with a lifetime of work. He sips a takeaway coffee at a bench seat in Albert Street, waiting for his 10.30am appointment at the skin cancer clinic. "I've got a little thing here," he says,

pointing to the top of his nose where some skin's peeling away. "It'll be alright. They'll burn it off." Monday. First day of Robert's retirement. He's spent the previous eight years of his 66 years on earth delivering letters across Brisbane on a remarkably reliable motorcycle serviced regularly by his employer, Australia Post. He loved being the messenger. He loved nothing more than handing a letter marked, "To Granma", to a lonely old woman waiting by her letterbox. The letters of love were the best. All those ones marked, "To Dad", "To Mum", "To Pop". "One of the sad things I started noticing toward the end was nobody seemed to be sending meaningful letters anymore," Robert says. "You would occasionally see a letter addressed to, 'Dear Dad', and you would think about the whole journey of that relationship between sender and receiver, the lives they've shared." Robert shrugs his shoulders in a grey T-shirt. His hair is white and his eyebrows are black and bushy. "But all you see now are bills and corporate letters," he says. "The romance is gone." But the messenger still knows a thing or two about love. It's essential to



had to summon every sweaty hour of his Guildhall School acting study just to play it cool. "She went up the stairs and I followed," he says. They had two kids together. Boy and a girl. They came to Australia via New Zealand, where Robert spent five years juggling part-time acting jobs with full-time postman work. Julia's one of more than 300 Teachers of the Deaf working in Australia. Dedicated and tireless. She brings every ounce of her love to her job and her students. Robert remembers the love she gave to their son during an early battle he eventually won against childhood cancer. Damn, now he wishes he didn't mention the C-word. Pancreatic cancer took his father's life at the age of 56. Robert's mum died in the UK last year and it's been hell for him since because Covid-19 means he can't get back home to bury his mum. All her possessions were sent to Australia and currently reside in boxes inside a Kennard's storage shed in Coorparoo, south Brisbane, that he can't bring himself to open. "I'll open all those boxes up and I'll see my mum's

The New York Times Best Sellers (31 October 2021)

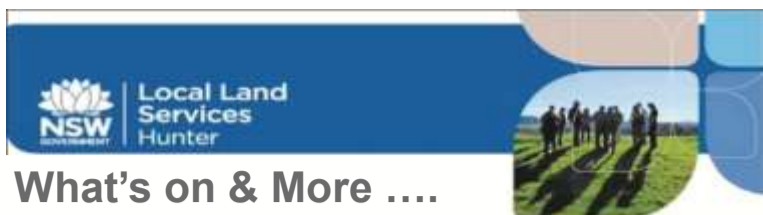
- STATE OF TERROR**
by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny **NEW THIS WEEK**
In the wake of the previous administration's mishandling of international affairs, the new Secretary of State Ellen Adams confronts interconnected global threats.
- THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY**
by Amor Towles **2 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
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.

Robert that his skin cancer clinic appointment goes smoothly today because it's essential to Robert that he spends every day of his retired life in good health beside his wife of 31 years, Julia McCulley. He says I would understand how essential this is to him were I ever fortunate enough to meet Julia McCulley. "She's special," he says. "How so?" I ask. "Love follows her around," he says. I smile at this unusual line and Robert the retired postman knows from the way I squint my eyes and bite my top lip and nod my head that I don't fully understand what he means. "If you have a lot of love in your life, if you put a lot of love out into the world, then love follows you around," he says, with a knowing smile. "It follows." And I like this notion. What if love was less an idea than a physical thing, as real as air and just as visible? And then I see in my head Robert's version of love as something that floats above us all like some cartoon scent cloud following Pepe Le Pew through the woods. We all walk in our invisible clouds

and some clouds are bigger than others; our clouds grow and expand with every smaller cloud they brush against and chemically blend with. That's how Robert and Julia ended up together. He saw her face. She walked ahead. He followed her cloud. "Caring people have this sphere around them," Robert says. "People feel it and they want to be a part of that sphere. That's how it works. That's how caring people move through the world. That's how Julia moves through the world." He was born in Wrexham, North Wales. His mother and father had met on a Wrexham dance floor. His father was a leather trader. Robert was in school when he met a classmate who was part of an amateur dramatic society. Robert thought he wanted to be a physical education teacher but he soon realised he wanted to act. He later landed a place in London's prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama. "You know Julia Ormond?" Robert asks. "I frickin' love Julia Ormond." "She's a friend," he says. "You know Alfred Molina?" "I frickin' love Alfred

Molina?" "I went to drama school with them," Robert says. "You know Art Malik?" "You kidding me?" I say. "Brilliant. The villain in *True Lies*. Gets strapped to that missile when Arnie shoots it through the sky." And now my best Arnold accent. "'You're fired!'" "Art's one of my best friends," Robert smiles. He landed some great acting roles over the years. He once trod the boards with the late Alan Rickman. He starred in the first episode of the BBC science fiction show, *Red Dwarf*. But the best gig he ever landed through acting was a lifetime loving Julia McCulley. It was the late-1980s and Robert was performing in a production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in Williamson Park, Lancaster, northwest England. Julia was singing in the theatre company's choir. At post-performance drinks in a nearby pub called The Gregson, Robert stood transfixed as he watched Julia enter through the bar door and breeze like a crimson-brown autumn leaf up the pub stairwell to a second level dance hall. Her hair flamed red with an ancient Irish fire and Robert

whole life," he says. "The mixture of all those feelings. The past, the present and the possible futures." But all possible futures are bright enough for Robert and Julia. They just sold their home in East Brisbane. They're making a new start on a hectare of land at Boonah, a town in Queensland's rural Scenic Rim. And true love will be the central theme of their coming months. Their son is about to marry. It was the darnedest thing, Robert says. His son fell in love with a woman he literally bumped into while walking down the street. Imagine the chances, Robert thinks. The terrifyingly long odds of true love. His son literally stumbling into love like that. The miracle of timing. It's almost as if love was there just waiting to be found for his son, like it had been following him around like a cloud the whole time. Robert nods his head. "It follows," he says. ■ **PHOTO ABOVE:** Love your style ... Trent Dalton set himself up for days on end on a Brisbane street corner with a folding table, two chairs (one for him and one for anyone who wanted to sit and share their story) and a typewriter left to him by the inspirational late mother of a dear friend. Plus a home-made sign. Picture: Fiona Franzmann



What's on & More

The Hunter Local Land Services extends across the local government areas of Cessnock, Dungog, MidCoast, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton and the Upper Hunter. To get in touch, call 1300 795 299, or email us at admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au



Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 9th November 2021

A record rain event locally saw the numbers fall to a very low level. There was a good supply of yearling steers with most other categories represented. The quality and condition of the offering was mixed. There was a reduced gallery of buyers in attendance. Varying market trends through the young cattle. The yearling steers to restock and feed sold to cheaper trends with a number of factors contributing. Those being breed, quality and reduced competition. Heifer yearlings to restock and feed followed a similar trend for much the same reasoning. There was no local butcher competition in the heifers. The reduced feedlot activity had an impact on the heavy trade yearlings with market trends cheaper. The reduced numbers in some classes having an effect on price change. Heavy weight grown steers to process sold to cheaper trends, the limited supply bringing about an improvement in average quality and again impacting price change. Well finished grown heifers also sold to a cheaper trend. The quality of the cows available was partly responsible for a cheaper market trend, competition also reduced. The usual processors competed on bulls with the market trend showing little change. Market Reporter, James Armitage

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 3rd November 2021

Numbers decreased with the majority penned entering the younger categories. The bulk were suitable for the restocker orders, with numbers also suitable for the lot feeders. Export cattle were limited in supply with the majority consisting of cows. Demand was strong throughout especially the lighter weights. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock trended dearer considering the plainer quality penned and ranged from 640c to 804c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also sold dearer, with the restockers paying from 540c to 740c/kg. Demand was strong for the lighter yearling steers and these sold to restockers for prices ranging from 500c to 662c/kg. Heavier pens to the restockers and lot feeders also sold well and ranged from 500c to 634c/kg. Yearling heifers to the restockers and feeders trended close to firm with only quality and breed contributing to any price variations. Prices ranged from 486c to 644c/kg, depending on weight. Prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle to the butchers and processors continue to sell to strong competition, with the best A muscled lot reaching 606c/kg. Medium weight cows trended dearer and sold from 310c to 370c/kg. Some heavy weight cows carried excess fat, however the general run trended slightly cheaper and made from 355c to 380c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 320c/kg. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 2nd November 2021

