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WEDNESDAY
 25 MAY 2022

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Labor holds Hunter



■ Newly elected Member for Hunter, Dan Repacholi, enjoying a well earned break

The 2022 federal election has delivered a series of surprise results, with the Liberal Party suffering significant losses but Labor failing to claim all the spoils.

In the seat of Hunter the endorsed Labor candidate, Dan Repacholi, went against the national trend by marginally increasing Labor's margin. The final 2-party preferred result was Labor nearly 54% with the Nationals candidate, James Thomson, receiving just over 46%. Retired member for Hunter, Joel

Fitzgibbon, said he was delighted & that it was a wonderful result. "Full credit to Dan as he was a great candidate, he worked hard campaigning & it was a just reward. "He slightly increased the margin but not back to pre-2019. "Our climate policy was mild enough to defend from the Coalition's scare campaign "Congratulations," said Joel. The seat of Hunter covers an area of approximately 10,640 sq km and includes the Muswellbrook Shire Council, Singleton Council,

Cessnock City Council (part) and Lake Macquarie City Council (part). The main towns include Broke, Cessnock, Denman, Mulbring, Muswellbrook, Paxton, Putty, Singleton, Widden and Wyee. The ALP have held the seat of Hunter since 1910 & in the last two decades Hunter has recorded a Labor vote around 10% higher than Labor's state-wide vote. This narrowed considerably to around 5% in 2019, setting off discussion on whether Labor could lose Hunter in 2022. The

decision of Joel Fitzgibbon to retire put Hunter even more at risk. The cause of Labor's dip at the 2019 federal election is clearer when you look at first preference trends for Hunter. Labor's first preference vote previously slipped below 50% in 2013, but the 37.6% recorded in 2019 was much lower and similar to results in central Queensland coal mining seats like Capricornia. The cause of the fall also appears to be the same, a surge in support for One Nation, the party polling more than 20% as in Capricornia. United Australia also polled 4.3% in 2019 and Palmer United 7.6% in 2003. As in Central Queensland, the two-party swing was created by a loss of Labor vote to One Nation, and then strong preference flows to the Coalition. Labor's fears, coming into this election was that if Labor's vote slipped further in 2022, then Hunter's fate will be determined by the one-in-five voters who backed One Nation in 2019.

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Alongside them will sit Adam Bandt and several more Greens who managed to co-opt seats of their own.

Here are the dozen seats that delivered the most shocking results.

Bass

This is the rarest of specimens from the night: a surprise Liberal Party hold.

Fowler

Independent Dai Le has beaten one of Labor's most prominent frontbenchers, former New South Wales Premier Kristina Keneally, in the previously safe seat Fowler.

Goldstein

This was admittedly one of the seats seen as more likely to fall to an independent. But MP Tim Wilson, an assistant minister in the government, was a big scalp.

He was beaten by former ABC journalist turned teal independent Zoe Daniel.

Griffith

Greens candidate Max Chanler-Mather appears to have overcome both the incumbent Labor MP, Terri Butler, and the LNP's Olivia Roberts, to add another Greens seat to the House.

Hasluck

The massive swing towards Labor in Western Australia was one of the night's biggest surprises, and it was typified by the defeat of Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt in the seat of Hasluck. This one was on Labor's list of targeted seats – but it certainly wasn't at the top.

Higgins

The seat former held by Howard government treasurer Peter Costello and then minister Kelly O'Dwyer has fallen to Labor. Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah beat the incumbent Liberal, Dr Katie Allen, making this the first time the seat will be held by anyone other than a Liberal since 1975.

Kooyong

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg was sitting on a very safe 13 per cent margin, but it appears he couldn't hold out against independent Monique Ryan.

"While it's mathematically possible that we win in Kooyong, it's definitely difficult," Mr Frydenberg said on election night. Not quite a concession, but it was close.

He has since conceded defeat.

He's the Liberal Party's biggest loss, and it has ramifications for the direction of the party going forward. With Mr Frydenberg gone and Scott Morrison vacating the leadership, Peter Dutton will be the clear front-runner.

Mackellar

Another teal independent, Sophie Scamps, knocked off incumbent MP Jason Falinski, who held Mackellar with a margin of 13.2 per cent.

You've detected the trend by now – previously safe Liberal seats falling to inexperienced independent candidates en masse.

North Sydney

Another independent, Kylea Tink, knocked out Liberal MP Trent Zimmerman in a seat the party had held since 1996.

Ryan

The Greens claimed another win in Ryan, with Elizabeth Watson-Brown taking down LNP MP Julian Simmonds.

That takes their contingent in the House to three. A trebling!

Tangney

It's fair to say this one wasn't really on the radar. Ben Morton spent much of the campaign travelling around the country with Scott Morrison – not the act of someone who was worried about his own seat.

He held Tangney with a margin of 9.5 per cent, but fell victim to the surprise WA swing.

Wentworth

Formerly a safe Liberal seat, Wentworth has flipped back and forth since the retirement of former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Independent Kerryn Phelps beat Liberal Dave Sharma in the by-election caused by Mr Turnbull's exit.

Then Mr Sharma won it back from her. This time, he lost it to a different independent, Allegra Spender.

Greta Museum
Come into *Greta Museum* for all things historically multicultural, or multiculturally historic, including our local Aboriginal information.



(Polish/Ukrainian dress)
Greta Museum is at 96 High St. Greta. Open Wednesdays & Saturdays 11am – 3pm.

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First preference count for the division of Hunter (NSW)
71 of 71 polling places returned.

Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Swing (%)	Status
MURRAY, Janet	The Greens	8,153	8.50	+1.63	
REPACHOLI, Dan	Labor	37,380	38.96	+1.39	
DAVIES, Victoria	Animal Justice Party	2,071	2.16	-1.04	
BONDS, Stuart	Independent	5,434	5.66	+5.66	
TOWNSEND, Cathy	Informed Medical Options Party	1,218	1.27	+1.27	
PASSFIELD, Geoff	United Australia Party	3,728	3.89	-0.43	
THOMSON, James	The Nationals	26,958	28.10	+4.63	
McNAMARA, Dale	Pauline Hanson's One Nation	9,373	9.77	-11.82	
LARUFFA, Scott Fulvio	Independent	1,624	1.69	+1.69	
.....	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	0	0.00	-2.31	
.....	Socialist Equality Party	0	0.00	-0.67	
Formal		95,939	92.95	+1.92	
Informal		7,282	7.05	-1.92	

Two candidate preferred result by vote type

Candidate	Party	Ordinary		Absent		Provisional		Declaration pre-poll		Postal	
		Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
REPACHOLI, Dan	Labor	49,100	53.88	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2,517	52.49
THOMSON, James	The Nationals	42,029	46.12	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2,278	47.51

Why did Labor win? It most definitely is not because they are popular... Labor's primary vote of a mere 30 per cent – well below the prediction of 36 per cent – demonstrates that only around 1 in 3 Australians actually support them. The Liberals had a higher primary of around 36 per cent, yet due to the preference system in this nation (which is now going to be a significant point of contention and the subject of much debate), the party that came second overall gets to govern. The low primary votes for the two major parties should have both of them questioning what they can do to get this to a point where they can practically guarantee themselves a confident majority, much like that of say, the Abbott government of 2011. It is clear from such low primary votes that

Australians have become disenchanted with the major parties. The duopoly that has ruled all too comfortably for decades has been dealt a major blow. This has been demonstrated in the loss of seats that were once a sure thing for Liberal now falling into the hands of Teal independents. "The tragic reality for Australia is that those seats are in the possession of single-issue Eco-fascists who want to bring in policies that will strangle prosperity in the name of Climate Change. "The so-called 'Teal Independents', who are basically Greens in disguise, have managed to win themselves a good portion of the crossbench," said a spokesperson for the Libs.

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Businesses invited to Pokolbin networking event

Cessnock City Council's Economic Development team is proud to present a local business networking event which will take place from 12 to 2.30pm on Friday 10 June at the Grand Mercure Hunter Valley Gardens, Pokolbin.

This event will have a focus on employment and will feature keynote speaker Carolyn Miller, who is a creative thought leader and digital strategy expert. Carolyn is the founder of The Honeycomb Effect communications consultancy, and has over 20 years' experience in marketing. Carolyn will present practical tips for businesses to foster their audience, employees and customers through digital marketing and engagement. From their own direct communications, to online advertising, and social media, there will be plenty of ideas to get local businesses started, or to amplify their existing activity. Guests will also hear an employment update from Karla Notman, the Employment Facilitator for the Hunter Region, watch employment industry videos, and hear about Council's latest initiatives to get trained candidates in available roles and a pilot job shuttle program. Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said this event is a great opportunity for local businesses to network and hear from a highly experienced marketing professional.



Keynote speaker Carolyn Miller

"I am a big believer in supporting local businesses and helping them thrive, and events like this can really make a difference," Cr Suvaal said. "I strongly encourage local businesses to come along to this event, meet like-minded business owners, and learn practical tips on how to boost their business."

Tickets are just \$10, which

includes a delicious three course lunch, and can be booked by visiting www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/PokolbinNetworking. This is the latest in a series of businesses networking events made possible with joint NSW and Commonwealth Government funding under the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF).

2022 Community Building Partnership Program 'now open'



State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP, has announced that the NSW Government will once again conduct the Community Building Partnership Program in 2022.

Clayton Barr, MP, said that \$400,000 is available for projects in each NSW Electorate including the Electorate of Cessnock and urges local councils and not-for-profit groups to apply for the funds they need to deliver projects with social, environmental and recreational outcomes. "Local sports clubs, charities, school P&C associations, not-

for-profits, Men's Sheds, Scouts or Girl Guides are just some of the groups that can benefit from the program." "If your organisation or club needs extra funding for infrastructure, such as new awning, ride-on lawn mower, new goals posts, accessible features, equipment or refurbishment, then I'd strongly encourage you to apply." The program opened at 9am on Monday 16 May, 2022 and applications will close at 5pm sharp on Friday 10 June 2022. Late applications will not be considered. Applicants must read the program guidelines to ensure their club or organisation and

proposed project are eligible. The Community Building Partnership Program, first introduced by the Labor Government in 2009 has provided funding to thousands of community groups, sporting clubs and councils across NSW to build or upgrade local facilities. Since it was introduced it has awarded more than \$399 million to over 18,000 projects. For more information about the NSW Government's 2022 Community Building Partnership Program, visit: www.nsw.gov.au/cbp

Photo above: Greta Braxton Wildcats Soccer Club grandstand opening 2021 by Clayton Barr MP

BRANXTON RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARK PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Cessnock City Council is in receipt of a proposal for Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia LTD (CMCA) to operate Branxton RV Park for a period of up to Ten (10) years. CMCA has been selected as the Preferred Applicant under Expression of Interest, T2022-03 to operate the Branxton RV Park. The proposal will see an on-site Park Custodian, improved facilities and reduced maintenance costs.

Between 18 May and 15 June 2022, Cessnock City Council would like to know if you have any objections to CMCA managing Branxton RV Park.

Where a submission is made by way of an objection, the objection must be in writing and the grounds for objection must be clearly specified. The views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a determination is made.

Written submissions should be addressed to the Acting General Manager and will be accepted up until 5pm on Wednesday 15 June 2022 via email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post to PO Box 152, Cessnock NSW 2325.

Visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/BranxtonRVPark for more information. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss the proposal further, please contact Council's Economic Development and Tourism Manager, Mr Tony Chadwick on 4993 6720.



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STEVE'S

RANT

The story of the Jindivik

How to establish an asymmetric defence system without overseas assistance? In the 50s, as an insolent fifteen-year-old Tech Student, I forewent the opportunity to witness the 1956 men's hockey final between India and Pakistan in favour of a school excursion to the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation (CAC) and the Government Aircraft Factory (GAF) Fishermen's Bend alongside the Maribyrnong River; a fascinating place. Berthed alongside the river lay old schooners, sans masts and rigging, which of course, we had to inspect as the opportunity presented. The airfield, of course, was associated with the aircraft factories. Whilst we were there, technicians carried out static tests on the jet motor of a Jindivik unmanned fixed-wing target drone. These were developed as targets for testing anti-aircraft missiles, and gunnery practises for the RAN and the RAAF and were extensively used by the British. The noise at the test site was deafening, and fortunately, the technicians made sure we kept our distance. It was all very exciting, but when talking to one of the workers on-site, he put the proposition that were a Russian warship attempting to enter Port Phillip Bay, the means to

interdict it was being manufactured right there. That statement has remained with me ever since, but at the time, I did not realise he was talking about the Jindivik. Here follows an extract from Wikipedia on the story of the Jindivik. *The GAF Jindivik is a radio-controlled target drone produced by the Australian Government Aircraft Factories (GAF). The name is from an Aboriginal Australian word meaning "the hunted one". Eighteen commands could be issued to the autopilot, with six further commands for the operation of other onboard equipment. The drone was launched via a self-steering trolley. At 110 knots (200 km/h; 130 mph), the drone was designed to apply its flaps, push the elevators up and release the trolley. Landing was made at 150–125 knots (278–232 km/h; 173–144 mph). Two controllers (azimuth and elevation) aligned the drone on the runway. On landing, it touched down on its skid, and banking would cause the wingtip "shoes" to touch the runway, which controlled its path down the runway as it slowed. Between 1952 and 1986, 502 Jindivik's were built by the Government Aircraft Factory in*



By the end of 2019 in the USA there were 417 mass shootings, by the end of 2020, there had been 611, and by the end of 2021, 693, according to the Gun Violence Archive. By mid-May 2021 there were 10 mass shootings a week on average; by mid-May 2022, there was a total of 198 mass shootings in the first 19 weeks of the year, which represents 11 mass shootings a week.



