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2022 Cessnock local Woman of the Year – Branxtonian Helen Scott

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2022 Local Woman of the Year for the NSW Cessnock Electorate, Mrs. Helen Scott

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP is pleased to announce that Branxton resident Mrs Helen Scott is the 2022 Local Woman of the Year for the Cessnock Electorate.

The NSW Women of the Year awards will held in Sydney on Wednesday 9 March 2022. The annual awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding contribution made by women across NSW to industry, communities and society.

Helen Scott is recognised for her tireless volunteering efforts for many organisations for the past 40 years. Her contribution to our communities is immeasurable.

During her volunteer work Mrs Scott has raised thousands and thousands of dollars for local and national charities including local schools, sporting organisations, churches, the Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children, Branxton Lions Club, domestic violence charities, the Cancer Council and Palliative Care.

Mrs Scott began volunteering in 1980 as a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels, before she went on to volunteer at Cardiff Public School Canteen and Cardiff Junior Soccer. She has also volunteered for Branxton Lions Club, Women's Apex Club, and Anglican Opshop. Mrs Scott has also been responsible for organising many Saturday and twilight markets as fundraisers for various local and national charities including the Black Dog Institute, Jodie's Place and Friends of Palliative Care.

She has also been instrumental assisting Branxton/Greta Country Women's Association to run a Biggest Morning Tea event fundraiser for the Cancer Council.

Since 2017 Mrs Scott has also been an active member and then Secretary of the Central Hunter Business Chamber (formerly Branxton Greta Business Chamber.) Her work with the chamber has included organising markets, assisting with the Expo, organising the Governor's Morning Tea event at Branxton Community Hall and as a volunteer as part of the two day 80th Birthday celebrations of Greta Army and Migrant Camp in November 2019.

It is through these events that Mrs Scott has not only raised much needed funds for charities and our local community but also raised their profile. Her countless hours of dedication is truly admirable.

For the past 10 years and currently Mrs Scott holds the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Caretaker, Booking Officer of the Branxton Community Hall, fighting hard for improvements for the Hall which have included the installation of solar panels in 2019.

“Helen Scott's extensive volunteering is a tribute to a remarkable woman who is always willing to lend a hand for her community” said Clayton Barr.

“Helen embodies community spirit and a willingness to help out others” said Mr Barr. “It is a privilege to be able to acknowledge Helen's hard work and thank her for her efforts on behalf of our community.”



BRANXTON BUSINESS NETWORKING dinner

Date & Time: Thursday 24 March 2022
5:30pm ~ 10:00pm

Location: The Royal Federal Hotel, Maitland Street, Branxton

Cost: \$25/head book online

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Creativity and curiosity connect at opening of new Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre



• Minister for the Arts Ben Franklin, Cessnock Mayor Cr Sue Moore, Singleton Deputy Mayor Tony Jarrett & Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell

There were no limits to creativity in Singleton following the opening of the new Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre in Townhead Park on the 6th March 2022.

The \$4.08million gallery was funded in partnership between Singleton Council and a \$2.787million Create NSW grant, boasting more than 300 square metres of state-of-the-art gallery space, and two artists' workshops including wet and digital studios. The centre will also house Singleton's Civic Art collection.

The Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre completes Singleton's Townhead Park precinct, which has been years in the making as a centre for tourism and community connection encompassing the Singleton Visitor Information Centre (VIC) showcasing Hunter Valley operators and products, as well as a café, playground, and children's bike track.

The inaugural exhibitions showcase new commissions by photographer Edwina Richards and Indigenous artist Debbie Becker, each celebrating the diversity and connection of people to the Singleton area.

NSW Minister for the Arts, Ben Franklin said the NSW Government is proud to have contributed \$2.8million towards this important cultural and tourism attraction.

"Art and culture are at the heart and soul of regional NSW and I'm delighted to have been there to officially open this exciting project that will generate tourism and deliver economic benefits to the local community," Mr Franklin said.

"After the past few years we've had with COVID-19, it's important we enhance

artistic spaces to provide creative outlets for the community to come together and experience art and culture, and this investment through the Regional Cultural Fund will enable that." "Importantly, it will also generate tourism and deliver economic benefits to the local community

people right across our local government area. "I cannot wait to see what the future holds for upcoming exhibitions and experiments with public art, and more

in the Singleton and Hunter Valley regions." Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the centre was a place for residents and visitors alike, inspiring the imagination and sparking curiosity. "After years of community campaigning, I am thrilled to see the Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre finally a reality and open to our community and visitors to experience and share," she said.

Cr Moore also said the Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre would reflect the Singleton community's rich heritage and culture, and was much more than

a gallery to house paintings and sculptures. "This is so much more than a gallery for paintings and sculptures – this is a space that reflects our identity as a community and celebrates the heritage and culture of the

importantly for what our local artists will create in the state-of-the-art studios and the inspiration that will come for a new generation of emerging artists."

"The Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre draws a line in the sand, quite literally, that says Singleton is a place for arts and culture. While people might know our area for mining, wine and agriculture, I can't wait for them to come inside and experience a new way of looking at Singleton and all that we have to offer. "This is a fantastic new attraction for Singleton, cementing Townhead Park as a destination for all ages."

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Peter Truscott – 0419 441 257
Stanhope Handyman Services



Peter John BUTLER 2/1/73 ~ 16/3/03

Each day we think about you & realize that you have gone. We cannot explain the emptiness that life has now become. They say that times 'a healer' but of that we are not so sure for every time we think of you we miss you more & more.
Love now and forever,

Mum, Dad, Melissa & families

COMBINED GUESSING COMPETITION and MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Have some fun and come into Greta Museum to see our mannequin and guess her name.

\$2 a ticket with great prizes.

Hint: She is dressed in original clothing worn by a European migrant from the end of the Second World War.



The Greta Museum is open 11am-3pm each Wednesday and Saturday, at 96 High Street Greta, in the former Greta Council Chambers.

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DEATH NOTICE

Warren William VICK

Late of Branxton
Passed away suddenly 13.12.2021
Partner of Barbara & father of
Travis



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A Commitment to Personal Service

'Doo Stop Op Shop' but please *stop* dumping your unwanted items

THE 'Doo Stop Op Shop' in Maitland Street, Branxton has an ongoing problem with, most probably, good hearted people who leave unwanted goods & chattels at the front of the shop. This invariably happens over weekends when the shop is not trading.

"We are happy to receive donations of clothing, bric-a-brac, books, DVD's, CD's, kitchenware etc., but we cannot accept electrical goods or toys or car seats," said a spokesperson for the Op Shop. "The reason for no toys is because more often than not they are incomplete and in bad condition. No electrical items because, by law, they need to be tested and the same goes for car seats."

The shop is open five days a week, 10.00am to 3.00pm and this is their preferred time for donations to be made. "If that is not possible, the donors can contact the shop via the email address hdvsas@bigpond.com" "We cannot accept furniture because our shop does not have the capacity to store such

items." "The shop sells only good quality second hand items and any damaged goods are put in the bin. People must understand that our customers, whether rich or poor, have pride in what they wear or have in their homes."

All proceeds from the shop go towards the maintenance of a women's refuge located in the Hunter and, also, the running costs of the shop.

"Unfortunately, some people see the shop as a dumping ground for their unwanted furniture and other items."

"They choose to leave these items on the front verandah of the shop and there has been the occasion when we received a phone call from the real estate managing agent saying that the landlord had seen the mess out the front and asked that it be removed immediately; this was on a Sunday afternoon!"

"We do need help because people are dumping their unwanted items. We have a growing pile of rubbish that needs to go to the tip. We have Cessnock vouchers that we are willing to give to anyone who would assist us in this way."



■ Photos above & below show what the staff come to expect on a Monday. Note the baby's car seat.



Enjoy a free end of season splash

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce a free Family Fun Day will go ahead at Cessnock Pool, Branxton Pool and the Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre on Sunday 27 March 2022.

Residents will gain free entry into the pools from 10am to 4pm and are invited to come along with their families to celebrate the end of the pool season.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said the free Family Fun Days have always been popular with the community and he hopes to see more of them next season.

"It was unfortunate that COVID restrictions prevented us from going ahead with the fun days over summer, but I'm glad we're able to finish the season on such a positive note," Councillor Suvaal said.

"The Family Fun Day coincides with Kurri Kurri's Nostalgia Festival which Council is also proudly supporting, so it is shaping up to be a fun-filled weekend and I encourage everyone to get involved."

BRANXTON BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT AND DINNER

A networking event with local business leaders, guest speakers and friends to promote business within the Branxton, Greta, Huntlee and North Rothbury regions.

Thursday 24 March
Royal Federal Hotel, Branxton

Featuring keynote speaker, *The Fighter Pilot Mindset's* Christian "Boo" Boucousis



Funded by the Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund (BCRRF) provided through the joint disaster recovery funding arrangement between NSW and Commonwealth Government



Resilience
NSW



Central Hunter
BUSINESS CHAMBER

Date and time

Thu., 24 March 2022
5:30 pm – 10:00 pm AEDT

LOCATION

Royal Federal
50 Maitland Street
Branxton, NSW 2335

LINK TO ONLINE PAYMENT

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/branxton-business-networking-event-tickets-265662161677>

COST \$25 per person

Be There.

STEVE'S RANT

Whilst the myopic and narrow-minded media have been in a frenzy about esoteric, what if, strawmen or women such as the tacky interpersonal relationships among Parliament House staff, or the conflated concerns of minority groups like the transgender minority, the real concerns of Australians are being ignored to the detriment of us all.

The media has not questioned the idiotic self-harm advocated by Labor, Greens. Liberal and National parties, to destroy our way of life and security to reduce man-made CO2 emissions. The aim is alleged to prevent global warming. With all our scientific discoveries and achievements, the conceit of humankind to believe we can control climate and weather is astounding.

Son of Sweyn, b. 1016 – 1035 King Canute showed man - even a King cannot hold back the tide. He hung his crown on a crucifix to acknowledge the power of the 'Almighty'.

The ancient Greek Philosophers had a better understanding of the limits of human endeavours and the vagaries of the gods. Yet, the Athenians produced a culture and society which we accept as the foundation of all subsequent civilisations in the western world.

So, what collective intellectual degeneracy is driving this madness?

Instead of the failure to consider all the evidence to arrive at a scientific result, the elitist lefties cherry-picked only those measurements and observations that support their pre-arranged theory.

When a court case is before a jury, the prosecution bases its claim on a guilty verdict, presenting only evidence supporting that verdict. The defence attempts to counter that with contradictory evidence or question the validity of that evidence. Hopefully, the unbiased jury will make a judgment, being mindful of both the evidence and the general standards of behaviour expected by the community.

It is my contention the perversions of the scientific method are driven by Labor/Green and wet Liberal socialism, which requires an existential threat to frighten people into accepting totalitarianism.

We see the perfect example of this replicated worldwide with draconian and unnecessary destruction of natural justice and freedoms in the name of public safety. Thankfully we see people pushing back against mandates and oppression in Canberra, Canada, France and elsewhere. The Governments in many countries have realised that Shutdowns and Mandates do little to prevent the spread of the pandemic, and denial of



freedoms do much greater harm to society.

The last two years have been a perfect dress rehearsal for the socialist elements in the world to see and measure the meek acceptance populations have to domination and rule outside the legislative system.

What has happened in Victoria, Queensland, and WA has shown the way for the green leftist socialist to pervert democracy and all it stands for in the name of saving the human race. What a scam.'

These toxic lefties have no idea about the resilience of man and nature to adjust to change, as shown by our written history and archaeological records. Life will prevail even as average temperatures change. We cannot change the climate, and we cannot change the weather. What life does is to adapt as it has for 600 million years.

When you consider who you might give your primary and preference votes to in the coming

Federal and State elections, ask the candidates what they think about how the nation can move out of the current claptrap of entitlement, victimhood, censorship of ideas and subversion of democracy, into the upland of providing for the future. Water security and distribution. Establishment of a worthy education system. Protection from foreign aggression and interference. Constitutional protection from State governments and bureaucratic persecution. Reconciliation with our Aboriginal peoples. Protection for health services from interferences by politicians and bureaucrats. More reliance on the common law than attempts to specify behaviours not acceptable to society. Balance the budget and simplify the tax system.

Suppose you cannot remember all that; ask your candidates if they believe in man-made climate change. Give your vote to those sceptical of the Climate Religion and who have a healthy

optimism for the future, which does not include batteries, windmills and solar farms. Renewable sources cannot provide energy security and will cause more problems for disposal when obsolete than asbestos. Four solar cycles were out of phase in 2020 and some solar physicists are suggesting that we face another period like the Maunder Minimum (1645-1715 Ad.)

So don't blame burning fossil fuels for the current weather. We are in a back-to-back La Nina, where the warmer atmosphere might exacerbate the effect. Dams that should have been built into the arid interior and weren't is the cause of the flooding. Who stopped the dams? Lefty green labour, and the Independents who pretend to be Independent who are to blame, influenced by uni students who protest sticking themselves to the road and of course the state governments. Lismore has flooded for years

and no infrastructure has been put in place to prevent this. On the 8th of March 1890 Lismore levels were 12.46 mts. This time it's over 14 meters and said to be unprecedented. Geological records show differently. Once scientists get hold of a subject, it has left the realm of absolute certainty. There is no certainty in climate or weather.

Human caused climate change? It is easier to panic people into believing that everything is their fault and then tax them to fix the bureaucratic lack of planning and action.

I am saddened by the state of the nation, brainwashed bureaucrats who cannot make a decision which might place their jobs in jeopardy. I emphasise with the victims of the floods. Sadly, you get what you vote for. Love and respect the environment as we all do, by all means, but don't impede those who would look after humankind's survival, our farms and food security.

Cheers, Steve



Dodging victims exposes PM Raging is not only what the Morrison government does, it's also Scott Morrison's own style of reaction.

Whether on the floor of the Parliament or responding to a journalist, Morrison is all bullying, blustering and hectoring. It's unattractive, unacceptable and boorish. Attack can be done skilfully and quietly: Paul Keating destroyed cant, hypocrisy and stupidity with mocking humour. His weapon was the surgical scalpel, Morrison's is the blunt axe. Morrison's hiding from flood victims seems to suggest he is very aware of his inability to be a nice, empathetic bloke. **Trevor Somerville, Illawong**

Sanitised sport won't deliver another Warne

IT IS very appropriate that Shane Warne now has his name on a grandstand at his

beloved MCG. We won't ever see a character like Warne again. Sports, as with all things, have become sanitised. However, the reaction and outpouring of love and grief for this bloke from all around the world is, I think, people wanting a return to the days of Warne and Rod Marsh. Normal blokes, a bit better than your average, who wouldn't bend or buckle to please people who didn't matter. Larrikins, especially in Warne's case, who never thought they were better than the next bloke. RIP, Shane and Rod. **Steve Barnett, Fingal Bay**

Preparation is key amid disasters

THE mental image of an elderly lady trapped in the roof of her house in rising floodwaters is quite terrifying. How could this come about? Yes, the

flooding was in some areas unprecedented, but we see the same low-lying suburbs go under time and time again. So we know what to expect, and nowadays with weather modelling we can predict it. So, how do we prevent the worst of the outcomes for vulnerable people? There has been quite a lot of criticism of the emergency response: too slow, too late, or non-existent. This is unfair on the many thousands of ordinary people who do join up volunteer organisations like the SES and Rural Fire Brigades. They are good people keen to help their community. I would suggest that the problem lies in the preparation for such events. We can predict it, but we can't prevent. A new paradigm is needed in how we react. We have very detailed maps and

predictions of where floodwaters are likely to impact. The high-risk locations could be identified in advance, the people living there educated on the risk and then when a catastrophe strikes those people could be targeted for priority assistance. The reality of climate change now is that in a dry year we will have summer heatwaves and bushfires, in a wet year we will have summer floods. Recent history only confirms this. The future for us is that these cycles will become more frequent and more severe, and if we don't come up with a plan to proactively deal with it then we are doomed to keep repeating the terrible outcomes we have seen just recently. **Bruce Graham, Warners Bay**



with Mike Lowing

FINAL reminder to the local business community to secure your seat at the coming Central Hunter Business Chamber Network Dinner. The evening is limited to 100 and the seats are going fast. The evening is to be jointly hosted by the local business chamber (CHBC) &

Cessnock City Council & is intended to promote business within the Branxton, Greta, Huntlee & North Rothbury regions. The Event is also aimed at bringing local business leaders together to learn, share ideas, experiences and create opportunities for growth. This is a great opportunity for new and existing businesses to make connections with other business people. It will provide a source of invaluable information and expertise that will allow you to network with industry leaders,


keep up to date on business trends and learn how to tackle business disruption head on. The evening has a keynote speaker; The Fighter Pilot Mindset's Christian "Boo" Boucousis