Consignments increased considerably and the breed and quality remained fair to good. The majority entered the younger categories and were more suited for the restocker buyers. Percentages of the younger drafts were high yielding and in prime condition, suited to butchers and processors. The export categories were limited in supply, as approximately 30 cows were penned. Competition was solid throughout in a firm to dearer market. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock trended substantially dearer and ranged from 660c to 830c/kg. The over 200kg heifer portion also sold to strong competition, with the medium weights to the restockers making from 620c to 742c and up to 794c/kg for the lighter end. The yearling steers also trended dearer, especially the lightweights to the restockers and these ranged from 520c to 794c/kg. The heavier weights to feed and restocking orders received from 426c to 672c/kg. Yearling heifers to the restockers and lot feeders also trended dearer with the lightweights making from 462c to 694c, while the heavier pens reached 616c/kg. The younger cattle in prime condition and purchased by the butchers and processors again sold to strong competition and reached 574c/kg. The grown steers to the processors ranged from 390c to 490c/kg, depending on weight, as the heifer portion reached 470c/kg. Cows sold close to firm, with the better covered heavy weights receiving from 350c to 375c/kg. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 1st November 2021

Some substantial rain resulted in a much smaller penning. There was a good supply of yearling steers along with a fair supply of female cattle. The quality of the offering overall was fair to good whilst mixed for breed. Condition was also mainly good with limited supplies of plainer lots. All the usual buyers were in attendance. There was strong demand for the most part in the yearling steers. Restockers were active on the lighter weights with the market showing little but quality related price change. Medium weight yearling steers to feed sold to a slightly dearer trend, while the heavy weight feeder steers saw little but breed and quality related change. Yearling heifers to feed were generally cheaper, with the reduced supply bringing about some quality related price change. There was an isolated dearer sale in the medium weights. Heavy trade yearling steers sold to a cheaper trend, with the heifer portion dearer. Heavy grown steers to process sold to a much cheaper trend, while breed variation contributed to significant reductions in the price change. Grown heifers sold to cheaper trends. There was not a lot of change in the cow market with a full field of buyers competing. A single pen of high yielding C muscle cows showed some improvement. Market Reporter, James Armitage.

world of racing.”

McDonald had his first race ride at Avondale on August 1, 2007.

He rode his first winner 18 days later at Te Rapa, successful aboard a gelding called Johnnie The Sand, and the winners started to flow.

He won his first New Zealand apprentices' title in the 2007-08 season as an 18-year-old, his first Group 1 winner came late in his first season of riding aboard Special Mission in the NZ Breeders' Stakes.

A year later came his first New Zealand senior jockeys' premiership. Fast forward to 2011 and the young Kiwi prodigy was unleashed on Australian racing, winning the Queensland Oaks aboard Scarlett Lady and he didn't look back until his career

was stopped in its tracks five years later when he was disqualified for 18 months after making \$4000 from a bet placed on his behalf on a horse that he rode.

“It wasn't a great time but in saying that I think he came out the other side a more rounded young man,” McDonald's mum Diane said.

“He was at school when he started riding so he'd never really had the life of a teenager like most young people do. “He didn't do parties and the pub because he was riding each and every weekend. “It gave him the chance to live his life and I think it also made him appreciate the life and career he has.

“I think the suspension softened him a lot. “When he started riding, he was so intense but now he

enjoys everything so much more.

“You saw that again on Tuesday. His emotions just flowed; you wouldn't have seen that from James five years ago.” Since returning to the saddle in May 2018, McDonald has raised the bar in the Australian riding ranks. He's won the Sydney jockeys' premiership in each of three full seasons he's ridden since 2018-19 and he again leads the way this season.

Twenty-plus Group 1 winners with Australian racing's two biggest prizes joining his trophy cabinet this year – The Everest three weeks ago and the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday. James' brother Luke is Gerry Harvey's Racing and Bloodstock Manager, and he watched the race with the

retail king.

“It was an amazing feeling, it means a lot,” Luke McDonald said.

“The Melbourne Cup is the pinnacle of racing and to be able to share his success in a small way is a huge thrill. “I said to mum on Tuesday night. This is the race you would let us have the day off school for.

“The Melbourne Cup was the race, it always has been and after he'd come close a couple of times, to finally see him win it. It still makes me emotional talking about it now.

“It was so very exciting. “A real dream come true, not just for James but for the whole family.”

●PHOTO: McDonald kisses the Melbourne Cup trophy. Picture: Getty Images

takes place when you need it most, during important stages of your herd management. Your coach is livestock nutritionist Nikki Henderson from Henderson Livestock Consulting and together you will work through four Challenge Series work sheets. Each of the four sessions will include a group online meeting over a 12 month period with a field day at the end of the series.

Register for this free session to avoid disappointment by using this link:

<https://hunterlls.wufoo.com/forms/beefing-up/>

COMING EVENTS.....

BEEFING UP YOUR HEIFER PERFORMANCE - ONLINE COACHING

When ~ 13 Dec 2021 1:57 pm

Do you want to improve your heifer fertility? Do you want high weaning rates? Do you want ongoing reproductive success? Free coaching is being offered to get your herd rebuilding on track and help you get the most from your current heifer herd. Coaching

Climate outlook overview Issued: 4 November 2021

- November to January rainfall is likely to be above median for much of the eastern two-thirds of Australia, extending into eastern parts of WA.
- Extreme climate outlooks show November to January is 1.5 to 3.0 times more likely than normal to see rainfall in the top 20% of historical records for much of Australia away from the west. The month of November has stronger likelihoods, with parts of southern Australia 3.0 to 4.0 times as likely to see rainfall in the top 20%.
- Maximum temperatures for November to January are likely to be above median for much of western WA, parts of the north-east coastline, and far south-east Australia. However, below median daytime temperatures are more likely for central Australia, extending into north-west and south-west parts of Australia, as well as eastern NSW extending into southern Queensland.
- Above median minimum temperatures for November to January are very likely for almost all of Australia, with roughly equal chances of warmer or cooler than median nights for southern WA.
- The tropical Pacific continues to cool, with La Niña thresholds likely to be reached in November and maintained until at least January 2022. This may be increasing the chances of above average rainfall for much of eastern and northern Australia. The Indian Ocean Dipole is expected to return to neutral during November.

Racing Review & News

How J-Mac went from cows to winning Melbourne Cup By Clinton Payne

As a young man James McDonald didn't dream of being a jockey – he wanted to play for the All Blacks or be a dairy farmer. He was in primary school when he and his brother, Luke, tagged along with their father Brett, a racehorse trainer, to the yearling sales. That day played a part in changing the destiny of the 2021 Melbourne Cup-winning jockey.

“I remember we approached Mr O'Sullivan – New Zealand's former top jockey for many years Lance O'Sullivan – and James asked him how he got his dairy farms,” Luke said. “He told us that he was a jockey and James said to me later, ‘If that's what it takes to get a dairy farm, that's what I'm going to do.’” From there, the diminutive McDonald wanted to be jockey started, spending more time in his father's stables. As a 10-year-old in 2005, he met his idol. Brett Prebble was in town and he visited Brett McDonald's stables, had his



photo taken with James, and gave him one of his whips. “It becomes more amazing by the day the way it all played out,” James said. “I just came up to his elbow and now I tower over him. “You wouldn't believe that seven years after the photo, Brett beats me in the Melbourne Cup aboard Green Moon and nine years later the roles reverse and it's my turn to beat Brett.” McDonald's work ethic and desire was never in question, but he was a “sensitive soul” according to his mum, Diane, and his father, Brett, doubted if he was tough enough to survive as a jockey. “He always had the natural

talent to be a very good jockey, but I didn't think he had enough mongrel in him,” Brett said. “I remember one day, he was playing rugby against a Maori side at Tokoroa, and this big kid told him he was going to run straight over the top of him. “James was only tiny and he thought he'd intimidate James, but James buried him. “The kid got up and later had another go. James tackled him again, only this time he held his head in the dirt. “That was the moment I realised I'd read him wrong and he did have what it takes to survive in the



One thing I don't like is Apples refusal to reset any device to default and remove the icloud login information. If you're like most people, you bought an Apple device years ago, set up your Apple ID with user name and password and then never had to use it again, until now. Many of my clients can't remember their Apple ID password and haven't recorded it anywhere and if you can't remember the answers to those stupid SECRET QUESTIONS, what then?

Again, you'll need to contact Apple but if you can't prove that you are the owner of that device, they won't help you and that device now becomes a door stopper or Frisbee. It's a crazy system. It's like a bank saying... 'you forgot your password? Hahahaha, sorry but we've got to close your account and keep your money too!' Would the banks get away with doing that? HELL NO!