Melbourne for use mainly by the RAF, RAAF and RAN, and a small number were exported to Sweden and the United States. In 1997, the production line was re-opened to build another 15 for Britain. *Performance - Maximum speed: 908 km/h (564 mph, 490 kn) - Range: 1,038 km (645 mi, 560 nmi)-Service ceiling: 17,375 m (57,000 ft) Originally designed as an expendable target, the Jindivik's features and reliability enabled it to fly many times without being destroyed. It had an excellent speed and high-altitude performance and was able to conduct low-level flights over the*

sea. It could trail smoke, tow infra-red and radio frequency decoys and fire flares to avoid destruction during live firings. The RAN N11 Jindivik Mk. 203A & B series could be modified with wing pods and wing extensions for particular tasks. Powered by an 1134 kg (2,500 lb) thrust Bristol Siddeley Viper 201 turbojet (Rolls-Royce engines from 1966 onwards), it had a maximum speed of 490 knots (limit Mach 0.86), a service ceiling of 57,000 feet and a range of 540 nautical miles. Redevelopment of this aircraft using current printed circuits, radar, modern sensing devices and air to ground missiles would

make a formidable surveillance and attack drone. Used in large numbers at one time would present any hostile surface force more to think about than their current task and keep their minds off sex. As with any sound flight platform such as the Lockheed C130 or the Boeing B52, improvements and development have never stopped; if the GAF could put the Jindivik back into production in 1997, much of the apparatus to make these aircraft probably still exists or could be rapidly set up. A joint venture using current technology, decentralised component production, an upgraded Jindivik produced in large numbers would give Australia a formidable defence against surface forces. I have no idea how the defence would deploy and control (target) the Jindivik, but there are very clever people in the defence establishment who could sort this. That the Jindivik Project was dropped when other countries were developing long-range drones for reconnaissance and attack purposes beggars' belief. You would have to ask the Airforce and Navy, whose track record for picking the next trend in offensive and defensive weaponry isn't perfect—for example, ordering large, expensive surface vessels which are simply targets for modern guided weapons. In the early 1960s, work commenced on a replacement for the Jindivik to be called the Turana. Designed as a derivative of the Ikara anti-submarine missile system, the project failed. The Jindivik was retained in service until 1998 when the BAE Kalkara unmanned aerial target finally replaced it. These systems could form the basis for developing an asymmetric defence and offence capability to make numbers of surface ships and submarines and long-range strike aircraft irrelevant. Cheers, Steve



Vanity to win In 2001 my colleague/actor Wayne and I shared a bottle of rum into the wee hours on the veranda of the Sons of the Soil hotel in Coonamble after a performance of my play, "The Exchange". The discussion revolved around the failings of Democracy. Wayne was a Monarchist and I, in favour of Democracy. Wayne won the argument with one line; "why give the ultimate power to the ones that know the least about it." That is, why let the voters determine who should rule given that the voters know the least about running a country. As a result the voters are then susceptible to all types of miss information; fake

news, lies all in the name of winning an election. Self interest from the politicians and the individual voters will reign. The politicians frame their policies in order to win an election not on what is best for the country as a whole. Their marketing strategies aim at the bottom denominator of intelligence. It is almost as if their marketing is aimed at simplicity so the voters will react like a "Harvey Norman" advertisement would want them to. So, as a result, we've had politicians running around spending money on a new athletic track in Baralaba when the waiting list for simple surgery is ever increasing, just to win votes. Their promises involve

spending money with gay abandon in a time of a Trillion dollar debt, increasing inflation and rising interest rates. This goes against what the economic text books preach. The 2022 federal election is now past. It is with great relief that the voters have seen through the spin and realised that "we are as mad as hell and we are not going to take in any longer." Hence, we see the rise of the independents and the concern over the world's greatest problem in climate change and the

environment. My message to the Liberals and Labor parties is that the voters are not that stupid; get used to it. No more self interest in just trying to win an election. An election is not like a game between Manly and Parramatta. People's lives depend upon your better management of the country not your vanity for a win.

Phil Aughey, North Rothbury
Voluntary Assisted Dying Voluntary assisted dying (VAD) has to be an individual's choice, not the choice of someone else's God, or his self-appointed

worldly representatives. If people believe that suffering in dying is their God's will, then they should be allowed to choose to suffer. But surely, any loving and compassionate God would want to end his followers' suffering and grant them comfort, peace and a restored body and mind in heaven.

Geoff Black, Caves Beach
The very painful debate on assisted dying, as highlighted in the interview of Andrew Denton, is

significant on a broader front. I agree people of faith must have the right to practise their beliefs in their everyday lives. However, it is essential that the rest of the population have the right to have freedom from religion in everyday lives. In Australia, the main reason I can think of why religion has been imposed on structural aspects of work and shopping times, and on far more vital issues, is because historically, we have been a predominantly Christian country, with

powerful church interests. Any legislation called "freedom of religion" must be accompanied by laws for "freedom from religion".
Jan Allerton, Huntleys Cove

Submit a letter to the editor

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

or emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au

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The News

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Out & About

with Mike Lowing

Senior Constable Bob Biles retired after 38 years service on the 6 May 2022. A farewell & tribute for his service was held at Miller Park Hotel on 7 May 2022. Approx 100 former work mates, family & friends gathered for a formal farewell. MC for the evening was Chief Inspector & Officer-in-Charge Singleton Joanne Schultz.



■ Brian Furner OAM presents a gift from the Branxton RSL SubBranch in appreciation



■ Chief Inspector & Officer-in-Charge Singleton, Joanne Schultz, presents Bob with a plaque shown bottom left.



■ A memento of 38 years meritorious service



■ Some of the large crowd in attendance

Sow the seeds for autumn gardening - and dining - with Singleton Library

Gardeners sowing late autumn crops are being encouraged to take advantage of the Singleton Seed Library with a range of seeds including broad beans, carrots, cauliflower, beetroot and kale ready to be planted now.

Run by Singleton Library in conjunction with the Singleton Slow Food Group, the Seed Library has grown in popularity since borrowing began six months ago to be largely self-sustaining as gardeners donate seeds back from their harvests.

Vicki Brereton, Singleton Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity, said it was recycling at its best at a time when food prices were on the rise.

"A seed library works much like a traditional library in that seed packets are loaned out to library members in the same way as a book, except that the packet doesn't need to be returned," she said.

"We encourage people borrowing seed packets to harvest seeds from the healthy plants and return them to the Library so they can be loaned to other gardeners in Singleton.

"It's a real success story that the Seed Library is already so popular that we rarely have to buy seeds in because it's largely self-sustained by the number of seeds donated back by local gardeners."

Among the many advantages of the Seed Library, the donated seeds are suitable for the local growing area and climate which offers a greater chance of success in other local gardens.

Seed Library volunteer coordinator and avid gardener Pearl Garrett said she was inspired by a philosophy that "you'll feel happier in yourself if you add one thing you've grown to your plate every day".

"I don't know if that's true or not, but it definitely keeps you grounded, connected to your food, and it's cheaper," she said.

"If you're brand new to gardening, and even if you're not new to gardening and you've got a bare patch of dirt, what's it going to hurt if you go and get a free packet of seeds from the Library and throw them in the ground? If they don't grow, you haven't lost anything except a bit of time, and if they do grow, you can add something you've grown to your plate."

The Seed Library is available to all members of Singleton Library. For more information about the Seed Library, planting your seeds or to volunteer, visit Seed Library | Singleton Council (nsw.gov.au)

■ Photo above: Singleton Seed Library volunteer coordinator Pearl Garrett.



CHARITY PIANO RECITAL FOR



Performed by Phillip Aughey
 Performing works by Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninoff
 Sunday 5th June
 All Saints Church. Singleton
 @ 3:30pm
 \$15 ~ Tickets at the door

Members say ..



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

that when people tell me that I am doing a crap job, or that all politicians are corrupt and should be sacked, that I and the other elected politicians make it safe and possible for people to say things like that in our wonderful democracy. And all that our country asks for, in return for these rights, is for each of us to wander down to a polling booth every now and then and put a few numbers on a piece of paper. Really, it seems so little to ask for such a fantastic gift.

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



Clr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council

We're still basking in the success of Firelight and the Firewalk that wrapped up over the weekend, bringing thousands of people into Singleton town centre for an experience we've never seen before.

With laser lights and projections showcasing the story of our area and supported by the NSW Government's Regional Events Acceleration Fund, the Firelight Festival wasn't just an innovative and immersive event for people of all ages. It was also a sure sign that we are emerging on the other side of COVID lockdowns and social distancing requirements.

On any given weekend, there's a whole range of events and activities for people of all ages happening across our local government area and our region. As a case in point, on the same day as Firelight there was also the Cultural Spectacular at Singleton Showground.

In addition to the obvious social benefits, these events also deliver positive economic impacts for our local businesses and

broader regional economy that will help fuel ongoing growth and opportunities in our own local government area and neighbouring areas such as Branxton.

To that end, Council is proactively developing a range of programs to support both employers and prospective employees. The fully-funded Hospitality Skills Pilot Program in partnership with Training Services NSW and Stride Learning, and funded by the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program, will offer training to 20 participants in response to the skills needs identified by hospitality and tourism operators.

If you're returning to the workforce, a school leaver or considering a career change and are interested in working in the hospitality industry, I encourage you to submit an expression of interest and attend the sign-up day at Singleton Arts and Culture Centre on Thursday 26 May to be considered for the program. For more information about the program, visit Council's website at singleton.nsw.gov.au or contact us on 02 6578 7280. It's great to see people out and about at local events and visiting hospitality businesses again. With plenty to see and do, I'm confident Singleton will continue to grow as a destination as more people discover all that we have to offer.

Cheers, Sue



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

It was heartening to meet and chat to the staff and students of Congewai Public School when they visited Cessnock City Council last week. The students sat in the Councillor's chairs in the Council Chamber and showed such enthusiasm and curiosity about how Local Government works. They asked the tough questions and shared what they'd like to see happen across the LGA. They dreamed big, with an Aquarium being one of their suggestions and a "Forest where the animals can just be themselves". It was wonderful to host these potential future leaders, and I look forward to hosting more local school groups in the future.

Supporting local business is one of my key priorities as

Mayor and I am pleased to see Council hosting more and more events that do just this. Council will be hosting a local business networking event from 12 to 2.30pm on Friday 10 June at the Grand Mercure Hunter Valley Gardens, Pokolbin.

Participants will hear from keynote speaker, Carolyn Miller who will present tips for businesses to foster their audience, employees and customers through digital marketing and engagement. I strongly encourage local businesses to come along to this event, meet like-minded business owners, and learn practical tips on how to boost their business. Tickets are just \$10 and can be booked via Council's website.

It's not too late to have your say on the *Draft Community Strategic Plan Cessnock 2036*, the *Delivery Program 2022-26*, and the *Operational Plan and Budget 2022-23*. These are the plans that guide all that we do at Council, which is why it is so important to hear from our community to be sure we have everyone's input. The success of our community relies heavily on our ability to strategically plan for the future and deliver positive outcomes for all residents. I am pleased that Council's Operational Plan includes an impressive \$53.8 million Capital Works Program for 2022-23, \$28 million of which is grant funded. In line with community feedback, local roads and pathways will receive a \$27 million investment in 2022-23, and the roads maintenance budget sees a 14.3% increase to \$5.8 million. A few highlights in the 2022-23 budget include the commencement of the RFS Aviation Fire Base project, the Bridges Hill to Wine Country Drive shared pathway, and the completion of the Branxton to Greta Cycleway. I encourage local residents to visit Council's website to view the plans and share their input before the consultation closes on 3 June.

Cheers, Jay



Member for Hunter
Daniel Repacholi MP

ABOUT Dan Repacholi is a five-time Olympian and Commonwealth Games Gold Medalist. At 15, he finished school and got his trade as a fitter and turner. He has worked as a coal miner and most recently was manager for a medium sized machinery sales business that services the mining and agricultural sectors. Dan is married to his wife

Alex, and they are raising their two young girls together. He has worked hard his whole life to build a better future for himself, and his family. Dan Repacholi will be a strong voice for the Hunter. EDITOR



Member for Upper Hunter
Dave Layzell MP

State Matters
CBP 2022, APPLY NOW
APPLICATIONS are now open for the 2022 Community Building Partnership (CBP) grant funding program.

The Upper Hunter Electorate has been allocated \$400,000 for community infrastructure projects. Local councils and not-for-profit groups are urged to apply for the funds to deliver projects with social, environmental and recreational outcomes.

Local sports clubs, charities, schools and museums are just some of the groups that can benefit from the CBP program.

Applications must be submitted by 5pm Friday 10 June with more information available at:

www.nsw.gov.au/cbp

STAMP DUTY CHANGE

New laws passed in the NSW Parliament last week will benefit family-owned farming businesses with stamp duty exemptions extended on the transfer of primary production land to a company or other entity directed by a family member.

Under the current stamp duty legislation, if someone wanted to pass their farm on to a child's trust or

company to operate, there would be stamp duty charged on that transfer. As of 1 July, the new laws will help ensure the removal of stamp duty for family-owned companies, trusts or entities helping support the next generation of NSW farmers.

The transferee would need to maintain control of the entity for a period of at least three years after purchase to ensure the integrity of the exemption. There are almost 150,000 primary production properties in NSW that may be eligible for this proposed exemption.

FREE DRONE TRAINING

Free drone training will help Upper Hunter electorate farmers apply new technologies to make life on the land more productive and prosperous. In-demand training is being made available at Paterson, Scone and Coolah to help primary producers reap the benefits of new and emerging technologies

The courses funded by the NSW Government under the AgSkilled 2.0 program are at Scone on Wednesday 8 June and Thursday 9 June at Coolah.

For course bookings visit: www.agskilled.org.au/events-list and to discover more about AgSkilled 2.0 got to: www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/vocational/vet-programs/agskilled

FUTURE FARMING OPPORTUNITIES

Budding agriculturalists are being encouraged to get involved in the NSW Government's new Agricultural Pathways Program.

Recent school graduates are being targeted to join the managing teams of the Department of Primary Industries' 13,000-hectare research station program. The program adds to the Government's approach to support the future agriculture workforce of

NSW, with education and skill-based programs that start in primary and secondary school, through to tertiary and post-tertiary education levels, including Indigenous Pathway opportunities and the dedicated educational institution Tocal College. Like many industries, agriculture is faced with the ongoing challenge of an ageing workforce – with the average age of farmers in NSW being 58-60.

EV CHARGING GRANTS

The NSW Government is offering \$20 million in grants to establish up to 3,500 electric vehicle (EV) chargers for Australia's largest destination charging network.

A range of destinations can apply including motels, wineries, cafes, restaurants, natural attractions, visitor information centres and museums.

The co-funded grants will be for between \$2,000 and \$40,000 per site for EV chargers in regional NSW, with the aim of boosting regional tourism.

The EV destination charging grants can be used for the purchase and installation of select electric vehicle (EV) chargers as well as software to tap into the smart capabilities of each charger.

Further details at: www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au/reducing-emissions-nsw/electric-vehicles/electric-vehicle-destination-charging-grants

Cheers, Dave

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News

P: 4938 1773

Pharmacist Advice *with*



Mouth Ulcers

Mouth ulcers are small, painful sores inside the mouth. They usually occur on the inside of the lips and cheeks and underneath and on the edge of the tongue. Medicines available from a pharmacist may reduce the pain and help mouth ulcers to heal. Mouth ulcers occur on the inside lining of the mouth. Blisters or sores on the lips or around the outside of the mouth are not mouth ulcers. Most mouth ulcers are not harmful and heal on their own in 7–14 days.

Signs and symptoms
Mouth ulcers are small round or oval sores. They are usually yellow, white or grey in the centre, and red and swollen around the edges. They can be very painful and make it hard to eat, speak and swallow.

Causes
Mouth ulcers are often caused by injury to the lining of the mouth or tongue. Sometimes the cause of a mouth ulcer is not known.

Medicines
Medicines may reduce the pain and speed the healing of mouth ulcers. You can buy mouth ulcer treatments from a pharmacy without a prescription. They are available as pastes, gels, paints, lozenges and mouth washes.

Pastes

- form a protective, soothing layer over the mouth ulcer
- may contain a medicine to reduce pain and swelling.

Gels, paints, lozenges

- may contain an antiseptic to prevent bacteria infecting the

Sausage, eggplant and tomato casserole



**10m prep/4h
20m cook/4 servings**
This sausage and eggplant casserole recipe requires a slow cooker. If you don't have one, just simmer gently over a low heat for a few hours.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 8 lean beef sausages

- 1 large brown onion, **chopped**
- 2** garlic cloves, **crushed**
- 2** eggplant, **chopped**
- 3/4** tsp **chilli flakes**
- 400g** can **diced tomatoes**
- 1** cup **Massel chicken style liquid stock**
- 1/4** cup **flat-leaf parsley leaves, chopped**

METHOD



Step 1
Heat oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add sausages and cook, turning occasionally, for 2 to 3 minutes or until evenly browned. Remove to a plate lined with paper towel.

