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Miller Park Hotels’ new bowling green officially opens; “A gift to the community”

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Last Wednesday, Australia Day, saw the very much anticipated and welcomed re-opening of the new bowling green at Miller Park Hotel Branxton coinciding with the reformation of Miller Park Bowling Club inc.

With the purchase of the Miller Park premises by the McNamara Hotel Group in January 2021, commencement on the removal of the original grass bowling green and installation of a state of the art 7 rink synthetic bowling green with under green panelling system began.

“With the grand opening and “christening” of the bowling green by Dale McNamara on Australia Day, it was a sight to behold, particularly for members of the past Miller Park Bowling Club,” a club spokesperson said.

With the closure of the Miller Park premises and bowling green over 18 months ago, a number of members had transferred to other bowling clubs to continue in their chosen sport and to be able to participate in competition matches.

“Upon being advised that the new owners of Miller Park Hotel were intending to revamp the bowling green, some past members got together to begin the process of getting the bowling club up and running again which was no mean feat, due to Covid restrictions in place at the time.”

Many telephone calls, informal meetings and information gathering sessions ensued, with the new Miller Park Bowling Club Inc. being officially incorporated on the 29th September 2021.

“Our inaugural AGM was held in January this year with a hard working committee established. Many thanks go to people within the organisations of Bowls New South Wales and Regional Bowls Hunter and Central Coast for their advice and assistance in getting our bowling club re-affiliated with Bowls New South Wales under our new banner. MPBC Inc. are also

very thankful for the number of donations of equipment we have received from other bowling clubs to enable us to get up and running again,” the club’s spokesperson said. “And here we are, with approximately 25 registered Miller Park Bowling Club Inc. members already, and growing. Our social bowling sessions have begun again on Wednesday afternoons from 4.00pm with community members interested in joining our friendly little Club welcome to come along and have a go,” he said.

Nominations for the 2022/23 Pennants and Championships season have been posted, and the hosting of inter-club tournaments is being discussed by the committee. The MPBC Inc. weekly meat, beer and meals raffle will recommence today from 5.00pm (Thursday 3rd February), followed by their ever popular Lucky Betty’s Wheel. “We welcome all our community to come along to Miller Park Hotel to enjoy a cold drink, excellent meal and great company and help support our bowling club’s fundraising.”

As Branxtonian, Peter Macfarlane said on the day ... “Dale didn’t have to do it; it’s a gift to the community”



• Principal of the McNamara Hotel Group, Dale McNamara, bowls the first bowl on the newly installed 7 rink synthetic bowling green last Wednesday, Australia Day at Miller Park Hotel, Branxton.



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Chief Petty Officer Cath Harvey receives Australian Day Achievement Award

Branxton resident & serving Australia Navy Officer, Cath Harvey, has been awarded an Australia Day Achievement Award.

Chief Petty Officer Harvey received the award for 'outstanding performance as Personnel Officer at HMAS Waterhen & her

significant contribution to Defence veterans & the wider community through her involvement in a range of community based

activities.' The commendation also stated that she had sought to achieve the best possible outcomes for the welfare of

Navy people by balancing the needs of the member with that of the organisation. 'In addition her devotion of significant personal time & resources to support her community is remarkable.' The commendation also

stated that her commitments also included coordinating and managing local ANZAC Day commemorations, fundraising & delivering inspirational addresses to local school groups & also supporting Aussie Hero Quilts.

Cath is no stranger to awards having received a USA Army Commendation Medal for her Meritorious Service whilst deployed in Afghanistan in January 2018. Congratulations.



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Australia Day Achievement Award

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CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CATHERINE MAREE HARVEY

In appreciation of your outstanding performance as the Personnel Officer at HMAS Waterhen and your significant contribution to Defence veterans and the wider community through your involvement in a range of community based activities.

You have sought to achieve the best possible outcomes for the welfare of Navy people by balancing the needs of the member with that of the organisation. In addition, your devotion of significant personal time and resources to support your community is remarkable. Reflecting your strong sense of community spirit and strength of character, your commitments include coordinating and managing local Anzac Day commemorations and fundraising efforts to support RSL operations, delivering inspirational addresses to school groups and community groups, and supporting groups such as Aussie Hero Quilts to care for other service people.

You can be justifiably proud of these achievements. BZ!

MJ Noonan, AO
Vice Admiral, Royal Australian Navy
Chief of Navy

REFLECTIONS

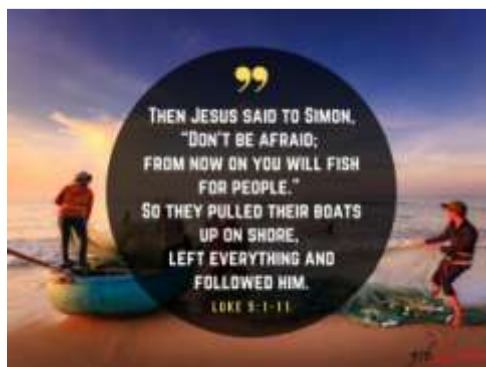
Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.'
Luke 5.10

The ordinariness of the setting of the call of the first disciples enables us to engage with the story, so that we might place ourselves into the story and explore our own responses to being called. We hear that the crowds were eager to hear Jesus' teaching and so were "pressing in on him." (Luke 5.1) This is not an unfamiliar experience or occurrence, wherever Jesus was, large crowds gathered to listen to him. People were amazed at the things he said, and the things he did. He spent time with ordinary people, in their normal everyday lives, and he showed them how to live, by teaching them through parables and stories. People were hungry to be fed by the wisdom and teaching of Jesus. This is something that is true of God's people of all times and places, including each one of us. Jesus feeds us spiritually, filling us with truth and knowledge. Jesus gets into the boat of Simon Peter and "asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat." (Luke 5.3) When he finished teaching those gathered on the shore, Jesus told Simon Peter to "put out into deeper water and let down your nets for a catch." (Luke 5.4) Simon Peter, though undoubtedly tired from the previous night's work, trusts Jesus and does as he is asked. He is rewarded with a catch bigger than his nets and boat can handle, bigger even than two boats could handle. Simon Peter's obedience and trust is rewarded, and his partners also reap the rewards of his obedience and trust. Then all three are called to be fishers of men. The first disciples called by Jesus were fishermen, who were going about their business, doing the ordinary things that were part of their daily lives. They had spent the night fishing, but had not made a catch, so they were washing their nets. They were getting the tools of their trade ready, maintaining their equipment, and preparing themselves and the boat for their next fishing trip. This was their work, it was not an evening and day of leisure and relaxation, but a night of hard work which produced no fruit of their labour. Or so they thought. This was how they lived and provided for themselves and their families. It was a part of their normal day and into that normal day, Jesus comes.

As we place ourselves into this story, are we among the crowds who remain amazed at the things Jesus teaches them? Or are we with the fishermen who after hauling in the catch are called by Jesus to follow him? Let us ponder how God calls us, and how willing we are to leave everything to follow Jesus. Let us also hear Jesus say, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people"?

May God's blessings rest gently upon you as you seek to follow him.

Reverend Nicole



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Branxton Editor receives the Australia Day Senior Citizen Award

By Mary Scully



• Photo (L-R): CCC Mayor Jay Suvaal, Senior Citizen of the Year Mike Lowing & Ambassador Prue Watt OAM

This year's Australia Day Celebrations were once again hosted by Cessnock City Council at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. Four new Australian citizens were welcomed and Australia Day Awards were presented to twelve deserving citizens for outstanding service to the local government area. Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal presided over the ceremony, Singer song-writer Tara Naysmith performed her duty as master of ceremonies and entertained the crowd with her wonderful singing. Paralympian swimming champion Prue Watt OAM fulfilled her role charmingly as Australia Day Ambassador. Despite the necessary restrictions imposed because of Covid the ceremony was

uplifting and the audience responded enthusiastically. Congratulations to the following 2022 Australia Day Award recipients:

- Citizen of the Year, Jordan Fallon
- Senior Citizen on the Year, Michael Lowing
- Young Citizen on the Year, Isabella Metcalfe
- Community Event of the Year, Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival
- Environment Award, Cessnock Community Leo's Club
- Maree Callaghan Award – Young Female Achiever, Georgina Bailey
- Community Award, Rossalyn Manners

- Community Award, Dr Farouk Wasti
- Community Award, Cynthia Morris
- Community Award, Ben Sams
- Community Award, Dianne Threadgate
- Community Award, Alysse Iliffe

Among the recipients this year was Branxton resident Mike Lowing. Michael was awarded the Senior Citizen of the Year for his tireless dedication to the Branxton community. He wears many hats and is probably best known for his role as editor and proprietor of The Branxton Greta Vineyard News. This little newspaper has been going since July 1997 and can now also be read online. But that certainly isn't the limit of his contribution to our

community.

Michael is president of North Rothbury Tidy Town and also president of St Vincent de Paul Society in Branxton, a role he's fulfilled for many years. He is treasurer of the Central Hunter Business Chamber, board member of Huntlee Academy and a member of Rotary Club of Maitland.

Many projects that we now take for granted involved strong lobbying by Michael. The new town of Huntlee, the building of the Hunter Expressway which bore the slogan 'Link or Sink', the Branxton to Greta cycleway and the walkway from Branxton to North Rothbury are just some of the projects in which Michael was deeply involved. He was also instrumental in gaining funding of \$10,000 from the NSW State Government for the 90th anniversary re-enactment of the Rothbury Riot Lockout. He has been involved with local sports clubs such as Branxton Bears Rugby League Club and Branxton Greta Colts Rugby League Club and for many years sponsored The Cessnock City Council Mayoral Scholarships.

This is a mere snapshot of Michael's dedication to our community. Michael and his wife Helen live in the rural village of North Rothbury and, being keen gardeners, their home is a magical haven. I'd like to wish Michael an enjoyable year in his new role as Senior Citizen of the year and I hope he'll enjoy the many activities he will, no doubt undertake during the coming twelve months. Congratulations Michael on winning this award which I'm sure your readers will consider very well deserved.

Maitland resident Melita Chilcott named Citizen of the Year

Maitland resident Melita Chilcott (pictured at right) has been named Citizen of the Year at this year's Australia Day Ceremony.

Ms Chilcott, a resident of Maitland for the past 30 years, was honoured for her volunteer work with vulnerable community members, senior citizens and the homeless.

In addition to tireless work with the State Emergency Service, Meals on Wheels and as a pro bono wedding and baby photographer for less fortunate people in the community, Ms Chilcott has applied her TAFE qualification in hairdressing by

offering her services free of charge to homeless and disadvantaged people at rehabilitation clinics and churches.

Ms Chilcott was nominated for the award by her daughter, Nadine Peters, who says that she has 'always wanted [her] mother to win an award for being the person she is. My mum proves that you don't have to be rich or famous to make a difference, just passionate about wanting to help.' Maitland Mayor Philip Penfold says 'the Maitland Citizen of the Year award celebrates local people who continuously go above and beyond and work hard



to help others.

'I would like to thank Melita for her charity work with vulnerable members of our community over a period of more than three decades in Maitland. Her enthusiasm, commitment and community spirit is deserving of recognition, as are our other nominees, who I would like to thank for their contribution to the advancement and wellbeing of Maitland.'

25 year old Bolwarra Heights resident Montana Duggan was named Young Citizen of the Year for her work on the committee of local non-profit, Friends of Palliative Care.

Dedicated Aboriginal elder and "young man with a great sense of community" recognised in Singleton's Australia Day ceremony



The 2022 Singleton Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year have been described as two deserving recipients who are positive role models for the community at today's official Australia Day ceremony in Singleton.

Citizen of the Year Uncle Warren Taggart is well regarded for his work to preserve and share the rich history and culture

of the Wonnarua/Wanaruah people, while Young Achiever of the Year Liam Byrne is a "young man with a great sense of community" as a volunteer with Singleton Legacy and Dolly's Charity Shop, as well as a successful athlete.

The announcement was livestreamed as part of the official COVID-safe ceremony at Singleton Civic Centre this

morning, where five new Australians were welcomed in the Citizenship Ceremony and the Hon George Souris AM delivered the official Australia Day Guest Address. Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said while it was disappointing COVID restrictions had limited the community festivities this year, it was great to see hundreds of

people tuning in for the ceremony with more than 750 viewers on Council's website and Facebook page.

"Australia Day is one of our most important community occasions when we come together to celebrate what we all have in common as Australians, and to recognise those people who make our community special," she said.

"COVID has brought limitations with face-to-face events, but it's also brought new opportunities for more people to come together regardless of where or how they're marking Australia Day. "It's been a wonderful day to share in the significance of the day for five people from India, South Africa and New Zealand who are now Australian citizens, and to celebrate those people who go above and beyond to make a difference in our community."

"Uncle Warren and Liam are most deserving recipients as positive role models for our community, and I sincerely congratulate them and all of the nominees who were recognised today."

■ Photo Above: Singleton Young Achiever of the Year Liam Byrne, Mayor of Singleton Cr Sue Moore and Singleton Citizen of the Year Uncle Warren Taggart.

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STEVE'S

RANT

“Hopelessness and desperation drive the people to revolt”

It is saddening to watch the Save The Children Fund promotion on TV which shows pictures of near-dead undernourished babies who, if they survive, will be physically and mentally reduced children for the rest of their short lives. That this situation is occurring now, when the world has never produced so much food, beggars' belief.

Your 'inner critic' might leave you saddened or feeling guilty at these pictures. This empathy is fine, just needing to be directed to the right places – do not let it cause inner disquiet.

Here at home our logistic systems are beset by manpower shortages and fluctuations in demand and supply caused by the China Virus. However, the starvation of peoples in Yemen, Ethiopia, Venezuela, and the outlying areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, to mention a few, has been occurring for decades. Our ability to react and provide relief to these people is compromised by conflict and lately the pandemic.

In most cases the conflict is about ideas on politics, racial or tribal difference and religious fundamentalism. Where ideology is not contested, the conflict is between a power elite attempting to hold on to their privileges against the majority, as in Myanmar, Sudan and Venezuela.

In the latter case, thuggery by the armed forces is used by the self-appointed elite to subjugate the majority. The inevitable consequences are a break down of the country's economy, isolation from the outside world by sanctions, internal conflict, and generation of refugees begins or continues. The regular rhythm of society is destroyed, producing a shortage of food, shelter, safety and the certainty of a brighter tomorrow.

Hopelessness and desperation drive the people to revolt or to leave if they can. They bravely endure punishment from their tormentors or risk their lives in the effort to regain freedom. Where the conflict is purely ideological such as in Yemen, Somalia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan, Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq, it will involve racial (tribal), religious and political elements.

The parties to the conflict will have fundamental and historical grievances that cannot accommodate dissenting ideas and will endeavour to exercise political and religious control. Hence a caliphate of the Shia or the Sunnie branches of Islam, (which evolve into a tyranny of the many by the elite) being played out in Syria, and Iraq. In Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia it is racism and tribalism driven by fundamentalist Islam.



While these intractable conflicts continue aid agencies cannot assist the civilian populations unless they are concentrated in UN-sanctioned refugee camps. As we know, these are not always safe. They are a stop-gap measure in any case. Meanwhile, Russia, Iran and the Communist Party of China use these troubles to gain influence and control over strategic locations, minerals and trade without regard for any humanitarian consideration. These are the three Princes of Darkness.

Name one UN-sponsored refugee camp that receives support from any of the above, ask how many refugees these countries accept willingly, and what contribution in hard cash do they make to the UN. Watching the television, the people asking for support are

good people. And those answering the call for funds are also good people. Ten dollars a month is not too much to ask. One should not feel shame or guilt if one is not able to donate. One sponsor allegedly visited his adult child and was dismayed to find him mentally diminished, toting an AK-47 and fathering many illegitimate children. There must be success stories too.

Australians who pack up and go to trouble spots to assist in these appalling places are amazing citizens. Locally, Mike (Editor) and real estate agent Helen Lowing's son, who served with Médecins Sans Frontières in Pakistan and Afghanistan some years ago, reinforces that consanguineous service is common.

(An aside; I would like to

acknowledge last weeks recognition of Editor Mike for his life of service at the 2022

Australia Day awards, as he received the Senior Citizen of the Year Award).

No one country, organisation or authority can hope to stop these conflicts which circle the globe. The best we can do is be good neighbours. Perhaps one rich country can mentor one other troubled country when located nearby, but how do you match up the rich country to the troubled country, and what other commitments does the rich country have for foreign aid?

For example, Western Australia could be the mentor for Madagascar. Perhaps by having offices from agricultural, forestry and public works departments there to assist with projects. People are starving in

Madagascar because of forest destruction, drought and poor or no infrastructure.

