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THURSDAY 25
NOVEMBER 2021

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Where to from here ?

Construction of Branxton to Greta Shared Pathway at standstill

By Mike Lowing



The long awaited and much anticipated construction of the Branxton to Greta Shared Pathway/Cycleway is currently on hold and has been for the past few months. The official commencement of the project, with much fanfare, was in March this year & the estimated completion date was announced, depending on weather conditions, to be by March 2022.

In a report to the ordinary meeting of Cessnock City Council on the 22nd September 2021 it was recommended that the pathway be constructed on the southern side of the New England Highway crossing to the southern side of the NEH at the T-intersection of the HEX interchange & that a traffic lane be used instead of a bridge over the Redhouse Creek.

To cross the New England Highway following the new alignment there were 3 options that were put to Transport for NSW which included a tunnel, an overhead crossing and traffic signals... ‘the only option that Transport for NSW indicated would be worthwhile for their consideration was the traffic signals. There is currently some work being done with Transport for NSW to determine the potential of justifying the installation of traffic signals’ the report stated.

At that meeting council endorsed the updated alignment on the south side of the shared pathway “which seeks to improve safety, improve efficiency and avoid unnecessary disturbance to ecological environments and essential public utilities” the report stated & that a report be provided to Council after further investigations are undertaken on the south side alignment.

The report also said that ... the original alignment of the shared pathway was to travel along the Northern side of the NEH. Further investigations into this area have revealed that there are two major impediments

in the way of delivering this project. These are:
1. A requirement to acquire extensive sections of private property on the original northern side route;
2. The numerous service allocations located along the northern side of the highway including a trunk water-main, power poles, drainage easements and a critical gas main (for 1.3km). There are also numerous private property driveways, 2 street intersections as well as a school bus stop on the northern side of the highway at the Greta end of the pathway. These impediments pose a risk to the delivery of the project on time and within budget. The alignment of the pathway south of the HEX interchange is currently being considered for design so that the pathway route would be located along the southern side of the NEH. The realignment of the pathway along the southern side would avoid substantial property acquisitions and clashes with numerous utilities and installations.

The crossing of Redhouse Creek was also revised, as stated earlier. The original plan was to ford the creek with a bridge/culvert which has some environmental concerns... ‘the resulting improved alignment avoids disturbance to the creek and has been assessed as not adversely impacting on flora or fauna, or aquatic life’, the report stated.

The taking of the road lane was justified on the number of traffic movements subsequent to the completion & opening of the Hunter Expressway. As stated in the report ‘traffic classifier data for the New England Highway (Maitland Street) Branxton, for pre Hunter Expressway (HEX) traffic volumes, obtained in March/April 2014 showed an Average Daily Volume of 21087 vehicles per day, equating to approximately 659 vehicles per hour in each direction of travel.

Traffic Classifier data for the New England Highway (Maitland Street) Branxton, obtained in February 2019 (post HEX opening) showed an Average Daily Volume of 2979 vehicles per day, which equates to approximately 94 vehicles per hour, in each direction of travel.

The above figures demonstrate that a single lane in each direction adequately meets the demands of post HEX traffic volumes, with significant spare capacity available.

CONT NEXT PAGE



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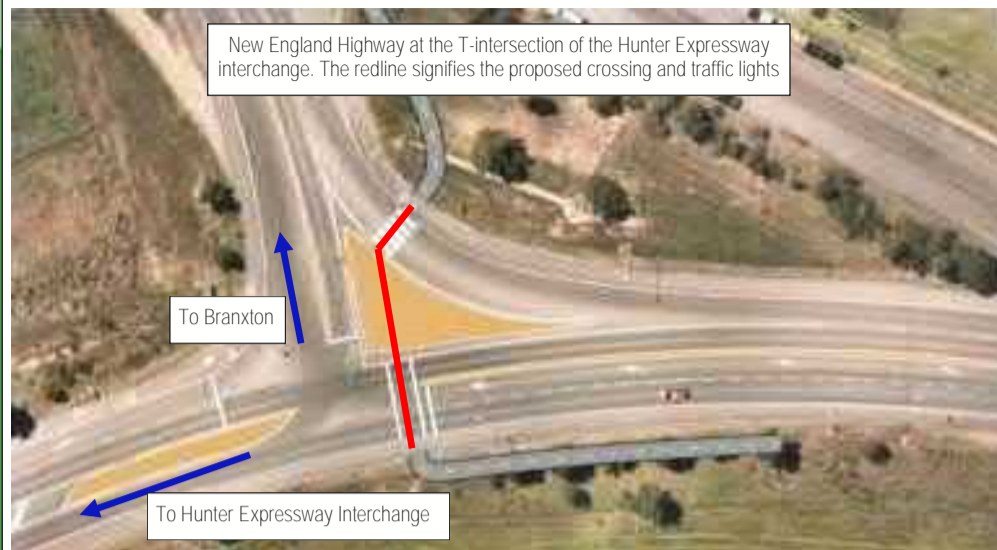
VOTE 1
for Sue Moore as
Singleton Mayor

Written and authorized by S Moore 122 Stanhope rd Elderslie 2335

From front page

Where to from here ?

Construction of Branxton to Greta Shared Pathway at standstill



New England Highway at the T-intersection of the Hunter Expressway interchange. The redline signifies the proposed crossing and traffic lights

.....Cessnock City Council secured \$1,950,000 under Round 4 of the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund to build the 3.3km off-road, shared cycleway/pathway & kicked in \$650,000

of its own funds. The project has been a long time coming as it was first funded and then de-funded in 2004 when the state government provided \$600,000 to be matched by Cessnock City Council but CCC declined the

offer from the State Government due to its inability to provide the matching finance of \$600,000 over four years. I have put a number of questions to council but, at time of printing, they had not responded.

2021 Local Government Elections

How to Vote, Where to Vote, When can I Vote & Who can I vote for in Cessnock City Council elections 4th December 2021.

How to Vote

Pre poll voting commenced in Cessnock & Kurri Kurri last Monday & will continue until Friday 3rd December 2021. They are open every day, 9am ~ 5pm, with the exception of Sunday 28th November 2021. The pre poll venue are for Cessnock is Shop 7, Cessnock Marketplace, 195-205 Wollombi Road & Kurri Kurri at the Community Centre, 251 Lang Street

The Branxton pre poll venue is the Branxton Community Hall, Bowen Street & will operate from Monday 29th November 2021 until Friday 3rd December 2021 from 9am ~ 5pm.

Absentee voting: Applications close at 5pm Monday 29 November 2021

ivote: check conditions on the NSW Electoral commission website www.elections.nsw.gov.au

Where to Vote

At the time of writing the NSW Electoral Commission website was down. We do know that the pre poll venues will be open on election day the 4th December 2021

When can I Vote ~ see above

Cessnock City Council Mayoral & councillor nominations

The ballot draw has taken place & below are Cessnock City Council candidates in ballot paper order:-

- MAYOR - Janet Murray (The Greens), Jay Suvaal (Labor), John Moores (Liberal) & Ian Olsen (Independent)
- WARD A - Group A (Independent): Jessica Jurd, Julianne Foster, Joshua Olsen, Group B (Labor): Jay Suvaal, James Hawkins, Logan Templeton, Group C (The Greens): Llynda Nairn, Elizabeth Hilton, Jane Mowatt, Group D (Liberal): Paul Dunn, Kean Miles, Robyn Strengers & Ungrouped (Independent): Allan Stapleford
- WARD B - Group A (Independent): Ian Olsen, Luke Bozic, Tim Little, Group B (Liberal): John Moores, Jacqueline LaFrance, Daniel Ebert, Group C (Labor): Anthony Burke, Jeffrey Crebert, Tallen Howson, Group D (The Greens): Louise Ihlein, Vicki Heath, James Ryan
- WARD C - Group A (The Greens): Georgina Thompson, Penny Kelly, Denis Rothwell, Group B (Liberal): Karen Jackson, Robert Peace, John Fagg, Group C (Independent): Daniel Watton, Leonie Allan, Eric Olsen, Group D (Labor): Anne Sander, Sophie Palmowski, Kim Smith
- WARD D - Group A (Independent): Paul Paynter, Eliza Faustini, Adam Robinson, Group B (Labor): Rosa Grine, Mitchell Hill, Gregory Tisdell, Group C (Liberal): Harold Slade, Sharon Davson, Ruth Slade, Group D (The Greens): Janet

SUPPORT AND LOVE LOCAL

CHRISTMAS
Twilight
MARKETS

FAMILY EVENT

BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL

Saturday 11th Dec 2021

From 4pm to 8pm

Market Stalls, Food trucks, Coffee Van

All Welcome

Find us on facebook

REFLECTIONS

Advent ~ the sign that Christmas is coming.

Christmas is coming. We see the signs of this in our neighbourhoods and our shops. It is a time to look forward to, a time to spend with the people in our lives that we are closest to, a time by showing our love by finding, buying and giving gifts, a time to share a meal. There are parties and get togethers planned and put in our diaries or on our calendars. It is a busy time of year. Given the restrictions we lived through and are still living with, Christmas is an opportunity to see family and friends. We wait with eager anticipation for these moments, these shared experiences. And as we do that, this year, possibly more than usual, we know the pressure and stress that this time of the year brings. We have all felt the weight of the restrictions placed on our lives. Perhaps this year, we will recognise the stress that this time of the year brings to some people each year? For some, this time of the year, the waiting for Christmas, is a time of sadness not joy, of pressure not hope, of struggle not peace and love.

As Advent begins, Christians are called to be in a different space and to notice and bear witness to religious signs of the coming of Christmas. We enter a time of preparation and of waiting, a time for reflection and looking forward. In this time before Christmas, we are called to find hope as we remember and celebrate the birth of Christ, the Saviour of the world, the one God promised would come into the world. We wait and look forward, not only to Christmas and the promises and hope of the season of Christmas, but also to the coming of the Son of Man who is our saviour and redeemer. God reminds us to be alert for the signs of his coming. There are many things that concern each of us about life, both our own lives and the state of our world and God's creation, and everything between. Our daily lives must go on and as they do, we are to place our hope in Jesus and the promises of God. God promises to provide for our needs and to be with us always. This promise of now and not yet is one that we are familiar with. We live in the now, with all the promises for today and we often look forward to the future, with its own promises. We are called during Advent, to experience fully the present, to ponder anew the message of hope that we hear, while looking back to reflect and looking forward to celebrate.

I wonder how this informs our daily lives and particularly our journey through Advent to Christmas? I invite you to wonder with me what this message of hope says to our world, our community and our family? And I wonder how we each receive this message of hope.

As we prepare and wait, and as we reflect and look forward, my prayer for each of us is that God draws us closer than ever, that during this time we each find hope in God's promises, and that a message of hope is the one that we each bear to our families, our community, our world.

May the blessings of God rest gently upon you.

Blessings, Reverend Nicole

Save the date

2021 NSW Local Government elections

Sat 4 DECEMBER 2021

Voting is compulsory

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

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Cessnock walks Kawuma – raising awareness in the community



an end to Domestic and Family Violence. In some instances, the violence and coercive control of partners and children has worsened, we need to do something about this as a community” said Ms Sharpe.

This year, the committee is inviting community members to participate in a self-

An initiative of the Cessnock Domestic and Family Violence Network - Cessnock Walks Kawuma is now in its third year, raising awareness about the issues of Domestic and Family Violence, as well as campaigning for its prevention.

The issue of Domestic and Family Violence continues to plague the communities within the Cessnock Local Government Area. The physical, emotional, and ongoing trauma for victims remains significant and unquantifiable. *“All community members deserve to live their lives free from violence. Violence perpetrated within the homes of our community remains unacceptable”* Sonia Sharpe, Chairperson. Cessnock Walks Kawuma has been unable to hold the annual walk of Cessnock’s main street due to Covid-19. In response to the global pandemic, the committee have worked to provide initiatives to continue the awareness raising and campaigning. Last year the committee received over 1000 photos from community members who were affirming that Cessnock says NO to Domestic and Family Violence. *“Covid has not seen*

guided walk around the Cessnock CBD. The Cessnock Walks Kawuma logo has been embedded into a QR code at 16 locations across the CBD. Community members can check in using the codes to receive information and links to supports for people impacted by domestic violence. Once you have checked in to all locations you will go into the draw for some fantastic prizes. The walk will open on 25 November at the start of this year’s 16 Days of Activism. The Cessnock Walks Kawuma QR code walk is a chance to reflect on domestic violence, its prevalence and where support is available for friends and family. Gather some friends, get some exercise and join us to help stop violence in our community. The prize winner will be drawn after 10th December at the end of the 16 Days of Activism. For more information, please head to the Cessnock Walks Kawuma Facebook page where links and further instructions can be found. Media Enquiries may be directed to Sonia Sharpe, on 0418 842 932 or Will Doran on 0438 636 009

ADVERTORIAL

Why I’m running for Singleton Council: Andrew Clifton



Branxton has been my home town for last twenty years. In that time I have lived in different parts of NSW, for both university and for work, but Branxton has always been home.

It’s a warm and friendly place filled with hardworking people who value their families and their community. They’re doing what all good people do, trying to make the best life that

they possibly can for themselves and their family. It is for these people – working people and working families – that I seek election to Singleton Council. I want to be a strong voice on behalf of our community and to do what I can to make life easier for working people. I want to be a councillor for Singleton for the same reason that I became a teacher, to make

WHAT'S ON

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a difference. Teaching is the greatest privilege of my life. I work alongside my amazing students and try to unlock their potential, so they can strive to be the best version of themselves they can be. And that is what I want for our community and our town. I want to listen to the voters of Singleton Local Government Area and take their concerns to the council chambers and be a champion of their issues. I want Branxton to be the best version of itself it can be. Unlike most other small country towns, Branxton is in the unique position of being split across two different councils, Cessnock and Singleton. This leads to a range of issues that would not occur if we belonged to a single local government, for example projects that are left unfinished or simply not started and the bizarre lockdown situation we all found ourselves in recently. I am running

on the promise to create greater cooperation between Cessnock and Singleton councils. Branxton must receive the resources and infrastructure it requires and greater inter-council cooperation will ensure the right projects are both started and finished for our town. As I have engaged in conversations with Branxton community members over the last year, they have shared their concerns and ideas with me. They have shared their thoughts on local issues, such as unfinished footpaths and bike paths, clogged stormwater drains, unfenced playgrounds and dog parks, much-needed speed signs, and the need for curbs and gutters in high-traffic areas. People have also spoken to me about state and federal issues, such as the overcrowding of our schools, lack of funding for Singleton hospital, cuts to funding for

Singleton TAFE, and the need to keep politicians honest through a Federal Integrity Commission. While these are not areas council has jurisdiction over, Singleton Council can be a powerful advocate taking these messages to the state and federal governments. I want to help drive this as a councillor. As an endorsed Labor candidate, I will always stand up for Labor values. Labor believes in advancing an agenda of fairness, and the creation of a better society, a better nation, and a better world. And I do too. Labor is a party built by the hard work of ordinary, everyday Australians like my family and friends. Labor cares about our community. And so do I. We care about regular people, not vested interests. We care about ensuring our community members have good jobs, fair pay, quality education and healthcare, and the

time and support required to raise a smart and successful next generation. These are values I will always fight for. But I will also listen to people with a different perspective to my own. I consider myself a highly empathetic person and it is this personal quality that I believe will serve me best as an elected member of Singleton Council. I will listen to the stories, ideas and views of people different to myself and seek to take a view representative of our community to the floor of the council chambers. I promise to dedicate myself to the role of councillor. I will always listen to the people of our town and fight on your behalf. I will always aim to ensure Branxton continues to be a wonderful place to live, work and play. I am the only candidate running for Singleton Council from Branxton. I hope you will consider voting for me on December 4th.

STEVE'S RANT

Before I begin my rant, our editor/publisher needs taking to task. The Editors Choice in the last issue of the NEWS was an uninformed but well-written swipe at our Prime Minister on Trust. What was not disclosed was the history of the French defence contracts in the past. The Israelis had on order from a French shipyard a flotilla of inshore patrol boats, which were considered an essential element for defence and security. Because the situation in Lebanon became critical to the security of Israel's northern border and Israel invaded Lebanon just before delivery of these boats was due, the French refused to hand over the boats despite their being paid for. The Israeli Defence Force had to mount a Top-Secret operation into the French Shipyard to get their boats. It was successful, much to the chagrin of the French. When our Airforce, for strange reasons, selected Mirage jet fighters to replace our Sabre aircraft, the French had included in the contract an exclusion clause which the French Government used to prevent our use of these aircraft in South Vietnam operations. That our government fell for the disingenuous assurances of the French to deliver our twelve subs beggars belief; we cannot question the decision of Scott Morrison to cancel the deal. Too bad for the French; we owe them

nothing. Remember, our 7th Division fought the Vichy French in Lebanon during WW2. The young lady at the Guardian, *Katharine Murphy*, is way off the mark in this matter for all her sincerity. No better way for this to have been handled is put forward. Although the article in the Guardian makes no false claims, it was a pointless exercise. Of course, the French were upset, but the spat descended to name-calling so typical of the French.

One other thing, before we leave the subject. Malcolm Turnbull bankrolled The Guardian with the very idea of bringing down the conservative Liberal Government. So, Editor, you are duly reprimanded for involving the NEWS with such a Socialist rag.

Now for the real story. Closing our schools in NSW and Victoria has been decried as pointless, possibly leading to much trauma for our younger children. The increase in child referrals to shrinks tends to confirm this view. A bigger problem is the interruptions to secondary school preparations for the Higher School Certificate examinations. In the UK, student performance was assessed not by examination but on activity during the lockdown.