Step 2
Add onion, garlic and eggplant to pan. Cook, stirring often, for 5 minutes or until eggplant is golden. Stir in chilli and tomatoes. Cook for 5 minutes or until sauce thickens.

Step 3
Add stock and bring to the boil. Spoon eggplant mixture into slow cooker. Add sausages. Cover and cook on HIGH for 4 hours or LOW for 6 hours.

Step 4
Stir in parsley. Season with pepper. Serve with steamed vegetables and crusty bread, if desired.

ulcer

- may contain medicines to reduce pain and swelling.

Mouthwashes

- are useful to treat mouth ulcers in hard-to-reach places
- may contain an antiseptic to stop bacteria infecting the ulcer

- may contain medicines to reduce pain and swelling.

Self care

- Try to avoid foods and drinks which cause or irritate your mouth ulcers.

- Keep your mouth and teeth clean with regular brushing and flossing. If an ulcer makes it too painful to brush your teeth, use an antiseptic mouthwash to keep your mouth clean.

- Avoid using mouthwashes that contain alcohol. It can dry out your mouth and make mouth ulcers worse.

- Brush your teeth gently, using a soft toothbrush.

- Try using a pain-relieving medicine before eating.

- Try sucking on ice to help ease the pain.

- Have your dentures checked regularly



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Sydney's vacancy rate remains steady, as Hunter and Illawarra regions tighten

The REINSW Vacancy Rate survey results for March 2022 show that residential vacancies in Sydney remain steady.

"After dropping for four consecutive months, the vacancy rate for Sydney overall rose slightly by 0.1% last month to be 2.2%," REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said. "Both the Middle and Outer Rings saw increases to be 2.7% (+0.3%) and 1.7% (+1.2%) respectively. Vacancies in the Inner Ring decreased by 0.2% to be 2.6%."

Outside Sydney, finding a home to rent continues to present a challenge for tenants.

"In Newcastle, vacancies fell by 0.4% to be 1.9% and the Hunter region overall dropped to 1.0% (-0.2%)," Mr McKibbin said. "And while the rate for Wollongong rose by 0.3% to 0.7% for the month, a sharp decrease in vacancies across the rest of the region saw the Illawarra record a result of just 0.6%, which is down from 1.1% in February."

Vacancy rates across the rest of regional New South Wales remain low.

"Rates for the Central Coast, Mid-North Coast, Murrumbidgee, Northern Rivers and South Coast areas all rose," Mr McKibbin said. "The Albury, Central West, Coffs Harbour, New England, Riverina and South East areas all recorded drops."

"As has been the case for much of the last two years, sourcing rental stock continues to be an issue across all areas of New South Wales."

"With the cost-of-living continuing to rise, our member agents are telling us about Mum and Dad investors who are selling their hard-earned investment properties just to pay their bills each month. With so little stock on the market, these properties are being snapped up by home buyers. The flow-on impact is the removal of these properties from the residential rental market."

House prices hit a 20 year record for annual growth

House prices have increased at the highest rates in two decades with a rise of 25.1% for the twelve months ending December 2021, the latest Real Estate Institute of Australia's (REIA) Real Estate Market Facts has found.

REIA President Hayden Groves said the weighted average median house price for the eight capital cities increased to \$1,021,710 for the December quarter. "Over the quarter, the median house price increased in all capital cities except Darwin. At \$1,601,467, Sydney's quarterly median house price continues to be the highest amongst the capital cities, 56.7% higher than the national average."

"At \$525,000, my home town of Perth remains the most affordable with the lowest median house price across Australian capital cities, 48.6% lower than the national average."

"With Western Australia finally opening the borders it will be interesting to watch how this impacts on property prices," he said.

Mr Groves said it is the first time since June 2002 that the annual increase has been higher than 20.0%.

"The weighted average median price for other dwellings, such as villas and flats, for the eight capital cities increased to \$658,577 a quarterly increase of 1.8%."

"Over the quarter, the median price for other dwellings increased in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Hobart but declined in Adelaide, Canberra and Darwin."

"At \$802,255, Sydney's median price for other dwellings continues to be the highest amongst the capital cities, 21.8% higher than the national average. At \$412,500, Adelaide has the lowest median price for other dwellings across Australian capital cities, 38.2% lower than the national average."

According to Mr Groves, over the 12 months to the December quarter, the weighted average capital city median price for other dwellings increased to \$471 per week, a rise of 1.5% over the quarter.

"Over the December quarter, the weighted average median rent for 3 bedroom houses in the eight capital cities increased to \$471 per week, a quarterly increase of 1.5%."

"The median rent for 3 bedroom houses increased in all capital cities except Sydney, where it remained

stable and Darwin where it decreased by 3.7%. "During the quarter, the weighted average median rent for 2 bedroom other dwellings increased to \$435 a week. The median rent increased in all capital cities except in Sydney, where it remained stable and Darwin where it decreased 0.5%," Mr Groves said.

Mr Groves said investor and regional activity remained strong with property seen to be a 'go to' investment destination with growing global uncertainty. "Regional markets have generally enjoyed a period of sustained growth with key centres like Wollongong (30.4%), Launceston (49.3%), Sunshine Coast (32.9%) and Mt Gambier (14.9%) recording large annual increases."

REINSW Responds to Release of Housing Affordability Inquiry Report

Real Estate Institute of NSW (REINSW) CEO Tim McKibbin responds to the Report of the Federal Inquiry into Housing Affordability and Supply released today:

"Solving the affordability crisis requires coordinated actions across all levels of Government and while there is no single solution, increasing the supply of property is the most important action with the potential to have the greatest impact," Mr McKibbin says.

"The Report's recommendations for incentivising high quality, higher density living close to public transport, particularly under-utilised public transport, is a no-brainer. But the planning process stands in the way of an appropriate development response."

"The planning system in NSW is nothing short of atrocious. It is typical for it to take longer to be granted development approval than it takes to complete the construction phase of the project."

"Other recommendations around property tax reform, and replacing stamp duty with land tax, are not new. Stamp duty is clearly an enormous barrier to affordability but all three levels of Government are overly dependent on property tax."

"The combination of this dependency adds over 40% to the cost of new property paid by the purchaser. Replacing stamp duty with an annual property tax does not remove Government's dependency on property tax. It is essentially a rebranding exercise."

"Ultimately, the reforms need to target the needs of first home buyers. Enabling first home buyers to access more money merely increases the debt they will have to service. Instead, alleviating the tax burden on this cohort will make property more affordable, help them service a more appropriate loan for them, while not inflating prices."

"This latest Inquiry into housing affordability is not the first and findings of past inquiries remain unaddressed or have focused on demand strategies, which will not solve a supply problem."

"Let's hope this time, that recommendations around supply translate to real actions and Government recognises the need to wean itself of property taxes," he says.

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WHEN DO YOU NEED TO REVISIT YOUR ESTATE PLANNING?



Getting your affairs in order and your estate plan provides a feeling of comfort and can often be one of those things that can often linger on your "to do" list.

Once you have put it in place however it is important to be mindful that there are some significant life events that can impact on your estate planning in the future.

Some key things to keep in mind are as follows: -

1. If you separate or become estranged from a spouse (including a marital or civil partner) these events generally will not have the effect of automatically revoking your will, any Enduring Power of Attorney or Binding Death Benefit Nomination/s.
2. If you enter into a defacto relationship, then this will not revoke your Will, your Enduring Power of Attorney or your Binding

3. If you divorce, marry or commence or terminate a civil partnership (including same sex), your Will and/or your Enduring Power of Attorney may be automatically revoked (either partially or fully) however your Binding Death Benefit Nomination/s may not be affected.
4. If you have a child then this does not have the effect of revoking your Will or Binding Death Benefit Nomination/s. That child may be entitled to make a Family Provision claim against your Estate which has the result of significant costs and delays to the administration of your Estate. It is also important to update your Will to

nominate who you would like to appoint as your Guardian of any child under the age of 18 years.

5. If a beneficiary mentioned in your Will dies and there are no succeeding beneficiaries referred to in your Will, then their entitlements may be distributed in accordance with the intestacy rules. Similarly, if a beneficiary mentioned in your Binding Death Benefit Nomination/s dies, then your superannuation death benefits will be paid to a spouse, child, dependent or your estate as determined in the superannuation trustee's absolute discretion.

If any of these life events occur, it will be necessary for you to have your Estate Plan reviewed and potentially make a new Will, Enduring Power of Attorney and relevant Binding Death Benefit Nomination/s to help ensure that your wishes are carried into effect.

Upcoming Events



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Sat 10th Dec—Xmas Twilight Market

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already excited and preparing for their next debates against Kurri Public and Cessnock West Public Schools. Teams with two wins or more progress to the finals of the Hunter zone in term 3. Good luck 'Bandits'. Continue to stay updated about school events through Skool-Bag and our Facebook.

Branxton Public School

We participated in Walk Safely to School Day last week with groups walking from Branxton and North Rothbury. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the walk, despite being a bit chilly! We all appreciated the fruit on our arrival to school, provided by the P&C. Branxton Senior Debating team, the 'Branxton Bandits' travelled to Bellbird Public School last Wednesday for their first debate of the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge. The adjudicator, Anthony Davey, was very complimentary of both team's ability to construct solid arguments, deliver persuasive speeches and include rebuttals to many points made on the topic of

education. While Bellbird walked away with the first win in the round-robin style debating competition, Branxton Bandits are

Calendar
Wednesday 25th May – PBL Assembly
Wednesday 25th May – National Simultaneous Storytime



Branxton Bandits

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



Walking safely to school

Police step out to protect victims of domestic violence

Police have conducted more than 8000 proactive compliance checks on domestic violence offenders and made 158 arrests during a state-wide operation focusing on reducing domestic and family violence incidents. Operation Protector took place from Thursday 12 May 2022 to Saturday 14 May 2022 as part of the continued approach by police to prevent domestic violence crimes and enhance community safety. The operation was led and coordinated by North West Metropolitan Region, with the support of High Risk Domestic Violence Offender Teams (HRDVOT) and Police Area Commands and Districts across the state.

It involved police:

- arresting domestic violence offenders,
- conducting proactive compliance checks for both Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs) and bail compliance,
- engaging with high-risk domestic violence offenders,
- liaising with victims identified through Domestic Violence Safety



Action Meetings (DVSAM) to ensure their safety and welfare. Police Commissioner Karen Webb said police respond to 400 domestic and family violence calls for assistance every day. "Police across the state are conducting an increased volume of domestic violence risk monitoring than ever before," Commissioner Webb said. "That means making our presence known to people who have committed these offences and are currently under strict conditions regarding their behaviour and movement." "We know that it takes a significant amount of strength and courage for victims of domestic violence to come forward to police. As an organisation, we are completely committed to ensuring that once they do, we help to take care of them." Deputy Premier and Minister for Police Paul Toole said police would continue to monitor known perpetrators to prevent them from reoffending and to keep victims safe.

"These crimes often take place in the home, behind closed doors, and we're making it our business to stamp this insidious behaviour out," Mr Toole said.

"Any amount of time police spend knocking on doors and checking on previous offenders, who are subject to an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order or bail condition, is time well spent.

"This type of police work can often go unnoticed, but it sends a strong message that we have zero tolerance for these crimes."

Throughout the three-day operation, police effected the following results:

- 8323 x ADVO compliance checks
 - 112 x breach of ADVO incidents
 - 907 x bail compliance checks
 - 58 x breach of bail incidents
 - 158 x arrests made
 - 382 x DV Suspect Target Management Plan case actions recorded
- Corporate Sponsor for Domestic Violence, Acting Deputy Commissioner Leanne McCusker said a key part of reducing the volume of these crimes was targeting reoffending.

"Police are taking a continued approach to prevent and reduce domestic violence including holding offenders accountable for their behaviour and ensuring compliance with Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders and Bail conditions," Acting Deputy Commissioner McCusker said.

"It's more important than ever that any breaches of these orders are reported to police so that the appropriate action can be taken to hold offenders to account.

"Domestic violence is a crime and we encourage anyone experiencing domestic violence to report it to police – report early and if the behaviour continues, report often."

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'Closures of fire stations putting communities at risk'~ Clayton Barr MP

As many as 50 fire stations around NSW have been added to the list of stations that could be temporarily shut on any given day due to budget cuts. On the list are fire stations in Abermain, Bellbird, Kearsley and Paxton. The process known as TOLing has created fears that lives and property could be endangered by longer response times during an emergency. Science tells us that the first 5-10 minutes are crucial after a fire alarm has been raised.

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP is concerned regarding the process of TOLing (Taking Stations Offline) and the impact of closing, depending on staff availability each day, the fire stations of Abermain, Bellbird, Kearsley and Paxton. Geographically, this creates large distances between stations that would be open and active.

Labor confirmed in Budget Estimates on 5 November 2021 that Fire and Rescue NSW



heading into winter and that the closure of fire stations would require crews to be sent further afield to answer emergencies. The practice of TOLing (Taking Stations Offline) is extremely dangerous not only for the community but delayed response also puts firefighters at risk. "Taking local fire stations offline causes delays in the response time for emergencies as they have to come from other areas, this poses a real risk to people lives, the lives for emergency personnel and heightens the risk of damage to properties" said Clayton Barr. "Our area have seen rapid population growth recently, the NSW Government should be investing in Fire Stations and not shutting them down and decreasing fire services" said Mr Barr.

proposes to let additional stations be temporarily closed when available staff fall below four. Instead of back-filling these stations with temporary staff, to keep them open, the Government will allow them to temporarily shut their doors. This is concerning as the state is

leaves our communities exposed. Residents in Kearsley, Bellbird, Paxton, Abermain and surrounding areas deserve adequate resourced local fire stations and they should not have to wait for fire trucks from other areas to arrive"



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Richmond Vale Rail Trail one step closer to becoming a reality

Another milestone towards the Richmond



Vale Rail Trail (RVRT) becoming a reality has been achieved with a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) now on public exhibition.

The proposed trail is a 32km cycling and walking track along the former Richmond Vale railway between Kurri Kurri and Hexham/Shortland.

This regionally significant trail traverses the three Local Government Areas of Newcastle (14.9km), Lake Macquarie (2.7km) and Cessnock, with 14.4km of the trail located in the Cessnock LGA.

To seek relevant development approvals, the trail has been divided into two sections, Shortland to Tarro and Pambalong (Newcastle LGA), and Stockrington to Kurri Kurri (Lake Macquarie and Cessnock LGAs). The Stockrington to Kurri Kurri Section of the rail trail is the focus of this REF and the portion of the trail now on public exhibition.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said the REF will take us one step closer to this fantastic project becoming a reality.

"The trail aims to support future growth in the Lower Hunter region, provide a safe alternative for active transport between communities, and provide better recreational access to the local natural environment," Cr Suvaal said.

"Once complete, the RVRT will provide a safe cycling and walking experience between Kurri Kurri and Newcastle for locals and visitors alike to enjoy," Cr Suvaal said.

The total estimated cost to complete the RVRT is over \$26 million, and its finalisation is subject to grant funding. Council staff will actively seek grant funding opportunities to get this project off the ground.