- * The Northern Territory, to mentor for East Timor,
- * Queensland for the Solomon Islands,
- * NSW could mentor Vanuatu and Fiji.
- * New Zealand could look after Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands.
- * Australia as a whole might look after Papua Nu Gini (PNG).

How the rest of the rich and developing countries be paired up would be an excellent job for the UN.

Victoria can't teach anyone anything, too busy "All Hailing Dan", and South Australians are too busy "Dobbing" in their neighbours, abducting children and murdering each other.



JUST SO YOU REALISE WHAT IS GOING ON

I just had a notification from an organisation, who sends a cleaner to my house for one and a half hours once a fortnight. It advised us we should wear a mask when she is here and move to another part of the house, and if you believe... we should open the windows, as added gratuitous advice. It also informed us that all staff are vaccinated.

Both of us are fully injected for COVID and are not sick (in which case we would cancel the service); we do not socialise outside our home and have few visitors. This impudence is a step too far for me.

It interferes with my fundamental personal rights.

Common law rights exist to ensure the right to life, liberty and possessions, and

these are recognised by the High Court in Australia. Common law rights are not "given by Government; therefore, in saying they are giving our freedoms back, well, blah blah, it was not for them to curtail in the first place. Amendments in 1947 to the Australian Constitution gave us the right to bodily autonomy. Not to be subscribed by the

Government to medical or pharmaceutical intervention or forced into experimental tests, which the COVID injections are, not having been trialled by years of testing.

Coercion to forgo these rights by unelected or even elected supposedly benevolent providers has no justification from so-called "emergency powers" (we are not at war), which become permanent in time and set precedents for woke elected dictatorships to take over. This includes mask mandates, threatening job security, and shaming those who resist. So, think before you vote.

The idea that the individual should comply with the group expectations denies individual rights and leads to sacrificing and eliminating the minority, as history shows us.

Democide is not necessarily the elimination of entire cultural groups but rather groups within the country that the government feels need to be eradicated for political reasons and claims future threats.

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

My husband put his life on the line for freedom for twenty years.

We will not be wearing masks in our own home.

The crowing media happily reporting the unvaccinated are taking up ICU beds, is a crude attempt to vilify these patients; I remind them that those Australians are justly exercising their rights, and have paid taxes for hospitals just like everyone else.

If you think it is easier to look the other way, and go along with the majority you might look at the long-term consequences and question your values.

Please do not give up your freedom. Others have died for it.

M. Lind North Rothbury NSW

My beef

The Kurri Kurri Aluminium Smelter ceased production in October 2012 due in part to the Labor Party, Labor Unions and Delta Energy power contracts.

The original potline was 43

years old while potline two 1981 and three 1985 were relatively new at just over 30 years. By comparison Bell Bay Smelter in Tasmania commenced construction in 1955 and is still operating.

No one, including our side of politics, gave any support to the people of Kurri Kurri when it was announced that the plant was shutting down many years before its use by date. We lost 450 direct employees and an equivalent amount of contractors and the Hunter Region lost a \$50 million payroll.

We now have an opportunity to see a new industrial site and residential land approved to rebuild the economic capacity of the Kurri Kurri district.

MY BEEF.

The redevelopment and approval process began in 2014 (7 years ago). Do you think this is a reasonable timeframe for the Department of Planning and their associated side offices to approve redevelopment?

I don't think so. The Federal Government through Snowy Hydro have just approved the

construction of a Peek Load 600 meg power station on part of the old smelter footprint.

There are many issues still to be resolved. 25% of the site is in the Maitland LGA and is getting close to rezoning approval. The remainder of the site including Bio Diversity offsets is in the Cessnock LGA.

The old OEH now Project Delivery Group and the BCD Biodiversity Conservation Division all part of the Planning Department are holding up the approval process, possibly for more than another year.

I believe this to be unacceptable. I have been on the demolition and redevelopment committee CRG of the smelter land

On a lighter note; Sri Lanka could look after Victoria and teach them how to play cricket. Cheers, Steve

since its inception. I was previously an 18 year employee of the smelter holding down the roles of Senior HR and their Community Relations Officer, so I have skin in the game when it comes down to the rezoning process.

We now have a new Planning Minister in place in Anthony Roberts. I would hope that he is able to get the various departments/divisions within his portfolio to work at approving this development in a timely manner in 2022.

Rod Doherty, Rutherford NSW

The Editor, The BGV News,
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Out & About

with Mike Lowing

Opening of Miller Park Hotels' new bowling green. Australia Day 2022



Dale McNamara with the 3 remaining Life Members of the former Miller Park Sports & Recreation Bowling Club. From (L-R), Dale McNamara, 96-years young Norma Reichel, Esma Becker & Brenton Applecamp. There were 5 Life Members with 2 deceased.



Dale McNamara and Cessnock City Councillor Ann Sander. Ann received special mention from Dale for her help in getting the Hotel up-and-running

Above & Below: Bowlers enjoying a good bowl after the opening



Dale McNamara, principal of the McNamara Hotel Group and his wife Berndette enjoying the day

Members say ..



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

It was a great pleasure to attend Cessnock City's Australia Day celebrations as one of my first official duties as Mayor. While it was a different ceremony than usual due to the pandemic, it was still great to see our community come together to support our award winners and welcome our new citizens. Jordan Fallon was named Citizen of the Year for his outstanding contribution to our community. Jordan has dedicated a significant amount of time to investigating and preserving the local military history in the small villages of Kearsley, Abernethy and Elrington, ensuring we remember and acknowledge the sacrifice of those who have gone before us. Michael Lowing was awarded Senior Citizen of the Year for his dedication to the Branxton community. Mike is the go-to person in Branxton and continues to build pride in the local area via a range of wonderful initiatives. His efforts have seen a threefold increase in memberships for the Tidy Towns North Rothbury group, which is just incredible. Mike also coordinated actors and orators and directed traffic control for the Riot Memorial celebrations, and he has developed and launched new projects or initiatives in all his fields of interest. Above all, Mike listens to community concerns and either addresses them himself, or redirects them to the appropriate channels. Cessnock's Young Citizen of the Year went to Isabella Metcalfe for her excellence in youth advocacy and leadership, and extensive history of volunteering. It was inspiring to hear the stories behind why these individuals were acknowledged for the selfless work they have undertaken to the benefit of our community. I would also like to thank our Australia Day Ambassador, Prue Watt OAM. Prue is a former gold medal winning Paralympian who has competed at three Paralympics. Blind since birth, Prue certainly has a remarkable story of triumph over adversity. A special citizenship ceremony was also held to welcome four of Cessnock's newest Australian citizens. I

am honoured to have been able to be a part of their journey to becoming Australian's. Cessnock City Council's Support Local competition continues throughout February. This month, Cessnock local government area residents are being asked to give a shout out to their favourite hairdresser or beautician in Greater Cessnock. Simply post a photo of your new style, the salon, or staff to social media, using the hashtag #SupportLocalCessnock. Make sure you also tag the business in your post for your chance to win one of five \$100 gift vouchers. This week Cessnock City Councillors have been undertaking the council induction process. Following the December local government election, the council has welcomed seven new councillors – Jessica Jurd, John Moores, Karen Jackson, Daniel Watson, Rosa Grine, Mitchell Hill and Paul Paynter. They now join returning councillors Anne Sander, Anthony Burke, Paul Dunn, Ian Olsen and James Hawkins. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the Council in their new Civic roles and I look forward to working constructively and positively with the whole of the elected council to focus on our shared commitment to the people, organisations and businesses of the Cessnock Local Government Area. The Council will hold an extraordinary Council meeting on February 9, 2022, to officially kick off this council term.

Cheers, Jay

JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Member for Hunter

It's hard to believe Christmas is again full of COVID-19 induced uncertainties. Attending functions lately, I discovered many people fearful of the impacts of the virus had elected not to attend. People are understandably concerned not just of becoming sick but of having their family events disrupted. This is an understandable and rational reaction. After being told that vaccination brings freedom, we all now hold doubts. We've all done the hard isolation yards and deserve a reward. Let's hope common sense prevails and the Premiers

hold their nerve. With 90 per cent of the population double-jabbed, it's time to live with the virus and to get on with our lives. We can't afford any more lockdowns – not economically, not emotionally nor psychologically. The only thing that could justify more restrictions is hospital capacity problems. If our intensive care units became full, I concede government would need to act although they've had plenty of time to expand the number of beds. Let's collectively hope that doesn't happen. Amongst all of this drama we are now being told we need to secure a booster vaccination shot. The problem is, many of us don't yet qualify because we were denied the first two shots for so long as priority was afforded our city cousins. Unless the health experts change their advice, many won't qualify until well into the new year. Further, the booster vaccines are not available in sufficient quantity. Hopefully, we'll have a better idea of what 2022 will look like. Let's hope. Our local economy remains strong and we have every reason to believe it will remain so. We just need to put the pandemic behind us.

I thank all those who have worked so hard in our local community during these difficult times. In particular I thank our volunteers – all those who freely give their time and energy to those not so fortunate. We are blessed to have so many willing and able to do so. I thank in advance, all of our emergency services personal who will be called upon again this summer to help those affected by the vagaries of our weather and the inevitable holiday period accidents. We can all do our bit to reduce their load by taking additional precautions to keep ourselves safe. Take care everyone.

Cheers, Joel

Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

CRYSTAL BALL PREDICTIONS FOR 2022

It's time for the year's most important column – one that will see the rise of fortunes and the demise of political careers. No one is spared from the power of the crystal ball and if there is future to be told then it will

be told in this column. Seriously though, this is all tongue in cheek and I urge people to consider this column in jest.

I am sorry to inform all parents that the school year looks set for further disruptions. The shrinking number of school teachers, the growing number of school students, and the constant battering that the profession gets from the hands of ignorant politicians will see schools short staffed on more days than not.

The Prime Minister will spend the next 4 months being both for and against free speech; for and against climate change; for and against government action to address the pandemic; for and against the speed at which we must act. And then the Prime Minister will change careers and become a fireman.

The ghost of COVID is going nowhere soon. The next version of COVID, to be known as Pi, will sweep across the globe just like Omicron and Delta did. It will defy immunisations and Australia will be left in yet another whirlpool of no one being responsible for the poor response from Governments – “it was (insert name) fault!”

In June I can see a crypto-currency fail. I see a major hack of the online form of currency and I see billions and billions of dollars simply disappearing from people's accounts. This will coincide with a stock market fall that will make the GFC seem like a sneeze. And Governments (ie: taxpayers) will again be left to foot the bill for all of the private wealth that is lost.

And finally, I see the NSW Government genuinely recognising that the economy deserves a shot in the arm and the quickest way to do that, most equitably across the State, is to increase public servant wages by 5%; which will be money immediately injected into local economies to the benefit of small and large business owners.

REFLECTING ON CRYSTAL BALL PREDICTIONS FOR 2021

Unfortunately the predication in last year's crystal ball, that the vaccine rollout might be handled badly, came all too true. And incredibly, no matter who was asked, it was always someone else's fault. Also in political terms, despite science leading our response to COVID, politicians continue to fail to accept the science behind things like climate change and as a result Australia embarrassed itself globally, over and over again. Turns out Gladys didn't see the end of the year, as predicted in the crystal ball column from 2020, yes 12 months ahead of its time. It also turns out that the major football codes didn't have a year free of “gooses” – in fact if memory serves me, last year we had our first series of goose behaviour

before my column even got printed. And it also turns out that passenger trains didn't return to the villages of Cessnock (quite frankly I thought that this was a wild prediction by the Ball, but who was I to argue?). And the former President of the U.S. still isn't behind bars, despite the crystal ball predictions for the past 3-4 years. In fact, the former President hasn't even had to table his tax returns, despite 5+ years of efforts to get hold of them. Nor has he admitted that he lost the last election, which in reality is as much to do with his mental state of being, as opposed to any potential crime.

....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

IND Sue Moore, re-elected
Mayor Singleton Council

After another wonderful livestreamed Australia Day ceremony last week where we reflected on how fortunate we are to live in our part of the nation and as we welcomed five new citizens, it's an honour to congratulate our 2022 Citizen of the Year Uncle Warren Taggart and Young Achiever of the Year Liam Byrne on their achievements and thank them for the contribution they make to our community.

Uncle Warren is well known for his work to preserve and share the rich history and culture of the Wonnarua/Wanaruah people, while Liam is a young man with a great sense of community as a volunteer with Singleton Legacy and Dolly's Charity Shop, as well as a successful athlete. We are fortunate indeed to have them, and all of our Australia Day awards nominees, working for our community for no other reward than making life better for all of us. Our special Australia Day guest, the Hon. George Souris AM, summed it up beautifully when he

described the privileges and opportunities with being an Australian, and why that is particularly so in the welcoming and engaging community that is the Singleton local government area.

In that vein, and as we work with Cessnock City Council on a Destination Management Plan for the Hunter Valley and Singleton, it's timely to consider all the attractions in our backyard and how we can enhance our visitor economy for the benefit of our residents and businesses.

We're asking our residents and businesses for your ideas – whether it's a suggestion for a particular experience, family attraction or business event, or feedback on infrastructure, residents and businesses are encouraged to take the short survey on how you think we can grow visitation and tourism in Singleton. The survey closes on 4 February and you can find the link on Council's Facebook page. While you're on your device, you can also download the new Singleton Public Library app that was launched, appropriately, via Zoom.

The app allows you to carry the Library's extensive collection on your phone or device wherever you go – you can check whether a book you're looking for is available, place a reservation, check your account or when you're in the Library, check out your own items. It's available to download wherever you download your apps.

Stay safe & well
Cheers, Sue

Member for Upper Hunter
Dave Layzell MP

LOCAL SCHOOL LEAVERS TO UNLOCK THEIR FUTURE AT TAFE NSW INFORMATION SESSIONS

Local school leavers are being encouraged to explore their vocational education options at TAFE NSW Muswellbrook, Scone, and Singleton during information sessions underway through until the end of February. With students having received their HSC results last week, now is the perfect time for young people to attend a TAFE NSW information session. Local students can learn all about what's on offer at TAFE NSW Muswellbrook, Scone and Singleton through virtual and on-site information sessions about exciting course areas such as

business, leadership and management, animal care, and equine. Choosing TAFE NSW is an obvious choice for school leavers who want courses that are relevant, up-to-date and focused on job readiness, so that they have the skills to meet employer and industry needs. Minister for Skills and Training, Alister Henskens, said the information sessions will provide prospective students with an invaluable opportunity to explore the innovative range of courses available at TAFE NSW. TAFE NSW students are in high demand because of the quality of their education and ability to hit the ground running with job-ready skills that employers are looking for.

“There has never been a better time to study at TAFE, with the NSW Government funding a range of fee-free courses and training programs to help people get the skills they need for the jobs they want.”

To register for the information sessions visit www.tafensw.edu.au/information-sessions.

TRAVEL CARD – APPLY NOW!
Applications are open for the 2022 NSW Regional Seniors Travel Card with expanded eligibility criteria in place this year. Eligible applicants receive a \$250 pre-paid Visa card to use for fuel, taxis, pre-booked NSW TrainLink Regional trains and coaches, and select community transport services.

Seniors can apply for a travel card if they have reached the Age Pension age or are receiving either a Disability Support Pension or Carer Payment from Services Australia.

Applications are open until 30 November with the latest health advice that seniors are strongly advised to apply online rather than visiting a service centre, by going to <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/regionalseniorstravel>, or call 13 77 88.

Cheers, Dave

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News

P: 4938 1773

Dolly Parton Imagination Library launches in Cessnock



Photo: Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Jay Suvaal with his children Ethan and Caleb at Cessnock Library.

book brings to my own children, so I'm really excited to support any program that gives children the opportunity to experience the joy of reading," Councillor Suvaal said.

"Early childhood census data shows children in the Cessnock LGA are below the state average when it comes to literacy and communication skill levels." "This is a practical

Cessnock City Council is excited to launch Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in 2022, which is an innovative book gifting project aiming to improve the literacy levels of young children across the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). Initiated by the international country music celebrity over 20 years ago, the Imagination Library has seen over 160 million books delivered to children in the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. The aim of the project is to provide children with access to their own library of literary resources from an early age. This will assist them to develop essential literacy skills while

learning to read and write. From January 2022, every newborn child who is living within the Cessnock LGA will be eligible to access the Imagination Library, which will see them receive a free age-appropriate book every month, until they turn five. To register, parents and carers must complete a short registration form, which is available at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries and local family health nurses. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Jay Suvaal, said he was delighted to see a program like this rolled out in the Cessnock community. "I know how much joy reading a

approach at the local community level to better equip young children and provide them with the resources they need to help lift these numbers." The charity organisation United Way Australia will work with Cessnock City Library to administer the Cessnock project.