This was a very subjective method, and many students were surprised to be given pass marks. How well they are prepared for tertiary education or joining the workforce is yet to be assessed. The NAPLAN tasks conducted in Australia are the only objective test of student performance before years eleven and twelve. The teaching fraternity is opposed to these tests on various grounds but principally because it tests teacher and school performance.

In every other endeavour, the performance of practitioners is assessed either by annual reports, assessment of results or the observation of employers. Either way, if you are no good at your job, you are dismissed, not so with teachers who have a sense of entitlement.

Teachers' ability in the State school system is poor when NAPLAN results are assessed and have worsened year by year since NAPLAN was introduced. It is explained by lack of vigour and focus in the State syllabus, diluted with non-essential studies which in the ordinary course of events the child learns from parents, social contact and life experience. Classroom discipline is lost when children from dysfunctional families cannot conform to the expected behaviour, and teachers have little redress. Here we can treat the class as teams, and set tasks for them to achieve. Competition builds team spirit or collective discipline in the class. When achieved, the class will take care of the disruptors, who will be shamed into compliance. If there is a natural division in the class, this can promote competition which is one of the best motivators for

any endeavour. Use any of the leadership talents to reinforce team spirit. Another way is to use the class disruptor to enforce class discipline. They generally respond to this positively.

Any test or assessment of the knowledge lesson objective is studiously avoided for fear of disappointing students. Therefore, teachers and students have no measure of achievement. As we know, students are allowed to progress from year to year, not being able to read, construct and sentence or recite their times' table and the general rules for mental calculations.

The final problem is that many teachers lack knowledge of methods for instruction. Their knowledge base for teaching has been polluted by all the fancy new theories about education, repeatedly shown not to work, but on which the system continues to insist. And the introduction of computer screens which do nothing other than to distract the students and the teachers.

I contend that NAPLAN results for last year and this year will show a marked improvement due to home-schooling. The necessity of remote learning has required truncating the syllabus to the more essential subjects, and parents have been able to monitor the children better. Problems a child might have in understanding a concept will become apparent to the parent, and the parent can more readily explain to one or two children what is meant and how to apply the knowledge. Being involved with the child's learning, the parent can and will test the child's retention and application by setting problems applicable to the home

environment. Straight-out revision or corrective action can be carried out by a parent, whereas the teacher is split between twenty or thirty students, many of who are reluctant to expose their lack of understanding by asking questions or requesting help.

As much as the commentariat has said about the China virus pandemic, it has given pause to reevaluate what we take for normal and get a different slant on how to do things. What are our priorities? A bit of self-examination and reflection on the last two years could produce beautiful results, mainly when we assess how our respective State governments have performed and how the media keep getting things wrong.

Cheers, Steve



with Mike Lowing

Not much room left to talk but one matter needs bringing to our readers attention; the retirement of Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent. Bob is the longest serving Cessnock mayor with 9 years and approx three months on the meter; an *accidental* achievement but a worthy and good innings. Well done. To you and Kathy enjoy your retirement with your family & no doubt you have much to catch up. Cheers, Mike



Personal religious views Numerous people have said recently that political leaders should separate their personal (religious) views from their roles as elected leaders and make decisions that reflect the will of the people. As someone who grew up in a deeply religious family, I feel the need to explain that one of the major teachings of the Christian faith is the notion that it alone has the "right" path and it is the duty of Christian folk to bring us all onto that path. Never mind what we may want or decide; it is God's will and God's way that are important. It is a part of that faith tradition to believe that, if elected or appointed to a position of power, it is a demonstration of God's will and what is expected of someone in high office is that they shape the laws to reflect God's path. There is no point trying to stop a deeply

Christian leader from undertaking this mission – it simply makes no sense to someone imbued with such a faith. **Janet Peters, Leichhardt** *Porkies(?)* In response to the Premier's speech in Parliament on the assisted dying bill, it must be pointed out that all schemes for assisted dying in Australia differ from those in other sovereign states. However, this undeniable fact does not trouble opponents of VAD, who continue to trot out stories from these countries. They know better, but don't mind at all telling porkies in an attempt to block the bill. **Name and address provided but wishes to**

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JAY SUVAAL AND LABOR - FIGHTING FOR WARD C

Your Labor Team will fight to deliver for the Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury and Huntlee communities by:

- Improving our local road network, and increase road safety.
- Increasing connectivity between our towns with shared pathways, including the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway and linking East Branxton with the CBD to improve school safety.
- Improving our local parks and recreation facilities including Miller Park Branxton, Greta Central Park and Brunner Park Branxton.
- Advocating for the North Rothbury Sewerage Scheme.
- Supporting local jobs and increasing youth programs to better support local young people.



Jay Suvaal will always fight for our local community

HOW TO VOTE

Cessnock Council Election



YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATE



SOPHIE PALMOWSKI

Sophie Palmowski is a mother, midwife and proud member of the Branxton Greta community. She has lived in Branxton her whole life with lineage that dates back 3 generations. Having grown up living in Branxton she appreciates what it is to be a part of a small community. For her, living in a small community is to know and support the local businesses and rely on your neighbours. Sophie is committed to embracing that sense of closeness and community spirit. As a midwife, she has a passion for public service and knows it can assist in creating a positive future for Branxton and Greta and its people. Sophie will be a strong voice for our community and support it moving forward in our rapidly growing township.

Jay Suvaal FOR MAYOR



STEP 1.

Number boxes as shown.
*No need to number the rest.

Cessnock Council ELECTION OF MAYOR	
<input type="checkbox"/>	MURRAY, Janet THE GREENS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SUVAAL, Jay LABOR
<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORES, John LIBERAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	OLSEN, Ian INDEPENDENT

Step 1: Complete the Mayoral ballot paper as shown above.
Step 2: Complete the Councillor ballot paper as shown below.

WARD C

ANNE SANDER
SOPHIE PALMOWSKI
KIM SMITH

STEP 2. Place 1 in Group D Above the Line

GROUP D	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LABOR
<input type="checkbox"/>	SANDER, Anne-Marie LABOR
<input type="checkbox"/>	PALMOWSKI, Sophie LABOR
<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH, Kim LABOR

You DO NOT need to number any box under the line to make your vote count.

A Fresh Approach For Cessnock

IMPORTANT: Take a photo or cut this page out to take to the polling booth

Authorised by Jay Suvaal, Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch), 26 Catherine St, Cessnock NSW 2325.



Members say ..



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

miss out! And even if you aren't too keen, please don't make the mistake of not voting and copping a \$55 fine – that money's better in your pocket than in the pocket of Premier Perrotet.

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can help, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You can also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au
Cheers Clayton

Raising the BARR A HSC TO (NEVER) FORGET

For the HSC class of 2021, the past 2 years have been unforgettable but highly worthy of forgetfulness. Remember that COVID hit our shores in early 2020, just as these same students were entering their senior studies at high school. Since COVID became a thing early in 2020, schools have been constantly in and out of lockdown. Those senior school years, where you start to get treated like an adult by teachers and family, where some life-long friendships are made, normally rely on you and your studies being of most importance in your school community.

These past 2 years have been significantly different. Definitely not normal. Schools have been struggling with an almost daily flip-flop of what is happening today. Some days school was in; other days school was out. Generally teachers were waking up to the morning news to find out if there work was face-to-face or online for that day. And while the entire school establishment was simply struggling to survive, the normal focus on the senior students and their journey into adulthood was somewhat lost, or at the very least it was extremely unusual for most.

So how might we consider making 2022 a bit fairer for this year's HSC students? Here is a personal thought – (1) for those that want to depart their education, for now, and head straight into the workforce, good luck to them. They have the world at their feet and hopefully they have found a great job; (2) for students that want to continue with their studies/education in 2022 let's make sure that they get a crack at whatever it is that they want to do, for first 6 months of 2022, free of charge – be it TAFE or University. And if after 6 months they want to continue on, or swap out, then that's fine, there will be no bill, fee or charge, until after that 6 month mark.

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE
IN LOCAL COUNCIL
ELECTIONS – DECEMBER 4**
You have your chance to vote for your local Council in the coming weeks. Don't

If you contact our Customer Service Centre, visit the Waste Management Facility, or lodge a development application – or engage with us for any other reason – you'll receive a link to a survey or in some cases, be able to complete the survey onsite. All feedback is appreciated, and I can assure you it will be put to good use. We're also seeking your voice – and any other sounds of Singleton – in our latest Living Laneways activation program launching next month in Tre Bella Lane. Acoustic Alley is a soundscape experience powered by the University of Newcastle's Future Art, Science and Technology Lab that invites you to record the sounds of Singleton to be played in the laneway in an activation designed to connect people with the sonic heritage of Singleton.

It's a great way to get involved in a public art experiment while rediscovering Singleton Town Centre and best of all, it's really easy – simply record something that is typical of your experience anywhere in our local government area using your smartphone and upload it to the website at singleton.nsw.gov.au/livinglaneways
Cheers,
Jason Linnane
General Manager



SINGLETON COUNCIL General
Manager Jason Linnane

Whether you're driving down the street, turning on the shower or simply putting your bin out on the kerb, our goal is to make it the best possible experience – and the highest measure is that it's so seamless, you may not even think about it. Our community and our customers have and always will be Council's highest priority, and now we're setting the bar even higher to ensure we provide not just good service, but an exceptional customer experience.

Our organisation has been on a journey over the past 18 months to audit every customer interaction in every business unit, looking at how people engage with us, why they engage with us, and how we can streamline our processes to make the experience more beneficial for who we work for – you.

I'm pleased to report that in most of the conversations I have, people are happy with the service they receive from Council and it makes me really happy to pass that on to our team.

But we've now reached a critical point where we want to formalise that feedback so we can use it to know we're getting it right and where we can improve. That's why we've launched the Voice of the Customer project, which is your opportunity to let us know how we did in any interaction by completing a short and simple survey.



CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
General Manager Lotta Jackson

We're currently seeking community input on a project to help identify and map important agricultural land, along with significant agricultural landscapes and views across the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). The Cessnock LGA is known for its rural character and picturesque viticultural and agricultural landscapes. As our region grows, urban development and other activities have the potential to encroach on these important areas.

Council is looking to retain, protect and enhance these significant areas to preserve the identity and character of our LGA, regional employment and food security. As part of this, we

want to hear from the community about what areas they consider to be significant, and why. Residents are encouraged to have their say via an interactive map which will be available via the *Have your say* section of Council's website until Monday 3 January 2022. We are also seeking community input via an online survey to inform the development of a draft Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. A key action from Council's Climate Change Policy, the Strategy will provide a framework for improving environmental sustainability and action on climate change in the Cessnock LGA, and identify key actions Council will take to achieve the goals it sets out. Resident feedback and input from community stakeholders will help to capture community sentiment and allow us to identify priorities most important to the region. The survey can be found on the *Have your say* section of Council's website until Friday 10 December. Following the survey, residents will have the opportunity to attend community workshops to further inform the draft Strategy.

Our annual Christmas Gift and Food Appeal kicked off last week, with donations being accepted until Friday 10 December. Residents are encouraged to donate new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items which can be dropped off at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries or Council's Administration Building on Vincent Street, Cessnock. All donations this year will be given to the Kurri Kurri Community Centre who will deliver to those doing it tough in the local community. I encourage people to give what they can as 2021 has been a challenging year for many and those in the community who were already experiencing hardship have been doing it especially tough.

The Christmas spirit will be on full display across the Cessnock LGA this December, with a huge program of free family-friendly events happening throughout the month. From music to movies, arts and crafts to competitions, magic shows to stories, there's bound to be something for everyone. In lieu of the traditional Carols at the Park event, this year will see a number of pop-up Christmas carol performances across the LGA. You can find the full program of events at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/ChristmasInCessnockCity

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. The competition closes on Thursday 9 December 2021.

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 Jackson
CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
General Manager



Member for Upper Hunter
Dave Layzell MP

KEY STATISTICS ON WOMEN TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME

NSW now has a Gender Data Dashboard shining a light on women's experiences across a range of key areas. The new online database provides up-to-date statistics on topics such as the gender pay gap, maternal health and higher education completions for women. It brings together publically available data in one place for the first time, transforming the way people access and use it and will be updated throughout the year. You can explore the NSW Government Gender Equality Dashboard by visiting; <https://www.women.nsw.gov.au/resources/nsw-gender-equality-dashboard/nsw-gender-equality-dashboard>.

RESOURCES FOR REGIONS ANNOUNCED
SINGLETON was centre of attention for Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, Paul Toole, to announce Resources for Regions round eight funding last week.

Thank you to the Singleton Greyhounds for hosting the Deputy Premier and myself to unveil funding for enhancements to the Singleton Rugby League Clubhouse including new female amenities and a new

function area. Latest Resources for Regions funding provides \$75 million to 93 projects, with almost \$17.5 million going toward 24 new projects in the Upper Hunter electorate. Singleton has 16 projects receiving over \$8 million, Muswellbrook's \$6.39 million goes toward its Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre, Upper Hunter Shire's six projects share over \$1m and Liverpool Plains Shire Council has \$1.98 million for its Waste Strategy Stage 2 Acceleration.
Cheers, Dave



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

One of the most talked about things in our communities at the moment is house prices. For months now we've been watching house prices in our local towns rise to levels previously unimaginable. Rents are high too, that's if you can find a vacancy. For owners, higher house prices are a good thing. But for others, high rents are putting a strain on the family budget and high house prices are locking young people out of the market.

I know many who have little capacity to assist their adult children and fear home ownership will remain an unfulfilled dream for their kids. The housing price boom has been driven by record low interest rates and the expenditure of people cashed-up as a result of the spending restrictions the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on them. Pandemic-induced material supply constraints aren't helping either. Will the housing boom continue? I wish I knew but whatever happens, it won't be government induced. Indeed, there is little government can do, even if we wanted it to. It has little control over interest rates or the amount of money chasing housing. Government certainly can't set prices, not that we'd want it to. In any case the truth is, government have little interest in influencing prices because that creates losers as well as winners. During the last election campaign Labor promised to wind back negative gearing laws, reducing incentives for investors who borrow to buy housing stock for rental.

This policy was rejected by the electorate and as a result, we won't see it again. In any case as the law of supply and demand tells us, a reduction in construction

would further reduce supply and potentially, force house prices even higher. Both state and federal governments continue to provide financial assistance to first home buyers but they are of limited assistance in the current environment in which young people face difficulty in convincing a bank it can service a big mortgage. One thing state and local government could do is to reduce some of the planning constraints on new land releases but in many regions, physical constraints and congestion issues limit what they can do. Politicians regularly argue we should give young people partial access to their superannuation accounts to help them enter the housing market. But the answer is in the "young" part. They are unlikely to have large super balances and a small withdrawal now has a big impact on the value of their account in forty years' time.

Further, government provides big tax breaks to encourage people in to super. Early access for housing would amount to tax breaks for housing, creating the same policy and supply-demand challenges already discussed.

So again, don't expect government to do much. It's likely the heat will come out of the market at some point. We just have to hope any fall ends with a "soft landing" and people don't get hurt. While the Governor of the Reserve Bank has been firm in his insistence rates won't rise for a couple of years, the energy crises in other countries is forcing up inflation in those economies and that could eventually have a knock-on effect on our borrowing costs here. APRA, the body which supervises and regulates our banks recently insisted they assess the ability of borrowers to service a mortgage at interest rates three percentage points higher than the current prevailing rate. That's a sensible move but sadly, it will make the great Australian dream even harder for many.
Cheers, Joel

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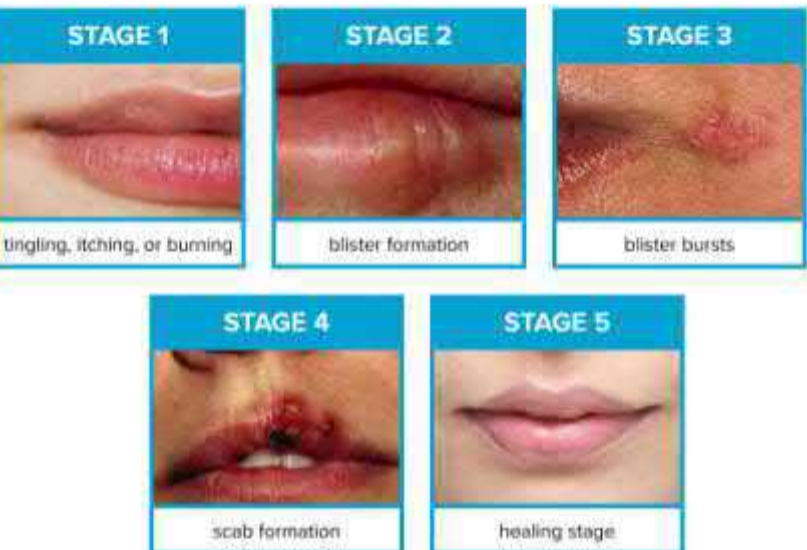
Cessnock community invited to have their say on environmental sustainability and climate change

Pharmacist Advice with



Cold sores

Stages of a Cold Sore



Cold sores are small, blistering sores that occur in or around the mouth. They are caused by the herpes simplex virus. Cold sores are a common infection that can be managed with medicines and other treatments available from a pharmacist.

There are two types of the herpes simplex virus, called type 1 and type 2. Cold sores are usually caused by herpes simplex type 1. Herpes simplex type 2 usually causes sores on your genitals (genital herpes). However, both types of herpes simplex can cause cold sores and both types can cause genital herpes. Once you have a herpes simplex virus it stays in your body for life. It may cause a cold sore (or other symptoms) at first, but then it usually lies 'asleep' (dormant) in nerve cells. From time to time the virus can 'wake-up' (reactivate) and cause a cold sore. Cold sores usually first occur in childhood.