The RVRT REF is open for feedback until 5pm on Sunday 3 July 2022. For more information, and have your say, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/

RichmondValeRailTrailREF






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May 4th, a total of over \$1,500 in donations were made to the following organisations:

- Lions Rheumatism and Arthritis Medical Research Foundation, Australia
- Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) – distributes funds for relief to natural disasters and extreme weather events.
- Australian Lions Foundation (ALF) – distributes grants to deserving causes and relief of disasters.
- West Maitland Centenary Lions Club Cancer Research Appeal
- Deaf & Blind Children Charity
- Lions Prostate Cancer Research Foundation, Australia.

Branxton Lions have regular meetings twice per month – the first Wednesday is the management meeting – 4pm at Branxton Golf Club and the third Thursday of the month is the social lunch at 1200 midday which is held at a café / restaurant somewhere in Branxton or Greta. All members of the community are very welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:

Branxton Rodeo – was **POSTPONED** from Saturday 21st May due to the water-logged ground – **WATCH THIS SPACE** for the new date.

Wednesday 1st June - Lions Club of Branxton Management Board Meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club.

Thursday 16th June - **Branxton Lions Changeover dinner and Induction of nine new Lions members.**

Saturday 25th June – Bunnings BBQ at Singleton

Wednesday 6th July - Lions Club of Branxton Management Board Meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club.

Thursday 21st July – Lions lunch with visit from the Lions District 201 N3 Governor, Denise Bruce.

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.

Bunnings Singleton Branch for Mother's Day treats!



Branxton Lions BBQ at Bunnings Singleton

Branxton Lions were back to their traditional activities of providing sausage sandwiches and soft drinks at the site of Bunnings Warehouse at Singleton. That was Saturday May 6 and there was a buzz around the following day - Mother's Day - due to the mega-raffle that the Lions held with three major prizes.

The prizes were generously donated by Piggott's Pharmacy Branxton, the IGA supermarket at Branxton and Branxton Lions members. Pictured here are the fabulous three prizes and the prize ticket draw that was kindly undertaken by Bunnings manager, Martin, ably assisted by Branxton Lions Treasurer, Cathy Murray. The prize winners were: 1st prize – Carol (from Cessnock); 2nd prize – Di; and 3rd prize – Nikki.



The three major raffle prizes for the Mother's Day Draw from Branxton Lions



Bunnings manager, Martin assisted by Branxton Lions Treasurer, Cathy Murray drawing the winning raffle tickets.



Lions Colleens, Ken and Cathy beaver away inside the BBQ kiosk.

PROJECTS:
Digital Devices courses A course for people over 50 will commence on 19th July at Miller Park Hotel 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
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. Native species of plants will be used such as: *Xerochrysum* (Strawflower) and/or *Goodenia ovata*.
Donations from money raised by Branxton Lions events
 Money raised from the Branxton Lions Mother's Day raffle (along with other Lion's funds) was swiftly dispersed and donated to deserving causes. At the Branxton Lions management meeting on

Donors and participants in Lions events should know that every dollar raised by Lions Clubs goes straight to a deserving cause – there are no deductions or costs taken out of the total raised. **There is a Tavern in the Town - All work and no play makes Jack??** On Thursday 19th May, members of the Lions Club of Branxton mustered at the Huntlee Tavern for a social lunch along with a welcome to several new members. A good time was had by all in convivial company and absolutely no work.

Lions Australia / Ecycle Solutions Household Battery Recycling Project. It will be nationwide – AND is now at Greta!

Did you know only 5% of all spent household batteries in Australia are re-cycled and they should not be disposed of in the household garbage due to their toxicity. So, please discard your dead batteries the safe way - in the cardboard receptacle based in Greta Compounding Pharmacy, 104 High Street Greta. This is part of a government project to ensure correct disposal of spent batteries – to recycle the contents of the batteries and prevent them from going to landfill refuse sites where they can cause contamination. All types of household batteries can be collected, including hearing aid (button) batteries, flashlight batteries, and remote-control batteries. So please do your bit to protect the environment and throw your spent batteries into the Lions collection box – the helpful staff at Greta Pharmacy will assist if necessary.



Alan Beckley from Branxton Lions showing how the collection box works to Phil Smith, Head Pharmacist at Greta Compounding Pharmacy.

Environment World Environment Day



Sunday 5th June 2022 Theme: **Only One Earth**

It will focus on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature, and our possibilities for shifting to a greener lifestyle through both policies and individual choices. "Only One Earth" was the motto for the 1972 Stockholm Conference. You can also participate in the event by planting trees on Sunday July 1st which is **National Tree Day**.

Jack minds. NOBODY CHOOSES DIABETES. END DIABETES BLAME & SHAME. HEADSUP ON DIABETES & STIGMA. NATIONAL DIABETES WEEK 2021. diabetes australia

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.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Cessnock City Council ~ local works Camp Road, Greta

- Project type ~ Road upgrade
 - Project schedule ~ Construction is estimated to begin mid 2022
- Council received funding under Round 7 of the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program for the upgrade of Camp Road, Greta.

Scope of work

The construction works will include:

- shoulder widening
- road pavement rehabilitation
- sealing and line-marking
- signage

NBN relocation scope to include:

- boring line relocation closer to the boundary
- reconnection to pits
- installation of new pits

Progress

The works are scheduled to commence following the completion of Anvil Creek Bridge, Greta. Construction is estimated to begin Mid 2022 and works are expected to take approximately twelve weeks to complete, weather permitting. Preconstruction works of NBN relocation to commence 10 May 2022 for approximately 2 weeks.

Traffic control

During the course of the works, unavoidable traffic disruptions will occur. Traffic control measures will be in place to minimise disruption and specific arrangements will be made for affected residents to access their properties. The Contractor will endeavour to keep residents informed of the timing and duration of the disruptions as work progresses.

Location

The works are located at the southern end of Mansfield Street for approximately 500 metres.

New training program boosts opportunities for local job seekers in the hospitality industry

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

Singleton Council has developed the fully-funded Hospitality Skills

Pilot Program in partnership with Training Services NSW and Work Savvy which will offer training to 20 participants in response to the skills needs identified by hospitality and tourism operators across the LGA for more appropriately-trained staff to help run their businesses.

Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity said people interested in working in the hospitality industry – whether they were school leavers, returning to work or considering a career change – should submit an expression of interest and attend the sign-up day at Singleton Arts and Culture Centre tomorrow Thursday 26 May to be considered for the program.

Training modules include responsible service of alcohol, use of hygienic practices for food safety, prepare and serve espresso coffee as well as work experience at a local venue.

"We know our hospitality business owners are looking for great local staff to put on their rosters, and this innovative new program provides job seekers with the training they need to ensure they're job-ready," she said.

"Best of all, those who successfully complete the program will receive the opportunity to meet with local employers, connecting them directly with our local businesses. "Whether you're a school leaver, returning to work after a break or having a child, or just looking for a career change and want to get your foot in the door in the hospitality industry, I encourage you to submit an expression of interest and get involved in this fantastic training opportunity."

Participants will be required to attend one day of training per week over a five-week period. To submit an expression of interest, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J6GFQVQ>.

The Hospitality Skills Pilot Program is the pilot step in connecting training programs with local Singleton workers and employers and will help to inform more long-term future hospitality programs, as well as address shorter term needs of local hospitality and tourism industries. The Program is funded by the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program.

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



Photo above: Singleton Council's Employment Pathways Advisor Riki Ward, Singleton Diggers CEO Michael Titow, Singleton Council's Director Organisation + Community Capacity Vicki Brereton

Free support to help community members improve their reading or writing



L-R Singleton Neighbourhood Centre adult literacy volunteer tutors Jason Grainger and Renia Woodard with Singleton Council's Team Leader Library Programs Rob Stewart.

Anyone who wants to improve their reading, writing or spelling can access one-on-one tutoring as part of a free, discreet program run by Singleton Public Library that is branching out to Singleton Youth Venue and Singleton Neighbourhood Centre.

Singleton is one of the few libraries in NSW with a specialised adult literacy program to connect volunteer tutors with people looking for support.

Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity said the program was an example of the tangible assistance available to everyone in our community to improve all aspects of their lives.

The program works by training volunteers to be qualified to deliver one-on-one support sessions for members of the community.

"Literacy skills underpin digital literacy skills and challenges in this area can limit a person's employment options, impact their ability to engage with the world around them and influence their feelings of self worth," Mrs Brereton said.

"A new cohort of adult literacy tutors were trained at a session delivered by the Chair of Adult Learning Australia, Jo Medlin at the Library last month, which has expanded the number of volunteers we have to work with people.

"We're now reaching out to people who would like to work on their reading and writing to encourage them to be involved in the program.

"We understand it can be difficult for people to ask for help. Depending on the learner's preference, sessions can be conducted in the Library, at Singleton Youth Venue or Singleton Neighbourhood Centre in the privacy of meeting rooms."

If you or someone you know wants to improve their reading, writing or spelling, please contact Singleton Public Library on 02 6578 7500 or email library@singleton.nsw.gov.au

Have your say on Cessnock City plans for our future

Cessnock City Council is seeking feedback on the Draft *Community Strategic Plan Cessnock 2036*, the *Delivery Program 2022-26*, and the *Operational Plan and Budget 2022-23*.

The *Community Strategic Plan* is the highest level strategy that Council prepares as part of its Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. It identifies the community's main priorities for the future, and is the guiding document for Council's programs, plans and reports.

Council's *Operational Plan* includes an impressive \$53.8 million Capital Works Program for 2022-23, \$28 million of which is grant funded, while remaining in surplus. There has also been an increase in resourcing to fast-track this largely grant funded program of works, as well as an investment in trainee and apprentice roles.

In line with community feedback, local roads and pathways will receive a \$27 million investment in 2022-23, and the roads maintenance budget sees a 14.3% increase to \$5.8 million.

The Draft *Delivery Program 2022-26* incorporates hundreds of projects and initiatives that will provide far reaching social, economic and environmental benefits to our community.

Highlights of the 2022-23 Budget include:

- Commencement of the RFS Aviation Fire Base
 - Completion of Cessnock Airport upgrade
 - Completion of the Branxton to Greta Cycleway
 - Bridges Hill to Wine Country Drive shared pathway
 - Continuing upgrade works on Wollombi Road
 - Kurri Kurri Town Centre upgrade
 - Black Spot road renewal works at George Downes Drive, Bucketty and Oakey Creek Road, Cessnock
 - Watagan Creek, Laguna bridge replacement
 - Sandy Creek Road, Quorrobolong road renewal
- The voices of local residents are critical to ensure Council is meeting the community's needs, and getting these plans right.

Residents can provide feedback on the *Draft Community Strategic Plan 2036*, the *Delivery Program 2022-26*, and the *Operational Plan and Budget 2022-23* by visiting the Have your say page on Council's website.



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

What's On

Wednesday: Social Bowls ~ Names in by 3pm Start 3:30pm ALL WELCOME
Thursday: * Miller Park Bowlers Raffle ~ 6 x meat trays, 4 x 6 pack of beer & 3 x \$25 Bistro vouchers
 * Spin Betty's Wheel ~ only \$2 per number with chance to win \$25; Ticket sales from 5pm, draw 6pm
Friday: Community Meat Raffle; 20 x Meat Trays, a carton of beer and the "Big Kahuna" tray worth \$100. Tickets go on sale at 5:30pm and will be drawn at 7pm. May beneficiary is Branxton Tennis Club
Saturday: * **Social Bowls** Names in by 12:30pm & 1pm start
 * **Karaoke** ~ every second Saturday from 14th may. 8pm start

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- * **Catering for all functions**
- * **Barefoot Bowls**
- * **Parties welcome**

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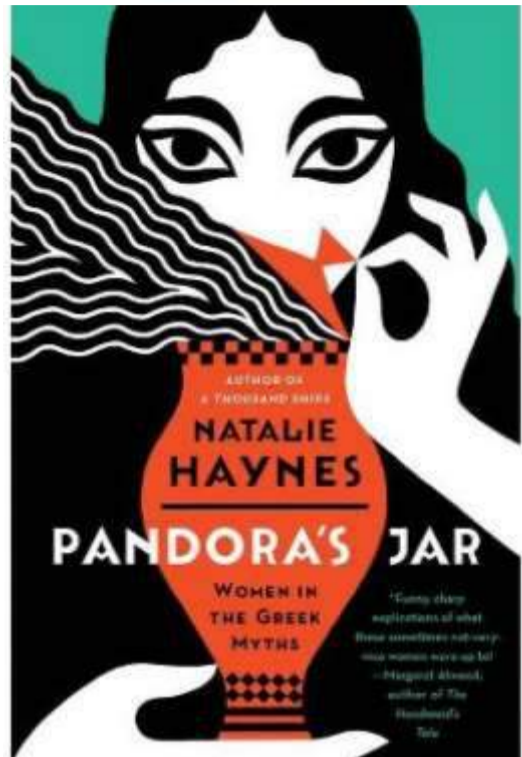
Lovely spacious family home on approx half an acre.

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- Separate lounge room
- Decking at rear
- Large water tanks
- Plenty of good shedding
- Double garage currently used as a studio

All this set on over 2000 square metres

ASKING \$620,000



Agile, rich, subversive: Pandora's Jar by Natalie Haynes proves that the classics are far from dead, and keep evolving with us

By MADELEINE FEENY

Swinging a baseball bat, Beyoncé sings: 'What's worse, looking jealous or crazy?' The Hold Up music video shows a woman betrayed by the man she loves. Medea – who murders her husband's lover, then her own children – asks herself the same question in Euripides' play, first staged in 431 BC. Medea's reaction to infidelity is so drastic, so enduringly taboo, that most modern productions depict her as mad. But, Natalie Haynes emphasises, she is not.

Such striking pop-cultural references make for a refreshing take on Greek mythology. Little wonder, for Haynes has forged a career reinvigorating the classics. In Pandora's Jar, her second non-fiction book, she unravels ten women's myths – the conflicting versions, the echoes throughout history – forcing us to re-evaluate figures we thought we knew.

Myths change over time, with each reimagining reflecting contemporary values. To the Ancient Greeks, war was not unequivocally bad. Indeed, they were so fascinated by the Amazons, 'war-loving' female warriors, that only Heracles appears in more vase paintings.

Unlike individualistic male heroes, the Amazons' power is tribal. However, when reinterpreted in the 2017 film Wonder Woman, they are markedly conflict-

averse, until – in a feminist inversion of hero tropes – one woman saves humankind while her male lover dies.

Stories are a matter of perspective, and mythological women's are often overlooked. Many storytellers have been content to leave the female psyche unexamined – but thank Zeus for Euripides, who 'wrote more and better female roles than almost any other male playwright who has ever lived'. Complex, dangerous characters such as Clytemnestra and Phaedra are all the more astonishing when you consider that they would have been performed by male actors, probably watched by all-male audiences.

Haynes has a stand-up comedy background, and her wry wit leavens these grisly tragedies. Her irreverence – Kronos eats his children and 'fails a basic fatherhood test' – has the ring of affectionate family teasing: that's how intimately she knows and loves her subject. Alongside the laughs are rigorous analysis and ethical wrangling, as she considers the dilemmas posed by mythology.

I, Claudius author Robert Graves gets short shrift for the misogynistic distortions of his retellings, while classic children's versions accentuated the malice we now associate with Pandora's jar-opening antics (the apocryphal 'box' can be traced to Erasmus's Latin translation).

