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ISSUE 556

# The News

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WEDNESDAY  
31 AUGUST 2022

### Keep your business in town and you keep your town in business!!!!

## Minister advises updated cost to provide reticulated sewerage service for North Rothbury & the update was not pleasant



Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Lands and Water



Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP

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Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP, has received a reply from Minister Kevin Anderson MP concerning his request for an update on the likelihood of Hunter Water providing a reticulated sewerage service into North Rothbury and his answer has shocked both Clayton and the residents of North Rothbury.

Previous advise, pre-Covid, had indicated a cost to each property owner of approximately \$60,000. The updated advise is now just over \$100,000 with no assurance of a provision time-frame. A long term resident of North Rothbury, who preferred not to be identified, said that at that price it probably will never happen. "Not having it does restrict your use of your land but at the updated cost to property owners I am sure we can live with it. Would still much prefer it though," he said. This response was, generally, in keeping with other residents. In Minister Anderson's response he stated advise given to him from Hunter Water that there are approximately 2500 existing residential lots across 23 townships in the lower Hunter that

do not currently have access to reticulated sewerage services. The estimated cost is, at least, \$150 million or \$60,000 per property. This cost was derived from recent learnings in delivering the Wyece Sewer Scheme. Unfortunately, North Rothbury is more expensive than the average at, as stated earlier, at approximately \$100,000 per property. Added to that cost is the upgrading to internal plumbing, drainage and decommissioning the existing onsite system. The approximate cost is likely to exceed \$7000. Hunter Water's rationale for their policy is that property owners are the principal beneficiary of this expenditure. Minister Anderson's said that Hunter Water intends to discuss this matter further with Cessnock City Council to understand the relationship with new development within the North Rothbury area, and to understand the community's appetite to progress this scheme given the large direct costs to property owners.

Clayton Barr MP, Member for Cessnock, said that the Ministers reply was interesting & very detailed. "This is, in my opinion, just the next step in the journey (to have a reticulated sewerage service installed in North Rothbury) & eventually we will prevail," he said. Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said he, along with all residents of North Rothbury, was disappointed to see this response from the NSW Government. "Council will continue to support the local community in fighting for sewage infrastructure in North Rothbury." "North Rothbury was promised to be next on the list for Hunter Water to undertake works after sewage was installed in Wyece, but this commitment seems to have been walked away from. "As a State-owned corporation, Hunter Water collects tens of millions of dollars in profits every year from Hunter residents and sends these down to the NSW Government in Sydney. We're just asking to have some of that money spent here," said Mayor Jay Suvaal.

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## Shared zone to benefit local business



**Cessnock City Council has announced Stage 1 of the Branxton Town Centre upgrade is now complete.**

The Branxton CBD has returned being a village centre, rather than a regional thoroughfare, following the opening of the Hunter Expressway. Council wanted to beautify the town centre and make it more approachable and secure for pedestrians. The outcome was the Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan, from which these works have occurred. This particular project involved the creation of a 240m<sup>2</sup> shared zone along Church Street, from the intersection at Maitland Street. The construction of this shared space included new kerb and guttering, a road upgrade with concrete pavement, associated signage and provision for future works. Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay

Suvaal said reclaiming this space will have significant benefits for surrounding businesses, and provide an intimate space for local markets and events.

“Church Street is a no-through road with very few traffic movements, so it is wonderful to see this project completed with a new space for the community to utilise and enjoy,” Mayor Suvaal said.

“The next stage will see the creation of bicycle parking infrastructure which will complement the highly anticipated Branxton to Greta Cycleway project.” This project is jointly funded by the NSW Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, and Cessnock City Council.

## ‘Strike a Pose’ at the Library



*The Cessnock Eagle* newspaper was published from 1913 until 1978. When it closed, over 500 photographs, mainly from the 1960s to the 1980s, were donated to the Local Studies collection at Cessnock City Library. The photos feature many well-known landmarks, local events and people.

Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-Marie Walters said many of the images arrived with little identifying information. “So began the huge task to put names to

photographs from *The Cessnock Eagle*.”

