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ISSUE 548

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2022



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WW1 Vet, Errol Bailey, leads the Branxton 2022 ANZAC Day march in Branxton

an arc of autocracy is challenging the rules-based order our grandparents secured," he said.

"Democratic-free peoples are standing together again."

Mr Albanese said in a video message the Australian character was confirmed at Gallipoli and since then Australians had "stood steadfast as warriors and as builders and keepers of the peace".

"Yet as the war in Ukraine reminds us freedom cannot be taken for granted. It reminds us that freedom isn't free."

* More photos page 2

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ANZAC Day 2022 saw hundreds of local residents brave a cold foggy morning to pay their respect to the Anzac spirit.

The dawn services, both in Greta & Branxton, marked the return of normal commemorations for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic struck more than two years ago.

Record crowds attended Branxton & Greta dawn service and again for their respective march & service which iterated that Anzac Day has become perhaps the most hallowed secular day on the nation's calendar; a moment that commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations and the contribution and suffering of all those who have served.

Overseas, Anzac services took place in Turkey, France, Thailand, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. Branxton RSL SubBranch President, Brian Furner OAM, in his occasional address, mentioned that it was also the first Anzac Day since forces withdrew from Afghanistan, where 41 Australians died in service.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Labor deputy leader Richard Marles were in Darwin for services, with Labor leader Anthony Albanese in isolation in Sydney recovering from COVID-19.

The PM reportedly said as Australians honoured their own fallen who fought for liberty and freedom, "we stand with the people of Ukraine, who do the same thing at this very moment".

"Our world is changing. War does strike Europe again. Coercion troubles our region once more and

ANZAC DAY



GRETA March



BRANXTON Dawn Service & March




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\$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.

MINERS VOTE FOR YOUR JOB

PAULINE HANSON'S
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NATION

STEVE'S

RANT



Ukraine: a good lesson for Australian defence

In the lead up to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there was misinformation being put out by Putin, NATO, 'Sleepy Joe' Biden and the Ukraine authorities. The message is that no invasion is likely. The Ukrainians, in particular, stressed that Russia would not invade because there was no reason, logically, for them to do so. Now, that is how I perceived the time before Putin sent in armoured columns to act as peacekeepers in the contested border areas of Donbas. Even 'Sleepy Joe' Biden suggested Putin might make a limited incursion to satisfy Russia's security concerns about NATO.

Everyone else was condemning Russia's military build-up East of Ukraine under the guise of combined arms exercises. Meanwhile, Ukraine's attitude remained uneasy but not panicked. Nobody perceived the comprehensive preparation made by the Ukrainian Defence Force. The Ukraine Military had war-gamed the Russian threat and deployed their ground units to counter what they expected. Training with the newly acquired hand-held anti-tank and ground to air missiles and deploying these to forward units have paid great dividends. The mobilisation of the civilian population has been outstanding,

as has the utilisation of the railways, local governments and public utilities. This must have been carefully planned, but it was not made evident. That Ukraine achieved this without the extensive Russian-speaking and Russian sympathetic population knowing and duly reporting this to Russian authorities is worth studying. How their strategic reserves of weapons, ammunition and fuel were safely stored and prepositioned so that every population centre could defend itself is a lesson we must learn.

Could we in this country do a similar mobilisation of the civil infrastructure, population and industrial capacity in such a short time? Can we arm the population? What strategic reserves of weapons, ammunition, and fuel do we have? Who is holding the plans for, checklists and inventories of our self-defence's capabilities? Do we have that capability? Ammunitions weapons, diesel? Our Parliament is always excited about announcing new naval units, air defence projects and armoured vehicle acquisitions. Still, these things are costly, few, and, when viewed in the light of the very recent conflict, are nothing more than targets. The capability we need is hand-held weapons, drones, and

iPhones that can be employed from the back of a tradies ute, a fishing boat or a Cessna. We must make these in Australia in such numbers that every family can be issued with several and know how to use them. Plans are needed for the dispersion and protection of the people in the population centres, storage and security of food, water fuel and flexibility in the electrical grid to ensure power for production. The responsibility for all this rests with everyone. All levels of government have duties for civil defence just as they do for SES, Rural Fire Service, Ambos, hospitals and the dissemination of information. Every family and individual must plan for reserves of water, food, protective clothing, lighting, grog and cash. Know which part of the house is most likely to protect you in an earthquake, tornado or shockwave from explosives. The role of the Federal Government is to ensure that a strategic reserve exists of small

arms, ammunition and hand-held fire and forget missiles to the extent that we could arm the population. That our current and proposed air and naval assets are sufficient to deny the air/sea gap to our north from the likely threat of Chinese Communist aggression for only a short time, we must accept and hope it gives us time to arm the people. State and local governments should be required to maintain shadow administrators to coordinate and implement the arming and training of the population, given cadres of trained weapon instructors are held in every community. We already have affiliated groups within our population that could make up local units. sporting clubs, golf tragic', church groups, community groups such as Tidy Towns, bikies and ex-service combat-trained personnel. Any group or society of associates, friends or members of a family with a defined leadership and internal

organisation. Groups of people who have similar specialist abilities, archers, hackers, gamers and nerds. 'Prior preparation and planning prevent piss-poor performance'. For those currently putting their hands up to be elected... I don't particularly appreciate that the time I pay for is wasted on looking down peoples' pants to determine gender or allegations of drunkenness and rape in parliament. That's simply a matter for the police. It is only of interest to the victims, voyeurs and salivating ABC commentators. It has nothing to do with running the country. We have not seen before the volatility, complexity and transformation in the world that we are seeing today. Leaders who do nothing but whinge about the other party's decisions should be afraid of the public within our country. Tis they, the people, will make the decisions about your future and hold you to account. A clear and purposeful forward

view is needed, and the changing world is monitored for any change occurring. Be it international relations, threats to security or weather events. In a speech to an Infectious Diseases Conference on May 2, 2005, the then health minister Tony Abbott outlined measures the Australian government would have to take in order to curb the spread of a deadly virus successfully. That is foresight. Kimberley Kitching introducing to Parliament Magnitsky style laws also showed foresight. Cheers, Steve

(Ed. note : Steve graduated from Officer Cadet School in 1964 and was deployed to Vietnam in 1965 with 1RAR and again with the AATTV {training team} 1972. He later commanded a company at IRTB and retired after serving as Officer Commanding 1ITB {Depot coy.} in Singleton)



The world must act..

The atrocities being committed by Russia have gone well past any moral red line. Since the U.N. Security Council has become dysfunctional, it is time for the U.N. General Assembly to act. It should hold an emergency special session and then immediately authorize a true peacekeeping force for Ukraine to protect civilian sectors, evacuate civilians who desire to leave and investigate alleged violations of international law. Obviously, such a move is risky. Russia has already shown itself capable of barbaric acts and a disregard for international norms, and the country does have a large

nuclear arsenal. However, the world must not allow any one country, no matter how well armed, to bully the rest of humanity into submission. That said, this must be a defensive force and must be limited to defending the territory of Ukraine. There are huge risks. Let's be honest about that. But are we really going to just sit nice, warm and safe behind our own borders while an entire country might be destroyed, and millions dispossessed or killed? What does that say about us and our zeal for democracy? Instead, let the world stand together against genocide and tyranny. Name & address withheld at request of author

wearing a P2 mask indoors. Several studies, including one published by the CDC in February, show that masks help control the spread of the disease. People who wore an N95 [P2] mask in public settings were 83% less likely to test positive for COVID-19 than those who wore no mask. With the costly human and economic impacts of

COVID-19 continuing, it is worth noting the return of masks in other cities. Philadelphia -- with a population of 1.6m -- has recently re-introduced indoor mask requirements due to concerns about case numbers and hospitalisations. Philadelphia has been averaging 142 new cases a day, with 46 hospitalised, including 6 on ventilators. NSW daily case numbers and hospitalisation figures, per head of population, are much higher, yet we have no mask requirements. Stupid! T. Willoughby, Cessnock

Mask approach lacks sense

As pointed out many times by our medico the simplest and most effective protection against COVID-19 is

What's Happening & other

with Mike Lowing have served.

We will remember them

BY the time you read this commemorations for ANZAC Day 2022 will be over &, going on 2021 ANZAC (Day barring bad weather), it would have been very well attended at both Dawn Service & the main marches. Locally, both Branxton & Greta RSL Sub-Branches put an enormous amount of time and effort to make sure the commemorations run smoothly to respectfully recognise those who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations and the contribution and suffering of all those who

Submit a letter to the editor

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

or

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Financial Implications		
The estimated annual EOI financial implications are as follows (incl GST):		
Description	Value to Council	Value to Community
Annual licence fee	\$3,000	\$0
Annual capital improvements	TBD	\$0
Reduced annual maintenance costs (labour and materials)	\$9,000	\$0
Annual RV Park promotional activities	\$0	\$10,000
Increased visitor numbers (5,000 additional visitor nights with an average overnight spend of \$256)	\$0	\$1,280,000
Increased site security and reduced vandalism	TBD	TBD
Improved customer service	Increased stakeholder satisfaction	Repeat visitation
Total	\$12,000	\$1,290,000

A recommendation presented to councillors at the last ordinary meeting of Cessnock City Council, concerning the contracting out of management rights for the Branxton RV Park has been accepted unanimously.

The recommendation was:-
1. That Council endorses Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia LTD

as the preferred applicant to manage Branxton RV Park subject to community consultation;
2. That Council gives public notice of the Branxton RV Park Management proposal for a period of 28 days;
3. That Council provides public notice of the intention to engage Campervan & Motorhome Club of

Australia LTD as the Branxton RV Park Manager subject to consideration of submissions received; and
4. That the General Manager negotiate a licence agreement for Branxton RV Park Management after considering the public submissions received.
The recommendation was made after council asked for Expressions of Interest' with only the one submission

■ Above: A summary of the financial implications of contracting the RV Park to professional management which was included in the report presented to Council

received from the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia LTD. In June 2021 the President of Central Hunter Business Chamber sent a formal request that Council explore options to increase visitation to the Branxton RV Park. Following this

request Council completed an expression of interest (EOI) process to determine the interest of any parties wishing to manage the Branxton RV Park.

The Business Chamber & Council were seeking to achieve some or all of the following outcomes for the Branxton RV Park:

- Increased visitor numbers;
 - An improved customer service experience;
 - Improved facilities;
 - Site maintenance levels that meets community expectations; and
 - Increased expenditure within Branxton
- The RV park has been unofficially looked after by the chamber for many years with Branxton RSL President Brian Furner OAM being the doyen.

The council report indicated that under professional management the RV Park would increase visitor numbers by 5,000 per year with an average overnight spend of \$256 bringing an extra \$1,280,000 into the town.

The proposal will go to public exhibition for 28-days next month &, hopefully, will be up & running under the professional management of the CMCA by the end of the financial year.

The park is very well used and has some great comments on WikiCamps Australia. It averages around 20-vans per day. A couple of weekends ago there where around 50 vans, a Newcastle camper club, there for the weekend & this weekend another 40+ have booked the site.

Well done Cessnock City Council & the Business Chamber!



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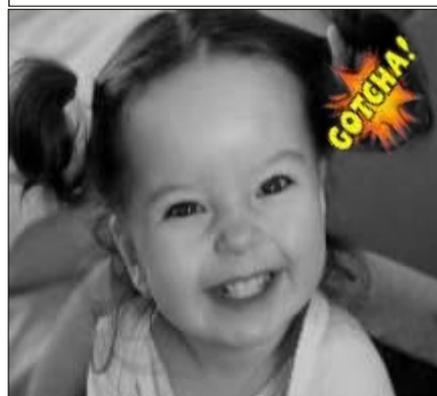
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Daily Thoughts

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. If we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

- Charlotte Bronte
- The babbling brook would lose its song if you removed the rocks. --Unknown
- Make yourself an honest man and then you may be sure that there is one less scoundrel in the world. --Thomas Carlyle
- Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company. --George Washington
- If I have ever made any valuable discoveries, it has been owing more to patient attention than to any other talent. --Isaac Newton



"Grandpa, if you give me 1 dollar, I'll tell you who sleeps with Grandpa when you're not home..."
"Here, I'll give you 2 dollars, who is it?"
"Me...!"

Members say ..



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

I am very much looking forward to hosting the 2022 Mayoral Scholarships Presentation this afternoon. As Mayor, this is a program I am truly proud of as it has allowed Cessnock City Council to offer scholarships to 223 students since it started in 2002. To date, the Mayoral Scholarships Program has provided local students with \$558,000 in scholarship money, including another \$30,000 this year. This has been made possible through the support of our wonderful sponsors who recognise the value of supporting education and learning. These scholarships assist students financially to achieve their educational goals, and also recognise students for excellence in their chosen field. I look forward to sharing the recipients of the scholarships with you in my next column.

We are so lucky to have so many dedicated, community-minded people who contribute to the Cessnock LGA. The annual Australia Day Awards is an opportunity to thank and acknowledge them for all that they do. Cessnock City Council has opened its 2023 Australia Day Award nominations early this year to encourage more nominations, and I would like to call on the community to nominate someone who deserves to be recognised.

Nominations can be for an outstanding achievement during the past year or a significant contribution to the local community over a number of years. Nominations are open until Monday 31 October 2022. To find out more, including information on how to nominate a deserving local, visit Council's website.

In fantastic news for Kurri Kurri, stages 2 and 3 of the Col Brown Rotary Park upgrade are set to kick off in early May. Council was successful in obtaining an \$847,701 grant under the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program to complete the works, which will include landscaping, increased seating, improvements to the amenities block, feature tree plantings, accessible pathways, and park lighting.

The aim of these works is to make the park more accessible and user friendly for the community to enjoy, while maintaining its heritage and charm. Col Brown Rotary Park plays host to so many wonderful community events and this upgrade will ensure we're making the most of this great space in the centre of town.

It's not too late to have your say on the Draft Heddon Greta – Clifftleigh Corridor Structure Plan which is on public exhibition until Friday 6 May. The draft plan seeks to identify and address current and future infrastructure and servicing needs within the corridor and considers issues such as the road network, service infrastructure, constraints, connectivity, and open space. This area has experienced substantial population growth over the last decade and I believe it's so important to put a plan in place that provides a coordinated approach for any future development and infrastructure delivery. Thank you to those who have attended the information sessions and provided feedback on the plan this month. You can still have your say via the online survey and interactive map which can be found on Council's website.

Cheers, Jay



Clr Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

200 years of settlement and significance for Jerrys Plains

Two hundred years since the settlement of Jerrys Plains when an early pioneer described the land as the best sheep farming country he'd seen since leaving Yorkshire, this idyllic village is still known as some of the best agricultural country in NSW.

Jerrys Plains will celebrate its bicentennial at the end of this month with a program of festivities developed and curated by our community, in a living showcase of what is special about this important rural community, and the ongoing importance of our area as a centre for history and heritage, and ongoing connection to the land.

Commemorations will begin with the Jerrys Plains Cup race day at

Muswellbrook Racecourse, followed by a community bicentennial celebration day over the weekend of 29 April to 1 May, complete with tours of the United Wambo mine and Coolmore and Godolphin horse studs. It's an open invitation to everyone to experience all that is special about Jerrys Plains, and a timely occasion to bring us together in honour of the past, embrace all that we have in common and dream a shared vision for a prosperous future for our area.

And in honour of the occasion, Jerrys Plains has also been chosen as the first in Council's rollout of new gateway signage for all the towns and villages across our local government area. As we mark this important milestone, it's also an ideal time to consider Singleton's place in the world for the generations who will commemorate our tricentenary. We're following in the footsteps of our early pioneers to forge an ongoing path of prosperity for our community in partnership with all tiers of government, industry and community organisations by taking a proactive approach to fulfilling the needs of the people in our community now, as well as looking forwards to ensure Singleton's ongoing vitality and importance to NSW.