In fact, Pandora was created by Zeus to wreak earthly havoc in revenge for Prometheus's theft of fire. She can hardly be blamed for fulfilling her destiny. If I'm ever prosecuted, I'd like Natalie Haynes to



Pandora (Pandora Opens The Box, by Walter Crane, above) was created by Zeus to wreak earthly havoc in revenge for Prometheus's theft of fire

defend me. She argues persuasively, carving out space for women denied a voice (Medusa), overshadowed (Jocasta) and unjustly condemned (Helen of Troy).

She explores feminist literature reclaiming mythological narratives – Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*, Carol Ann Duffy's poem *Eurydice* – and matches entertainment with erudition, discussing Greek linguistic nuance alongside historical context. If anything, I could have done with more of the latter to offset all the myth.

Agile, rich, subversive, Pandora's Jar proves that the classics are far from dead, and keep evolving with us.

ABOUT...

Natalie Haynes
Natalie Louise Haynes (born 1974) is an English writer, broadcaster, classicist, and comedian. Haynes was born in Birmingham, where she attended King Edward VI High School for Girls. She read Classics at Christ's College, Cambridge, and was also a member of Cambridge University Footlights Dramatic Club. Haynes has been a panellist on *Wordaholics*, *We've Been Here Before*, *Banter*, *Quote... Unquote*, *Personality Test*, and *Armando Iannucci's Charm Offensive* on BBC Radio 4 and she has been an announcer on BBC Radio Four Extra. She has contributed to BBC Radio 4 and 7 comedy review show *Serious About Comedy* and reviews films for *Front Row*. Her stand-up has been featured in *Front Row* and *Loose Ends* on BBC Radio 4 and *Spanking New* on BBC 7. She appeared in the BBC Radio 4 *Pick of the Fringe* in 2004 and 2005. She has also appeared on Radio Five Live's *Anita Anand Show*, and *MacAulay and*

Co. on BBC Scotland. In 2005 and 2006, Haynes wrote and presented documentaries on comic writers, for BBC Radio 4. Her subjects included the modern female writers Jessica Mitford and Dorothy Parker, and the classical male writers Aristophanes, Juvenal and Martial. She appears as a critic on *Saturday Review* on BBC Radio 4. On 4 February 2013, she was the star of the BBC Radio 4 programme *With Great Pleasure*. Her guests included the novelist Julian Barnes, who read from one of his own books.

BBC Radio 4 broadcast *Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics*, in which, aided by experts, she makes serious and amusing remarks about historical and mythological figures from ancient Greece and Rome, from Petronius to Sappho. There have been seven series, each containing four episodes of around half an hour. Series five, which was recorded in October–November 2019 and broadcast on Radio 4 from 23 December 2019, included programmes on Aristotle, Claudia Severa, Suetonius, and Homer's *Iliad*. Haynes' guests included Professor Edith Hall and Anita Anand. Series six was broadcast from 17 May 2020 and included episodes about "Helen of Troy" and "Penthesilea, Amazon Warrior Queen", recorded with Professor Edith Hall. Series seven was broadcast from 8 May 2021 - 8 Jun 2021 and included programmes on Medusa, Pandora, Jocasta, and Clytemnestra. Haynes was a regular panellist on BBC's *The Review Show* and was the most-booked guest on More4's *The Last Word*. She appeared as a panellist on BBC 4's *The Book Quiz*,



Natalie Haynes

and on its *Poetry Special* alongside Andrew Motion and George Szirtes. She also appeared on *Backlash*, a BBC2 documentary on voluntary childlessness, wrote and performed in the STV/Assembly Television *Best of the Fest* in August 2005. Haynes has been a panellist on BBC Four's quiz show *Mindgames*, appeared on *Must Try Harder* on BBC Two in 2006 and was the art and literature expert on the BBC Two quiz show *Knowitalls*. In August 2007, she appeared on BBC Four's *The Book Quiz* hosted by David Baddiel. On the programme she admitted researching a book on Wikipedia in order to bluff having read it.

In April 2008, Haynes was a member of the stand-up comedians' team on *University Challenge: The Professionals*. Her team lost to the Ministry of Justice, 100 points to 215. In November 2009, she appeared on BBC One's *Question Time*. In February 2022, Haynes was announced as the new presenter of the online revival of *Time Team*, alongside Gus Casely-Hayford. Haynes has been a guest contributor for *The Times* since October 2006, and a regular contributor to *New Humanist*. She has also written for *The Sunday Times Magazine*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, *The Big Issue*, *Loaded* and *The Independent*. Haynes has toured

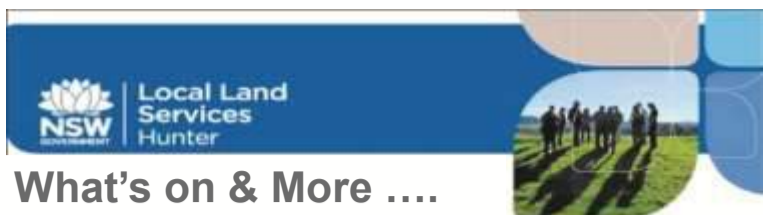
(including Dublin, Berlin to Manhattan) and has performed five Edinburgh Fringe sell-out runs and national tours. She was nominated for the Best Newcomer Award at the 2002 Perrier Comedy Awards, the first woman to receive this nomination. 2002 *Six Degrees of Desolation* (nominated for Perrier Award Best Newcomer) 2003 *Troubled Enough* 2004 *Still Not Sorry* 2005 *Run Or Die* 2006 *Watching the Detectives* Haynes is the only comedian to have appeared at every Newbury Comedy Festival.

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction

(8 May 2022)

- 87 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE by Bessel van der Kolk
How trauma affects the body and mind, and innovative treatments for recovery.
Ranked 2 last week
- 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
FREEZING ORDER by Bill Browder
The author of "Red Notice" tells his story of becoming Vladimir Putin's enemy by uncovering a \$230 million tax refund scheme.
Ranked 1 last week
- NEW THIS WEEK
PLAYING WITH MYSELF by Randy Rainbow
A memoir by the three-time Emmy-nominated comedian known for his online musical and political satires.
- 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
HELLO, MOLLY! by Molly Shannon with Sean Wilsey
The comedic actor shares stories of family tragedy and her years as a star of "Saturday Night Live."
Ranked 3 last week
- 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
LEFT ON TENTH by Delia Ephron
The author and screenwriter describes losing her sister and husband to cancer, finding love again and receiving a leukemia diagnosis.
Ranked 4 last week
- 30 WEEKS ON THE LIST
CRYING IN H MART by Michelle Zauner
The daughter of a Korean mother and Jewish-American father, and leader of the indie rock project Japanese Breakfast, describes creating her own identity after losing her mother to cancer.
Ranked 8 last week
- 36 WEEKS ON THE LIST
BRAIDING SWEETGRASS by Robin Wall Kimmerer
A botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation espouses having an understanding and appreciation of plants and animals.
- 19 WEEKS ON THE LIST
ALL ABOUT LOVE by bell hooks
The late feminist icon explores the causes of a polarized society and the meaning of love.
Ranked 13 last week
- 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST
BITTERSWEET by Susan Cain
The author of "Quiet" suggests ways to embrace loss and suffering within ourselves and others.
Ranked 5 last week
- 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST
PANDORA'S JAR by Natalie Haynes
A re-examination of Greek myths and their female characters through a woman's perspective.



What's on & More

SOIL HEALTH AND ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP | PATERSON

Join us in Paterson for this soil health and assessment workshop. This event will outline the importance of maintaining soil health, good farm management practices and soil health assessment through the Snapshot Assessment Tool. Speakers include presenter Col Freeman, Hunter Local Land Services Pastures Officer, David Deane and Livestock Officer Teresa Hogan. All participants on the day will also receive a free soil test. For further information please contact Albert Mullen on 0428670524 or email Albert.Mullen@lls.nsw.gov.au. Register at Humanitix.

This event is presented by the Farm Business Resilience Program, jointly funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the NSW Department of Primary Industries and delivered by the NSW Local Land Services.

When
27 May 2022 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Region

Hunter

Where

Tocal Dairy Training Centre, 815 Tocal Road Paterson

Hunter Valley Weather Forecast, Australia

The warmest day over the next 25 days weather in Hunter Valley is forecast to be Saturday 28th May 2022 at 23°C (73°F) and the warmest night on Friday 20th May 2022 at 11°C (52°F). The average temperature over the next 25 days in Hunter Valley from this forecast is 18°C (64°F) and there will be 3 days of sunshine .



Racing Review & News

Tenth Winner for Russian Revolution Tara Madgwick - Sunday May 15

Australia's leading first season sire by earnings, Russian Revolution also now leads by winners after posting his tenth winner at the Sunshine Coast y with Ekaterina saluting at her second start. Trained by Rob Heathcote as was her Group II winning mother Funtantes, Ekaterina was third on debut at Doomben in April and improved her to score a determine neck win in the 1000m maiden. Bred and retained to race by the Heathcote family, Ekaterina is a half-sister to this season's outstanding 3YO filly Startantes, who has been twice Group I placed in the Surround Stakes and Flight Stakes. She is the third winner from three foals to race from Funtantes, a Group II winning half-sister to stakes-winner Excellantes.

Million Dollar Snitzel Colt Doull Makes Exciting Debut Mark Smith - Saturday May 14

Expensive Snitzel colt Doull put his opponents to the sword at his career debut over 1100m at

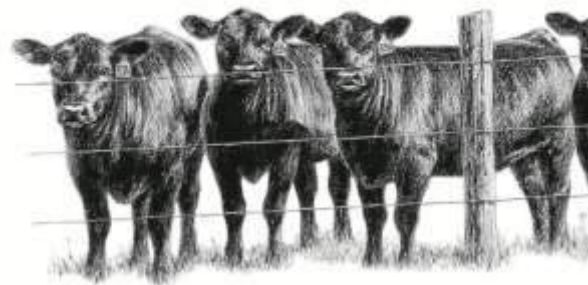


Russian Revolution

Flemington on Saturday, a cause to rejoice for Rosemont Stud, which has heavily invested in the family. Ridden by Jye McNeil for Anthony and Sam Freedman, Doull led at every call to defeat the Magnus debutant Magnaspin by two and three-quarter lengths, with the Rubick colt Nothing Silly a further length back in third. McNeil said it was not the intention to lead. "I had to go to plan B. I was hopeful we'd get the perfect run in behind the speed horses, and the speed horses stayed out wide," McNeill said.

"When we didn't get cover, he raced a bit fresh, so I just went with him, and I felt as though, at that point of the race, the best thing to do down the straight for the first time was give him the rail to follow. Once he got down there, he acquitted himself really well, and we

saw his class." Stable representative Steve Adams said the son of Snitzel is likely to have a break with an eye on the spring. "I liked the way he quickened when he (Jye) asked him to go," Adams said. "He looked like he got a bit lost there late. First time down the straight, obviously, but it looks like he's got a nice action, and he's a nice horse going forward. "I think we'll see him at three. He'll probably go out for a month now, he's had a good look at the straight now, so hopefully, there's a good race for him in the spring. "It's always hard to line up form lines and go through different races, but he's got raw talent, and he's only going to get better with the fitness and the benefit of having a run today. I'm sure the team have a fair idea of where



TRLX Tamworth ~ 23/05/2022

Total Yarding: 1210 | -227

There was a reduction in numbers following more rain over the weekend. All categories were well supplied with young cattle in the majority. The quality and condition of the penning was mostly good. Cattle to suit all buyers. There was a full compliment of the regular buyers in attendance along with a couple of extra orders.

Market trends for vealer steers to restockers were generally cheaper with breed variation accounting for much of the price change. The heavier weights were least affected. There was an isolated breed related dearer sale. Similar trends for the heifer vealers, the lead showing little change. There was strong demand for heavy weight yearling feeder steers. Taking into account both breed and quality variations the market trend was dearer. There was quality related price change in a firm to cheaper market for the yearling heifers to restock and feed.

Steers over 500kg to feed, including milk tooth lines sold to a much dearer market trend. The heavy and extra heavy weight grown steers to process sold to a dearer trend with strong gains in places. Trends varied through the grown heifers with some sales dearer. Breed played a part in some of the negative price change. Heavy weight cows saw little change in market trends.

Market Reporter, James Armitage.

Score ~ 17/05/2022

Total Yarding: 550 | +3

Consignments remained close to equal, week-on-week and the quality was mixed. The bulk entered the younger categories and were more suited for the restocker buyers, with the prime lots to suit the butchers in short supply. Cows made up the majority of the export drafts. The market trend was cheaper.

The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers ranged from 495c to 736c, as the same weight heifer portion also to the restockers made from 480c to 684c/kg. Medium weight yearling steers to the restocker and lot feeder buyers ranged from 470c to 688c, with the heavy weights to the feeders reaching 590c/kg. Yearling heifers to the restockers and lot feeders made from 440c to 586c/kg. The best prime conditioned lot to the butchers reached 586c/kg.

Grown steers and bullocks to the processors received from 390c to 430c, while the older heifers reached 394c/kg.

Cows were mainly heavy weights and those with a good fat cover ranged from 340c to 370c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 300c/kg. The few cows with calves received from \$2,850 to \$3,550/unit.

Please note that this market was reported remotely without the physical presence of the MLA Livestock Reporter.

Market reporter, Neil Geddes

HRLX Singleton ~ 18/05/2022

Total Yarding: 632 | +46

There was an increase in the overall numbers. Vealers made up the bulk of the offering presenting in condition mostly suitable to restockers. There was a fair supply of yearlings and limited numbers of grown cattle. The quality of the young cattle was mostly good. There were still a few secondary and plain quality lots. The usual restocker and feeder orders were in place however there was a less than full compliment of export processors in attendance.

Strong restocker demand combined with the good quality resulted in dearer trends through the vealers. There were good numbers of cattle displaying strong weight for age. In most cases there was significant price improvement.

Yearling steers in the medium weight class attracted keen demand with both breed and quality attracting buyers. Once again Market trends were dearer and substantially so. There were limited supplies of heifer yearlings to suit the trade. Grown steers to feed sold to a much dearer trend. Heavy weights to process were firm to dearer under increased demand. That dearer trend carried into the cow market where trends were up to 16c/kg dearer in the heavy weights.

Market reporter; James Armitage.

Gunnedah ~ 17/05/2022

Total Yarding: 863 | -347

Another rain reduced penning with good falls across the drawing areas. All categories were represented with a good supply of heavy grown steers and bullocks. The quality of the offering was generally good as was condition. Most of the regular buyers were in attendance.

Varying trends for vealer steers to restockers. The lighter weights up to 330kg sold to a dearer trend of as much as 10c/kg, while the heavier weights were cheaper by a similar margin. Breed and quality variations accounted for differing price change. The heifer portion attracted strong restocker competition to sell on a firm to dearer trend. There was little but quality related change on the medium and heavy weight yearling steers. Trends also varied through the yearling heifers, those to feed seeing cheaper trends, while those to restockers were dearer in places. Trade heifers sold to dearer trends with an improvement in quality.

Heavy weight grown steers to process sold to a slightly dearer market trend. The older bullocks were well received.

The best of the heavy weight cows sold to a slightly dearer market trend with some improvement in quality. The plainer grades sold to cheaper trends for the most part.

Market Reporter, James Armitage.