They are commonly passed on by skin contact, such as a kiss from a family member who has a cold sore. **Triggers for cold sores** Some triggers that can re-activate the virus to cause a cold sore are sunlight, dry lips, damage to the lip or skin area, stress, tiredness, hormone changes (e.g. menstruation) and illness (e.g. a cold).

Signs and symptoms Most cold sores occur on or next to the lips. Sometimes they occur on the

nose, on the chin or in the mouth. A person usually gets their cold sores in the same area each time. There are usually four main stages of a cold sore:

- Tingle – a tingling, burning or itching feeling around the lips or nose, starting a few hours to 48 hours before the cold sore appears.
- Blisters – a red, painful lump appears which turns into small, painful, fluid-filled blisters. The blisters may last a few days.
- Weeping – the blisters burst and fluid weeps out. The virus can easily be spread to other people at this stage.
- Scab – the cold sore dries up and forms a scab, which can be itchy and painful. If not treated, cold sores usually heal within 7–10 days without leaving a scar.

How are cold sores spread? Cold sores spread easily. A person can catch the herpes virus if their skin touches a cold sore, fluid from a cold sore, or saliva from a person who has the virus. A person with a cold sore may transfer the virus to another person or to another part of their own body (e.g. eyes or genitals). Sometimes the herpes virus can be passed on when no sore is present, because the virus may be lying dormant in saliva or the lips.

Treatment There are a number of treatments for cold sores. Different stages and symptoms of a cold sore may need different treatments. Ask a Piggott's Pharmacist or your Doctor for advice.

Cessnock City Council is seeking community input via online survey to inform the development of a draft Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

A key action from Council's Climate Change Policy, the Strategy will provide a framework for improving environmental sustainability and action on climate change in the Cessnock Local Government Area, and identify key actions Council will take to achieve the goals it sets out. Cessnock City's General Manager, Lotta Jackson said understanding the environmental issues most important to the community is the first step in the process, followed by identifying the actions required to mitigate the impacts of climate change. "Council is very committed to protecting and enhancing the natural environment and rural character of



the area. Resident feedback and input from community stakeholders will help to capture community sentiment and allow us to identify priorities most important to the region," she said. Following the survey, residents will have the opportunity to attend community workshops to further inform the draft Strategy.

The survey is now open and can be accessed on Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay until Friday 10 December 2021.



Best "off the net"

"Someone stole my antidepressants. Whoever they are, I hope they're happy" – Richard Stott
 "A cowboy asked me if I could help him round up 18 cows. I said, 'Yes, of course. – That's 20 cows'" – Jake Lambert
 "A thesaurus is great. There's no other word for it" – Ross Smith
 "Sleep is my favourite thing in the world. It's the reason I get up in the morning" – Ross Smith
 "I accidentally booked myself onto an escapology course; I'm really struggling to get out of it" – Adele Cliff
 "After learning six hours of basic semaphore, I was flagging – Richard Pulsford
 "To be or not to be a horse rider, that is Equestrian" – Mark Simmons
 At a party, a young wife admonished her husband, "That's

the fourth time you've gone back for ice cream and cake. Doesn't it embarrass you?"
 "Why should it?" answered her spouse. "I keep telling them it's for you." – Selma Glasser, *Good Housekeeping*
 Victor Borge, describing his adventurous boyhood in Denmark: "Once my father came home and found me in front of a roaring fire. That made my father very mad, as we didn't have a fireplace."

A grasshopper walks into a bar. The bartender looks at him and says, "Hey, they named a drink after you!" "Really?" replies the grasshopper. "There's a drink named Stan?"
 Stan Fields: "Describe your perfect date." Cheryl: "That's a tough one. I'd have to say April 25. Because it's not too hot and not too cold. All you need is a light jacket."
 — Stan Fields (William Shatner)

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Classic Christmas pudding

 Create a classic family favourite with this traditional Christmas pudding, topped with candied orange slices and drizzle with warm maple syrup



18 Ingredients

- * 700g Sunbeam Mixed Fruit, coarsely chopped
- * 1/2 cup (125ml) brandy or orange juice
- * 2 tsp lemon rind, finely grated
- * 1 tbsp orange rind, finely grated
- * 1 green apple, peeled, coarsely grated
- * 250g butter, softened
- * 1 cup (220g) brown sugar
- * 1/4 cup (60ml) golden syrup
- * 4 Australian Free Range Eggs
- * 2 1/2 cups (175g) fresh white breadcrumbs (made from day-old bread)
- * 1 cup (150g) self-raising flour
- * 2 tsp mixed spice
- * 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- * 1/2 cup (110g) caster sugar
- * 2 oranges, thinly sliced
- * 1/4 cup (60ml) maple syrup

Method

1. Combine the **fruit, brandy or orange juice, lemon rind, orange rind and apple** in a bowl. Cover. Set aside for 2 hours to soak.
2. Use an electric mixer to beat the **butter and brown sugar** in a bowl until pale and creamy. Beat in **golden syrup**. Add **eggs**, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Add to the fruit mixture and combine.

Stir in the **breadcrumbs, flour, mixed spice, cinnamon, nutmeg and almonds**.
 3. Grease an 8-cup (2L) pudding basin. Line base with a disc of baking paper. Dust sides with flour. Spoon in mixture. Smooth surface. Cut a 30cm square of baking paper and foil. Fold the centre to pleat. Place over basin, foil-side up. Use a lid or tie string twice around the top to secure. Scrunch paper and foil tightly around the rim of the basin.
 4. Place an upturned heatproof saucer in the base of a large saucepan. Place the pudding basin on the saucer. Add enough boiling water to come halfway up the side of the basin. Bring to the boil. Cover and simmer, adding more boiling water as necessary, for 6 hours or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Carefully remove pudding from saucepan. Set aside in the basin for 10 mins before turning out onto a serving plate.
 5. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 100C. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper. Combine the **caster sugar** and 2 tablespoons water in a frying pan over low heat. Stir until the sugar dissolves. Add half the **orange slices**. Bring to the boil. Simmer until the orange rind is slightly translucent. Transfer the orange slices to 1 lined tray. Repeat with the remaining orange slices. Bake for 1 hour or until dry.
 6. Top pudding with candied orange slices and drizzle with **maple syrup**.



Over \$5 million boost for local roads and community infrastructure

Cessnock City Council was pleased to announce it was successful in securing \$2,130,798 in funding for three key projects under Phase 3 of the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. Council will be contributing an additional \$3,252,874, making it a \$5,383,672 investment in local roads and community infrastructure.

The grant funding will be allocated to the following projects:

- \$800,000 for pavement rehabilitation as part of the Kurri Kurri CBD Upgrade (Council will contribute an additional \$2,187,717)
- \$1,290,798 for the Local Roads Reseal Program (Council will contribute an additional \$1,065,157)
- \$40,000 for Cliffleigh and Heddon Greta suburb entry signs

Cessnock City Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson, welcomed the announcement and said she looks forward to seeing these important projects kick off.

"The Kurri Kurri CBD Upgrade is already underway and the addition of the pavement rehabilitation to the works program will go a long way to enhancing this much-loved town centre."

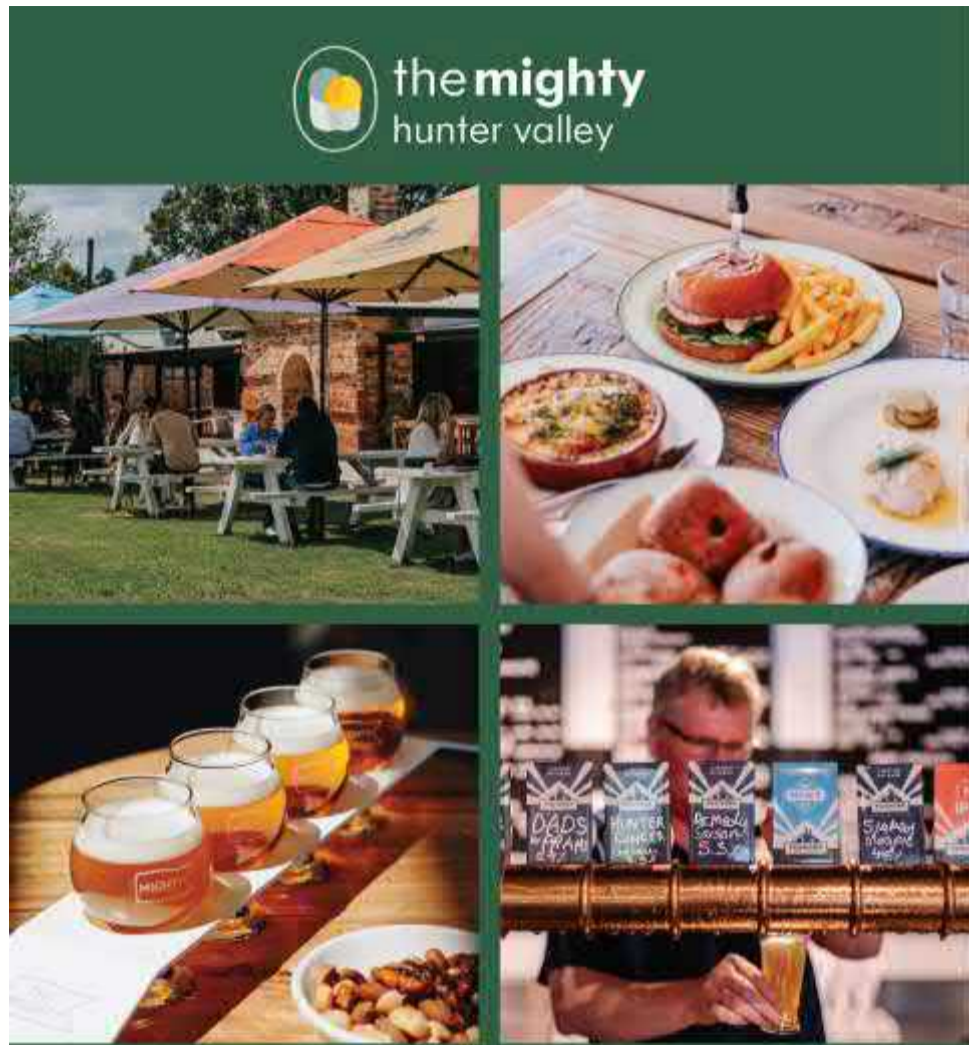
"I am sure the community will also be pleased with the huge investment in our Local Roads Reseal Program which is targeted at making our roads safer for local residents."

"I would like to thank our staff who put a lot of time and effort into writing these successful grant applications, which deliver great benefits to our local community," added Lotta.

The Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program is delivering a total of \$2.5 billion to local councils, with \$1.495 billion already supporting over 6,100 projects nationwide.



CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL General Manager Lotta Jackson said That she is sure the community will also be pleased with the huge investment in our Local Roads Reseal Program



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Branxton Guides Out and About



■ Dick with his guests Branxton Guides



■ Some of Dick's collection

After 3 months of lockdown and online guiding, Branxton Guides are thrilled to be able to get out and about again and enjoy their usual guiding activities. The return to outdoor guiding activities has allowed the guides to complete the Paleontology badge, enjoying fun activities such as a Dinosaur "hunt", Bronto Burgers at Miller Park new outdoor area and a Fossil Hike at Lower Belford. Guides are finishing off the year with some community service activities, particularly visiting Branxton Gardens Retirement Village. They were thrilled when recently invited to view a wonderful miniature shoe collection belonging to 'Branxton Gardens' resident Mr Dick Topham. Mr Topham showed the guides his collection of about 2000 miniature shoes, featuring many rare and exotic pieces, as well as many interesting and quirky shoes.



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Employers Obligations for Work Events



As we roll into “silly season” many workplaces will be planning their annual COVID-compliant Christmas functions. Whilst these events are generally held outside of standard working hours, it is well established that such occasions are connected to the workplace. This means that unlawful behaviour – such as bullying, fighting or sexual harassment – engaged in by employees at function can be subject of a workplace complaint or litigation.

Aside from injury, incidents at work Christmas functions can also lead to employment issues. For example, there was a case involving an employee who was dismissed after he urinated over the side of a balcony on to diners below at his employer’s Christmas party. He was dismissed and subsequently lodged a claim against his employer alleging his dismissal was unfair!

To avoid the potential headaches, there are a few things employers can do when preparing for and managing end of year functions:-

1. Ensure that the organisation has current policies in place with respect to equal opportunity, sexual harassment, bullying and workplace health and safety. Policies should be reviewed to ensure compliance and should be circulated and reinforced to staff prior to any function, along with a Code of Conduct if the employer has one.

2. Remind all staff via email before the function of the standards of behaviour expected of staff at workplace functions. Highlight the disciplinary consequences of failing to meet those standards, as provided in relevant policies. It is important for

employees to understand that just because the work function may be outside of standard working hours and may be at a non-work venue, normal workplace standards of behaviour continue to apply.

3. The function should have a designated finish time which factors in the time employees have been present. Provide transport to employees or taxi vouchers to ensure that no one who has been drinking drives home.

4. With alcohol, it is important to ensure responsible service. Employers are obligated to ensure that employees and others present do not become heavily intoxicated. In a 2016 Fair Work Commission case (McDaid v Future Engineering and Communication Pty Ltd [2016] FWC 343, the Commission held that employers must ‘take steps’ to ensure that they serve alcohol responsibly.

5. Employers should consider sending unruly employees home by taxi before allowing any anti-social behaviour to start. On this point, is it often helpful to designate someone to monitor hazards. In a FWC case from 2015 it was encouraged for employers to appoint a manager to supervise the conduct of work events to avoid problems. The person should remain sober and be able to monitor and attend to any OHS issues through the event.

even the feng shui of the entire room.

I always start by asking the person what motivates you? What inspires you? What times of the day do you feel you’re at your peak efficiency? What kind of environment do you work best within?

1. Figure out the way you work

These answers are not the same for all people. Some people need a very minimal distraction to get things done. Others feel a bit of isolation and in turn a bit nervous when there are no other stimuli in a room.

Some people need bright light to keep them focused. For others, bright light can actually lead to a headache.

2. Find a location

For some, the perfect study might actually be just off a loud busy area of a home. For others, it might be deep in the back of a walk-in wardrobe where it can be as quiet as possible! Decide which environment works best for you. Now, if you can’t change which space you’re working with, then figure out how to make it work better for you.

Will you need noise-cancelling headphones or will you need to make sure there’s a small speaker nearby to play some background music? Will you want plain clean walls or will you want to throw some inspiring quotes or photos up for a quick distraction that will drive your focus and help with the quality of your work?

3. To desk or not to desk

Once you’ve created the perfect environment that works best for your particular working style, there are some great ways to design a study so that you’re not spending a fortune.

First, desks are great – but are not always necessary. Would a comfortable chair with a laptop work for you?

If you do need a flat surface for work, are there any tables in your home which can be repurposed?

4. Desks come in many forms

If you’re in the mood to create a desk, my favourite multi-purpose desk uses two filing cabinets as the “legs” of the desk with a piece of wood or glass as the flat surface.

You can often find used office equipment at online sales or in op shops.

A quick word about filing cabinets though. Paper files are sometimes necessary, but for the most part, your files

should be stored digitally these days.

So, fill those filing cabinets with anything that inspires you. Feeling stuck on a certain assignment? Open up the cabinet drawer and get a breath of inspiration!

Grants and incentives for first home buyers

In recent years, governments of all persuasions have introduced grants and funding programs to help Australians buy their first home.

What grants and incentives are available?

All states and territories offer some funding or concessions for most first home buyers. Funding levels and eligibility vary across the country, but in almost all cases, they are only available for homes that will be a ‘principal place of residence’, that is somewhere you’re going to actually live.

NSW first home buyer grants and incentives

First Home Owner Grant (New Homes) scheme

The grant is an addition to the First Home Buyer Assistance Scheme and:

- * Offers \$10,000 towards a home purchase;
- * Applies when buying or building a new home worth no more than \$750,000;
- * Is only for those buying their first property in Australia, with some exceptions;
- * Requires you to live in it for six continuous months.

What is the first home owner grant?

The first home owner grant is a government payment that can help towards the cost of purchasing your first home. This money is useful for paying costs like stamp duty, legal fees and title searches, or adding to your deposit.

You may be eligible for the first home owner grant (known as FHOG) if you’re buying property for the first time and you intend to live in the property yourself. The FHOG was introduced country-wide in 2000 to offset the effects of the GST on home buyers. Now, it’s used in NSW to do two things:

- * Help first home buyers get onto the property ladder; and
- * Encourage the construction of new homes.

How does the FHOG operate in NSW?

In NSW, as at July 2020, the grant currently gives eligible first home owners \$10,000 to purchase a new home of up to \$600,000 or to build a new home up to \$750,000.

The current grant applies to contracts dated after 1 January 2016. For contracts dated between 1 October 2012 and 31 December 2015, a higher grant of \$15,000 applies. If you’re an owner builder,

the contract date is the date when the building work commenced.

What types of property can first home owners in NSW buy?

In NSW, the FHOG only applies to “new homes”, which the NSW government defines as a:

- * Place of residence that has not been previously occupied (including by the builder, a tenant or any other occupant);
- * Property that has not been sold as a place of residence before; and
- * New build, which includes a home that has been “substantially renovated and a home built to replace demolished premises”.

Who is eligible for the FHOG in NSW?