This is happening in a range of ways and at many levels, including our strategic approach to the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program, working closely with community organisations to take advantage of funding opportunities, as well as our own initiatives like the Legacy Fund. And what I'm most proud of is that while we are taking advantage of the opportunities that arise from government programs, best yet many of these initiatives – such as the Singleton Community Economic Development Fund, or the announcement of Singleton as NSW's Most Sustainable Community at the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Awards – are community-led.

Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR MY FEARS FOR HOW THE INTERNET MIGHT MAKE FUTURE

ELECTION CAMPAIGNS UGLY

Strap in folks! This federal election campaign is going to be messy. And I personally think a lot of it will be thanks to our wild-west internet and social media space. Many would have hoped and expected the internet to be a nirvana of open free speech where everyone had a chance to have their say. The same might have been dreamt of for the various social media platforms. Unfortunately the internet and social media platforms have delivered a fair bit of abuse, hatred and anonymous dumping of vitriol. The online world has really empowered some people that have extreme and radical views. In fact, it even rewards the people who post outrageous thoughts and ideas because it results in a wild pile-on that keeps the topic/issue current and its popularity keeps it in the top of the lists of things being considered by internet users. There are many, many, many things that are written, posted, pushed and promoted in online spaces that would be clearly unlawful and not tolerated in a general civil society. A school, university, sporting team and workplace would all come down like a ton of bricks on some of the online behaviours of bullying, harassment, misogyny and racism.

This all leads, I believe, to a society that is more polarised from each other's views than at any other time in my life. Very often I now find that people have had their views or opinions informed by what they have read online and they become firmly and deeply rooted in their recently formed view of issue A, B or C. So, as we roll toward the federal election of 2022, I can sense that more people are going to be absolute in their political views of who is to be trusted and who is a failure. The internet, which was once entertainment, has reshaped our personalities so much so that what was once decent, fair and reasonable social behaviour, has shifted.

I do, sincerely, hope that we can all go about our daily lives, as the election draws nearer, in a peaceful way. I hope that we can treat each other with respect. I hope that we show tolerance to the views of others and that we show some modesty for our own views. I hope that those seeking to be "leaders" in our community show leadership in their conduct during the election. Good luck to everyone!

A VERY BRIEF UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED "NEW" CESSNOCK HOSPITAL
Many will be aware that Cessnock Hospital is set for a \$111.5M injection of funds. Things are still very much in the early planning. I would hope and expect a small chunk of money to be in this year's State Budget, for some planning and

investigations – possibly \$5M-ish. We really need to make sure that whatever is built will be suitable to our times and suitable for what the future might bring (as best as we can foresee). Ultimately, from announcement to planning to construction could take 4-6 years, if things go smoothly. Our current hospital has been a wonderful thing for our community for more than 100 years, but it is clear that it is past its prime. I certainly look forward to residents and staff soon walking the corridors of a beautiful new facility. *For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can help, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You can also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au Cheers Clayton*



Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP

COVID RULES UPDATE
THE NSW Government's lifting of isolation rules for COVID-19 close contacts has been made possible due to strong vaccination rates in the state. Close contacts of a confirmed case still need to comply with NSW Health

guidelines such as **not visiting** aged care, hospitals, disability and correctional facilities and notifying employers or educational facilities that they are a close contact but are not required to isolate. There is no change for positive cases with the seven-day isolation requirement for anyone who has recorded a positive RAT or PCR result. Public health orders requiring key workforces to be vaccinated will be lifted with vaccine requirements to be based on risk assessments under occupational work health and safety. We continue to be in a pandemic and the basic rules of hand hygiene, wearing a mask when you cannot physically distance and staying at home if you have symptoms still apply. Check the details at: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19

IS YOUR IMMUNISATION CURRENT?

Winter is approaching and NSW Health is urging everyone to be protected against Influenza and COVID-19. Both 'flu' and COVID-19 are circulating in the community, so it is important to protect yourself and your community by getting vaccinated.

Although the symptoms are similar, flu and COVID-19 are caused by different viruses, but their respective vaccines can be given together at the same time. Some people are eligible for a free flu vaccine because they are more vulnerable including children, pregnant women, people with serious health conditions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people aged 65 years-and-over. Discover more about the flu vaccine at: www.nsw.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/influenza

GET SKILLED AT TAFE

A new fee-free pilot program at TAFE Singleton is equipping Upper Hunter residents with skills needed to enter the region's dynamic hospitality industry.

The program is a partnership between TAFE NSW and Singleton Diggers Club which will deliver the NSW Government-funded skills program to local jobseekers. Students have gained hands-on practical skills in bar operation, preparing and serving espresso, and responsible service of alcohol, while also completing work experience in a hospitality venue to support job outcomes. For more information about studying at TAFE NSW, visit www.tafensw.edu.au or call 131 601.

SINGLETON LIGHTS UP!

A NSW Government Regional Events Acceleration Fund grant of \$149,910 will assist Singleton Council stage the Firewalk Spectacular and Firelight event next month.

Firewalk will illuminate the Dunolly Bridge-Cook Park precinct with spectacular displays of laser lights and projections nightly during May 14-22. On Saturday 21 May, John Street fires-up with flames, food and fun when Firelight takes centre stage in the heart of town.

The events are free but require a ticket to attend which can be obtained from the Singleton Council website: www.singletonfirelightfestival.com.au. Cheers, Dave

Members

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News

P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice *with*



Asthma

People with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs which can make breathing difficult. Asthma affects about one in ten Australians. It cannot be cured, but it can be well controlled with medicines and lifestyle. This can allow you to live a normal and active life, free from symptoms.

In asthma, breathing becomes difficult when certain triggers cause the airways to become narrower. The airways narrow because:

- the lining of the airways becomes red and swollen (inflamed)
- the muscles around the airways tighten
- the airways produce extra mucus.

Symptoms

Symptoms of asthma can be:

- wheezing or a whistling sound with breathing
- a dry cough
- feeling breathless (short of breath)
- feeling tight in the chest
- finding it hard to breathe.

You can have one or more of these symptoms. They often occur at night, early in the morning or with physical activity. Children may say they have a sore tummy or sore chest, or may get tired quickly.

What can cause symptoms? There are many triggers that can cause or worsen asthma symptoms. Different people have different triggers. Some triggers are: • allergens you breathe in (e.g. from house dust mites, pollens, moulds, animal hair) • air pollution (e.g. cigarette smoke, dust) • colds and flu • cold air • exercise or physical activity (exercise-induced asthma) • reflux (heartburn) • certain medicines (e.g. aspirin, anti-inflammatory pain relievers, beta-blockers, echinacea, royal jelly) • strong smells and fumes (e.g. chemicals, paints, perfumes, cleaning agents) • emotional upset, stress, anxiety • some foods and food preservatives, flavourings and colourings. Some people have work-related asthma that is triggered by something related to their work or workplace.

Medicines

Most asthma medicines are inhaled (breathed) into the lungs, using an inhaler device (e.g. a puffer). The main types of asthma medicines are called relievers and preventers. The Asthma medicines fact card has more information.

Self care

- Always carry a reliever inhaler (usually blue or grey colour) with you. If you need to use a reliever more than 2 days a week (not counting before exercise), your asthma may not be very well controlled. Discuss with a doctor.
- Make sure you use your inhalers correctly. Ask your pharmacist to check your technique.
- Don't smoke and avoid other people's smoke. Ask a pharmacist for help with quitting.
- Find out what triggers your asthma and try to avoid it. Treat hayfever and reflux, as they may be triggering your asthma.
- Be aware of when your asthma starts to get worse and know how to use your Asthma Action Plan. Ask a doctor, pharmacist or asthma educator for advice.
- Teach your family, friends and co-workers First Aid for Asthma.
- Exercise regularly. Always warm up and if needed, use your reliever inhaler before exercise.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before stopping or starting any medicines, even non-prescription medicines.
- Wear a bracelet or necklace (e.g. a MedicAlert bracelet), that says you have asthma.

Childhood Immunisation

Immunisation strengthens the body's immune system. The immune system fights infection in the body. Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way to protect children (and adults) from some life-threatening infections.

Vaccines are injections or oral doses of live but weakened viruses, dead bacteria or viruses, parts of bacteria or weakened bacterial toxins.

Immunisation with a vaccine (vaccination) strengthens the body's immune system against a bacteria or virus, before the body comes into contact with that bacteria or virus.

Immunisation increases a person's protection against infection caused by that bacteria or virus, reducing the risk of illness.

Some infections that immunisation can prevent

- **Chicken pox (varicella)** – a viral infection that causes an itchy, blistering skin rash. It can also cause serious problems. It may re-appear later in life as shingles.
- **Diphtheria** – a bacterial infection that makes it hard to breathe. It can also cause heart and nerve damage and can lead to death.
- **Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)** – a bacterial infection that can affect the brain, throat, lungs, joints or skin, and can lead to death. It occurs mostly in children under 2 years.
- **Hepatitis B** – a viral infection that affects the liver and can lead to liver failure or cancer.
- **Human papillomavirus (HPV)** – a sexually transmitted viral infection that can lead to cervical cancer and genital warts.
- **Measles** – a viral infection that causes fever, rash, runny nose, cough and conjunctivitis (eye infection). It can lead to ear, lung and brain infections and death.
- **Meningococcal disease type C** – a bacterial infection that can affect the blood or brain and can lead to death. It can develop very quickly.
- **Mumps** – a viral infection that causes swollen salivary glands (glands that produce saliva). It can also cause serious problems.
- **Pertussis (whooping cough)** – a bacterial infection that can cause a severe cough, lung infection, brain damage and death.

A cosy autumn dinner



Style Liquid Stock, Coconut milk, to drizzle, Fresh coriander sprigs, to serve & toasted coconut flakes to serve.

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C fan-forced. Cut the top off the loaves, about 1cm from the top. Scoop out the bread inside, leaving a 1.5cm-thick shell. Cut the inside bread

Two Aussie favourites - curried sausages and cob dip - combine to make one epic family dinner (or snack if you please) you'll never forget.

Ingredients

2 x 20cm cob loaves, 80ml (1/3 cup) olive oil, 12 thin beef sausages, 2 brown onions, coarsely chopped, 2 carrots, peeled, coarsely chopped, 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced on a mandoline, 4cm-piece fresh ginger, peeled, thinly sliced on a mandoline, 150g (1 cup) frozen green peas, 70g (1/4 cup) fruit chutney, 1 tbsp tamarind puree, 2 tbsp plain flour, 1 tbsp curry powder, 500ml (2 cups) Massel Beef

into pieces. Place the cobs and the torn bread on a baking tray. Spray the cobs inside and out with oil. Spray the torn bread with oil. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden and crisp.

2. Heat half the oil in a non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add half the sausages and cook, turning, for 5-8 minutes or until cooked through and browned. Transfer to a chopping board. Cut in half crossways then in half lengthways. Return to the pan and cook, cut-side down, for 2 minutes or until golden. Transfer to a



plate and cover with foil to keep warm. Repeat with the remaining sausages.

3. Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil in a large frying pan. Add the onion and carrot. Cook, stirring often, for 15 minutes or until starting to caramelise. Add the garlic and ginger. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until softens. Add the peas, chutney and tamarind. Cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until heated through.

4. Drain the fat from the sausages, leaving 2 table-spoonfuls in the pan. Return the pan to a medium heat. Add the flour and curry powder. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until aromatic. Remove from heat and whisk in the stock. Return to medium heat and cook, stirring constantly, for 4-5 minutes or until thickens and comes to the boil.

5. Reserve 12 pieces of sausage. Divide the remaining sausage pieces between the cobs. Pour over half the curry sauce between the cobs. Add the onion mixture and pour over the remaining curry sauce. Top with the reserved sausage pieces. Drizzle over a little coconut milk and top with coriander and coconut flakes to serve.

ENJOY!!!

- **Pneumococcal disease** – a bacterial infection that can affect the brain, blood or lungs, and can lead to death.

- **Poliomyelitis (polio)** – a viral infection that can cause brain infection and paralysis, and can lead to death.

- **Rotavirus** – a viral infection that can cause severe diarrhoea and vomiting in babies and young children, and can lead to death.

- **Rubella (German measles)** – a viral infection that causes swollen glands, joint pain and a rash. If a woman gets rubella during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy, the rubella can damage the baby.

- **Tetanus (lockjaw)** – a bacterial infection that affects the nervous system. It causes severe muscle spasms and breathing problems, and can lead to death.

Who needs immunisation?

Australian health authorities recommend immunisation for all children. In Australia, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides immunisation to most children free of charge. The first vaccinations on the NIP Schedule are recommended at 6-8 weeks of age, and are continued throughout childhood.

Most vaccinations need to be given more than once to protect against illness. Doctors, immunisation clinics, some hospitals and Aboriginal health clinics can give children the NIP vaccines.

Adverse effects of immunisation

The benefits of immunisation far outweigh the risks of serious side effects. Common side effects of immunisation are swelling, redness and pain at the injection site and mild fever. Most side effects only last a short time and the child recovers without any problems. Ask a doctor, pharmacist or immunisation clinic about side effects of immunisation.

Paracetamol or ibuprofen can reduce fever and relieve discomfort, helping a child to settle after immunisation.

Keep a record

You may need to show proof that a child is fully immunised when you enrol the child for childcare or school. You will also need to prove that a child is fully immunised in order to receive Australian Government family assistance payments.

Each time a child is immunised, the details should be recorded in the Personal Health Record given to parents by the hospital or birth centre when a baby is born. If your child has an electronic health record, their vaccinations can also be recorded there. The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) records details of vaccinations given to children, adolescents and young adults under 20 years of age who live in Australia. AIR receives the information from the immunisation service provider who gave the vaccine. To get a copy of your child's vaccination history from AIR phone 1800 653 809, log on to Medicare online services or visit your local Department of Human Services service centre.

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Library and are free to members. Membership is \$30 per calendar year and entitles you to attend as many activities as you wish. Some of the courses we offer are Balance'n'Bones and Yoga, designed specifically for more mature people, a Men's and a Women's Travel Group, Mah Jong, Art, Current Affairs, a Movie Group, Dinner at the Pub, Lunch of

the Month, Coffee and Conversation and 2 leisurely walking groups. U3A stands for *University of the Third Age*, which is a world-wide movement. We offer courses for people who have completed their first two 'ages' - childhood and working years - and who now have the time to experience new activities. Research shows it's important to maintain our

physical, mental and social health as we age. You can enrol online via our website [https:// singleton.u3anet.org.au/](https://singleton.u3anet.org.au/) or complete a form at the Singleton library desk. For more information contact Sue George 0409 369 102

■ Photo above: Singleton U3A Art Group

A history of local scandals uncovered



Cessnock City Library will host to an exhibition titled *Scandalous* from Wednesday 27 April to Tuesday 31 May as part of the 2022 Australian Heritage Festival. The Australian Heritage Festival is the country's largest community-driven heritage event and the theme for 2022 is *Curiosity*. Residents who are curious about what scandals are lurking beneath the surface across the Cessnock Local Government Area are invited to come along and check out the exhibition. When Abe Saffron took over the Station Hotel in Kurri Kurri in 1944 (see photo above), few knew that within a decade he would become

Sydney's undisputed 'Mr Sin' and remain a major organized crime figure for decades. Was Abe hiding out in our region, or was he honing his underworld skills at the Station Hotel? In the 1930s, a controversial South African preacher arrived in Cessnock. He was here to cast out demons and save souls, but like many following a similar path, then and now, his time in Australia ended up being mired in scandal. In the 1920s, local residents packed the court to hear amazing allegations against a Councillor from Cessnock Shire Council. It was the best free show in town. At the centre of the wild claims and counter claims was

controversial gun-toting Councillor, James Scott. But who was telling the truth? Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters said that we are all fascinated by crime, scandal and corruption, and even more so when it's in our own backyard. "We're inviting locals to come along and discover some of our local scandalous stories in this fascinating new exhibition." *Scandalous* is on display in the Cessnock City Library foyer from today 27 April to 31 May. For further information, please call Cessnock Library on 4993 4399.