United Way Australia's CEO, Clayton Noble said, "United Way Australia is very excited to be partnering with Cessnock City Library on this innovative program. The commitment to ensuring every child born in the region is school ready is to be applauded."

Healthier Italian chicken



(15m prep, 20m cook, 4 servings)
(Recipe may contain gluten, peanuts, tree nuts, milk and soy)
If you're looking for a healthier take on the classic Italian chicken dinner, this one's for you. The creamy and cheesy sauce is packed full of flavour, but it's lower in calories than many traditional Italian casserole dishes.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 tbsp olive oil
- 4 small chicken breast fillets
- 1 tsp sweet paprika
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed

- 1 tbsp chopped fresh rosemary leaves
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 500ml (2 cups) salt-reduced chicken stock
- 125ml (1/2 cup) cream for cooking
- 25g (1/3 cup) finely grated parmesan
- 1/2 bunch (about 4 stems) silverbeet, stems removed, leaves coarsely chopped
- 2 roma tomatoes, finely chopped
- Small fresh basil leaves, to serve



Method

1. Heat 2 tsp of the oil in a large frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook for 3 minutes each side or until golden. Transfer to a plate.
2. Heat the remaining oil in the pan over medium heat. Add the paprika, garlic and rosemary. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until aromatic. Add flour and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Gradually add the stock, whisking constantly, until smooth and combined. Stir in cream.
3. Return chicken to the pan. Bring to the boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium. Cover and simmer, turning occasionally, for 10 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.
4. Add the parmesan, silverbeet and tomato and cook for 2 minutes or until the silverbeet has wilted. Season. Scatter over the basil to serve.

medicine. Other symptoms are improving — loss of taste and smell might last for weeks or months after recovery but shouldn't delay ending isolation. These recommendations may differ if you have had severe COVID-19 or have a weakened immune system. Most people don't need testing to decide when they can be around others. If you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19

If you are caring for someone with COVID-19 and you aren't fully vaccinated, it's recommended that you get tested at least 5 days after being exposed. The CDC also recommends that you quarantine for 5 days after your last contact with the sick person and watch for symptoms of COVID-19. After that, wear a mask for 5 days. If you can't quarantine, wear a mask for 10 days. Try to stay away from people in your

household. If you have symptoms, self-isolate. However, if you've been caring for someone with COVID-19, you don't need to stay home if: You've gotten all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots. You've had COVID-19 within the last three months, recovered and remain without symptoms of COVID-19. But wear a mask when you're around other people for 10

days. If you've received the recommended vaccine doses but not a booster, stay home for 5 days. Get tested after at least 5 days. And wear a mask for 5 more days. If you're not able to stay home, wear a mask for 10 days. Get tested at least 5 days after the exposure, even if you don't have symptoms. It's also recommended that you wear a mask in public for 10 days following the exposure.

Pharmacist Advice with



Treating COVID-19 at home: Care tips for you and others (by Mayo Clinic)

At-home treatment

Most people who become sick with COVID-19 will only experience mild illness and can recover at home. Symptoms might last a few days, and people who have the virus might feel better in about a week. Treatment is aimed at relieving symptoms and includes rest, fluid intake and pain relievers.

However, older adults and people of any age with existing medical conditions should call their doctor as soon as symptoms start. These factors put people at greater risk of becoming seriously ill with COVID-19.

Follow the doctor's recommendations about care and home isolation for yourself or your loved one. Talk to the doctor if you have any questions about treatments. Help the sick person get groceries and any medications and, if needed, take care of his or her pet. It's also important to consider how caring for a sick person might affect your health. If you are older or have an existing medical condition, such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, you may be at higher risk of serious illness with COVID-19. You might consider isolating yourself from the sick person and finding another person to provide care.

Emergency warning signs Carefully monitor yourself or your loved one for worsening symptoms. If symptoms appear to be getting worse, call the doctor.

The doctor might recommend use of a home pulse oximeter, especially if the ill person has risk factors for severe illness with COVID-19 and COVID-19 symptoms.

A pulse oximeter is a plastic clip that attaches to a finger. The device can help check breathing by measuring how much oxygen is in the blood. A reading of less than 92% might increase the need for hospitalization. If the doctor recommends a pulse oximeter, make sure you understand how to use the device properly and when a reading should prompt a call to the doctor. If you or the person with COVID-19 experiences emergency warning signs, medical attention is needed immediately. Call 911 or your local emergency number if the sick person can't be woken up or you notice any emergency signs, including:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent chest pain or pressure
- New confusion
- Bluish lips or face
- Inability to stay awake

Pale, gray or blue-coloured skin, lips or nail beds — depending on skin tone

Protecting others if you're ill

If you're ill with COVID-19, you can help prevent the spread of infection with the COVID-19 virus. Stay home from work, school and public areas unless it's to get medical care.

Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing services or taxis. Stay isolated in one room, away from your family and other people, as much as possible. This includes eating in your room. Open windows to keep air circulating. Use a separate bathroom, if possible.

Avoid shared space in your home as much as possible. When using shared spaces, limit your movements. Keep your kitchen and other shared spaces well ventilated. Stay at least 6 feet (2 metres) away from your family members. Clean often-touched surfaces in your separate room and bathroom, such as doorknobs, light switches, electronics and counters, every day.

Avoid sharing personal household items, such as dishes, towels, bedding and electronics.

Wear a face mask when near others. Change the face mask each day. If wearing a face mask isn't possible, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing. Afterward, throw away the tissue or wash the handkerchief.

Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Protecting yourself while caring for someone with COVID-19

To protect yourself while caring for someone with COVID-19, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend:

Keep your hands clean and away from your face. Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in close contact or in the same room as the sick person. If soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Wear a face mask. If you need to be in the same room with the person who is ill and he or she isn't able to wear a face mask, wear a face mask. Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from the ill person. Don't touch

or handle your mask while you are using it. If your mask gets wet or dirty, replace it with a clean, dry mask. Throw away the used mask and wash your hands.

Clean your home frequently. Every day, use household cleaning sprays or wipes to clean surfaces that are often touched, including counters, tabletops and door-knobs. Avoid cleaning the sick person's separate room and bathroom. Set aside bedding and utensils for the sick person only to use.

Be careful with laundry. Don't shake dirty laundry. Use regular detergent to wash the sick person's laundry. Use the warmest setting you can. Wash your hands after putting clothes in the dryer. Thoroughly dry clothes. If you are handling clothing that has been soiled by the sick person, wear disposable gloves and keep the items away from your body. Wash your hands after removing the gloves. Place dirty gloves and masks in a waste bin with a lid in the sick person's room. Clean and disinfect clothes hampers and wash your hands afterward.

Be careful with dishes. Wear gloves when handling dishes, cups or utensils used by the sick person. Wash the items with soap and hot water or in the dishwasher. Clean your hands after taking off the gloves or handling used items.

Avoid direct contact with the sick person's bodily fluids. Wear disposable gloves and a face mask when providing oral and respiratory care and when handling stool, urine or other waste. Wash your hands before and after removing your gloves and mask. Don't reuse your mask or gloves.

Avoid having unnecessary visitors in your home. Don't allow visitors until the sick person has completely recovered and has no signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

Ending isolation or quarantine

If you have COVID-19 Isolation is used to separate people with the COVID-19 virus from those who aren't sick. Talk to the doctor about when to end home isolation if you have a weakened immune system. If you think or know you had COVID-19 and had symptoms, it's OK to be around others after: At least 5 days have passed since your symptoms started. Wear a mask when you're around others for 5 more days. If you don't have a fever and want to get tested after at least 5 days, you may do so. But if your test is positive, stay at home for 5 more days. At least 24 hours have passed with no fever without the use of fever-reducing

Give a shout out to your local hairdresser or beautician and WIN

Cessnock City Council's Economic Development Team has five \$100 gift cards to giveaway this February as part of its ongoing 'Support Local' campaign.



For the month of February, residents are encouraged to post to Facebook or Instagram and give a shout out to an on point hairdresser or beautician in Greater Cessnock. Simply post a photo of your new style, the salon

or staff (with their permission of course) and tag the business for your chance to win. To ensure the team can see your entry, set the post to public and use the campaign hashtag #SupportLocalCessnock. Residents can enter as many times as they like and are encouraged to tag the local business mentioned in the post.

The 'Support Local' campaign is all about encouraging residents to support local business. With 10 competitions planned via social media, there is a total of \$5000 in prizes to be given away, including gift cards, restaurant and accommodation vouchers, hampers and more.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Jay Suvaal, is calling on the community to get involved and give a shout out to these fantastic local businesses.

"Our local hairdressers and beauticians have done it tough during COVID, so this is a wonderful opportunity to show them our support for the great work they do, and the friendly people they are," Councillor Suvaal said.

This competition will run from 1 to 28 February 2022. For terms and conditions, visit the [Advance Greater Cessnock website](#) and be sure to follow the [Advance Cessnock City Facebook page](#) to stay up-to-date with the 'Support Local' campaign.

Local business owners can access the ['Support Local' campaign toolkit](#) via the Advance Greater Cessnock website to help promote their services and facilities. .

■ Photo above: Bliss Beauty Branxton

First time councillors scoop the pool at election

Cessnock City Council has a fresh new team of mostly first time councillors following the official declaration of the election last week.

The new Council brings a mix of new and experienced councillors from across the Cessnock Local Government Area, with more than 50 per cent of those elected being first time councillors.

The successful candidates from Ward A are Jessica Jurd (first time Councillor), Paul Dunn (re-elected Councillor) and James Hawkins who previously served two terms on Council from 2008 to 2016.

The successful candidates from Ward B are Ian Olsen (re-elected Councillor), Anthony Burke (re-elected Councillor) and John Moores (first time Councillor).

The successful candidates from Ward C are Anne Sander (re-elected Councillor), Karen Jackson (first time Councillor) and Daniel Watton (first time Councillor).

The successful candidates from Ward D are Rosa Grine (first time Councillor), Mitchell Hill (first time Councillor) and Paul Paynter (first time Councillor).

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Jay Suvaal, congratulated all successful candidates on their election and said

he is looking forward to working with them to deliver positive outcomes for our community.

"We certainly have some challenges ahead of us, but with a new council, comes fresh ideas and I look forward to what we can achieve together," Councillor Suvaal said.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank former Mayor, Bob Pynsent, for his years of service to our community and all of the outgoing councillors for their contribution."

The popularly elected Mayor, Jay Suvaal, steps into the new role after serving one term on Cessnock City Council, including a period as Deputy Mayor.

"I'm looking forward to being able to work with everyone across our community. We have many challenges ahead of us, but I am committed to listening to local residents to make sure we have the community infrastructure needed as our region grows."

Mayor Clr Suvaal's priorities for Cessnock include improved roads, park upgrades, and connectivity through footpaths and shared pathways.



Jay Suvaal, newly elected Mayor of Cessnock

Lions Club of Branxton – diary dates for 2021-2022



Month	Time/Day / Date	Event
January	Saturday 22 nd	Bunnings - Singleton
February	Wednesday 2 nd	Lions Meeting – Golf Club
March ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS MONTH	Wednesday 2 nd	Lions Meeting – Golf Club
	Sunday 6 th March	Lions Awareness Day / Clean Up Australia
	Sunday 13 th	Youth of the Year Regional Final
	Thursday 17 th Saturday 19 th	Lions lunch Bunnings Singleton
April	Saturday 2 nd	Cessnock Seniors Festival
May	Wednesday 4 th	Lions Meeting – Golf Club
	Saturday 7 th	Bunnings - Singleton
	Sunday 14 th	Club Development Day #3
	TBA Thursday 19 th	World Hunger Day Lions lunch
June	Wednesday 1 st	Lions Meeting – Golf Club
	Thursday 16 th	Lions lunch
	Saturday 25 th	Bunnings - Singleton
	TBA	World Environment Day
START PLANNING FOR NEXT LIONS YEAR – 2022 - 2023		
July	Wednesday 6 th	Lions Meeting – Golf Club
August	Wednesday 3 rd	Lions Meeting – Golf Club
	Saturday 6 th	Bunnings - Singleton
	TBA Thursday 18 th	National Tree Day Lions lunch
September CHILDHOOD CANCER MONTH	Saturday 3 rd	Bunnings - Singleton
	Wednesday 7 th	Lions Meeting – Golf Club
	TBA	Childhood Cancer Coin Line Lions Australia 75 th Birthday – FLORAL GARDENS Lions lunch
October VISION AWARENESS MONTH	Thursday 15 th	Lions Meeting – Golf Club
	Wednesday 5 th Saturday 15 th	Lions Meeting – Golf Club Bunnings - Singleton
	TBA Thursday 20 th	World Sight Day Lions lunch
November DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH	Wednesday 2 nd	Lions Meeting – Golf Club
	Thursday 17 th	Lions lunch
	Saturday 26 th	Bunnings - Singleton
	TBA	World Diabetes Day - LAP the MAP
December	Wednesday 7 th	Lions Meeting – Golf Club

Also to fit in:

Digital Devices Courses – Be Connected – venues and dates TBA between February and July.
Branxton Lions Golf Days – dates TBA



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5 Strange and Interesting Road Rules Across Australia

Getting a fine for leaving your car unlocked.

Many Australians, no matter what state or territory you live in, have left their car unlocked and unattended for one reason or another.

Whether it be to pay for fuel at the petrol station or duck into the shop for a couple of quick items, it seems harmless to leave the car open or a window down slightly for a few minutes. But for most parts of the country, this is actually an offence and can land you a hefty fine if caught.

In Victoria, NSW and Queensland, it is illegal to leave your car unlocked or with windows open if you move more than three metres away from it.

Victorians can be hit with a \$117 on-the-spot fine while in NSW you will get stung with a \$114 penalty.

In Queensland however, if you leave your car open and the keys are still in there (think all those movies you see where the driver finds the keys hiding on the sunshade), that will earn you a whopping \$2669 penalty from the police. In WA, the same road rule applies to locking your car if you leave it, but their fine is just \$50.

Riding electric hoverboards and skateboards in public.

Motorised scooters, skateboards and hoverboards are usually a popular gift around birthdays and Christmas, but most states and territories don't actually allow them to be ridden on roads or road-related areas like footpaths or cycleways. While fun, these items are considered motor vehicles and don't meet Australian standards for registering or insuring.

In the ACT, an electric scooter or skateboard is



classified as a personal mobility device (PMD) and can be ridden in public as long as specific speed, weight and dimensions apply.

But in other parts of Australia, these items can only be operated on private land otherwise you could get stung with anywhere between \$100 to \$1200 depending on where you live.

To flash or not to flash.

Is it legal to flash your headlights to other motorists to warn them of police speed traps or cameras up ahead? It comes down to interpretation. Section 219 of the Australian Road Rules (2006), headlights must not be used to "dazzle" another motorist. This can carry penalties.

There is no specific rule about using your headlights to specifically warn other motorists about the presence of police ahead. You may be fined if a police officer interprets your headlight-flash as an attempt to dazzle another motorist.

Driving around with an empty bike rack on your car.

Bike racks are commonly

used in Australia by families and cyclists wanting to transport their bikes before going for a ride, but can you be fined for driving around with an empty bike rack on your vehicle?

The answer is yes.

Currently, the punishment is a \$112 fine in NSW for driving a vehicle with an empty bike rack. That is even if an auxiliary number plate or light board is used to prevent the registration number or lights from being obscured.

Drinking alcohol as a passenger in a motor vehicle.

While it is illegal to drink and drive in Australia, do similar rules apply to passengers? In the ACT, Tasmania and Queensland, it's illegal to have any open alcohol containers in a moving car, regardless of whose drink it is. In NSW and Victoria, it is recommended that passengers remain under the legal alcohol limit as they may be as likely to be involved in an accident or may need to respond quickly in a crash - but passengers having an open drink is not prohibited. It's worth noting these rules apply to driver's on their full licence - in most states and territories, no open alcohol containers are allowed in the cars of learner or probationary drivers.

economy through the pandemic, the next move is likely to be up.

The timing will be closely watched, and could come earlier than the Reserve Bank's previous cautious suggestion of 2024.

ANZ expects the first hike in the first half of 2023, Westpac tips February 2023, NAB says mid-2023, while both CBA and AMP Capital predict November 2022.

Retail banks have already been increasing fixed mortgage rates from their trough below 2 per cent to cover their costs, but an official hike - likely the first in a series - will reduce borrowers' budgets at auction.



The Reserve Bank will be patient before lifting the cash rate. Photo: Louie Douvis

ANZ senior economist Felicity Emmett said fixed rates could rise a little further before stabilising, after three-year rates rose more than 80 basis points over the last few months of 2021. "The days of sub-2 per cent mortgage rates are over for the time being," she said.