To be eligible for the first home owner grant in NSW there are several criteria both you and the property must meet to receive the current \$10,000 grant:

Requirements for the property and transaction:

- * Contract date must be on or after 1 January 2016;
- * The home must be brand new;
- * The property must be valued at, or below, the First Home Owner Grant cap of \$600,000 for buyers purchasing a new home and \$750,000 for buyers building a new property.

Requirements for the new owner/applicant:

- All applicants must be over 18 and a person (not a company or trust);
- At least one applicant needs to be a permanent resident or Australian citizen;
- No applicant can have previously received a first home owner grant in any State or Territory unless they subsequently repaid it;
- You or your spouse (including a de facto spouse) must not have ever held an interest in any residential property in Australia before 1 July 2000. If you bought after 1 July 2000, you may still be eligible if you did not

reside in that property for a continuous period of at least six months;

Importantly, you need to live in the home for a continuous period of at least six months (there are exceptions if you are part of the Australian Defence Force and all applicants are on the New South Wales electoral roll) within a year of taking ownership.

Are first home owners in NSW able to claim any other concessions?

Since 1 July 2017, many first home buyers in NSW have been entitled to other concessions as part of the First Home Buyers Assistance Scheme. In July 2020, these concessions were temporarily boosted for first home buyers purchasing newly built and off-the-plan properties, as well as vacant land. The NSW Government says it expects the current boost to apply for around 12 months.

From 1 August 2020, a first home buyer will not need to pay any stamp duty on new homes valued up to \$800,000. A concessional rate then applies to new homes valued between \$800,000 and \$1 million.

For established properties, first home buyers are exempt from paying any stamp duty on homes valued up to \$650,000. If the home is valued between \$650,000 and \$800,000 a concessional rate applies. First home owners also currently don’t need to pay any stamp duty on vacant land worth up to \$400,000, and only pay a concessional rate on vacant land valued between \$400,000 and \$450,000.

Previously, first home buyers were only exempt from stamp duty on vacant land valued up to \$350,000. A concessional rate then applied to vacant land valued between \$350,000 and \$450,000.



Creating a functional study on a budget in seven easy steps

Peter Walsh

People regularly ask me how I can improve the functionality of working

at home without it costing a bomb.



What equipment do I need? How should I make sure the workflow is optimized for efficiency?

All of these are the right questions. My answer though generally starts somewhere other than thinking about the right size desk or lighting or

flat surface. You can often find used office equipment at online sales or in op shops.

A quick word about filing cabinets though. Paper files are sometimes necessary, but for the most part, your files



Helen Lowing,
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7AM - 12AM
THURSDAY - SATURDAY
7AM - 1AM
SUNDAY
8AM - 12AM

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FROM 9PM

Sunday

COCKTAIL
AFTERNOONS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
EARLY AFTERNOON
POKER FROM 5PM

Everyday

OUR BAR TRADES FROM
OPEN TO CLOSE
OUR BISTRO IS OPEN FOR
BREAKFAST,
LUNCH AND DINNER, 7
DAYS A WEEK
OUR MEMBERS CAN ORDER
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Branxton Public ~ School potential leaders



Branxton Public School

Book Week was a great success! Not only did we have a fun dress up day, but we were also able to purchase books from the Book Fair during the week. There were many happy children taking home a new book to read. Check out the photos of the dress up day on our Facebook page. Well done to the Year 5 students who presented their leadership speeches recently. School Leaders, Junior AECG leaders and House Captains will all be voted on soon and we'll find out who our leaders will be at the end of year assemblies. Our students for Kinder 2022 have been for a visit to check out the classrooms, meet the teachers and make some new friends. We had lots of excited little people who were curious and keen to learn. They must be ready for big school! The next visit is Friday 26th November.

There are lots of things happening in the last few weeks of the year so please remember to check bags for notes and keep informed of changes and upcoming events through SkoolBag and Facebook.

Dates for the Calendar

Thursday 16th December – Last day of Term 4

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

Police Report

CRIME STOPPERS
 .com.au
 1800 333 000

Appeal for information – Kurri Kurri Industrial Fire

Monday, 15 November 2021
 01:02:37 PM

Police are appealing for public information following a large industrial fire in Kurri Kurri last week. About 10.40am (Sunday 14 November 2021), emergency services were called to an industrial complex on Mitchell Avenue, Kurri Kurri, following reports of a large fire. Fire and Rescue NSW had multiple crews on scene.

The building is believed to have been unoccupied at the time and no injuries were reported.



Detectives from Hunter Valley Police District have commenced an investigation into the incident. It is believed to be deliberately lit. Up to three ignition points

were detected. Anyone who may have information or footage, including dashcam, from the area is urged to contact Hunter Valley Police Station or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000



assistance please call

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 26 Mayne Street, North Rothbury NSW 2335

Firearms Amnesty response shows community safety is a priority

Residents of NSW have stepped up to make their communities safer by handing in or registering unwanted, illegal, and unregistered firearms as part of the National Firearms Amnesty. Launched in July this year (2021), the firearms amnesty has already resulted in over 1,700 firearms being handed in and more than 2,200 registered across the state. NSW Crime Stoppers and the NSW Police Force wish to thank those members of the community who have participated in the amnesty and put safety first. "This is a great result so far and it shows people in the community want to do the right thing. We want to encourage others in the community to do the same. There may be old firearms that you haven't used for a long time or no longer want or need, or firearms that previously haven't been registered," said CEO of NSW Crime Stoppers Peter Price AM.

"Gun crime crosses borders. It may not cause harm in your community but in a community far away. Please, for the safety of your family, friends, and wider community, just hand them in," Mr Price said.

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CHICKEN SCHNITZEL
\$10.50

TUESDAY NIGHTS
BURGER & BEER
\$19.90

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
CRUMBED STEAK
\$10.50

ENTERTAINMENT

TUE 2 MELBOURNE CUP DAY



Great Day!

NICK RAGE

11.30am - 2.30pm

SAT 13



Great night!

ADAM GEAR

6.00 - 9.00pm

SAT 27



THOMAS JAMES

6.00 - 9.00pm

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Lochinvar-HotelMotel

Graphic Design - Parée Erica



Out & About

with Mike Lowing

Remembrance Day 2021 locally was a very low-key affair as inclement weather forced the commemorative service to be held indoors at the Greta Multi Purpose Centre. Also, the pandemic may have made people reticent to gather as there is still some apprehension within the community about venturing out amongst crowds. Notwithstanding that around 40 residents attended a very moving service led by Pastor Allan Daly, Brian Furner OAM, Adrienne Bevan, President Greta RSL SubBranch & Jim Phyllis. The 'occasional address' was given by Brian Furner OAM who spoke from the heart and very well. After the service a small contingent gathered at the courthouse for some light refreshments.



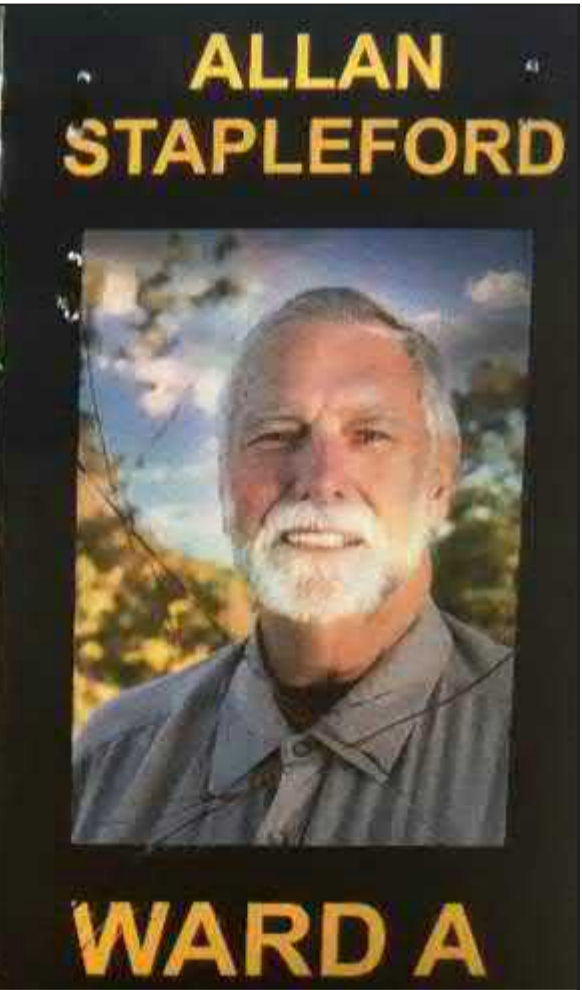
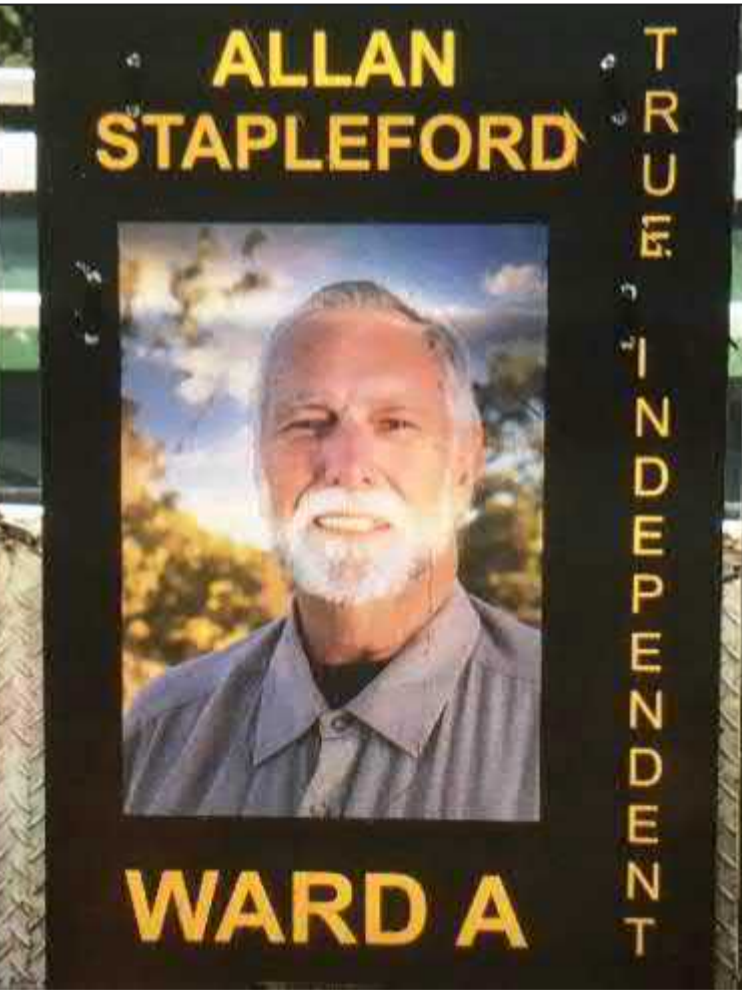
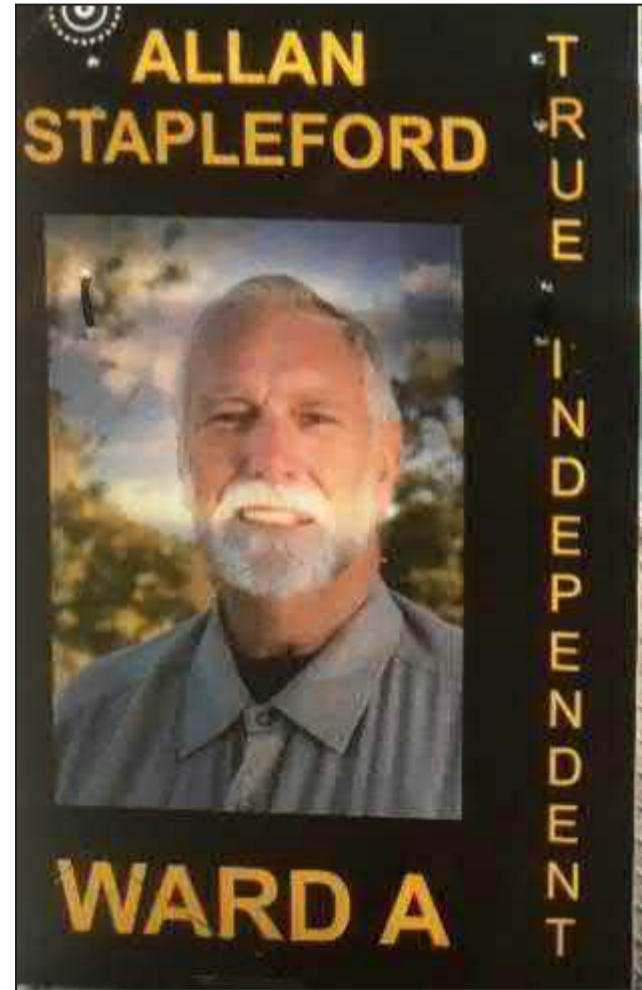
■ (L-R) Brian Furner OAM Branxton RSL SubBranch, Pastor Allan Daly & wife, Adrienne Bevan & Jim Phyllis Greta RSL SubBranch



■ Brian Furner OAM Branxton RSL SubBranch, at left & Jim Phyllis Greta RSL SubBranch



■ Joy & Lester Bootes show their respect for 'the fallen'



Please **VOTE 1** below the line in ward A



from the Lions Den....



Above: (L to R): Tim Hill, Rod Taylor, Glenys Francis and Lisa.

Household Battery Re-Cycling – the first site in New South Wales!
Gather your spent household batteries and look out for the Household Battery Recycling box which is now available at Coles supermarket in Huntlee Shopping Centre. The first site in New South Wales is at Coles, Huntlee and is a partnership between Lions Australia and battery re-cycling company Ecycle Solutions from Melbourne. Pictured below, Coles Huntlee Manager, Tim Hill, President of Branxton Lions, Rod Taylor, Lions District 201 N3 District Governor Glenys Francis and Cole Assistant Manager Lisa – dropping the first spent batteries into the box. Lions District Governor Glenys Francis explained: “This is part of an environmental management strategy that means whoever designs, produces,

sells, or uses a product takes responsibility for minimising that product’s environmental impact through all the stages of its

lifecycle. The Product Stewardship Act 2011 identifies batteries (of all types) as ‘priority products’ for Stewardship.



List of batteries accepted

Approximately 264 million handheld batteries reach the end of their useful life in Australia each year – equivalent to around 12,000 tonnes of material – and less than 5% of these are recycled. As batteries start to break down in landfill, heavy metals can leach into surface and groundwater. This is a concern because around 15% of large landfills and 65% of medium

resources. In Australia, around 20 children a week present to an emergency department with a button battery related injury. This scheme we are launching today is only one of 3 throughout Australia with Lions partnering with Ecycle Solutions. It is proposed to go Australia



Singleton Lioness Lions, Branxton Lions and District Governor Glenys Francis lunching together in Branxton

wide in January 2022. A wonderful initiative and many thanks to Coles Branxton for allowing this to be launched in NSW and set up a display table for it, and Dr Alan Beckley for bringing the project to the table.”

Lions District Governor visits Branxton
Earlier in the day, Lions District Governor Glenys Francis visited the Lions Club of Branxton for her annual visit and Branxton Lions were joined by members of the Singleton Lioness Lions Club.

Pictured, at left, is the happy group lunching at the famous Royal Federal Hotel in Branxton. Glenys Francis gave an address during which she said one of her goals during her year as District Governor was to purchase a mobile skin cancer screening facility such as the one pictured from another state in Australia.

Lions Christmas Cakes and Puddings

Get into the Christmas spirit early – you can purchase a delicious Lions Christmas cake and / or pudding from the local shops:

- * Branxton Post Office
- * Greta Pharmacy
- * Piggot’s Pharmacies in Branxton and Huntlee

Yes – you can pretend you home-cooked them yourself - they are so good!

(Make sure none of the guests sees the Lions packaging though).

SINGLETON VOTERS
Please return as
MAYOR, SUE MOORE.



for Sue Moore as
Singleton Mayor

VOTE 1 on Mayor and Councillor ballot papers

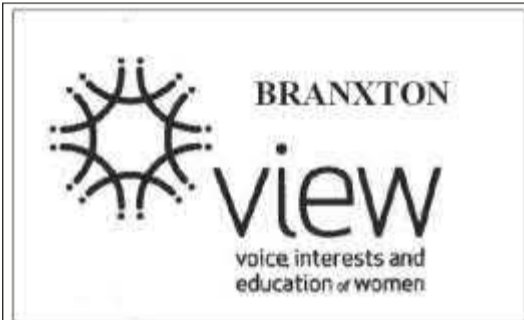
Much has been achieved in past 5 years, however, there is still so much more to be done

“Let’s keep it Going”

Written and authorized by S Moore 122 Stanhope rd Elderslie 2335



Lions Cancer Institute Mobile Skin Cancer Screening Facility Bus



Branxton VIEW Club ladies were delighted to "catch up" and meet again after the months of COVID restrictions, We met at Greta Workers Club on 11th November which happened to be Remembrance Day, President Bethany led us in a minutes silence at 11am. Next meeting will be our final meeting for the year so much discussion entailed organisation for this day the 9th December and our Christmas Party.

At this stage 60 people are expected to attend and there will be entertainment and raffles and lots of good fun for all. All monies raised go to our seven disadvantaged Australian school children whom we sponsor through the Smith Family Learning for Life Program. We look forward to enjoying the excellent renovations at Greta Workers Club-well done to the management team! Thank you sincerely to Taylor & Thomas Real Estate at Branxton for printing our monthly newsletters. Guest speakers planned for next years meetings include Peter Fox and also Sue George from Singleton. Our popular *donna-lou* Fashion Parade will be held in April and October, 2022. More details later.