Branxton view

voice, interests and education of women

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

What a busy time we have had during March and April ! We attended International Women's Day at Muswellbrook-brave ladies as the rain made our travel hazardous. Thanks to our driver , President Bethany we survived to enjoy a great function with Denman and Muswellbrook VIEW clubs. Four interesting guest speakers informed us about the Smith Family Learning For Life Program. We sponsor seven disadvantaged Australian school children so it was great to hear more about the organisation. Our ladies helped by selling the raffle tickets .Well done everyone, and all monies raised on the day goes to the Smith Family. Our donna-lou Fashion Parade was held on 11th April at Branxton Hall. Many thanks to our wonderful community for their support on this day. We were delighted with the money raised and the donna-lou fashions were popular with the attendees so this was a win, win occasion. Our guest speaker at our meeting on 14th April was retired police officer, Peter Fox who wrote a book on child abuse entitled "Walking Towards Thunder".Peter stood up to the abuse of power and gave many thousands of Australians a voice. Peter spoke to us without notes and captivated our members and guests. Our next guest speaker will be Sue George from Singleton Neighbourhood Centre who will speak about homeless people. Everyone welcome to attend-please let our President Bethany 0419 429 364 know if you wish to attend. Hellen Keller wrote "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot e seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart" *Peace and love to everyone* Judy Spillard

Daily Thoughts
After you've heard two eyewitness accounts of an automobile accident, you begin to worry about history. Anon
The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention.--Unknown
I believe the recipe for happiness to be just enough money to pay the monthly bills you acquire, a little surplus to give you confidence, a little too much work each day, enthusiasm for your work, a substantial share of good wealth, a couple of real friends and a wife and children to share life's beauty with you. -- J. Kenfield Morley

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ANZAC

ANZAC Day is the solemn day of remembrance of the Australian Defence Force personnel who have served, fought and died for their country. The ANZAC tradition, the ideals of courage, endurance and mateship that are still relevant today. The word ‘ANZAC’ has a unique place within Australian culture, to stop the misuse of the word ‘ANZAC’, a set of regulations was put in place to ensure this important word is treated with respect and dignity. These regulations are the responsibility of the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs (the Minister). The Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) administers applications for permits to use the word ‘ANZAC’. Misuse can be legally enforced, particularly for commercial purposes. The DVA says on its website that no person may use the word ANZAC, or any word resembling it in connection with any trade, business, calling or profession. Nor can the word be used in connection with any entertainment, lottery, as the name of any private residence, boat, vehicle, or any building without the Minister’s authority. Biscuits were made in Australia during World War I by soldiers’ wives and women’s groups and sent to

support their loved ones fighting in Europe and the Middle East. These biscuits were favoured because the combination of ingredients kept well. The biscuits came to be known as ANZAC biscuits and are still popular in Australia today. The renowned ANZAC biscuit is protected by these regulations. According to DVA guidelines, applications to use the word ‘ANZAC’ in the commercial production and sale of ANZAC biscuits are normally approved, provided the product generally conforms to the traditional recipe and shape, and are referred to as ‘ANZAC biscuits’ or ‘Anzac Slice’. Referring to these products as ‘ANZAC Cookies’ is generally not approved, due to the non-Australian overtones. Where a recipe or the finished product substantially deviate from the generally accepted form e.g. include ingredients such as chocolate or fruit, the manufacturer should consider renaming them so that the word ‘Anzac’ is not used. Each year DVA declines applications for permits where products include the word ‘ANZAC’ but which do not conform or bear any resemblance to generally accepted forms of ANZAC biscuits – some examples include ‘Choc

Chip Anzac Biscuits’, ‘ANZAC cheesecake’, ‘ANZAC muffin’ and ‘ANZAC sandwich’. The DVA guidelines note that in recent times there has been a significant increase in applications to use the word ‘ANZAC’ in the production of ANZAC biscuits where recipes include ingredients that cater for specific dietary requirements, including gluten free and vegan ingredients. If recipes need to substitute ingredients for dietary requirements, this is not considered a deviation. In some instances permission to use the word ‘ANZAC’ has been granted for the production of such ANZAC biscuits where ingredients have been substituted. ANZAC biscuit recipes that appear on personal social media pages/posts are considered for personal use and therefore fall outside the scope of the Regulations, as do ANZAC biscuit recipes that are contained within recipe books that include other recipes (as opposed to a book titled for example ‘ANZAC Biscuit Cookbook’, which would require permission). The DVA lists penalties for the misuse of the word ANZAC under the Crimes Act, including fines of up to \$10,200 for a person, \$51,000 for a body corporate and even 12 months in prison.



Property tax write-offs untouchable in Election 2022

Over a dozen tax deductions made by property investors are virtually untouchable in Election 2022. A breakdown of property investors shows 74 per cent earn less than \$100,000 a year at a time when vacancy rates have hit crippling levels – ensuring absolute protection in a tight election.

PRD chief economist Dr Diaswati Mardiasmo said Brisbane vacancy rates hit its lowest level in 17 years in March of 0.7 per cent, showing how critical it was to encourage property investors to sink funds into new supply.

“This is a historical low since 2005. The last time we came close was 2006, at 0.8 per cent. What this means is that almost all of the rental properties in Brisbane are occupied, and that we need more investors ASAP – otherwise we will plunge even deeper into a rental crisis,” she said.

BMT Tax Depreciation CEO Bradley Beer said their depreciation schedule data and that of the ATO showed property investors were mostly “Mums and Dads” with one investment property.

“They are typical Aussies using investment properties to boost their retirement nest eggs,” he said. “The average property investor is simply making an investment choice based on cash flow and the potential for long-term capital gain. They are not competing at either the top or the bottom of the market.”

Nicole Kelly of tax software firm TaxTank said property investors could make over a dozen claims on their taxes including interest payments for rental property mortgages.

Among claimable costs for property investors, she said, was land tax, borrowing expenses including lenders mortgage insurance over five years, mortgage exit fees, interest payments and annual fees, property advertising fees, real estate management fees, landlord insurance, council and water rates, software to manage properties and tax, end-of-tenancy cleaning fees, gardening and maintenance costs, building and asset depreciation.

As well Ms Kelly said home office running expenses such as internet and phone costs could be apportioned for hours spent managing property portfolios.

Mr Beer said the Mum and Dad investors helped provide the majority of affordable rental housing, with the average Australian investment property value sitting at \$751,800.

“With a looming rental crisis in many regions and a shortage of affordable housing and rentals, government should concentrate on increasing supply of housing and be careful of making changes to negative gearing and other incentives available to property investors.”

TOP 5 TIPS FROM A QLD TAX SPECIALIST:
Here’s how Nicole Kelly from TaxTank suggests property investors tackle tax time:

1. Provide the ATO with all the tiny details of income and expenses.
2. Be vigilant about keeping your receipts and documents safely together.
3. Know your real-time tax position all year round to beat ATO at their own game, using software with live feeds.
4. Know all the deductions you can make.
5. Pre-pay expenses including interest on loans, insurance premiums, body corporate fees, council rates or even bring forward other costs that would normally come up after 30 June like income protection insurance premiums and self-education expenses to help your tax position.

When will interest rates rise and how can home buyers and owners prepare?

By Chloe Breitreuz
Record-low rates may soon be a thing of the past, with economists tipping the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) to start increasing the 0.10 per cent cash rate as early as the second half of this year. But, the big four banks, as well as many other lenders, now expect rates to start rising from June. For buyers and owners alike, the timing and magnitude of any rate rise will be closely watched, as an increase could mean hundreds of dollars more in mortgage repayments per month.

When the RBA increases the cash rate target, often referred to as the official interest rate, lenders typically pass the change on to customers in the form of higher interest rates on variable home loans. If interest rates went up by 0.25 of a percentage point, borrowers who have taken out a \$500,000 loan on a 30-year term could expect to pay an additional \$65 per month on their mortgage. For those with a \$1 million loan, it could mean an additional \$131 per month. So when could interest rates rise, and what can borrowers do to prepare?

When will interest rates rise?
Until late last year, the RBA’s central scenario was that economic conditions requiring a rate rise wouldn’t be met until 2024. But the recent rise in inflation, low unemployment putting pressure on wage growth and rate adjustments by other central banks have all increased the likelihood of a rate rise sooner than previously expected.

While an increase is on the horizon, the RBA is in no rush to lift the cash rate, says Dr Diaswati Mardiasmo, PRD Real Estate’s chief economist. “At the very, very earliest they could lift in the second half of 2022,” she says. “But, with the uncertainty that comes naturally with the federal budget and federal election, I wouldn’t be surprised if they held off until the later part of 2022.”

Home loan principal	0.25% increase	0.5% increase	1% increase	1.5% increase	2% increase
\$250,000	\$33	\$66	\$135	\$206	\$279
\$750,000	\$99	\$199	\$405	\$618	\$837
\$2,000,000	\$263	\$530	\$1,079	\$1,646	\$2,232

Source: Domain Home Loans Repayment Calculator
The above table shows the approximate amounts monthly home loan repayments could increase if interest rates rise. Based on a 30-year principal and interest loan with an initial 2.5% interest rate. Information is intended as a guide only. Fees and charges excluded.

Upcoming Events



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Mon 10th Oct—Dress in Pink High Tea

Sat 10th Dec—Xmas Twilight Market



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Michael Joseph (Mick) Watson August 22, 1943 ~ April 19, 2022



Mick giving a 'thank you' speech at his farewell dinner at West's Leagues Club.

A doyen of the mining union movement, Branxton's Mick Watson, passed away last week after complications associated with a melanoma. He was 78.

In an article written by Ian Kirkwood, from the Newcastle Herald, he described Mick as one of the most important mining union figures of the modern era.



Mick retired in August 2003 & I have found our coverage published on 28 August 2003:-
Local Branxton man, Mick Watson, not only turned 60 last week but also retired after 35 years in the coal mining industry. For the last 12 years Mick has been the Northern District President of the

Mineworkers Division of the Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union, and will be replaced by his deputy Peter Murray. Mick was born in Branxton, the son of Russ & Joan Watson. Mick followed his father into coalmining working at Liddell, Liddell State, Great Greta & later



at Saxonvale. During this time he was an active union member and delegate. In 1988 he was elected to the full-time position of District Vice-President and took over the Presidency in 1991. The industry has gone through radical change since that time. The Australian Industrial Relations Commission is no longer seen to offer the unions & workers a fair go and unfavourable government legislation has added to this problem. "We have endured more change in the past decade in the industry than at any other time, with the exception probably of when they introduced mechanisation", Mick said. When Mick fronted the Canberra aimed Survival '92 Campaign the union membership was approximately 8000; it now numbers 4500. What concerns Mick most about

the industry cutbacks are the effect it has had on occupation health & safety. The union under Mick's leadership saw two significant campaigns; the long-running Cumnock dispute & the fight against multi-national miner Rio Tinto. The unions basis of collectivism and strong unionism was challenged and the union fought with all its might to maintain its rights. This philosophy stands from its counterparts with the industrial acceptance that mineworkers are in a hazardous occupation. Mick has a passion for the industry and its workers. His unions victory over Rio Tinto at Vickery and the famous Hunter Valley dispute are among the proudest moments of his life. They will stand as an important part of modern union history. Surprisingly

he also held, as part of his position, a seat on the board of United Underground Mine which has contributed to many community projects through the union trust fund. Along with a position of this nature comes advantages and disadvantages; Mick had the pleasure of meeting Nelson Mandela while visiting coalmines in South Africa & he has also seen the shocking conditions in Chinese & Polish coalmines. Also, whilst President, he had to spend a great deal of time away from home. His wife Melita has been supportive in his career. His three daughters, Peree Dagg, Lisa Peel & Renae Deamer will also be seeing much more of him. Mick said that he has six grandchildren & will be enjoying much more of their company when he is not indulging in his other passion, golf. He may also in his retirement follow son Brent around the country in his golfing pursuits. We wish you good luck in your retirement & thanks for the contribution you personally made to unionism in Australia; a job well done.

Micks funeral is to be held today at 2pm at St Brigids Catholic Church Branxton

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26 Mayne Street, North Rothbury NSW 2335

Police Report

CRIME STOPPERS
1800 333 000

Three arrested for illegal hunting

Three people have been arrested following an investigation into alleged illegal hunting in the state's Upper Hunter region. On Wednesday 20 April 2022, teams from the Hunter Valley Rural Crime Investigations and NSW Department of Primary Industries Game Licencing Unit conducted proactive patrols of the Murrurundi and Little Jacks Creek areas, following reports of illegal hunting and other rural crimes in the region. About 6.45am (Wednesday 20 April 2022), a SUV utility carrying a dog crate was detected allegedly trespassing and illegally hunting on a private property at Merriwa Road, Little Jacks Creek. Police stopped the ute and spoke to three male occupants, aged 15, 17 and 23. Five hunting dogs were located within the dog cage, with four of those wearing hunting collars. Two of the dogs were not microchipped and were fitted with electronic shock collars. Police searched the ute - which was unregistered - and seized knives, hunting collars, a GPS tracking unit, spotlights and various tools. All three were arrested and taken to Muswellbrook Police Station. The 23-year-old man from Belmore was charged with enter private land to hunt animal without owner consent, enter enclosed agricultural land accompanied by hunting dog, custody of knife in public place, have custody of non-prescribed electrical device (two counts), companion animal (other) not registered (two counts), and not identify companion animal as prescribed - other (two counts). He was given conditional bail to appear at Muswellbrook Local Court on Tuesday 31 May 2022. The 17-year-old youth from Hunterview was charged with enter private land to hunt animal without owner consent, enter enclosed agricultural land accompanied by hunting dog, never licensed person drive vehicle on road, cause or permit use of unregistered vehicle on road, and custody of knife in public place. He was given conditional bail to appear before a Children's Court on Monday 30 May 2022. The 15-year-old boy from Singleton was released and will be issued with a youth caution for the offences of hunt game animal on private land without consent of owner, and enter enclosed agricultural land accompanied by hunting dog. As investigations continue, landowners are urged to report any incidents of trespassing, illegal hunting, theft and malicious damage to local police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Anyone with information about incidents such as these is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

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BURGER & BEER
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WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
CRUMBED STEAK
\$10.50



Lochinvar Hotel

114 New England Hwy Lochinvar 2821

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 Large Roast served with Vegetables and Dinner Roll

Dan Repacholi



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fb.com/DanRepacholi



DanRepacholi



dan.repacholi@nswlabor.com.au



0423 643 775

Authorised by Bob Narva, Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch), Level 9/377 Sussex Street Sydney NSW 2000

Labor for Hunter



Locals supporting locals.

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

Locals supporting locals is all about working together. It's about shopping and buying local; as well as hiring local talent - it's about keeping doors open! When we *support local*, every member of the community gets to enjoy the economic, social and environmental benefits; not just now, but well into the future.

#supportlocalcessnock

Take a selfie in your favourite local business, then post on Instagram or Facebook (public setting), with the hashtag #supportlocalcessnock. Enter lots, and tag/name the business please!

Every month until September, an Advance Cessnock City representative will choose 5 winning photographs. **So, join in - take a selfie, help a local; you could win a \$100 gift card***

Keep safe, please adhere to the social distancing rules.



#supportlocalcessnock

*Full Terms & Conditions at advancecessnock.com.au/supportlocal



A CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL INITIATIVE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Singleton to host new lights spectacular at Firelight Festival in May

A new and exciting autumn event is set to transform Singleton's town centre this May with a spectacular light show combining unique sensory, hologram and immersive laser light experiences. Singleton's historic Dunolly Bridge and Cook Park precinct will be brought to life with 'Firewalk', a free lighting spectacular that will headline the Singleton



Firelight Festival program.

Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity said the Firewalk would be a must-see homage to the stories of Singleton, engaging visitors in an unforgettable sensory experience.

The festival will start on 14 May and run until 22 May, culminating in the much-loved Firelight event on Saturday 21 May.

"The 2022 Firelight program will be our biggest and brightest yet thanks to a Regional NSW event acceleration grant which has enabled Council to transform this signature event into a week-long after-dark extravaganza, including the Firewalk spectacular which our region has never seen before," Ms Brereton said.

"Kickstarting Hunter Valley's Food and Wine Month, over nine nights Singleton's Cook Park and Dunolly Bridge will be illuminated with a mesmerising series of projections that bring everyone together to celebrate our area, our diversity and our creativity.

"Brought to life by world-renowned lighting experts Laservision, Firewalk will be a sensory journey that celebrates Singleton, from our traditional owners to our area's rich agricultural and industrial heritage and vibrant arts scene.

"There will also be pop-up eateries on Saturday 14 and Thursday 19 May at Firewalk, culminating in Firelight on Saturday 21 May on John Street."

Ms Brereton said the main event would include vibrant fire performers and live entertainment including laser and light shows, kid and teenage entertainment, live music and some of the region's best food stalls, food trucks and laneway bars.

"If you think you've experienced Firelight before, then think again. There will truly be something for everyone – from dazzling laser light shows and fire dancing, to live music and of course food trucks and Hunter Valley wine, beer and spirits – it's an action-packed program that showcases Singleton at our creative best," she said.

"Better yet, the event also provides a vital social and economic contribution to our creative industries, hospitality, accommodation and retailers, supporting the entire ecosystem of our visitor economy.

"After having to postpone our annual Australia Day event Twilight back in January, Firelight will bring adventure and excitement back to our CBD that we can't wait to feel again, and we cannot wait for everyone to come and experience it."

The Singleton Firelight Festival runs from 14 – 22 May 2022 and is a free, ticketed event. For more information visit www.singletonfirelightfestival.com.au

UPDATE ~ Anvil Creek Bridge Replacement - Nelson Street, Greta



As it was

Anvil Creek Bridge was a single lane, timber, two span structure that has reached its limit of serviceability. An independent structural assessment of the bridge identified a number of timber elements in a deteriorated condition and imposed load limit of 7 tonnes.

The bridge is being replaced with a new 2 lane concrete bridge. Each lane will be 3.5m wide and there will be a 1m road shoulder on each side. There will be a 2.0m wide pedestrian pathway provided on the railway station side of the bridge. It will remove safety risk associated with a single lane bridge and have an open load limit and a life expectancy of at least 75 years.

The new two lane concrete bridge will have the same span and increased clearance above the waterway. The bridge will decrease the incidence of flooding upstream and allow a less restricted and turbulent flow of water downstream.

Construction involved ~ removal of the existing bridge, construction of a new bridge on the same alignment, utility services relocation & approx. 200m of road works on the approaches.

Power Pole relocations have been completed by Ausgrid Power.

Construction of the new bridge and road approaches commenced in February 2022 and were expected to be completed by Friday 29 April 2022, but wet weather has intervened.

The works are located on the same alignment as the existing bridge on Nelson Street, Greta.

A vehicle detour has been in place since Tuesday 15 February 2022 while bridge construction is undertaken. A pedestrian bridge has been provided to maintain access to the Greta Railway Station.



Wet weather has delayed the expected completion date which was set for end of April 2022

Cessnock. It's time for a Chemical CleanOut.

You can drop off for free:



SUNDAY 15 MAY 2022
9am to 3:30pm

CESSNOCK COUNCIL DEPOT
2082 Old Maitland Road, Cessnock

Only household quantities accepted (20L or 20kg), except paint. Up to 100L (in 20L containers) of paint accepted. For all eligible materials, call the Environment Line on 131 555 or visit cleanout.com.au. @NSWHouseholdProblemWastes

The Household Chemical Cleanout is on again!

Household chemicals can be dropped off at Cessnock Council Depot, 2082 Old Maitland Road, Cessnock, on Sunday 15 May 2022.

Drop-off hours are 9am to 3.30pm.
Chemicals are limited to 20L or 20kg.

WIN one of two \$250 Restaurant vouchers

Tell us about your favourite restaurant or cafe in the Greater Cessnock area and post a photo of the restaurant, cafe or meal for your chance to win!

Use the hashtag #supportlocalcessnock
Find out more at advancecessnock.com.au



Cessnock City Council's Economic Development Team has two \$250 restaurant vouchers to give away as part of its ongoing 'Support Local' campaign.

For the month of April, residents are encouraged to post to Facebook or Instagram with a photo of their favourite restaurant or café, dish or dining experience in the Greater Cessnock area – that includes Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Branxton, Wine Country and Wollombi Valley – and tell us why they love it.

To ensure the team can see the entry, set the post to public and use the campaign hashtag #SupportLocalCessnock. Residents can enter as many times as they like. The restaurant or café must be tagged in the post. The winners will be selected randomly.

This competition will run from 1 to 30 April 2022. For terms and conditions, visit the Advance Greater Cessnock website and be sure to follow the Advance Cessnock City Facebook page to stay up-to-date with the 'Support Local' campaign.

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

What's On

Monday: \$16.50 Roast Dinner Deal which includes dinner roll & soft drink/schooner

Tuesday : \$12.00 Burger Night

Wednesday: \$12.00 Schnitty Night & Social Bowls from 4

Thursday: Seafood Night & \$1 Wing Night
***** Kids Colouring Competition ~ Prizes for the winners ****

Friday: Community Meat Raffle ~ 20 meat trays, carton of beer & the "BIG KAHUNA" meat tray valued at \$100. Tickets on sale from 5:30pm & drawn at 7pm (April beneficiary is Branxton Amateur Swimming Club)

Saturday Schooner Draw: Drawn each Saturday morning. \$2 per number, the more tickets sold the more schooners to be won

Saturday: Punters Day at the Pub. 'Punters Challenge', pick winners & win prizes.

Sunday: Meat Raffle; 20 x Meat Trays, a carton of beer and the "Big Kahuna" tray worth \$100. Tickets go on sale at 5pm and will be drawn at 6pm.



- * **Restaurant OPEN**
- 7-Days a week for Lunch & Dinner**
- * **Catering for all functions**
- * **Barefoot Bowls**
- * **Parties welcome**

6 Maitland Street, Branxton NSW 2335 P: 4067 4141

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- Approx. 34.3 acre rural holding with dwelling entitlement with consent (RU2)
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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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REVIEW: "It Ends with Us"

by Colleen Hoover

I have a complex relationship with romances. While I love me a rom-com, I entirely acknowledge the fact that the perfect-as-can-be, formulaic meet cutes that fill the big screen and cover the pages of most romance novels give women everywhere – *myself included* – unrealistic expectations regarding love.

Given the complexity of this relationship, and my concern that the continued viewing and/or reading of works in this genre just perpetuates these romantic misconceptions, I usually only dose myself with romance through film. The impact on my life – *and my perceptions* – is decidedly less significant with film.

If watching a film is taking a pill, reading a book is receiving an intravenous injection. That said, when I saw Colleen Hoover's books filling up my Instagram, I was intrigued.

Who is this lady, and why is everyone having so much fun at a party to which I wasn't invited?

"Well, invitations be damned, Imma hop on

Amazon and crash this party," I thought to myself on night not so long ago as I drunkenly acquired an impressive collection of Hoover's books – *probably immediately after watching Bridget Jones' Baby or some other romance, as this is when I'm at my most vulnerable.*

When the books arrived on my doorstep, I approached them with a level of caution that some would reserve for sauntering up to a venomous snake.

"They won't hurt you," I reminded myself.

"You're 35-years-old, you understand how it works," I continued, flipping through the pages of each before deciding that *It Ends With Us* would be my first Colleen Hoover experience. The thing is, I do know some truths about romance.

In the real world, not every meet is cute.

Not all issues can be overcome.

And it doesn't always work out in the end.

But what I didn't know, at the time, was whether Colleen Hoover lived and wrote by these rules?

I would find out, as I moved through this novel.

As I started, I became acquainted with Lily Bloom, an unfortunately named character – *really, though, I cringed* – who has, in her past, one significant romance, and is about to partake in a second. Her partner in her first experience with love was a homeless teenager named Atlas, who she discovered was squatting in an abandoned home in her neighbourhood.

Their love ended dramatically – *and rather tragically* – leaving Lily with some lingering issues she hasn't really confronted. On page two of this novel, we meet the man who will become her second great love – a neurosurgeon named Ryle Kincaid.

From literally the moment they met... on a rooftop (*because that's where normal people meet*) Ryle tells Lily that, despite the fact that he's desperate to get into her pants, he simply wouldn't be good for her. The reason he gives for this declaration – he can't do long term relationships. More importantly, even, he doesn't want to do long-term relationships.

But when Lily resists his efforts towards a one-night stand, his tune changes pretty quickly. He agrees to give it a "trial run." – *which Lily basically interprets as a four-, maybe five-, night stand.*

So, imagine Lily's surprise when – *with their bodies basically still smelling of the sex in which they oh-so-recently engaged* – self-proclaimed one-night-stand-aholic Ryle not only says that he just can't quit her, but also volunteers to join her for dinner...with her mother...

Spoiler Alert

And as if a first dinner with a Mom isn't scary enough, to Lily's dismay she recognizes the waiter from the moment he arrives to take their drink order. As

you might have

guessed – *particularly if you have a penchant for romance* – the waiter is none other than Atlas, her former flame.

End Spoiler Alert

This puts Lily in quite the predicament.

Stick with the hot neurosurgeon with toe-curling sex skills.

Or return to the formerly-homeless-now-a-waiter man from her past.

Seems like a relatively easy choice to me.

Though, I am about four seasons into my rewatching-all-of-ER marathon, so my ability to resist a man in scrubs...who is good with his hands...is admittedly at an all-time low.

Unfortunately for Lily, though, what may seem an easy decision is almost immediately complicated. As it would turn out, before she even has a chance to make a decision, she discovers a scary truth about Ryle.

The truth she discovers not only threatens her relationship with this perfect-on-paper-and-when-his-chisled-body-is-pressed-against-you man, it also forces her to deal with issues from her past that she has, up to this point, been relatively successful in burying.

And it was at this point that the book came alive for me.

Ultimately, it wasn't the truth itself, but the way in which the author revealed this truth – *the amount of time she gave us as readers to form a real attachment to Ryle, just as Lily was forming an attachment to him* – that was profoundly effective, and allowed for something that is oh-so-rare in the world of romance – the eliciting of authentic feelings from the reader.

Yes, admittedly, this book has a little bit of schmaltz.

I mean, his name is Ryle... and the other guy's name is Atlas?

One guy's a neurosurgeon... and the other is homeless.

It's not real – or even that particularly realistic.

And a lack of believably is, usually, the kiss of death for me.

Normally, this would have me writing off the book as fluff and relegating it to the 2-3 cocktail shelf – *where I store books I will donate to charity or loan to people I know won't return them.*

But this book wouldn't be at home on this shelf.

Buried under all of the romantic fluff – *because there was some* – and the relatively graphic sex – *because there was some of that, too* – was serious, authentic, absorbing, soul-

-purifying meaning.

When I finished this book, I ugly cried for a solid five minutes, letting the ending in particular, and the book as a whole, wash over me again and again.

After reading this book, I understand all of the fuss surrounding CoHo (*a nickname I learned on Instagram and now, having read a book by her, feel like I'm licensed to use*).

What I learned in reading this book is that, though her books fall squarely into the category of romance – *and contain some of the tropes that romance-haters despise* – Colleen Hoover understands the rules of real-life romance.

Unlike in typical romance novels, where conflicts are minor and easily overcome – *allowing for that happy ending that's basically requisite in the genre* – this book contained serious conflicts that, despite effort and desire to get past them, simply can't be conquered.

This is a book I will think about – *and recommend to others* – for quite some time. And, given the number of books that cross my desk – *and my admitted relative disdain for the romance genre* – that really says something.

I give it 4 out of 5 cocktails.

It was, honestly, very close to a perfect five for me. The only factor holding it back was the ending, which, while satisfying, was still a bit too tidy to ring quite true.

Read it, and you'll understand what I mean.

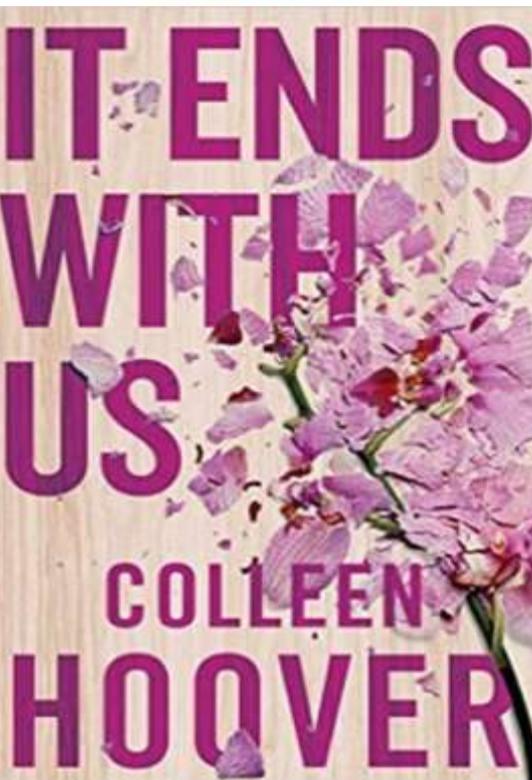
What to read... what to read... Maybe another Colleen Hoover novel?

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction

(3 April 2022)

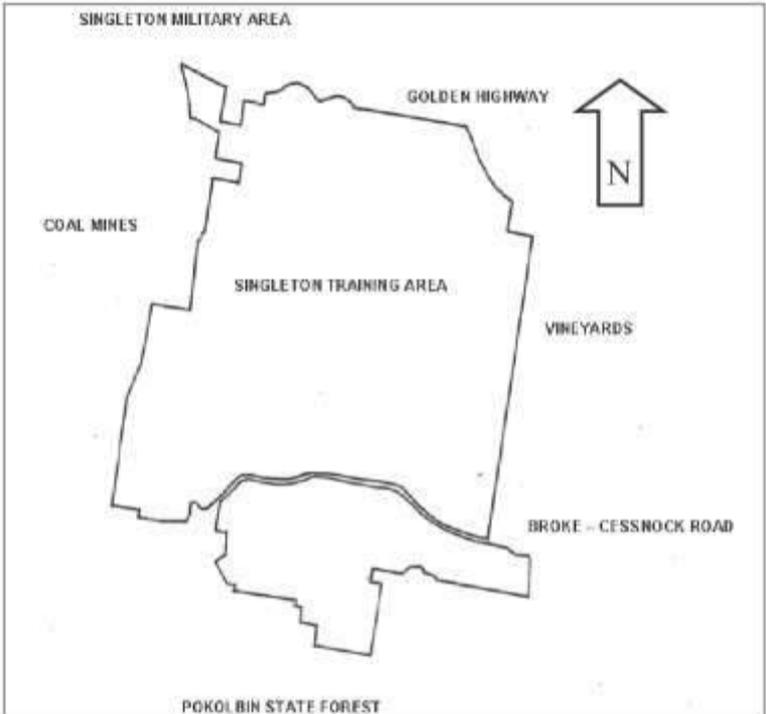
- 49 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
IT ENDS WITH US by Colleen Hoover
A battered wife raised in a violent home attempts to halt the cycle of abuse.
Ranked 2 last week
- 54 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.
Ranked 1 last week
- 35 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
VERITY by Colleen Hoover
Lowen Ashleigh is hired by the husband of an injured writer to complete her popular series and uncovers a horrifying truth.
Ranked 3 last week
- 57 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO by Taylor Jenkins Reid
A movie icon recounts stories of her loves and career to a struggling magazine writer.
Ranked 4 last week
- 37 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
UGLY LOVE by Colleen Hoover
A casual sexual relationship between Tate and Miles becomes more complicated than they expected.
Ranked 6 last week
- 21 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
NOVEMBER 9 by Colleen Hoover
Ben and Fallon meet on the same day each year but a possible untruth might spoil their relationship.
Ranked 7 last week
- 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
THE VISCOUNT WHO LOVED ME by Julia Quinn
The second book in the Bridgerton series. Kate Sheffield gets in the way of Anthony Bridgerton's intent to marry.
Ranked 5 last week
- 48 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION by Emily Henry
Opposites Poppy and Alex meet to vacation together one more time in hopes of saving their relationship.
Ranked 10 last week
- 29 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
THE LOVE HYPOTHESIS by Ali Hazelwood
A young professor agrees to pretend to be a third-year Ph.D. candidate's boyfriend.
Ranked 9 last week
- 77 WEEKS ON THE LIST**
THE SONG OF ACHILLES by Madeline Miller
A reimagining of Homer's "Iliad" that is narrated by Achilles' companion Patroclus.