In effect, that's what Apple is doing so why do we just accept it? That's why I don't use Apple devices. If you're Apple, it's a great business model as it results in the sale of a new device. **Samsung Devices.** Samsungs security is also pretty good. If you have a Samsung phone you can protect yourself simply by inserting an SD Memory card into the phone. It's a cheap way of backing up your photos and its automatic once inserted. Samsung devices are less restrictive than Apple in the way they operate but their screens are not as durable. If you crack a Samsung screen, sooner or later it will turn off (go black, flash red or green) and then you'll have 2 choices. Replace the screen or replace the phone. Recently, we've had a flood of Samsung customers coming in because they woke up one morning and a passcode appeared where they had never previously had one or it's now changed from the one they had. This is very uncharacteristic of Samsung devices and something that we've only seen happen in the last few weeks.

Like Apple, if you can't work it out, you'll have to reset your device and everything on it will be lost unless you had a backup. You can backup to many different systems. Unlike Apple devices, getting stuff of your Samsung phone or tablet is easy and you can back up to your cloud account, SD card, Computer or even USB stick in a matter of minutes.

Cloud Backup is the way to go. There are a few options available. In settings > Backup & Restore > Backup In there you'll find Samsungs Cloud option, Google's back up option and if you have a memory card inserted you can also do a full backup to the card. The SD card option is easy and cheap but don't lose your phone.

A cloud backup means that you're storing your information on someone else's computer like Google, Samsung, Dropbox etc. These are relatively safe. Having said that, I don't store passwords there, but they're great for all your photos. I use a combination of SD Card and Dropbox. This means if I lose my phone I can get all my stuff back from my Cloud account. Are Cloud accounts safe? I guess there's always a risk but typically, backups don't store passwords so although your photos, contacts and other bits of info are up there, they won't have access to your passwords.

I see half a dozen people a day for repairs where they don't have a backup. And finally, decide whether you're an Apple family or a Samsung family as these brands don't talk to each other very well. Sign of the times in this anti-social media world I guess? help@macdroids.com.au

(Ed., I regularly use Frank for any technical problems we have with our mobile phones & computer systems. I can highly recommend him as a highly competent & ethical businessman)

MOVIE REVIEW

RED NOTICE

In the world of international crime, an Interpol agent attempts to hunt down and capture the world's most wanted art thief.

Rating: M (Violence and Action|Strong Language|Some Sexual References)

Genre: Action, Comedy

Director: Rawson Marshall Thurber

Producer: Beau Flynn, Dany Garcia, Hiram Garcia, Dwayne Johnson, Rawson Marshall Thurber

Writer: Rawson Marshall Thurber

Release Date (Streaming): Nov 12, 2021

Runtime: 1h 57m

Distributor: Netflix

Red Notice: Gadot, Reynolds, Rock sashay way through Netflix romp low on subtlety

Red Notice (M, 117mins)

Directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber ***1/2

It's billed as the most expensive Netflix movie in the company's history, yet it feels like a throwback to big-screen blockbusters from at least a generation ago.

A globetrotting action comedy, writer-director Rawson Marshall Thurber's stunt, slapstick and sassy one-liner-filled tale is most definitely a slice of weekend night, big-screen entertainment, one that's easy on the eye – and the engagement factor (as long as you don't think about the plot machinations too much).

If the film-maker's last collaboration with man-mountain Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson – *Skyscraper* – was a modern-day riff on *Die Hard*, then this is their *Hudson Haw...* sorry *Bandits*.

Actually, it feels more like a cross between *The Jewel of the Nile*, *Assassins* and the *National Treasure* movies, with hints of *Entrapment* and *Smokin' Aces*, as each of the three highly paid stars – Wonder Woman herself, Gal Gadot, and Canadian wise-cracker Ryan Reynolds being the other points of the film's triple-crossing triumvirate – attempts to earn their keep.

In a story that takes in exotic locations such as Rome, Bali, Valencia, Cairo, Argentina and London (American state Georgia standing in for many of them), we're essentially witnessing a race to secure Cleopatra's three bejewelled eggs, desperately wanted (in a will-pay-unfeasibly-large-sums-of-money way) as a wedding gift by an Egyptian billionaire for his daughter.

There's just one problem, while two eggs, unearthed in 1907, are in the hands of a Rome museum and a private collector respectively, no



one has seen the third in centuries. When we join the action, FBI Special Agent John Hartley (Johnson), a profiler who specialises in art heists, has received credible information that the museum's egg is going to be stolen that day. "In fact, it may already be gone," he says, while stunning a crowd of onlookers by dissolving what is supposed to be the near-priceless object with a can of cola.

Fortunately, the world's second-greatest art thief Nolan Booth (Reynolds) hasn't quite left the building and "a fun foot chase, with lots of twists and turns" (the first of Booth's many almost fourth-wall-breaking observations throughout the two-hour running time) ensues, one that only ends when Hartley's attempt to commandeer a Porsche Taycan is halted by him being sideswiped by a gelato van.

However, just as Booth arrives at his South East Asian hidey-hole 36 hours later, he's surprised and dismayed to find not only Hartley, but Interpol waiting for him. But if Hartley was expecting this to be a simple arrest and the end of the case, he hasn't factored in the interest in proceedings from the woman keeping Booth out of the art-thievery top-spot - the mysterious and nefarious The Bishop (Gadot). What follows is a series of mostly well-executed set-pieces, spectacular stunts, multiple multi-

faceted escape and heist plans (some a touch too over-elaborate), a few half-assed attempts at character backstories, a parade of head-turning costumes (sporting by both Gadot and Johnson) and more than a few moments where you'll be yelling, "Oh, come on!"

It's an outing in which Johnson hardly break a sweat, or his usual protagonist mould, Gadot looks to be having enormous fun and Reynolds simply doesn't stop talking. Clearly given licence to riff, even the most ardent *Deadpool* fan my find his shtick a little much by the end.

Amongst the scattershot approach to verbal comedy, he definitely scores some hits though, hilariously confusing the Attenborough brothers at a vital moment (there are also shout outs to *Pulp Fiction* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*), suggesting they look for "a box marked MacGuffin" when searching for one of the eggs, showing appreciation "for a quality double-cross" and teasing the existence of a Vin Diesel *Cats* audition tape. Backed by a bombastic score and constantly on the move cameras, subtle *Red Notice* is not. But in a flick that has a bad guy named Sotto Voce (Chris Diamantopoulos), Johnson paying homage to his infamous '90s turtleneck and where "pawns" are threatened with having their internet browser history exposed, what can you really expect? **3.5/5**

When is a Warranty is NOT a Warranty....

True or False?

Your 18 month old iPhone died this morning and you're going to cop a HUGE repair bill to get it fixed. Well, it depends. If it has physical damage like a broken screen or back glass or obvious signs of case damage, get your credit card ready as no matter what is wrong with the device, they'll claim that the impact damage caused any/all existing faults.

However, if you've looked after your pride and joy that cost as much as a small used car to buy, and there is NO physical damage, you're in luck! The ACCC & ASIC recently introduced a great term. It's called 'Implied Warranty'. This means that although manufacturers state that your device is covered for a certain period, say 1 year from the date of purchase, **Implied warranty** coverage can **last as long** as four years, although the length of the coverage varies from state to state.

AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER LAW

The Manufacturers Return Policy and Limited Product Warranty is in addition to any other rights and remedies that you may have under the Australian Consumer Law.

Goods come with guarantees that cannot be excluded under the Australian Consumer Law. You are entitled to a replacement or refund for a major failure and compensation for any other reasonably foreseeable loss or damage. You are also entitled to have the goods repaired or replaced if the goods fail to be of acceptable quality and the failure does not amount to a major failure. So, if you believe that your phone should last say at least 3 years without breaking down, then THAT is the warranty period, regardless of what the manufacture claims. The device must be of merchantable quality.

Retailers and Manufacturers hate it with a passion but in this throw away society, why should the people who genuinely look after their devices be punished due to crappy technology? Try it and let me know how you go but remember, if there is any physical damage at all, get your credit card ready. BTW, it doesn't hurt to cry a little when you go to get it fixed.

help@macdroids.com.au

When is a 3 month guarantee on repairs better than a lifetime guarantee on repairs?

The short answer is NEVER!

Here's the reason for the variety of length of repair guarantees...

No Guarantee – Generally, these are repairs done by mates in exchange for alcohol and if you've seen the sort of tragic 'mates' repairs that I have, you might want to pay them with Pepsi Max instead.

3 months – It's a cheap repair using inferior parts by generally untrained people and the repair centre expects it to break down soon after 3 months so you can get on the merry go round again.

6 months – Marginally better than 3 months but they're still expecting you to come around again and fork out more of your hard earn cash. Generally done by untrained staff. Don't be afraid to ask them what formal training they've had

(that doesn't include YouTube videos).

12 months - This should be the minimum. If the repair centre is doing the job properly with quality parts they should have no hesitation in offering this.