Thank you to all who support our VEW club functions, Keep well and happy and enjoy the blissful days of Summer,
Peace and love to everyone
Judy Spillard



Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licencee-in-Charge

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- Potential building sites
- Unique lifestyle acreage
- Abundant wildlife and native flora

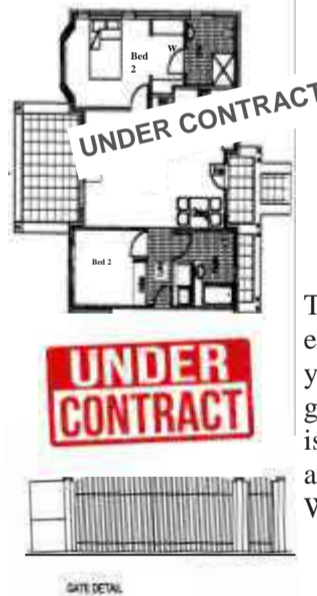
ASKING 965,000



BRANXTON

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Building Blocks

NORTH ROTHBURY

Vacant building block ~ 809m²

Vacant Building Block
Fantastic visage

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BELFORD

Vacant Building Block 2559m²

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

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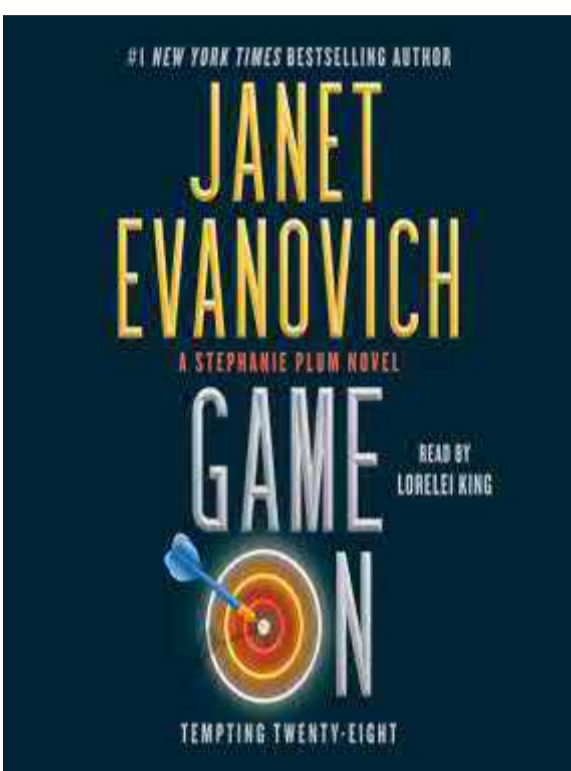
NORTH ROTHBURY

Vacant building block

A 809 square metre plot which is relatively flat; an east facing block with a north-south orientation. Wonderful views from the back to the north overlooking Huntlee & the mountains to the north.

ASKING \$135,000





REVIEW 1
I have been reading and enjoying Stephanie Plum's adventures as a bond enforcement agent (bounty hunter?) for twenty-five+ years (gasp!), ever since *One For The Money*. And everytime a new one comes out, it makes me happy to know I'm in for hours of entertainment. Seriously, I can't think of any that let me down...so along comes *Game On: Tempting Twenty-Eight*, 28 in the series, and thanks to Atria Books and NetGalley,

I received a copy in exchange for this honest review. For anyone who hasn't read any of the series, not to worry. Each stands on its own (although I think it's fun to see how the characters and their relationships progress), so you can dive right in and you will know soon enough who these people are. Stephanie works for her Uncle Vinnie, a bail bondsman in Newark, New Jersey. Stephanie has an ongoing relationship with

cop Joe Morelli, and then there is Ranger, super sexy owner of a "security company," always there to help her when she destroys another car or gets into whatever bizarre trouble she manages to find — or initiate. Stephanie lives in an apartment with her hamster Rex and works with Lula, a former "woman of the evening," and they manage to get Grandma involved along the way. One night, fellow apprehension agent Diesel shows up in her apartment, in town to look for Oswald Wednesday, a brilliant international hacker who is reportedly in town. It isn't totally clear whether Diesel is her competitor or partner in the search for Oswald, but there is plenty of threatening action, murders, and general property destruction as (especially automobiles!) as Stephanie and Lula do their thing.

It was the perfect read to escape the pandemic for awhile: a bit zany, plenty of laughs, some surprises, and the ongoing dilemma of the impossible choice for Stephanie between Joe and Ranger. But, really, why have to choose? She has both of them (in different ways, but always entertaining for her and for the reader). It isn't by any means lofty literary reading, but it is well written, fun, and an awesome diversion. It is what it is, and for me it is 5 stars. One of the best SP stories in recent memory!

REVIEW 2
With the author
In your new novel, GAME ON, you write about Stephanie Plum's search for her latest target: a dangerous hacker. Can

you tell us a bit about this novel and what readers can expect in Plum #28? My favourite part about this book is that Diesel from the Wicked Series plays a large role. Of all the men in my literary life, I actually like Diesel the best. It turns out he's tracking down one of Stephanie's FTAs and the plot moves on from there like a full throttle freight train.
What would you say to a new reader, coming to this novel for the first time with GAME ON: Plum #28? What should they know about Stephanie Plum before diving in? New readers don't have to know anything about Plum before reading GAME ON. There's some continuity in the series but every book is written as a stand alone so readers can jump in and start reading at any point in the continuum.
With ever increasing cybersecurity concerns in our world, was there an inspiring incident you had in mind that gave you the initial idea for this latest Plum novel? No, there wasn't an inspiring cybersecurity incident that inspired me. I was just searching for a plot

line that hadn't been used in the Plum series.
Your characters are always compelling, the plots are rich with detail, the ensuing adventure keeps readers riveted, and each novel has its own heart and identity. How do you manage to accomplish all of that with each new novel you write (especially in your various series)? Wow, thanks! I work really hard at writing the best book I can. A glass of wine and a bag of chips helps.
Stephanie's grandma is a fan favourite -- such a fun-loving, supportive character. Can you tell us about her, as well as a bit more about Stephanie's family? Grandma Mazur is based on my Grandma Fanny and my Aunt Lena. When I started the series Grandma seemed like a fantastic old lady and now she's younger than I am! Almost all of my characters are composites made from people I know (many are relatives!). This is true of the Plum family with some of my own mom in Stephanie's mom.
Lula is also a beloved and quirky character in the Plum series, always up for

adventure. Is she based on anyone in your life? If not, are there characters in your novels that are loosely based on people you know? Lula is an entirely fictitious character and she's my favourite. She's a survivor, glass is totally full, larger than life woman.
GAME ON has countless surprising twists and turns. Do you know how things are going to work out before you sit down to write the novel? Are you a "plotter or a panther"? I always know how a book is going to end. I begin with a vague outline and I know what I want to accomplish with each character. The twists and turns in the middle usually develop as I write.
Do you draw your inspiration from particular people, places or events? Do you have a favorite place to write, or a favorite place to visit for writing inspiration? What's a day in the life of Janet Evanovich like? I write in my home office and I like to write every-day. I don't have anything in particular that inspires me but I make a conscious effort to surround myself

with good energy. I only listen to upbeat music and I only watch happy movies. I work to make my books reflect this positive attitude.
Why do you write thrillers? What is it about them that makes them enjoyable to write? Do you have a favourite series you've written, or are writing? I really write about people but people need a path to follow and the thriller structure provides that for me. A plot line with scary situations gives me an opportunity to develop a character. I especially like when ordinary people find it inside themselves to do heroic things. I have a new series starting in March that is my current favourite because I love the characters and the way they come together to survive an Indiana Jones level adventure.
Can you tell us a bit about what you're working on now? Inquiring minds also want to know if Stephanie Plum will ever settle down. ☐
I'm starting the next Plum and Stephanie Plum will never settle down ...that would be boring!



ABOUT.....
Janet Evanovich (née **Schneider**; April 22, 1943) is an American writer. She began her career writing short contemporary romance novels under the pen name **Steffie Hall**, but gained fame authoring a series of contemporary mysteries featuring Stephanie Plum, a former lingerie buyer from Trenton, New Jersey, who becomes a bounty hunter to make ends meet after losing her job. The novels in this series have been on *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal* and Amazon bestseller lists. Evanovich has had her last seventeen Plums debut at #1 on the *NY Times* Best Sellers list and eleven of them have hit #1 on *USA Today* Best-Selling Books list. She has over two hundred million books in print worldwide, and her books have been translated into over 40 languages. Evanovich is a second-generation American born in South River, New Jersey, to a machinist and a housewife. After attending South River High School, she became the first in her family to attend college when she enrolled at Douglass

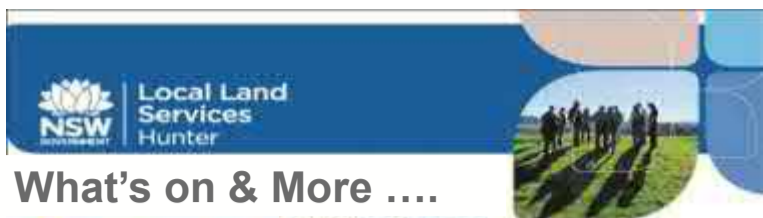
College, part of Rutgers University, to study art. When Evanovich had children, she chose to become a housewife like her mother. In her thirties, she began writing novels. To learn the art of writing dialog, Evanovich took lessons in improv acting. For ten years, she attempted to write the Great American Novel, finishing three manuscripts that she was unable to sell. After someone suggested she try writing romance novels, Evanovich read several romances and discovered that she enjoyed the genre. She wrote two romances and submitted them for publishing. Still unable to find a publisher, Evanovich stopped writing and signed with a temporary employment agency. Several months after beginning work for them, she received an offer to buy her second romance manuscript for \$2,000, which she considered an "astounding sum." Evanovich was selected for the inaugural 2021 Forbes 50 Over 50; made up of entrepreneurs, leaders, scientists and creators who are over the age of 50. During the week, Evanovich works eight or more hours per day. On weekends she generally works for an additional four hours each day. She generally creates a brief outline before beginning a new book, with one or two sentences about what will happen in each chapter. Upon the release of a new book, Evanovich regularly goes on book tours. Her book signings attracted thousands of people. Beginning with her third Stephanie Plum book, *Three to Get Deadly*, and ending with *Smokin' Seventeen*, all of the titles have been chosen from fan submissions. Evanovich lives in Florida with her husband, Pete, whom she married in 1964. Her husband, son, and daughter all work her company, Evanovich Inc.

Quotable quotes....
A good novel tells us the truth about its **hero**; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author.
~ **G.K. Chesterton**
Authors were shy, unsociable creatures, atoning for their lack of social aptitude by inventing their own companions and conversations. ~ **Agatha Christie**

The New York Times Best Sellers
Combined Print & E-Book Fiction **(21 November 2021)**

- 1. GAME ON** by Janet Evanovich
NEW THIS WEEK
The 28th book in the Stephanie Plum series. Diesel and Stephanie track the international computer hacker Oswald Wednesday.
- 2. THE JUDGE'S LIST** by John Grisham
3 WEEKS ON THE LIST
Ranked 2 last week
The second book in the Whistler series. Investigator Lacy Stoltz goes after a serial killer and closes in on a sitting judge.
- 3. THE STRANGER IN THE LIFEBOAT** by Mitch Albom
NEW THIS WEEK
After a ship explodes, nine people struggling to survive pull a man who claims to be the Lord out of the sea.
- 4. BETTER OFF DEAD** by Lee Child and Andrew Child
2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
The 26th book in the Jack Reacher series. Reacher helps an F.B.I. agent look for her missing brother and takes on a foe named Dendoncker.
- 5. THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY** by Amor Towles
5 WEEKS ON THE LIST
Two friends who escaped from a juvenile work farm take Emmett Watson on an unexpected journey to New York City in 1954.
- 6. DUNE** by Frank Herbert
3 WEEKS ON THE LIST
The 1965 science fiction novel that is the basis of several adaptations, including the recent film directed by Denis Villeneuve.
- 7. THE WISH** by Nicholas Sparks
6 WEEKS ON THE LIST
Maggie Dawes, a renowned travel photographer, struggles with a medical diagnosis over Christmas.
- 8. IT ENDS WITH US** by Colleen Hoover
21 WEEKS ON THE LIST
A battered wife raised in a violent home attempts to halt the cycle of abuse.
- 9. APPLES NEVER FALL** by Liane Moriarty
8 WEEKS ON THE LIST
The Delaney siblings suspect their father of causing the disappearance of their mother.
- 10. THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO** by Taylor Jenkins Reid
19 WEEKS ON THE LIST
A movie icon recounts stories of her loves and career to a struggling magazine writer.

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What's on & More



BEEFING UP YOUR HEIFER PERFORMANCE - ONLINE COACHING

13 Dec 2021 1:57 pm

Free coaching is being offered to get your herd rebuilding on track and help you get the most from your current heifer herd. Coaching 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

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 * CMW – Critical Mating Weights, what they are, how to achieve them, actual feed plans to get there.
 * Including least cost rations and ration formulation.
 * Feed Budgeting and diet design (incorporating ME, CP, vitamins and minerals)
 * Animal Health – from weaning through to joining and calving.
 * Fertility – Managing and manipulating energy balance at joining.

* Pregnancy Testing – timing and optimising management from results.
 * Pregnant Heifers- Planning and setting weight gain targets throughout pregnancy.
 * Calving management – impact of stress and Condition Score
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[https:// hunterlls.wufoo.com/forms/beefing-up/](https://hunterlls.wufoo.com/forms/beefing-up/)

Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 16th November 2021

Overall numbers increased significantly with accessibility for trucks improving after a few days of drying weather. The quality of the offering was generally good, regardless of breed variation. The majority of the offering were well finished and carried plenty of weight. There was a limited supply of light weight young cattle to suit restockers. Yearlings were presented in large numbers. There was a good supply of heavy weight steers and a small percentage of cows. The full field of regular buyers were operating. The limited supply of vealers attracted strong restocker competition. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers to restock and feed sold to dearer trends, with the quality of the offering contributing to price change. The heavy weight feeders attracted the strongest competition, while the medium weights experienced little change. Those dearer trends carried into the heifer yearlings to restock and feed, some significantly dearer sales. The well finished medium and heavy weight yearlings to the trade also sold to a much dearer trend. Heavy grown steers over 500kg and including the milk tooth lines saw those to feed substantially dearer. The well finished lines purchased by processors also showed strong improvement. The well finished grown heifers to process were also dearer. It was a very strong cow market with competition between processor keen. The market trend was dearer throughout. Heavy weight bulls improved in quality and were much dearer. It should be noted that this report compares to a very small sale from last week. Market Reporter, James Armitage.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 17th November 2021

Consignments increased and the quality was mixed with the majority entering the younger categories. The bulk were more suited for the restocker buyers, with ample numbers in prime condition and suitable for the local butchers and processors. There were greater numbers of yearlings compared to the vealers and approximately 30 cows were penned. Competition was solid throughout with trends firm to dearer. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock gained 2c and made from 626c to 826c, with the lighter weights reaching a record price for the selling complex at 908c/kg. The same weight heifer portion sold to strong competition, with the restockers paying from 640c to 698c and up to 866c/kg for the light weights. The yearling steers trended dearer, with the medium and heavy weights to the lot feeders and restocker buyers ranging from 490c to 666c while the lighter weights reached 734c/kg. The yearling heifers were sought after by the restockers and made from 494c to 674c, depending on breed and weight. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle to the butchers and processors carried extra weight this week and sold well, with the best up around the 584c/kg range. The older steers with 2 teeth sold well to the lot feeders and reached 580c, with those to the processors ranging from 370c to 400c/kg. The cows trended 9c dearer, with the better finished heavy weights making from 355c to 388c/kg. Cows rearing calves received from \$2,950 to \$3,100/unit. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

Detailed Cattle report for Scone

Last reported 16th November 2021

Numbers increased marginally and the quality remained fair to good, with extra cattle this week showing a degree of Bos Indicus infusion. The vealers were limited in supply, while the yearlings were represented with fair numbers. The grown heifers were well supplied, with extra cows penned this week and on average the yield and weight was very good. Competition was solid throughout, with mainly breed and quality the main contributor to any price changes. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock remained firm and ranged from 620c to 814c/kg. The same weight heifer portion to the restockers also remained firm and sold from 526c to 760c, and up to 800c/kg for the light weights. Yearling steers made from 580c to 696c for the light weights to the restockers, with the heavier medium and heavy weights to the restockers and lot feeders ranging from 450c to 660c/kg. The yearling heifers remained firm, with the restockers paying from 520c to 638c, and up to 700c/kg for the light weights. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers and processors trended dearer, with the better end reaching 592c/kg. Grown steers to the processors reached 468c, as those to the restockers and feeder buyers ranged from 436c to 486c/kg. The grown heifers to the processors made from 398c to 530c/kg the latter for a single B muscle. Those heifers to the restockers ranged from 400c to 458c/kg. The cows sold to solid competition and maintained firm prices, with the better covered heavy weights ranging from 355c to 408c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 336c/kg. Cows rearing their first calves made \$3500/unit. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 15th November 2021

There was a small increase in numbers with yearlings well supplied. The quality of the offering was mostly good. There was a large percentage of the yearlings showing some Bos Indicus content. The condition of the offering was fair to good. There was reduced processor competition, while the regular feedlotter operated on suitable lines. Restocker demand was high for light weight young cattle, resulting in dearer trends. Both the steers and heifers posted strong gains. Medium weight yearlings to restock and feed sold to cheaper trends with breed a factor in some price change. An odd pen of heifers to a restocker were dearer. Heavy weight yearling feeder steers saw a firm to slightly cheaper market trend as feedlotter continue to chase weight. There was an odd dearer sale in the heifer portion. Trends varied in the heavy weight trade yearlings with the steers selling to a dearer trend, while the heifers were cheaper for the most part. Heavy grown steers to process sold to a dearer trend with the younger milk and 2 tooth lines posting strong gains. There was little change in the cow market, however the quality was not quite as good. Once again weight was a requirement regardless of condition. Market reporter, James Armitage

The hemispheric long wave pattern has remained stable in recent weeks. There are five main troughs. Currently the most significant troughs are near the longitudes of the southwest Indian Ocean, eastern Australia, the south Pacific, South America, and the Atlantic Ocean.
 Summary:
 Over southern and eastern Australia the cold front events with potential to bring widespread rain are now expected about 23 November to 27 November, 5 December to 9 December, and 18 December to 22 December. Rain events originating in the tropics and moving south are possible about 22 November to 26 November, 13 December to 17 December, and 17 December to 21 December.
 Over Western Australia the strongest cold fronts should occur about 7 December to 11 December, 16 December to 20 December, and 21 December to 25 December.