Date & Time: Thu., 24 March 2022 5:30pm ~ 10:00pm

Location: The Royal Federal Hotel, Maitland Street, Branxton

Cost: \$25/head book online at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/branxton-business-networking-event-tickets-265662161677

Cheers, Mike



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

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Maitland Cancer Appeal committee to celebrate their 40th Birthday



Alice Bennis, 84, founder of the MCAC

The Maitland Cancer Appeal Committee are celebrating their 40th birthday in April and kicking off with a celebration luncheon on the 20th March. They have plenty to celebrate! Since 1984, Alice Bennis has been at the helm of the Maitland Cancer Appeal Committee. She has been primarily supported by a troupe of loyal volunteers and the sales from their glittering, eclectic op-shop in Rutherford NSW. The committee has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for cancer research in the Hunter Valley over almost 40 years. The Maitland Cancer Appeal Committee Inc. was formed in April, 1982, with the aim of assisting in obtaining an Oncology Unit in the Hunter Valley. This was accomplished due to the combined efforts of many sections of the Community. "The Committee work for the care, comfort, & treatment of cancer patients

and also research into cancer," said Treasurer & spokesperson Paul Longworth. "All money raised by the Committee must be used by researchers residing in the Hunter Valley." The Committee set up a free "Home Laundry Linen Service" on 2nd September, 1995 & supply single & double bed sheets, pillow cases, towels, kylie sheets, & mattress protectors. "We know this service will fill an increasing need to ease the burden of family who suffer the trial & tribulation of caring for a terminally ill loved one at home. The Committee understands that taking care of such a basic need & relieving the family of such a mundane task gives carers more quality time with their loved ones. The service is free," said Paul. "We purchased a van & volunteer drivers deliver the clean linen & pick up Monday, Wednesday & Friday. In 2012, our 30 year anniversary, through

the generosity of Maitland City Bowling Club the old van was replaced with a new Toyota. (Proudly sponsored by the Burton Family)." All patients are referred by the Palliative Care nurses or a doctor. The Craft & Op shop opens Monday to Friday. They own the building so do not have to pay rent. The building is situated at 28 East Mall, Rutherford near Aldi Supermarket. "We are not Government Funded. We raise our money by selling craft in our op shop & also second hand clothing & Bric-A-Brac. We also receive donations from the general public," said Paul. The Committee has made generous donations to hospitals where cancer patients are treated & have donated many hundreds of thousands of dollars for research into cancer. But, to do this relies on the hard work of their Committee and volunteers who have given hours and hours of their time to make

the organisation as successful as it is. From 2000 to 2021 they have donated approx \$1.7M to Cancer Research. "It is an achievement we all very proud of." "Our milestone of 40 years will be celebrated with the presentation of \$400,000 for further research making the amount donated in the period to over \$2M. We are all volunteers so all of our money can be used for cancer research with hopefully a cure at the end," said Paul

Disaster assistance extended to Hunter region following severe flooding

MP for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell and Federal Nationals candidate for Hunter James Thomson have welcomed news that disaster assistance is now available across multiple local government areas in the Hunter following severe storms and flooding from March 2022, which continues to impact large areas of New South Wales. The Hunter region LGAs include across Cessnock City Council, Dungog Shire Council, Maitland City Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, Singleton Shire Council, and Upper Hunter Shire Council. Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

This severe weather event will continue to impact many areas across the state with flood waters receding in Northern NSW and flood evacuation orders in place within north west and south west Sydney. Mr Layzell said the impacts continue to be assessed and we will work together to ensure all impacted communities receive the recovery support they need. "The assistance being announced today will help ensure councils and individuals impacted by this disaster have the support they need to get back on their feet as soon as possible," Mr Layzell said. Mr Thomson said he was pleased to hear people living across multiple Hunter LGAs were now eligible for support. "This funding will provide some relief to Hunter locals who have been impacted by these horrible events, giving them a helping hand in their time of need," Mr Thomson said. Assistance available under the DRFA may include:

- Help for eligible people whose homes or belongings have been damaged (eligibility criteria apply)
- Support for affected local councils to help with the costs of cleaning up and restoring damaged essential public assets
- Financial assistance for primary producers small businesses and non-profit organisations, and
- Freight subsidies for



MP for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell and Federal Nationals candidate for Hunter James Thomson

primary producers. For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, and financial assistance for small businesses and non-profit organisations contact Service NSW on 13 77 88. To apply for primary producer financial assistance, contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au

Inaugural exhibitions announced for new Arts and Cultural Centre

NSW's newest gallery, Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre has burst onto the arts scene with a vibrant exhibition program to be presented in the \$4.08million space. In its first six months, the Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre will present three major exhibitions alongside curated selections from the Singleton Civic Art collection, which comprises more than 120 artworks. The inaugural exhibitions (6 March - 8 May), funded by the NSW Government's Resources for Regions Program and opened to the public on 6 March 2022, features new commissions by photographer Edwina Richards and Indigenous artist Debbie Becker, each of whom have a unique connection to Singleton and the Hunter Valley. Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity said the centre's innovative program provided engaging contemporary art exhibitions alongside a range of workshops and artist talks. "Edwina Richards' 'We Are Singleton: Portrait of a Town' celebrates the diversity and richness of the identity of the people who call Singleton home," she said. "This exhibition is designed to capture a moment in time in Singleton's history, and images will be able to be viewed both in the centre and out of context in surprising public locations around our LGA that, together, tell the unique stories of Singleton – both the place and the people. "Meanwhile, proud Wanaruah woman Debbie Becker has studied the intersection of recorded local history and Aboriginal narratives to track the evolution of indigenous land over the past 200 years in 'Mapping Wanaruah / Wonnarua'. "This series has been undertaken in consultation with local elders and brings together stories that highlight the enduring resonance of place. "We are very excited to showcase who Singleton is in this amazing new exhibition space and we cannot wait to welcome Singleton residents and visitors in to experience it." The first exhibition will then make way for the Wollemi Project (14 May – 2 July) in partnership with Muswellbrook Regional Gallery, featuring work from five local artists including Rebecca Rath, Marie Mansfield, Mark Dober, Travis De Vries and Michelle Napanangka Earl, captured on country throughout the Singleton local government area.

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SUN : 8 AM - 8 PM

Members say ..



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

As Mayor of Cessnock, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the former mayor Bob Pynsent, who was made an Emeritus Mayor and received an Outstanding Service award at the Local Government Service Awards, held in Sydney this month.

Emeritus Mayor Pynsent served our community for 22 years as a councillor, on two occasions served as deputy mayor, and was Mayor of Cessnock from 2012 until his retirement in 2021. The emeritus mayor has left many legacies, including Cessnock's annual Seniors Festival, which will be held this year between March 23 and April 9.

The best outcomes for Cessnock are achieved when we listen to the people. I understand that local-knowledge must be part of the mix for any activity council undertakes, and that's why Council invites the community to participate in decision making by sitting on committees such as the Floodplain Management Committee – which is currently open to community applicants (details on the Council website). Further to that, participation is more than turning up to vote. I encourage people living and working in the Cessnock Local Government Area to participate in the decisions of Council by providing feedback on the proposed Council projects listed on the *Have Your Say* page of the Council website.

Currently, the Apex Park Concept Masterplan is open for submissions until March 28.

The councillors are your elected representatives. On the Cessnock City Council website, you will find the contact details of all the elected Councillors. I encourage you to reach out to your Ward Councillor and raise any issues or feedback with them.

Councillors want your input and they want to hear your views. Together we can shape the future of the Cessnock Local Government Area. Council meetings are broadcast live from Cessnock City Council's Facebook page and I encourage anyone wanting to know about how

decisions are made at Council to tune in. Additionally, the monthly Council meetings are open to the public and are held at Cessnock City Council Chambers on the third Wednesday of each month, from 6.30pm.

Cheers, Jay



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE AS ESSENTIAL AS THE AIR WE BREATHE

In our earliest civilisations, much of the work of the village would be based on community needs, the common good and an early barter system to exchange goods of various values for other goods that held their own values. Even during the earliest times of bartering and trade between villages, humankind placed a "value" on what they had and what they wanted to trade it for.

Eventually almost all civilisations developed a currency of some kind. I once listened to a fascinating podcast about a village that knew of an underwater stone in the water close to their village and each person was able to buy/sell a portion of that stone as they gathered their needs each day. Trades were kept as a mental record, agreed to by the parties. This might sound a bit crazy, but it's not too far removed from our modern current belief in the Australian Dollar, the English Pound or the Polish Zloty. Perhaps more easily compared is the value of gold or oil, or the value of any cryptocurrency.

By and large currencies allowed traders to establish a business model where money was exchanged for goods and small businesses established in every village. Butchers, bakers and candlestick makers would provide a product that the people wanted and an exchange of money (or a committed part of a sunken stone) would finalise the purchase.

Our modern small businesses are constantly evolving. New products spring up and old ones die off. You might not find too many candlestick makers these days, but you sure can buy coffee from 100 different locations. Who would have thought it – coffee sold from a shop, instead of just out of a cup at home. When did that happen?

Recently, COVID has created a massive challenge for many small businesses. The absence of customers being able to wander in and out; that failure of supply chains; the laws that / prevented trade; were all factors in small business having to suddenly re-invent themselves.

There can be no doubt that some small businesses have gone from struggling to bustling, as they navigated the COVID events with great success. Meanwhile other businesses have gone from boom to bust. And of course, there was every other experience in between.

More often than not, small businesses are local family businesses, having a crack. Local families that might have grown up here; local kids that go to local schools and play local sports; small businesses that you will probably see on the sleeve of a local sporting team as a sponsor.

This month is "Small Business Month". Get out and support some of our local small businesses. Support those that spend their dollars here with us.

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



Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP

NSW WOMEN'S WEEK 2022

CONGRATULATIONS to the Upper Hunter Electorate's Joss Davies and Elle Purvis for the recognition they are receiving during NSW Women's Week. Singleton's Joss Davies has been selected as a finalist for the 2022 One to Watch Award which is a category in the NSW Women of the Year Awards. One to Watch recognises girls and young women aged seven to seventeen, who demonstrate a single

act or ongoing acts of courage, strength, determination and/or kindness to help and support those around them.

Scone-based charter pilot and flight instructor Elle Purvis will participate in the Future Women Rural Scholarship Program and attend the Future Women Leadership Summit this week to celebrate International Women's Day.

BUSINESS REGISTRATION FOR NSW VOUCHERS

One way the NSW Government is currently assisting small business to boost business income and promote services is through the dine, discover & stay voucher programs. Dining, arts, entertainment and recreation businesses can register for Dine & Discover NSW with the scheme extended until 30 June.

Eligible accommodation providers can register for the recently introduced Stay NSW initiative to accept \$50 Stay NSW vouchers and \$50 Parents NSW vouchers. Find out if your business is eligible to participate and register at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/vouchers-and-support/vouchers-for-business>

Cheers, Dave



IND Sue Moore, re-elected Mayor Singleton Council

What a week it has been with another major flood affecting our local government area and an amazing response from our emergency services, led by NSW Police and the SES. In and around the severe weather there was some good news with the official opening of the Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre, which symbolises our vision to enhance Singleton's identity as a centre for all things arts and culture. After decades of planning, followed by a little over a year of construction, we can finally start using the space for all kinds of activities and events – and we're not wasting any time.

Our first In Conversation: Artist Talk will be with Edwina Richards, the creative behind the lens for the "We Are Singleton: Portrait of a Town" exhibition. The free talk will offer a behind-the-scenes insight into tracking the evolution of this social documentary project through the time of COVID on Thursday 24 March from 6pm to 7pm. This is a particularly special exhibition because it showcases the people of Singleton, captured in a

moment in time in Singleton's history, where the images can be viewed both in the centre and out of context in surprising public locations around our local government area that, together, tell the unique stories of Singleton. If you're keen to get more hands-on, you can book a spot at an Oribot workshop over 2-3 April. The final instalment of Singleton's Living Laneways activation project will feature a large-scale robot origami installation and anyone aged 10 years or over is invited to take part.

Combining art and science, the Oribot workshops are facilitated by representatives from The University of Newcastle's Future Art, Science and Technology Lab and will be the first workshop series at the Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre. The completed Oribots will then be exhibited in Evidence Laneway as the final instalment of Council's Living Laneways activation program, where the origami-robot flowers will open whenever someone walks by. Both the Artist Talk and Oribot workshops are free to register and take part. Just visit the Singleton Arts + Cultural Centre Facebook page for more information. Or I invite you to come into the centre to see it for yourself, along with our inaugural exhibitions - "We Are Singleton: Portrait of a Town" by Edwina Richards, "Mapping Wanaruah/Wonnaru" by Debbie Becker and a selection of works on rotation from the Singleton Art Collection. I have no doubt the centre will be an important community asset and I hope everyone will be inspired by the programs to come.

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

High petrol prices are hurting family budgets and with an election looming, I confidently predict the Prime Minister will be forced to do something about it. Fuel excise raises almost \$20 billion each year and any reduction will be expensive. Governments don't like to give up revenue.

But there is a good case for reform and relief. Fuel excise is a regressive tax. That is, we all pay the same rate, whether we earn one million dollars each year or rely on the aged pension. The excise rate is indexed to inflation which means it automatically rises over time. For those who drive to work it's a non-deductible cost of work and a disincentive. It hits busi-

ness too. Finally, the GST is applied after the excise. Therefore, we pay a tax on a tax.

It's this last point which forced John Howard to freeze the indexation of fuel excise during the 2001 Aston by-election. In the lead-up to the introduction of the GST, the former Prime Minister promised that "petrol prices need not rise as a consequence of the GST". They were carefully chosen words.

To make good on his promise, he reduced the excise rate to accommodate the GST. At the time, petrol prices were around 70 cents per litre, they were the days! Taking a few cents off the excise before adding the GST initially ensured prices did not rise as consequence of the GST but that changed as petrol prices rose for other reasons. The excise then rose too and therefore, so too did the impact of the GST and its contribution to government coffers. In April of 2001, the Member for Aston in Victoria died and a by-election was held. Despite being safely held by the Liberal Party Aston was increasingly looking like a loss for John Howard. A loss would not have cost him Government but it would have been damaging for Howard's leadership and would have been portrayed in the media as the beginning of the end of his Government.

Consequently, the then Prime Minister both cut the excise and froze its indexation. It is generally accepted within the media and political classes that the move saved both Aston and the Howard Government. The Abbott Government subsequently restored the indexation of the excise and the rest is history. Scott Morrison will no doubt be reflecting on the decisions of the Howard and Abbott Governments.

It's not an easy decision because if you cut one tax, one of three options follow. The first is to let the Budget deficit grow further. That's not very palatable given we have the highest deficit in history. The second if to increase other taxes. The third option is to cut spending, in defence, health, education or elsewhere.

A fourth and indirect option is to leave the excise where it is and provide family budget relief in some other way. For example, income tax cuts or rebates. Scott Morrison will be concerned this option won't make the political impact of high petrol prices go away. That just reinforces my view that an announcement on fuel excise is not that far away.

My Electorate Office Contact Details
Phone: (02) 4991 1022 Fax: (02) 4991 2322
Email: Joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au

Cheers, Joel

BEWARE, FLOOD SCAMS

The NSW Government has issued a warning to flood victims and residents across the state to be wary of flood recovery scams.

Previous natural disasters have seen rogue scammers engage in fraudulent behaviour such as setting up fake charities or ripping off flood victims via dodgy repair work. If you are badgered or people behave in an intimidating or threatening manner to try to get a quote accepted, they should be asked to leave and if they refuse, contact NSW Police on 131444.

NSW Fair Trading is planning to have investigators and inspectors on the ground in areas impacted by floods to ensure residents are being protected.

To check the license details of a tradesperson, visit the Service NSW website www.onegov.nsw.gov.au/publicregister/#/publicregister/categories. To contact NSW Fair Trading with a complaint, call 13 32 20 or visit the Fair Trading website www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/help-centre/online-tools/make-a-complaint.

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Pharmacist Advice *with*



Fibre and bowel health

The fibre in food helps keep your bowels (intestines) healthy and may protect against bowel cancer. It also helps control your weight, blood cholesterol level and blood sugar level. There are good amounts of fibre in wholegrain breads and cereals, fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts and seeds. Ask a doctor, your local pharmacist or dietitian for advice.



What is fibre?
Fibre is found in foods that come from plants. It is also called 'roughage' or 'bulk'. Dietary fibre is the part of plant foods that is not digested or absorbed in your stomach or small intestine. Dietary fibre passes unchanged into the large bowel (large intestine, colon), where bacteria break it down. The break-down of fibre may produce a lot of gas (wind) in the large bowel. Most dietary fibres are carbohydrates. The main types of dietary fibre are soluble fibre, insoluble fibre and resistant starch. Some foods with good amounts of soluble fibre are: oats, barley, rye, fruits, vegetables and legumes (e.g. beans, lentils).
• Some foods with good amounts of insoluble fibre are: wheat bran, rice bran, wholegrain foods, the skins of fruits and vegetables, nuts and seeds.
• Some foods with good amounts of resistant starch are: unprocessed wholegrain cereals, nuts and seeds, under-ripe bananas, legumes, slightly undercooked ("al dente") pasta and cooked and cooled potato, rice and pasta. Resistant starch (as Hi-Maize) is added to some breakfast cereals and fibre supplement products.