Lifetime Guarantee – These guys are at the top of their game. Sure, the repair may cost a few bucks more but you'll only pay once. The repair centre doesn't want you to come back with the same fault again because they know it'll be FREE, and that's just a huge waste of their time and resources so they'll do the job properly with the best parts available, the first time.

help@macdroids.com.au

Apple or Samsung?

It's a bit like saying Microsoft or Apple (with computers). If we're talking about phones, everyone has an opinion. If you were a senior executive at Nokia you'd now be saying 'what the hell happened'?

Apple Devices.

If you like the multilayer of Apples phone security, you'll never switch to an Android phone. But if you woke up one morning and all of a sudden your passcode has changed, you'll quickly realise how devastating Apples system can be as they offer NO WAY in, no matter the circumstance.

Apple say this can never happen but that's of no comfort to a person living on their own, has several thousand photos on their device, never ever used a passcode ... but this morning there is one there that's preventing access to their device.

This may not seem like a problem unless you have thousands of photos that weren't backed up.

Here's what to do:

Don't keep trying random numbers. You know what your passcode is right? If you've tried a few variations and now the phone is saying "disabled for 1 minute", you need to go to the next step.

Contact Apple. You'll hear things like, "is it your phone?" "Did you buy it 2nd hand?" "You must have had a passcode previously", and finally, "your phone will have to be reset to be able to use it".

This is sort of true, however, if you didn't have a backup to iCloud, **DON'T RESET IT JUST YET.** We may be able to retrieve your photos first. If you reset your phone, then all is lost unless you have a backup.

Apple screens are pretty good. We've seen phones where they were run over by a truck, pieces missing out of it and it still worked! When replacing the screen, try and always fit an original Apple screen... they are better than the generics (Macdroids has both options available)

The charging sockets are also very reliable. This is because the charge cable fits in no matter which way you insert it.

All glass phones are attractive, but not very practical. One drop and it's all over. In most cases, the back glass will crack and maybe the screen too. Not even a Lifeproof or Otterbox case will protect it in every situation. We can replace the back glass on ANY iPhone for \$150.

For Sales, Service & Advice...

● Cracked Screens	● Battery Replacement	● Passcode Removal
● Water Damage	● Software Issues	● Fan Problems
● Refurbishment	● Network Unlocks	● Internal Cleaning
● Recycle	● Screen Issues	● Motherboard Repairs

1300 622 376

The Macron spat over Aukus submarines has taught world leaders a lot about Scott Morrison

The Guardian

EDITORS' CHOICE



'What is important to Morrison is whatever it takes to win the next political battle. International relations are only important insofar as they express themselves through the prism of domestic politics.' Photograph: Phil Noble/AP

By Katharine Murphy

The Australian PM is a relatively new player on the global stage, but the leak of the French president's text message spoke volumes. As Scott Morrison flew towards Australia's military base for operations in the Middle East on Wednesday, Jean-Pierre Thébault was using an appearance at the National Press Club in Canberra to continue France's rolling exhortation of Australia's conduct while dumping a multibillion-dollar submarine contract.

By the time Morrison touched down in the desert, the French ambassador had landed a potent extrapolation. If Scott Morrison's operation was prepared to leak private text messages from world leaders to settle diplomatic scores, who could trust Australia? "You don't behave like this on personal exchanges of leaders," Thébault said in Canberra. "Doing this also sends a very worrying signal for all heads of state. Beware, in Australia, there will be leaks, and what you say in confidence to your partners will eventually be used and weaponised against you." I doubt you've missed the saga of the text messages, but just in case – the morning after Emmanuel Macron told Australian journalists on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome that Morrison had lied to him during the fracas, one of the president's private texts turned up in some Australian media outlets.

Two days before Morrison, Boris Johnson and Joe Biden terminated Australia's contract with the French Naval Group to build diesel submarines in mid-September and replaced it with the Aukus pact, Macron had asked Morrison: "Should I expect good or bad news for our joint submarines ambitions?"

This text was submitted as evidence that Macron's outrage – the accusations about lying and Australia stabbing France in the back – were entirely concocted, because the president knew all along the French contract was about to be dumped. Actually, the message confirmed exactly the opposite. It shows Macron didn't know what was happening two days before three leaders humiliated France with the Aukus announcement – which you'll recall was livestreamed to the world. So as ruthless exercises in domestic damage control go, this was a particularly wild one. Measured in terms of international relations, this was high-cost, low-efficiency.

Presumably, the score-settling reflected the fury of Australia's prime minister after Macron launched his drive-by character assassination at the G20. Morrison was as angry as I have ever seen him on learning of Macron's accusation. But if it was an impulse, a lashing out, his revenge play, once unleashed, could not be rescinded. Morrison has had plenty of opportunities to deny his office leaked the texts. He has not done so. He has also not expressed any remorse about it either. Asked on the ground at the Al Minhad air base what the threshold had been for engaging in retributive conduct entirely outside diplomatic rules of engagement – was the trigger one world leader (Macron) accusing another one (Morrison) of lying – Morrison doubled down.

"Claims had been made and those claims were refuted," the prime minister said. Implicit in this is Macron was the one who shifted the goalposts by launching a personal attack. Morrison does have a point. There was nothing diplomatic in the French president's observation at the G20. It was an extraordinary moment. Morrison responded with an extraordinary moment of his own.

But the rapid escalation has removed all the guard rails and conventions that normally restrain the apex predators of politics from engaging in unmasked aggression against their peers. Morrison understood he was now in uncharted territory – which is why the prime minister declared an armistice during his brief stopover in the Middle East. The prime minister thought now everybody had got various things off their chests, it was time to get past the muck. "Claims were made and claims were refuted, what is needed now is for us to move on – that is what is important the Australian people".

What's important, according to Morrison's telling, was he, Scott Morrison, had made the right call by replacing French diesel powered submarines with nuclear ones.

He, Morrison, had "delivered an incredibly important capability to Australia to keep us safe and defend and protect Australia – that's the most important thing, that is what is at issue here". "That is the thing that matters most to Australians – that we do everything we can to ensure the Australian defences are the best they possibly can be and the men and women who serve get the best. That's what I was seeking to do and if others have other motives, others have other agendas, well that's for them".

The means justify the ends, in other words. Nothing else matters. Morrison is still a relatively new player on the global stage, but his global counterparts have learned something important about Australia's prime minister in this episode. Morrison doesn't need to be liked. He doesn't need to be trusted – and in a domestic political context, Morrison is not trusted either by colleagues or by adversaries. Morrison's confidence in his own instincts and decisions is absolute.

He doesn't need anyone to prop him up, or validate his choices. His emotional hinterland is outside of politics. In the prime ministership, he is an island. What's important is the will to power, which for Morrison, takes form in a sense of relentless righteousness. What is important to Morrison is whatever it takes to win the next political battle. International relations are only important insofar as they express themselves through the prism of domestic politics. Morrison thinks he's on a winner. Macron might be a casualty of that. Australian taxpayers might have to fork out billions to decouple from the Naval Group.

But if it's a winning play, the costs don't matter.

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

and NOT SO

TO the, hopefully not local, graffiti artists who have plied their trade on the bridge over the Hunter Expressway at Branxton .. signs, concrete et al. Surely someone would have seen them in the act. Come forward and tell us who they were.

To the WA Police and the community of Carnarvon WA. I know this paper is a long way from WA but it was the best outcome. I am sure the whole of Australia was following it day-by-day. An idea; what about the WA Government giving the reward money, a \$1million, to the Police Task Force and add another million for the town of Carnarvon. The local council could be the trustee and the community decide what they could do with it ... just a thought. I have emailed the WA Premiers office with my thoughts.

To the East Branxton resident who walks his big dog every day, rain , hail or shine. ☹ To the same man who lets the dog defecate on the sides of the road & the footpaths & leaves his calling card there. You caught me twice in one week. Please clean up after him/her.

To Dave and company for your looking after the good people of Greta with your Post Office. To Australia Post for not responding to the closing of the PO – appears you have had plenty of notice to find an alternative venue & operators. Bad for the community & a black mark against Australia Post.

FREE Classifieds Classified's Classified's

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

Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057 Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841 Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Branxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 0413161296 Fred Work Wanted: Need a house cleaner \$25/hr P: 0488 588 333 Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292 Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601 Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701 Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567 Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081 Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes. Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804 Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938.3153 Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

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 THUR 18 NOV – Branxton Public School Book Week Celebrations WED 24 NOV – Central Hunter Business Chamber Breakfast AGM meeting @ Branxton RSL Hall 5:30pm for 6PM. All members & Guests welcome FRI 26 NOV – Branxton Public School PBL Assembly FRI 26 NOV – Mailland Business Chamber Men's Health Gala Dinner & Charity Auction 6pm SAT 4 Dec – Local Government Elections TUE 7 DEC – Branxton Public School Presentation Day TUE 7 DEC – Cyber Security Breakfast Panel -7am - 11am. Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley. Join The Business Centre for breakfast and hear from a panel of experts on the issue of cyber security. Participants will hear real stories and engage in conversation with panellists and fellow audience members. 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 Bimbaddin winery. SAT 26 MAR 2022 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate "Dates for your Diary" is free community service which has been included in the News for over 23-years. Please send your event notices and dates to thenews@hotkey.net.au or call me on 0414 757 826. The Editor

Dates for your diary >

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE WHAT'S ON? GO TO

www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

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!



LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Nominations sought for new Arts and Culture Advisory Group

As work on the new Arts and Cultural Centre pushes ahead, Singleton Council is encouraging local creatives to be part of the newly formed Arts and Culture Advisory Group to help make the local government area the Hunter's centre of creativity.

Meeting at least four times a year, Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity said the group will reflect the breadth of arts, heritage, and cultural diversity across the Singleton area.

The function of the Arts and Culture Advisory Group is to:

- Support Council in the delivery of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2020-2030
- Assist Council promote and celebrate the arts, culture, and heritage of Singleton and to build connection between arts, culture and heritage groups and individuals in the community
- Provide advice and recommendations to Council on arts, culture, and heritage issues
- Contribute to the development and enhancement of a strong, identifiable public profile for arts and culture across the Singleton LGA
- To assist Council in developing, monitoring, and revising the Arts and Culture Strategy 2020-2030

"We may have already painted the picture of what we want arts and culture to look like in Singleton over the next decade with the adoption of the Arts and Culture Strategy 2020-2030, but we're not waiting for the Arts and Cultural Centre in Townhead Park to open to start sculpting our cultural revolution," Ms Brereton said.

"With the direction already set and in motion, the formation of the Arts and Culture Advisory Group is an important step, working with us to support and promote our thriving creative community and enhance cultural connections across our LGA.

"We're committed to implementing the actions set out in the strategy and working with our community to implement quality programs that enhance Singleton's identity and enrich the lives of the people who live here as well as visit here.

"If you're an active member of our community and a passionate advocate for arts and culture in our region, this is the perfect position for you, and I invite you to submit your expression of interest on Council's website."

Expressions of interest outlining related experience and reason for nominating to join the group must be made by 15 November. For more information and to download the EOI form, visit [W https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/310/Public-Exhibition](https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/310/Public-Exhibition) or contact our Customer Service Team on T 02 6578 7290 for a hard copy to be posted to you

Good tidings for a prosperous Christmas season with Shop Singleton campaign

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas as Singleton Council joins forces with Singleton Business Chamber for a sleigh full of programs and activities to spread plenty of cheer this year – and everyone can get involved.

After a bumper Christmas shopping season and Singleton's best sales month on record when \$38 million was spent in December 2020, the community is being encouraged to follow the worst month for businesses in August with an even bigger December in 2021.

Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity, said it was as simple as looking local this festive season with the all-new Shop Singleton campaign.

As well as keeping an eye out for the elf in your favourite store with the return of last year's popular Santa's Little Helpers and checking out the Christmas Gift Guide in late November for ideas your special people will love, you can also check out the best Christmas window display in your favourite businesses and give the gift of choice with a Spend in Singleton gift card that can be used at more than 130 businesses.

Retail businesses are encouraged to get involved with the programs to help promote shop local. Expressions of interest and gift nominations of the products to be included in the Gift Guide are now open and will close on 11 November 2021.

"The impacts of COVID-19 and lockdowns have had significant consequences for Singleton's economy and local businesses during 2021, and Christmas is the perfect time of year to spread some much-needed festive cheer," Ms Brereton said.

"Shop Singleton is an extension of the Spend in Singleton program to create a new energy for businesses and customers alike, and encourage our local residents and people in neighbouring local government areas to come to Singleton for their shopping in the lead up to Christmas.

"To make it as successful as we want it to be, we'd love to see as many businesses as possible get involved in the Shop Singleton Gift Guide, Light Up Their Business and Santa's Little Helpers – and as well as being a great way to promote your business and get into the spirit of the season, there's also the opportunity to win Spend in Singleton gift cards for your chosen charity or community group.

"All the information you need about how to get involved is on Council's website, or give us a call on 02 6578 7290."

Sue Gilroy, President of Singleton Business Chamber, said Shop Singleton was a great reminder of the amazing array of businesses that were back open and ready to see customers – safely, of course.

"It's been a tough year for everyone, especially for our local businesses, and there's no better time to bring everyone back together than Christmas," she said.

"We're really pleased to continue the great relationship we have with Council with this campaign to highlight the brilliant small businesses we have across our local government area, whether it's boutique retail for your Christmas shopping, award-winning dining for your Christmas get togethers or all the trimmings you need for a magical Christmas at home.

"I hope lots of businesses get involved in these initiatives so the new year can be merry and prosperous for everyone."

Businesses don't need to be a member of Singleton Business Chamber to be involved. For more information, Council's website at singleton.nsw.gov.au or contact 02 6572 7290, or contact Singleton Business Chamber on 0400 460 412 or email admin@singletonchamber.org.au

Win a \$500 Hunter Valley staycation travel voucher

Cessnock City Council's Economic Development Team have launched a new Support Local competition, this time focussing on our wonderful local accommodation providers.

For the month of November, residents are encouraged tag their favourite accommodation business (or somewhere they would really love to stay) on Facebook, explain why in 25 words or less, and post a photo of the business. All entries will go in the running to win a luxurious travel voucher for a Hunter Valley staycation valued at \$500. For the entry to be valid, ensure you tag the business and use the hashtag #supportlocalcessnock.

This competition forms part of a series of competitions designed to encourage residents to support their local businesses. With 10 campaigns planned via social media, there will be a total of \$5,000 in prizes to be won including gift cards, restaurant and accommodation vouchers, hampers and more.

Cessnock City General Manager Lotta Jackson encouraged residents to get involved in this wonderful initiative. "Our local tourism industry has taken a massive hit with COVID restrictions in recent months, so now more than ever, it's important that we support and promote our local businesses where we can. We have so many wonderful accommodation providers across the Cessnock LGA, from luxury hotels and resorts to small boutique B&Bs. There really is something for everyone."

The competition will run from 1 to 30 November 2021. For more information and to enter, visit the Advance Greater Cessnock Facebook account @advancecessnock or visit www.advancecessnock.com.au. Local business owners can access a Support Local Campaign Toolkit from the Advance Greater Cessnock website which is designed to encourage their own creative ideas. Here, businesses can easily access the images and logos, and supplement the main campaign with their own messages.

The team at the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre have been busy during the Covid-19 lockdown period re-branding their gift shop to Shop Hunter Valley.

Shop Hunter Valley is a premier destination store located at the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre showcasing the best local products and produce the region has to offer.

In addition to the rebranding of the visitor centres' retail space, the staff are excited to announce that customers will not only have the option to browse in store but online too, with the new gift shop portal going live on Monday 1 November from 9am.

The online gift shop was developed in response to the real-time needs of their customers providing an additional service for ease and convenience no matter whether shopping in the comfort of your own home or for those that don't live in the area.

With the pandemic changing consumer behaviour and growth in e commerce the online gift shop will be a welcomed edition to the existing wonderful services being offered by the staff that the visitor centre.

Shop Hunter Valley has something for everyone with more than 70 exciting artisans predominantly local. Whether in store or online, you will discover:

- Creative art from local artists
- Indigenous art and accessories
- Handmade soaps and body products
- Homewares
- Delicious honey, herbal tea and produce
- Souvenirs
- Jewellery
- Books
- Unique handmade bags and shoes
- Hats and sunglasses



Shop Hunter Valley will be launched on Monday, 1 November 2021 from 9am with a selection of signature hampers filled with tasty Hunter Valley treats, perfect for corporate gifting, or just to spoil your loved ones.

The team at Shop Hunter Valley can also create customised Hampers to suit every budget.

Drop in, say hi and check out the new fresh look centre. The team look forward to seeing you soon!



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

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



Some Gardening Tips Every Gardener Should Know



Are you wanting to start digging and growing, but don't know where to begin? Then, check out this list of helpful hints for making sure all your plants thrive.

The more you garden, the more you'll learn about what works and what doesn't. But for now, use this list of some basic gardening tips to find the answers to some of the most common questions beginners have. And don't forget to have fun while growing your own food and beautiful flowers in your yard!

1. Not sure when to prune? Prune spring-flowering shrubs, such as lilacs, and large-flower climbing roses immediately after the blooms fade. They set their flower buds in autumn on last year's growth. If you prune them in autumn or winter, you remove next spring's flower buds.