Racing Review & News

Jungle Juice Cup 2021 wasn't the same without Robert Thompson

By John Curtis
 Cessnock's famed Jungle Juice Cup, now held at Newcastle's Beaumont (inside) track, wasn't the same without Robert Thompson AM when the 2021 edition was run on Monday 25th October.



Thompson, Australia's winningest jockey and Hall of Famer, has won the race a remarkable 11 times – but didn't ride at the meeting. In fact, the highly respected Cessnock legend hasn't ridden for three and a half months and whilst he didn't mention the "R" word, there is a real possibility his wonderful career in the saddle is coming to a close. "I'm 63 and I've got one boot off," he said last night in perhaps the strongest indication yet that hanging up both boots may be just around the corner. "I was really disappointed not to be able to ride at the North Queensland Cup carnivals during the winter because of the COVID restrictions. "I had hoped to go there as I have in past years, and then make a decision about my

future. "I haven't ridden in a race since early July, and have no plans to resume anytime soon." Thompson deservedly was afforded Australian Racing Hall of Fame status in 2015, and a couple of weeks later another fitting award was bestowed upon the history-making "boy" from Cessnock. He was awarded an AM – a member in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours for "significant service to the thoroughbred industry as an ambassador, champion rider and mentor to apprentice jockeys". The Hunter's inaugural

Australian Racing Hall Of Famer was born at Cessnock Hospital on May 13, 1958 and christened Robert Norman Thompson. Apprenticed to his now deceased grandfather Norm Collins Snr, Thompson has taken himself on an extraordinary "ride" which has firmly etched his name into Australian racing history. He rode 499 winners as an apprentice, broke the late Jack Thompson's (not related) long-standing Australian riding record of 3322 winners when successful on Promised at Port Macquarie on July 28, 2008, and then hit the 4000

mark when he got Lay Down The Law home at Broadmeadow on May 2, 2014. Thompson's latest winner, Contributingfactor at Port Macquarie on April 3 this year, was his 4447th in an outstanding career which has spanned nearly 50 years. By his own admission, he hated school and received special dispensation from his headmaster to ride the first of his 4000-plus winners. His first two rides – both unplaced – were at a Saturday meeting at Newcastle in April, 1973. He hadn't quite turned 15 years of age then. A week later, he had five more mounts at Scone and then greeted the judge at his eighth ride at Wyong on

Thursday, May 8 (five days before his birthday), landing his first winner on his grandfather's horse It's Regal after being allowed to leave school early for a more important "essay". "RT" didn't take long to make his mark in town, either. He clinched a metropolitan breakthrough – again on grandfather Norm's horse Semper Prima – at his first Randwick ride on May 30, 1973; little more than a fortnight after his 15th birthday. Though a young Thompson had an aversion to school life, he kept all his riding records in scrapbooks (and filled plenty of them obviously); winners written in red ink; losers in black. When Thompson turned 21, his late father Arthur took up training – and it was the

beginning of a brilliant partnership. "Dad was not only a great mate, but an excellent trainer," he recalled. "One of my great memories is riding all five winners for him one day at Cessnock, including the Cup on Gay Scene." Thompson rode seven Group 1 winners, but jokingly reckons the "real" tally is 18! He was referring to his 11 Jungle Juice Cups at his beloved Cessnock racecourse (though the 2013 renewal was transferred to Scone), now closed as a racing venue. Thompson won three consecutive Cups (2013, 14 and 15) on Jungle Juice legend Youthful King (who also scored in 2011 for Alison Dyson) for his great

mate, Cessnock trainer Jeremy Sylvester. But he will never forget his first success in the annual feature race on Top Hat Joe in 1982 for his father. "I'm pretty sure the Cup was run then on a Saturday, and Top Hat Joe played up on the truck as Dad was preparing to take his horses to the track for the meeting," he recalled. "So we put a saddle on him and I rode him to the track. "We lived on the other side of town then, and it would have been a couple of miles. "Other trainers were wondering what was going on when I rode Top Hat Joe into the course and took him to his stall." The 2021 cup was won by the Bob Milligan trained Charmmebaby who started favourite. It was ridden by Grant Buckley



12 Ways to Use a Smartphone as a Maintenance Tool – For the Techheads

In the past few years, the mobile phone has evolved from a humble gadget used to make calls and check emails into a sophisticated device with features and functionality that can transform the way maintenance is performed. Many organizations are already using Web-based computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) software on their phones or tablets, allowing technicians to update work orders in real time as they perform work. This eliminates the need to take notes and re-enter them later.

Mobile CMMS enables technicians to access asset logs, meter-reading history, parts inventory and warranty information in the field as they work. Using mobile CMMS technology can also improve accuracy and efficiency by eliminating redundancy and reducing the time needed to manage work orders.

Today, a constant stream of new mobile technologies is fuelling a fundamental shift in the way smartphones are used for maintenance. As a result, the modern smartphone could overtake the wrench as the tool of choice in the maintenance technician's tool belt. The simple reason for this shift is the extraordinary technology inside your smartphone. Certain features and apps can turn your phone into a must-have maintenance gadget. They can enhance your CMMS experience or provide the tool needed to perform a task without having to search for specialist equipment or tools. Below are 12 such features and apps, although many more are also available.

Camera

Use the camera functionality on your smartphone to upload images and videos directly to the asset record or work order in your CMMS. It can be difficult to describe an issue over the phone, so images and videos are a great way to document repairs. Senior technicians or factory support can review the work order images and videos from the office and recommend actions quickly.

In the future, technicians can review the work order videos and images when faced with similar issues.

Voice Recognition

Modern smartphones come with built-in voice recognition software, such as Apple's Siri. Technicians can fill in work order details by simply talking into their phone. This saves time when entering large amounts of work order information into the CMMS. Rather than using a small keyboard, simply dictate repair actions into the built-in microphone and include them on the work order record. While cellphone speech recognition is not 100-percent foolproof, it is getting better. Soon we'll do less talking through our phones and more talking to them.

Barcode and Quick Response Code Scanning

Some CMMS vendors integrate barcode and quick response (QR) code-scanning capabilities into their mobile app to convert your smartphone into a scanning device. After scanning a QR code or barcode with a smartphone, technicians are taken directly to the asset, part or work order record in the CMMS. This saves time navigating through long lists of items in the CMMS. Technicians can update asset records, enter condition states, log meter readings and flag necessary alerts quickly and easily. Also, unregistered CMMS users can scan codes on equipment, walls or doors to be taken to the guest request form where they can log an issue against the asset. By scanning the code on the asset, the maintenance manager then knows exactly which issue to address on a particular asset.

Near Field Communications

Smartphones enabled with near field communications (NFC) can be used to identify assets through radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags. RFID tags can be purchased for a few cents and placed on assets throughout the facility. By tapping their phone against the RFID tag, users are taken directly to the asset record in the CMMS where they can log their issue. Alternatively, NFC and RFID technology can be used to provide proof of presence for safety-related work orders. The tapping motion is recorded digitally, proving the technician was physically at the asset when the work order was completed.

Maps and GPS

The majority of smartphones come with maps and GPS technology, allowing you to use satellites to pinpoint the latitude and longitude coordinates of your current location to within a few feet. This enables technicians to locate dispersed assets in the field without the need to search through reams of outdated maps. A maps app can guide you to the work order asset in your CMMS.

Flashlight

Need to look into a dark corner inside a machine? Don't forget that you can use the camera flash on a smartphone as a flashlight to illuminate the area of interest. There are also many flashlight apps available for your smartphone.

Unit Measurement Converter

If you can't convert meters to feet in your head, download a unit measurement converter app. These apps are ideal for quick conversions in the maintenance shop or out in the field.

Strobe Lights

Strobe lights (or stroboscopes) can be used to study the behaviour of rotating, oscillating or vibrating equipment. They are often employed as tachometers to accurately calculate the

running speed of belts and motors. The technician adjusts the frequency of the strobe until the belt or motor appears to freeze. At this point, the speed of the motor can be calculated and adjusted if necessary. A stroboscope can also be used for balancing, verifying alignment and checking for looseness. There are a number of apps that turn the camera flash into a stroboscope. Simply search your app store for "stroboscope" or "strobe tachometer" to download and test for yourself.

Vibration Analysis

In predictive maintenance applications, vibration analysis can help identify bearing defects, shaft misalignment, imbalance and structural resonant frequencies. Sensors are embedded in the equipment or technicians use meters to monitor vibration at regular intervals and report vibration readings in real time. Modern smartphones have a built-in accelerometer or gyroscope that can be used for vibration analysis on pumps and motors. For example, the three-channel accelerometer in the iPhone is sensitive enough to analyze the vibration of moving machinery. Simply turn on the app, place your smartphone on the asset to be measured and start recording.

Magnetic Field Detector

Your smartphone comes with magnetic field sensors to determine magnetic north. Several developers have designed magnetic field detector apps that can be used to measure magnetic fields around the smartphone. The apps use the embedded magnetic sensors in the smartphone to turn it into an electromagnetic field (EMF) meter. These apps are ideal for simple tasks like checking for power lines behind drywall. However, use a proper Gaussmeter if you need exact measurements.

Metal Detector

The magnetic field sensors in your smartphone can also be used to detect metal objects. The strength of the magnetic field increases as the smartphone is brought into close contact with metal. The metal detector apps can be used for a variety of applications like locating metal studs in walls and iron pipes in the ground.

Sound Level Meters

Sound level meters measure the level of sound intensity in decibels at any point in time. A number of apps can convert your smartphone into a basic sound pressure meter. These apps use complex Fourier transform algorithms and the smartphone's built-in microphone to measure noise in decibels. The apps are limited by the hardware on the phone, so it may be difficult to measure in extreme cases. However, they are reliable and accurate enough for non-critical applications. If you need precision accuracy, buy a proper sound pressure level (SPL) meter.

Mobile CMMS has the ability to transform the way maintenance is performed by providing instant access to the CMMS database from any Internet connection. Those who have embraced mobile CMMS continually sing its praises. It's now time to take it to the next level by using some of the advanced features and functionality as outlined above. With a plethora of maintenance-related apps now available, you can make your smartphone a crucial maintenance tool. While the apps are not 100-percent accurate yet, they can give you the precision needed for simple jobs. Just be sure you have your smartphone charged and in your pocket so it will be ready when you need it.

I hope you found these tips interesting as they can be useful in your day to day work life. They can save you buying expensive equipment.

More next month (back to basics) If any of your sensors aren't working on your device, we can probably fix it at Macdroid's Greenhills

See you,

Cheers, Frank

MOVIE REVIEW

Last Night in Soho

In acclaimed director Edgar Wright's psychological thriller, *Eloise*, an aspiring fashion designer, is mysteriously able to enter the 1960s where she encounters a dazzling wannabe singer, Sandie. But the glamour is not all it appears to be and the dreams of the past start to crack and splinter into something far darker.

Rating: MA+ **Genre:** Drama, Mystery & Thriller **Original Language:** English (United Kingdom) **Director:** Edgar Wright **Producer:** Nira Park, Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Laura Richardson, Edgar Wright

Writer: Edgar Wright, Krysty Wilson-Cairns **Release Date (Theatres):** Oct 29, 2021 **Wide Box Office (Gross USA):** \$9.4M **Runtime:** 1h 57m



As a director, Edgar Wright is good at holding an audience's attention. Whatever his movies' flaws - and you could argue his Hollywood films (*Scott Pilgrim* and *Baby Driver*) have their issues - he never forgets to make his films entertaining. But sometimes being an entertainer works against you. Some stories need a bit of an edge if they're going to have an impact.

Eloise Turner (Thomasin McKenzie) - Ellie to her friends, of whom she seemingly has none as she lives in a small town 60's timewarp with her gran - has just been accepted into the London College of Fashion. It's a dream come true...

though no sooner has she arrived than she begins to realise she has been living in a dream, as the youth of today are brash, noisy, and consider her 60s affectations somewhat naff. Fortunately she discovers a surprisingly cheap bedsit apartment in the heart of Soho, promptly moves in, and suddenly starts having nightly dreams in which she's transported back to the actual 60s, where she haunts wannabe singer Sandie Collins (Anya Taylor-Joy). It's everything she hoped London would be, and a marked contrast to the dour real world around her - until things start to go wrong. Writer-director Wright establishes early on that Ellie is either psychic or nuts (she sees her dead

mother, who killed herself after the stress of London life became too much - uh oh). The main thrust of the story is Ellie's rapid swinging 60s life turns grim under the "guidance" of her "manager" (Matt Smith). Wright has the visual skills to pull off a psychological thriller-slash-urban fantasy-slash-horror film with ease and this is never less than fun,

breakdown features at least one public freak-out too many. Wright's always been a director interested in style over substance - when there's been substance - but here his drive to keep the twists coming actively undermines the story going on underneath the shocks. The message in 2021 that men are abusive sex pests is both predictable and impossible to argue



but the story he's telling stumbles more than once. This is the kind of film where there's plenty of careful foreshadowing to answer the audience's questions once the (many) twists play out, but little effort put in to creating a realistic protagonist we can care about. Even for an isolated country teen, Ellie's remarkably uninterested in asking basic questions, let alone using google to get answers about what's going on around her; her shock at the realisation that Soho in the 60s was actually a grimy den of sleaze leaves her seeming fatally naive (especially as "nostalgia is bad" is the closest thing to a theme this has), while her extended real-world

against; Wright tries to use that to blindside the audience, but whatever he gains in surprise he loses in impact. Fortunately, the cast are entertaining throughout, with McKenzie's performance going a long way towards making Ellie seem like someone who might actually exist. Wright's visual skills create a series of always entertaining scenes, especially early on in his recreated 60s Soho, and while there's never any real suspense on offer it's still a gripping roller coaster ride. Twists and turns this has; heart, not so much. -Anthony Morris

3/5



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Worker drought: Job ads soar but no one's applying

Elizabeth Knight



EDITORS' CHOICE



* NAB chief executive Ross McEwan says it is vital to get migrant labour back to Australia. CREDIT:ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN

When the head of Coles supermarkets refers to a dearth of workers as “staff shortage-gate” and Australia’s largest miners blame labour shortages for lowering their production targets, you get a sense of the magnitude of the worker drought problem. But when employment site Seek declares it has just posted the highest number of job advertisements in 23 years it’s clear Australia faces a labour issue of epidemic-led proportions. Job ad volumes in October were 63 per cent higher than a year ago and 44 per cent above where they were in October 2019, according to Seek. But businesses thirsty for staff are faced with a job seeker drought. Applications for the jobs are below historical standards, according to Seek, which suggests that the paucity of labour looking for jobs won’t be resolved in the short term.

supply shortages - its fortress Australia position. The closure of state and international borders for almost two years has deprived businesses access to lower paid travellers and students but also the opportunity to top up skilled workers needed through immigration. It is a problem that the head of the National Australia Bank, Ross McEwan, ranks as a serious economic issue. “There have been hundreds of thousands of people who have left Australia because they were on temporary visas or student visas that we need to get back into this Australian economy as quickly as we can,” McEwan said. While McEwan is quite upbeat about Australia’s economic rebound he cautioned that labour shortages need to be addressed because they are the biggest issue that will inhibit growth. The evidence of the labour supply squeeze is now



* Job ads have surged. CREDIT:LOUIE DOUVIS

Anecdotally business owners in tourism and hospitality - the bar and restaurant owners - who have only recently been able to open their doors in the biggest markets of NSW and Victoria - are complaining bitterly about the difficulty of attracting staff. But they have also been jolted by the demands of existing staff who are threatening to leave without extra pay or better conditions - or both. The power pendulum has clearly swung post-pandemic from employers towards employees - a recipe for wage inflation. And the Reserve Bank called out last week that wages growth could pick up to its highest pace in years as the economy recovers from the COVID era and the labour market tightens. Businesses, particularly those hit hard by COVID, won’t appreciate any additional costs from higher wages. That said, business owners have been the beneficiaries of stubbornly low wage growth for years. Among the industries hardest hit by shortages are tourism and leisure. Sports and recreation comes in next followed by arts/media/advertising, call centres and customer service, and education and training, according to Seek’s data. While the less skilled have been more widely talked about, the semi-skilled and highly skilled workforce are also experiencing supply shortages. Australia has its own peculiar reasons for staff

clear enough. But there is another layer to this issue that goes beyond just a lack of worker mobility that comes courtesy of border closures and the immigration drought. There is a sense that there is less urgency to look for employment and an increased desire to move from one’s old job. In the US the scarcity of workers post-COVID has been dubbed the “great resignation”. There, workers are leaving their jobs at unprecedented rates, with many deciding to look for a sea change. Many theories about this phenomenon have been written over the past month. Some say that the unprecedented level of government support during the pandemic has provided a small nest egg for workers allowing them to remain out of the workforce. Others suggest a change in work patterns and working from home has led to the realisation that there is more to work than the daily grind. But just as plausible is that workers are holding out for better wages conditions - and that reflects what we are seeing in Australia. It is certainly no accident that Jeff Bezos has just increased the hourly pay rate for new workers at Amazon by \$US3 to \$US18 and offered special bonuses in locations where staff shortages were particularly acute. **Elizabeth Knight** comments on companies, markets and the economy

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

and

To the Deck Café Lovedale who have just been awarded the **Excellence in Innovation & Adaptability prize in the 2021 Hunter Business Awards**. Well done team.