Doull a \$1.2million Inglis Easter yearling

he sits, but he certainly feels like he has class." Doull was a \$1,200,000 purchase for Rosemont Victorian Alliance / Suman Hedge Bloodstock (FBAA) / David Redvers

Bloodstock from the Yarraman Park Stud draft at the 2021 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale. He is a half-brother to the Group III VRC Ottawa Stakes winner Aryaaf

(Epaulette) out of the Listed Merson Cooper Stakes winner Bulbula (Shamardal). In a family developed by Shadwell Stud, Bulbula is a half-sister to Group III

VRC Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes winner Khulassa (Epaulette). At the 2021 Shadwell Dispersal, Rosemont Stud purchased Bulbula for \$1,350,000 and Khulaasa for the same amount, and Aryaaf for \$800,000.

Bulbula has a yearling colt by Zoustar, purchased for \$700,000 by Rosemont Stud/Bahen Bloodstock at the Magic Millions National Weanling Sale. Bulbula was covered by Snitzel last spring, having slipped to Epaulette. Khulaasa also has a yearling Zoustar colt. After foaling a Too Darn Hot (GB) filly last spring, she was covered by I Am Invincible.

Aryaaf was served by Zoustar at her first season at stud.



in seeking attention makes the phone unrepairable.

Here's what to do if your phone gets wet, dropped in bath, sink, toilet, pool, ocean etc.

1. **DON'T STICK IT IN RICE!** You're wasting time and potentially causing more problems, expensive problems.

2. If it's still on, turn it off. If it's gone off while under water, whatever you do,

DON'T turn it back on to see if it still works. Water is conductive and if you turn it on while there is water over the circuit board

Battery Replacement V Device Replacement
Most people believe that once the battery dies on their device (whether Phone or Tablet), it's all over red rover, but not so! The manufacturers would like you to think that way because they want you to buy a new device every couple of years, but if there is nothing else wrong with it, why not just get the battery replaced...you'll save a fortune, still have a device that you're used to and you won't have to bother copying all your stuff from one to the other, and we all know what a pain that can be right?

Winter time is the worst for battery replacements (best time for us !). Like car

batteries, device batteries hate the cold. One minute they're working, the next...doh!

I haven't come across a device where I haven't been able to change the battery. This includes iPods, iPhones, Sealed Samsung phones, iPads, Tablets and Laptops. Prices starting from just \$59. Many Kiosks won't change them because they're worried about cracking the screens. And that's understandable if you don't have the correct equipment or training to do what we do.

There are many types of batteries available too so be careful where you get yours from.

The top repairers like MacDroids provide a lifetime guarantee on the batteries they fit. This means that the batteries have to be top quality because if it fails again, it gets replaced for FREE. We recently had a few clients come in with battery complaints where they had them replaced very cheaply elsewhere and the battery swelled up (like in the picture) and some even exploded resulting in the phone being damaged. So you saved a few bucks on a battery, but your phone self-destructed a few weeks later.

Apple Watches are prone to swelling batteries. When this happens, the screen 'pops off'. With a bit of luck, it will just need

reattaching and replacing the battery but in the worst case scenario, you'll also need the screen replaced. We do both of these types of repairs at the Greenhills Store.

Most manufacturers have had battery issues. Samsung lost the entire Note 7 Range due to potential fire hazard from their batteries. Apple have had various



This battery is swollen. It can lead to the screen popping off, lifting and cracking. It can also lead to the phone exploding and igniting.

problems with their devices too and offer free replacements in certain circumstances.

Depending on how much you use your phone, the battery should last ALL day and still have up to 50% left on it. I charge mine up overnight and unplug it in the morning...ready for work. At the moment it's at 46% (7pm). If you're a teenager, you'll probably need to carry your charger with you...just sayin.

This battery is swollen. It can lead to the screen popping off, lifting and cracking.

It can also lead to the phone exploding and igniting.

Would You Like Fried Rice With That?
Every week I see phones of all types come in for repair where they've been water damaged. And 99% of these poor soaking devices have been buried in rice for up to 2 weeks in desperation that they will come back to life.

Save yourself the pain & suffering by NOT sticking your soaked device into rice. The only reason a few devices come back to life is if they dried out themselves over the days or weeks they were sitting around.

FACT: Rice does nothing to dry out the water inside an affected device (mainly phones). It actually makes it worse and in some cases to a point where that delay

inside, you'll more than likely short out lots of those tiny little parts....it doesn't take much to destroy them.

3. If it's in a case, take it out of the case and wipe it down. Pop out the sim tray, SD card slot (if it has one) and shake the phone for a minute or two to exhaust any excessive water floating around inside.

4. As soon as practical, visit a repair centre that can handle this type of repair. The sooner you do this, the better off your phone will be. It will also potentially reduce the repair cost if things haven't fried up.

5. Salt water is the worst thing that can enter your phone so don't waste time thinking about what to do...get it checked and dried out internally ASAP. Corrosion can start in as little as 48 hours.

Things that will probably need replacing:

1. The screen is the most common thing to fail
2. The battery also doesn't fair well when water enters
3. Worst case scenario is if the motherboard develops short circuits and starts destroying components on the board.

If you're one of the lucky ones (or smart ones) that followed these instructions, and if it was fresh water, you may be fortunate enough to get away with a blow dry and all will be good in the world again.

help@macdroids.com.au

MOVIE REVIEW

Top Gun Maverick

ABOUT....

After more than thirty years of service as one of the Navy's top aviators, Pete "Maverick" Mitchell (Tom Cruise) is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot and dodging the advancement in rank that would ground him. When he finds himself training a detachment of Top Gun graduates for a specialized mission the likes of which no living pilot has ever seen, Maverick encounters Lt. Bradley Bradshaw (Miles Teller), call sign: "Rooster," the son of Maverick's late friend and Radar Intercept Officer Lt. Nick Bradshaw, aka "Goose". Facing an uncertain future and confronting the ghosts of his past, Maverick is drawn into a confrontation with his own deepest fears, culminating in a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those who will be chosen to fly it.

Top Gun Maverick is the epitome of the big-screen blockbuster

By Kate Rodger

Judge me all you like but even just hearing the opening notes of the iconic *Top Gun* theme gives me Goose-bumps (pardon the pun). Goose, Iceman and Maverick have lived rent-free in the hearts of '80s audiences and now Pete Mitchell, callsign Maverick, is three decades older, back in the cockpit and back at Top Gun. His assignment is to teach a new batch of the best of the best, preparing them for a mission none of them - not even Maverick - has ever attempted.

The new crew bring all the ego and chest-thumping you'd expect, with the welcome addition of a female fighter pilot Natasha Trace - callsign Phoenix - who more than holds her own. But Maverick knows his biggest challenge will be a pilot who is bringing with him more than just cabin baggage: Bradley Bradshaw, son of Goose, call-sign Rooster.

Miles Teller (*Whiplash, Footloose*) brings his A-game to proceedings delivering a nourishing balancing act of bravado and vulnerability and bouncing off Cruise to perfection.

Jennifer Connelly (*A Beautiful Mind, Requiem for a Dream*) also brings the much-talked about Penny Benjamin (the Admiral's daughter) into the narrative and what a quietly assured and kick-arse addition she is too.

What Tom Cruise (*Jerry Maguire, Born on the 4th of July*) does here, alongside his long-time collaborator Christopher McQuarrie and director Joseph Kosinski, is bring his *Mission Impossible* ethos to his new *Maverick*. The visuals are lean on the VFX and meaty on the mid-air manoeuvres, while at the same time pumping new blood through the connective tissue of the original and into the hearts of the old school fans and new with a genuinely engaging, emotional story.

Living up to the '80s cultural touchstone that is *Top Gun* was a tall order.

They've done so with what is - SHOCK HORROR - arguably a better film (don't @ me) which can stand alone as an epic cinematic experience best enjoyed on the BIGGEST screen with the BEST sound you can find.

Maverick is essentially the epitome of the big screen blockbuster bringing with it all the fist-pumping adrenaline, death-defying in-camera dog-fighting and all the feels we all need and deserve from a 2022 *Top Gun*.

One hundred percent worth the wait and a cracking five star watch.



5/5



MacDroid's
BESTER GARDETTES SERVICE - SEITE 1

For Sales, Service & Advice...

Macbooks	Desktop Pcs	Laptops	iPads	Tablets	Phones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cracked Screens Water Damage Refurbishment Recycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery Replacement Software Issues Network Unlocks Screen Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passcode Removal Fan Problems Internal Cleaning Motherboard Repairs 			

1300 622 376

Do we even want to solve housing affordability?



The Sydney Morning Herald



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

It's Monday 23rd May 2022 and most candidates for the seat of Hunter still have there political corflutes everywhere. If it wasn't bad enough having six weeks of utter BS prior to the election but do we have to be reminded after the event. One of the candidates must have an 'in' with our electricity Ausgrid as his signs are plastered all over the paddock on their poles ...

Julie Farrell and I (Helen Scott), would like to thank everyone who attended our delicious morning tea on Monday last at Branxton Community Hall. Special thanks to our raffle donators and supporters. We are proud to announce that we have raised of \$3300 to date, with more funds to come in. Thank you. Our supporters are - Beyond Ballooning Hunter Valley (Julia Allen), Branxton IGA, Cessnock Rotary, Singleton CWA, Jade Riordan-Ayoub, Coles of Huntlee, Coalfields Climate Control, Miller Park Hotel, Greta Bakery, Greta Pharmacy, Girl & Goat Cafe of Greta, Leanne Cooper, Hughes Mechanical, Huntlee Academy, Lake & Valley Optical, Officeworks, MGH Packaging, Shae's Kitchen, Tuckers Lane Custom Furniture, Passionate Flare (Deb Reed), Kirsten from Power Cakes. Thank you, without you we could not do the event. Thank you.

Climate change, climate change. It happens; get over it! How sick am I of this. It's just climate adjustment, variation, shift, adaptation, correction. Get over it, stop bleating, bellyaching, and griping. Sing a different song.

By Waleed Aly (Columnist, co-host of Ten's The Project and academic)

Every few years, Australian politics gets around to not solving the housing affordability crisis. This election sees both major parties offering policies that are unlikely to work for the common reason that they are not designed to reduce (or even stall) house prices.

Instead, they aim to let potential first home buyers borrow more than they otherwise could, so they can place higher bids than they otherwise would. That, by definition, drives prices up, especially at the entry-level of the market.

Both parties deny this, of course, and Labor's denial is somewhat credible, but only because Labor's scheme is so limited in its availability. If it avoids driving up house prices further, it's only because it helps a very small number of people. It doesn't solve the underlying problem. It can't because our politics is now built on assumptions that make this problem nearly impossible to solve.

The Coalition's plan probably illustrates this most usefully. This would allow first home buyers to draw on their superannuation, within limits, to buy a home. That's anathema to the superannuation industry, of course, since the whole point of superannuation is for it to be out of your reach until retirement on the very sound basis that most human beings won't restrain their spending today to ensure a good retirement many tomorrows away.

But perhaps what's most interesting about the Coalition's policy is that it will make so much intuitive sense to so many people. Why is that? The most powerful argument for the Coalition's policy is that when you buy a house, you're really making an investment. It's just that where superannuation funds invest your money in the stock market, this lets you choose to invest some of it in property instead. And if you sell that property, you have to put the relevant amount back into superannuation, plus the relevant proportion of the capital gain.

Viewed this way, there's no conceptual difference, other than the fact that if you invest in a house, you get to enjoy your investment in a way you don't enjoy shares. Why not let people do that? It's as safe as houses.

Once you frame it that way, buying a house isn't a form of spending at all: it's actually a form of saving. A house is a bank account in which you can live; it just holds your money in an illiquid form, and gives you a very high (if illiquid) return. What's telling is that there's nothing remotely controversial about describing housing this way.

After decades of skyrocketing housing prices, we all intuit it. That's one reason we share a desperation to get into the market, and why so many are prepared to stretch themselves so thin, taking on severe amounts of debt to do it.

But the more property becomes about investment and even saving, the less it becomes about actual housing. If it were primarily about shelter, homeowners would be less determined to see the value of their homes rise. They'd recognise that the primary benefit - shelter - is still being delivered whatever prices are doing, and that as long as they have their mortgage under control, there's no real risk. Even if they were to sell their property for a lower

price, that would likely mean other properties are cheaper, too, so they'll have roughly the same ability to buy their next house. But almost no one sees it that way.

That is the philosophical root of all our problems. The moment housing became significantly about wealth accumulation, we created a political imperative that house prices must always go up. So, we constructed tax arrangements to encourage more investors, creating the perverse situation that you might be taxed more for working than for what you make in a passive, non-productive way by owning property.

And when house prices inevitably galloped away from those trying to enter the market, our politics has inevitably shrugged and pressed on for a very simple reason: in this environment, housing affordability is widely received as a euphemism for destroying peoples' investments.

The result is a system that encourages people to take out loans they can barely afford, further inflating the market so that other people have to take out loans they can afford even less. More than 40 per cent of borrowers are now experiencing mortgage stress, and this is a time of extremely low interest rates.

Imagine now interest rates rise and property prices fall. A chunk of those people would default on their mortgages and be unable even to pay back the bank after selling the house. They would be financially ruined.

Put simply, falling house prices now mean carnage. And frankly, the political cost of that greatly outweighs the cost of letting those who are locked out stay there. So, our politics dreams up policies to deal with housing affordability on the condition that they don't actually make houses more affordable. Even our attempts at building more houses don't really do the trick because they're either the wrong types of houses, or the rules still favour investors to snap them up over first home buyers.

Labor's 2019 negative gearing policy might have addressed this since it removed this tax loophole for new dwellings, making them less attractive to investors. But, true to form, Labor got whacked for that policy. The legacy of 2019 is that the policy options are now severely limited.

Maybe it's poetic that we should finally arrive at sacrificing superannuation as a way of serving this unsustainable system. Superannuation was the logical extension of a philosophy that sees every worker as a shareholder; it made us all part of the investor class. So perhaps we shouldn't be surprised if we begin to see the world as a series of potential investments, even in markets that should more primarily be about need.

But once we lose the primacy of need in something like housing, we lose the ability to see how my accumulated investments might be depriving you of something essential. We instead demand to be left to our investments.

So, politics now cannot take a dollar off anyone, or even look vaguely like it will. It's tempting to call this a "no losers" brand of politics, but of course, that's not quite accurate. There are losers. It's just that they're the people who are already losing. We take nothing away from them except their prospects.

FREE Classified's Classified's

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 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 z50j1 z50jz ct70 sr70 & 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
SAT 27 APL to 31 MAY — A history of local scandals uncovered is on display in the Cessnock City Library foyer
WED 25 May — Branxton Public School PBL Assembly
WED 25 May — Branxton Public School National Simultaneous Storytime
FRI 27 MAY — Branxton Public School PBL Assembly
WED 1st JUNE - Lions Club of Branxton Management Board Meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club.
FRI 10 JUNE - Cessnock City Council's Economic Development team is proud to present a local business networking event which will take place from 12 to 2.30pm on Friday 10 June at the Grand Mercure Hunter Valley Gardens, Pokolbin.
FRI 10 JUNE - Community Building Partnership Program Applications; closes at 5pm sharp on Friday 10 June 2022.
THUR 16th JUNE - Branxton Lions Changeover dinner and Induction of nine new Lions members.
SAT 25th JUNE — Branxton Lions Bunnings BBQ at Singleton
WED 6th JULY - Lions Club of Branxton Management Board Meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club.
THUR 21st JULY — Branxton Lions lunch with visit from the Lions District 201 N3 Governor, Denise Bruce.
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
Beer & BBQ Festival @ Hope Estate ~ 28 & 29 May 2022 10am ~ 5pm
Michael Buble in Concert ~ 30 November 2022 at Newcastle Entertainment Centre



THE BOY FROM NEW JERSEY
Next date: Saturday, 28 May 2022 | 08:00 PM to 10:30 PM
- Featuring Walter Ciappara as Frankie Valli -
The Boy From New Jersey is a live concert with a 12 piece band based on the life of Frankie Valli, and follows the rise to stardom of Francesco Stephen Castelluccio, the front man of *The Four Lovers*, which later became Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Journey through Frankie Valli's musical career with the amazing vocalist Walter Ciappara, and be mesmerised by the amazing life and wonderful songs that enraptured the world.
 Walter has been showcasing his wonderful falsetto voice as Frankie Valli for over twelve years and many critics have said his to be "the closest voice to Frankie himself". Don't miss out!

Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA, Branxton & surrounds

Abigail's Story

Abigail, Greta Museum's mannequin, was named as a result of the museum's combined 'Naming the Mannequin' and 'Mother's Day' raffle. Her name means 'cause of joy' or 'father's joy' in Hebrew. Abigail is described as a beautiful and intelligent woman in the bible. Her sad face, as I imagine it, is no doubt from the awful plight that befell the Jews, especially in the Second World War. Abigail is wearing Katerina/Katherinia's beautiful, hand-made dress, which Katerina made and wore on her arrival to Australia in

modern-day border between Poland and Ukraine. After their wedding, Katerina managed her parents' large farm near her home town, which was also Ivan's, while Ivan worked in town as a tailor. The couple had two children, Jaroslew (James), born in 1930, and Stefania, born in 1937.

At the beginning of World War II (1939), the family decided to escape to Germany before the Russians (and/or Nazis) invaded Poland. Their escape train was bombed but fortunately no-one was injured. Once they reached Germany, they had to live in a forced work camp near Munich, and Katerina continued to work on a farm. They were there until March 1944. After the war the family travelled to Naples awaiting passage to Australia or Canada as displaced persons, while Ivan worked as a tailor. The family eventually boarded the *General Omar Bundy* on 20 February 1949, which landed in Sydney on 20 March 1949. Katerina would have made clothes for herself and her daughter to ensure they looked smart for their arrival, while her husband and son were never without suits. (see photos of dresses).

They were first bussed to Bathurst Migrant Camp, where they stayed until 23 May 1949. On 24 May they were transferred to Greta Migrant Camp by train. By this stage Katerina was forty-one years old, and Stefania was twelve. They were said to be the first Ukrainians to arrive in Greta Camp. The men immediately set to work converting some of the former army barracks into more appropriate accommodation. Katerina and her family were given two rooms in a 'Silver City'

Nissen-type hut. The couple worked in the camp kitchen while James worked in the camp hospital. Stefania attended a camp school, then the Dominican Convent High School in Maitland.

After a couple more moves, Katerina and her family were able to settle into a large house and land block at Horseshoe Bend, where they had room for vegetables and a house cow, in March 1954. Katerina made butter and

cheese from the cow's milk. Ivan died in 1981 and Katerina in 1983, aged seventy-five years. Both were buried in the Catholic Cemetery at East Maitland. Son James married and had four children but also died in 1981, the same year as his father. Daughter Stefania married and moved to East Maitland and had two children. Her husband Bruno died in 1984 and Stefania in 2016. While the Jewish name of Abigail may not appear appropriate for the

museum's mannequin to wear a Catholic family's clothing, it must be remembered both religions suffered together at the hands of the Nazis and the USSR. Information on the Holderberg family came from Alek Schulha's book, *Beneath the Shadows of Mount Molly Morgan: Histories & Stories of Greta Camp 1939-1960*, available for purchase or research in the Greta Museum.

Abigail, dressed in her historical clothing, and many other interesting features, are available to be visited at the Greta Museum each Wednesday and Saturday between 11am and 3pm. Situated in the former Greta Council Chambers, at 96 High Street, Greta, in-between the former Greta Court House and the former Greta Post Office (now the Bakery).

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Wines & Vines



About five years

ago, I found myself sitting in Cessnock library, staring out the front windows onto the main street, Vincent Street. My car was being serviced and due to the length of the procedure, I decided to find a quiet place to sit and write an article for this particular publication. I sat blankly for nearly half an hour trying to drum up a stimulating and inspiring subject to no avail. It suddenly dawned upon me that in actual fact, I was staring straight at my discourse - Cessnock!

I became curiously excited at the prospect of studying the day-to-day rituals of Cessnockians, eagerly taking short notes of what I directly viewed from the window. The article began by making the observation that of the 14 shops in my view, six of the premises were vacant. By the time I had assessed the possible reasoning behind this concerning trend and spoken of the people I had viewed, there was little room left to form a positive assessment. Needless to say, a few days after submitting the article, the editor informed me that it would be in my best interest, in fact the publication's best interest, to not publish the article.

"Why?"
 "Because many people may feel that your slant on the article may be somewhat subjective."
 "Well isn't that the reason for writing it in the first place?"
 "Yes ... but some may conclude that your assumptions are based on a minority rather than a reflection of the community as a whole."
 "I wrote what I saw and nothing more."
 "Yes ... but some may feel that you are directing the article to a smaller demographic as opposed to including a wider readership."
 "It's a true account."
 "I know ... but certain parties may not view it in the same light."
 "Name them!"
 "Look, I know many good people in Cessnock and I cannot allow this to be printed."
 "I know many good people in Cessnock as well and they would totally agree with what I've written."

"Let's get this straight, I do agree with what has been written. It is very humorous indeed. However, the basis upon which the article has been written does not decipher between who is depicted and who is not. The people who will be reading this will most likely find it amusing as they do not live in the Cessnock vicinity but for those who do, it may come off a tad unjust."

"I kind of see what you mean but Cessnock cops a lot of flak from outside areas. At least I'm weighing up reasons why it's often the subject of outsider's jokes and perhaps even acknowledging at times that people like to pick on others to lift their own status or profile or just generally make themselves feel better about their lives."
 "Andrew..... I enjoyed it immensely but you and I are the only people who will ever see it printed oh.....and by the way you have about three and a half hours to submit a new article!"

I was scrounging through some old paperwork the other day and stumbled upon the article in question. I have matured (if only very slightly) since and the editor made the right decision in not putting it to print. Although it did not hint at all with any socio-economics, the resounding nature of it may allude to the fact that the article may have read very differently had I been sitting in Double Bay. Upon reading it a few times over, whether or not I was genuine, poor old Cessnock does cop a bit of a hiding and it may have given the impression I was fuelling the fire, with the strict intention of doing the opposite.

In response to this, I thought I would go back to Cessnock library and attack the article in exactly the same way; by studying the outside world for a few hours and simply taking notes. Alas, I did not find any differences, certainly none worth mentioning. The way I could configure a new article was certainly achievable but it would lack the necessary grounding to spark humour from its pitfalls. For example, if I told you to look at the picture above (which the editor hasn't changed since Jesus was a boy) and I made the comment "of course, that's a terrible picture of me, I'm actually really good looking

..... enjoying the Hunter wine lifestyle with Andrew Marsh of Marsh Estate Winery, Pokolbin

.... and clever.... and rich!", it would not come out as well as "Christ, that picture of me is amazing they've even given me hair ... and teeth ... and they've made me look almost half intelligent." You get my drift! Deciding that I would abandon my attempt at writing a humorous article on the subject of Cessnock which would actually be published, I attempted to fill in a bit of time by walking through the town and viewing some of the shops. The very first thing of note which sprang to mind was how polite the shopkeepers were. Whether young or old, they seemed genuinely pleased to have people in their space and made pleasant conversation, which I believe makes a small town. Another fact I noticed was a remarkable change in many of the younger women, from mid teens to late twenties, who were all dressed in the latest fads. The girly magazines of recent times have done little but to create a solid foundation for eating disorders but they do manage to spark an overwhelming desire in young people to carbon-copy themselves on the models and fashion. No one would debate the fact that dressing well and looking after one's self, even if it is a vanity glitch, is more positive than being grossly overweight and dangling cigarettes out of one's mouth. Hhhmmmm....
 I love the country towns of NSW. I love the rural ambience and the acknowledgement that the town pulls together through rural applications such as crops or livestock. The difference between Cessnock and the majority of other regional towns in our state is that it is not a farming town - it is a mining town. Of course there is the obvious fact that the oldest and most famous wine region in the country sits alongside it but there has

'Let us celebrate the occasion with wine and sweet words' Plautus



never been a real and treasured fuse between the two, something many of us either delight in or are saddened by. Most other towns located within wine regions pay homage to the fact yet mining was always Cessnock's identity, with a polite acceptance and minor meld of the wine industry. That's fair enough. Due to this however, Cessnock does not convey a town that you would immediately associate with tourism. Although I used to wish things would change in that department, the truth is that Cessnock's identity was born of sweat, blood and tears and the town has not only survived over the years but is economically very viable, with its council one of the most lucrative in the county, through shrewd investing. Just quietly while I'm on the subject, there is a hell of a lot more money in mining than there is in wine but the amount of mining within the greater Cessnock area has diminished over time, with the majority of work in and towards the Upper Hunter region. Put it this way, there is no actual conclusion for what I have written but I will tell you this. Last week I was with a syndicate at the races and watched the historic race where Cessnock's Robert Thompson broke the long-standing record for most wins of any jockey in Australia. When Robert rode back past the modest crowd watching, I shed a tear. I didn't shed a tear because I had seen history in the making. I didn't shed a tear because I was wound up in the hype of the moment. I shed a tear becausehe is one of us!

Cheers, Andrew



Abergail with plait showing

1949. This one, and her other dresses, was donated to the Greta Museum in 2019 by Steve Lason, one of her grandsons. Katerina Cheraptak, born in 1908, came from Drohobych in Poland and married Ivan Holderberg in 1927. They married in a Catholic Church in Galicia (Galiciou), a small kingdom that straddled the



Katerina dress 3



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Preparing Your Garden for Winter



before the winter. Check for and fix any loose or rotten boards and make sure that door hinges are in good order to help eliminate draughts. Sharpen and oil the blades of gardening tools. After a season of use they can become dull and ineffective. Vegetable oil works just as well as more expensive and less environmentally friendly oils, and it can also be rubbed into the wooden handles of tools. Wash seed trays, pots, labels and other garden equipment, and allow them to dry to prevent the spread of moulds before storing them.

This time of year is usually considered a quiet time for gardeners, but there are plenty of essential jobs to keep us busy. Here are some of the most important...

Clear Dead, Dying and Diseased Plants and Weeds

It can be tempting to leave dead or dying plants where they are for the moment and clear up what's left of them in the spring, but by doing so you'll be lending a helping hand to many pests – slugs and snails for example will happily feast on this material, meaning they're in the perfect place to start munching on your precious seedlings next spring. Other pests will overwinter on organic debris, so removing the dead material takes away their habitat and leaves the soil exposed so that winter weather and predators, such as birds, can naturally keep them in check.

Most of this material can be composted, turning this season's waste into next season's organic matter. Diseased material should be removed promptly at any time of the year, and this is no exception – doing so reduces the chance of spreading diseases such as blight and clubroot. Dispose of it through municipal green waste collections where they exist, as these use high temperatures to break down the material and kill off disease.

Alternatively, you can burn them at home. It's also a good time of year to tackle those perennial weeds and control plants that are prolific spreaders, such as ivy, or self-seeders like poppies. Dig them, pull them or chop them, taking care to remove as much of

the stems and roots as you can. Doing this now will weaken the plants, making them more susceptible to winter weather. By the time the spring comes, it will be easier to see which ones still need your attention. As with diseased material, avoid composting perennial weeds, and burn them instead. Current gardening wisdom is not to be too tidy however. Make sure there are areas of your garden where pest predators can overwinter, such as a bug hotel, and you can leave some crops in the ground to flower and provide an early source of nectar in the spring, and to provide seed for birds or for saving to re-sow in your garden.

Burn Waste to Produce Ash

Burning garden waste which cannot be composted or put to other good use can still provide a valuable product for your garden – ash – and will help you to easily get rid of diseased and woody material and weeds. Wood ash (as opposed to coal ash) can be a great addition to the garden. It contains potassium (or pot-ash), which is a vital nutrient for crops. Ash is alkaline, so take care when using it on your soil. Use small amounts in your compost, especially if you compost lots of acidic material like citrus peel, or use it as a substitute for lime where you'll be growing brassicas to reduce the risk of clubroot. It's also an excellent supplement for fruiting plants such as apples, raspberries and tomatoes.

Carry Out General Maintenance

Most sheds and outbuildings will benefit from some maintenance and repair

Prepare Your Ground

With weeds and all plants removed, it's a great time to dig over your plot and incorporate organic matter such as compost, ready for spring planting. The winter weather, particularly freezing and thawing action, will break down the organic matter, kill overwintering pests, and help to break down heavy clay and improve its structure and drainage.

Prepare and Protect Perennials and Over-Wintering Crops

Many fruit trees and bushes can be pruned now, so check which varieties you have and the best way to care for them. Make sure that stakes and ties on existing fruiting plants are in good condition, and tie in or stake new growth to prevent it from being damaged by the wind. Pots and containers should be moved to sheltered areas, and if temperatures are regularly low, make sure they are raised off the ground and wrapped in bubble polythene or sacking to prevent terracotta pots from cracking. Other frost-sensitive plants can be put in a cold frame or glasshouse, where they will stay until spring.

In many areas, you are likely to have crops growing through the winter, for instance Oriental leaves, some root vegetables or brassicas. Clear away leaves and other debris, check netting is in good repair, and install protection in the form of row covers if necessary. At the end of the growing season it can be tempting to leave the garden behind and retreat to the warmth of indoors, but by tackling some of these tasks now you'll gain a head start for the next season, ready for the excitement of spring.



Desexing your pet is an important decision and from a vets professional point of view a significant surgical procedure that requires a high level of care and skill. Desexing involves removing part of your pet's reproductive system. This procedure is performed in a fully equipped, sterile operating theatre under the complete care of an operating veterinarian and supporting veterinary nurses.

For most pets that live a healthy and event free life, desexing will be the most significant surgical procedure they will have. There are many benefits to having your dog or cat desexed, with evidence suggesting that desexed pets live longer and have fewer diseases than undesexed pets. The benefits extend beyond just preventing

unwanted pregnancies. Pets who have been desexed or sterilised are less likely to get diseases and certain illnesses such as mammary cancer and uterine infections in females and prostate problems in males. There are also behavioural benefits such as preventing male cats from spraying and preventing male dogs attempting to escape their homes to reach nearby females on heat. Entire male dogs will go to extraordinary lengths to pursue a nearby female dog on heat, increasing chances of motor vehicle accidents, dog fights and lost pets. **Unwanted pregnancies** Veterinarians recommend desexing to prevent unwanted pregnancies in females. This is especially important for cats, as it is not always possible to tell when she is 'on call'. In female dogs, desexing automatically stops their

cycles and the associated bleeding and attention from male dogs. **Undesirable behaviour** Castration helps to control male dominance aggression problems and also reduces their wandering instincts if a female dog in the neighbourhood is on heat. Tomcats have a tendency to roam and fight with other cats which can lead to other medical implications such as cat bite abscesses and FIV (Feline immunodeficiency virus). **Significant medical reasons** Spaying reduces the risk of mammary tumours (which can be life-threatening - just like breast cancer in women). Tumours of the ovaries, uterus and cervix and pyometra, a gross infection of the uterus, can also be prevented. Castration can reduce the risk of prostatic disease, perianal tumours, and

eliminates the risk of testicular cancers. Desexing may also be recommended in your pet to prevent hereditary diseases being passed on, or for treatment of some diseases such as prostatic hypertrophy or pyometra. **When can your pet be desexed?** Pets can be desexed at any age including during their most mature years. Whilst pets can be desexed as early as 6 weeks of age, they recommend to desex most pets around 6 months of age before they sexually mature. They also generally recommend, unless necessary for medical reasons, not to desex a female pet whilst they are in heat/ season as the nature of being in season makes the surgery potentially more complicated.