 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.

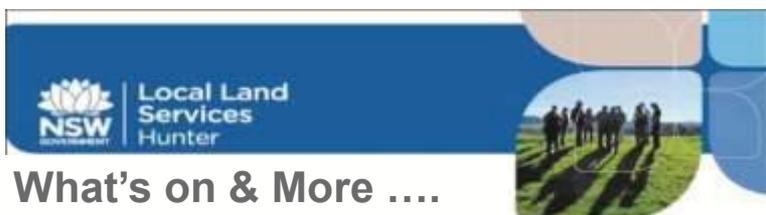
Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area.

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

00188



What's on & More

Hunter Local Land Services

Grass Identification & Pasture Walk-Through

**What's that grass in my paddock?
Is that a weed?**

How much feed value is in this plant?

Hunter Local Land Services is running a series of grass ID and pasture walk-through events to help answer some of these questions.

Join your neighbours and community in these free workshops with local agronomist and grass ID expert, Harry Rose.

Participants will receive a free pasture weeds ID book, and grass ID book, and taught how to use these resources in the field to 'key out' these often tricky-to-identify plants.

Register your interest here:

<https://hunterlls.wfso.com/forms/grass-identification-and-pasture-walks-may-2022/>

Killabakh, MidCoast - Friday 6 May
Gloucester, MidCoast - Saturday 7 May
Mitchells Flat, Singleton - Friday 13 May
Dungog/Port Stephens - Saturday 14 May
Morisset, Lake Macquarie - Saturday 21 May



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

Contact:

Hunter Local Land Services
 Regional Weeds Coordinator
 Matt Kennedy
 P: 0428 686 178
 E: matt.kennedy@lls.nsw.gov.au
 facebook.com/HunterLLS
 www.lls.nsw.gov.au/hunter



Over southern and eastern Australia the cold front events with potential to bring widespread rain are now expected about 26 April to 30 April, 3 May to 7 May, and 22 May to 26 May. Rain events originating in the tropics and moving south are possible about 8 May to 12 May, and 14 May to 18 May. Over Western Australia the strongest cold fronts should occur about 26 April to 30 April, 4 May to 8 May, and 22 May to 26 May.



Racing Review & News

Major rule change for Melbourne Cup raiders

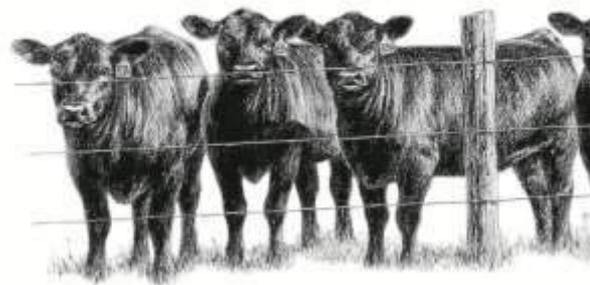


Verry Elleegant romped to victory in last year's Melbourne Cup, which featured fewer internationals. Picture: Scott Barbour-Racing Photos

By **Gilbert Gardiner**
 International Melbourne Cup contenders will no longer be required to undergo a nuclear scintigraphy unless requested by Racing Victoria's veterinary team.

The contentious bone scan was a compulsory measure last year for English and Irish raiders being aimed at spring carnival majors. RV on Wednesday

unveiled the changes to its veterinary protocols and world-leading safety standards following the annual Melbourne Cup review. All international horses must complete a CT scan of their distal limbs prior



Saleyard: Gunnedah

Total Yarding: 980 26/4/22

There was little change in numbers despite a weeks rest. Vealers and yearlings were well supplied. Cows made up the bulk of the grown cattle. There were some very well bred young cattle penned in a mixed quality offering. The condition overall was only fair with scattered lots showing a good fat covering. The usual buyers were in attendance. Comparing to the market of a fortnight ago the vealers and weaners sold to dearer trends with some quality related price change either way. Medium weight yearling steers were firm to cheaper, while the heavy weight feeder steers sold to dearer trends. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed saw a firm to dearer market trend. Again quality was a factor in price change.

There were insufficient heavy grown steers to quote. Well finished grown heifers sold to dearer trends under stronger processor demand. There was a run of plain condition light weight cows that attracted strong restocker competition. The well finished cows sold to a slightly dearer trend, noticeable on the better quality lots. Some of the lower yielding cows struggled to maintain their level.

Market Reporter, James Armitage.

Saleyard: HRLX Singleton

Report Date: 20/04/2022 Total Yarding: 431

The first sale for a fortnight produced a decreased penning of mixed quality cattle. The majority entered the younger categories and were more suited for the restocker and lot feeder buyers with a limited number in prime condition to suit the local butchers and processors. The export cattle were limited in number with approximately 37 cows offered. The market trend was cheaper throughout with breed and quality contributing in places.

The over 200k vealer steers to the restockers ranged from 508c to 688c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers made from 490c to 688c, with the lighter weights reaching 692c/kg. The light and medium weight yearling steers trended cheaper, while the feature of the sale was a pen of well-bred steers weighing over 400kg and reaching a top of 606c/kg. The yearling heifers to feed and the restockers received from 476c to 550c/kg. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle to the local butchers and processors sold well and topped at 592c/kg.

The heavy weight cows lost 3c and made from 330c to 340c with the lighter end receiving from 298c to 330c/kg, the latter sold to the restockers. The heavy bulls reached 280c/kg.

Market Reporter: Neil Geddes.

Saleyard: Score

Report Date: 19/04/2022 Total Yarding: 497

Numbers nearly doubled and the breed and quality was good, with only a few plainer cattle spread throughout the market. The majority were younger cattle more suited for the restocker and lot feeder buyers, with the bulk of the export consisting of the older heifers. Competition was strong for the younger cattle, while the export section trended cheaper, with one processor absent in the buying group.

The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers sold firm and ranged from 576c to 792c and up to 795c/kg for the light weights. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers maintained firm prices, and sold from 500c to 676c/kg. Yearling steers maintained firm prices for the better end, with the light weights ranging from 514c to 646c/kg. The medium and heavy weights to the restockers and lot feeders sold to solid competition, and received from 470c to 628c/kg. The better quality selection of yearling heifers suitable for the restockers and lot feeders also sold to strong competition, and made from 482c to 614c/kg throughout the different weight ranges. The prime high yielding younger cattle to the butchers continue to sell well and reached 604c/kg.

The older heifers to the processors trended cheaper and received from 378c to 398c/kg. The few cows also trended cheaper, with the better finished heavy weights making 355c/kg. The best heavy weight bulls trended cheaper and made 290c, as restockers paid up to 400c/kg.

Market Reporter, Neil Geddes

Saleyard: TRLX Tamworth

Report Date: 11/04/2022 Total Yarding: 1139

There was a small reduction in numbers. Increased supplies of vealers and yearlings, a fall in the number of grown cattle. Overall the quality showed improvement and was reflected in improved averages in some categories. It was a similar buying group along with the return of a few orders for restocker and feeder cattle.

Market trends varied through the young cattle with vealer steers to restockers cheaper. There was a greater variation in breed and quality. The heifer portion sold to a dearer trend under high demand. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers sold on a firm to slightly dearer market trend, quality accounting for some of the higher, improved price change. A vastly improved quality penning of light and medium weight yearling heifers posted strong gains. The best of the heavy weights attracted strong competition, some of the lesser quality pens were cheaper. Both breed and quality accounting for some change.

Heavy weight grown steers to feed sold to cheaper trends with breed and age contributing. There were no milk tooth lines included. The well finished heavy weights to process saw an improvement in quality and a dearer market trend. The majority of the grown heifers sold to dearer trends. The cow market saw a slightly cheaper market trend with competition somewhat subdued. *James Armitage.*

to departure. Should that scan show cause for concern a scintigraphy may be requested. Outgoing RV chief executive Giles Thompson said the safety of horses and riders remained the "number one priority".

"Upon review of the use of scintigraphy scans, it was determined that they now be used in a discretionary manner by our veterinary team," Thompson said. "In circumstances where the mandatory CT scans, veterinary history, racing history and/or pre-travel inspections of any international horse indicate that it may be at a heightened risk of a serious injury. "In doing so, our vets will remain vigilant and not hesitate to use a scintigraphy scan where needed to

protect the safety of horses and riders."

The scintigraphy demand last year was a major bugbear for some UK and Irish trainers as the scan, a tool of last resort to identify injury hot spots, disrupted a horse's preparation due to the need for sedation. The shift to CT scans this year has been welcomed, albeit cautiously, by the international participants. A second CT scan will be required in Australia before each start during the Spring Carnival.

Like last year, all horses – international and local – must undergo a CT scan prior to being allowed to compete in the Melbourne Cup. An RV vet will be based in England later in the year to help the Northern Hemi-

sphere trainers through the process.

"We make no apology for implementing and maintaining world leading safety standards that are aimed at reducing the risk of injuries," Thompson said.

"As we saw in 2021 with a Spring Racing Carnival and Melbourne Cup free of serious injuries." Victoria Racing Club chairman Neil Wilson welcomed the changes. "The VRC remains in lock-step with Racing Victoria in our aim to ensure we continue to provide the safest environment for our horses and jockeys," Wilson said. "These updates will ensure that Victoria's spring racing carnival continues to set the global standard for

safety in thoroughbred racing."

New gait analysis technology will also be used during the veterinary screening process.

RV has closed the loophole whereby horses quarantined at Mickleham, in Melbourne's north, and Canterbury, NSW, dodged the veterinary protocols last year.

Under the new rules, horses that go through the non-RV centres cannot start in a trial or race within 10 weeks of departing post-arrival quarantine.

While not in time for this year's Spring Carnival, RV will work towards securing a second standing CT scanner and an Australian-first portable PET scanner. The standing CT scanner at Werribee sensationally broke down last year during the final Cup check-ups.



Reason your NBN is slow

#1: Network congestion

Much in the same way that traffic on the road can slow down during peak hours, the NBN can too. And for pretty much the same reason. NBN connections tend to slow down in the evening, when everyone is jumping online to stream, surf, download and more. Why is this? Well, internet service providers buy access to the NBN in bulk. They assess the number of connections in a certain area, then predict how much bandwidth they need.

Bandwidth is capacity: think of it as the width of a road.

The wider a road the providers buy, the more cars can travel, but at a higher price to that provider. It's quite literally a traffic jam.

Solution #2: Update or upgrade your current modem

Even if you don't want to buy a new modem, you can fix some of the issues above pretty quickly on your current one. On the other hand, if your modem is looking a bit raggedy around the edges then it might be worth upgrading to a newer model.

Firstly you should try changing the position of your modem if possible. WiFi speed can be adversely affected by interference in the home; this can come from walls, doors, major electronic devices, and even just space. Try moving your modem away from major electronic devices like TVs, and fridges, and place it in a space where you can see it from most places in your home.

Modems also cover a certain amount of square metres in a circular radius, if your modem is in a corner then you're missing out on a chunk of that radius as it is. Another problem may be channel interference. If your current modem is multi-banded you can check the settings to see how much bandwidth is available on each frequency. Switching over to a less congested frequency can help to amp up speeds. Alternatively, if you're looking for a new modem, keep an eye out for multi-band modems that automatically find the best

band.

#3: Distance from the node

If your home is connected to the National Broadband Network using Fibre to the Node (FTTN) technology, the distance from your house to the node can make a huge difference in the speed and performance of your service. That's because the NBN signal is carried from the node to your home using old copper wires, and the further the signal has to travel over copper, the more speed may degrade along the way.

NBN Co estimates that about 90% of homes on FTTN should be within 700m of the nearest node, but even at this distance the signal can degrade quite a bit.

Basically, a house sitting next to the node will get a great speed, while houses further away will experience slower speeds. See below for an indicative illustration of what attenuation looks like.

The greater the distance from the node, the slower the maximum achievable speed. To make matters worse, it can be difficult to find out exactly which node your home connects to and the distance it is from your front door. This makes it hard to estimate the quality of connection you should expect and the NBN speed tier that would be best for your home.

In fact, you can't find out how fast your Fibre to the Node NBN connection will be until you're actually connected. But if you've signed up for a plan that's faster than your physical connection to the NBN can handle, your provider is obligated to let you know, and to give you the option of swapping to a slower - and cheaper - plan.

Fibre to the Building (FTTB) NBN connections can also suffer a similar issue, but it should be less common. In the instance of a Fibre to the Building connection type, a fibre is run directly to the building itself, and a copper run connects individual apartments. Since far less copper is used, there is less

potential from speed degradation.

Similar issues apply to **Fixed Wireless** and **Satellite NBN** connections. There is no node in these connections. There is no node in these connections, but there are a number of technological obstacles between your home and the greater internet, so you may find that there are hard limits on what sort of performance you can expect from your connection.

#4: You're paying for a slower speed tier his might seem like a dumb suggestion, but one of the reasons for slower-than-expected NBN speeds could be the plan you're on. There are four widely available **NBN speed tiers**, ranging from 12Mbps to 100Mbps. Here's a video we made to explain how speed tiers can affect your home internet experience:

Solution #4: Sign up to a faster speed tier

#5: General connection issues

Networks are complicated and there are plenty of opportunities for small issues to create big problems. Especially on a network the size of the NBN.

These issues can occur in the wider network or inside your home. Sometimes even both.

In terms of the wider NBN, the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) has fielded plenty of complaints that relate to good old-fashioned incompetence, delays, and faulty equipment. This isn't unique to the NBN, but it's frustrating nonetheless - especially because the solution can often be outside of your hands. If there are issues you just can't solve, you may simply need to contact your internet provider and see what they can do. No one should accept a faulty connection.

In terms of your home, there are plenty of factors that can affect the speed of your internet. These can include a dodgy modem, faulty wiring, or even how your furniture and appliances are arranged.



MASSIVE TALENT



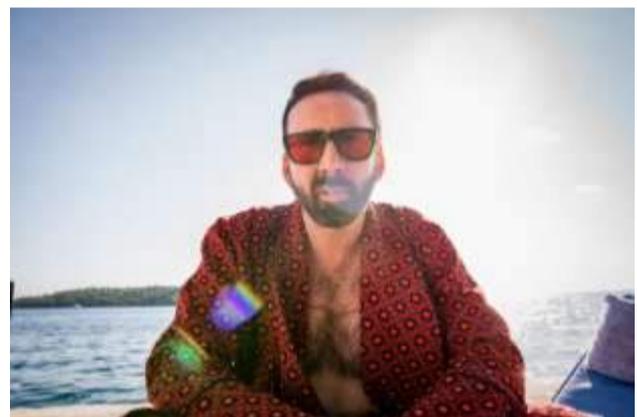
Review: Nicolas Cage gets his blockbuster comeback with 'The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent'

Mick LaSalle
"The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent" is the first essential Nicolas Cage movie in at least a dozen years. It's practically a resurrection, bringing a fun, unique actor back from low-budget, straight-to-video purgatory.