Fibre and health
Some health benefits of a high fibre diet are:
• Fibre increases the size of faeces (bowel motions) and helps to soften them. Large, soft faeces move quickly and easily through your bowel, and are easy to pass when you empty your bowel.
• High fibre foods can help control body weight. They are often slow to eat (they need more chewing), they are filling, and they often contain less kilojoules (calories) per gram than low fibre foods.
• Soluble fibre slows the absorption of sugar into the blood stream. A high fibre diet can help people with diabetes control their blood sugar levels and may also reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
• Soluble fibre can help lower your blood cholesterol level.
• Fibre may reduce the risk of bowel cancer (colorectal cancer).

The breakdown of soluble fibre and resistant starch in the bowel produces short-chain fatty acids, which may protect the bowel from cancer. Also, large, soft faeces moving quickly and easily through the bowel can quickly remove cancer-causing substances from the bowel.
• High fibre foods usually contain many vitamins, minerals and other essential nutrients.

Effects of low fibre
A diet that is low in fibre may cause or worsen some health problems such as:
• constipation • haemorrhoids (piles) • bowel cancer • diverticular disease • irritable bowel syndrome • being overweight • high blood cholesterol • diabetes.

Self-care
• Eat a wide variety of high fibre foods. Most adults should aim to eat at least 5 serves of vegetables, 2 serves of fruit, 4-6 serves of wholegrain or wholemeal foods, and some nuts and seeds every day. Limit foods high in fat, sugar or salt.
• Increase fibre in your diet gradually, to avoid wind, bloating and cramping.
• Eat regular meals to help your bowel activity.
• Never ignore the urge to empty your bowels.
• Drink enough water every day to satisfy your thirst and to keep your urine 'light-coloured' (unless a doctor advises not to). A person with a high fibre diet needs to drink plenty of fluid, to avoid constipation
• Exercise at a moderate level for at least 30 minutes on all or most days of the week. Exercise can help your bowel activity.

Fibre supplements
The best way to get fibre is to eat high fibre foods. Some people also need to use fibre supplement products. The fibre in these products may produce less gas in the bowel than high fibre foods.

Common fibre supplements are:
• psyllium (e.g. Metamucil, Nucleol)
• inulin (e.g. Metamucil Fibresure)
• ispaghula (e.g. Fybogel)
• sterculia (e.g. Normacol Plus, Normafibe).

When using fibre supplements always follow the instructions carefully.

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• ispaghula (e.g. Fybogel)
• sterculia (e.g. Normacol Plus, Normafibe).

When using fibre supplements always follow the instructions carefully. Fibre supplements:
• must be taken with plenty of fluid
• may reduce absorption of medicines and are best taken 2 hours apart from other medicines.

For further information ask a Piggott's Pharmacist or doctor for advice.

New recruit to Singleton Council's Executive Leadership Team has eye on the future

Singleton Council has announced that Dwight Graham will join its Executive Leadership Team as Director Business and Community/Corporate and Commercial, continuing the organisation's commitment to generating new revenue streams to boost levels of service to the community.

Coming from Lake Macquarie City Council where he is currently the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Graham commenced in the new role on 28 February 2022, overseeing Council's finance, procurement, corporate services, business development and grants management, information technology, and land and asset management systems functions.

His appointment brings a wealth of senior leadership from across Australia and New Zealand in the local government sector, as well as water and power utilities. Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane said the organisation's culture of continuous improvement and a growing reputation for innovation and results was attracting a pool of skilled, talented professionals at a critical time for the community.

"Dwight has a very strong motivation to help our organisation and our community to deal with the challenge of moving through the socio-economic evolution we are expecting, and the opportunity to work on legacy-creating projects for the people who will live in Singleton and work at Singleton Council in the future," he said.

"He will play a lead role in our commitment to strategic financial management through the management of grants funds and development of non-rates income streams to help increase levels of service and financial sustainability."

Mr Graham said he was attracted to Singleton Council's strong connection with the community and impressed by successful initiatives to improve the lives of all in Singleton, not just now but for generations to come.

"I'm looking forward to understanding what is important to the community, and to working with like-minded people at Singleton Council to help maximise the impact of Council's resources to be part of the bright future for Singleton," he said.



Newly appointed Director Business and Community/Corporate and Commercial at Singleton Council Dwight Graham

daily thoughts

A man who works with his hands is a laborer; a man who works with his brain is a craftsman, but a man who works with his hands and his brain and his heart is an artist. ~ **Louis Nizer**
Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever. ~ **Unknown**
No matter who says what, you should accept it with a smile and do your own work. ~ **Mother Teresa**

CHICKEN AND MUSHROOM PIE



Prep time 20 min ~ Cook time 30 min ~ Serves 4
INGREDIENTS
1 tbsp oil
500 g chicken breast fillets diced
200 g button mushrooms halved
1 tbsp cornflour
340 mL Nestle Carnation Evap milk
340mL
2 tsp maggi original seasoning
2 tsp wholegrain mustard
420 g can asparagus cuts



drained
1 sheet reduced-fat puff pastry cut into quarters
METHOD
1. preheat oven to 200°C/180°C fan forced.
2. heat oil in a frying pan over high heat. cook chicken and mushrooms 2 minutes or until browned.
3. blend cornflour with 2 tablespoons of NESTLÉ CARNATION Light & Creamy Evaporated Milk; add to frying pan with remaining milk and mustard. bring to the boil, then simmer, covered, for 6 minutes, stirring occasionally. remove from heat, stir in asparagus.
4. spoon into 4 individual ovenproof dishes. top with a sheet of pastry and trim if desired. bake 15-20 minutes or until golden.

You may or may not want to add
Some high fibre foods
Wholemeal or wholegrain foods contain more dietary fibre, vitamins and minerals than refined grain and cereal foods. Removing the skin from vegetables and fruits reduces their fibre.
Breads, cakes, biscuits
• Wholemeal, wholegrain, multigrain, white with added fibre, soy and linseed breads.
• Cakes, biscuits, scones and muffins made with wholemeal flour (these foods are often high in fat).
• Wholegrain and wholemeal crackers (e.g. Ryvita, Vita Wheat).
Breakfast cereals
• Rolled oats, wholemeal porridge.
• Bran cereals (e.g. All Bran, Sultana Bran).
• Unprocessed wheat bran, oat bran, rice bran.
• Whole wheat breakfast cereals (e.g. Weetbix, Weeties, Vita Brits).
• Muesli (toasted muesli is often high in fat – check the label).
Grains and grain foods
• Oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, cracked wheat, corn, quinoa,

rice
• Polenta, couscous, bulgur, noodles, pasta
Vegetables
• Legumes such as chick peas, lentils, beans (e.g., baked, broad, butter, kidney, lima, soy beans).
• Potatoes, carrots, beetroot, parsnips, sweet potatoes, turnips, yams.
• Broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, mushrooms, leeks, peas, snow peas, spinach, asparagus, Asian greens
(Note: Salad vegetables such as celery, lettuce and cucumber are not good sources of fibre).
Nuts and seeds
• All kinds (some nuts are also high in fat).
Fruit
• All fresh and dried fruit, especially with skin, seeds, pith.
• Apples, apricots, bananas, berries, figs, guava, kiwi fruit, mandarin, mango, oranges, pears, plums, quince and rhubarb are very high in fibre.

Note: Fruit juices give you much less fibre than eating the whole fruit.

Greta Migrant Camp 50th Anniversary Celebrations

In 1949 the function and nature of the Greta Camp was to change dramatically. It was to become the second largest migrant camp in Australia's post-war history. In its capacity as a migrant camp it was to become the first home for thousands of "New Australians". While many initially viewed the camp with a degree of trauma, having left a war devastated Europe to arrive at a place variably described as: "a wilderness"; "a place like hell" and the "end of the world", Greta Migrant Camp has emerged as a part of Australian history and local folklore. A place where many trace back their roots and perceive it as the cradle of Australian multicultural diversity and the beginning of the emergence of a rich, multifaceted Australian identity that has prepared the nation for its place in the Global Community.

According to Christopher Keating, Greta historian, "the significance of their (the Greta Migrants) input to the Australian economy should never be underestimated. But it is their everlasting contribution to Australia's cultural maturation that was to be their greatest legacy for Australian society".

From 1949 to its official closure in 1960 Greta was the home of thousands of migrants from many parts of the globe. Initially came the Estonians, Latvians, Poles, Ukrainians, Czechoslovaks, Croatians, Macedonians, Slovenians, Lithuanians & Russians; they were followed by Italians, Greeks & Hungarians. Despite a veritable Babel, Greta can be seen as a sample of the multicultural melting pot. Historical differences and lingering animosities soon dissipated and common goals of survival and settlement became the prime focus of most.

Conditions were of course far from ideal with the pressure of new arrivals far outstripping the capacity of all camps, not just Greta. But among the tales of hardship and personal woes was a spirit of expectation, challenge and pioneering which reaped the positive outcomes that most Australians take for granted today.

The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Greta Camp is more than just a reunion of fellow travellers who may reminisce about old friendships and shared experiences, it is above all an affirmation of one of the most significant events in Australian history.

CONT P. 12

Two community defibrillators purchased



By Russ Gogerly, organiser Braxton Police Charity Golf Day

After an absolutely fabulous effort and contribution by the community, the recent Braxton Police Charity Golf Day organised to raise funds for the local community Heartstarter committee was a great success. As most would know the combined efforts raised enough money for the purchase of two defibrillators, one to be kept in the Braxton area and one for the Greta/Lochinvar area.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the public for buying raffle tickets, golfers for attending on the day, Braxton Golf Veterans, Mineworkers Union Lodges (Costain, Cumnock, Hunter Valley, Mt. Owen, Mt. Thorley & Coal Loader, South Bulga, Wambo, Wyee State, Lemington #2), PRIVATE DONORS: J Dunn/S Nichols, Mr/Mrs Maher(Razza), Mr/Mrs K Wenham, R Jones, L Bendeich, Mr/Mrs Collins, B Applecamp, B Hitchcock, K Onslow, ORGANISATIONS: Greta Worker's Club, Miller Park Rec. Club, Greta Hotel Fishing Club, Uniting Church Womens Fellowship, St. Brigids Caritas, BUSINESSES: Braxton Vineyards Real Estate, The Braxton Greta Vineyards News, Commercial Hotel, Tattersall's Hotel, Royal Federal Hotel, Braxton Post Office, Delforces Fuel & Liquor, Tooheys, Carlton United, Braxton Auto & Tyres/NRMA, Wyndham Estate, Braxton Newsagency, Steggles, Braxton Milko/Dairy Farmers, Companion Travel, Les Russell & Son, Braxton Pet/Produce, Plants'R'Us, Braxton House Motel, Braxton Video World, Braxton Discount Tyres, Braxton Discount Liquor, Braxton Engineering, Brown's Garage, On Call Windscreens, Braxton/Greta Smash Repairs, Braxton Supermarket, Thomas Real Estate, McGuigan Bros. Wines, Gough & Gilmour, Valley Disposal Services, Hair Art Extravaganza, Horizons Golf Resort, Balloons Aloft, Cypress Lakes Golf Resort, Lambert Automotive Services, Yeas Chinese Restaurant, Peree's, Braxton Top Shop, Quality Meats, Braxton Hardware, Waeger Constructions, Ken Dark's Mobil Service Station, Greta Shell Roadhouse, Bimbadgen estate, Silky Oak Cafe, Bush's Greta Butchery, Hair at Greta, Bailey's Pharmacy, Greta Shop & Stop, Greta Newsagency, Grapevine Country Crafts, Murphy's Real Estate, Wilkaway Haulage, Tyrell's Wines, Braxton Fish & Chippery, Lindeman's Wines, Mermaids (S Coughlan), Boolaroo Butchery. Also thanks to Braxton Lions Club, Al & Buck Thomas, C O'Born, Sue Bercini, Heartstarter Committee, Steve Gibson, Chris Gleeson, Neil Thomas, Terry Collins, Andrew Haywood, Bob Biles & Deb. If I have left someone out my sincere apologies. This list relates to the Charity Golf Day in which \$8,877.50 was raised. This amount when added to funds already raised by the Heartstarter Committee gave a total just over \$10,500.

As can be seen by all these names, this community has pulled together wonderfully well. As I have said before if a life is saved by using our defibs. every person who has contributed can justifiably feel proud they have helped saved a life.

History of Braxton Lions Club



It was back in June 1955, when the Hunter Valley was hit with one of the biggest floods in history, probably as big as the 1893 flood. All low lying areas in the Hunter were covered with water, while the City of Maitland was a disaster.

Braxton had its major share of water. The flood waters were up to the balcony of the Royal Federal Hotel. You could imagine the depth of water in the main street of Braxton. A couple of days after the water started to recede, the Late George Robinson, owner of the Hotel came out onto the balcony and saw men there cleaning up at the back of the hotel. He asked who were those men, and the reply was that they were from Cessnock Lions Club and that they were there to help clean up after the flood.

George was very grateful for the help they had generously given and decided to form the Braxton Lions Club, so that they too could help people in times of need.

The men who formed the Braxton Lions Club worked very hard over the next eighteen months, giving help to people in need. Finally on the 11th February 1957, the first Lions Club meeting was held at the Royal Federal Hotel, Braxton, chartered with eighteen members.

Tony Ernst.

The Club urgently needs new members! If you are community minded and have a little time to spare, give us a thought. You may be a young adult, or a retired senior, we require male or female membership.

We need your help! Thank you.



BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL

Saturday 30th April 2022

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Key steps to buying a property ~ Part 2



4. PRE-SETTLEMENT

The period from exchange of Contracts to settlement is usually four to six weeks but it varies depending on agreement between the parties. During this time enquiries and searches are made and documents are prepared by your solicitor to transfer the title of the property into your name. All relevant enquiries relating to your land are made, including electricity, water and local government authorities. This will show council and water rates, arrears and if the land is subject to a land tax charge in the hands of the vendor. Your lender will prepare the mortgage document which sets out the terms and conditions of the loan so you know exactly what you are contracted to pay: how, when and for how long. It is also generally a requirement that you arrange insurance for your property to commence from the settlement date and provide a copy of the insurance to your lender. Requisitions on title are sent to the vendor's

representative for completion to obtain information from the seller which may not have been previously disclosed or discovered during inspection of the property. Close to settlement, a settlement statement is sent to the vendor. This details the final amount owing, including the adjustments for rates as at the date of settlement.

5. SETTLEMENT

Settlement is the completion of the transaction. A date is arranged by both parties and your lender for settlement. When buying or selling property traditionally the settlement of the property took place by way of 'paper settlement' whereby the parties involved in the transaction attend a set settlement time and exchange paper documents and cheques and then certain documents have to be physically lodged with NSW Land Registry Service.

In New South Wales and other states across Australia,

there has been a shift away from paper settlement to an electronic conveyancing. The term 'electronic conveyancing' refers to a conveyancing transaction where practitioners have elected to settle electronically through the electronic platform provided by Property Exchange Australia Limited (PEXA). The representatives of the parties and their financiers participate in an electronic workspace. Settlement occurs as electronically and title documents are lodged and registered, and the settlement funds disbursed. The settlement process is automatic and completed in about 15 to 30 minutes. There are important security features built in to PEXA as well as electronic conveyancing rules that practitioners must follow.

6. POST SETTLEMENT

Congratulations, after settlement the property is yours to enjoy! You will be notified that settlement is complete and you can pick up the keys from the agent.

Cheers, Gemma



Australians at risk of being priced out of home ownership

Housing affordability continued its decline over the December quarter of 2021, with the proportion of income required to meet loan repayments reaching 37%, the latest Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) *Housing Affordability Report* has found. REIA President, Hayden Groves said affordability for both home buyers and renters has become a key issue for Australians and with interest rate rises looming, affordability could worsen.

"We are urging governments to get on the front foot with this issue by prioritizing housing supply shortages which is the most effective way of getting affordability under control," he said. Mr Groves said housing affordability declined in most states and territories ranging from a decrease of 0.1 percentage points in Western Australia to 5.9 percentage points in New South Wales.

Mr Groves said the number of first home buyers decreased to 37,620, a fall of 0.4% during the quarter with first home buyers now making up 34.1% of owner occupier dwelling commitments, a decrease of 7.8 percentage points over the year.

"The average loan size to first home buyers increased to \$470,548. This was an increase of 2.5% over the quarter and an increase of 12.9% over the past twelve months. The average loan size to first home buyers increased in all states and territories except Tasmania where it decreased 0.4 percentage points. Increases ranged from 0.8% in Western Australia to 2.9% in both New South Wales and Victoria.