2. Apply only composted, rotted manure that has cured for at least six months to your soil. Fresh manure is too high in nitrogen and can "burn" plants; it may also contain pathogens or parasites. Manure from pigs, dogs, and cats should never be used in gardens or compost piles because they may contain parasites that can infect humans.

3. Deadheading is a good practice for perennials and annuals. Because the goal of annual plants is to flower, set seed, and die, removing the old blooms tells annual plants to produce more flowers. Removing spent flowers also encourages plants to use their energy to grow stronger leaves and roots instead of seed production. Avoid deadheading plants grown especially for their decorative fruits or pods, such as money plant (*Lunaria*).

4. Pay close attention to how much light different plants need. Grow vegetables in a location that gets at least 8 hours of direct sunlight every day. Most vegetables need full sun to produce the best harvest. If you have some shade, try growing cool-season crops such as lettuce, spinach, radishes, and cabbage.

5. The best approaches to controlling weeds in the garden are hand-weeding and hoeing. Avoid deep hoeing or cultivating that can bring weed seeds to the soil's surface so they germinate. Weed early and often so weeds don't go to seed. Use mulch to smother and prevent annual weeds.

6. Plant spring-blooming bulbs, such as tulips, fritillarias, ornamental alliums, and crocuses, in the autumn before the ground freezes. In general, place the bulb in a hole that's two to three times the depth of the bulb. While most hardy bulbs you only need to plant once, and they'll keep coming up year after year, note that hybrid tulips are an exception to this rule. It's best to pull them up when they are done blooming and replant new tulip bulbs each fall, or choose species tulips that become perennial.

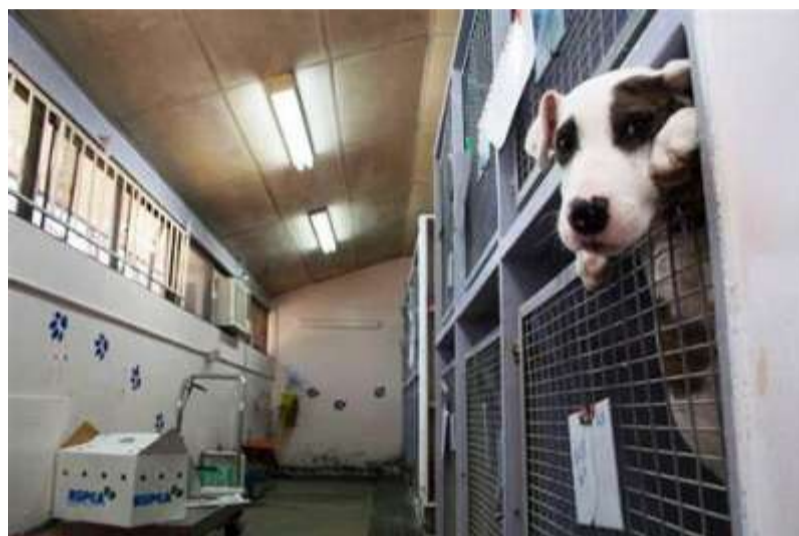
7. Fertilizer is not the answer to growing the best plants; soil quality is. Add organic amendments such as compost and well-aged manure to your soil. The best soil structure is crumbly, easy to dig, accepts water easily, and is loose enough to provide oxygen for plant roots. If you choose to use fertilizer, use an organic one to add nitrogen, phosphate, and potash (the form of potassium plants can use).

8. Native species of plants are often better adapted to growing in your region than plants from other places in the world. They also are better for local pollinators that evolved with them. If you want to grow plants to support pollinators, avoid newer cultivars with double flowers because all the extra petals make it harder for insects to reach the nectar and pollen.

9. Avoid digging or planting in wet soil; working it damages the soil structure. Wait until the soil is crumbly and no longer forms a ball when you squeeze some in your hand (it doesn't have to be bone-dry) to till or dig.



Adopting a dog or puppy



Ed., I have taken this article from the official RSPCA website; it gives some very good advice

Choosing to adopt a dog or puppy is an exciting time. However, there are many things to consider before adopting a pet to help ensure the right dog is placed with the right family.

Adoption process

Matching the right people to the right dog is important to us at RSPCA, that's why we have an adoption process. Take your time to think about what type of dog you are after, and what type of dog is right for you and your family. Once you have spotted that special friend, an adoption assistant will talk to you about that particular dog, its needs, and its background. We will want to know about how the dog will live, so photos of your backyard are a good way of showing us about your lifestyle. We also ask about other family members and pets, and are happy to arrange a meet and greet with you and your existing pets. Above all else, our interest is in the welfare of the dog and making sure that it finds a 'forever home'.

Each shelter will require an adoption application form to be filled, and an additional 24-hour cooling off period can be required to give you the opportunity to ensure you have made the right decision. An interview can be arranged with an adoption officer to ensure that the best possible match has been made after this

cooling off period.

Selecting your dog

When it comes to selecting a dog or puppy, take your time to think about what type of dog you are after, and what type of dog is right for you and your family.

An RSPCA shelter is a fantastic place to start your search. You will find animals available for adoption that are medically and behaviourally sound, are perfectly healthy and sociable, and are simply waiting for a new home and a loving family.

A great place to start is the RSPCA's Smart Puppy and Dog Buyers Guide, for all the

comfortable in its new surroundings, so the whole family can enjoy this new relationship. You also need to be ready to begin the process of educating your dog, and be prepared to provide for all of its feeding, health, training and exercise needs. Find out everything you need to know about caring for your new dog or puppy on the RSPCA's Knowledgebase.

Love is Blind

We all love our dogs.

Unfortunately, some breeds need more than unconditional love.

Many breeds of dog have exaggerated physical features, which means they can't breathe, walk or give birth normally. Many have chronic and painful ear, skin and eye problems. These problems prevent many dogs from having a normal and comfortable life. This results from breeding to pedigree 'breed standards' that focus on appearance rather than selecting traits that are best for the dogs' health and well-being. That's a real concern for owners. No one wants to be blind to the suffering of their much-loved pets. When choosing your pet, it's

which means they can't breathe, walk or give birth normally. Many have chronic and painful ear, skin and eye problems. These problems prevent many dogs from having a normal and comfortable life.

This results from breeding to pedigree 'breed standards' that focus on appearance rather than selecting traits that are best for the dogs' health and well-being.

That's a real concern for owners. No one wants to be blind to the suffering of their much-loved pets. These dogs don't need to suffer, and you can help.

RSPCA Australia and the Australian Veterinary Association are calling for a fundamental shift in the way purebred dogs are selected and bred in Australia.

Please express your support and help us create a healthier future for these much-loved dogs.

Love is suffocating

Pedigree dogs with very short muzzles (brachycephalic breeds) such as **Pugs, British bulldogs and French bulldogs** generally have serious difficulty breathing as the length of their muzzle has been progressively shortened through selective breeding. However, the soft tissue inside is not reduced, blocking their airways.

Their nostrils and windpipes may also be constricted, making it even more **difficult to breathe**. These dogs endure the **constant and**

excruciating sensation of being suffocated.

Some dogs will **faint or collapse** due to a lack of oxygen, especially when exercising or excited. Others may **overheat, sometimes fatally**. Many have chronic sleep deprivation. They may be **forced to sleep sitting or standing up**, because of their breathing problems. These dogs often need major surgery to try to improve their quality of life.

They have a formally recognised medical condition called **Brachycephalic Airway Obstruction Syndrome**.

Breeds at risk:

Short muzzle breeds such as Pugs, British Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Boston Terrier and Pekingese among others.



A French Bull Dog

information you need before you bring a new dog or puppy into your home.

Caring for your dog or puppy

Bringing a new dog or puppy home is a wonderful, exciting experience. It is very important that you take the time to help your new family member feel safe and

important to understand the specific needs and potential health issues that could affect certain breeds.

We love our dogs.

Unfortunately, some breeds need more than unconditional love. Many breeds of dog have exaggerated physical features,



Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 28-10-21

Stableford

Div 1 Winner L Hunt 29 pts
R/u K Anderson 28 pts 3rd
D Sheppard 27 pts
Div 2 Winner G Scobie
31pts (SOD) (c/b) R/u R
Moylan 31 pts
3rd A Hackett 30 pts
Ladies Div Winner
C Caldwell 26 pts R/u
R McCarthy 25 pts (c/b)
3rd N Busch 25 pts
NTP Ladies C Cald-
well

Gents G Musialik

Members draw - Not won
A good number (55)

participated in to-day's
round and were rewarded
with a fine, warm
day. Congratulations to
Graeme Scobie on winning
his division and achieving
the "Score of the Day". A
well done to all other
winners and placegetters.