Strike a Pose will be held in the foyer of Cessnock Library and opens on 1 September until 15 September, during library opening hours.

Cessnock City Library is committed to making the images publicly available. They are gradually being catalogued and made available on the Library website.

individuals, groups and news events captured all those years ago by The Cessnock Eagle photographers,” Ms Walters said. “Our Local Studies volunteer Kevin Coburn took on the challenge.” This effort has resulted in a new exhibition, titled “Strike a Pose:



For membership details ..... Contact Dr. Alan Beckley Secretary, Lions Club of Branxton Inc Email: [branxton.nsw@lions.org.au](mailto:branxton.nsw@lions.org.au) Mobile: 0426 261948

### 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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**1st September 2022 across the Hunter Valley Rural Fire District**

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is encouraging landholders to know and understand the new fire danger ratings as the bush fire season begins in Hunter Valley District.

The official bush fire danger period commences in 12 local government areas on 1 September, including these in the local area:

- > SINGLETON LGA
- > MUSWELLBROOK LGA

The first of September marks the start of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System, which simplifies the way fire danger ratings are assessed and communicated.

The new Fire Danger Rating System has four levels – Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic – with clear actions for each level. The science that informs the fire danger rating has undergone its biggest update in more than 50 years, meaning fire danger ratings are more accurate and based on the type of vegetation in the local area.

“The new fire danger ratings are more accurate and are easier to understand, and they come with clear actions to take to stay safe,” said Inspector Mark Denton

“The fire danger ratings give you an indication of the consequences of a fire if one was to start.

“You’ll find the fire danger ratings on the RFS website, in the Fires Near Me NSW smartphone app, and the updated roadside signs in communities across the Hunter Valley area.” Based on latest forecasts, grass fires may be a significant threat this season due to recent rain and growth.

“It is important that people take the steps now to reduce their risk, and plan for the season ahead.

“Permits are required during the bush fire danger period. These are free and easy to obtain from your local Fire Control Centre.

“Landholders who are using fire need to do so safely, such as having a reliable water supply, notifying the RFS and neighbours before you light up, and if a fire does escape call Triple Zero immediately.

“With an increased risk of grass fires this season, it’s important to sit down and make your plan for what you’ll do in the event of a fire.

“Use the Bush Fire Survival Plan and Farm Fire Plan guides available on the NSW RFS website, where you can also find out more about the new Australian Fire Danger Ratings.” Information about hazard reduction burning, required notifications and obtaining fire permits is available on the NSW RFS website at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/BFDP](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/BFDP).

**SINGLETON BY-ELECTION – DECLARATION OF POLLS & GENERAL MANAGER’S STATEMENT**

**“In the wake of regrettable circumstances that forced the Singleton by-election on 30 July 2022, I congratulate those Councillors who have been elected and thank all the candidates who nominated to represent our community.**

“I welcome a new councillor in Sarah Johnstone, and acknowledge and thank Belinda Charlton for her service to the community over the past seven months. “This has not been an easy situation for anyone, especially all of our candidates who ran outstanding campaigns in challenging circumstances, and our residents who turned out to vote in yet another election.

“However, Council respects the decision of the Supreme Court and the protection of democracy.

“I reinforce again the judgement of the Court that there was no failing or misconduct on the part of Council or the candidates that brought these proceedings.

“The first meeting of Council following the by-election will be held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 30 August 2022 from 5.30pm. We’re now looking forward to getting back to the normal business of working for our community.” **DECLARATION BELOW.....**



SINGLETON COUNCIL General Manager Jason Linnane

**Total number of electors:** 17,253 residential and non-residential electors were enrolled in this area on 20 June 2022. Electors may continue to enrol up to and including election day.