This is an amazing gift that director and co-writer Tom Gormican has given him, a movie that makes a virtue of everything distinct about this actor — his oddness, his intensity bordering on self-parody, the way he seems both insular and self-aware. Gormican allows Cage to get his audience back by letting Cage be Cage, literally.

He plays himself, an actor who works constantly, but in movies nobody ever sees. (This is true. Take a look at Cage's IMDb page.) At the start of the movie, he's practically begging a director to give him a role, even to the extent of launching into an impromptu audition as the director waits for his car. That audition moment sets the tone. The dialogue Cage recites sounds like every bad picture he has ever made, and his acting is a parody of every bad performance that he's ever given — it's a parody even of his good performances. The intensity is over the top. Cage is in on the joke, and he's basking in it.

Nicolas' personal life isn't that great, either. His teenage daughter (Lily Mo Sheen) thinks he's weird — he keeps trying to show her 100-year-old German Expressionist movies, even as he treats her like she's 2 years old. He has a hilarious scene at her birthday party,



launch into exaggerated, ridiculous versions of action-movie dialogue. The acting is just slightly more extreme than what you'd find in a movie meant to be taken seriously. Ike Barinholtz and Tiffany Haddish make appearances as CIA agents, and they nail their scenes.

Sharon Horgan is particularly nice in the semi-serious role of Cage's ex-wife, and the locations — mostly shot on Croatia's Adriatic coast — are lovely. "Unbearable" is also notable for making a strong pitch for "Paddington 2," a movie I've never seen, though I'm beginning to think I should.

where he gets drunk and sings a song that he's written about her. He's an embarrassment.

He's also in debt, which leads him to agree to a paid personal appearance at the birthday party of a rich fan, played by Pedro Pascal, who looks at Cage with wide-eyed, beatific adoration. It's one of the movie's pleasant surprises — moment by moment, Pascal is able to match Cage as a comic actor.

For the first 45 minutes, "The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent" is entirely brilliant. It seems like it's on the way to becoming a classic, or at least a cult classic. Then the plot kicks in, something involving a drug cartel and some kidnappings, and suddenly the movie nosedives. It goes from great to almost pointless in the course of about 15 minutes.

Fortunately, it doesn't stay there. Gormican doesn't belabor the action plot, and he consistently finds opportunities for comic digressions. A repeated feature of "Unbearable" is the way in which Cage and Pascal

particularly nice in the semi-serious role of Cage's ex-wife, and the locations — mostly shot on Croatia's Adriatic coast — are lovely. "Unbearable" is also notable for making a strong pitch for "Paddington 2," a movie I've never seen, though I'm beginning to think I should. But above all, this is Cage's movie and he rises to it. "The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent" isn't some meta late-career farewell, like Douglas Fairbanks in "The Private Life of Don Juan" or Jean-Claude Van Damme in "JCVD." This is more like John Travolta in "Pulp Fiction," a reintroduction that's going to work. This is Cage making sense again, now as a movie star in the 21st century. Or, to put it another way, as a Nicolas Cage movie — not just as a movie, but as a vehicle for what a specific actor can do onscreen — this is the most interesting thing Cage has done since "Face/Off."

Mick LaSalle is The San Francisco Chronicle's film critic.

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Why Putin's nuclear threat could be more than bluster

By Anthony Faiola **The Washington Post**



Matryoshka dolls depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin at a Russian souvenir shop in Athens on March 14. (Orestis Panagiotou/EPA-EFE/REX/Shutterstock)

The scariest site on the Internet isn't lurking on the dark web, but hiding in plain sight at nuclearsecrecy.com. "Nukemap" lets you pick the size of a nuclear bomb, plunk it anywhere in the world and see the extent of the possible destruction. Drop a pin near Kyiv and you'll see the plausibility of the Russian invasion of Ukraine going nuclear. Not because of the vast devastation of such a device — but because of just how limited the damage could be in certain scenarios.

The advent of tactical nuclear weapons — a term generally applied to lower-yield devices designed for battlefield use, which can have a fraction of the strength of the Hiroshima bomb — reduced their lethality, limiting the extent of absolute destruction and deadly radiation fields. That's also made their use less unthinkable, raising the specter that the Russians could opt to use a smaller device without leveling an entire city. Detonate a one kiloton weapon on one side of Kyiv's Zhuliany airport, for instance, and Russian President Vladimir Putin sends a next-level message with a fireball, shock waves and deadly radiation. But the blast radius wouldn't reach the end of the runway.

The Russians are thought to have roughly 2,000 such weapons — some so small as to be attached to torpedoes, depth charges, or even artillery shells and land mines. The world might reel in horror at nuclear deployment of any size. But, if boxed into the right kind of corner, some argue, Putin could use one in Ukraine without necessarily triggering World War III.

Putin has already raised the alert level of Moscow's nuclear forces. Washington has downplayed the prospect of Russian nuclear deployment, suggesting it's just Kremlin bluster. But on Monday, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres articulated a dangerous truth: "The prospect of nuclear conflict, once unthinkable, is now back within the realm of possibility," he told reporters.

Plenty of observers believe Putin would not risk even a low-grade nuclear attack. Doing so could trigger deeper sanctions than the ones already crippling the Russian economy, increase war opposition at home, negatively impact his all-important alliance with the Chinese and change perceptions in nations still hedging their bets with Russia, including India, Brazil and South Africa. Many in the West have questioned Putin's state of mind. But a number of experts — including the director of the CIA — appear to have determined he remains more or less within the parameter of sanity. They estimate him, however, to be isolated and angry — conditions that could rapidly escalate as the Russian army makes far less progress than the Kremlin likely calculated.

Still, this might not be a question of sanity, but perspective. As Michael Gove, a senior British official, reasoned this week, Putin dwells in a "moral

sphere the rest of us would find almost impossible to conceive of."

Talk to Matthew Kroenig, deputy director of the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, and it only adds to the jitters of simulating nuclear strikes on the Nukemap site. He told me this week that he finds the highest risk of Putin deploying a low-yield nuclear device if the against-the-odds resistance in Ukraine shifts toward triumph, and Moscow is seen to be decisively losing the war. "I find it hard to imagine Putin accepting a complete military defeat without him trying to use nuclear weapons first," Kroenig said. "I think he sees limited nuclear use as more attractive than accepting defeat." He suggested if Putin went nuclear, he would almost certainly deploy a low-yield weapon with a narrow target. That would fit with what some experts view as a Russian military strategy of escalate to de-escalate — or bringing a crisis to dramatic climax to force a settlement with the West that leans toward Russian terms.

"They could nuke a ship in the Black Sea, they could nuke a Ukrainian airplane, they could nuke tanks on the ground," he continued. "They could nuke a small city, although that is probably less likely, and it's less escalatory to go after a military target than a civilian one."

"But the message in the West would be, 'Oh my God, he's just used a nuclear weapon.' I mean, at least that's what Putin would be hoping for. That we'd say, 'this has gone too far. We've got to sue for peace,'" he said.

The risk is higher than the West might think, some experts say. In the mind-set of Putin's government, a nuclear option may not seem as taboo as it does to Western observers. During his 2018 state of the nation address, Putin, to loud applause, aired a concept video showing a storm of hypersonic, unlimited range nuclear missiles raining down on Florida.

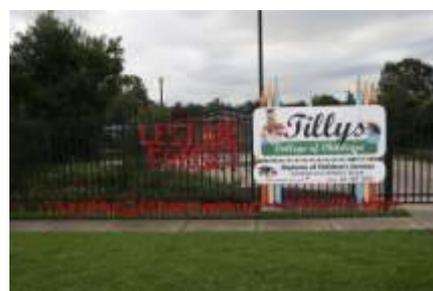
The West might see nuclear deployment as unimaginable; that such weapons exist only for deterrent. But "I don't think it's so unimaginable for Putin and for the Russians," Kroenig said. "I do think that there's a big cultural difference here. The Russians often finish their major military exercises," which serve as war simulations, "with nuclear strikes. ... I think there is just, you know, a comfort with nuclear weapons as kind of big artillery shells, whereas we see them as categorically different weapons."

Even if he holds fire now — Putin's nuclear threat will loom beyond the Ukraine conflict, raising a ghost of destruction that many thought had finally dematerialized after the collapse of the Soviet Union. "We were fortunate not to really have great power competition for 25 years after the end of the Cold War," Kroenig said. "But now, it's back."



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

I wanted share with you a beautiful ANZAC sign, obviously made by the children, at Tillys Childcare in Greta where they have recycled plastic bottles to make Poppys. Tillys is tucked away on Nelson Street, Greta. If you have the time I'm sure you, our ANZAC's and your readers would enjoy this as much as early morning walkers have done. I enjoy your fortnightly paper, keep up the good work.



I have sent this before but it seems to have had little effect ~ Could the operators of hedge trimmers, lawn mower & leaf blowers and other boy's toys kindly consider restraining their noisy activities till at least midday on a Sunday? Wouldn't it be nice to have at least one day when folks considered their hard working neighbours who enjoy a little peace and quiet. To the gentleman, a mowing contractor, currently disturbing the peace at 9am this Sunday morning; sssssss! Thanks.

To our local Branxton Fire Brigade, ambo paramedics & emergency staff at the new Maitland Hospital who came to my rescue after suffering a bad fall. Nothing but absolute praise for their care, professionalism & speed.

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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: Alpacas 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 z50j z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mar 29 ~ Apl 21 - Cessnock Council has turned Youth Week — April 4-14 — into youth month with a program of events kicking off on March 29 until April 21.

WED 27 APL — Branxton Public School Students return for Term 2

SAT 30 APL — Branxton Community Hall; Mothers Day Markets

SAT 20 APL to 18 MAY — The draft Singleton Community Strategic Plan, four-year Delivery Plan, 2022/2023 Operational Plan + budget, and Resourcing Strategy will be on public exhibition.

SAT 27 APL to 31 MAY — A history of local scandals uncovered is on display in the Cessnock City Library foyer

FRI 6 MAY — Branxton Public School Mother's Day picnic

FRI 14 to 22 MAY — The Singleton Firelight Festival is a free, ticketed event. For more information visit www.singletonfirelightfestival.com.au

MON 23 MAY — Branxton Community Hall; Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

MON 10 OCT — Branxton Community Hall; Dress in Pink High Tea

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

SAT 10 DEC — Branxton Community Hall; Christmas Twilight Markets

Upcoming Concerts

Michael Buble in Concert ~ 30 November 2022 at Newcastle Entertainment Centre

Aust BIGGEST Outdoors 90's Party @ Hope Estate ~ 14 May 2022 1pm—8pm

Beer & BBQ Festival @ Hope Estate ~ 28 & 29 May 2022 10am ~ 5pm



Australia's most successful Tenor, internationally acclaimed sensation Mark Vincent is touring his brand new show THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM in 2022.

Singing from the age of 15, Mark Vincent has gone on to become one of Australia's most beloved tenors, having released nine consecutive #1 ARIA Classical Crossover Albums, earning accolades both nationally and internationally. Fans can expect an intimate performance with Mark Vincent performing a rich repertoire of classical music songs and arias made popular by the great artists including Italian-American tenor and actor Mario Lanza.

It has been very busy for Mark in recent years as he has appeared in the popular revival of *My Fair Lady* directed by Dame Julie Andrews at the Sydney Opera House. He has also been touring nationally to promote his new album *Hits include Memory, This Is The Moment, Nessun Dorma, You'll Never Walk Alone, My Way* and many many more. This will be a concert not to be missed! Dreams do come true!



ANZAC Day March 2022 – LEST WE FORGET

Due to attacks from the dreaded COVID pandemic, the contingent from the Lions Club of Branxton participating in the 2022 ANZAC Day march was, unfortunately, severely reduced. However, there were some local members at the event which went ahead with a record number of attendees.

ANZAC day march 2022 with the Branxton Lions contingent bearing our flag & the 2022 Wreath from Branxton Lions



From the Lions' Den
April 2022

World Hunger Day is 28th May

Coming to Branxton soon!



LEHP-Australia
Lions Eye Health Program



The Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) has proved a significant factor in the health of children and their progress in schools and life. During 2021, 3,338 kids participated when members of Lions Clubs checked their eyesight. Out of that total, a staggering 869 kids were referred to an Optometrist for a wide range of eyesight problems. The largest percentages of referrals were 34% for visual acuity (clarity of vision) and 41% for depth perception (three dimensional and distance of object); these two factors alone would have severely affected the child's ability to see and learn in school and participate in sport. Now, the children have the opportunity to correct their eyesight problems.

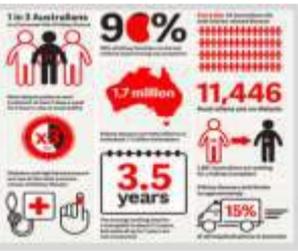
Lions BIG RED KIDNEY BUS – coming to a holiday site near you?

The Lions Big Red Kidney Bus is a state-of-the-art mobile dialysis unit fitted with three dialysis chairs capable of providing up to 1,500 treatments a year when at full capacity. On average, dialysis patients need to undertake treatment three days a week for up to five hours per treatment. The bus will offer people who require regular dialysis treatment the opportunity to plan a vacation at one of the popular holiday locations visited by the Big Red Kidney Bus. Medical facilities at popular holiday locations that offer dialysis treatment are often unable to be accessed by visiting dialysis patients as they are generally occupied by local residents. This is why The Lions Big Red Kidney Bus is so important. The bus is located at each of its various holiday destinations for six-week periods. Patients are required to book a minimum of two weeks in advance. Bookings may be made by telephone or online. Details of the bus destinations and details for appointment bookings are provided on the Kidney Health Australia website.



Childhood Cancer – join in the Coin Line World Record Breaking attempt

The local Lions Coin Line Team, who are busy raising money to fund important research into Childhood Cancer, announced they were halfway to their donation goal to break the World Record for the longest continuous line of coins. They will need to convert over \$200,000 into 5 cent coins. To date, the donations by Lions Clubs, individuals, and some businesses has just topped \$101,500.00. The Coin Line for Kids Committee have now earmarked **November 2022** for the **attempt to break the World Record**. Lions Clubs all around the country will be asking members of the community and schools to donate any low denomination coins that they have to spare towards the mighty Coin Line that will be set up in November at Maitland. The Coin Line project has been postponed during the COVID pandemic, but its objective is to raise \$250,000+ by creating the world's longest Coin Line and getting it entered into the Guinness Book of Records. To break the record, the Coin Line would have to be 75.24 Km long and weigh 11.5 tonnes of 5 cent coins. Lions Australia has already donated \$12 million towards cancer research and that is an investment that is showing good outcomes. For more information see the Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation website: alccrf.lions.org.au



Lunch with the Girl & the Goat?



Last week, the members of the Lions Club of Branxton held their monthly social lunch meeting; the objective during these events is purely to meeting up with friends and have some fun. There are no photographs to record the event for posterity because participants too busy chatting to look at the camera! The lunch was held at the recently opened gourmet café at 100 High Street, Greta: The Girl and the Goat.

Lions Hearing Dogs – 40 years old



During April it was the 40-year anniversary of the introduction of the Australian Lions Hearing Dogs program. These dogs make a significant improvement to the lives of people with hearing impairment, and you can support the program by buying the Hearing Dogs merchandise from your local Lions Club.



Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:

- 30 April - **Mother's Day Market** – Branxton Community Hall
- 4 May – Lions Club of Branxton Management Board Meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club.
- 7 May - Bunnings – Singleton Bunnings - there will also be a Mother's day mega-affle
- 19 May – Lions lunch – venue TBA
- 23 May – Branxton Community Hall – Biggest Morning Tea
- 1 June - Lions Club of Branxton Management Board Meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club.
- 16 June - Branxton Lions Changeover dinner and Induction of six new Lions members.

PROJECTS:

Digital Devices courses A course for people over 50 will commence on 19th July to assist seniors to use information technology devices such as smart phones, laptops, and tablets to help them communicate with their friends and family. Bookings available – see below.
Lions Garden Project – Lions 75th Anniversary in Australia – Lions Park Branxton – garden to be planted in Spring – August which would allow the flowering to be in September.

If you have any questions about any of the content above, please contact Alan Beckley, Secretary, Lions Club of Branxton. Email: Branxton.nsw@lions.org.au Mobile: 0426-261948.

WANTED

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





HANDY TIPS

Compost

Whether using a bin, tumbler or open bay, the theory is the same. Perfect compost depends on maintaining a good balance of carbon-containing ingredients and nitrogen-containing ingredients. An easy way of remembering which products contain carbon and which contain nitrogen is to simply think 'brown' ingredients are carbons and 'green' ingredients are nitrogen.

Carbons - Autumn leaves, pea straw, lucerne hay, sugarcane mulch, moistened cardboard, shredded newspaper (not glossy paper).

Nitrogen: Lawn clippings, garden prunings, green leaves, kitchen scraps, citrus peel, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds. A ratio of about 60% "green" material to 40% "brown" material is ideal, but not essential.

Large material should be cut up as small as possible: the smaller things are, the quicker they break down. Animal manure will also speed up the process. If making a heap or bay, build it directly onto the ground, rather than on concrete or paving, as this allows worms, bacteria, fungi and other beneficial organisms to get into the compost.

- Layer the materials like a lasagne - brown, manure, green, manure etc

- Water after each manure layer with molasses tea to feed the compost microbes. Mix 2 table-spoons of molasses in a 9 litre watering can. Turn the heap every two weeks for oxygenation - the microbes that break things down quickest need oxygen.

This compost will be ready to use in about three months.

How to Water

The amount of water your vegies need and how often they need it depends on your soil type - is it sand, loam or clay. Water percolates straight through sandy soils, whilst clay can become boggy.

- The simplest and most effective way of knowing when to water is to explore the soil. Dig down and feel, smell and see whether the soil is moist.

- Another way to tell whether or not to water is to look at your plants. When plants need watering the leaves wilt, lose colour, and turn grey. If the leaves are

firm, then the plant is fine. It's important to learn which are good indicator plants in the garden. No textbook can tell you, it's one of those acquired skills that gardeners develop.

- Water in the morning if you have fungal problems so the sun dries off the leaves; or the evening if you want your plants to have all night to soak it up. Either method will reduce evaporation and the amount of water you use.

Surface watering damages plants. Roots grow towards the surface, where the soil is hotter and they're more prone to drought. Water plants deeply, ensuring the water penetrates to at least 30 centimetres. This will draw the roots further down into the cool soil, and will firmly anchor the roots and develop good plants. These tips should keep your plants healthy and happy, whilst minimising your water use.

Make Your Own Fertiliser

Whatever soil your vegie garden has, a complete organic fertiliser will improve your soil. You need:

- Seed mill - the crushed husks of seeds, like linseed, canola or wheat, available from stockfeed suppliers. High in nitrogen and the bulk improves soil structure

- Gypsum - Calcium sulphate, which also improves soil structure

- Blood and bone - source of nitrogen and phosphorous
- Rock dust - contains trace elements like calcium, silica, copper, zinc and manganese

Mix together approx. 60% seed mill, 20 % blood and bone, 10% rock minerals and 10% gypsum. Apply as needed.

Liquid v Solid Fertilisers

All fertilisers contain nutrients that make for healthy plant growth, but some are complete plant foods that supply all sixteen essential nutrients, while others target specific needs or deficiencies. Some are designed to be applied as solids while others are applied as liquids.

- **Liquid** fertilisers offer a quick response. The nutrients are almost immediately available to be absorbed through the roots or leaves, correcting nutrient deficiencies quickly or giving the plant a general

boost through the growing season. You need to decide whether to use an inorganic or organic liquid because the results can be vastly different depending on which you choose.

If you're looking for a slow release general feed over a whole season for a mature tree or pot plant then solid fertilisers are ideal. Another advantage if you're time-poor is that they only need to be applied once a year.

Choosing Mulch

Mulch your garden to slow down moisture loss, regulate soil temperature, inhibit weed growth and with organic mulches, feed the soil.

- Inorganic mulches like crushed terracotta or rock, scoria, pebbles or recycled glass make good decorative mulches, whilst allowing moisture to go right through to the soil. Good for bush-fire zones as they don't burn. Pale colours can help reflect heat away from plant roots.

- Living mulches - dense, low-growing plants are great for insulating soil surfaces and suppressing weed growth. On sloped ground, they will also help prevent erosion. Organic mulches like chipped prunings, pea straw or lucerne hay are good on vegies as they add nutrients to the soil. However, it has to be topped up regularly. Water before mulching vegies at a depth of 50mm to 100mm.

Soil pH

If your soil is too acidic or too alkaline, your plants won't be able to get all the nutrients they need, no matter how much fertiliser you add. Test your soil pH to ensure your soil is between 6 and 7.

- **Too acid?** If your soil test indicates that your soil pH is too low or too acidic (which applies to most Australian soils) the solution is to add agricultural lime or dolomite. You can also use poultry manure.

- **Too alkaline?** If your soil is alkaline, it means it has a high pH. You can increase the acidity of your soil by adding things like compost and manures, leaf litter and mulch. Iron chelates work too. In extreme situations, you can use powdered sulphur - one handful per square metre, once a year. Sulphur works very slowly and you won't notice a change in your pH for about 6 months.

pH testing kits are widely available from nurseries and hardware stores.



The almost unbearable burden of raising a puppy.

Have you ever had a puppy or are you thinking of adding a puppy to your family soon - maybe even this Christmas? Living with a puppy can be loads of fun but at times even the most patient person might feel more than a little exhausted. But it is not the exuberant and impulsive puppy behaviour that we should be most concerned with. The biggest responsibility of raising a puppy is not to teach them "manners", it is to ensure they have a bright future. And that future lies in your hands.

Guiding the young of any species through their most vulnerable time in life is always a bit daunting. So many things can go wrong. If you've never even thought about it, start before you venture down the path of getting a puppy or a kitten or any other young life that needs your care.

Their total dependence on you gives you total power over them. And that is an enormous responsibility. Your new puppy will have the first culture shock when they arrive at your home. Having been removed from their mother and siblings, now they are placed in a foreign place, expected to understand very different rules and forced to spend much time by themselves. Up until then your puppy had never been alone. So what if you intend to leave your new puppy for eight to ten hours a day because of your work? What if you don't want them in the bedroom and they have to sleep alone, maybe even outdoors?

Then there are all those normal puppy behaviours, like jumping and biting, that you try so hard to erase. For the last few weeks your puppy has been happily romping around with his mates. Now those playful behaviours are suddenly met with hostility? How will your puppy cope?

Trying to see life from your puppy's perspective - as difficult as this is, being human - is a good first step to prevent any major traumas. Understanding what your dog's emotional and physical needs are is even better. Those first three months of your puppy's life are just too important to be casual about. Yes, your dog may grow up regardless and - if they are lucky - somehow

muddle through life no matter what you do. They are an extremely adaptable species after all. But would it be better to give them the best start possible? You bet. If our dogs' poor upbringing resulted in more dog attacks than is currently the case, we would already have regulations around puppy socialisation, handling and training. But the fallout of our failings is hidden away behind the bars of countless animal shelters and the exorbitant number of young lives lost due to premature euthanasia. And that is not to say that the rest of them are happy and well-adapted dogs living in loving homes. Dogs largely suffer in silence. You rarely hear them complain. Their lives may be dull, riddled with anxiety or even barely livable, yet most of them just carry on. Why don't we see their plight?

I believe the reason for our collective blindness to the prevalence of fear, stress and anxiety in dogs - as well as cats and other animals - is desensitisation. It starts in early childhood where we learn that it is OK to manhandle animals and make them do what we want. We either never learned what fear, stress and anxiety in animals looks like or it has been "normalised" in our minds. We have adapted to living with anxious pets. They are everywhere. Animals are being restrained and manhandled for grooming and veterinary procedures, pushed, shoved, strangled, hurt and yelled at in the name of training and left in solitary confinement day after day, year after year. If all this fear and anxiety in our pets would burst into aggression on a massive scale, we would have long learned to pay more attention.

"You have the power to make your dog happy." You - as a new puppy parent - can make sure your dog does not become one of the silent sufferers. You can prevent the mental and emotional distress that may one day prompt your dog to become aggressive. You have the power to make your dog happy. And the welcome side effect for you is a much decreased risk of behaviour problems and a more enjoyable life with your dog. Being physically

Tips For Your Dogs



manipulated is one of the major sources of anxiety in our pets but something we can easily prevent or change. Dogs, and other animals, can learn to voluntarily cooperate with whatever needs to be done for their health and safety. They can be taught to enjoy all the groping and smooching we bestow on them.

You also have the power to prevent fear of strangers, children, noises, novel objects and situations in your dog - all potential sources of anxiety - by understanding what socialisation is really about and by doing the best job you possibly can.

So, here are some guidelines for the first twelve to fourteen weeks of your dog's life to get you on the right track.

COMPANIONSHIP

Let the puppy sleep near you during the first few days and slowly wean them towards their own bed and ultimate sleeping location. Keep your puppy company, especially during the first few weeks. If you work long hours, get someone else to help out. Gradually get your dog used to spending time alone. Spend quality time with your puppy daily. Play with your dog using toys so they can chase, grab and tug. Invite people to your house. Take your puppy to work or social activities (take a crate so the puppy can rest undisturbed at times).

HOUSE TRAINING

Invest the time to properly house train your puppy. Supervise, confine and reward. Never punish a puppy for eliminating where they shouldn't!

SOCIALISATION

Take your puppy out into the world from the get go. If your dog only had their first vaccination, carry them on your arms or let them watch from the car. The importance of socialisation cannot be overstated. Create positive associations with lots of lots of sounds, sights, people, other animals - anything your dog could possibly encounter in their lives. Prevent fear of strangers by introducing a large variety of humans in a positive manner including children. Let the stranger give your dog treats, but be careful the puppy does not get overwhelmed. Do not allow people to simply walk up

and handle your puppy. Always watch your pup for signs of stress and back up if necessary.

The primary time for you to socialise your dog is from the moment you get them to about twelve weeks of age. Everything your dog experiences during that time will have an especially deep and lasting impact. Make sure the experiences are positive. Do not waste a day! After that continue socialising your dog to maintain their skills and well-being.

Attend a well-run puppy preschool which includes off leash play.

If your puppy is shy, never force them! Allow them to explore the world at their own pace.

BODY HANDLING

Teach your dog to enjoy being touched, held, squeezed, poked etc. by starting with brief handling and gradually work up to more invasive handling. Always give a tasty treat after handling. The higher the value of your treats, the more the dog will enjoy being handled.

Allow strangers, including children, to touch your dog but supervise closely to make sure your dog enjoys it. Always follow the handling with treats.

Take your dog to the vet outside appointment times and give them treats in the waiting area, exam room and on the exam table.

Perform mock vet exams to make them comfortable with various types of procedures.

TRAINING

Attend a well run puppy school which uses positive reinforcement training. Socialisation is the most important thing at this stage whereas training can be done at any time. Focus on three or four behaviours such as sit and drop/down, stay or wait and 'leave it' and do lots of repetitions in different places.

Use rewards to train your puppy. Do not use coercive methods such as physical manipulation or raising your voice. Redirect unwanted behaviour towards alternative behaviours, e.g. ask the dog to sit or go fetch a toy in situations where they are likely to jump up. You may have your new pet for many, many years so initial house training, socialisation, body handling etc., is so, so important. Good Luck!

SPORTS
RESULTSRESULTS
GOLF**Branxton Golf Club**
Saturday, 16 April 2022
SATURDAY COMP -
STABLEFORD

Field: 34

Grades A Peter Wilton 36
Grades A David Kinch 36Grades B Paul Bush 38
Grades B David Pearce 38Grades C Robert Miller 41
Grades C Adnan Al Dabet 39NTP 2/11 Robert Miller
10cmNTP 4 Mark Moylan
264cmNTP 9/18 Robert Biles
250cmNTP 13 Mark Moylan
351cmBalls 10 Distributed down
to score: 33**Pro's N.T.P 18th Hole**
R MILLER 265cm = \$58**Proshop Voucher**

Saturday's bright sunny day produced some good scores despite the very damp track around the Branxton Golf Course. Peter Wilton once again showed his class in winning A Grade with an excellent 36 pts from his low handicap on a day where all shots needed to be hit well with no run on the course. Dave Kinch would be well pleased with his 36 pts to finish runner up. Paul Bush won B Grade with a well compiled 38 pts after starting his round with 2 birdies in the first three holes. As he said later, he wasn't used to hitting it so straight—his normal game returned once he warmed up! Robert "Shirl" Miller had a real day out in winning C Grade with the day's best stableford score of 41 pts. He won 2 Nearest the Pins including the Pro Pin on the last. However, his NTPin on the 11th was a near hole in one, finishing only 10 cms away, landing just short of the pin and stopping dead next to it—a great shot, very unlucky. Adnan Al Dabet finished runner up with an excellent 39 pts, a score that Captain Steve says is a good reward for perseverance with his game. 33 pts was needed to win a ball. Captain Steve wants to remind everyone that the Round 1 Singles Knockout ends next Saturday with Round 2 matches ready to start.