"The total number of owner-occupied dwelling loans increased to 110,230 an increase of 2.2% over the December quarter, and a marginal increase of 0.3% over the past 12 months.

"The total number of loans for owner occupied dwellings increased in Victoria (4.1%), Queensland (1.2%), South Australia (5.1%), Western Australia (2.7%) and Tasmania (5.0%) but decreased in New South Wales (0.1%), Northern Territory (5.5%) and the Australia Capital Territory (3.7%).

"Over the December quarter, the average loan size increased to \$590,482, an increase of 3.5% over the quarter and increase of 17.7% over the past 12 months. This is the largest annual increase since the current series began in 2002.

"The average loan size increased in all states and territories with the Northern Territory having the highest increase of 7.9%. The average loan size increased in all states and territories over the past 12 months, with Victoria recording the highest annual increase at 22.6%," Mr Groves said.

Mr Groves added that the proportion of income required to meet median rent increased to 23.0%, a 0.1% change over the quarter and a 0.3% change over the year.

All eyes on you: security cameras and strata

The use of surveillance cameras in both private and public spaces is increasing significantly. Cameras are installed by local councils and private enterprise, and you can expect to be digitally recorded walking into a shopping centre, travelling on public transport, and even taking the dog for a walk in a local park. An often-discussed issue is the rights of lot owners and owners corporations to install their own security cameras.

Two recent NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) decisions confirm that lot owners generally do not have the right to install security cameras on common property without first obtaining the consent of the owners corporation.

Where they do not obtain that consent, the owners corporation is entitled to require the security cameras be removed. However, there are also lessons for owners corporations and strata managers, with the possibility that owners corporations and lot owners may commit an offence under the *Surveillance Devices*

Act 2007 (NSW).

Case study 1: A couple of cameras

Ghabour v The Owners – Strata Plan No. 53284 [2019] NSWCATCD 18

In mid-2018, a lot owner moved back into her unit which had previously been let to tenants.

Due to her concerns about a level of "dispute" within the strata scheme, the lot owner installed two security cameras on the (common property) external walls of the building: the first outside the main bedroom of her unit and the second outside the kitchen.

The security cameras were motion-activated and recorded footage that was then stored on a hard drive.

Understandably, the unapproved cameras led to unhappiness among the other lot owners and the strata manager was instructed to advise the lot owner as such. The strata manager then contacted the lot owner again, advising her that she would need specific permission from the owners corporation to attach the security cameras to common property walls.

With no response from the lot owner, the owners corporation served her with a Notice to Comply. Yet still, the lot owner did not act.

Finally, the owners corporation gave the lot owner a deadline by serving two Notices to Comply with the by-laws, one by-law in respect of removing the security cameras from the common property. The owners corporation also indicated that if she did not remove the security cameras by the deadline it would take steps to do so. The lot owner then commenced proceedings with NCAT, obtaining interim orders restraining the owners corporation from removing the security cameras pending the ultimate hearing of the matter.

Following the hearing, however, the interim orders were revoked by NCAT and orders were made for the removal of the cameras.

NCAT's decision referenced the need for approval to use common property as well as section 8 of the *Surveillance Devices Act*, which prohibits a person from knowingly installing, among other things, an optical surveillance device that records visual activity on or within premises that records the entry onto or into those premises without express or implied consent of the owner or occupier of the premises.

NCAT referred to a by-law in the building's strata scheme, stating that an owner or occupier cannot drive nails or screws into, or otherwise damage or deface, any structure that forms part of the common property without the written approval of the owners corporation.

Since the lot owner had not obtained consent, NCAT had no difficulty in ordering removal of the cameras.

NCAT also referenced that in recording footage of persons outside of her lot, the lot owner is in breach of section 8 of the *Surveillance Devices Act* – punishable by a significant fine or imprisonment.

Case study 2: Half a dozen cameras

Lam v The Owners – Strata Plan No. 9562; The Owners – Strata Plan No. 9562 v Lam [2019] NSWCATCD 21

In another decision handed down recently, NCAT was once again required to consider circumstances where a lot owner had installed multiple security cameras on common property walls.

In this case, the lot owner had installed three CCTV cameras facing the backyard; one facing the main entry door of her lot; one facing her garage door and parking spots and one facing the common property driveway and rubbish bins.

As in the first case study, the lot owner did not obtain the consent of the owners corporation before installing the cameras.

Once again, the owners corporation relied on its by-laws to prove its case at NCAT, along with section 8 of the *Surveillance Devices Act*.

In this strata scheme, the by-law prevented the installation or use of optical or audio surveillance on a lot, or on common property.

What can strata managers do?

Almost every owners corporation will have a by-law or by-laws preventing lot owners from installing surveillance cameras on common property without consent.

It is important for strata managers to advise owners corporations of the potential repercussions for individuals and corporations under the *Surveillance Devices Act*, and the need to observe relevant laws when it comes to the installation of security cameras.

If owners corporations take the step of installing security cameras themselves, they risk committing an offence under the *Surveillance Devices Act*.



Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licence-in-Charge

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2022 Seniors Festival an opportunity to reconnect

Cessnock City Council is excited to release the 2022 Cessnock City Seniors Festival program which is packed with concerts, films, talks, workshops, open days and more! Featuring over 50 free events across the LGA, the 2022 Cessnock City Seniors Festival will run from 23 March to 9 April 2022 and the theme for this year is 'Reconnect'. This year's program aligns with the five ways to wellbeing framework. This framework helps people improve their physical and mental wellness by doing five simple things each day:

connect, be active, be aware, keep learning, and help others. Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said the pandemic had quite an impact on local seniors, and this year's festival was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. "There really is something for everyone, so I encourage local seniors to check out the program, try something new, and make the most of what the Festival has to offer," Councillor Suvaal said. "Local partnerships are key to the success of the festival. This year, more than 25 community



Mayor Jay Suvaal with his grandfather Arthur, Seniors Festival Ambassador/former Mayor Bob Pynsent and members of the Seniors Festival Reference Group at Cessnock City Library.

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services and organisations are actively involved in the program, which is fantastic to see." Festival highlights this year include Fearless Films 3 followed by

a live discussion with Stockman legend Kelvin Gregory, a day of cultural sharing with Ngiyampaa Elder, Aunty D, and a history walk in Chinaman's Hollow. Lower Hunter Transport Services will provide door to door

transport to most events for a gold coin donation. Programs can be picked up at Cessnock City and Kurri Kurri Libraries, and participating venues. The program is also available online (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Seniors2022).

Cessnock City Council would like to acknowledge the support of the NSW Seniors Festival Grant program and our generous Gold Sponsors, Feros Care, Northern Coalfields Community Care Association, Calvary

Cessnock Retirement Community, Cessnock Priceline Pharmacy, myHomecare and East Cessnock Bowling Club. Thanks also goes to Silver Sponsor, Cessnock Hospitality Group.

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Former Mayor awarded for outstanding service to Local Government

Former Cessnock City Council mayor Bob Pynsent was made an Emeritus Mayor and received an Outstanding Service award at the Local Government Service Awards held in Sydney.

Emeritus Mayor Pynsent's commitment to the pursuit of excellence for local government was evident through his ongoing service to Cessnock Local Government Area for more than 22 years, Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said.

"Throughout his service he has maintained a positive 'can do' attitude that has resulted in Council attracting grant funding which has delivered significant change for our community," Mayor Suvaal said. "In his last term alone, Council secured \$46 million in funding. Facilities like Bridges Hill Park Playground can be attributed to his ongoing commitment to seek opportunities for the Cessnock Local Government Area.

"Additionally, under his leadership, the Council program of events has grown and there are now many events the community looks forward to each year. Our Seniors Festival is one example that has attracted awards with its exceptional program of events."

Emeritus Mayor Pynsent served on Cessnock City Council for 22 years, between 1999-2021, including nine years as mayor, between 2012-2021, and two periods as deputy mayor, between 2001-02 and 2004-05.



Cllr Bob Pynsent, Former Mayor Cessnock City Council

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

Greta Migrant Camp 50th Anniversary Celebrations

FROM P. 9

The great Post-war Migration which has transformed the nation; provided a transfusion of innovation, creativity & dedication, and set Australia on the road to a dynamic and promising land.

The Ethnic Community Council therefore invites all former Greta Camp residents, staff & friends to be part of this unique 'Multicultural Australian' event. The celebration will commence on Friday 20th August with a Gala Film Night at the Regal Theatre, Birmingham Gardens with the showing of two films - "Silver City" & "The Sound of One Hand Clapping". On the Sunday 21st August a "Back to Greta Period Dance" will be held at the Greta Workers Club. The Major event will be on Sunday 22nd August at Greta Sports Ground commencing at 10 am sharp.

The Main Event will include food and entertainment for adults and children; an Official Opening by the Hon. Philip Ruddock, Minister for Immigration; Historical displays of photographs & artefacts from the Greta Migrant Experience; and regular guided tours of the Migrant Camp Site.

Lochinvar HOTEL

MARCH

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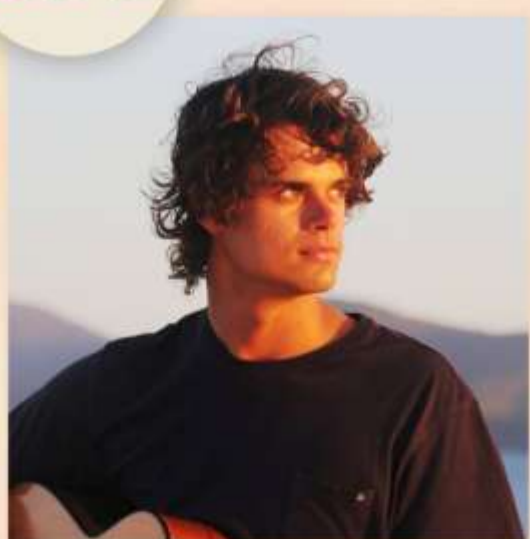
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Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA

Charles Beswick, a Greta Local

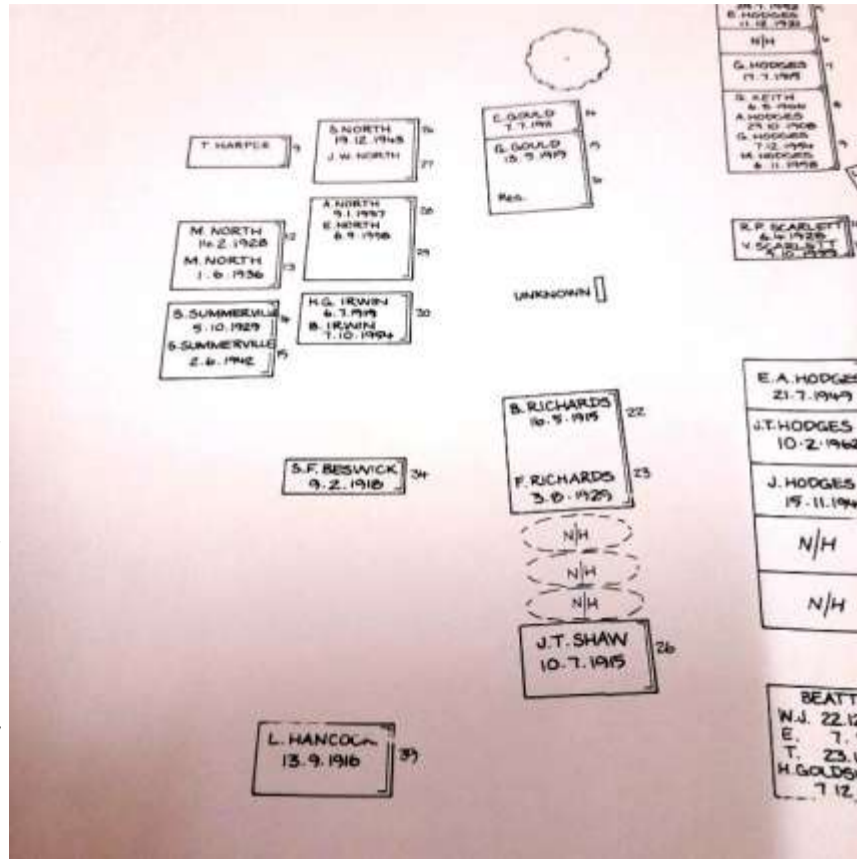
Back in the days before DVDs, smart TVs, and online streaming, going to the pictures was an important weekly event, especially for the younger generations.

Charles Henry Beswick, living in Greta with his wife Louisa (nee Lomax), became the proprietor of the Central Hall in 1924, when it needed a renovation. The hall was situated on the corner of Water and High Street where the newly renovated grey building is now, across the road from the present park. This hall is where pictures were shown, and dances, skating and meetings were held. It was re-licensed on 17 June 1924 to seat 395. In 1925 Charles submitted sketches for a gallery to the government architect. He also arranged for new furniture, lights, and stage painting.

Charles was generous with the lending of his hall. In May 1926, Charles donated the hall, free of charge with free pictures, to the May Day celebrations (which was our Labour Day holiday, now celebrated in October in NSW). In November 1926, a special picture night was held to raise money for the Cancer Research Committee, with Paramount Pictures also donating the feature film.

In February 1929, the operating box (bio-box/projector) was reported as not being adequate, but by September 1930 alterations to the box had been extended and completed by Charles. In May 1947, Greta Police reported that the hall needed painting, as well as having the need for alterations to the ladies' toilets, but by then the hall had been sold by Charles to William McKinnon.

Charles had previously been a Greta alderman from 1912 to 1914. He became the licensee of the Prince of Wales Hotel (where the Norman Brown Memorial Park is now), with the hotel owned then by Miss N Scully. Charles had planned its rebuild in 1914 and held the license until 1916. At this time, he became Mayor of Greta from 1916 to 1917. The Sand Business Directory listed him as having the license in 1917-1918, but the owner's relative, Joseph Francis Alexander Scully, had taken it over by then. Charles was also listed as a confectioner in 1921-1923, which fits in well with the picture show business which he went into officially between 1925 and



1929.

The story of 'Charlie' Beswick in Greta, written by local Norm Cruikshank which appeared in the Branxton Greta Vineyards News on 8 November 2017, was one of great affection for a time past. The Greta band did a special concert at Charles' hall in June 1925, and the Frivolities, a vaudeville group, appeared in September 1925. In June 1926 the Cinderella Dance Club held its Fancy Dress Frolic. Charles was said to have arrived in Greta in 1910, at a time when the life of the many coal miner's families needed more than the daily grind, and he could relate well to them. The hall was built by George Steggles in 1911, thirteen years before Charles took it on. Under Charles' ownership, as well as using the hall for live acts, it had community singing when 'hundreds gathered in the Hall and sang their hearts out'. Charlie invested in a projector when the new moving pictures became available in the twenties, putting on a picture each Saturday night. When the Great Depression hit hard, especially in Greta when so many coal miner's jobs were lost, the need for entertainment was even stronger. Despite the hard seats and Charles' need to stop and change the spool on the single projector every twenty minutes, the need for a fantasy break was so popular even the young who had no money would try anything to get in. Charlie's wife, Louisa, sat in the little ticket box, charging six pence an entry. Dances were another feature in the hall of the 1930s, which were fully patronised despite the 'no drink' policy. A skating rink was set up in the winters, which was another welcome escape from the bleak life outside.



The Beswicks had originally come from Manchester in England where Charles was involved in coal mining himself. The couple had married the day after Christmas Day in 1896, when Charles was twenty-three and Louisa was twenty-one. Louisa's father, William, was a collier like Charles when they married, but Charles' father, Francis Charles known as Charles, was a real estate agent. Charles senior died in 1880 by which time Charles was seven and his mother, Sarah (nee Pendlebury) had to make ends meet for him and his siblings by becoming a housekeeper. Four years later Sarah died in 1885, aged just fifty years, leaving Charles to go to work in the mines at just twelve. There appears to be no record of him in the 1891 English census. His younger brother, George Edward, was taken in by a paternal uncle until he was old enough to work in a cotton factory. Charles' older brother, Albert, was working as an iron dresser and living as a lodger in 1891. In 1901 Charles was working in the dangerous job of being

a shot lighter in a coal mine, a position he would have needed good training for to avoid blowing himself up, and the mine, when firing the gas.

Charles must have done well as they left England to go to Cape Town in South Africa on the ship *Persic* in March 1902, with Charles listed as an engineer. There appears to be no record of their arrival here, but many of Australia's archives went up in smoke in 1882, as they were stored by the colonial government in the Garden Palace at Sydney's Botanic Gardens, after the hosting of the International Exhibition in 1879. Luckily, the statistical summaries of the householders' returns survived, so we can still compare the different censuses.