**Counting system:** Proportional Representation (PR) as defined in Schedule 5 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

**Elected positions:** There are nine Councillors to be elected from 13 candidates. The following candidates were declared elected on 16 August 2022:

- Godfrey ADAMTHWAITE (IND)**
- Malinda (Mel) MCLACHLAN (SFF)**
- Danny THOMPSON (IND)**
- Tony JARRETT (ALP)**
- Sarah JOHNSTONE (ALP)**
- Sue GEORGE (IND)**
- Val SCOTT (IND)**
- Hollee JENKINS (IND)**
- Tony McNAMARA (IND)**

**REFLECTIONS**

**A reflection for the twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sallie Latkovich, C.S.J. reflects on the readings for September 5, 2021.

The message we hear in all three readings is simply: Ephphatha! That is: Be opened! Be open to the goodness and graciousness of our God.

Isaiah speaks words of hope to the Israelites in the desert, to those whose hearts are frightened: “Be strong, fear not” (Isa. 35:4). He encourages them to be open to the saving work of God, who will open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf. God will transform even the earth with streams bursting forth in the desert, burning sands become pools and springs of water in thirsty ground.

James speaks of welcome and hospitality, of openness to both the wealthy and the poor. For those of us baptized into Christ, there cannot be any judgment of worthiness of another to be in our company, to be part of our communities of faith. Our call and our behaviour is to be open to all.

And finally, in Mark’s gospel, we hear the story of Jesus healing the deaf man with a speech impediment. Here is when Jesus speaks, “Ephphatha”—that is, ‘be opened’” (Mark 7:34). And indeed, his ears were opened and his speech impediment was removed.

Perhaps you have viewed the videos of people who are colour blind receiving glasses that allow them to suddenly see colour. In each case, the person with new vision erupts in emotion at being able to see.

Their lives are changed. Other videos portray people who are given hearing aids and are able to hear human voice and music for the first time. Such hearing allows them to speak clearly as well. These are stirring stories and the aids to sight and sound transform lives.

How do God and the gospel open our eyes, ears, hearts? How are our lives transformed—indeed, made different?

The gospel calls us to see with eyes of love and acceptance. In our humanness, we tend to notice only differences: age, colour, ethnic background, sexuality, socioeconomic status, physical and psychological wellbeing, politics. These differences bring judgment. With hearts opened by God, we see every person and our earth as our neighbours, deserving of respect and care. Paul speaks this theme clearly, “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28). What a transformation there would be if we lived what we see in the example of Christ.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2018 pastoral letter against racism, “Open Wide Our Hearts, The Enduring Call to Love,” applies to all discrimination:

“Racism arises when—either consciously or unconsciously—a person holds that his or her race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard. When this conviction or attitude leads individuals or groups to exclude, ridicule, mistreat, or unjustly discriminate against persons on the basis of their race or ethnicity, it is sinful . . . They reveal a failure to acknowledge the human dignity of the persons offended, to recognize them as the neighbours Christ calls us to love.”

God calls us to hear the gospel with open minds and hearts, and also to speak that message with our lives. May we hear God speaking to us: “Ephphatha! Be opened.” And then, both seeing and hearing, transformed by new sight and sound, may we be catalysts for change in the world.



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# STEVE'S

# RANT

There appears to be a strong belief among politicians that if you say something often with the enthusiasm required to give the impression of conviction, then whatever it is you say is true even in the face of contradictory evidence. It is also apparent the media willingly swallow this tripe and regurgitated it in a self-perpetuation loop of bulldust. This is not a new phenomenon for it has been used by every shade of the political spectrum since the advent of mass-media & the advertising industry has known this for the last two hundred years. Since the end of World War 1 the socialist left and other autocratic regimes in Europe have made an art form of the Repeated 'Big Lie' and fear to control the populace. When necessary, silencing or cancelling the press and goading those who attempt to oppose. This happened in Victoria (Australia) in the last two years. It happens now throughout the world in subtle ways and by direct force in places like Russia, China, Iran, Turkey, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia, Queensland, Canada and North Korea. The pattern is simple. The Putsch gains power by force or deception then assumes the moral high ground by use of an ideology, religion, or appeals to nationalism. As in Queensland where Queensland hospitals are