Why Desex Your Pets?

FEMALE Spaying	MALE Neutering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced risk of mammary tumours • Risk of tumours in ovaries, uterus & cervix eliminated • Restricts other medical conditions such as infection of the uterus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate of prostatic diseases is lowered • Rate of perianal diseases is lowered • Eradicates the risk of testicular cancers

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Free Microchipping Day for Cats

Cessnock City Council is inviting residents to have their cats microchipped at its Free Microchipping Day for Cats, from 9am to 3pm on Saturday 28 May 2022.



This is at a separate location to the free Microchipping Day for Dogs, to be held on the same day. Find out more about this event here: cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Things-to-do/Events/Free-Microchipping-Day-for-Dogs-May-2022

The event is being held in conjunction with Maitland Animal Management Facility and is open to residents from both Cessnock and Maitland Local Government Areas.

Bookings are not required. Unfortunately, litters cannot be microchipped at this event. If this day does not suit you, please contact Cessnock Council to arrange another date for your cat to be microchipped.

The Maitland Animal Management Facility is located at 11 Metford Road, East Maitland.

SPORTS
RESULTSRESULTS
GOLFBRANXTON GOLF
CLUBSaturday, 14 May 2022
SATURDAY COMP
STABLEFORD

Field: 30
Grades A Mark Moylan 38
Grades A Peter Mackenzie 34
Grades B Thomas Wootton 35
Grades B Michael Carling 34
Grades C Murray Kingston 35
Grades C Richard Turnbull 29
NTP 2/11 Gregory Tearle 260cm
NTP 4 Anthony Ogle 48cm
NTP 9/18 Rodney Wilton 217cm
NTP 13 Gregory Tearle 702cm
Balls 9 Distributed down to score: 31

Pro's N.T.P 18th Hole E GARLAND 430cm \$54 Proshop Voucher
Saturday's planned Peter Matthews Day had to be postponed once again due to the "state of the track" after the extra rain received on Thursday. As a result, a small field of 30 contested a stableford event in the trying conditions. Mark Moylan must be a mudlark as he easily won A Grade and recorded the best stableford score of all grades from his single digit handicap. His 38 pts was well clear of Peter McKenzie's 34 pts, also a pleasing score when there is no run on the course.

Thomas Wootton, won B Grade with an excellent 35 pts. He must have had some clues about the course as he is a nephew to Richie Turnbull (who also finished in the prizes). Apparently, Tom started very slowly but his 24 pts on the back nine ensured he finished in front—you "gotta" love golf, how it can change so quickly. Mick Carling picked up another cheque finishing runner up with his 34 pts. Murray Kingston must have plenty in his Pro Shop account as he had another win in C Grade, easily winning with his 35 pts with Richie Turnbull runner up with his 29 pts. 31 pts was needed to win a ball, with the shot of the day belonging to Anthony Ogle on the 4th, which finished only 48 cms from the pin. Eddie Garland finished his day well, winning the Pro's NTP in on the last. Club Captain, Steve, wants to remind everyone that next Saturday is the 2 Man Ambrose Championships—always a fun event.

2 Man Ambrose Championship Overall Scratch Winners: Joshua and Mick Tracey 64
Overall Nett Winners:

Sam Edmonds and Garry Taylor 62.75

Scratch Runners Up:

Mark Moylan and Peter Wilton 68 c/b

Nett Runners Up: Errol Munzenberger and Greg Noble 63.75

Nett Third: Jeff Hayward and Matthew Schnell 64

Nett 4th: Tyler Doolan and Lleyton Doolan 64.25

Nett 5th: Adrian Chomiszak and Jon Lawler 65

NTPins: 2/11 th: Josh Tracey 136 cms ; 4th: Robert Hale 217 cms; 13th Greg Tearle 525 cms; Pro's Pin 18th Peter Wilton 114 cms

Saturday's 2 Man Ambrose Championship proved to be true test of golf played from the championship tees on a very boggy track. The father/son combination of Mick and Josh Tracey showed their class in easily winning the overall championship with an outstanding round of a 64, 6 under par. This score included an amazing eagle on the 14th, a 400m Par 4—

apparently Mick holed a 5 iron—certainly something to remember. Mark Moylan and the evergreen Peter Wilton finished runner up with their 2 under par 68. Sam Edmonds and Garry Taylor won the Nett prize with their 62.75 score (a great effort considering they were only paired together that morning), just ahead of Errol Munzenberger and Greg Noble a stroke behind. Errol and Greg are forming a great partnership at the moment as they only recently won the Thursday Vets 2 Person Ambrose with a 5 under par score. Prizes went down to 5th place with scores only separated by decimals. Sharp shooter, Peter Wilton, once again won the Pro's pin on the last, with his tee shot finishing only 114 cms away. Maybe this prize should have Peter's name on it as he consistently hits his irons close to the last! Club Captain Steve wants to remind everyone that the Round 2 Singles Knockout matches must be played by next Saturday, 28th May.

HUNTER VALLEY
GOLF CLUB**Sunday 8th May**

Marjo Kummeling has made it a Mothers Day to remember by winning the Weekly Challenge in a 3 way countback from Jeff Shanahan 2nd & Dave Hollis 3rd after the trio had 37 point rounds. Ball winners are: Sean Constable 35, Phil Douglas 35, Ian Searles 34, Ryan Bradbery 34, Don Curran 34, Rod Teasdale 33, Steven Primmer 33, Tim Fitzpatrick 32, Joshua Fagerstrom 32, Phil Baker 31 & Michael Sullivan 31 c/b

Tuesday 10th May

Phil Darcy has won the Tuesday Stableford with a solid 40 point round from Peter Franks 38 & William

Waite 3rd with 37. Ball winners are: Ryan Wilson 36, Joe Laughlin 35, Toot 35, Teedubs 34, David Peel 34, Rox Jnr 34, Bob Hannah 33, Andrew Edwards 33, Stephen Morrow 33, Bindii 33, Steve Piggott 32, Greg Ireland 32, Graeme Flynn 31, Beepa 31, Dean Morison 31, Bob Prentice 31 & Tom Vaughan 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Andrew Edwards (3rd) David Peel (4th) Peter Franks (8th & 10th) & David Micheal Menzies (17th)

Wednesday 11th May

The Ladies Stableford event has been won by Jenny Chambers with a great 38 point round from Dale Hamilton with 31 2nd on countback to Di Atton in 3rd place. Ball winners are: Sue Williams 30, Ann Grace Smith 30 & Mary Fortey 29. Nearest-the-Pins to Jenny Chambers (3rd & 8th) Dale Hamilton (4th & 17th).

Thursday 12th May

Heavy skies did not prevent the 2022 Vets Championship from getting underway albeit with a reduced turnout. The Scratch event has Dave Hollis leading with 31 points from Larry Forbes & Tom Bell tied on 29, defending Champion Steve Piggott know for his storming finishes is lurking a few shots back along with a few others with an outside chance. The Division leaders are Dave Hollis in Division 1 with 37 points from Larry Forbes 36 & James Schofield 35, Tom Bell leads Division 2 with 42 points from Don Bradley 40 with Bruce Chambers & Wayne Berry tied on 37 & Division 3 has Bindii leading on 39 points from Terry Webb 37 & Bruce Matthews in 3rd spot with 35. The concluding round with be held next Thursday.

The Daily comp has been won by Tom Bell with 42 from Don Bradley 40 with Bindii 3rd with 39. Ball winners are: Dave Hois 37, Terry Webb 37, Bruce Chambers 37, Wayne Berry 37, John Grayson 36, John Carmody 36, Larry Forbes 36, Bruce Matthews 35, James Schofield 35, Terry Redgrove 35, Fluff 34, Wayne Barber 34, Banjo 34, Jeff Taylor 34, Ken Blackett 33, Ryan Wilson 33, Kevin Dick 32, David Peel 32, Springy 32, Peter Payne 32, Wayne Burgess 32, Rex Talbot 31, Alan McKenzie 31, Gary Arnold 31, Silver 31, Rox Jnr 31, Dean Morison 30, John Martin 30, Rob Hannah 30, Gunner 30, Spot 30 & Michael O'Brien 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Larry Forbes (3rd) Terry Redgrove (4th) & Bindii (17th).

Saturday 14th May

Ongoing wet weather has seen the 2 Person Ambrose Championship for Men move to next Saturday when hopefully drier conditions will allow the event to go ahead. An

individual Stableford was the event of the day for the small field who turned out. Wade Attewell has produced one of his best to claim top spot with 39 points from a 4 way group of 38 point returns with Tom Lundy taking 2nd & Young Fluff 3rd. Ball winners are: Adrian Kent 38, Hopper 38, Craig Sharp 35, Ben Pickering 34, Bruce Chambers 34, Andrew Zok 34, Nick Hain 34, Ben Bradley 34, Tania Hutchins 34, Nathan Aitken 33, James Schofield 33, Robert Davies 33, Scott Beddow 32, Tony Newcombe 31, Peter McIntyre 31, Thomas Vaughan 30, John Lambert 30, Brian McKelvey 30, Danny Schofield 30 & Matt Fitzgerald 29 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Adrian Kent (3rd) Ben Bradley (4th) Peter McIntyre (10th) & Craig Sharp (17th).

Sunday 15th May

Brandan Lee has won the Weekly Challenge with 39 points from Nick Willers with 37 on countback to Dan Crush in 3rd place. Ball winners are: Tanya Hutchins 36, Wade Frith 35, Marjo Kummeling 35, Dave Hollis 35, Brad Murray 33, Saxon Hulsman 33, John Knuth 32, Phil Douglas 31, Luke Meyers 31, Nigel Deacon 30, John Martin 29, Joe Scuglia 27, Joashua Fagerstrom 27, Nathan Cameron 27 & Don Curran 27c/b

Tuesday 17th May

Rain has once again depleted the Tuesday Stableford field with many giving the day a miss. Sam Moss did best with 38 points to claim the day from Graeme Flynn 34 with Ben Freeman 3rd with 33 on countback. Ball winners were: Brendan Bourke 33, Brad Burrows 31 & Brandon Cole 30 c/b

Wednesday 18th May
The Ladies contested the 3rd round of the Golf NSW Medal & Putting with Dale Hamilton leading the way with 74net from Di Atton 75 on countback to Isabel Skeates. Ball winners were: Royalie Sciani 78, Jenny Chambers 79, Sharon Constable 81 & Glenda Williams 81 c/b. Nearest-the-pins to Jenny Chambers (3rd & 4th) Dale Hamilton (17th) With the Putting winner was Jenny Chambers completing a memorable day.

Thursday 19th May

After 2 very consistent rounds yielding 31 Scratch points per round, Dave Hollis is the Vets 2022 Champion. The Division winners came from the guys who handed in consistent rounds also over the 2 rounds, Larry Forbes in Div.1 with 71 points, Tom Bell in Div 2 with 82 & Bruce 'Toot' Matthews in Div 3 with 71 points our winners. The Board congratulate all of the winners and all Vets who took part in this years event. The Daily Stableford has been won in Division 1 by

Gunner with 37 points from Dave Hollis 36, Division 2 to Tom Bell with 40 points from Chris Norman 39 and Division 3 to Toot with 36 on countback to Bomber. Ball winners were: Col Somerville 37, Graham Morris 37, Greg Burke 36, John Grayson 36, Mark Green 35, Larry Forbes 35, Rox Jnr 35, Kerry Bartlett 35, John Martin 35, Rob hannah 34, Banjo 34, John Pascoe 34, Graeme Flynn 34, Reddis 34, Springy 33, Anthony Neale 33, Steve Piggott 32, Greg Amlloh 32, James Schofield 32, Big D

32, Paul Smith 31, Mick Gilbert 31, Garry Clarke 31, Michael O'Brien 31, Darrell Porter 31, Wayne Drayton 31, Alick Bender 30, Paul Campbell 30, Spot 30, Ron Findley 30, Wayne Berry 30, Peter McIntyre 30, Ruff 30, Bruce Chambers 30, Norm Barry 30, Peter Payne 29, Graeme Smith 29, Boss Hogg 29, Ken McLaughlan 29 & Pete the Pom 29 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Terry Webb (3rd) Peter Payne (4th) James Hogg (10th) & Wayne Burgess (17th).

Saturday 21st May

The arrive of some early showers did not deter the 2 Person Ambrose Championship for members going ahead with Adam Jackson & Ben Bradley setting the bar with a 66 shot round which held all day long, The Teams of Steve Piggot & Jason Cowburn and Mark Harry & Peter McIntyre came within a shot with 67. The Handicap section has gone to Dan Olsen & Mark Williams with 62.25 Net. The Daily Competition has not been posted at this point.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The news Issue No 51 9th Sept. 1999 Page 48

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

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

The grand-final was played at Bellbird in extremely trying windy weather, against the highly fancied Maitland Team. The Maitland team had just won the Newcastle Competition and we were a little anxious as to how our team would perform, but Branxton excelled! Both teams played a great game with Branxton showing great skill from its team right from the very start. Maitland scored first which was not unexpected as they had the wind in their favour. Because of the wind the first half for the Branxton team was very trying but Branxton showed tremendous skill particularly with ball control and defence. This kept the game well balanced.

The second half was a tribute to the teams big kicks, sportsmanship and teamwork. They played brilliantly! The wind was in their favour and they had full control of the ball. A splendid goal was scored by Kane Melon (who had recently suffered a twisted ankle) making the scores even. The corners at this stage were Branxton four, Maitland nil. The game went into extra time with no goals being scored. The game was decided on corners giving Branxton the Cup. The Branxton team had scored 110 goals with 7 against this season, its first season on a full field. The team has played together, with few changes, over the last four years, starting with the under 6's, this team has been a force to be reckoned with and has developed quite a reputation in the Hunter.

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

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



YOUR friendly team

The News

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BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

‘Hunter Valley Communication’ Bowls Tournament at Miller Park ~ first tournament for reformed Miller Park Bowling Club

Miller Park Bowling Club Inc. hosted its first tournament since reopening on Sunday 15 May.

Hunter Valley Communication sponsored an open fours tournament which attracted teams from around the valley. The green was full with fourteen teams competing in great spirit with many complimenting the facilities including the new synthetic green, friendly staff and lunch meal. The winners were the McPherson Team (Maitland City), second The Lambourne Team (Telarah) and Nathan Allan’s Team (Singleton RSL) coming third. An enjoyable day was had by all and they can’t wait to hold our next tournament.



No 55 Telarah on the green



No 60 East Cessnock against a Mixed Miller Park & roos

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