"It will mean that we do continue to see this slowing of house prices, and that's why eventually we think that by 2023 prices will start to turn down."

The Reserve Bank wants to see a sustained improvement in wages growth and inflation before it lifts the cash rate, as moving too early could derail the economic recovery.

Ms Emmett expects this won't be until the first half of 2023, but not everyone agrees.

"There are a lot of people out there that think the RBA will have to move earlier," she said. "There is a risk the RBA starts to price in rate rises much more quickly than we and the RBA are expecting."

Westpac senior economist Matthew Hassan said although the central bank will be patient before lifting the cash rate, the case for change could be there by late 2022, ready for a rise in February 2023.

Some traders are expecting an earlier move, but he said wages growth can take time as awards and enterprise agreement negotiations can move slowly.

"Housing is super sensitive to interest rate moves and it's really run well ahead of the wider economy," he said.

"The housing market has pretty much ignored Delta and had a strong surge before the economy has regained its pre-COVID levels ... it will be much more sensitive to the tightening prospects in 2023."

He expects housing price growth to flatten by the second half of 2022 as expectations of a rate hike build, and for the property market to fall the following year as interest rates climb.

Commonwealth Bank head of Australian economics Gareth Aird expects the cash rate to start rising at the end of 2022 and increase

gradually to 1.25 per cent by the September quarter of 2023.

"There are a lot of households carrying a lot of debt," he said. "The RBA should get a fair bit of mileage out of the hikes." Historically, property prices have lagged cash rate moves, he said, but this time property market momentum will pull back significantly by the time the central bank makes its much-anticipated move.

He expects property prices to peak in the second half of 2022, with growth already restrained by regulatory moves to cut the maximum amount buyers can borrow, and the higher costs of paying back a fixed-rate loan.

RateCity.com.au research director Sally Tindall said regardless of when the cash rate goes up, fixed mortgage rates are likely to keep moving up albeit at a slower pace, and some banks could even lift variable interest rates out of cycle.

Over the month to mid-December last year, 52 lenders hiked their two-year fixed rate products and 64 hiked for three-year loans, she said, compared to 11 and one who cut respectively.

In April 2021, there were about 180 fixed-rate products on offer under 2 per cent, but this has shrunk to 61, and such offers are likely to end in 2022, she said.

And the moves are set to hit hip pockets - an average borrower with a \$500,000 variable rate loan would face \$103 extra on their mortgage each month if their rate rose 40 basis points.

"Hikes in the cash rate will make it more difficult for people [to buy], it will limit how much they can borrow from the bank," she said. "However, it could also help cool property prices. "Banks are conscious of not lending out eye-watering amounts of debt that people potentially can't afford to repay, particularly with interest rate rises looming."

Glimmer of hope for first-home buyers in 2022

TAWAR RAZAGHI

First-home buyers whose new year's resolution was to get into the property market might have to think again, with experts

forecasting another tough year for aspirational homeowners.

But there are some signs of hope: more homes are expected to hit the market, giving buyers better choice and potentially less competition, possible interest rate rises that should put downward pressure on unprecedented price growth, and green shoots of wages growth in a tight jobs market.

Until then, first-home buyers will be despondently staring down national property prices that are 22.2 per cent higher than a year ago, on CoreLogic data, coupled with a tougher lending landscape as banks tighten how they hand out home loans after changes by the banking regulator.

"Next year will probably be tougher ... it's simply because the average level of prices is going to be higher than what it was this year," said Shane Oliver, AMP Capital's chief economist. "Affordability is still deteriorating, just not as rapidly."

It was felt by the end of 2021, when the share in finance to first-home buyers declined for nine consecutive months, sliding 16 per cent in the year to October 2021, at the same time as investor lending was near record levels, according to the Australia Bureau of Statistics.

First-home buyers also took a hit when government incentives, such as HomeBuilder, were wound back, according to Dr Oliver.

"I suspect when price gains start to slow down that might provide a bit of a window for first-home buyers," he said, adding that was likely to occur in the second half of the year. There are a number of factors pointing to slowing momentum in the property market, some of which appeared towards the end of 2021, according to EY Oceania's senior economist Jonathan McMenamin.

"Increasing [interest] rates is another and a slight easing of clearance rates, which is now nationally down to 70 per cent," Mr McMenamin said.

"What we're looking for is a situation where the increasing rate of house prices closely match the things that first-home buyers have in their control, such as income growth, looking at getting it below that 10 per cent annualised growth.

"We are starting to see a tightening in the labour market and, I suppose, the lowest unemployment rates across all the states, and that should put upward pressure on wages growth." Aspiring first-home buyer Pankaj Kumar is hopeful 2022 is the year he can crack the property market, but he is under no illusions that it will be any easier this time round after missing out several times last year.

"I'm very hopeful, otherwise I'll go mad. But it's

really difficult, it not only brings pressure to yourself but also creates emotional impact to your family," he said.

Mr Kumar added there was a financial toll on top of the emotional toll, after spending thousands of dollars on contract reviews and building inspections.

"I would say [the market] has gotten worse. The [vendor] expectation has gone higher. It is a crazy time. Every vendor and owner wants to make money. It is good to a certain extent but for a first-home buyer it is completely out of our scope," the father-of-two said.

While there are more properties to choose from and agents continue to tell him the market has cooled down, Mr Kumar said vendors know buyers are "desperate to buy". "When there were 10 people coming to auction, they now only see four to six [buyers]. That doesn't mean it is not a hard chase for those people. It is still there," he said.

The tougher lending landscape has also impacted his borrowing capacity, narrowly missing out on a property in late 2021 as a result.

"Everything is tightened now. I could have bought this last property if the bank didn't tighten their guidelines.

"I'm being impacted by at least \$1000 every month because of the change of interest rates."

There is little doubt that taking out a home loan as a first-home buyer will be harder in 2022 compared to the start of last year, according to Mortgage Choice Blaxland, Penrith and Glenmore Park principal Rob Lees.

He puts it down to the change in the serviceability buffer that will see mortgage holders stress tested 3 per cent above their interest rate, up from 2.5 per cent, and stricter debt-to-income ratios.

"High levels of borrowing can be an issue there and that is quite different to the beginning of the year," Mr Lees said. "[The lending landscape] is changing quite rapidly and, for my team, we've been caught out a few times and we can't make assumptions anymore.

"It's probably reasonable, so people aren't overextending themselves. "Banks are honouring the pre-approvals but once it expires that will have an impact, and it may very well be that their maximum borrowing will be less."



Will interest rates rise in 2022?

ELIZABETH REDMAN AND KATE BURKE

Chatter about rising interest rates is set to slow property price growth in 2022, although the cash rate is expected to stay on hold

until late in the year or 2023, economists say. After years of ultra-low interest rates, slashed to near-zero to support the

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Second man charged over alleged armed hold-up of Newcastle hotel – Robbery and Serious Crime Squad

A second man's been charged as investigations continue into the armed robbery of a hotel in the Newcastle earlier this month.

About 12.20am on Tuesday 25 January 2022, two masked men – one armed with a handgun and the other with a meat cleaver – entered a licensed premises on Main Road at Cardiff and threatened two employees, a man and woman aged 52 and 25, before taking a cash register and fleeing.

Police were told they left in a blue Ford Falcon sedan, last seen heading east on Main Street.

Although shaken, the employees were not injured and contacted police.

Initial inquiries were conducted by officers attached to Lake Macquarie Police District, before the matter was referred to detectives from the State Crime Command's Robbery and Serious

Crime Squad under Strike Force Hawksview.

So far, strike force detectives have charged a 32-year-old man for his alleged role in the incident. He remains before the courts. Following further inquiries, Tactical Operations Unit (TOU) officers – assisted by local police and the Tactical Operations Regional Support Unit (TORS) – arrested a 33-year-old man at a Mayfield property just after 6.30pm yesterday (Sunday 30 January 2022).

A short time later investigators executed a search warrant at that address, as well as at a second home on Woodstock Street. During those searches, police seized electronic items and clothing for forensic analysis.

The man was taken to Newcastle Police Station and charged with seven offences, including two counts of robbery while armed with dangerous weapon, two counts of possess unauthorised pistol, two counts of acquire firearm - subject to prohibition order, and reckless grievous bodily harm.

It will be alleged in court he was one of two men responsible for the robbery of a hotel in Cardiff last week.

It's further alleged he was additionally involved in the armed

robbery of licenced premises on Fullerton Street at Stockton just before 10pm on Tuesday 28 December 2021.

During this incident, a 35-year-old man – who was an employee of the hotel – was allegedly knocked unconscious with a firearm, while two colleagues were threatened with the weapon then ordered to hand over cash, before the man fled.

The employee was taken to John Hunter Hospital for treatment to significant facial injuries including a broken jaw and numerous damaged teeth, and is receiving ongoing treatment.

Inquiries to locate two other men involved in that incident continue. The Mayfield man was refused bail and appeared at Newcastle Local Court last Monday (Monday 31 January 2022).

Anyone with information that may assist Strike Force Hawksview investigators is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

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Helen Lowing Sales Consultant

Pilot program takes first step to connect trained workers with employers

A new pilot program to train local Singleton people in hospitality aims to match newly-skilled staff with employers as the first step in helping address a shortage of hospitality and tourism workers in the Singleton local government area (LGA).

Singleton Council is developing a fully-funded Hospitality Skills Pilot Program in partnership with Training Services NSW that would offer training to 10 participants in response to the skills needs identified by hospitality and tourism operators

across the LGA for more appropriately-trained staff to help run their businesses. Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity said the success of the program hinged on ensuring the training provided matched the needs of employers.

"To aid the development of this program, Council is asking local hospitality and tourism businesses to complete a short, six question survey on their training needs to make sure the pilot program is tailored to local needs," she said. "We're also looking for 10 employers to take part in the pilot program to support the 10 participants who are selected be involved."

The survey opened on 21 January 2022 and runs until 18 February, and is available on Council's website and Facebook page.

Ms Brereton said the second phase of the program is to enroll participants.

"We'll work with a training provider with places for 10 people, with the training to be based on what our business operators told us in the survey," she said.

"The ultimate aim of the



• Vicki Brereton, Singleton Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity

program is to benefit workers as well as employers by providing trained staff with the skills they're looking for, and to be able to achieve staff skilled in core hospitality skills by mid-year."

The Hospitality Skills Pilot Program is the pilot step in connecting training programs with local Singleton workers and employers and will help to inform more

long-term future hospitality programs, as well as address shorter term needs of local hospitality and tourism industries.

For more information about the program or to get involved, contact Council's Employment Pathways Coordinator Riki Ward on 02 6578 7290 or email council@singleton.nsw.gov.au



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Daily Thoughts

"Opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making." - **John Milton**
"Kindness is loving people more than they deserve." - **Joseph Joubert**
"My second favourite household chore is ironing. My first being hitting my head on the top bunk bed until I faint." - **Erma Bombeck**

Travel card – apply now!

Applications are open for the 2022 NSW Regional Seniors Travel Card with expanded eligibility criteria in place this year.

Eligible applicants receive a \$250 pre-paid Visa card to use for fuel, taxis, pre-booked NSW TrainLink Regional trains and coaches, and select community transport services.



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Seniors can apply for a travel card if they have reached the Age Pension age or are receiving either a Disability Support Pension or Carer Payment from Services Australia. Applications are open until 30 November with the latest health advice that seniors are strongly advised to apply online rather than visiting a service centre, by going to <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/regionalseniorstravel>, or call 13 77 88.



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Out & About

with Mike Lowing

Opening of Miller Park Hotels' new bowling green. Australia Day 2022



Margaret Holmes & Polly Lowing at the new green opening day



Kate & David Peck enjoying refreshments opening.



Sue Howard & Mark Stanford at the new green opening day



(L-R) Cathy Clark, Robyn Baker & Loraine Oberman.



Principal of the McNamara Hotel Group & proprietor of Miller Park Hotel, Dale McNamara, welcoming everyone & thanking all that helped get the Bowling Club up and going.



Julie & Rob Bennett enjoying the day



Frazer & Judy Spillard enjoying the day



Locals supporting locals.



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

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from the Lions Den....

Happy New Year to all our readers! This is the first news bulletin of 2022 from the Lions Den. The Lions Club of Branxton is gearing up to deliver a wide-ranging program of events for the Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury communities, and surrounding areas. Of course, all events are subject to the current COVID rules that apply at that time and safety measures will be considered paramount.

Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Calendar 2022:

FEBRUARY International Childhood Cancer Day – Tuesday 15th February – donations can be made to contribute to the Childhood Cancer Coin Line through your local Lions Club.

Greta Branxton United Cricket Club - Sunday 20th February – 10-Over cricket competition, Miller Park – Branxton Lions have been asked to provide a BBQ.

Membership BBQ – February 2022 informal social event for finding out what Lions Clubs do – venue and date TBA

Be Connected – from February 2022 – **Information technology** coaching seminars for Branxton / Greta citizens over the age of 50 – watch for details

MARCH – Lions Environmental Awareness Month

Lions Awareness and Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 6th March 2022 – Lions Park, Branxton.

World Glaucoma Week – 6-12 March

Lions Youth of the Year – District Final – Sunday 13th March at Greta.

Lions BBQ – Bunnings Singleton – Saturday 19th March.

APRIL – Lions Strengthening Membership Month

Cessnock City Council Seniors Festival – 25 March to 3 April at Greta and Branxton

Lions Garden Project – September 2022 - Lions Australia 75th Anniversary garden – Lions Park Branxton.

Lions Club of Branxton Inc contact: email: Branxton.nsw@lions.org.au

Mobile: 0426-261948

Lions Commemorative Garden – 75 years of Lions Clubs



Branxton Lions are working in partnership with Cessnock City Council, Huntlee Academy, and local Landcare groups to commemorate the introduction of Lions Clubs in Australia 75 years ago. A small garden will be built in the Lions Park to mark this auspicious occasion with help from the specialist horticulture teams to plant, display and maintain the site which should look something like this. All native plants will be used to ensure authenticity and they are due to form the famous Lions logo to flower in September of this year. Lions Clubs all around Australia will be joining in on this project to show our commitment to serve the local community.



Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licencee-in-Charge

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Branxton Lions Household Battery Recycling Project – taking off!

Thank you to all the local people who have deposited their spent batteries in the cardboard receptacle based in Coles supermarket at Huntlee – we have had three full bags of batteries weighing 15 kilos each bag so far. This is part of a government project to ensure correct disposal of spent batteries – to recycle the contents of the batteries and prevent them from going to landfill refuse sites where they can cause contamination. So please do your bit to protect the environment and throw your spent batteries into the Lions bin.

WORLD GLAUCOMA WEEK – 6–12 March:

7 Sights in 7 Days Challenge – Let's get involved!

Glaucoma Australia has launched a new fundraising initiative; 7 Sights in 7 Days Challenge. The campaign calls on Australians to share a photo of an amazing sight every day for seven days and raise funds to help take glaucoma blindness out of the picture. Taking place during World Glaucoma Week (6–12 March 2022), the challenge is a part of Glaucoma Australia's annual *Treat your Eyes* campaign. The challenge is all about appreciating our precious peepers. Look at what you can see! How amazing is that sight? Imagine not seeing that ever again, because you didn't find out you had glaucoma until it was too late.

Individuals and teams are encouraged to Find, Snap, and Share 7 amazing sights in your neighbourhood whilst you fundraise to end glaucoma blindness. Every snap taken, every sight shared reminds us of how precious our eyesight really is and the fundraising efforts will help end glaucoma blindness through early detection, better treatment outcomes and ground-breaking research.

For more information and to register go to <https://www.sevensights.org.au>



MARCH 6th – Clean-Up Australia and Lions Awareness Day



A major event in the local community is the Clean-Up Australia day – this year it is held on Sunday 6th March and is linked to the important Lions Awareness Day. **All local community groups are invited to attend** to help this



essential program to clean and tidy up the local community. Full protective equipment will be provided on the day which is being run by the Lions Club of Branxton in partnership with Branxton Scouts and Cessnock City Council. Some of the famous Lions snags might also be available for your brunch. The Clean Up Australia party will be at Lions Park, Branxton opposite Miller Park to start the clean up at 0900, Sunday 6th March – we look forward to seeing you there!

Greta Branxton United Cricket Club 10-Over Cricket Competition 20th February

Come and watch exciting local cricket matches (along with the 'barmy army'?) on Sunday 20th February at the famous Miller Park cricket ovals. Greta Branxton United Cricket Club is holding their annual 10-Over Cricket Competition on that day. Please turn up to support your local teams. Branxton Lions have been asked to provide a BBQ.