only for Queenslanders, or Iran which finances and promotes the divide between Sunni and Shia Islam, and uses religious police to suppress its own people. Just like Victoria Police suppress dissent in that state. In Western Australia the socialist state government passed laws exempting them from being sued or otherwise blamed for the denial of human rights and the draconian closing of borders. After the second World War and the threat of Nazi National socialism and Japanese Imperialism were defeated, Communism became the greatest threat to freedom as the Cold War developed and the ideology of communism was exported to the world. It sprouted roots in England, France and many other Western Countries among trade unionists, intellectuals, and the arts community. The educated elite became besotted with Marxist Leninist ideology and the dichotomy it explained between the workers and capitalists. Thus, it was the university's arty-farty types in the humanity's disciplines who proselytised this dogma throughout the Western world. As a group we should call them the 'socialist collective' and they have infiltrated every part of western society and perverted the concept of freewill, freedom of speech and



personal responsibility. Now our elected Governments feel free to impose socialist concepts such as mandates, restriction of language, freedom of movement, and override the individual in the name of the greater good. We, as a Nation and a people are being snowed by the progressive left who use fear of made-up bogymen such as climate change to extend control. At the same time attempting to down-play the real bogymen, China. As for tearing down the past and re-writing history, and being woke, which Orwell referred to as changing language from Oldspeak to Newspeak. This is Big Brother stuff from George Orwell's book, 1984 edit - condensed; regarding the Jefferson American Declaration of Independence, below. *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are 'Life Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness'. That to secure these rights Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to*

*abolish it, and to institute new Government."* Orwell wrote. *"It would have been impossible to rendering this into Newspeak while keeping to the sense of the original. The nearest one could come to doing so would be to swallow the whole passage up in the single word. Crimethink. A full translation could only be an ideological translation whereby Jefferson's words would be changed into a Panegyric on absolute government."* A good deal of the literature of the past was already transformed. Various writers such as Shakespeare, Milton, Swift, Byron, Dickens and some others were therefore in process of translation, when the task has been completed their original writings, with all else that survived of the literature of the past, will be destroyed. It was chiefly in order to allow time for the preliminary work of translation that the final adoption of Newspeak had been for so late a date as 2050. Back here to August 2022. The shame is that many of our politicians do not realise how their bias or way of thinking threatens our freedoms and democracy. When they attempt to fix everything, they stuff everything. Many of the policies and programs of our govern-

ments are attempts to fix what is basically the responsibility of the individual. Promoting dependency among the population might be good for the polls but is totally destructive of the nations resilience and prosperity. Our security is related directly to these qualities. How can we ask people to make sacrifices and be prepared for mobilisation when the general attitude is that somebody else is responsible? The China virus has brought this to a head. The Governments of Australia took it upon themselves to control the spread and failed despite spending billions. Our per capital rate of infection of COVID is now the highest in the world. When you watch on television a politician making statements don't believe anything. Rather, look at the idiot noddors in the background as they egg the talker on. This will tell you all you need to know, particularly if it is somebody like Matt Keene, Lydia Thorpe or Chris Bowen. As energy prices soar and supply becomes unreliable, it is best to start putting some money aside for a generator and the fuel it will need. Before next winter, look an installing a wood fired heater on which you can cook. CHEERS STEVE.



Dodgy climate change deniers opinion

My analysis, looking at both sides of the discussion, verifies the following:-  
\* CO2 in our fragile world is currently the highest since human habitation at 417.39 ppm. (Confirmation is available on the CSIRO website)  
\* NASA has a comprehensive analysis of the effect of CO2 on climate.  
Forget about 800,000 years ago, pure trickery (cherry picking) not to say it's false, however, it's irrelevant for today's crisis. There has been a dramatic alteration to the climate pattern since the industrial revolution. Thinking otherwise would be ignorant of the facts, personal observations and facts by prominent climatologist. One needs to be forever vigilant and suspicious of any statistics