Results 4-11-21

Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Train 34
pts R/u E Barrett 31 pts
3rd G Sheldon 30 pts
Div 2 Winner S Condran 36
pts R/u J Warland 33 pts
3rd L Bootes 31 pts
Ladies Div Winner
N Busch 37 pts (SOD)
R/u J Scobie 36 pts
3rd M Hunt 30 pts
NTP Ladies C Cald-
well

Gents G Train

Members draw ~ Not won
A heavily overcast, warm
day, with not much chance
of precipitation, encouraged
our ever-eager players to
participate in to-day's
round. A well contested
event with some very
respectable scores.

Congratulations to Nerida
Busch on winning her
division and achieving the
"Score of the Day", and a
well done to all other
winners and lace getters.

LN Bootes

Hon Sec

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB

Saturday, 23 Oct 2021
SATURDAY COMP -
STABLEFORD

Field: 57

Grades A Lee Heuston 37
Grades A Edward Barrett
37

Grades A Stephen Ross 36
Grades B Gary Walsh 42
Grades B Murray Kingston
40

Grades B Jeff Haywood 37
Grades C Colin Hughes 38
Grades C Mick Lutovac 37
Grades C Scott Duncan 33
NTP Nick Wheeler 190cm
NTP Murray Kingston
46cm

NTP Robert McMillan
810cm

Balls 17 Distributed down
to score: 32

PRO'S NTP 18TH HOLE
- MURRAY KINGSTON
46CM \$98 PROSHOP
VOUCHER

Lee Heuston showed his
class in winning Saturday's
A Grade Stableford event
with an excellent 37 pts
from his low handicap.
Eddie Barrett returned to
form to finish runner up

with 37 pts as well with
Club Captain third with a
sound 36 pts. Gary Walsh
won B Grade with the
day's best stableford score
of 42 pts, just ahead of
Murray Kingston's 40 pts,
as core which included the
Pro's NTPin on the last.
His tee shot finished only
46 cms away which earned
him a \$98 Proshop
Voucher. Jeff Haywood's
37 pts earned him third
place. Col Hughes contin-
ued his recent good form to
win C Grade with 38 pts.
Mick Lutovac came second
with 37 pts, his best score
for some time, with Scott
Duncan's 33 pts good
enough for third place. 32
pts was needed to win a
ball.

Saturday, 30 Oct 2021
SATURDAY COMP -
PAR

Field: 59

Grades A Gregory Tearle 5
Grades A Victor Matt 2
Grades A Stephen Ross 2
Grades B Brendon Clark 9
Grades B Gary Musialik 8
Grades B Joe Bereza 5
Grades C Mick Lutovac 4
Grades C Lennard Porter 4
Grades C Karen Johanson
3

NTP Stephen Ross 191cm
NTP Joe Bereza 164cm
NTP Lennard Porter
107cm

PRO'S NTP 18TH HOLE
- LENNY PORTER \$100
PROSHOP VOUCHER
Balls 18 Distributed down
to score: - 1

Saturday's Par Event
produced some excellent
scores across all grades
with Greg Tearle winning
A Grade with an impres-
sive +5 score. According to
our Club Captain he played
very solidly all day,
particularly in the back
nine where he had a +4
score. Apparently, Greg
really enjoys par events as
it forces him to putt more
aggressively, effectively
changing the way you
approach your play. Victor
Matt returned to form,
finishing runner up with his
+2 with Captain Steve Ross
third on the same score.

Brendan Clark continued
his great form, winning B
Grade with an ultra-
impressive +9. His playing
partner, Scotty Duncan said
he was accurate off the tee
all day and didn't really
miss a putt all day—now
that would explain his great
score. Unbelievably, Gary
Musilak recorded a
remarkable +8 and could
only finish second. As
Captain Steve said, "you
gotta love golf at
Branxton!" Joe Bereza's
excellent +5 was only good
enough for third place.

Mick Lutovac won C
Grade with a very solid
score of +4, just defeating
his playing partner Lennie
Porter on the same score
with Karen Johanson third
with her +3 score. Lennie
Porter's shot to the last,
only 107 cms away won
him the Pro's \$100
voucher—a great day for
Mr Porter! A Minus one
score was needed to win a
ball. Captain Steve wants
to remind everyone that
names are now being taken
for rounds 1 and 2 of the

Club Championships in the
Pro Shop.

HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

Sunday 24th October

The Weekly comp has been
won by John Knuth with 40
points from Josh Knott with
39 on countback to Jai
Kumer. Ball winners were:
Craig Sharp 38, John Parish
37, Jeff Shanahan 36,
Rocks Jr. 36 & Dan
McLeod 36 c/b

Tuesday 26th October

Wayne Barber is enjoying a
fine run of form with a win
in the Tuesday Stableford
with 38 points from Darrell
Porter 37 on countback to
Beepa. Ball winners are:
Brendan Connor 36, Joshua
Hutchison 36, Tom
Vaughan 36, Andrew
Edwards 35, Andrew
Causey 35, Lindsay Meyn
35, Ryan Felton 35, Steve
Piggott 34, Joe Laughlan
34, David Peel 34, Kevin
Gibson 33, Lloyd Barrett
33, Teedubs Waite 33, Pe-
ter Franks 33, Bob
Prentice 33, Gavin West 33,
Gary Arnold 32, Ian Newell
32, Hugh Le 32, Wayne
Cowan 32, Greg Ireland 32,
Rex talbot 32, Phil Darcy
32, Shawn Parish 32, Peter
Payne 32, John Stewart 31,
Graeme Flynn 31, Bindii
31, Paul Smith 31 & Peter
McIntyre 31 c/b. Nearest-
the-Pins to Andrew Ed-
wards (3rd,4th & 17th)
Gary Marsden (8th) &
Wayne Barber (10th)

Wednesday 27th October

The Ladies 4BBB Stable-
ford has been won by
Christine Tancred & Sharon
Blackett with 45 points
from Ruth Scott & Glenda
Williams with 44 on count-
back to Sue Peel & Pam
Snaddon in 3rd place. Near-
est-the-Pin winners are: Di
Atton, Melita Watson &
Isobel Skeates.

Thursday 28th October

The Vets 2BBB resulted in
a win for Kevin Gibson &
Chris Taggart with 46
points from Gerry Irwin &
Steve Piggott with 45 on
countback to Muz & Jeff
Taylor also on countback.
The ball winners are:
Darrell Preston & Michael
O'Brien 45, John &
Christine Tancred 45, Bill
Harden & Denis Corke 44,
Norm Barry & Dave
Archibald 44, Wazza &
Curly 44, Di Oakes &
Melita Watson 43, Mick
Gilbert & Col Somerville
43, Steve Piggott & Wayne
Drayton 43, Tom Bell &
Bill Freeman 43, Jock &
Alick Bender 42, David
Peel & Kevin Smith 42,
Gunner & James Schofield
42 and Gary Arnold &
Wayne Burgess 42 c/b. The
Individual Stableford run in
conjunction went to Muz
with 42 points from Steve
Piggott 41 & Denis Corke
3rd with 39 on countback.
Nearest-the-Pins went to
Denis Corke (3rd) Danny
Schofield (4th) Steve Pig-
gott (8th) Ken Blackett
(10th) & Melita Watson
(17th).

Saturday 30th October

The Irish Stableford drew a
large field to contest the
format with excellent
results handed in. A Grade
to Justin Preece with 79
points from Peter Huckfeldt

78 on countback , B Grade
to Michael Pratt with 78
from Luke Johnston 77 & C
Grade to Glenn Williams
with 78 from Greg Harder
76. Ball winners are: Trevor
Collins 78, Michael Bloom
77, Graham Morris 76,
Mick Gilbert 74, Darren
Desmid 74, Chris Weber
74, Nev Williams 74,
Patrick Wand 73, Tom
Vaughan 73, Banjo 73,
Darren Mathers 73, Terry
Webb 73, Adrian Kent 72,
Andrew Schofield 71, Jeff
Morton 71, Harrison Preece
71, George Copas 71, Dean
Freebairn 70, Sharyn Jones
70, David Cullen 69, Brian
Connolly 69, Danny
Schofield 68, Garry
Marsden 68,Denis Corke
68, Anthony Bower 67,
Don Bradley 67, Terry
Roughan 67, Tracy
Morison 67, Muz 66, Jason
Mould 66, Darrell Porter
66, Doug Wand 66, Nathan
Archer 66, Nathan Branz
66, Matt Killick 66, Robert
Charlesworth 65, Fluff 65,
Phil Small 65 & Paul
Newall 64 c/b. Nearest-the-
Pins went to Matt Killick
(3rd) Bruce Chambers (4th)
Beepa (8th) Stephen Zok
(10th) & Steve Piggott
(17th)

Sunday 31st October

The Weekly Comp has
been won by Hugh Le with
an outstanding 46 point
round from Shawn Parish
with 41 & Nathan Bendeich
with 39. Ball winners are:
Brad Oldfield 38, Dean
Ferris 38, Christine tancred
38, Brett Janssen 36, Mark
Fullbrook 35, Chad Gordon
35, Matt Merlo 35, Brock
Gardiner 35, Tony Krishna
34, Saxon Hulsman 34,
Jordan Burton 33 & Jai
Kumar 32 c/b.