Cessnock City Seniors Festival

With dozens of free events, the festival is a chance to get to know what clubs and activities are on offer in the Cessnock Local Government Area all year round. It's about making connections not just during the festival, but also following the festivities. The 2022 Seniors Festival will run from 25 March to 3 April 2022.

But, mark in your diaries the date of Saturday 2nd April when a mega event will take place jointly in Greta and Branxton in the program of the Cessnock City Seniors Festival.



The Lions Club of Branxton will be working with the Greta Branxton Men's Shed and the Branxton Women's shed in a craft work open day and market. There will be events in Greta and Branxton to mark the occasion and you might be treated to a free Lions trademark sausage sizzle. Watch this space for further information.



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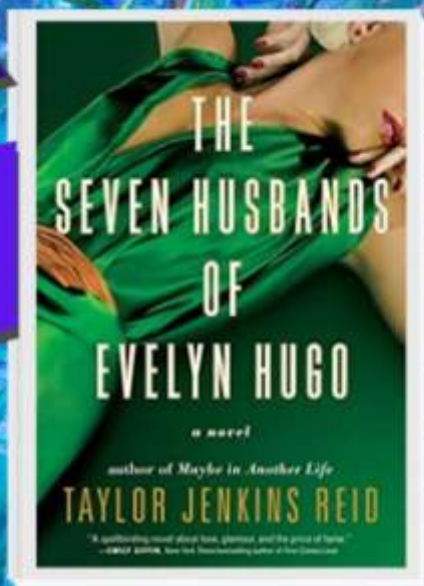
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BOOK REVIEW

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid



By Sarah Campsall

Wow, I cannot seem to find the words that would do this amazing book justice. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* is a sort of romance/historical fiction novel from Taylor Jenkins Reid, author of the popular 2019 hit *Daisy Jones and The Six*. *Evelyn Hugo* was published in 2017, but I really do believe that some books find you at the right time, and I'm so pleased and glad to have finally read this one now.

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo sees journalist Monique Grant approached to do an interview with legendary Hollywood actress Evelyn Hugo. Nearing 80, Evelyn wants it to be her final interview and insists that it has to be Monique who will cover it. Naturally, the reader will assume Evelyn has her reasons for this, and they will need to read through the book before they find out why this is. The star obviously has something she wants to set the record straight on, and she's decided she's now done with silence. Evelyn tells Monique her story, from deciding to go to Hollywood right up to the present day. The book is split between Evelyn's narration of her tale, and Monique's present-day point of view, though I would say it mostly focuses on Evelyn. Reid has said in interviews that character of Evelyn was influenced by actress Ava Gardner – who wished to have a journalist ghostwrite her autobiography. She also drew inspiration from actresses Rita Hayworth and Elizabeth Taylor. I wouldn't want to go into huge detail and expand on what the plot is as it may explain too much and give points away. I went into this book not knowing much at all, and I feel that was part of the enjoyment because I didn't know what was around the corner. What I got was a glimpse into old Hollywood glamour, sex, and scandal, and a heartbreakingly honest look at the tempestuous relationships of one formidable and most incredible lady – and her seven husbands!

Evelyn was such a complicated character. I think one of my most favourite things about this book is how many sides there are of Evelyn. She is sexy, smart, calculated, talented, and ambitious. She is also incredibly human, she makes mistakes, she doesn't always make the right decisions, but she thinks she's making the right decisions for HER. Evelyn can read men, she can manipulate men, she's ruthless. She thinks she's an excellent judge of character, but she doesn't always get it right. I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say most people could see some of themselves in Evelyn, whether it be big or small. One could argue she was no saint, yet I respected her all the same. I loved her ambition and drive, I loved her perseverance and her passion and her resilience. The audiences adored her, the newspapers wanted her, Monique was drawn back to her to continue with her story, and you, the reader, will keep reading. Each marriage and husband has a reason behind it and covers important periods in Evelyn's life. Evelyn is a cynic but she was also a romantic and she wanted to be loved. I really thought that seven husbands would be a stretch, but if you read the book you would see how they all fit into an engaging and clever story. We see who her true love really was. My bisexual heart is singing right now. It was so good to finally read something with some bisexual representation that spoke to me on some sort of level that not many books have managed to recently. At the same time though, it still makes me feel sad that we have it better than people decades past would have done. I am sad that attitudes were what they were back then. I'm sad people felt like they had to hide and were not allowed to be their authentic selves. We still have a long way to go, but reading this made me realise I am grateful for the progress that's been made. This book has a way of making you feel. I'm not

ashamed to say I cried at some parts. It is written in a way that you connect with the characters, particularly with Evelyn. You see what she has been through and how she feels through her own words as she tells her story. You also see her through Monique's eyes too. You are so connected that I found myself almost listening, not just reading, but listening to her every word. You become invested in her story. So emotionally invested, that yes, there were some tears from me. The message I took away from the book was that life is just too short to not go after what you want. Time doesn't stop for anyone and we shouldn't take people for granted, and we should always tell our loved ones that we love them. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* was such a memorable read for me, I felt like I knew Evelyn, I read about her whole life. She is a fictional character

and yet I feel like I miss her already. I think this is the sort of book that stays with you long after you've read the final page.

ABOUT.....

Taylor Jenkins Reid is an American novelist best known for her novels *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, *Malibu Rising*, and *Daisy Jones & The Six*. Career[edit] Reid began her career in film production. She worked as a casting assistant for three years, after she graduated from Emerson College and before trying other jobs. Reid wrote part-time while working at a high school until she got a book deal. Her first novel, *Forever, Interrupted*, was published in 2013. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* was published in 2017. It was nominated for a Goodreads Choice Award for Best Histori-

cal Fiction of 2017 and was a finalist for Book of the Month's Book of the Year award in 2017.

Amazon Studios is developing her 2019 novel *Daisy Jones & The Six* into a web-based miniseries, also called *Daisy Jones & The Six*. It will be co-produced by Reese Witherspoon. The novel recounts the ups and downs of a fictional '70s rock band. It is loosely based on Fleetwood Mac and the recording of their hit album *Rumours*.

Reid co-wrote the Hulu television show *Resident Advisors*.

Personal life

Reid grew up in Acton, Massachusetts. She is married to Alex Jenkins Reid, and they live in Los Angeles with their daughter

Bad News at the Doctor's...



A man wasn't feeling well so he went to his doctor for a complete checkup. After a long wait for the results, the doctor finally came back out. "I'm afraid I have some very bad news," the doctor said. "You're dying, and you don't have much time left." "Oh no! I can't believe it!" says the man. "How long do I have?" "Ten," the doctor says sadly. "Ten?" the man asks. "What do you mean by that? Ten what? Months? Weeks? What?!" "Nine..."

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction

(6 February 2022)

- 32 WEEKS ON THE LIST
IT ENDS WITH US by Colleen Hoover
A battered wife raised in a violent home attempts to halt the cycle of abuse. Ranked 1 last week
- 30 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO by Taylor Jenkins Reid
A movie icon recounts stories of her loves and career to a struggling magazine writer. Ranked 3 last week
- 7 WEEKS ON THE LIST
VERITY by Colleen Hoover
Lowen Ashleigh is hired by the husband of an injured writer to complete her popular series and uncovers a horrifying truth. Ranked 4 last week
- NEW THIS WEEK
ONE STEP TOO FAR by Lisa Gardner
The second book in the Frankie Elkin series. Frankie searches for a young man who went missing during a bachelor party camping trip.
- 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST
UGLY LOVE by Colleen Hoover
Tate Collins and Miles Archer, an airline pilot, think they can handle a no strings attached arrangement. But they can't. Ranked 7 last week
- 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE MAID by Nita Prose
When a wealthy man is found dead in his room, a maid at the Regency Grand Hotel becomes a lead suspect. Ranked 5 last week
- 16 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY by Amor Towles
Two friends who escaped from a juvenile work farm take Emmett Watson on an unexpected journey to New York City in 1954. Ranked 8 last week
- 51 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY by Matt Haig
Nora Seed finds a library beyond the edge of the universe that contains books with multiple possibilities of the lives one could have lived. Ranked 13 last week
- 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
NOVEMBER 9 by Colleen Hoover
Is Ben using his relationship with Fallon as fodder for his novel?
- 31 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE LAST THING HE TOLD ME by Laura Dave
Hannah Hall discovers truths about her missing husband and bonds with his daughter from a previous relationship.

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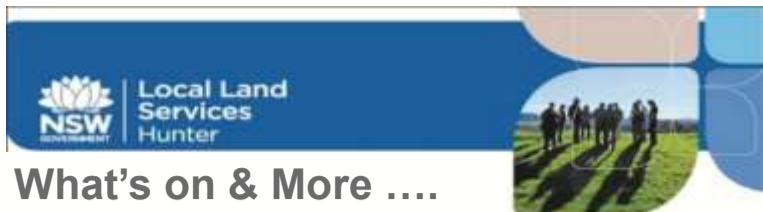
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What's on & More

THREE DAY SICKNESS CONFIRMED IN CENTRAL WEST

Central West Local Land Services have had a confirmed case of Three Day Sickness, also known as Bovine Ephemeral Fever (BEF) diagnosed in the Coonamble district. This is a significant disease of cattle that is carried by biting insects which pops up in our district periodically, especially during or following a wet summer. The symptoms of BEF are a fever, inappetence,

depression and reluctance to move. Typically affected animals recover in a few days (hence the name, Three Day Sickness), however some animals (particularly heavy animals such as bulls and cows) can take longer to get up and in some severe cases can die. Reports from areas further to the north and east who have already experienced the BEF wave is that the symptoms are more severe

than in previous outbreaks and that cattle are showing more pronounced neurological signs. With the high price of stock, and the focus on herd rebuilding, producers will be looking for ways to prevent this disease, ease symptoms and minimise losses. While there is a vaccine on the market, it is too late now to offer immunity to cattle in our area.

Reviewing the forecast for our local area over the next 14 days and the average day-time maximum temperature will be around 26°C, with a high for the two weeks of 35°C expected on the afternoon of last Tuesday 1st. The mean minimum



temperature will be 17°C, dipping to its lowest on the morning of Tuesday 8th at 13°C. Expect the following 14 days ahead to have some days seeing a little precipitation and some days with rain. Current predictions suggest yesterday Wednesday 2nd will have the most precipitation (?) with an accumulation of around 10.0mm. On the whole winds are likely to be moderate.

Racing Review & News

Simply the best! Waller stars rated among world's finest



Verry Elleegant with James McDonald aboard after winning the Melbourne Cup. Photo: Jay Town/Racing Photos via Getty Images

By Mitch Cohen

Chris Waller can lay claim to training the world's best turf sprinter and top racing mare after star stablemates

Nature Strip and Verry Elleegant were recognised among racing's top echelon on Wednesday. That's according to the latest Longines World's

Best Racehorse Rankings for 2021, which were released overnight. An all-conquering year saw Waller's champion sprinter Nature Strip

Detailed Cattle report for Gunnedah

Last reported 25th January 2022

There was a small increase in numbers with yearlings well supplied. There were a few more vealers, but not many cows. The quality of the offering was generally good, however there was an increased supply of plainer quality cattle. A similar buying group were in attendance along with a couple of extra feedlot competition. Processor attendance remained below the full compliment. There were varying trends through the young cattle. The lighter end of the vealer steers to restockers sold to dearer trends, with odd sales much dearer. The heavier weights were generally cheaper. Heifer vealers to restock also sold to a cheaper trend. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers to feed sold to slightly cheaper trends, The price gap between breeds shrinking. Those to restockers were firm to dearer in places. Medium and heavy weight yearling heifers to restock and feed met with weaker demand and breed variation to sell to cheaper trends, upwards of 20c/kg. Heavy weight feeder steers over 500kg and including the milk tooth lines saw a firm to slightly cheaper trend. Those to process were much cheaper with limited competition. Well finished grown heifers destined to a short fed grain regime sold to dearer trends. There was however some breed and age related price change. The limited supply of cows sold on a slightly cheaper market trend, again processor competition was limited. Market Reporter, James Armitage.

Detailed Cattle report for HRLX Singleton

Last reported 19th January 2022

Consignments increased partially due to the next sale being cancelled because of the Australia day holiday and the quality overall was fair to good. The majority were younger cattle suitable for the restocker and lot feeder orders, along with a few in prime condition and more suited for the local butchers. The export cattle were scarce in the pens. Demand was strong for the younger drafts ensuring prices remained high, with only weight, breed and quality contributing to most price changes. The vealer steers to the restockers ranged from 600c to 828c, as the heifer portion also to the restockers received from 606c to 775c/kg. The yearling steers to the restockers and lot feeders made from 518c to 706c, while the heifers ranged from 550c to 658c/kg. The prime conditioned and higher yielding younger cattle purchased by the butchers continue to sell at a premium, with the better end up around the 616c/kg range. The grown steers to the processors reached 498c, this was attained for the lighter end with 2 teeth, as the heavier bullocks made from 340c to 380c/kg. The grown heifers identified with 2 teeth went to the lot feeder buyers and reached 552c/kg. Young bulls to the restockers returned from 420c to 655c/kg. Please note that this market was reported remotely without the physical presence of the MLA Livestock Market Reporter.

Market Reporter, Neil Geddes

Detailed Cattle report for Score

Last reported 25th January 2022

Consignments increased and the quality was fair to good, with extra weight on average recorded for the vealer and yearlings suitable for the lot feeder and restocker buyers. The majority were younger cattle, with the bulk of the export consisting of the cow categories. Competition was solid throughout except the cows, they struggled to attract strong competition and trended cheaper. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock ranged from 640c to 794c, with the lighter end reaching 930c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers sold to strong competition and made from 650c to 775c, as the light weights topped at 865c/kg. The yearling steers to the lot feeder and restocker buyers continue to sell well, with the medium and heavy weights ranging from 500c to 658c, while the lighter end reached 718c/kg. The yearling heifers also to the lot feeder and restocker orders again sold to strong competition and received from 524c to 608c for the medium weights, as the light weights reached 685c/kg. The vealers and yearlings in prime condition and suitable for the local butchers and processors continue to sell at a premium and topped at 626c/kg. The cows struggled and trended cheaper, with the better covered heavy weights ranging from 325c to 376c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 300c/kg. Cows with calves ranged from \$2700 to \$4350/unit. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

Detailed Cattle report for TRLX Tamworth

Last reported 24th January 2022

There was a small reduction in numbers with yearlings well supplied. Grown cattle were in limited numbers. The quality of the offering was generally good as was condition. There were very few plain condition and secondary quality cattle penned. Processor attendance was again restricted, however there were a couple of feedlot operators making a return. Restocker demand for very light weight vealers was strong resulting in those under 200kg posting a much dearer market trend. The heavier weights showed little but quality related price change. Medium weight yearling steers to feed saw little but quality related price change also. The heavy weight feeder steers saw a slightly dearer market trend with the increased competition. Medium and heavy weight yearling heifers were well supplied, they attracted strong feedlot competition. Market trends dearer by 10c to 12c/kg along with some quality related price change. Heavy weight feeder steers over 500kg, including the milk tooth lines saw a significantly dearer market trend under the increased competition. The milk tooth lines selling at the higher end of the price range. Well finished grown heifers to process sold to cheaper trends with competition restricted. The limited supply of cows experienced little change. Market reporter James Armitage

ranked as Australia's best horse for the first time in 2021. The son of Nicconi equalled his 124 rating of 2020 to sit equal-10th on the esteemed list, topped by American Breeders Cup winner Knicks Go (129 rating). It put Nature Strip on equal standing with the world's best dirt sprinter, the John Sadler-trained Flightline. He won three races listed in the top 60 events run, including the world's highest rated sprint, April's Group 1 TJ Smith Stakes at Randwick, which was given a score of 120.50 to sit as a tie-18th among all races.

The Everest is not included in the rankings as it does not hold Group 1 status but several of the \$15m feature's top finishers were prominent on the list. Placegetters Masked Crusader and Eduardo were given a rating of 121 to be 27th among the world's elite performers while Lost And Running rated 116. Champion mare Verry Elleegant scaled new heights in 2021 to burst into the top-20 for the first time in her grand career on the back of a campaign that included four Group 1 victories, headlined by the Melbourne Cup, which had a race rating of 117 to sit tie -67th.

The 10-time Group 1 winner was named the best mare in the world by a clear three points with a 123 rating, sitting her 15th among all horses. Three of her Group 1 wins rank among Australia's and the world's best with Sydney's Ranvet Stakes (120.5) as well as the Chipping Norton Stakes (119.50) and George Main Stakes (119.25) all considered among the top 31 races. Verry Elleegant was also a placegetter in Australia's equal high rating races with Randwick's Queen Elizabeth Stakes and The Valley's Cox Plate sharing top billing at 120.75 (equal

15th overall). Australian races made up a quarter of the top-100 races in the world in 2021 with Victoria boasting the most with 13 while Sydney had 11 and the Doomben Cup was Brisbane's lone race to feature. Meanwhile, The incredible career ascension of Incentivise from maiden to Group 1 gun was highlighted by his high rating 122 (equal 21st overall). Other notables included Annabel Neasham's stable star Zaaki (121), Cox Plate winner State Of Rest (120), Queen Elizabeth Stakes victor Addeybb (120) as well as equal 119-raters Anamoe and Mugatoo.