The young Beswick couple were unlucky in that they could not have a family, unlike so many others that often had more than they could manage. However, after coming to Australia and living in Greta for seven years, the couple were finally successful with their apparently first, full-term pregnancy. Stanley Francis Beswick was born in July 1917, when Louisa was forty-two and Charles forty-four. Sadly, Stanley died at only seven months of age and was buried in the Church of England section of Greta Cemetery in February 1918 (Row F, plot 34). His plot and headstone are still there except most of the writing had been erased from the headstone (see photo). The Beswicks moved to Newcastle to retire in about 1942, and Charles died in the same year. Louisa died three years later and was buried with her husband in the same plot in Sandgate Cemetery.

Charlie will always be remembered by the generations he served in Greta, that is, those who are still alive, and now this small history acknowledges and records more of his life and his mostly forgotten wife and son's.

To learn more of your own ancestors and see other interesting artefacts connected to the area, call in to Greta Museum on a Wednesday or Saturday between 11am-3pm.



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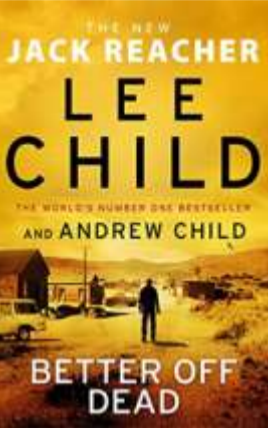


Please fix me up

Cute 3-bedroom cottage with open living, BBQ area, large good shedding. 809sqm fenced block.

A vacant picture to work on

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mastermind Waad Dendoncker in a remote town on the US-Mexico border.

Its opening reminded me of the seventh Reacher novel, "Persuader," which also began in medias res: there, Reacher shot a cop while attempting to foil a kidnapping; here, we're introduced to Dendoncker at the morgue as he identifies the body of a man, confirmed dead by the coroner: it's — *no, it can't be!* — Jack Reacher. The narrative quickly flicks back in time to explain how Reacher ended up on the slab, and what happens from there. The plot is full of bombs and bombshells as the stakes continue to rise, and the whole thing is pockmarked with scenes of meticulously

Review 1
"Better Off Dead" is Andrew Child's second time behind the wheel of his brother Lee's Jack Reacher franchise, and it's another perfectly formed action thriller that sees the former military policeman turned nomadic dispenser of extrajudicial justice face up against criminal

choreographed action. "Better Off Dead" is an emblematic Reacher novel, and that's a good thing, mostly. Towards the end of Lee's reign, Reacher began to ruminate on his lifestyle and mortality; he was evolving, glacially. Andrew has taken Reacher back to his roots; he's a hard-hitting man of action, with a propensity for stumbling into trouble, or having trouble find him. In Andrew Child's hands, 24 years since his debut in "Killing Floor," Jack Reacher remains one of today's more exciting action heroes.

Published: 26 October '21
Review 2

By Paul Burke
If ever there was a case of 'it does what it says on the tin' in crime fiction it's the Jack Reacher novels. We really know what to expect and we get it every time. When it comes to 'what would Reacher do?' the answer is always attack and carry on regardless, and every time that generates a level of excitement few series can match. The premise here is that Reacher never walks away from a fight, even if it's not his

fight, and if you're in his sights maybe you'd be Better Off Dead. Admit it, you're always willing him to get into a sticky situation so he can blitz his way out. This is the second co-authored thriller from brothers Lee and Andrew Child and the handover/collaboration seems to be progressing seamlessly. Of course, it's actually Reacher's 26th outing and now we know there's no end in sight. In the world of Jack Reacher the tough guys still don't know what we take for granted: you don't mess with the giant ex-military policeman. But then, there'd be no fun if they took the hint and backed off instead of facing up, which leads to their inevitable punishing end. Reacher is in the middle of a desert, waiting. He's expecting one guy to turn up. With his usual foresight he arrived early to check the scene out so that there is no ambush. Predictably these guys don't play by the rules though, there are four of them in the car when it arrives. Reacher just wants to know one thing; where is Michael? Surely it only take one guy to answer a simple question but whoever sent these guys wants to know what Reacher's interest in Michael is. As the quartet of hoods flank Reacher the first man approaches, the big man's warning doesn't deter him, he's a pretty big guy too, confident, it's a big mistake. Of course, Reacher puts the guy down, the others move in, we can see how this is going to play out but as the other tackle Reacher a lone figure suddenly emerges from nowhere waiving a gun... Reacher had arrived a couple of days earlier, dropped in the Arizona desert just this side of the Mexican border, his ride suddenly had to return home. Reacher doesn't mind walking so he sets off to the nearest town. That's when the craziest thing happens. There's one tree for miles around and the only car on the road manages to suddenly swerve and hit it. That's where Reacher meets Michaela Fenton, the driver, a former Afghan vet badly injured by an IED as a contractor after the war. Now she's an FBI agent but very much on a personal mission. Her twin brother Michael has gone missing, he was mixing with a bad crowd. Michaela thinks that she may have got him killed by looking for him but she has to be sure.

The local town is owned lock, stock and barrel by Waad Ahmed Dendoncker, a mysterious character who doesn't come out into the light very often. Ostensibly he runs a business supplying goods and services to executive aviation for private jets. His company is aptly named Pie In The Sky Inc. The question is what is Dendoncker really up to and how is/was Michael involved in his operation,

could it be gun smuggling or drugs?

Initially Michaela thought Reacher might be one of Dendoncker's men but they get past that. Ever looking for a cause to back, Reacher agrees to help Michaela find out what happened to her brother. If Dendoncker has killed him she wants to exact revenge. Michaela has already been inside Dendoncker's operation getting a job as a flight attendant, but so far all she's come up with is a couple of cases loaded on to business flights by the caterers that are not being used in flight. With her instinct as a cop Michaela knows there's something big going on.

Reacher, the man with a roll of cash, one set of clothes and no home to go to not only has to face up to the villains but also a changing world. In town the hotel has no staff, the check in is online and Michaela has to explain to him how that works. Better Off Dead is choc full of thrills and spills from page one to the denouement. Lee and now Andrew Child are consistent and this Reacher outing is as gripping as ever. This isn't the best of Reacher but it is a die hard fan pleaser. The opening, which we've avoided spoiling is a little clunky, but after that it's full steam ahead.

ABOUT

Brothers Lee and Andrew Child

James Dover Grant CBE (born 29 October 1954), primarily known by his pen name Lee Child, is a British author who writes thriller novels, and is best known for his *Jack Reacher* novel series. The books follow the adventures of a former American military policeman, Jack Reacher, who wanders the United States. His first novel, *Killing Floor* (1997), won both the Anthony Award and the Barry Award for Best First Novel.



Grant was born in Coventry. His Northern Irish father, who was born in Belfast, was a civil servant who lived in the house where the singer Van Morrison was later born. He is the second of four sons; his younger brother, Andrew Grant, is also a thriller novelist. Grant's family relocated to Handsworth Wood in Birmingham when he was four years old so that the boys could receive a better education. Grant attended Cherry Orchard Primary School in Handsworth Wood until the age of 11. He attended King Edward's School, Birmingham. In 1974, at the age of 20, Grant studied law at University of Sheffield, though he had no intention of entering the legal profession and, during his student days, worked backstage in a theatre. After graduating, he worked in commercial television. He received a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Degree from the University of Sheffield in 1977 and returned to the University to receive an Honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt) in 2009. Grant's prose has been described as "hardboiled" and "commercial" in style. A 2012 interview suggested that many aspects of the Jack Reacher novels were deliberately aimed at maintaining the books' profitability, rather than for literary reasons. For instance, making Jack Reacher have one parent who was French was suggested as being partly because the presence of only American members of Reacher's family would limit the series's appeal in France. The same interview stated that Grant "didn't apologise about the commercial nature" of his fiction.

Grant married his wife Jane in 1975. Since 1998 they have resided in New York state. They have a daughter, Ruth. Grant is a fan of Aston Villa Football Club and has been known to include the names of Aston Villa players in his books. In 2013, the *Daily Mail* quoted Grant saying that he writes while intoxicated ("high") by cannabis. However, in a phone interview in November 2013, he clarified his comments to the *Irish Examiner*, saying he's never written while high. "Yeah, that's true", Child told *The Post-Standard*. "I mean, people say to me, 'There was that story in the newspaper,' and I say, 'No, that's *The Daily Mail*.' In Britain, that's not a newspaper, you know, that's a scandal sheet where they make stuff up. It's not very reliable. And certainly, I don't deny smoking the occasional joint, but I don't work when I'm stoned because you don't get much done that way."

Australian Government
Department of Defence

WARNING NOTICE
DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

Residents of areas adjacent to Singleton Training Area are warned it is a Defence Army Live Firing Range.

Singleton Training Area is described generally as the area bounded to the south by Pokolbin State Forest, to the east by commercial vineyards and to the west by a combination of rural developments and open cut coal mines. The northern boundary is defined by the Golden Highway which separates the range area from the Singleton Military Area.

Firing practices using live ammunition are conducted continuously on this training area. Low power laser range finders are also used.

Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area.

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

The Range Control Officer
Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management
Range Control Centre
Range Road
Singleton Training Area
Singleton NSW 2331

The New York Times Best Sellers
Combined Print & E-Book Fiction **(13 March 2022)**

NEW THIS WEEK
HOUSE OF SKY AND BREATH
by Sarah J. Maas
The second book in the Crescent City series. Bryce Quinlan and Hunt Athalar must choose to fight or stay silent

36 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.

NEW THIS WEEK
DIABLO MESA
by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child
When two murder victims are found in Roswell, the archaeologist Nora Kelly and F.B.I. agent Corrie Swanson go back into action

NEW THIS WEEK
SIERRA SIX
by Mark Greaney
The 11th book in the Gray Man series. Court Gentry's work on a C.I.A. action team comes back to life.

11 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.

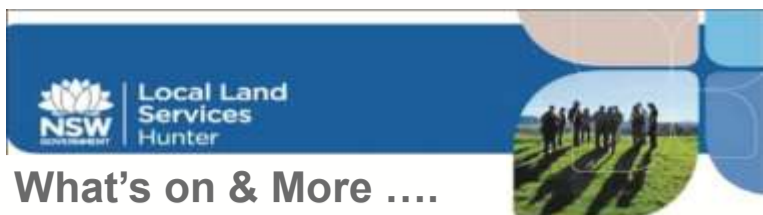
NEW THIS WEEK
FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH
by Arthur C. Brooks
A columnist for The Atlantic espouses ways to shift priorities and habits to overcome waning abilities in later life

78 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE
by Bessel van der Kolk
How trauma affects the body and mind, and innovative treatments for recovery.

4 WEEKS ON THE LIST
RED-HANDED
by Peter Schweizer
The author of "Profiles in Corruption" portrays a conspiracy of how the Chinese government might infiltrate American institutions

14 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE 1619 PROJECT
edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Caitlin Roper, Ilena Silverman and Jake Silverstein
Viewing America's entanglement with slavery and its legacy, in essays adapted and expanded from The New York Times Magazine.

2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE NINETIES
by Chuck Klosterman
An overview of the cultural and historical impact of the 1990s.



What's on & More



GRASS IDENTIFICATION & PASTURE WALK-THROUGH - ELDEBSLIE

Hunter Local Land Services is running a series of grass ID and pasture walk-through events to help answer some of your questions about grasses and weeds in your paddocks. Join your neighbours and community in these free workshops with local agronomist and grass ID expert, Harry Rose. Hunter Local Land Services Livestock Officer Teresa Hogan will be on hand to talk

about the feed value of some of the species we ID. Participants will receive a free pasture weeds ID book, and grass ID book, and be taught how to use these resources in the field to 'key out' these often tricky-to-identify plants. THIS EVENT IS COVID-19 SAFE. Numbers are limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. All confirmed registrations will be required to comply with

the NSW Government COVID-19 requirements. Subject to cancellation in response to COVID Regulations.

When 19 Mar 2022 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Region Hunter
Contact Regional Weeds Coordinator Matt Kennedy P: 0428 686 178
 E: matt.kennedy@lls.nsw.gov.au

- March to May (autumn) rainfall is likely to be above median for parts of the central and southern NT, northern and south-east SA, south-eastern Queensland extending down eastern and southern NSW into Victoria, and eastern Tasmania, as well as scattered areas of northern WA and northern Queensland (chance of exceeding median is greater than 60%).

Elsewhere, there are roughly equal chances of above or below median rainfall (chance of exceeding the median is close to 50%).

- There is an increased chance of unusually high rainfall (in the top 20% of historical records) for March to May along much of the southern coast of Queensland, eastern NSW, southern Victoria and eastern Tasmania (1.5 to 2.5 times the usual chance). In any given outlook period, the chance of unusually high or low rainfall is around 20%. This means that a 40% chance of unusually wet conditions is 2 times the usual chance, while 60% is three times



Racing Review & News

Harrowing vision triggers fundraising efforts



Stephen Brassel
 05:17pm • 09 March 2022
 The devastating floods in northern NSW have taken a tragic human toll, but there has also been a massive toll on livestock which has seen many horses die and others are fighting for their lives. As a result vets in the Northern Rivers especially

have been stretched to the limit as they work overtime, banding together to treat horses which have been stranded in paddocks or shockingly injured and are now in need of urgent lifesaving medical treatment. Jodi Allen, who is based at Jerilderie is heavily

involved in training show horses and re-educating racehorses after they finish their on track careers and she has been devastated by harrowing vision she has seen from friends stranded in the north of the state and she is working to assist however she can, despite being based in



Tamworth 7/3/22

Yarding 720

There was an increased penning with yearlings well supplied. Cow numbers also increased. The quality and condition of the offering was fair to good. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers showing very good quality. The usual processors and feedlot orders were in place, supported by strong restocker activity.

A good quality penning of vealer steers attracted strong restocker competition to sell to a dearer trend, strong gains for quality. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers to restock and feed also sold to dearer trends, again strong price changes for quality. There was no a lot of price difference for breed variation in the heavy weights. Medium and heavy weight yearling heifers sold on a firm to slightly dearer market trend. The well finished heavy weight trade heifers sold to cheaper trends.

Heavy grown steers to feed, including milk tooth lines over 500kg saw little but quality related price change. Heavy steers to process also experienced little change in market trends. Well finished grown heifers to process sold to dearer trends with some age related price change. Those up to and including 4 teeth keenly sought. The increased supply of cows had little effect on the market with trends firm to slightly cheaper.

Market reporter, James Armitage

Gunnedah 15/3/22

Yarding 1965

Numbers increased to offer a quality penning of feeder steers as well as heifers and a limited cow offering, and a good quality penning of weaner cattle. The weight increased for that category, resulting in a cheaper trend compared to the previous sale. There was a feeder operator absent, however all other regulars attended to a varying market. Weaner steers and heifers both declined in value with an increase in weight across the board. Restockers provided the main competition with the odd heavier drafts going to feeders. Light weight yearling steers to feed on sold to dearer trends, as did the medium weights to be 8c/kg better. Background competition was strong for both categories. Heavy weight yearling processing steers saw a rise in trends of up 20c/kg. Light weight heifers to feed also saw a dearer trend, however their heavy weights declined in price significantly with sale of plainer types involved. Good quality well finished grown steers to process sold to dearer trends, to see a rise of 20c/kg. Grown heifers to feed on were cheaper, to be back by 18c/kg. A draft of "C" muscle cows sold to rise of 12c/kg. The balance of the cows were cheaper with heavy "D" muscle cows to 9c/kg easier.

Market Reporter, Stephen Adams

Singleton 2/3/22

Yarding 363

Numbers increased to yield 690 very mixed cattle, up 218. It included a larger offering of export cattle, many of these of a plainer quality. There were however, drafts of well bred weaners and yearlings which presented well and sold to good competition. The regular participants were present, but operating to a subdued market. There were not a lot of butcher calves available.

Both steer and heifer weaners sold to substantially cheaper trends, all to restockers. Odd sales of better quality calves did see a dearer trend. Light yearling steers to backgrounders sold back as much as 40c/kg, quality a contributing factor. Both medium and heavy weight feeders sold to cheaper trends. Similarly, heifers to feed saw cheaper trends, along with background heifers. The odd sale of butcher cattle sold to dearer trends.

Grown steers to process sold to a downward correction as did the heifer portion. Heavy cows saw a healthy rise of 11c/kg. The medium weights also dearer, up 17c/kg. The best of the heavy bulls reached 328c/kg.