Disgusting behaviour again displayed by a few of our locals last weekend at Miller Park. Bored, immature, uneducated? We aren’t sure. We are out of patience, locals are out of patience, council are out of patience and so are the police. We will, however, continue to let the residents of our local area know about this abhorrent behaviour. Council, police and the local newspaper will all be notified. As a general reminder the lights that were pulled down and broken do provide cause us concern as they were on and could have injured the person/s who did this or others around including children. This is wilful and malicious property damage; a punishable offence. It’s vandalism, it’s having no respect for local community organisations who work tirelessly to provide a safe and usable environment not just for senior players but also for our juniors. Greta Branxton United Cricket Club prides itself on being a family friendly all inclusive club that is a safe place to play and learn. The blatant disrespect that endeavours to bring our club into disrepute will not be ignored. *For and on behalf of the Greta Branxton United Cricket Club (Ed., this is the second time since August that the facility has been vandalised. We met with Cessnock City Council reps and asked for CCTV to be provided &, as yet, it has not been done. At that meeting it was mentioned that this behaviour is not just local but LGA wide & that the provision of CCTV would be a great deterrent and save CCC a whole lot of money on recurrent repairs)*

FREE 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
 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 – Maitland 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 Bimbadin winery.
 SAT 26 MAR 2022 — Rod Stewart Live @ Roche Estate

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

Dates for your diary

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
 WHAT'S ON?
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

Long list of achievements adds up to successful financial and social outcomes for Singleton community in 2020/2021

A significant list of achievements over the past five years – including \$48 million in grant funding, establishment of the Singleton Community and Economic Development Fund, the \$2million COVID-19 Community Support Package and an impressive list of capital works projects including the \$7million Singleton Regional Livestock Market upgrade, \$3million Riverside Park, \$4million major sewer pump station refurbishment and \$1.6million Animal Management Facility are showcased in the Singleton Council End of Term Report that was formally endorsed on Monday 15 November 2021. In their last meeting of the current term, Councillors also endorsed the Annual Report 2020/2021 (including the State of the Environment Report) that captured the highlights of the past year. The list includes:

- * Endorsement of the Singleton Sustainable Strategy
- * Adoption of the Local Strategic Planning Statement
- * Establishment of the Singleton Legacy Fund and Singleton Community and Economic Development Fund
- * \$7million Singleton Town Centre Upgrade – Stage 2
- * Start of construction of the \$4million Arts and Cultural Centre
- * \$506,300 Broke Skate Park
- * \$1.5million Kelso Street Road and Drainage upgrade
- \$400,000 Townhead Park bike track

Council finished the financial year in a strong position, as the General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2021 showed a net operating result for the year of \$15.394million, with a \$2.614million underlying operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes. Rates and annual charges revenue and the underlying net operating result before capital grants and contributions for 2020/2021 remained steady in comparison with the previous year, however grants and contributions revenue increased by \$7million and the operating result from continuing operations was up by 20 per cent. Within a total capital budget expenditure of \$32.587million, Council also reported asset renewals of \$16million in 2020/2021, up from \$7.9million in 2019/2020. Significant renewals included:

- * Water supply asset renewals of \$3.7million
- * Sewerage asset renewals of \$3.6million
- Road renewals of \$2.4million

“These are very comprehensive reports that show significant achievements for our community over what has been a very turbulent period with drought, bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic,” General Manager Jason Linnane said. “As well as supporting our community through these challenging times, including the \$2million Community Support Package to provide direct relief to our residents who were significantly financially impacted by COVID, Council also delivered tens of millions of dollars in new projects including sports and recreation, roads, bridges, water and sewer infrastructure to a standard our community expects and deserves. “What’s more, we worked closely with our business community, community organisations and sporting clubs to provide the infrastructure to bring people together, as well as run events and programs that are vital to the social fabric and wellbeing of our residents. “I’m incredibly proud of the progress Singleton has made in the past five years, and I encourage everyone to have a look at the End of the Term report and the Annual Report 2020/2021 as a tangible record of how we’re working together to create the community we’re proud of now and into the future.”

Cessnock City Library launches free app to provide members with easy access

Cessnock City Library has launched a new app, giving members easier access to the Library catalogue, 24/7 eBranch, events calendar, online study support, Library news and more. Available for download now on all iOS and Android devices, the Cessnock City Library app allows members access to its services and resources at the touch of a button. Libraries Coordinator, Rose-marie Walters said she is excited that Library members can now access the catalogue on their handheld device from the comfort of their home. “The app provides members with simplified access to the 24/7 eBranch, the Library’s numerous databases and the Cessnock Local History photo collection, research guides and information sheets. “The app is incredibly easy to use, with the functionality to link family member accounts and give students access to a free online tutoring service. I encourage all of our members to download and start using the app today”, she added. No card? No worries! Residents of the Cessnock LGA can still sign up to access a huge range of free eBooks, eMagazines, music, films, documentaries and TV shows to keep the whole family entertained. Find the app by searching Cessnock City Library in your devices app store, download it and click ‘Join’. After completing the registration form, you will receive an automatically generated temporary membership number. Library staff will then email you an official membership number so you can start using the 24/7 eBranch.

Give generously this Christmas

Cessnock City Council is running its annual Christmas Gift and Food Appeal, with donations being accepted from last Monday 15 November to Friday 10 December. Residents are encouraged to donate new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items which can be dropped off at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries or Council’s Administration Building on Vincent Street, Cessnock. All donations this year will be given to the Kurri Kurri Community Centre who will deliver to those doing it tough in the local community. Cessnock City Council’s General Manager, Lotta Jackson, is encouraging people to give what they can as local families need our support more than ever. “2021 has been a challenging year for many and those in the community who were already experiencing hardship have been doing it especially tough. Christmas is the perfect time to think of others and show your support.” “This year more than ever, the impact of your generosity and kindness will be felt in the lives of vulnerable families,” added Lotta. Council hopes the community will show their support and give generously to the appeal. Donations will be accepted up until **Friday 10 December**. For health and safety reasons, please ensure all donations are new and unwrapped, and please follow conditions of entry to Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries and Council’s Administration Building when dropping off.



Can you help identify important agricultural land and views?

Cessnock City Council is seeking community input on a project to help identify and map important agricultural land, along with significant agricultural landscapes and views across the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). The Cessnock LGA is known for its rural character and picturesque viticultural and agricultural landscapes. As our region grows, urban development and other activities have the potential to encroach on these important areas. Council is looking to retain, protect and enhance these significant areas to preserve the identity and character of our LGA, regional employment and food security. As part of this, they want to hear from the community about what areas they consider to be significant, and why. Residents are encouraged to have their say via an interactive map which will be available on Council’s website until Monday 3 January 2022 at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Agriculturalland. Cessnock City Council’s General Manager, Lotta Jackson, said while residents will be asked to pinpoint on a map the area they consider to be important, they will also be asked to explain why they have chosen the area. “Important agricultural land could be land that has potential for grazing, significant views could be a lookout, and the significant landscape could be tree-lined rural roads.” “The information we get from community will help us develop planning controls to protect these areas, so I really encourage residents to take part in the consultation,” added Lotta. Find out more and have your say by visiting www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Agriculturalland.

New program boosts opportunities for local job seekers

Getting local job seekers skilled and back to work is the highest priority under Singleton Council’s new Employment Pathways Program. Launching in December 2021, the program is aimed at helping Singleton community members – particularly displaced, unemployed, vulnerable, out-of-the-workforce and first-time workers – access a wealth of support, training and careers advice to secure sustainable and meaningful employment, or start their own business. Vicki Brereton, Council’s Director Organisation and Community Capacity said the program would connect job seekers with experienced advisors, providing tailored support to access the diverse opportunities available to them locally. Partnering with employment service providers, schools, regional training providers, indigenous services, State and Federal government organisations, industry, and community groups to deliver better outcomes for job seekers, the program will be available to all Singleton residents, including youth, mature, transitioning, and indigenous workers. “The Employment Pathways Program provides a central point for information for jobseekers and gives them access to experienced employment pathways advisors who can help understand their strengths, navigate the options available, and refer them to regional and local services and supports to help them achieve employment goals,” Ms Brereton said. “As we rebuild from COVID, our focus will be on helping re-deploy displaced workers, building skills for the region’s growth, and getting disadvantaged groups of people working.” Ms Brereton said with so many options available to jobseekers across the region, the sheer amount of information can be overwhelming for people to know where to start, or what the career or new business opportunity is right for them. “Whether individuals are facing entrenched barriers, are beginning their employment journey, are suffering the shock of employment loss, or are needing to adapt to changing labour and occupational requirements, expert advice can support them through these challenges and equip them with skills to respond to future changes,” she said. “This program is another great example of how Council is actively supporting the social and economic wellbeing of residents – we know that there are barriers for job seekers that are unique to the Singleton area, and this new and uncharted program is further evidence of how local government can partner with the community to develop outside-the-box solutions to help.” The Singleton Employment Pathways Program is funded by the NSW Government’s Resources for Regions program. More information will be available on Singleton Council’s website soon.



● Photograph Above: Singleton Council’s Employment Pathways Advisor Riki Ward



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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300



“Branxton Gardens” Senior Living, Branxton
Recent sales

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



HERE'S OUR 5 TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR LAWN READY FOR THE COMING HOT MONTHS



CLEANING UP AND RAKING AWAY DEBRIS

Now is the time to clear away any leaves, branches and other debris that may have accumulated on your lawn during winter. Almost like a spring clean of your home, you want to move any objects that have been stationary for a while (trampolines for example) and allow your lawn to breathe.

GET YOUR MOWER READY

Chances are that like your lawn, your mower has been sitting dormant for a few months. Do yourself and your mower a favour and treat it to a little attention before pulling the starter cord repetitively 'til you're both out of puff. A bit of **basic maintenance** can go a long way here and changing fuel, oil and the spark-plug can help keep your machine running smoothly for years. If you baulk at the thought of home-mechanics then there are many mower shops around that will, for a small fee, have your mower tuned and ready to go; but get in early in the season before they get over-run with work. Sharp blades are another important piece of mower maintenance. A new set of blades, or if you're a dab-hand with the grinder, a touch-up can do wonders.

TEST YOUR SOIL

Sometimes you may find your lawn is not performing very well or not responding to fertiliser and this could be to do with the soils pH. Now is the time to **test your pH levels**, so you can take the required action prior to the hotter months.

CHECK FOR COMPACTION

To see how your soil is holding up and whether compaction is a problem, grab a long screwdriver and plunge it into the ground in a few places to see how far it will penetrate (minding any irrigation or electrical cabling). You should be able to easily push it in for up to 100 to 150mm (4-6 inches) without too much resistance and if not, it would serve your lawn well to look at aeration to remedy the problem.

One of the healthiest things you can do for a lawn is to aerate. **Aeration** helps increase the amount of air, water and nutrients getting to the soil, which strengthens grass roots and help create a healthier lawn.

PLAN YOUR SPRING LAWN CARE SCHEDULE

Having tested your soils pH and for compaction, you can now look at what lawn care activities you will need to undertake during spring and create a plan of action.

Bonus tip

It is a great time to install a new lawn, getting it established before the heat of summer comes. This will save you money on water!



Keeping your cat at the right weight

I want to talk about fat cats, because this is a major problem today. I would think that half the cats that go to veterinary clinics in America are overweight, and we tend to slavishly follow what goes on in the United States. So, we're seeing so many overweight cats in Australia too. The average cat probably weighs 4 or 5 kilos, that's about it, if it's in good condition. But we see cats that are 13, 14, 15 kilos and above. I've had one that was nearly 20 kilos! That's one enormous cat. How do these cats exercise? Guess what - they don't. They can't!

A lot of people leave food out continuously for cats, and they tend to graze all the time so there's no restriction. People love their animals and it comes down to this: "I love you. Have something to eat." But you know what? A bit of a pat on the head or a quick groom or something like that is a lot more valuable to your pet than a little treat.

"The average cat probably weighs 4 or 5 kilos, that's about it, if it's in good condition. I've seen one that was nearly 20 kilos!"

Dr Harry Cooper

I like to restrict cats and only feed them twice a day, I don't like them grazing all day. I'd rather they just have something in the morning, and then something again in the evening and that way you can control their weight.

Most veterinary clinics have a set of scales. You'll be able to find out what your dog should weigh or what your cat should weigh, and stick to it.

We have so many obese animals today and diabetes is the next thing down the track. Not only that, their skeleton was built to hold so much weight. You overload that skeleton, and what happens if you overload it? It bows in the middle, arthritis, joint injury, all that sort of stuff. Keep animals down to a working weight, that's what's important.

Picking the right pet

Australia's favourite Vet, Dr Harry Cooper, shares his thoughts on selecting the right family friendly dog or cat breed that's perfect for your family.

"There is no one family dog or cat breed that is perfect for everyone. Instead you must determine which breed is best suited to your family. During my many years as a vet, I have learnt that the following questions and considerations will help make your pet buying experience as smooth as possible."

A new pet is a family decision. Be sure to include all family members when making the decision to

introduce a new dog or cat in to your home. Ensure that everyone understands and agrees to their new responsibilities. If this is you or your families first pet you may need to research what will be required from you in time and money as well as for walks, entertainment, meals, baths, grooming and training.

Choose a pet that suits your home. Before picking a specific pet, ask yourself questions about your living space. Do you have a big back yard, small back yard, no back yard? Do you have lots of indoor space or is it limited? Be realistic about what size pet would be best suited to your home and your neighbourhood. Daschunds, Griffons, Pekingese, King Charles Cavaliers, Poodles and Poodle cross, breeds generally weigh under 8kgs, making them a nice compact dog for a small home.

There are many breeds of cats that are very similar to dogs such as the Burmese and Siamese. It is important to ensure that all cats regardless of breed are kept indoors. This prevents them from destroying wildlife, or worse still becoming injured by passing motor vehicles. There are several enclosures on the market which can ensure your cat is in the outdoors without causing or inflicting any injuries, or causing damage to the outside environment.

Even some larger breeds of dogs can adapt to smaller environments depending on their temperament. An example includes Greyhounds who generally have a short burst of activity and then like to rest for extended periods of time.

It is important to do your research to learn about different breeds of cats or dogs. You can use the internet, visit dog shows, visit obedience classes, talk to breeders or talk to your local vet. I also recommend talking to someone who has the breed of cat or dog you are looking at and ask them about the pros and cons to help form an unbiased view.

Choose a pet that matches your lifestyle. Your current lifestyle will help to influence your decision when choosing a family pet. Are you and your family active? What time can you allocate to looking after the animal? If you have ample spare time and energy then you can look to get a more active or needy animal. If you are time poor, you will want an animal that is low maintenance and one of the more family friendly dog breeds like a Whippet or a King Charles Cavalier. These breeds are relatively easy to train, have low grooming needs and require only a moderate amount of exercise. All dogs require a varying amount of exercise depending on the breed. Again do your research and feel free to talk to a breeder.

Tips For Your Dogs



Dogs that require a lot of exercise such as Border Collies and Kelpies are not necessarily ideal for suburbia.

Remember you don't always need to buy a pure breed. You can also look at adopting a dog. Just be sure to select an adopting organisation that has temperament tested first. Your current lifestyle will help to influence your decision when choosing a family pet. Are you and your family active? What time can you allocate to looking after the animal? If you have ample spare time and energy then you can look to get a more active or needy animal. If you are time poor, you will want an animal that is low maintenance and one of the more family friendly dog breeds like a Whippet or a King Charles Cavalier. These breeds are relatively easy to train, have low grooming needs and require only a moderate amount of exercise. All dogs require a varying amount of exercise depending on the breed. Again do your research and feel free to talk to a breeder.

Dogs that require a lot of exercise such as Border Collies and Kelpies are not necessary ideal for suburbia.

Remember you don't always need to buy a pure breed. You can also look at adopting a dog. Just be sure to select an adopting organisation that has temperament tested first. Pick the pet's gender accordingly. Determine which sex you want. If you choose a male, you are choosing an animal that will naturally be more assertive and outgoing. Female dogs tend to have a more gentle nature, and are the more stay at home types. Can still be assertive but they are naturally less so than their male counterparts.

Make sure your animals are de-sexed, micro chipped and registered with your local council. Vaccinations and worming should be given at appropriate intervals. Depending on where you live make sure your dogs are protected from Heartworm disease and tick paralysis (depending on the area you live) and that both your dog and your cat are treated regularly with modern day flea control products.

That only leaves me to add my top ten. Please forgive me if your dog breed is not on the list, there are many other breeds and crosses I like too. So, in no particular order they are:

- Cavalier King Charles
- Whippet
- Jack Russell Terrier
- Miniature and Standard

Poodle

- Greyhound
- Griffon
- Maltese x Shih Tzu
- Staffordshire Bull Terriers
- Labrador
- Doberman

Border Collies would be on the list for those of you who own over 2 hectares of land.