It's Laptop Season!

January always seems to be the month where we receive a large number of Laptops for repair...back to school and back to work I guess? Here are the common problems:

1. Battery not lasting long – You can expect to get 3 to 4 years of good service from your laptop battery. Beyond that, it's just a time game as to when it gives up the ghost. The good news is, we can replace practically any battery on any Laptop within a day or two.
2. Cracked screens – This one is very common these days for a number of reasons. The manufacturers of well known brands have decided to use 2 skinny hinges at each end of the screens. This is putting unwanted pressure on the mounting screws which are tending to pull out of the plastic frame. Once that happens, the screen cracks at the bottom corners. Then there's just the fact that the laptop was dropped, stood on or the lid was closed with a pen sitting on the keyboard. The new generation screens are so thin that it doesn't take much to crack them. Relax, we can replace almost every type of screen on most laptops, touch & non touch.
3. Hard Drive failure – This is a "biggy"! For most people it normally means loss of all their information. Sure we can replace the hard drive with a new generation Solid State Drive but retrieving the data can be impossible. So, like I've mentioned previously, please do a BACKUP of your important information. Dropbox is a "Cloud" backup system that I've used for over 15 years and it's proven to be very reliable.
4. AC Adaptor Failure – The charger unit is typically a sealed device. They also get quite hot when plugged into a laptop and you're working on it at the same time. Because it's sealed, this heat can't escape which means the components inside suffer heat stress. Once that occurs, the voltage and current coming out of the end plug can vary and give you a wide variety of problems.
5. Crashed During Update – Here I'm referring to the usual updates that your computer wants to do from time to time. A CRASH can be a huge problem, especially if you don't have a backup of your data. So before you go any further, go to your device and do a full backup please. You can backup to an external hard drive (which can also fail) or back everything up to a Cloud account, like Dropbox. It's safe and reliable.
6. Windows 11 – If your computer came with it, great. This means that it was built with Windows 11 in mind. For those that want to upgrade from Windows 10 (or earlier) to Windows 11, it may not be smooth sailing and this is because your old PC wasn't built with Windows 11 features and functions in mind. Sure it might still turn on (or not) but we've already found that many PC's have lost functionality after they've been upgraded to Win11.



Here are a few things that may not work after an upgrade (this is different to an update):

- A. Wifi no longer works
- B. Bluetooth no longer works
- C. Wireless Mouse and Keyboard no longer works
- D. The built in camera no longer works
- E. No sound
- F. Some of your sockets may no longer be supported.
- G. And a variety of crashes depending on what type of software you're trying to use.
- H. And the ultimate catastrophe...your device no longer turns on! My advice is to stick with Windows 10 unless you're buying a new computer. Trust me, I've done it on one of my own devices and experienced A, B,C, D, E and F, but it did turn on!

Thanks for reading, see you next month; Frank info@macdroids.com.au 1300622376



In Spencer, Kristen Stewart shines as Princess Diana in the midst of the breakdown of her marriage to Prince Charles

ABC Arts / By Luke Goodsell

From scowling her way through the rise of proto-riot grrrl Joan Jett to trying on politically radical film star Jean Seberg, Kristen Stewart has been making a habit of reanimating pop culture iconoclasts by refracting them through her own twitchy, mutable diffidence. It's a performance mode that she adapts to her latest rebel girl, the late Diana, Princess of Wales, an even more beloved historical figure pitted against a caricature of tradition – at least according to Spencer, a speculative portrait that captures its distressed subject on a fateful weekend that would catalyse the collapse of her marriage. With its blend of paranoid chamber drama and moments of full-tilt horror-movie psychosis, Spencer marks a fruitful collaboration between Stewart and Chilean director Pablo Larraín, who essayed a public icon with far less success in the Jacqueline Kennedy biopic Jackie (2016), but who has recently unleashed some of his most incendiary work in Ema (2019) – another film in which a wayward blonde took a torch to tradition. His portrait of the People's Princess is an occasionally overripe abstraction, designed to flatter the public perception of the one 'likeable' Royal in a historically repugnant – or at least extremely uncool – clan, imagining Diana as a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown, a little lost girl driven to collapse by a cold, indifferent family. As the pre-film title card suggests, Spencer is very much intended as "A fable from a true tragedy." It's Christmas 1991, and Diana has arrived late to the extended family gathering at Sandringham Estate amid a string of gloomy omens: dead birds upended on the highway, a scarecrow draped in her late father's battered old querry, Major Alistair Gregory (Timothy Spall), who insists on the Princess taking part in the traditional pre-holiday dinner weighing like he's fattening her up for slaughter. "Where the f*** am I?" Diana wonders as she pulls

over to the side of the road in her Porsche convertible, while composer Jonny Greenwood (who is having an absolute MVP run between this and his recent work on The Power of the Dog) goads the film toward dread with his jazzy, anxiety-ridden score. In Spencer, the British royal family may as well be a cult; a world in which a woman can't dress herself or do her own hair, and emotions are kept to a minimum – if they're not repressed entirely. As Prince Charles (Jack Farthing) says to Diana, in one of the film's rare shows of empathy for its ostensible villains, "You have to be able to make your body do things you hate ... for the good of the country, the people." The way Larraín and French director of photography Claire Mathon (Portrait of a Lady on Fire) sketch Sandringham (played here by Germany's Nordkirchen Castle), with their corridor-prowling Steadicam and aerial shots that render the grounds as a maze, seems to deliberately evoke The Shining's Overlook Hotel – a comparison made doubly explicit when Spall's chilly, tuxedoed caretaker confronts Diana in a cold storage room. It's an effectively sinister vibe, reimagining the honeyed glow of Christmas as the sickly amber of a royal tar pit, where everyone is trapped by duty, and obsessed with keeping gossip about Prince Charles and Diana's marriage – and his infidelity with Camilla Parker Bowles – under lock and key. Only little Princes William and Harry (Jack Nielen and Freddie Spry, both great) are afforded much in the way of warmth or humanity; along with a sympathetic royal dresser, the bowl-cut Maggie (Sally Hawkins), who looks like she stepped straight out of a feminist bookshop circa 1982 – one of costume designer Jacqueline Durran's (Little Women; Peterloo) many chef's-kiss looks on display. The other royals are little more than wallpaper, shadowy wraiths that haunt the frame both figuratively and literally,

as when the ghost of Anne Boleyn materialises in Diana's chamber like some horror-movie bogeywoman – a choice that will register as a sustained eye-roll for some, but which plays right into the movie's side-trade in foggy, Hammer Horror spectacle. As all of that suggests, Spencer is pitched at such a heightened tenor that its heroine already seems halfway to crazy before the story has even started, so it's a testament to the slippery game that Stewart, Larraín, and Greenwood play – spinning their subject's psychosis on all the axes at their disposal – that they steer their Diana toward something approaching emotional clarity. How much an audience goes with Spencer may depend on their willingness to accept the film's more abstract elements; to accept it less as historical fact than as an experiment in speculative empathy. Steven Knight's (Locke; TV's Peaky Blinders) script has more metaphors than a country music ballad, variously framing Diana as a wild horse who can't be tamed or a beautiful pheasant bred for the hunt; it sometimes feels like its protagonist is merely a mouthpiece for thematic swings against royalty and tradition. (A running bit about "closing the curtains" absolutely crosses over into rewarding high camp, though.) Larraín's direction, too, can be strangely mannered and drift toward arthouse cliché – twirling camera work that sometimes feels like a parody commercial for a high-end clothing emporium – unlike his more radical tendencies in Ema (it's all you can do not to wish Diana had her own flamethrower to set the whole estate ablaze). Yet while Stewart's performance is more or less one note, drilling down into the melancholy the film imagines to be Diana's primary mode, she makes it thrilling – variations on the same riff that become hypnotic for their details. The actor's particular mannerisms conjure a version of Diana refracted, as all biopics to some extent must be, through her own, modern sensibilities: hunched shoulders, head tilted just so, her clipped rhythms and breathy tone suggesting a creature gasping for air. **CONT P. 21**

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This country has a habit of forgetting history, let's keep the date

Wesley Enoch, Contributor

The Sydney Morning Herald



Australia Day celebrations in Sydney last year.

Year after year we ask the same question about Australia Day. How can we celebrate our national day on January 26?

Some say change the date. Some see it as a tradition we should never change. We have been having this same debate since 1988, or at least 1994 when it was first legislated we had to have Australia Day on January 26. Do you remember when this wasn't the case and Australia Day was just whatever long weekend we could arrange at the end of summer? The last burst of holiday before we went back to school and work.

Well, here's something provocative – I don't want to change the date. As a Quandamooka man living on country I think we should be reminded of our colonial history, and the heartbreak that means for our people, every day. I don't want to brush away the past 234 years and somehow forget what happened. This country has a habit of forgetting its history.

No – I want the date of our National Day to stand as a spur to discuss our history and remember the trials and tribulations of Indigenous Australia. Changing the date is easy, confronting our past is the harder thing to do. How can we commemorate the painful past and still celebrate our hopes for a better future?

Yes – it may make some people feel uncomfortable but unless we can find our way through the heartache, injustice and suffering that has brought us to this present time we will never fulfil our potential as a nation. Our future will always feel limited if we choose to limit our understanding of our fullest past. Poet and activist Oodgeroo Noonuccal wrote: "Let no one say the past is dead, the past is all around us and within." Unless we can bring ourselves to speak the truth-telling required and the humanity to hear it I don't want to change the date.

We are entering a new phase of Australian history where the 35-year promise of Treaty is again heard on the radio and seen on the television. A time when sovereignty is being discussed with vigour in the corridors of power and the Uluru Statement from the Heart calls out to enshrine a Voice to Parliament.

This is the legacy of the Reconciliation movement. The symbolism of walking across bridges 20 years ago has led us to the brink of real change. These are things to celebrate and acknowledge, the hard work of our elders and the vision of those who have gone before us.

The history of Survival Day concerts across the country is testament to our ability to find optimism



If we change the date prematurely we lose the spur to discuss and debate the meaning of what it is to be Australian

in the face of hardship and to encourage more change. Hope should not be a panacea that replaces real change, but optimism should be present every day to demonstrate to our children that change is possible.

Noel Pearson talks of the three grand narratives of our country: the First Nations' narrative of the longest continuous cultures on Earth, the Second Nations' stories of the arrival of the British and the colonial project, and the Third Nations' stories of Australia as the most successful multicultural, multiethnic nation on Earth.

Our national day is an amalgam of these three narratives, it is our lived experience, our neighbourhoods, classrooms, and workplaces. These three narratives intertwine and have earned the right to be acknowledged as part of our national character – we are a country of blackfellas and refofs, wogs, whitebreads, skips and just-off-the-boaters.

If we change the date prematurely we lose the spur to discuss and debate the meaning of what it is to be Australian. We need to find a way to celebrate our discomfort.

There is a new tradition forming on the evening of January 25 as we gather to reflect on the Indigenous history of this country. At Sydney Festival there is The Vigil and in Canberra this year Nainmurru Nguurruu – caring for the campfire.

These events are about quiet contemplation, and reflection, thoughtfulness and honouring over 60,000 years of living on this Land. We must find ways of reflecting on all our history not just selected parts. We need to find ways to respect the three narratives as part of our broader storytelling. We need to find new ways to celebrate who we are in a way that builds connections between communities and families.

The themes of reflect, respect, celebrate are open enough for everyone to find their own pathway. For me reflecting our full history, respecting and celebrating my family, elders and survival. How will you reflect, respect, celebrate?

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

and

Énergé, that's French for how I feel about people who fly the Australian Flag constantly at half mast, or do not take it down at 5pm. If you want to fly the flag without taking it in at night, put a light to shine on it, and if you are lazy put it on a timer. Don't leave it in the dark!. Cessnock road??? To those who fly the flag and do the right thing. It means a lot people who put their lives on the line and other proud Australians. Thank you.

To the absolute idiot vandals/graffiti knobs who have, yet again, gone out of their way to make Braxnton look like a third world country; first was their graffiti on the bridge over the Hunter Expressway & then the mindless pulling out of the 60k signs at the round-a-bout. Surely someone has to have seen then in action (?). I wish it had been me ... they wouldn't be doing it again!

It is nice to see a number of new businesses opening locally in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. It says a great deal about the local areas' businesses who are obviously trading OK; we wish you well and hope that as the pandemic diminishes you trade flourishes.

To our wonderful Greta lass, Kimbalee Hodges, who has just been appointed Priest -in-Charge at the Anglican Parish of Dungog... mum & dad would have been so proud of what you have achieved. To have given your teaching career away to follow your chosen direction is inspirational!

To Dale McNamara for giving our local lawn bowlers the opportunity to play locally again at Miller Park Hotel. The opening day was just amazing and the number of people who took their shoes off and tried truly vindicates your decision to re-establish the new green & club; well done!

FREE Classifieds

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 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362
For Rent: Braxnton 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 Braxnton \$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 Braxnton 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 Braxnton Greta Mens Shed meet in the mornings: come and have a cuppa at the Shed. 49 Braxnton 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
 MON 7 FEB – Braxnton Public School-First day for Kindergarten students
 SAT 12 FEB - Braxnton Lions District Convention + Remembrance service Wyong Rugby Leagues Club.
 SUN 6 MAR—Lions Awareness and Clean Up Australia Day – Lions Park, Braxnton.
 SUN 19 MAR -Lions Youth of the Year – District Final at Greta.
 FRI 25 MAR to SUN 3 APL—Cessnock City Council Seniors Festival at Greta and Braxnton
 SEPT 2022- Lions Garden Project Lions Australia 75th Anniversary garden – Lions Park Braxnton.
Upcoming Concerts
 SAT 26 MAR 2022 — CANCELLED 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

THE ROBERTSON BROTHERS 1960'S VARIETY TV SHOW
Next date: Thursday, 24 February 2022 | 07:30 PM
 Do you dream of reliving the good old days? Well don't miss **THE ROBERTSON BROTHERS 1960's TV VARIETY SHOW** with special guest Simon Brook McLachlan - from the original cast of the hit musical, *Jersey Boys*. The boys are back with a brand new show! Take a trip down memory lane with this amazing interactive live TV Variety Show featuring the hits from The Seekers, Bee Gees, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, Neil Sedaka and The Everly Brothers! With an amazing multimedia presentation, expect to be entertained by many of the Classic Hits from the '60s. Through the prism of the Variety TV show format, you'll travel back in time to embrace and celebrate all the hits of these 1960's Music Legends. You'll be singing, dancing, laughing and crying to *Georgy Girl, I'll Never Find Another You, Oh Carol, Calendar Girl, Spicks and Specks, To Love Somebody, Massachusetts, Got To Get A Message To You, Sherry, Walk Like A Man, Big Girls Don't Cry, Let's Hang On, Bye Bye Love, Wake Up Little Susie, All I Have To Do Is Dream, Cathy's Clown*, plus so many more.

Lake St Clair proves to be a hook for visitors with Destination Venue of the Year award



With bumper fishing, a picturesque outlook and best of all, limited mobile reception, Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane said it's little wonder Lake St Clair has taken out the BelgraviaPRO Tourism Destination Venue of the Year. And with more than \$600,000 in improvements scheduled for 2022 – including a \$100,000 communications upgrade – there'll be even more reasons to plan a visit for some primitive camping or a day trip.

BelgraviaPRO is the tourism and holiday parks management subsidiary of the Belgravia Health and Leisure Group, which has been contracted by Singleton Council for the management of the Park since 1 July 2019. Lake St Clair was named the top tourism destination of 36 Belgravia Pro-managed sites across Australia at a special virtual event last month.

Mr Linnane said with a total of 13,257 campers and 12,104 day trippers between January and November 2021 (the latest data available) in a year highlighted by inter-regional lockdowns and travel bans, there was little doubt Lake St Clair was a popular destination for locals and visitors alike.

The Park was booked out between Christmas and New Year and is filling fast in the weekends leading up to Australia Day.

"Whether you want to relax and unwind or you're searching for adventure, Lake St Clair is the perfect family-friendly destination," he said.

"It's great to see people getting back to the outdoors after enduring months of COVID lockdowns, and even nature is cooperating with warm temperatures and water in the dam.