Market Reporter, Stephen Adams

Score 15/3/22

Yarding 494

Yarding Change 15/03/2022 Consignments more than doubled compared to the previous rain affected market and the quality was fair to good. The vealers were well supplied, with a fair run of yearling, the majority more suited for the restocker and feeder orders. There were numbers in the market in prime condition and suitable for the butchers. The export cattle were mainly cows, with ample numbers the prime heavy weights. The market trend was dearer, especially the younger cattle, with extra buyers at the rail, however quality did contribute in places to the dearer trends. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers ranged from 616c to 844c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers made from 624c to 756c/kg. The yearling steers continued the dearer trends, with the lighter end to the restockers receiving from 610c to 668c, as the medium and heavy weights to the restockers and lot feeders made from 538c to 636c/kg. The same weight heifer portion to the restockers and feeders ranged from 534c to 606c, with the lighter end reaching 672c/kg. The best muscled younger draft to the butchers topped at 606c/kg. The grown steers to the processors trended dearer, extra buyers competed, with prices making from 444c to 464c, as the heifers reached 444c/kg. Cows sold firm, with the better covered heavy weights receiving from 370c to 407c/kg. The heavy weight bulls reached 300c/kg.

Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.



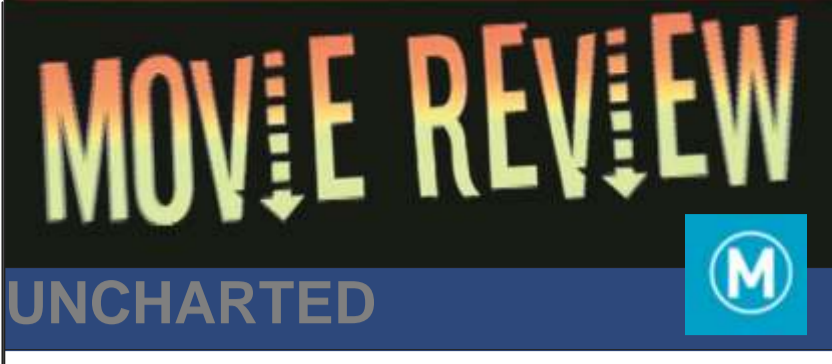
southern NSW. "It's heartbreaking what's happening and we all need to help, not just those up there in the thick of it," Jodi said. "The vets need some support to procure supplies such as bandages and specific drugs for treatment, we need to get food in

there. "There's just not enough resources being thrown at saving these horses, everyone is stretched to the limit, physically and financially. "The mobile phone service is virtually non-existent for many and the only way they are finding these horses, dead or alive, is by

support but the strain on the veterinary supplies is really draining on the vets themselves. There are three veterinary practices on the ground we have been trying to support and they need to get flown in to treat these horses as there's no road access in many places. "The vets are reporting

they have no idea exactly how many horses we are dealing with as the number is growing all the time. "I know Racing NSW are doing what they can for the racing fraternity but this extends beyond that as we are looking at all the horses up there, not just racehorses and ex-racehorses and are focusing on three things, the vets, the private air support and the bulk fodder supplies. "We will be organising a hay convoy as soon as possible but there is just so much that needs to be done and the resources are so thin at the moment."

Jodi and others have set up a **GoFundMe** page to help support the efforts of those fighting to save the stranded and injured horses in Northern NSW.



A Brief History of the Internet

Sharing Resources
 The Internet started in the 1960s as a way for government researchers to share information. Computers in the '60s were large and immobile and in order to make use of information stored in any one computer, one had to either travel to the site of the computer or have magnetic computer tapes sent through the conventional postal system. Another catalyst in the formation of the Internet was the heating up of the Cold War. The Soviet Union's launch of the Sputnik satellite spurred the U.S. Defense Department to consider ways information could still be disseminated even after a nuclear attack. This eventually led to the formation of the ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network), the network that ultimately evolved into what we now know as the Internet. ARPANET was a great success but membership was limited to certain academic and research organizations who had contracts with the Defense Department. In response to this, other networks were created to provide information sharing. January 1, 1983 is considered the official birthday of the Internet. Prior to this, the various computer networks did not have a standard way to communicate with each other. A new communications protocol was established called Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP). This allowed different kinds of computers on different networks to "talk" to each other. ARPANET and the Defense Data Network officially changed to the TCP/IP standard on January 1, 1983, hence the birth of the Internet. All networks could now be connected by a universal language.



The image above is a scale model of the UNIVAC I (the name stood for Universal Automatic Computer) which was delivered to the Census Bureau in 1951. It weighed some 16,000 pounds, used 5,000 vacuum tubes, and could perform about 1,000 calculations per second. It was the first American commercial computer, as well as the first computer designed for business use. (Business computers like the UNIVAC processed data more slowly than the IAS-type machines, but were designed for fast input and output.) The first few sales were to government agencies, the A.C. Nielsen Company, and the Prudential Insurance Company. The first UNIVAC for business applications was installed at the General Electric Appliance Division, to do payroll, in 1954. By 1957 Remington-Rand (which had purchased the Eckert-Mauchly Computer Corporation in 1950) had sold forty-six machines.

IT security best practices

It is important to implement an IT security policy. IT equipment are vulnerable and hackers develop their means over time. Here are some recommendations we offer:

- Tip # 1**
Update your operating system and software.
- Tip # 2**
Perform regular backups.
- Tip # 3**
Use up-to-date Antivirus software on computers and mobile devices.
- Tip # 4**
Change passwords regularly.
- Tip # 5**
Choose complex passwords that combine at least one uppercase letter, one number and one special character.
- Tip # 6**
Use password management software and disable password management software for web browsers.
- Tip # 7**
Never enter personal data on non-secure sites that do not have security guarantees.
- Tip # 8**
Never click on a link in an email that asks you to identify yourself or provide personal information.
- Tip # 9**
Be wary of attachments from unknown email addresses.
- Tip # 10**
Never open attachments with the .com, .pif, .bat, .ink and .exe extensions.

This is why we'll always have SCAM phone calls....

Last month I wrote about Computer Scammers and how to avoid them, or at least recognise them so you don't fall into their trap. This month, I'll try to enlighten you about phone scammers. So, if you're one of the few people who don't receive scam phone calls, congratulations! For the rest of us, if we're caught in a moment of poor judgement, it may cost us thousands! Anyway, a couple of years ago I was chatting to a high level Telstra technician (yep they exist) and we were talking about a variety of problems and one was 'do I have the ability to turn OFF overseas incoming calls', even if they have been diverted from another number. The answer was YES! It was as simple as literally flicking a switch. However, it's not something they want us to know about. Now I get

that many Aussies have a reason to take calls from overseas for family or business reasons, but why can't we also 'whitelist' those numbers much the same way that we can block and whitelist emails? For the rest of us who don't want overseas callers AT ALL...ever, we simply flick the switch to NO and the rest of us can be selective in the calls we take. They could even make it an option on our devices. Sounds easy, right? Well there are a few reasons why it won't happen. 1. If most of us in Australia turned off overseas callers, ALL of the Australian businesses with Call Centres overseas would have to bring back their Call Centres to Australia (the banks, the telcos, insurance companies etc). For them it probably means more expense to have this service for clients but let's face it, many of us

complain about these call centres because we can't understand what they're saying. Now we have an even better reason to bring them back....to get rid of the scammers! 2. Another reason is that Governments in Australia won't support it. I've spoken to a few local politicians over the years and they're not interested in make these sorts of changes. They say it's a commercial decision for businesses to decide on whether or not they want to employ overseas people instead of Australians. 3. Another reason is 'it's just too hard'. Unless we all make a loud enough noise about this type of thing, it'll just be another one of those interesting things you read in the News paper. Government stats shows that Aussies lose a few million every year to these scammers and they tell us how to

handle this type of event. Wouldn't it be easier NOT to have this event AT ALL, rather than put most of us through the anxiety of wondering who's on the end of the next phone call? If we can collectively force the Telcos and the Government to provide the 'Switch off Overseas Calls' option, we'll not only stop the scammers in their tracks, but we'll probably solve the unemployment problem in Australia as many if not all of the call centres will have to come back to Australia. Having been a technician for ALL of my working life, it's been my job to find solutions to all kinds of problems. Some are harder than others. This is one of the easiest hard ones I've come across. It's easy to do, but not easy to get it done. Maybe this is another one for my friends at 'A Current Affair'? They seem to be able to get stuff done. Cheers, Frank

Street-smart thief Nathan Drake (Tom Holland) is recruited by seasoned treasure hunter Victor "Sully" Sullivan (Mark Wahlberg) to recover a fortune lost by Ferdinand Magellan 500 years ago. What starts as a heist job for the duo becomes a globe-trotting, white-knuckle race to reach the prize before the ruthless Moncada (Antonio Banderas), who believes he and his family are the rightful heirs. If Nate and Sully can decipher the clues and solve one of the world's oldest mysteries, they stand to find \$5 billion in treasure and perhaps even Nate's long-lost brother...but only if they can learn to work together.

Genre: Action, Adventure
 Original Language: English
 Director: Ruben Fleischer
 Producer: Charles Roven, Avi Arad, Alex Gartner, Ari Arad
 Writer: Rafe Judkins, Art Marcum, Matt Holloway
 Runtime: 1h 56m
 Distributor: Sony Pictures



By Sister Hosea Rupprecht
 When a film is based on a video game, there already seems to be a strike against it (think Angelina Jolie's *Tomb Raider* films, although the 2018 reboot wasn't too bad). But, since I'm a fan of Tom Holland, (even before he was Spider-Man there was his excellent work in *The Impossible*) and I enjoy *Indiana Jones* style films, I thought I would give *Uncharted* a go.

The Ruben Fleischer-directed film is actually more like a buddy-film version of *National Treasure* + *Indiana Jones* with a bit of *Pirates of the Caribbean* thrown in for good measure. Holland plays Nate Drake, a New York bartender who enjoys stealing from his workplace's high-end clients. He's recruited by Victor "Sully" Sullivan (Mark Wahlberg) to help him find the substantial stash of gold said to be lost by Magellan 500 years ago.

Sully's offer doesn't come out of the blue, however. It seems Sully knows Sam (Rudy Pankow), Nate's big brother who was kicked out of the orphanage where they both lived when Nate was 10 years old. Sam's promise that he would return for Nate remains unfulfilled so Nate is eager to discover what Sully knows of his lost sibling. Oh yeah, and finding millions, perhaps billions, worth of gold isn't bad, either. As in any heist/treasure hunt film, there are those who are trying to beat

the protagonists to the prize and are willing to do violence to get their hands on the treasure first. Antonio Banderas plays Santiago Moncada, a descendent of the family that originally funded Magellan's exploits, who will spare no expense to beat Sully to the treasure. His hired thug, Braddock (Tati Gabrielle), is a stone-cold minion who will stop at nothing to get the loot. Then there is Chloe (Sophia Ali). She has one piece of the puzzle, so Sully and Nate need her, but there is little trust between them.. Fleischer's film sports some great action sequences, including the one that opens the film where Nate gets kicked off a plane and must climb a daisy-chain of packing cubes to get back aboard. Seeing huge ships suspended from helicopters chasing each other across the sky brings the big thrills, too, but the film depends on these rather than a well-woven story to anchor it. Pairing big stars Holland and Wahlberg was a huge part of the draw for me but they're not given much interesting dialogue besides the banter they throw back and forth for two hours. I'm always interested when there are nuns in a movie and this one has them! Nuns ran the St. Francis orphanage where Nate and Sam grew up and during the search for clues, Nate and Sully are let into a church by nuns. Nate comments, "Nuns. Why does it always have to be nuns?" He's obviously not a big fan but the

brief view of nuns we get at least doesn't make them out to be ruler-wielding meanies. There's not much depth to the film as it's meant to be frivolous fun, which it is. There's nothing wrong with that, but while doling out the action adventure, it also makes stealing look like fun, which is quite unfortunate. A treasure hunt is one thing, like in the *National Treasure* films, but stealing to make a living and enjoying it, not so good. Having said that, what ultimately motivates Nate to follow Sully on this zany adventure is a longing to find someone that was lost to him many years before. He's lived with that pain since he was young and, perhaps, it has contributed to his habit of pilfering. While sins against the eighth commandment can never be condoned, we might be willing to cut Nate a bit of slack since he wants what we all need as human beings: a connection to someone who loves us and gives us a purpose for living, be that someone God or another person who shows us love. *Sister Hosea Rupprecht is a member of the Daughters of St. Paul, a religious community dedicated to evangelization with the media. She holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto and an MA in Media Literacy from Webster University in St. Louis.*



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Warne's death a grim reminder that men's health needs attention

Julie Szego

The Sydney Morning Herald



Whenever I think about my childhood in the 1970s, the associations are sensual. Suntan oil; it's always summer in this land of memories. TV ads lustily promoting vice: "finger lickin' good" Kentucky Fried Chicken, as the product was known before it slimmed down to a coy acronym; Paul Hogan's casual exhortation to "anyhow, have a Winfield"; the "I feel like a Toohey's" anthem sold as a tribute to cricketer legend Dennis Lillee.

And sometimes events trigger a more disturbing patchwork of recollections. We're in Queensland, on a tourist boat. The day began with a group of families cheerfully setting out on an excursion. But in late afternoon, I'm watching one of our party lying across several seats. The adults stretch out his legs, prop his head on an improvised pillow. The adults seem fearful. "Heart attack," someone whispers. The man usually wears a rosy grin. Now his skin is ashen, his eyes strained shut. The boat sways and drones – is this where my dislike of boats comes from? Somehow I've absorbed the certainty the man will die.

An old man, he seemed to me, being so young. His death is noteworthy only because I was present for the precipitating event – otherwise it was commonplace for men within my parents' circle of acquaintance to drop dead. "He worked himself to the grave," people would say. "He drank himself to death." These men were in their 40s, 50s, 60s. Not old at all, of course. Only, in those days – I was born three days after Shane Warne – longevity had a bigger element of pot luck. Fifty years ago, the average life expectancy for Australian men was 68, for women 75. Confronting such statistics is at once shocking and inspiring. We live in a state of endemic pessimism, but we live here a long time. Males born between 2018 and 2020 can expect to stick around to 81, females to 85.

These stats will hardly buoy those who are grieving Warne the hardest. I don't speak cricket. I can acknowledge Warne's artistry on the pitch only as an abstract fact. Still, it's incredible how amid war, plague and flood, the news of Warne's untimely passing was a thick curtain muffling all other sound. His raw, boyish exuberance – a grin less rosy than radioactive – saturated me as it did everyone else.

Precisely what caused his suspected fatal heart attack in a Koh Samui villa, we don't know. We do know he was a loveable throwback, partial to VB, smokes, baked beans and spaghetti. A recent social media post featured a photo of a leaner version of himself from "a few years ago". His goal was to get back there, he said; so macho, so teenage girl on Instagram. He was on one of those ludicrous, liquid diets – a risky endeavour, doctors

warn.

So against the background of International Women's Day I find myself in the counter-intuitive position of contemplating men; how far they've come, how far they still have to go. Because while the gender health gap has narrowed significantly since the 1970s, the gap remains. From the modest Life Be In It campaigns during the 1980s, urging people to find 30-minutes a day to exercise, we've arrived at Fitbits, organic vegetables in supermarkets, ever-more-effective medical interventions and the notion that only the dumb (translation: the poor) die young. And men are indeed more likely to drop out of school. They account for the overwhelming number of deaths below age 65.

While their cancer mortality rates have fallen sharper than women's between 1989 and 2021, they still die more than women from preventable cancers because they're less likely to take part in bowel cancer screening programs and more likely to get sunburnt. They die disproportionately from violence and suicide. They die on the job, on the road, on the couch, metaphorically speaking, boozing, fagging, bingeing. They die from heart disease, and they die because the fault is in their genes, as Shakespeare might have put it, and as the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute's Andre La Gerche put it in an interview with this publication because they've become "complacent" about their risk of death.

Warne's tragedy is expected to see men stampeding to their GP for a check-up, and hallelujah for that. But as women know too well, good health is a matter of sociology as much as it is one of science and public health campaigns. In that spirit, I would add to the worthy shopping list of demands that materialise every International Women's Day a couple of items for men. Such as a system of extended paid paternity leave with an entrenched norm that fathers take it, perhaps during their children's toddler years; this would help women's attachment to the workforce, help men experience some healthy detachment from the workforce and ideally nurture the ties that bind.

Such as accepting the nation has a drinking problem and tackling the alcohol scourge in the same way we've tackled smoking and road deaths. And over and over I'm encountering mothers who say their teenage sons are adrift, disengaged from everything but video games. Makes me wonder if the long over-due reckoning with what we call "toxic masculinity" might unwittingly be sending a message that all males are toxic. Is this something we should be looking at? (Julie Szego is an author and freelance journalist)

Australian Hotels Association take a keen interest in Miller Park Hotel because of the Miller Park Bowling Club Inc ~ a rarity

Last week Newcastle Hotels representative for the Australian Hotels Association, Nikki Taylor, visited Miller Park Hotel in preparation for an article about the hotel & its affiliated Miller Park Bowling Club Inc. which was officially incorporated on the 29th September 2021; a first.

The story will be on their website for members to read.

The AHA is now the principal body representing most of Australia's 6,000 hotels, which employ 300,000 workers. In NSW alone the AHA represent 1800 licensed premises in NSW, from the bush pub to suburban hotel, major CBD entertainment complexes to four and five-star luxury hotels.