Spring Alerts

Spring is all but upon us and with it comes the allergy season. It's the time when we humans start sneeze and itch with nature's flowers and grasses releasing all those pollens into the atmosphere. Luckily very few of our pets suffer from this form of allergy.

Fleas still create one of the commonest forms of allergy that we see in veterinary practice. The itchy dog, typically has red inflamed areas on the lower back and often between the hind legs.

Quite honestly, I expected this to be a thing of the past. There are so many good and effective agents that can not only kill fleas but also interrupt their life cycle so they are no longer able to breed. We talk about the fleas pyramid, and this will shock you. For every 100 fleas in your house and on your pet [and this is where they mainly live], only 5 are actually alive as adult fleas. The other 95 live as larvae or eggs in, the cracks and crevices or even under your house. That's why breaking the breeding cycle is so important! Check the label!

Ticks are capable of killing. This nasty 8 legged individual frequents the east coast strip from Lakes Entrance in Victoria to the tropical North of Queensland. There are also pockets in the North East of Tasmania. Symptoms start with a weakness of the hind legs in dogs, followed by increasing 'paralysis', vomiting, loss of voice, inability to stand and eventual death from respiratory failure. With cats it is typically the change in 'meow' that is the start of symptoms. The rest follows quickly. Without intensive veterinary treatment recovery is rare. Overall costs are high.

Prevention is better than cure. Once again ensure the product you choose is suitable for cats. Most ticks are found around the head and neck region, and I still recommend a daily search.

Some products can only be used on cats, so it is very important to read the label carefully. Select products that will give at least a month's protection. There are tablets and 'chewables', 'spot ons' and rinses. I feel the latter offer very limited protection.

Has your phone stopped ringing?

If so you need to advertise your business

Call Mike at 'The News'

M: 0414 757 826



BRANXTON GOLF CLUB

Sat, 13 November 2021
SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 45
Grades A Stephen Ross 34
Grades A Mark Moylan 33
Grades A Victor Matt 32
Grades B Ed Garland 34
Grades B Cory Hewson 33
Grades B Neil Jordan 33
Grades C Richard Turnbull 37
Grades C Nicholas Redgrove 32
Grades C Andrew Keogh 31
Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 29

NTP 2/11 A 2nd Benjamin Bridge 110cm
NTP 4 C 4th Lachlan Kauter 89cm
NTP 9/18 B9th Errol Munzenberger 362cm
PRO'S NTP 18TH HOLE – RICHARD TURNBULL 415cm \$100 PROSHOP VOUCHER

45 brave souls weathered the cyclonic conditions on Saturday with only one player, Richie Turnbull, playing better than his handicap. His 37 pts stood out like a beacon on a day where long term veteran from the Branxton Golf Club, Neil Jordan, said to Richie, "...so you like playing in cyclones do you Richie!". From all reports his second shots were solid all day with a very happy coach greeting him at the end of the round.

He topped off a great day by winning the Pros NTPin on the last—another \$100 voucher to his collection. Club Captain, Steve Ross, playing with Richard Turnbull, won A Grade with a very solid 34 pts with Steve another product from the Marcus Ryter coaching school. Mark Moylan finished runner up with his 33 pts. Victor Matt was third with an excellent 32 pts considering the very difficult conditions. Eddie Garland won B Grade with 34 pts as well with Cory Hewson and Neil Jordan filling the minor placings. Richie Turnbull convincingly won C Grade with Nicholas Redgrove runner up 5 pts back with Andrew Keogh's 31 pts good enough for third. The shot of the day belonged to Lachlan Kauter on the 4th with his tee shot finishing only 89 cms from the pin. 29 pts was all that was needed to win a ball. Paul Bush's birdie on the 15th showed how tough the conditions were when playing into the wind—he hit driver, driver, driver then chipped in from 25 metres, showing how important the short game is on days like this. Club Captain Steve wants to remind everyone that the Club Championships start next Saturday, with the Ladies championships on Wednesday and the Vets on Thursday—a busy and exciting few weeks ahead.

Names are also still needed for all grades for the upcoming Pennants season. On another note, Peter Conroy won one an exciting Singles Matchplay last

weekend, defeating Isaiah Wolferstan one up after being square coming to the last. Very well done Peter with the game played in great spirit.

Saturday, 20 November 2021

Club Championships RD 1 Stableford

A Grade:
Winner David Matt 42
Runner Up: Adrian Chomiszak 40
Third: Brendan Bendeich 39
B Grade: Winner Neil Bridge 41
Runner Up: Trent McGee 40
Third: John Burgess 38

C Grade:
Winner: Pip Lancaster 42
Runner Up: Matthew Bain 37
Third: Colin Hughes 37

PRO'S NTP 18TH HOLE – PIP LANCASTER \$140 PROSHOP VOUCHER

Balls 24 Distributed down to score: 34

Sunday, 21st November Mens Club Championships RD 2- Stableford

Field 61
A Grade:
Winner: Greg Tearle 40
Runner Up: Brendan Bendeich 39
Third: Mick Tracey 37

B Grade:
Winner: Mick Carling 36
Runner Up: Neil Jordan 35
Third: Neil Bridge 34

C Grade:
Winner: David Pearce 35
Runner Up: Tim Lane 34
Third: Sam Bridge 33

Pros NTP 18th—Dave Kinch 307 cms \$102 Pro Shop Voucher

Eagle 7th Brendan Bendeich

Ball Winners: 32 pts
Overall Club Championships (after two rounds)

A Grade Scratch:
Joshua Tracey 143 (71,72); Lee Heuston 144 (72,72); Brendon Bendeich 147 (74,73); Mick Tracey 147 (73,74); Cameron Johanson 151 (74,77); Rod Wilton 152 (73,79); David Matt 153 (71,82); Peter Wilton 155 (80, 75)

A Grade Nett: Brendan Bendeich 133; Lee Heuston 136; Mick Tracey 137; David Matt 139; Joshua Tracey 139; Greg Tearle 140; David Kinch 142; Rod Wilton 144

B Grade Scratch:
Neil Bridge 172 (83,89); Trent McGee 174 (84,90); Paul Bush 177 (85,92); Neil Jordan 178 (90,88); Mick Carling 180 (90,90); Robert Hale 180 (87, 93); Eddie Garland 181 (92,89); Geoff Jones 181 (87,94)

B Grade Nett:
Neil Bridge 138; Trent McGee 138; Mick Carling 142; Robert Hale 144; Neil Jordan 146; Paul Bush 147; Joe Bereza 149

C Grade Scratch:
David Pearce 185 (92, 93); Tim Lane 189 (95,94); Pip Lancaster 191 (91,100); Col Hughes 192 (91,101); Sam Bridge 192 (98,94); Steve Primmer 195 (96,99); Rod Moylan 200 (97,103)

C Grade Nett
Pip Lancaster 139; David Pearce 141; Tim Lane 145; Col Hughes 148; Luke Matt 149; Sam Bridge 150

Mug of Mugs
Lee Heuston 133; David Matt 139; Joshua Tracey 139; David Kinch 142; Robert Hale 144; Chris Zawirski 145; Tim Lane 145

Veteran's Championships

Mick Tracey 75; Neil Bridge 75; Pip Lancaster 74; David Matt 73; Greg Tearle 72; Mick Carling 71; David Kinch 70; Robert Hale 69; Mick Barrett 68; Rod Wilton 68

Junior Championships Scratch: Sam Edmonds 164 (83,81); Zach Hayes 166 (85,81); Hugh Dilley 202 (101,101)

Nett: Sam Edmonds 146; Zach Hayes 150; Hugh Dilley 162.

The Branxton Championships began on Saturday with a very strong field of 80 players enjoying a beautiful, windless, sunny day for the first day, with some outstanding scores reflecting the playing conditions. David Matt had a brilliant day, winning A Grade with an outstanding 42 pts (a one over 71 off the stick). Adrian Chomiszak finished runner up with his 40 pts with the evergreen Mick Tracey third with his 37 pts from his 5 handicap. Neil Bridge won B Grade with an excellent 41 pts, just ahead of Trent McGee's 40 pts with John Burgess's 38 pts only good enough for third. C Grade was won by Pip Lancaster with a wonderful 42 pts, a score which included the Pro's NTPin on the last, a shot which finished only 58 cms past the pin after rolling over the edge of the hole, just missing a hole in one!

The \$140 Pro Shop voucher was a good consolation. 34 pts was needed to win a ball. Sunday's round proved to be more difficult with rain peppering the players all day. A Grade was won by Greg Tearle with an outstanding 40 pts, just ahead of the rejuvenated Brendan Bendeich with 39 pts with Mick Tracey, once again playing well, third with his 37 pts. B Grade was won by Mick Carling with 36 pts, with Neil Jordan (35) and Neil Bridge (34) filling the minor placings. C Grade was won by David Pearce with 35 pts, Tim Lane was runner up with his 34 pts and Sam Bridge third with 33 pts. Dave Kinch won the Pro's NTPin on the last, winning a \$104 voucher. The shot of the day belonged to Cory Hewson on the 13th, with his tee shot finishing only 26 cms away on this very difficult hole—a great shot! 32 pts was needed to win a ball. The overall Championships will come to some very interesting conclusions next week in all grades with former Club Champion, Joshua Tracey leading the way in A Grade on 143 (72,71)—only 3 over par. He is only one shot ahead of Lee Heuston (72,72), with Brendan Bendeich (74,73) and Mick Tracey (73,74) only 3 shots further back. Two-time champion, Cameron Johanson, lies a further 4 shots back (74,77). Some excellent golf awaits us next weekend as these players battle it out for the overall championship. Neil Bridge leads B Grade on 172 (83,89), just two shots ahead of Trent McGee on 174, with Paul Bush (178); Mick Carling (180); Robert Hale (180), Eddie Garland (181) and Geoff Jones (181) all still in the hunt. David Pearce leads C Grade on 185 (92,93), 4 shots clear of Tim Lane on 189. Pip Lancaster (191);

Col Hughes (192); Sam Bridge (192) and Steve Primmer (195) are all still a chance with two rounds to go. The Junior Championship will be great to watch with two very talented golfers, Sam Edmonds and Zach Hayes battling it out with only two shots between them. Next Sunday's last round will be worth watching with some outstanding golf ahead in all grades. On another Note, our 2020 Club Champion, Corey Lamb, is playing very well in The Vintage's Club Championships, having won the Stroke play section by a commanding 8 strokes on the weekend. He will now compete in the match play section this weekend where the 4 leaders play off in the semi-finals then finals to crown their champion. We wish him all the best as we know how talented this young man is in the game of golf.

HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB
Saturday 13th November

The Medley Stableford has been played on a heavy track following the recent rainfall which has taken the edge from the run of excellent scoring. A Grade went to Patrick Wand on countback to Tom Foster after they returned 35 points, B Grade to Andrew Schofield with 35 from Scott Vowles with 34 on countback and C Grade to Ron Higginbottom who mastered the conditions with the 'round of the day' 42 points from David John with 36 on countback. Ball winners were: Scott Jones 36, Spot 35, John Erasmus 35, Tracy Morison 34, Stephen Morgan 34, Wade Attewell 34, Russ Calderwood 34, Fluff 33, Peter Huckfeldt 33, Peter Perkins 33, David Agnew 32, Glenn Williams 32, John Robinson 32, Nick Looby 32 & Steve Piggott 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Nicholas Hain (3rd) Peter Huckfeldt (4th) & Andrew Schofield (10th).

Bookings are now available for Round 1 of the Club Championship for Men & Weekend Ladies on the 4th December.

Sunday 14th November
Broque Smith has won the Weekly Comp with 44 points from Gerald Degan 41 and Steve Piggott with 38 on countback. Ball winners are: John Tancred 38, Lawrence Cook 38, Justin Lawrence 38, Dave Hollis 36, Shane Miller 36, Matt Merlo 36, Jai Kumar 35, Saxon Hulsman 35, Phil Douglas 33, Jonathan Docking 33, Craig MacKenzie 32, Greg Baker 32, Lincoln Churcher 32, Cameron Davis 32, Rod Teasdale 32, Mick Corbett 31, John Feros 31, Anthony Norman 30, Brodie Smith 30 & John Degan 30 c/b

Tuesday 16th November
Curly Tomlinson fresh from a successful South Coast tour returned 'home' with a majestic 44 point round to clearly win the Tuesday Stableford from Josh Fagerstrom 39 & Tim Beasley 3rd on countback with 38 points. Mark Makin has played the perfect shot to hole the difficult 4th Hole, congrats Mate! Ball winners are: Gary Arnold 38, Col Bradley 38, Brandon Cole

38, Andrew Causey 37, Paul Smith 37, Drew dewar 37, Darrell Porter 36, Phil Douglas 36, Phil Darcy 35, Greg Ireland 34, Ben Charlton 34, Mick Barrett 34Rick Turchini 34, Gavin West 34, David Peel 33, George Makras 33, Alan Jamieson 32, Ryan Wilson 32, Jeff Shanahan 32, John Carmody 32, Rex Talbot 32, Bruce Matthews 31, Matt Merlo 31, Steve Piggott 31, Marc McGee 31, Tom Bell 31, Gayboy 31, Paul Neuss 31, John Stewart 31 & Ian Newell 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Gary Arnold (3rd) Mark Makin (Aced 4th) Ken Harris (8th) Phil Darcy (10th) & Lindsay Meyn (17th)

Thursday 18th November
The Vets Medley Stroke event has been seen Dave Hollis shot a scratch round of 71 to wrap up Division 1 with 62 net from Peter McIntyre 67, Rex Talbot starred in Division 2 with 66 net from Colin Somerville 67 and Dinki Di Oakes claimed Division 3 on countback from Peter the Pom after both returned 70 net. Ball winners are: Jack Kendall 68, Tom Bell 68, Wazza 69, Darrell Preston 70, Col Bardley 70, David Peel 70, Paul Smith 70, Graeme Smith 70, John Dengate 70, James Schofield 71, Bomber 71, Trevor Collins 71, Kevin Dick 71, Dean Morison 71, Tony Lorrigan 71, Graeme Flynn 72, Kerry Bartlett 72, Spot 72, Boss Hogg 72, Mark Green 72, Doug Wand 72, Steve Piggott 73, Garry Clarke 73, Ian Newell 73, Geoff Sweetman 73, Chris Nor-

man 73, Muz 73, Noel El-lenor 74 & Norm Barry 74 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Norm Barry (3rd) Dave Hollis (4th) GB Harris (8th) Peter Threadgold (10th) & Col Bradley (17th).

Saturday 20th November
The Blue Tee Challenge has once again seen some excellent scores handed in with Patrick Wand leading the way in A Grade with 41 points from Adrian Kent 38 runner up, B Grade needed a countback after Dean Freebairn & Steve Jones returned 38 each with Dean getting the nod for the win, C Grade has been won by Rod Teasdale with a great 43 point return from Dan Sutherland with 39. Ball winners are: Muz 38, Paul Campbell 38, Ben Bradley 37, Tony Butler 37, Matt Killick 36, Nick Hain 36, Andrew Zok 36, Jessica Carter 36, Ben Pickering 35, Blake Harry 35, David Crowley 35, Lindsay Meyn 35, Peter McIntyre 35, Darrell Porter 35, Mick Gilbert 35, Jeff Morton 35, Paul McCudden 35, Andrew Murray 34, Bill Harden 34, Stephen Zok 34, Nigel Mifsud 34, Russ Calderwood 34, Angello Wood 33, Peter Perkins 33, Evan Powell 33, Gerry Irwin 33, Jacko 33, Andrew Schofield 33 & Jason Mould 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Lindsay Meyn (3rd) Dean Morison (4th) & Steve Jones (10th). Next weeks event will be a Medley American Stableford.

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 11-11-21 Stableford

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Gents M Kingston Members draw - Won (L Porter)

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Ladies Div Winner R Friis 27 pts (c/b) R/u C Caldwell 27 pts 3rd J Harris 25 pts

NTP Ladies - N Busch

Gents - R Moyland Members draw - Not won

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The NEWS SPORT

Greta Workers



November Fishing Club Update

weekend. Club Secretary Nevo (Pictured at right) top scored on 96.1 points with Snapper, Trag, Nannygai and Flathead. Aidan "Dooogs" McDougall served as the decky for the first time onboard the well renowned vessel and managed a healthy score (67.7) with Trag, Nannygai, Mowey and Flatty. Club Giant Aaron Fox took on a solo mission on his brand new Poly craft vessel and finished third for the weekend with Squire, Flatty and a nice Pearl

Perch. Another notable mention to Summer Spliet-Miller who fished hard over the weekend and weighed in a Bream and a Flathead for her efforts. Our club AGM will be held Sunday 12th December at 10am at The Greta Workers Club. That will be followed by the Presentation starting at 1pm. The band Carrot Bowen and the Collective will be playing from 3pm and everyone is welcome to attend. The Fishing Club will also be providing a

face painter/entertainer to keep the kids occupied for an hour or two, all children are welcome. Another big thanks to our loyal sponsors for another great year for the Fishing Club, The Greta Workers Club, Elite Concreting, GoCon Rural Fencing, The Greta Bottlo, The Harvest Bistro, and The Sea Shanty have been great supporters to us, we cannot thank you enough.



The Fishing Club November trip was away to Forster/Tuncurry on the weekend of 12/13/14th November. Windy conditions cut down the chances of catching a good feed but there were still some fish weighed in. Competition leader Matt Wielgasz produced a below par score of 30.8 early in the weekend then went looking for love. The crew on board The Lucky Kingfisher finished First and Second for the

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