"I'm pleased to say that after months of drought conditions and then a whole lot of rain and mud in November and December, the water level in the lake is back up to 75% and I'm told the fishing has been pretty good.

"If you haven't booked a spot in January, I advise you to act quickly and contact Lake St Clair soon."

Lake St Clair is also highlighted in Council's capital works schedule for this year. A total of \$100,000 has been allocated for a telecommunications tower, and the Park will benefit from \$525,000 from Resources for Regions Round 8 with \$350,000 for a playground, \$100,000 for a dump point and \$75,000 for new tables and shelters. Council is also working with Belgravia to upgrade the fish cleaning table.

This year's projects follow \$195,000 in improvements in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 including a waste Water System Upgrade, boom gate installation and replacement of picnic tables and shelters.

A business plan and Plan of Management to guide the future of Lake St Clair are also in place.

"These projects will make a huge difference to the amenity at Lake St Clair and open up the Park to even more families and campers to include the Lake on their itineraries," Mr Linnane said.

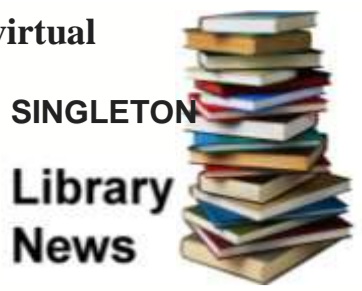
"We should see the new projects underway mid-way through 2022 to be well and truly ready for next Christmas."

■ Photo above: just a taste of the improvements being carried out at Lake St Clair

Singleton Library resources get mobile with virtual launch of new app

In a sign of the times, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore has officially launched the new Singleton Public Library app at a virtual event on Thursday 20 January 2022.

The application (app) puts all the Library's resources on your mobile or any other device, making it easy to renew an existing loan, learn about events and activities, and check whether the Library has the book or item you're looking for.



Cr Moore said it was the obvious next step in the progression of Library services, which proved to be invaluable as well as adaptable during COVID lockdowns.

The app allows users to:

- search the Library catalogue from anywhere, see what's new, reserve items from the Library collection, borrow books and other items from the Library collection in the Library, renew loans, scan a book's barcode to see if it is available from the Library, keep up to date with events and activities happening at the Library and to check opening hours and more.

Cr Moore said she encouraged everyone to be part of the virtual launch via Zoom at 5.30pm, which would include a demonstration of the app and the opportunity to ask questions and chat to other Library lovers and staff.

"We saw how important the Library service was during lockdowns, and the ingenuity of our staff to act quickly to bring in virtual storytimes and home deliveries to keep our community connected in very challenging circumstances," she said.

"The new app is a continuation of how we keep evolving to enhance our customers' experience of the Library and the collection to meet what people need now.

"It would have been great to bring people together in person to launch this amazing tool, but it's particularly appropriate to have a virtual event to demonstrate the benefits of the app and the myriad ways people can engage with the Library, including remotely."

To register to attend the Zoom launch, please email library@singleton.nsw.gov.au and a Zoom link will be sent to you.

You can also download the app now:

- Apple - Singleton Public Library on the App Store (apple.com)
- Android - Singleton Public Library - Apps on Google Play

Investing in the people of the Cessnock LGA is investing in the future of the Cessnock LGA

Cessnock City Council's Mayoral Scholarship Program provides financial support for residents of the local government area (LGA) to help achieve their educational goals at TAFE or university. It targets students undertaking studies in industries offering gainful employment in the Cessnock LGA, such as hospitality, tourism, education, engineering, medical, mining, communications and manufacturing.

The program has assisted 223 students since its inception in 2002.

"It's our goal to have as many residents as possible achieve their higher education and career aspirations by providing essential financial support," Cessnock Mayor Jay Suvaal said.



"This support allows them to focus on their studies and alleviates some of the stress associated with further education. I'm proud of this program and excited about the prospect of growing it with the support of local businesses."

Since 2002, and with the help of local sponsors, the program has awarded scholarships to the value of \$558,000. Sponsors receive promotional benefits while supporting youth, residents and jobs in the area. Council is now seeking the support of local businesses to become sponsors of the program. This year, Council will also welcome sponsorship inquiries from individuals or families who may be in a position to become sponsors.

■ Photo above: General Manager of Cessnock Leagues Club Paul Cousins (left), pictured with Cessnock Mayor Jay Suvaal. The club is one of the scholarship sponsors.

FROM P. 19

In Spencer, Kristen Stewart shines as Princess Diana in the midst of the breakdown of her marriage to Prince Charles

"There is no future here," she tells her kids in one scene. "Past and present are the same thing."

Despite its real-world bona fides, Spencer is less concerned with realism than a kind of paranoid nightmare, an imagining of an interior life that – like Larraín's misfiring Jackie – takes a middle-brow biopic screenplay and dresses it up with eccentric art-film flourish.

What might have been a by-the-numbers mental collapse in lesser hands becomes something stranger, more abstract.

How else to explain a film that risks reducing Diana to a one-dimensional cartoon, dragging Stewart's performance across the same emotional terrain? In one of the film's most facile sequences, she's seen sobbing over childhood artefacts; while in others, Stewart, who at 31 still has the insouciance of a teenage boy, seems less like a mother to her on-screen sons than their peer.

Was Diana yearning for freedom or merely incapable of adult responsibility, of performing the family's professional duties – and does the film, in treating her like a captured princess, infantilise the historical figure?

These questions linger, but the film's potency is otherwise hard to diminish: if nothing else, it's an extremely moving portrait of motherhood and survival in a ghastly, antiquated world – one that questions those who would pledge themselves to crown or country.

Sure, Diana might be a lot cooler here than she was in real life – at one point she wears a dirty parka over a princess dress and hiking boots, like some 90s alt-rock girl – but the film's designs are clear: reclaiming the former royal as the real People's Princess, complete with a taste for fast food, fast cars, and cheesy anthemic pop.



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



SOLD **SOLD**



Black Spot Control



Roses are the world's favourite flower, and black spot is the scourge of rose growers. Black spot is a fungal disease and it thrives in warm humid climates. It starts off as a black spot in the leaf and then it turns yellow and eventually the leaf falls off, and if it's really bad, the plant can die.

The first thing to do is to open up the rose bush to create more air movement through the middle and that minimises the risk of humidity.

Watering the rose foliage creates the right environment for the proliferation of the disease, so never water the foliage. Always water around the roots of the rose and give it a good soaking.

Plants are no different to people - the better fed they are, the more likely they are to resist disease. And that's also true with roses and black spot so that means give your roses a good feed every six to eight weeks through the growing season with an organically based rose fertiliser.

When the black spot spore lands on the leaf, it germinates and sends its little root system through the cell wall into the sap stream below and it proliferates. If you thicken that cell wall, the spore lands on the top, the root system germinates and it goes halfway through and then fizzles out, and so you get less black spot. But how do you thicken that cell wall? It's easy - just use sulphate of potash and give them about 100 to 150 grams per bush about four times a year - this should guarantee a lot less black spot.

Even after attending to the nutritional needs of roses, there will still be a need to spray. There are plenty of safe and organic ways to treat black spot. Try using two teaspoons of bicarb soda in 5 litres of water, add a couple of drops of detergent or a couple of drops of seaweed extract. This makes an excellent and inexpensive fungicide. Or use Bordeaux mixture or one of the other copper based fungicides.

Nutrition and spraying will control most black spot but from time to time some bushes will be chronically affected. The only thing to do is to rip these out so they don't infect any of the others.

Remember, garden hygiene is of vital importance. Go round on a regular basis and pick off any black spot affected leaves, put them in a plastic bag and tie the top tightly. Then leave it out in the sun to cook and that will kill the spores. Don't put them in the compost heap, instead put them in the bin. When you control black spot, you can have some beautiful roses.

* To make a natural fungicide for your roses, add 4 teaspoons of baking soda, a teaspoon of cooking oil and a teaspoon of dish soap to a gallon of water. Mix the ingredients well and then transfer them to a spray bottle.
* If you did not spray early in the season and you notice black spot on the leaves or stems, remove the affected parts (including any fallen leaves) and dispose of them. Spray thoroughly with Yates Rose Gun Black Spot & Insect Killer or Yates Rose Shield Concentrate and repeat as required.



Tips For Your Dogs



Heartworms in dogs: all the facts for pet owners



Heartworm in dogs is a serious health issue that can be fatal. Learn how you can keep your dog safe.

Heartworm in dogs is prevalent across Australia and can be a serious and potentially fatal condition.

Knowing how to prevent heartworm is essential for all dog owners. Luckily, there is plenty you can do to keep your pooch safe and healthy.

Read on to learn what you need to know about heartworm in dogs.

What are Heartworms?

Dog heartworms are a parasite spread by mosquitoes. The worms, which can grow to 30 cm in length, infest the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels.

The presence of heartworm in blood vessels causes inflammation and scarring, and may eventually lead to heart failure.

Heartworm Symptoms in Dogs

As heartworm can be deadly, it is important to know if your dog is playing host to these parasites.

There are often no signs of heartworm disease early on, however as the disease progresses increasingly severe signs may be seen. Here is a quick run down of heartworm symptoms in dogs:

Cough: Often one of the first signs of heartworm disease, coughing tends to be persistent and worsens with exercise.

Lethargy and exercise intolerance: Dogs with heartworm disease tend to be less active than normal due to the compromising effect the worms have on the heart and lungs.

Weight loss: Weight loss can occur in dogs with heartworm

disease.

Trouble breathing: If heartworm disease leads to heart failure, it can lead to a build-up of fluid in the lungs which makes breathing difficult.

Enlarged abdomen: Heart failure can also cause a build-up of fluid in the abdomen (called ascites), giving affected dogs a pot-bellied appearance.

It is important to note, that whilst the symptoms above can all be seen with heartworm disease, they are also seen in other conditions.

As always, please speak with your veterinarian for advice. While puppies can be infested by heartworm from the bite of a mosquito, disease does not occur until the worms mature, which can take 6-7 months. For this reason, heartworm disease is not seen in puppies less than 6 months of age.

How do Dogs Get Heartworm?

Now that we know a little about heartworm, how do dogs get it? Heartworm are transmitted between dogs by mosquitoes.

Adult female heartworm living in an infested dog produce tiny juvenile worms called microfilariae. When a mosquito takes a blood meal from a dog with circulating microfilariae, some of these are taken up. After a short period of development in the mosquito, these juvenile worms can be passed to a new dog when the mosquito takes another blood meal.

Heartworm Treatment for Dogs

If you are worried that your dog might have heartworm, it is best to take them to the vet for testing, and if required, treatment.

Remember, as noticeable symptoms of heartworm disease tend to arise quite late in the infestation, it is best to get your dog checked by your veterinarian at the first sign of illness.

Heartworm treatment for dogs diagnosed with adult heartworm infection involves the use of medications prescribed by your veterinarian. Treatment is not without risk, so it's important to commence prevention treatments straight away to ensure they do not become re-infected.

Heartworm Prevention for Dogs

Luckily, over the counter heartworm prevention for dogs is readily available. For the best heartworm and flea prevention combined with additional protection from mites, ticks and intestinal worms, we recommend NexGard SPECTRA®. For the best chewable heartworm tablets for dogs, try HEARTGARD³⁰ PLUS, a combination wormer that not only protects against heartworm, but also hookworms and roundworms. It is important to commence heartworm prevention for puppies early in their life. With NexGard SPECTRA, heartworm prevention can begin from 8 weeks of age, ensuring your puppy is protected against heartworm from the get-go.

Heartworm in Dogs FAQ

Take a look at some frequently asked questions about heartworm in dogs:

What are the side effects of heartworms?

Heartworms cause severe damage to a dog's heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels.

Signs associated with heartworm disease include:
Coughing
Lethargy
Trouble breathing
Weight loss

How long can a dog live with heartworms?

How long a dog can live with heartworms varies greatly, depending on factors such as the number of worms present and the dog's general health. Left untreated though, an infestation with these parasites can be fatal.

What are the first signs of heartworms in dogs?

Look out for coughing and lethargy, as these are two of the first signs that your dog has heartworms.

Can heartworms be passed from dog to dog?

Heartworms can't be passed on by contact with other dogs. They can only be spread through the bite of a mosquito.

How do puppies get heartworms?

A puppy will get heartworm by being bitten by a mosquito carrying microfilariae.

Do dogs poop out heartworms?

No, heartworms are not passed in faeces like some other worms.

How do humans get heartworms from dogs?

The same as with dog to dog transmission, humans can only get heartworms through mosquito bites. Heartworms don't like to live in humans so cases are very rare.

Why is my dog coughing after heartworm treatment?

If your dog is diagnosed with heartworm, the treatment administered by your vet kills worms present in the blood vessels of the lungs and can result in significant inflammation, leading to coughing. If your dog has been treated for heartworm, strictly follow the advice of your vet.

Why is my dog vomiting after heartworm treatment?

If your dog is diagnosed with heartworm, the treatment administered by your vet to kill the worms may be associated with side effects, including vomiting. There are many causes of vomiting in dogs. If your dog is vomiting after receiving vet-administered treatment for heartworm, it is best to contact them for advice.

What is the cost of dog heartworm treatment?

When a dog becomes infested with heartworm, treatment can be costly and not without risk, so prevention is a far wiser approach.

SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

NTP 13th James Elphick 260cm
Balls 16 Distributed down to score: 31

Pro's N.T.P 18th Hole Nick Wheeler = 229cm
Proshop Voucher
Mick Tracey showed how it can be done in producing a stunning 2 under par score to win Saturday's Stableford event with an outstanding 42 pts, which included the shot of the day with his tee shot finishing only 63 cms away on the 11th. His score is even more creditable considering he was 3 over par after 4 holes. 6 birdies later—5 on the back nine, allowed him to sign off with his sub-par round. Last week's A Grade Champion, Joshua Tracey, wasn't to be outdone by his father as he also had a 2 under par round, finishing runner up with his 39 pts. Toby Grant, playing with the Tracey's, was caught in their slipstream, finishing third in A Grade with his 35 pts. Dave Kinch won B Grade with an excellent 41 pts, just ahead of Dave Hodge's 39 pts with Gary Wilton, turning back time, finishing third with his 37 pts. David Pearce played well again in C Grade, winning with his very solid 41 pts, on a countback from James Elphick, with Geoff Geason third with 40 pts—it certainly was a tough school in C Grade. 31 pts was needed to win a ball. Nick Wheeler won the Pro's Pin on the last with his tee shot finishing only 229 cms away.

HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB
Sunday 9th January
The Weekly Challenge has been won by Bendigo GC junior Jesper Wallace with 46 points from Thomas Knight 44 & Steve Piggott in 3rd with 41 points. Ball winners: Brendan Wold 40, Aaron Marks 40, Isaiah Staplefeldt 37, Justin Ely 36, Thomas Way 36, Greg Snaddon 36, Jason Cowburn 35, Dan Hunt 35, Harrison Burey 35, Rob Banks 35 & Ken Archer 34 c/b
Tuesday 11th January
Drew Dewar has had a standout round of 45 points to clearly win the Tuesday Stableford from John Kolbas 40 & Paul Smith 3rd with 38. Ball winners were: Garry Marsden 36, Nick Brooke 36, Graham Rose 36, Hugh Le 35, Mark Makin 35, Darren Russell 35, Wayne Barber 35, Nick Wilson 35, Jeremy Holden 34, Rod Teasdale 34, Bob Prentice 34, David John 34, Wayne Burgess 33, Matt Danks 33, Rex Talbot 33, Ryan Wilson 33, Rick Turchini 33, David Peel 33, Jonathon Murphy 33, Scott Ling 33, Gary Arnold 32, Peter Franks 32, Teedubs Waite 32, Larry Forbes 32, Lindsay Self 32, Col Bradley 32, John Carmody 31, Lindsay Meyn 31, Graeme Flynn 31 & Wayne Cowan 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Larry Forbes (3rd) Paul Smith (4th) Bob Prentice (8th) Dave Hollis (10th) & Lindsay Self (17th)
Wednesday 12th January
A small field of Ladies turned out for the start of the Summer Comp rounds with Robyn Dunlop doing best with 34 points. Ball winners

were: Di Atton, Christine Tancred & Ann Grace-Smith. The Summer Comp will continue next week
Thursday 13th January
Another good field turned out in very humid weather for the Vets Medley Stableford with Wazza having a great start to the New Year with 40 points to win Division 1 from Graeme Smith with 37 on countback, Division 2 to Chris Stebbing with 38 on countback to Garry Marsden and Bindii handed in the 'round of the day' with 43 points from Alan McKenzie on 40. Ball winners were: John McLoughney 37, Ray Boyd 37, Bones 36, Don Bradley 36, John the Pom 36, Rox Jr 36, Ian Newell 36, John Tancred 35, Garry Clarke 35, Larry Forbes 35, Springy 35, Fluff 35, Kerry Bartlett 35, Jeremy Holden 35, David Peel 35, Kevin Dick 34, Dave Blackburn 34, Boss Hogg 34, Muz 34, Bruce Chambers 34, Mick Gilbert 34, GB Harris 34, Dazza Preston 33, Ryan Wilson 33, Ruff 33, Doug Wand 33, Curly 33, Pete the Pom 33, Mr Bad Hair 32, Peter McIntyre 32, Noel Ellenor 32, Tony Lorrimer 32, Col Bradley 32 & Scrum 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Lorraine Clack (3rd) GB Harris (4th) Mr Bad Hair (8th & 17th) & John McLoughney (10th).
Saturday 15th January
The Saturday field have returned some solid scoring from the Blue Tees with Ben Bradley leading the way in A Grade with 40 points from Stephen Zok with 38 on countback 2nd, Graham Morris returned to the top of the Podium in B Grade with 39 points from Darrin Cussen 38 & Peter Perkins showed his liking to the longer course with 43 points to claim C Grade from Joel Hafey with 40. Ball winners are: Damien Porter 38, Lincoln Brown 38, Jaye Hesse 36, Darrell Porter 36, Wayne Barber 36, Tony Butler 35, Russ Calderwood 35, Craig Sharp 35, Bill Harden 35, Jason Cowburn 35, Mark Noble 35, Matt Killick 35, Mick Gilbert 35, Col Somerville 35, Steve Piggott 34, James Schofield 34, Tom Lundy 34, Gary Arnold 34, Darren Mathers 34, Luke Johnston 33, Dale Johnston 33, Stephen Morgan 33, Corey Turner 33, Bruce chambers 33, Adrian Kent 33, Bomber 33 & Anthony Bower 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Caleb Porter (3rd) Jason Cowburn (4th) Luke Johnston (8th & 10th) & Damien Porter (17th) .
Sunday 16th January
After a five way countback Peter Harris has been declared the Weekly Challenge winner with 39 points from Joshua Flagerstrom & Ramsey Vane -Wood. Ball winners are: Dan haunt 39, Steve Hristov 39, Bohdan Ling 38, Corey Anderson 37, Zac Keenan 37, Tony Kraissa 36, Dave Hollis 36, Jesper Wallace 36, Andrew Dures 36, Todd Jolly 36, Ty Cowley 35, Greg Snaddon 35 Justin Lawrence 35, Noah Lawrence 34, John Knuth 34, Andrew Medway 34, Stephen Brown 34, Adam

Taggart 34, Andrew Bozinovski 34, Luke Adams 34, David Wood 34, Pam Snaddon 33, Andrew Zok 33, Jeff Shanahan 32 & Jai Kumar 32 c/b
Tuesday 18th January
Wayne Burgess survived a 3 way countback to claim the Tuesday Stableford top spot from Kyden Weitz with John Carmody taking 3rd place. Ball winners are: Matt D'Force 36, John Stewart 36, Chris Taggart 36, Brandon Cole 36, Larry Forbes 36, Nathan Sweeney 36, Col Bradley 35, Kevin Dick 35, Rex Talbot 34, Lindsay Self 34, Dean Morison 34, Caleb Porter 33, David Peel 33, Hugh Le 33 & Paul Smith 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Col Bradley (3rd) Dean Morison (4th) Larry Forbes (8th) Paul Smith (10th) & Matt D'Force (17th)
Wednesday 19th January
The Wednesday Ladies were washed out this week, the Summer Stableford Comp will resume next week.
Thursday 20th January
The Vets found the Stroke round a tad tough following the previous day's rainfall with sub Par rounds scarce. Kerry Bartlett matched Par to win Division 1 with 71 Net from Kenneth Harris 72, Division 2 to Paul Smith with 70 net from Darrell Preston 71 and Division 3 to Ken McLaughlan with 70 on countback to Greg Harder. Ball winners were: Garry Marsden 73, Bill Harden 73, Larry Forbes 73, Jeff Taylor 73, Peter Perkins 74, Mick Gilbert 74, Chris Norman 74, John The Pom 74, Greg Ireland 75, Wayne Barber 75, Trevor Collins 76, Gunner 76, John McLaughney 76, Jeremy Holden 76, Steve Piggott 76, Fluff 76, Mark Green 77, Beepa 77, Bruce Chambers 77, James Hogg 77, Marek Bartczak 77, Wazza 77, James Schofield 78, Jock 78, Scrum 78, Pete the Pom 78, Kevin Gibson 78, Kevin Smith 78, John Grayson 78, Dave Gelwiller 78, Doug Wand 78, Kevin Dick 78, Don Bradley 79, Bomber 79, Springy 78 & Wayne Berry 79 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Ken Blackett (3rd) Kerry Bartlett (4th) Gunner (8th) John McLoughney (01th) & Mark Barrow (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Irish Stableford
Saturday 22nd January
The Saturday Medley Stableford field struggled with Par proving had to beat. Aaron Dries won A Grade with 39 from Jon Morris 38, B Grade to Jeremy Holden with 37 from Bruce Chambers 34 & C Grade to Aaron Marks with 37 from Ian Taylor 35. Ball winners are: Wade Attewell 37, Craig Sharp 37, Mark Noble 37, Nathan Sweeney 37, Danny Schofield 36, Andrew Zok 36, Adrian Kent 35, Peter Tierney 35, Ryan Wislon 34, Blake McNamara 34, Graham Morris 34, Doug Wand 34, Stephen Morgan 34, Steve Piggott 34, Jeff Taylor 34, Peter Puerta 34, Shannon Attewell 33, John Lattin 33, Spot 33, Tom Lundy 33, Lee Heuston 33, Greg Harder 32, Darrell Porter 32, Fluff 32, Stephen Zok 32, Max Hindmarsh 32, Adam Jackson 31, Ben Bradley 31,

Mick Gilbert 31 & Brian Connolly 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Nathan Sweeney (4th) Dan McLeod (8th) Wade Attewell (10th) & Craig Sharp (17th).
Sunday 23rd January
Jack Edwards has won the Weekly Challenge with a solid 43 point round from Scott Tefler with 37 on countback to Ben Wallis also on countback. Ball winners are: Steve Piggott 37, Brodie Taggart 36, Jarrod Gorsuch 36, Andrew Cairney 36, Jesse Woodward 35, Adam Taggart 35, Nathan Bendeich 35, Rachael Kitching 35, Isaiah Ryan 35, Blake Medway 34, Darrin Cussen 34, Brad Murray 34, Andrew Chalker 34, Garry Hall 34, Graeme Mankelov 34, Thomas McDonald 33, Peter Long 33, Geoffrey Barnett 32, Greg Snaddon 31, Pam Snaddon 31, Ryan McGregor 31, Phil Byron 30, Josh McPaul 30, Dan Hunt 30, Greg Flux 29, Jake Henson 29, Jake Goward 29, Melissa Beavis 29, Marjo Kummeling 28, Tony Kraissa 28 & Thomas Edgar 28 c/b
Tuesday 25th January
Emmett Holland with 40 points has won the Tuesday Stableford from Steve Piggott 38 & Paul Campbell 3rd with 37 points. Ball winners are: Greg Snaddon 36, Greg Ireland 36, Jerry Bowden 36, Wayne Burgess 35, Pam Snaddon 35, David Peel 35, Larry Forbes 34,

John Stewart 34, Andrew Grant 34, Gary Arnold 33, Thomas Vaughan 33, Bob Prentice 33, Jayden Casinelli 33, Darrell Porter 33, Wayne Cowen 33, Bruce Matthews 33, Graeme Flynn 33, Tracy Morison 32, Brandon Cole 32, Matt Lorenz 32, Michael Cunningham 31, Alan Jamieson 31, Lindsay Self 31, Rick Turchini 31 & Garry Marsden 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Rex Talbot (3rd) Jayden Csinelli (4th) Paul Campbell (8th) Steve Piggott (10th) & Matt D'Force (17th)
Thursday 27th January
A large field turned out in the Vets Medley Irish Stableford in ideal weather for Golf, coupled with the excellent fairway surface, in a good growth season, has produce some exception scores with Wazza leading the way in Division 1 with 87 points from Tom Bell 84, Micheal O'Brien (may be Irish ?) claimed Division 2 with 87 from Graham Donaldson with 85 and John the Pom did best in Division 3 with 69 from Silver with 65. Ball winners are: Morto 82, Bomber 79, Scrum 79, John Stewart 79, Bones 78, Mark Green 76, Jock 76, John McLoughney 75, John Grayson 73, Mick Gilbert 73, Alan Provenzano 72, Graeme Flynn 71, Troll 71, David Peel 71, Chris Norman 71, Springy 70, Ryan Wislon 70, Don Tull 70, Bill Freeman 69, Dean

Morison 69, Kerry Bartlett 69, Noel Ellenor 69, Bruce Chambers 68, Graeme Smith 68, Bindii 67, Beepa 67, Greg Amlöh 67, Bob Hannah 66, Steve Piggott 66 & Big Kev 66 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to David Blackburn (3rd) David Peil (4th & 8th) Morto (10th) & Bomber (17th).
Saturday 29th January
The outstanding scoring has continued in the Medley Par event with A Grade to Mick Gilbert with +6 from Russ Calderwood +3 on countback, B Grade to Nicholas Hain on countback to Ryan Wilson after returns of +5 and C Grade to Ryan Forrest with +5 from Tony Butler with +2 on countback. Ball winners are: Wade Attewell +3, Glenn Williams +2, Jo Curnow +1, Greg Harder +1, Brady Benkovic +1, Graham Morris +1, Tom Bell +1, Graeme Smith +1, Lindsay Meyn sq, Don Btradley sq, Paul McCudden sq, Stephen Zok sq, Spot sq, Joel Hafey sq, Peter Puerta -1, Tom Lundy -1, Sharyn Jones -1, Patrick Wand -1, Peter McIntyre -1, Matlt Killick -1, Dean Morison -1, Bruce Chambers -1 Michael Tsakissiris -1, Bomber -2, Wayne Drayton -2, Jeremy Holden -2, Bindii -2, Steve Piggott -2, Terry Webb -2 & Mark Noble -2 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Tom Bell (3rd) Larry Forbes (4th) Morto (8th & 10th) & Peter McIntyre (17th).



with Mark Bercini

SENIOR CRICKET REPORT

Week 10

Week 10 of Cessnock District Cricket saw wins to first, third and fourth grade, with second grade enjoying the weekend off with the bye.

Greta/Branxton maintained a share of the Coalfields Cup lead in a hard-fought win over the Piranhas at East End. The Cessnock defending premiers posted 189 after electing to bat first. Most batsmen made contributions, with Jace Lawson (27), skipper Joey Butler (25), Greg Andrews (25), Nathan Holz (23), Josh Dagg (19), Dave Condran (15) and Darren Thomson (14) all productive at the crease.

The Piranhas produced their best batting performance of the Coalfields Cup thus far, but were still well short of the target, all out for 136 in the 24th over. Lawson completed a good all-round for the Blues with 3-31 off 7, with Pat Andrews (3-20 off 5.2) also taking a treble of wickets.

Third Grade played the first ever game on Miller Park no.3, and they christened the new venue in style with a nine-wicket thrashing of Cessnock Hotel. Chasing 129 for victory, the Blues cruised to victory after losing just the one wicket. Playing his first game for the club, John Hamson carried his bat with 60, with Adam Kerry also batting well with 57 retired. Cessnock were all out for 128 earlier in the day, with Aaron Stephenson (3-1 off 1), Kerry (3-32 off 6) and Dave Seabrook (2-17 off 4) doing the damage.

Fourth Grade had a few anxious moments but eventually fell over the line in their two-wicket win over Wine Country. Wine Country were kittled for just 48 batting first, with Jeremy Brown the Blues' best with the two-piece, bagging 4-13 off 6. He was well supported by Logan Rutter (2-4 off 5) and Jack McNickle (2-10 off 5). Greta/Branxton eventually reached the target in the 21st over, with skipper Zach MacBeth guiding his side to their second victory on the trot with 16no.

Points Tables 2021-22

Coalfields Cup Bellbird 27, Mulbring 27, Greta/Branxton 27, Creeks 15, Valley 15, Wine Country 12, JPC 9, PCH 9, Piranhas 6, Glendon 3.
Ross Smith Shield First Grade Bellbird 33, Greta/Branxton 32, Wine Country 24, Mulbring 21, Piranhas 20.
Second Grade Bellbird 43, Greta/Branxton 36, Chelmsford Hotel 35, Wine Country 34, Piranhas 22.
Third Grade Bellbird 24, Cessnock Hotel 21, Greta/Branxton 21, Mulbring 17, Piranhas 17, Wine Country 14.
Fourth Grade Chelmsford Hotel 47, Wine Country 46, Cessnock Hotel 42, Greta/Branxton 41, Piranhas 39, Supporters 37.
Club Championship Bellbird 431.90, Greta/Branxton 422.80, Wine Country 348.60 Piranhas 280.00

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Josh Tracey wins Branxton Golf Club Championship again.....

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS RD 3 - STABLEFORD

The Club Championships resumed on the 15 January after being postponed at the end of last year with 61 players enjoying the balmy conditions on Saturday. The day's stableford event provided some outstanding scores with young Sam Edmonds winning A Grade with an outstanding 43 pts (72 off the stick) from Brendan Bendeich with 41 pts (71 off the stick) with Greg Tearle third with his excellent 37 pts. Paul Bush won B Grade with his 40 pts, a score which gave him a 3 shot lead after 3 rounds of the championships. Bobby Hale finished runner up with his 38 pts with

Norm Redgrove's 37 pts good enough for third. Tim Lane played beautifully to win C Grade with an outstanding 43 pts (85 off the stick) which gave him an 8 shot lead after 3 rounds in the championships. Geoff Geason finished runner up with his 39 pts which included the Pro's NTPin on the last, earning him \$96 in the Pro Shop. Matthew Bain, last year's C Grade Champion finished third with his 38 pts. 33 pts was needed to win a ball. Going into the last round of the Club Championships, Lee Heuston was leading A Grade on 214 (72,72,70) from Joshua Tracey on 215 (71,72,72) with Brendan Bendeich 218 (74,72,71)

and Rod Wilton 229 (73, 79,77). Paul Bush was leading B Grade on 257, with Neil Bridge (260), Robert Hale (264) and Geoff Jones (267) making the seeded group for the last day. Tim Lane was leading C Grade by a commanding 8 shots on (274) with David Pearce (282), Pip Lancaster (283) and Col Hughes (283) making up the seeded group. During that week, Corey Lamb played outstandingly well in the very prestigious Master of the Amateurs competition at the Victoria Golf Club to finish 4th. The Men's and Women's Australian Master of the Amateurs 72-hole Championships are considered by many of the

world's leading amateur golfers to be the finest Amateur Golf Championships in the world. He will be playing in the NSW Amateur next week, so we wish him all the best in this event.

CLUB CHAMPS RD 4 - STABLEFORD

The last round of the Club's Championships was played on Sunday with each grade providing some excellent golf. The day's stableford winners were Sam Edmonds in A Grade (39 pts), Geoff Jones in B Grade (an unbelievable 45 pts) and Tim Lane in C Grade (also with an outstanding 43 pts.) Dave Kinch won the Pro's NTPin on the last with 33 pts

needed to win a ball. Joshua Tracey became the A Grade Club Champion once again (he has finished second many times as well) with an excellent 72 to win the A Grade by 3 shots from the overnight leader Lee Heuston. They were all square going down the 13th before Joshua managed to pull away over the last 5 holes despite Lee matching him on 3 of those holes. Brendan Bendeich finished third with another solid 76. Geoff Jones played the "best round of his life" to win B Grade by two shots from Bobby Hale, who played beautifully as well. Geoff's 77 off the stick (45 pts) allowed him to come from 10 shots back to win the title in a very impressive fashion. Tim Lane clearly won C Grade, converting his overnight 8 shot lead into a 10- shot win after his 86 off the stick (43 pts). Pip Lancaster was very pleased with his effort as well to finish runner up after his best ever 88 off the stick. Brendan won the A Grade



Nett by 8 shots; Bobby Hale won the B Grade Nett by 6 shots whilst Pip won the C Grade Nett by 5 shots. Other notable winners were Sam Edmonds winning the Junior title by an impressive 14 shots despite

Zach also playing well; Tim Lane winning the 'Mug of Mugs' after a last round 64 nett score; and Pip Lancaster winning the Veteran's title by 8 points.

■ Photo above: Branxton Golf Club President presents Club Champion Josh Tracey with trophy

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