Photo below: Nikki Taylor from AHA NSW with Miller Park Hotel management team. Dale McNamara, centre, heads the McNamara Hotel Group company.



THE NEWS | No.544 | THURSDAY 17 March 2022 20

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

and

NOT SO

I am so sad about the death of Kimberley Kitching, a real lady and a happy lovely woman, an exemplar in politics. It occurs to me she was the direct opposite of hooso (sic) face, Grace Tame. My best to Daniel Repacholi, a good man ... Watch your back, What a nasty business politics is. Full of manipulative creeps who would step on peoples faces in a bus crash, amongst whom are those politicians who contributed to Kimberley's stress.

What's the world coming too? An elderly lady's 2 beloved horses died last week because some idiot/s who should have been drowned at birth opened gates and the horses ventured onto the highway at Belford. Hopefully the perpetrators/s must be on someone's security camera in the Belford area ... please check if you have one & give it to police. Hopefully their time will come!

To Tony Chadwick, Economic Development and Tourism Manager, at Cessnock City Council for organising & co-hosting with the local Business Chamber the Network Dinner to be held on the 24th March at the Royal Federal Hotel. There has been a very good response from the local business houses. Thank you Tony & Cessnock City Council.

To the local SES and other emergency services who, once again, stepped up when needed through the recent flood emergency. Also, to the volunteers who have jumped in and helped when & where needed; amazing community volunteers. (Ed., I recorded just under 200mls on Monday 7th March at North Rothbury...never seen rain like it in the 20 odd years living in North Rothbury)

So is this what our town is coming too. Miller Park hit so many times by brainless vandals. They have totally destroyed the toilets at Miller Park. My wife and I have been in Branxton for 21 years. I'm disgusted in what's going on ~ 21 years ago we never saw graffiti or any thing of the likes. We were happy to raise our two sons here we had full time police at one stage. What's happening? Time to re-introduce local policing again with floodlights & CCTV.



FREE Classifieds 3- for one-off domestic advertising The News will not charge you. Other wise it is \$2/line

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128

Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362

For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460

To Lease: Granny flat or use as treatment room, massage etc, great spot, \$200 per week [no kitchen] 4 week bond in advance text, Edwin for pictures 0487427203

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: 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: Alpaca Ph 0400697148

For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809

Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

Share Accommodation: East Branxton \$180 + share utilities cost P: 0407 383 026

Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057

Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Branxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 0413161296 Fred

Work Wanted: Need a house cleaner \$25/hr P: 0488 588 333

Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292

Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601

Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701

Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567

Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081

Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.

Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804

Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153

Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

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

Dates for your diary

EVERY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY MORNINGS — **The Branxton Greta Mens Shed meet in the mornings;** come and have a cuppa at the Shed. 49 Branxton Street, Greta (in the grounds of the old St Mary's primary school) For more information contact Richard Wesseling 0417422560

Leagues Club. For information: Phone Anna 49904093

SUN 19 MAR -Lions Youth of the Year – District Final at Greta.

TUE 22 MAR - Branxton Public School P&C AGM 6:00pm via Zoom

THU 24 MAR - Central Hunter Business Chamber network dinner at The Royal Federal Hotel.5:30pm. \$25/ person and tickets available on link website

SUN 27 MAR - Clean Up Australia / Lions Awareness Event

FRI 25 MAR to SUN 3 APL—Cessnock City Council Seniors Festival at Greta and Branxton

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

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@hotmail.net.au of call me on 0414 757 826. The Editor



JOHNNY CASH THE CONCERT
Next date: Friday, 18 March 2022 | 08:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- Back to San Quentin -

From his acclaimed starring role as Johnny Cash in the January 2020 Melbourne season of *Legends In Concert Las Vegas*, Daniel Thompson will return in 2022 with *Johnny Cash The Concert* celebrating all things Man In Black.

In 1969, off the back of the huge success of his *At Folsom Prison* album, Johnny Cash recorded the second of his legendary prison albums at California's notorious maximum security prison, San Quentin. At San Quentin cemented his place as a legendary figure and icon of 20th century popular music.

After seven national tours and more than 200 shows, *Johnny Cash The Concert* has become lauded as one of Australia's premier tribute acts presenting an unforgettable tribute to one of music's most iconic and influential figures. With more than 80,000 tickets sold Australia wide, don't miss your chance to see what has audiences on their feet and coming back each year for more.

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE WHAT'S ON? GO TO www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

ARTC partners with Maitland Steamfest for special anniversary program including a quad run

Maitland Station Precinct will be welcoming the 5917 and R766 steam locomotives in addition to the previously announced 3801 and Beyer-Garratt 6029.

All four legendary locomotives will be travelling in tandem during the ARTC Great Train Race on Sunday 10 April, competing against Tiger Moth biplanes overhead, all vying to take out the iconic race the likes of which are not seen anywhere in the world but Maitland.

This will be only the second Steamfest in history to feature a 'quad run' - and in fact the second time it has ever happened anywhere over this distance. A quad run sees four steam locomotives run side by side on parallel tracks, and the feat was first achieved during Steamfest's 30th anniversary in 2016.

Ex-Victorian Railways steam locomotive R766 is set to make its first appearance at Steamfest, in what will be one of the first chances for enthusiasts to take a trip behind the locomotive after a long restoration and conversion from broad gauge to standard gauge, allowing it to operate on New South Wales' standard gauge track network. The R766 is the world's first gauge converted R class express steam locomotive to enter heritage service.

With the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) coming on board as the event's official Rail Partner, the stacked ARTC Rail Program is set to feature a string of steam and heritage train journeys to destinations across the Hunter Valley, such as Paterson, Branxton and Newcastle.

ARTC Group Executive Hunter Valley Wayne Johnson says ARTC is 'thrilled to be the presenting partner of the rail program at Steamfest and to help in bringing this exciting event to the community.'

In addition to the train line up, Steamfest's 35th anniversary includes an expanded program on Saturday 9 April, with the carnival atmosphere continuing into the evening, with music, amusements and great food up until 9.00pm. Head to Maitland Park on the morning of Sunday 10 April for a Show 'n' Shine featuring over 500 classic cars and hot rods that span motoring history, plus live rock 'n' roll, food stalls and fun for the whole family.

The Rally Ground will once again host an impressive display of steam powered traction and portable engines, vintage farm machinery, and for the first time, the Steamfest People Mover, built by the Maitland Steam and Antique Machinery Association, will be in action and transporting visitors through the Rally Ground.

Burton Automotive Hunter Valley Steamfest will be held on the weekend of 9 and 10 April 2022. Tickets for all steam rail journeys will be available from midday Tuesday 15 March.

For more information and to purchase your tickets, head to www.steamfest.com.au



March 2022 flood recovery assistance

The Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) has been declared a natural disaster zone following extreme weather events throughout March 2022. This means residents of the Cessnock LGA impacted by flooding are eligible for financial support under the jointly funded Federal and State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) program.

DRFA assistance is available to individuals, businesses, primary producers, community groups and non-profit organisations.

Assistance for individuals

Immediate assistance: This assistance is intended to meet the essential emergency needs of people who are directly affected by the disaster and have no other means of meeting their immediate needs (such as evacuees who are unable to access their personal finances or arrange alternative forms of assistance). **State administering agency:** Resilience NSW, **Enquiry contact:** Service NSW on 13 77 88.

Grants for essential household contents: These grants will assist with the cost of replacing household items essential to maintaining a basic standard of living.

Examples of essential household contents include bedding, furniture, clothing, and essential electrical items (e.g. refrigerator, washing machine, stove). **State administering agency:** Resilience NSW, **Enquiry contact:** Service NSW on 13 77 88.

Grants for essential structural repairs to homes: These grants provide a contribution toward essential structural repairs to low income home owners who have no other means of restoring their homes to a safe and habitable condition following the disaster event, and who are not covered by insurance. **State administering agency:** Resilience NSW, **Enquiry contact:** Service NSW on 13 77 88.

Assistance available for primary producers

- Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to primary producers that have suffered direct damage to help cover eligible clean-up and reinstatement costs. The grants can be used for a range of activities including removing debris, cleaning-up, repairing damaged fencing and equipment, replacing livestock, salvaging crops and restoring fields. **State administering agency:** NSW Rural Assistance Authority, **Enquiry contact:** NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.

- Freight subsidies for primary producers: Transport freight subsidies of up to 50 per cent on the carriage of livestock and fodder, and 25 per cent on the carriage of fodder for dairy cattle, are available to help primary producers. The maximum subsidy available is \$15,000 per annum. **State administering agency:** NSW Rural Assistance Authority, **Enquiry contact:** NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.

- Loans of up to \$130,000 at a fixed concessional interest rate may be available to small businesses and primary producers (subject to certain eligibility criteria) that have been directly impacted by a disaster. These loans may be used to meet carry-on requirements or to repair or replace damaged property not covered by insurance. **State administering agency:** NSW Rural Assistance Authority, **Enquiry contact:** NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.

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Library writes a new chapter with free training to support adult literacy

As one of the few libraries in NSW with a specialised adult literacy support program, Singleton Library is running a free training program for members of the community to become an adult literacy tutor.

The training will be delivered by Jo Medlin, who recently featured in the SBS documentary *Lost for Words* which followed the path of eight Australians as they took part in an intensive nine-week adult literacy program.

Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity

said community members who took part in the training would join the Library's Adult Literacy Support Program to assist adults who wished to improve their reading, writing or spelling.

The training will be held on Monday 11 April from 10am to 5pm. Lunch is included. A follow-up Zoom session to be organised at a later date.

"The Library first established an adult literacy program six years ago, providing training to community members to become qualified Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutors who are then matched with people who have identified they require support to provide one-on-one sessions," Ms Brereton said.

"We're very proud that Singleton's program is held up as an example of what support is possible from a Library service, and fortunate to have Rob Stewart as part of our Library team who chairs the NSW Public Libraries Working Group on adult literacy (Coordinated by the NSW State Library) and is the liaison between the Reading Writing Hotline and public libraries."

Bookings are essential to participate in the program and can be done online <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/adult-literacy-tutor-training-tickets-288132801967>, by contacting the Library on 02 6578 7500, emailing library@singleton.nsw.gov.au or by visiting the Library to speak with staff.

Ms Brereton said adults who may need the support of the program are also encouraged to get in contact with the Library.

"Support sessions are held at the Library at a time that suits both the learner and the volunteer tutor, so this is a great opportunity for you or someone you know who wants to improve their reading, writing or spelling."

• Photo above: Rob Stewart, Council's Team Leader Library Programs is also the chair of the NSW Public Libraries Working Group on adult literacy.




RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton
Recent sales

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



Give your lawn it's best chance of surviving the harsh winter months with these easy autumn lawn care tips!

Winter is coming – and like every throne needs its fearless leader, your lawn needs you! You see, autumn lawn care is much like preparing your soldiers for war. Over the winter months your lawn is at its most vulnerable, and will be required to furiously fight off threats such as winter weeds, moss, lawn grubs, suffocation and fungal diseases. Yikes!

Here's how to give your lawn its best chance of emerging at spring time as a true victor!

FERTILISE FOR STRENGTH

Autumn is the perfect time to get in and fertilise your lawn. There is still plenty of warmth in the soil meaning that your lawn is still actively growing. Fertilisation now will encourage stronger root development, overall health and vigour and help your lawn maintain its vibrant colour.

In autumn, a prilled (pelletised) fertiliser like Lawn Solutions Premium Lawn Fertiliser is going to be more effective than a liquid fertiliser, as it is going to really get down into your soil. A liquid fertiliser is going to sit predominantly on the surface of your grass, and will require a very generous application to match the concentration of essential nutrients that a prilled fertiliser holds. When applying your prilled fertiliser, spread evenly over your desired area and cross rake.

Tip: When applying an organic or prilled fertiliser, it is essential to water it in well to avoid burning.

REMOVE IMMEDIATE THREATS

Yes, we mean weeds! Whilst your lawn is building up its stamina, it's imperative that you lend it a helping hand by removing and destroying any weeds present. In the same way you wouldn't let an enemy infiltrate your ranks, don't let winter weeds such as winter grass and broadleaf weeds get out of hand or set seed! During autumn, winter weeds will be looking for any excuse to grow, so get onto them as soon as they appear and before your lawn begins to find it harder to out-compete them.

Tip: In autumn, winter weeds will drink anything that comes their way, and thankfully, that includes weed killers!

GIVE THE ADVANTAGE OF HEIGHT

Don't mow too low! By keeping your lawn slightly longer throughout the cooler months, you are better equipping it for its natural process of strength building – photosynthesis (converting light into energy) which will assist with weed suppression. Conquest!

Tip: To maintain a longer lawn length you will need to mow less frequently, making autumn an ideal time to maintain your mower! Sharpen the blades, replace the spark plugs and use clean fuel.

LET IT BREATHE

With the winter season comes shorter days, and less beneficial sunlight. Too much shade and moisture can see moss starting to grow in certain areas of your lawn, whilst excessive moisture can see wear and tear having more severe effects than it does in warmer, dryer months. Autumn is also when excess fallen leaves and debris can become wet, stick together and suffocate your grass and breed fungal diseases.

Help your lawn by letting it breathe! When you mow, catch your clippings, rake and remove autumn leaf cover and ensure drainage in low points or where required.

Tip: If your lawn is compacted, autumn is also the perfect time to aerate which helps drive oxygen, water and fertiliser down to your lawn's roots.

By following this set of autumn lawn care tips, you are handing your beloved lawn its 'Winter War' shield and giving it its best chance of survival!



How you can involve your dog in Easter, without using chocolate

More and more Australians are now aware that chocolate can be toxic to dogs, cats and other animals – it's great that this important message has reached so many pet owners, and that our furry pals are being protected from ingesting chocolate and suffering the consequences.

But with Easter around the corner, you might be keen to still involve your pet in the celebrations. Here are some suggestions, and also a few warnings, about how you can still engage your pooch in Easter, while keeping their welfare front of mind.

Easter hunts don't have to be all about chocolate!

Your dog will love sniffing out treats as part of an Easter hunt. You can hide his dry food, or a few special treats (in moderation), around the house and see how long it takes for him to sniff them out. Just remember, if you're also having a traditional chocolate Easter egg hunt for the kids, make sure your dog is either safely secured or that the eggs aren't hidden within his reach, to avoid any accidental eating of the chocolate!

Easter can still mean special food for your dog to enjoy

Easter can be a time of indulgence for humans, and there's no reason why your dog can't enjoy a special treat – this can be in the form of food, a special toy, extra playtime or a nice long walk. For dogs, spending time with you can far outweigh a food treat, so remember that your undivided attention is the best treat of all.

If you do want to give your dog a special food treat, consider giving vegetable snacks, like a piece of carrot or cucumber (cut in a way to avoid the risk of choking). You can also offer a small amount of fruit, such as banana or apple without the seeds – just be mindful of not overfeeding fruit, as it does have a high sugar content.

And remember to avoid grapes, raisins, onion and avocado, as these foods can be toxic to dogs.

Think twice before dressing your pup up for that perfect Instagram shot

A dog wearing bunny ears might sound like Instagram gold, but it's important to remember that many dogs don't enjoy dressing up, especially when the costume sits on or goes over their head.

If you really want to get your dog into the Easter spirit, go for an Easter-themed bandana that can be loosely tied around their neck. Always supervise your dog when they're wearing anything other than a collar, and remember to

immediately remove the accessory if your dog seems uncomfortable.

As the weather gets cooler, Easter weekend is often spent cuddled up on the couch with a good book and a hot drink – and there's no doubt that your pooch will happily snuggle with you for some quality time.

We love our pets, and we love sharing special holidays with them. With your dog's welfare front and centre, you can still enjoy Easter with your favourite fur pal.

Household dangers to your pet

We love our pets and want to make sure they're safe and comfortable at home. But did you know some common household items can also be highly dangerous for animals and must be kept safely out of reach, or – in some cases – shouldn't be brought into the house at all if you have pets? Here are some common items that can be dangerous, even fatal – this will help you protect your furry friends from things that can cause them harm. We encourage you to seek out advice from reputable sources like vet, as this isn't an exhaustive list.

Plants

A surprising number of common household plants can be highly toxic to pets. For example, lilies can cause acute and potentially fatal kidney failure within 36 to 72 hours in cats – so if your cat has had access to a lily plant (even if you didn't actually see them contact the plant), take them to the nearest vet immediately. Other common plant species can be toxic to dogs, cats, and horses.

Food

Some foods are toxic to your pets and should never be fed to them – and you should be careful if cooking with these foods to ensure animals don't have access to them (watch out for kitchen countertops around some of our more enterprising pets!). These include chocolate; members of the Allium family like onions, garlic, chives and leeks; tomatoes (for cats); macadamia nuts; raisins, sultanas and grapes; avocado; and products containing caffeine. Feeding fat trimmings may cause gastrointestinal upsets for your pet and even pancreatitis, and foods such as raw fish, liver and sugary foods can be dangerous in excess. Be careful not to feed your pets cooked bones as they can splinter and cause gastrointestinal obstructions.