Tuesday 2nd November

Hugh Le has continued his
recent run of great form
with another 41 point return
to win the Tuesday
Stableford from Garry
Marsden 38 on countback
to Catherine Chappell in
3rd place also on c/b. Ball
winners were: Paul
Chappell 38, David
Micheal Menzies 37, Lloyd
Barrett 37, Robert Herbert
36, Bob Prentice 36,
Brandon Cole 35, Ken Scott
35, Jayden Casinelli 35,
John Carmody 34, Wayne
Cowen 34, Jaye Hess 34,
Peter Franks 33, Gary
Arnold 33, Rex Talbot 33,
Phil Darcy 33, Greg Ireland
33, Pam Snaddon 33, Mark
Makin 33, David Peel 33,
Matt Merlo 33, Chris
Taggart 33, John Stewart
32, Ian Newell 32, Peter
McIntyre 32, Drew Dewar
32, Shayne Piggott
31, Dennis Donn 31, Wayne
Burgess 30, Steve Piggott
30 & Greg Snaddon 30 c/b.
Nearest-the-Pins to Ken
Scott (3rd & 10th) Phil
Darcy (4th) Saxon Hulsman
(8th) & John Carmody
(17th)

The Winners of the
Melbourne Cup Sweep
were: 1st Pro shop
Anthony, 2nd John
Carmody, 3rd Bruce
Mathews, 4th Sue Peel &
Last Garry Marsden

Wednesday 3rd

November

The Ladies Stableford has
been won by Sue Peel with

an excellent 42 point round
from Sue Wilson 41 and
Melita Watson 3rd with 39
points. Ball winners were:
Lorraine Clack 38, Di
Oakes 36, Ruth Scott 36,
Robyn Dunlop 35, Jill
Ramsden 33, Isabel Skeates
33, Ann Grace-Smith 33 &
Di Atton 33 c/b. Nearest-
the-Pins to Sue Peel (3rd &
8th) Jenny Chambers (4th)
& Leesa Robinson (17th).

Thursday 4th November

The Vets Medley Stable-
ford has seen 19 players
from the field equal or
better than Par. Division 1
has been won by David
Peel with 38 points from
Graeme Flynn 37 on
countback, Division 2 to
Bill Freeman 39 from
Bomber with 38 on count-
back after a 'barnstorming'
back 9 which yielded 26
points and Division 3 to
John Martin on countback
to Bindii also on countback
after both returned 37
points. Ball winners are:
John Stewart 38, Graeme
Smith 37, Darrell Porter 37,
Jill Ramsden 37, Mick
Gilbert 36, Melita Watson
36, John Carmody 36,

Graham Morris 36, Tom
Bell 36, Kevin Smith 36,
Mark Barrow 36, Wazza
36, Wayne Barber 36, Col
Somerville 35, Ron Findley
35, Ken Springbett 35,
Dave Gellwiler 35, Michael
Tsakissiris 34, Silver 34,
Paul Ireland 34, Tony
Neale 34, Dave Hollis 34,
Steve Jurd 34, Jeff Morton
34, Dean Morison 33, Gary
Arnold 33, Garry Marsden
33, Dinky Di 33, Greg
Burke 33 & Ryan Wilson
33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to
Tom Bell (3rd) Bill Free-
man (4th) David Peel (8th)
Michael Tsakissiris (10th)
& Mick Gilbert (17th).

Saturday 6th November

The Saturday Stroke
rounds played in ideal
conditions has seen good
score in all grades. A Grade
to Adrian Kent with a great
64 net from Mark Makin
69 on countback, B Grade
to Sharyn Jones with 67
from Paul McCudden 70
and C Grade to Peter
Perkins with 66 from Scott
Jones with 67 net. Ball
winners were: Matt Killick
69, Russ Calderwood 70,
Adam Jackson 70, Darren

Cussen 72, Beepa 72, Phil
Crombie 72, Nick Looby
72, Gleen Williams 73, Jeff
Morton 73, Andrew Brown
73, Andrew Zok 73,
Stephen Zok 73, Bruce
Chambers 74, Matt
Tomlinson 74, Danny
Schofield 74, Spot 74,
Arthur Cuttriss 74, Tom
Bell 74, Jeremy Holden 74,
Steve Jones 75, Doug Wand
75, Don Bradley 75, Bindii
75, Steve Piggott 76, Luke
Johnson 76, Paul Bullock
76, Muz 76, Scott Vowles
76 & Fluff 77 c/b. Nearest-
the-Pins to Russ
Calderwood (3rd & 8th)
Steve Piggott (4th) Andrew
Brown (10th) & Adrian
Kent (17th). Next weeks
event will be a Medley
Stableford

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS Issue No 180 5th May 2005 page 3

Little Athletics celebrate end of season



Photo above: Coach Craig Bourne with Paige, Dom, Brittany, Oliver Bettison, Caitlan, Ben O'Sullivan, Emily, Lucy Bowden, Larissa Jordan, Alex, Declan Keegan, Nick, Shayla Jordan, Doug, Tom, Zac (missing from photo: Elaine & Lachlan) (Names supplied by Committee)

by Peree Dagg

BRANXTON Little Athletics held a presentation day at Miller Park playground to celebrate the end of the athletics season last month. The club members received trophies and enjoyed a BBQ together, cooked by Brad Bettison, to celebrate a successful season. The little athletics season runs from September until March and sessions are run on a Wednesday evening from 5-6pm during daylight saving hours. Club coach, Craig Bourne, gave the children instruction in long jump, hurdles, relays, running and discus. The club is part of the Little Athletics movement that began in Melbourne in 1964 and by 2001 40,000 children participated throughout NSW. The Little Athletics Association of NSW is split into 5 regions and 24 zones. Each centre can participate in zone competitions once they have acquired basic skills and have developed their ability locally. All children received medals and a special presentation was made to Declan Keegan who attained a club record in the long jump event. The committee wishes to thank Mandy O'Sullivan for her organization throughout the season and to coach Craig for volunteering his expertise all season. Awards were also presented to Peter Keegan and Brad Bettison for their assistance.

Little Athletics are desperately in need of more children to become members for next season. The committee is hoping that the Melbourne Commonwealth Games will inspire children to try athletics next season. For more details contact Chris Lantry locally on 49381757 or more information is available on laansw.com.au.

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

Brendan Clark has continued his great recent form to win the overall Monthly Medal ~ Saturday, 6th November

RESULTS
 Field: 66
 Winners B Brendon Clark 66
 Grades A Benjamin Bridge 69
 Grades A Chris O'Brien 69
 Grades A Kyle Mounser 70
 Grades B Trent McGege 66
 Grades B Joe Bereza 68
 Grades B Richard Crooks 69
 Grades C Luke Matt 69

Grades C Ted Zawirski 70
 Grades C Mick Lutovac 72
 NTP A 2nd Peter Conroy 112cm
 NTP B 4th Tony Seamer 12cm
 NTP C 9th Scott Duncan 190cm
 PRO NTP A 13th Peter Conroy 12cm & \$100
 Balls 20 Distributed down to score: 74
 66 players enjoyed a beautiful sunny spring day to compete in the Monthly Medal, an event which

always gets the attention of all players as every stroke counts. This was greatly emphasised as I watched one player attempt to extricate himself from the second bunker—nine strokes later he succeeded! Brendan Clark continued his great recent form to win the overall Monthly Medal with an excellent 66 nett, just defeating Trent McGege with the same score. Trent's score allowed him to win B Grade. Ben Bridge won A Grade with his 69 nett score, despite not feeling in great shape after his

previous night out. Chris O'Brien was runner up with the same score with Kyle Mounser, inspired by playing with the Tracey's, finishing third with his sound 70 score. Joe Bereza was runner up in B Grade with his fine 68 nett score with Club President, Richard Crooks third with his 69 nett score. Luke Matt won C Grade with his 69 nett, a score which included a wonderful chip in on the 17th hole for a par from near the 18th tee—a great shot. Ted Zawirski finished runner up with his 70 with

Mick Lutovac third with a 72. Peter Conroy had a great day on the Par threes, winning a nearest the pin on the 2nd (112 cms away) and the last (also 112 cms away) His last shot won him the Pro's NTPin and \$100 voucher. Strangely enough, Tony Seamer's to the ninth also finished 112 cms from the pin—all great shots with exactly the same margins. A 74 nett score was needed to win a ball indicating the course was in great condition for the day's play.



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