Saturday, 23 April 2022
MONTHLY MEDAL -
APRIL - STROKE

Field: 47

Winners C Jai Doolan 59
Grades A Benjamin Bridge 67Grades A Victor Matt 69
Grades A Joshua Tracey 70Grades B Mick Martin 68
Grades B Paul Bush 70Grades B Mick Barrett 71
Grades C Charles Jubb 68

Grades C Murray Kingston 69

Grades C Matthew Schnell 72

NTP 2/11 Neil Jordan
119cm

NTP 4 Paul Bush 263cm

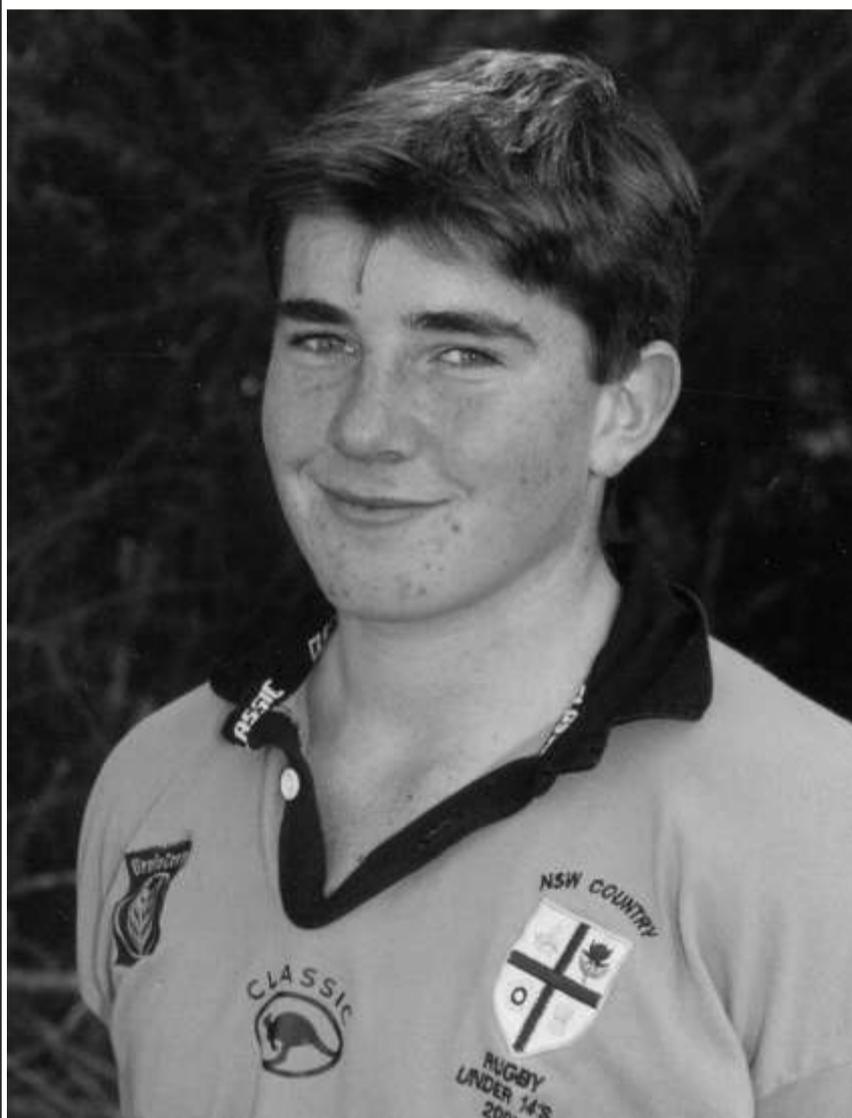
NTP 9/18 Rodney Wilton
263cm

NTP 13 Jai Doolan 562cm

Balls 14 Distributed down
to score: 75**Pro's N.T.P 18th Hole**
R WILTON 263cm = \$80**Proshop Voucher**Saturday's Monthly Medal
produced some good scores
across the grades. Visitor,
Jai Doolan, had a real day
out producing a rare nett 59
score from his 28handicap—a great score on
any course so well done
Jai. As he was a visitor, he
wins the daily score prize
but Ben Bridge won the
Monthly Medal (and A
Grade) with his excellent
67 nett score. Victor Matt
continues to show his class
in finishing runner up with
a 69 nett from his 4handicap—its good to see
Victor back to his
mercurial best! Club
Champion, Joshua Tracey
finished third with his nett
70 -a near par round once
again for this excellent
golfer. Mick Martin won B
Grade with his 68 nett, just
ahead of Paul Bush's nett
70 (2 weeks in a row in the
prizes), with Mick Barrett
third with his 71 nett.Charles Jubb won C Grade
with a 68 nett, a stroke in
front of Murray Kingston
with Matthew Schnell's 72
good enough for third. The
shot of the day belonged to
Neil Jordan on the 2nd/11th
with Rod Wilton winning
the Pro Shop Voucher,
worth \$80, on the last. A 75
nett score was needed to
win a ball. Captain Steve
wants to remind all players
that the Round 2 Singles
Knockout matches need to
be played by the 28th May.
The big question to ask all
golfers is, "When is an
eagle NOT an eagle?" We
all need to ask poor Neil
Bridge who holed his 2nd
shot on the 10th—a great,
memorable achievement
until you realise you have
hit the wrong ball! Poor
Neil then had to make the
long walk back to replay
the shot—and alas...he hit
the proper ball into the
creek and had an 8. Isn't
golf a cruel game? I'm sure
his play today will certainly
be remembered and shared
with all and sundry in the
future.**HUNTER VALLEY**
GOLF CLUB**Sunday 3rd April**The Weekly Challenge has
been decided by countback
after David Eddy & Peter
Puerta had 35 point returns
with David getting the nod
for the win.**Thursday 7th April**Many of the Vets struggled
on the freshly cored Greens
in the medley Stableford
with Bill Freeman claiming
the win on countback to
Ken McLaughlan after both
had 37 points from Col
Somerville with an even
Par 36 points taking 3rd
place. Ball winners are:
Curly 35, Darrell Preston
35, Beepa 35, Greg Ireland
35, Paul Smith 35, JohnMcLoughney 35, Kevin
Smith 35, Peter Perkins 35,
Dennis Corke 34, Gunner
34, Kerry Bartlett 34, Bruce
Chambers 34, Greg Harder
34, Dave Gelwiller 33, Toot
33, Wazza 33, Graham
Donaldson 33, Peter
McIntyre 33, Geoff
Sweetman 32, Mick Gilbert
32, John Grayson 32,
Wayne Berry 32, Tom Bell
32, Eric Smith 32 & Phil
Wetzler 32 c/b. Nearest-the-
Pins went to David Peel
(3rd) Kerry Bartlett (4th)
Wazza (8th) Michael
Tsakissiris (10th) & Geoff
Sweetman (17th).**Saturday 9th April**Friday rainfall took toll on
the Saturday field with
several dropouts. Lee
Heuston did best in the
Medley Stableford with 39
points from Rod Teasdale
38 & Russ Calderwood 3rd
with 36. Ball winners are:
Andrew Zok 35, Mark
Makin 35, Tracy Morison
34, John Chenery 34, Aaron
Marks 34, Mike Carter 33,
Aaron Dries 33, Peter
McIntyre 33, Luke Johnst-
on 33, Greg Duval 33, Jeff
Morton 33, Bruce
Chambers 33, Nicholas
Hain 32 & Gry Musalik 31
c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to
Adin Ramos (3rd) Stephen
Zok (4th) Russ Calderwood
(10th) & Andrew Zok
(17th)**Sunday 10th April**Brad Murray has won the
Weekly Challenge on
countback after he and Cam
Davis had 41 point rounds,
3rd went to Brad Greenham
with 36 points. Ball winners
are: Ben Charlton 35, Ken
Wilson 34, Adin Ramos 34,
Sam Gamham 34, Nigel
Brenton 34, Tony Kraissa
34, Dan Hunt 33, Kane
Rowe 32, Dane Walton 31
& Don Curran 31 c/b**Tuesday 12th April**The Vets American
Stableford had several
handy results for those able
to stick to the fairways with
James Schofield getting the
better of Scrum in Division
1 with both returning 56
points, Pater Franks has
won Division 2 with 61
from Paul Smith 55 and
Chris Taggart Division 3
with 53 on countback to
Terry Webb. Ball winners
are Tom Bell 53, Wayne
Berry 53, David Gresham
53, Kerry Bartlett 53, Toot
52, Wayne Drayton 51,
Morto 51, Larry Forbes 51
Gary Arnold 50, John
Grayson 50, GB Harris 50,
Peter Perkins 50, Eric
Smith 50, Phil Darcy 49,
Rox Jr. 49, Geoff
Sweetman 49, Bob Hannah
49, George Copas 49,
David Peel 48 & Kevgin
Smith 48 c/b. Nearest-the-
Pins went to Graham
Morris (3rd) Ken
McLaughlan (4th) Wayne
Berry (8th) & Tom Bell
(17th).**Saturday 16th April**The 2 Person Ambrose has
been won by the team of
Mark Noble & Aaron Dries
with an excellent 54 3/4 net
from Ryan McGregor &
Jarrod Hoffman 60.5, with
Dan Olsen & Darrin Cussen
3rd with 60.75 and Jason
Cowburn & Josh Rose 4thwith 61.5 on countback.
Ball winners are: Matt
Merlo & Saxon Hulsman
61.5, James Kiker & Aj
Quinn 63, Stephen Zok &
Mike Carter 64, Graeme
Smith & Dylan Palmer
64.5. Rox Jr & Larry
Forbes 64.5, Terry Roughan
& David Cullen 64.5.
Scrum 7 James Schofield
64.5, Lloyd & Mick Barrett
64.74 and Mick Hughes &
Russ Lightfoot 65 c/b.
Nearest-the-Pins went to
Tracy Morison (3rd) Mark
Noble (4th) Aaron Dries
(8th), Terry Webb (10th) &
Mark Noble (17th).**The free Masters**
Sweepstakes giveaway of
1 dozen Titleist ProV1
Golf Balls went to Russ
Caldeword.**Sunday 17th April**The Weekly Challenge has
been won by Peter Long
with 40 points from Greg
Horsley 39 & Richie
Edwards with 38 on count-
back. Ball Winners are:
Dan Hunt 38, Nathan Toll
36, Scott Telfer 36, Dave
Hollis 36, Jeff Shanahan
36, Phil Douglas 35,
Rachael Kitching 35, lake
Medway 34, Ethan Dever
34, David Peel 34, Corey
Baker 34, Bayley Squires
33, Lee Heustan 33, Jesse
Woodward 33, Alan
Jamieson 33, Phil Byron
32, Yong Kim 31, Jin-Sang
Kim 30, Brian Norcock 30
& Shaun Heffenan 30 c/b**Tuesday 19th April**Luke Johnston has claimed
the Tuesday Stableford top
spot with 38 points from
Steve Abel 37 & Nic Bates
3rd with 36 on countback.
Ball winners are: Phil
Douglas 36, John Stewart
36, Col Bradley 36, Greg
Ireland 35, Teedubs 35,
Toot 34, Rob Hannah 34,
Rick Turchini 34, Graeme
Flynn 33, David Peel 32,
Jeff Shanahan 32, Beepa
32, Phil Small 31, Paul
Smith 31, Garry Marsden
31, Peter Franks 31, Ryan
Wilson 29 & Matt D'Force
28 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to
Luke Johnston (3rd) David
Peel (4th) Nic Bates (10th)
& Phil Small (17th)**Wednesday 20th April**The Ladies contested the
2nd round of the Golf NSW
Medal with Mary Fortey
doing best with 74 net from
Jaenette Irwin 75 & Di
Atton 3rd with 76. Ball
winners are: Isabel Skeates
77, Dale Hamilton 77, Joy
Provenzano 79, Marlene
Rooney 79, Sue Williams
81, Glenda Williams 81,
Jackie O'Neill 82 &
Christine Tancred 82 c/b.The Putting winner is
Christine Tancred (30) &
the sole NTP went to Di
Atton (4th).**Thursday 21st April**The 2 Person Ambrose
Championship for Vets in
2022 has gone to the Team
of Rox Ling Jr & Larry
Forbes with 67 on count-
back winning Scratch with
Norm Barry & Peter
McIntyre the handicap
winners with 59.25,
congratulations to all. The
Daily competition winners
are: 1st Norm & Peter
59.25, 2nd John Martin &with Michael Tsakissiris
2nd with 39 & C Grade to
Ian Mould 41 from Terry
Webb with 37 on count-
back. Ball winners are:
Fluff Snr. 38, David Agnew
38, Matt Stafford 38, Dave
Hollis 38, Nick Hain 38,
Banjo 38, Paul Bullock 38,
Mike Carter 37, Ryan
Wilson 37, Nick Looby 37,
Rod Teasdale 37, Stephen
Zok 37, Andrew Zok 37,
Scott Vowles 36, Mark
Makin 36, Dan Olsen 35,
Darrell Porter 35, Dean
Morison b35, Young Fluff
35, Tony Butler 35, Nic
Bates 34, Stephen Warham
34, Greg Ireland 34, David
Peel 34 & Adrian Kent 34
c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to
Young Fluff (3rd) Banjo
(4th) Mark Makin (8th)
Paul Bullock (10th) & Dave
Hollis (17th). Next week
will be the May Stroke
rounds.Dave Hollis 61.5 and 3rd
Col Somerville & Mick
Gilbert 62. Ball winners
are: Rox Jr & Larry 62.5,
James Schofield & Morto
62.75, Michael Tsakissiris
& Bruce Chambers 63,
Steve Piggott & Paul
Bullock 63.5, Steve Jurd &
Scrum 64.25, John Pascoe
& Dave Blackburn 64.5,
Bill Harden & Reddis 64.5,
Darrell Porter & Paul
Cambell 65.25, Tom Bell &
Rob Hannah 65.25, Russ
Calderwood & Tony Butler
65.25, Wayne Drayton &
Jerry Irwin 65.5, Paul
Smith & Graeme Flynn
66.25, Silver & Fluff 66.5,
Ryan Wilson & Toot 67,
John Grayson & Stephen
Morgan 67.25, Wayne
Berry & Ray Boyd 68.25,
Rex Talbot & John Stewart
68.25, Springy & Don
Bradley 68.5, Chris Taggart
& Kevin Gibson 68.5, Chris
Norman & Mark Green68.5Dean Morison & GB
Harris 69.25, Ruff & Kerry
Bartlett 69.25, Barry Maher
& Norm Ellis 69.5, Grub &
Troll 69.5, Geoff Sweet-
man & Greg Burke 69.75,
Graham Donaldson & John
McLoughney 69.75, Kevin
Dick & Terry Webb 70,
Graeme Smith & Noel
Ellenor 70.25, Tony
Lorrinan & David Kerr 71
and Kevin Smith & David
Peel 71.75 on countback.
Nearest-the-Pins to Tom
Bell (3rd) Darrell Porter
(4th) David Kerr (8th)
Mick Gilbert (10th) & John
McLoughney (17th).**Saturday 23rd April**The improving playing
surface & generous
conditions have led to solid
returns by many of the
Medley Stableford field
with A Grade going to
Larry Forbes with 41 points
from James Adamson 39, B
Grade to Jeff Morton 41

DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS Issue No 142 28th Aug 2003 Page 52

Charles Croucher to Captain NSW 16
side

Branxtons' Charles Croucher has been selected to play & captain the NSW 16's Rugby Union team. The team will play in an Australian State competition tournament in the first week of the September school holidays at St Ignatius College, Riverview.

It has been an extraordinary year for the very likeable local lad who had the honour of playing in a "curtain-raiser" to the Australian Wallabies versus Wales earlier in the season. The match was between Country 16's & City 16's with Charles country team coming away with an excellent win, 32 to 7. As a result of that performance the country boys had seventeen selected to city's five in the NSW team.

Charles said that being actually selected was "sensational" but to be asked to captain the side, "unbelievable".

"Because the majority of the players in our team are from NSW country we have been playing together through the years & we know each others game. We will do well in the tournament", Charles said.

Charles currently plays with Singleton Junior Rugby Union Club who train twice a week. He also trains with his school once a week & also plays for them on a weekly basis. If fitness counts then he will have a blinder of a week!

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The **News**SPORT

Hammond Handed \$50 from Harrington



The April open was once again dominated by Daniel "Boonie" Johnson smashing the beaches at Hawks Nest with a big haul of good sized Bream, Big Tailor, Salmon and Jewy. He won the weekend with 258.9 points. Runner up was Steve "Bodge" Nevin on 136.3 points after fishing terrible conditions offshore at Forster-Tuncurry but managed a feed of Snapper, Trag, Flathead and Morwong. Fishing Queen Keza continued her good form at Seals with a nice haul of Bream, Flathead, Whiting, Dart and Tailor. Fee Jacobs scored 33.71 and Jess Hammond took out the \$50 cash prize with a 0.773kg Flathead fishing the Estuaries at Harrington.



(Bream), Jess Hammond (Quality Bream and Flathead) and Jeff "George" Nevin (Squire) The next fishing weekend is our Stockton trip 6th 7th 8th May where most members are staying at Stockton Caravan Park and some plan on doing day trips from home.

Steve.nevin@hvo.com.au or contact the Greta Workers Club Social Fishing Clubs Facebook page. Alternatively you can come to our Wednesday Raffles 4:30-6pm or weigh ins and sign up then. The cost has now increased for the remainder of the year to \$50 single and \$100 family. Pictured below Club President Andrew Jacobs

Special mentions to the following who weighed in for the first time this year: Temperance Hammond

The target species is Jewy. 2022 memberships still available, please contact Steve Nevin 0457547478

presenting Jess Hammond with her monthly target species winning Flathead 0.77kg and Daniel Johnson with his 3.67kg Jewy.

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