Medication

Many prescription and over the counter medicines are toxic to animals – for example, paracetamol (Panadol) is highly poisonous to cats, even in tiny amounts, and ibuprofen is toxic to dogs. Never medicate your pet without the advice of your veterinarian and make sure that all



medications – for humans or animals – are kept in sealed containers out of your pets' reach. Some pet medicines can be dangerous if used incorrectly. For example, some flea prevention treatments for dogs contain compounds that are highly toxic for cats. Always use medicines according to your vet and the package's instructions.

Fertiliser

Fertilisers can be dangerous, although the exact effects may differ depending on the product in question. It is recommended that pet owners take active steps to ensure dogs and other pets don't ingest any type of fertiliser material – and if you suspect your pet has ingested fertiliser, contact your vet for advice. Some types of fertiliser like bone meal and blood meal can cause significant gastrointestinal upset if eaten in large quantities by dogs.

Rodent poisons and insecticides

Rodent poisons and insecticides are one of the most common causes of pet poisonings. They are designed to entice animals to eat them and attempts to hide them in hard-to-reach places are often unsuccessful. Be aware that your cat or dog can also be poisoned if they eat a rodent who has been poisoned. We recommend more humane methods of pest control and, if you must use rodenticides or insecticides, keep them safely locked up and only use them in areas your pet definitely can't access.

Other things to consider

Some other household dangers to watch out for include antifreeze (which is deadly even in small amounts), fruit stones that have dropped from trees (which can cause intestinal blockages or obstructions), and xylitol sugar substitute, which is very dangerous to dogs, so be sure that they cannot access any products containing this such as some chewing gums, lollies, drinks, toothpastes and baked goods.

What do I do if my cat goes missing?

It can be every cat owner's worst nightmare – your furry friend has gone missing! This can be very distressing if it ever happens, but if it does, here are some tips to give you a better chance of finding them.

The best way to make sure your cat is safe is to keep them safely indoors. The RSPCA recommends keeping your cat safely contained at home, whether indoors with a secure outdoor area or totally indoors, as long as you can provide for all of their basic needs like food, water, toileting areas, resting and hiding places, and places to scratch.

Don't wait for your cat to be lost first!

As with many aspects of pet care, it's important to be prepared. While your cat is still safely at home, make sure they have proper

identification. This includes a microchip but also, ideally, external ID such as a safe quick-release collar with a tag that displays your name and contact number. It's especially important to make sure your details on the microchip database and ID tag are up to date at all times.

Make sure you have a current photograph of your cat (including their full body and face) to help find and identify them if needed. If you're anything like us, your camera roll will be full of pictures of your pets, so we don't think this will be an issue!

Develop a missing cat plan

Prepare a plan for if your cat goes missing before something happens – chances are you'll be a lot calmer and thinking more clearly! Having the plan ready will also save valuable time if something does happen.

Your plan should include a thorough physical search – including your house and backyard (many missing indoor cats are actually hiding inside the home!). Notify your neighbours and seek their permission to conduct a thorough search of their properties for your cat as well.

Make sure you alert and visit any local animal agencies (such as vets, pounds or the RSPCA), as well as distributing fliers around your neighbourhood with photos of your lost cat. Going online can also be a great way to search for your missing cat, for example in local Facebook groups or 'lost pets' pages.

Help your cat return home

Most indoor cats will become afraid if they get out and will hide, but they will want to return to their known territory. Many of them are likely to be hiding somewhere close but in places you can't see them – they are often scared and won't come out, even if you are looking for them.

This is good news though because it means that many of these cats can be found very close to home and there are a few simple things you can do to help them return home.

You can put your cat's favourite food inside but very close to your door, leaving the door open and watching from afar. You may have to be patient, but many cats will return inside for the food (you can then gently close the door behind them, of course!).

For outdoor cats

If your cat 'free-roads' and they don't return, it can mean that something has happened including injury, illness or mistakenly being removed by a passer-by. These cats are still usually found close to home, but it may be within two to three blocks of your house.

You should still follow the same steps as for finding an indoor cats, but extend your search area wider and immediately concentrate on all the other aspects of your plan to find your cat (such as contacting vets and pounds, advertising, and posting in online groups)

B Grade pennants lost 5 - 0 to Paterson at Maitland today.
C Grade defeated Muswellbrook 4/1 at Paterson
The Vets defeated Murrurundi 2-1 at The Vintage

Saturday, 5 March 2022 STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL - STROKE

Field: 34
Winners C Timothy Lane 67
Grades A Victor Matt 70
Grades A Mark Moylan 73
Grades B Mick Barrett 74
Grades B Robert Hale 75
Grades C Adnan Al Dabet 75
Grades C Robert Miller 78
NTP 2/11 Mick Barrett 309cm
NTP 4 David Matt 244cm
NTP 9/18 David Kinch 352cm
NTP 13 Robert Hale 505cm
Balls 10 Distributed down to score: 75

Pro's N.T.P 18th Hole Steve Eccles 349cm = \$68 Proshop Voucher

34 resilient golfers endured the tough wet conditions on Saturday in the Monthly Medal Competition. The winning scores were unsurprisingly quite high although Victor Matt showed his class to win A Grade with a superb nett 70 from his low single figure handicap. This followed on from his win in the Par Three Championships last week. This year's C Grade Champion, the long hitting Tim Lane tamed the course with his 67 nett to easily win the overall Monthly Medal, on a day where a nett 75 won a ball. Mark Moylan finished runner up in A Grade with his pleasing 73 nett. Mick Barrett won B Grade with his nett 74 just ahead of this year's B Grade runner up in the championships, Bobby Hale, with his 75 nett. Adnan Al Dabet continued his recent good form to win C Grade with a 75 nett, just ahead of Robert Miller with a 78 nett. Steve Eccles won the Pro's NTPin on the last with Dave Matt hitting the shot of the day on the 4th. On Sunday, the Vets maintained their undefeated run for the season, defeating Maitland 2-1 at Denman, leaving them at the top of the table, ensuring they finish first in their section with the finals coming up in 2 weeks. B Grade lost 4.5-0.5 to Maitland at Muswellbrook whilst A Grade and C Grade had their games washed out. The incredible wet weather this week has absolutely flooded the Branxton Course (there are some great photos on line) so everyone should regularly check the state of the course regarding this weekend's play.

Saturday, 12th March 2022 2BBB STABLEFORD + SINGLES IN CONJUNCTION

Field: 28
2BBB WINNERS DARRELL FLEMMING/ CHARLES JUBB 45PTS
2BBB R/UP MICK BARRETT/ LLOYD BARRETT 44PTS
2BBB

3RD ROBERT BILES/ ROBERT MILLER 43PTS C/B
INDIVIDUAL WINNER LLOYD BARRETT 40PTS
INDIVIDUAL R/UP NICK WHEELER 38PTS
INDIVIDUAL 3RD ANDREW MCGOVERN 37PTS
NTP 2/11 P WILTON 67CM
NTP 4 N JORDAN 260CM
NTP 9/18 G NOBLE 30CM
NTP 13 N JORDAN 196CM

Pro's N.T.P 18th Hole Steve Eccles 275cm = \$48 Proshop Voucher

Saturday's small field of 28 players enjoyed some tough conditions after the course reopened after the recent flooding which thoroughly consumed the course. The dam in front of the 7th is full, showing no signs of going down. Many have said that they have never seen the course so soaked and taken so long to dry out. A lot of hard work from the energetic volunteers and our green-keeper allowed play to happen for those stalwarts who were looking for a game. The team of Darrell Flemming and Charles Jubb won the 2BBB event with a very solid 44 pts, just ahead of Mick Barrett and Lloyd Barrett with 44 pts. Bob Biles and "Shirl" Miller came third with 43 pts. Lloyd Barrett obviously contributed well to his team as he won the individual stableford event with an excellent 40 pts. Nick Wheeler finished runner up with a solid 38 pts with Andrew McGovern's 37 pts good enough for third place. The shot of the day belonged to Greg Noble on the 9th, finishing just 30 cms from the pin, although Pete Wilton's shot to the 2nd/11th was nearly as good, as it was only 67 cms away. Richie Turnbull can also lay claim to the shot of the day as he chipped into the 12th from 50 m out. Steve Eccles won the Pros NTPin on the last, the first golfer to win this Pro Pin two weeks straight—a great achievement Steve! Captain Steve wants to remind everyone that the Singles draw is now complete and is in the club house and on the website. Round 1 is to be played by the 23rd April. The course is being checked daily to monitor the return of carts on the course. In the Pennants on Sunday, A Grade played Hunter Valley at The Vintage (no results as yet); B Grade had a washout at Singleton; C Grade defeated Scone 3-2 at Muswellbrook and the Vets had a bye (finishing the top of their group with the Semi Finals next week) On another note, our 2021 Club Champion, Corey Lamb, made his Professional Debut at Cypress Lakes on the weekend, playing in the TPS Hunter Valley Professional Tournament. Unfortunately, he missed the cut by a mere two shots but Corey showed that he has "what it takes" to make a success of his new profession. His opening drive, his first hit as a Pro, was brilliantly executed as it sailed down the middle..... and a long way. His next

event is the NSW Open next week—we wish him all the best.

HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB Sunday 27th February

The Weekly Challenge has been won by Alan Jamieson with 44 points from Chris Simon 40 & Justin Lawrenvce with 38. Ball winners as yet not posted.

Tuesday 1st March

Brandon Cole with 37 points has taken out the Tuesday Stableford from Jayden Casinelli with 35 & Geoff Sweetman 3rd on countback with 34. No other details have been released at this point.

Wednesday 2nd March

The increasing wet conditions has seen the Ladies comp abandon this week.

Thursday 3rd March

The ongoing rain left most of the Vets at home with a very small field taking on the Irish Stableford. Pul Smith did best with 66 points from Steve Piggott 61 & Peter McIntyre 57.

Saturday 5th March

With the rain leaving competition open to walkers only the Monthly Stroke rounds have been moved to next weekend with a medley Stableford on offer for the field. Ben Pickering handled the heavy going best with 38 points from Tom Lundy with 37 on countback to Matt Merlo also on countback for 3rd. Ball winners were: Jeremie Morton 37, Luke Johnston 37, John Martin 36, Leon Zaferis 36, Sam Zaferis 36, George Zaferis 35, Stephen Zok 35, Andrew Zok 34, Jacko 34, Nic Bates 34, Emmett Holland 33, Moray Clowes 33, Ben Bradley 33, Jeff Morton 32 & Aaron Marks 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Steve Piggott (3rd) Wade Attewell (4th) Matt Merlo (10th) & Sharyn Jones (17th).

Sunday 6th March

The Weekly Challenge has been won by Robert Thomas with 38 points from David John Brewer with 36 on countback to Jeff Shanahan 3rd also on countback. Ball winners are: Rod Colquhoun 36, Phil Baker 35, Dave Hollis 35, Mick Barrett 34, Phil Douglas 34, Dan Hunt 33 & Tim Johns 32 c/b.

Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th March

Both days were washouts, **Thursday 10th March**

The heavy conditions once again left many of the Vets field at home this week. James Schofield did best of the those who accepted the challenge with 34 points from Dave Hollis 33 & Don Bradley 3rd with 32. Ball comp details not known at this time.

Saturday 12th March

The Saturday field found the going improving some what with scoring a tad easier then for much of this week. A 3 way countback has seen Renae Stevens receive the Judges nod from Ian Smith in 2nd place & Stephen Zok 3rd after they had 38 point returns.

Ball comp nor NTP's are known at this point.

Steve Glasson and Brett Duprez visit Miller Park



Miller Park Sports & Recreation Bowling Club was very pleased to host two of the world's best bowlers on Wednesday, 28th. February 2007. Mr. Steve Glasson and Mr. Brett Duprez, representing Bowling Club Insurance Brokers (BCIB), came to Branxton to give our local bowlers a free 2 hour coaching clinic. With over 30 bowlers on the green, Steve and Brett were kept busy, and both proved themselves to be very helpful, friendly and knowledgeable. Both Steve and Brett commented favourably on the bowling surface. Our local bowlers certainly benefited from their input.

Photo Above: from left: Brett Duprez, Cameron Johanson, Steve Glasson, Darren Drayton, Taylor Drayton and Ethan Walsh

Branxton Wildcats 10's Gold Team win Hunter Valley Soccer Association's Patrons Cup!

On Sunday, the Branxton Wildcats 10's Gold Team won the most prestigious soccer trophy in the Hunter Valley in their age group. *The Patrons Cup* is a knock-out competition with thirty-two Hunter Valley Soccer Teams competing for the title.

The grand-final was played at Bellbird in extremely trying windy weather, against the highly fancied Maitland Team. The Maitland team had just won the Newcastle Competition and we were a little anxious as to how our team would perform, but Branxton excelled!

Both teams played a great game with Branxton showing great skill from its team right from the very start. Maitland scored first which was not unexpected as they had the wind in their favour. Because of the wind the first half for the Branxton team was very trying but Branxton showed tremendous skill particularly with ball control and defence. This kept the game well balanced.

The second half was a tribute to the teams big kicks, sportsmanship and teamwork. They played brilliantly! The wind was in their favour and they had full control of the ball. A splendid goal was scored by Kane Melon (who had recently suffered a twisted ankle) making the scores even. The corners at this stage were Branxton four, Maitland nil. The game went into extra time with no goals being scored. The game was decided on corners giving Branxton the Cup.

The Branxton team had scored 110 goals with 7 against this season, its first season on a full field. The team has played together, with few changes, over the last four years, starting with the under 6's, this team has been a force to be reckoned with and has developed quite a reputation in the Hunter.

One man who is certainly owed a great deal is their coach Stef Melon of Greta, who has been their coach, mentor, friend and mate over the last four years. He has imparted his soccer knowledge & skills to the team & they can be thankful for such a popular and skillful coach. Also, Team Manager and Coach Help, Kerrie and Brett Russell of Branxton, have been fantastic! Thank you to Stef, Kerrie, Brett and all the parents, who have all contributed to make this team the BEST! 'Our Team' is made by **Andrew Benn, Thomas Cooper, Amy Penton, Damon Bard, Orey Dorn, Kaine Melon, Mathew O'Hearn, Mathew Thrift, Tyson Cook, Ben Russell, Jake Russell, Sam Russell, Robert Delforce**

Congratulations on an excellent season and hope to see you all next year for the next round

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

Branxton golfer Cory Lamb Conquers Concord Cup & then turns professional

David Tease

Rising star Corey Lamb scored an emphatic victory in the National and World Amateur Golf Ranking Concord Cup late last month.

The 20-year-old from The Vintage Golf Club led from the outset and cruised to a two-shot win with a final-round two-under 69, to finish at six-under-par 207 for the 54 hole tournament.

Bart Carroll gave Lamb a scare early on the final day; at one stage the Wagga tyro drew level with the leader, and for a few holes at the turn, the pair went birdie for birdie.

A clutch birdie four on the par-five 11th was what Lamb needed to re-establish a slim lead, and when he birdied the par-five

15th, the margin was again back out to two.

From there, the Branxton gun was going to be hard to catch, and despite bogeying the last, victory was safely in his keeping.

"It got a bit tighter than I wanted," Lamb grinned. "But I felt I was always in control."

Concord was the first of three tournaments in a row, including this week's North Coast and Tweed Regional Opens, that Lamb had purposely entered pursuing a start in next month's Golf Challenge NSW Open.

"I was deliberately playing these three events in a row to earn a start in the NSW Open. So grabbing it in the first event feels really good, and it takes a lot of

pressure away."

Lamb added that the win had all but book-ended his amateur career, and admitted with his NSW Open spot secured, he was seriously considering a tilt at the professional ranks sooner rather than later.

"I've got to have a talk to a few folk to see what's on the horizon, and then I'll make my decision," he grinned.

The decision was in the affirmative & he made his Professional Debut at Cypress Lakes last weekend, playing in the TPS Hunter Valley Professional Tournament. Unfortunately, he missed the cut by a mere two shots but Corey showed that he has "what it takes" to make a

success of his new profession. His opening drive, his first hit as a Pro, was brilliantly executed as it sailed down the middle..... and a long way. His next event is the NSW Open next week—we wish him all the best. The tournament will be broadcast live on Fox Sports Australia & Kayo.

Broadcast times are:-

Friday 18/3/22 noon-5pm, Saturday noon-5pm & Sunday noon-5pm

Graeme Phillipson COO for Golf NSW said they were thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase the sport.

"We are not only showcasing the fabulous Concord layout but will be showcasing some of the finest players in Australia Golf."



■ Photo above: Branxton's Professional golfer Cory Lamb

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