put forward by climate deniers from those non-experts, in the field of mathematics / science. These deniers are very skilful in distorting the facts to suit their narrative. The deniers support big business and extreme right wing groups by withholding crucial data, a simple fact check reveals this. You would think a genuine realist, would explore all avenues, before pushing their views onto others. Name calling also has a negative aspect on any civilised discussion. Fires and floods, in Australia extreme heat, in Europe Britain wildfires America. With much more veracity and regularity, my tip, ignore the SKY rhetoric, before it's too late; I believe it's already too late? We have a climate emergency;

help our children to survive as it is our obligation. *Gerald Irwin, Branxton NSW*  
Lack of logic and consistency Sean Kelly attributes Morrison's loss of bearings to a lack of logic and consistency. Within his own framework of reference, Morrison was logical and consistent. We lose our bearings when the eyes of the heart do not tell us what matters. In Morrison's framework of reference, there was no room for trust and accountability. *Mark Porter, New Lambton*  
He kept signing off on it Governor-General David Hurley says he was only doing what he was told by then prime minister Scott Morrison and that he had no reason not to believe Morrison would not communicate the decision. By this, he

with Morrison's colleagues, but what about communication with the Australian people? Surely, after signing off on the first couple of appointments, Hurley would have realised that no such communication had occurred, or would occur, yet he kept signing off on the prime minister being head of other ministries. He just stood by and did nothing. It seems conventions need to be codified and, additionally, that the governor-general's office should be required to publish heads of ministries so there is no confusion. *Richard Trautmann, Blackburn South*

Submit a letter to the editor

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

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# Flood warning systems set to save lives

Cessnock City Council was successful in obtaining grant funding from the NSW Government's Floodplain Management Program to install flood warning systems within the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA).

Once installed, the flood warning systems are designed to protect life by alerting residents who live near locations prone to flash flooding of rising creek levels. The systems will also alert Council and emergency service organisations prior to, and during, flood events.

Flash flood siren alerting systems are proposed to be installed at the following four locations:

- \* Elizabeth Street, Abermain
- \* Thomas Fell Park, Weston
- \* Mount View Park, Cessnock
- \* Short Street, Cessnock

Additional flood warning infrastructure, including water level gauges to monitor water levels in concrete stormwater channels within the Cessnock CBD area, and an automated rainfall gauge at Kearsley, are also proposed to be installed.

Council will be holding two community information sessions for residents to find out more about the flood warning systems, raise any concerns, and ask any questions.

The sessions will be held from 4-7pm on Monday 5 September at the Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre, and 4-7pm on Tuesday 6 September at Weston Civic Centre.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said he will be pleased to see these flood warning systems installed, particularly following the significant flood events we've had this year.

"This is the first time we have ever had three natural disaster declarations within 12 months, two coming within just four months of each other. Anything that can help residents during future flood events has my full support," Mayor Suvaal said.

"I encourage residents to come along to the information sessions to find out more, or complete the online survey on Council's website." Residents can also have their say, and find out more, by visiting [www.together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/flood-warning-systems](http://www.together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/flood-warning-systems).



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

# FREE trees for new homes

Cessnock City Council will again be giving away trees to new home builders, who have built during the 2021/2022 Financial Year, to help green the Cessnock Local Government Area.

The give-away will include a range of plants from ground covers, like Star Jasmine, through to shrubs, including Coastal Rosemary, Bottlebrush and Gardenia.

Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal said the program was a great way to make a start on establishing a garden for new dwellings.

"Trees provide shade and create habitat for animals, they also beautify our local government area," Mayor Suvaal said.

"I would encourage anyone who is eligible to take advantage of this offer to get a free tree in the ground."

For eligible households, registrations are required. Application forms are available at Council's Administration Building, Vincent Street, Cessnock, or via Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/tree](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/tree) giveaway program.

Completed application forms must be received no later than 5pm Friday 9 September 2022.

The Tree Giveaway collection day will be on Saturday 24 September 2022.



Any enquires regarding the application for supply of trees and shrubs should be directed to Council's Vegetation & Civic Spaces Coordinator, Lyall Green, on (02) 4993 4100.



**Helen Lowing**  
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# Members say ..



Member for Cessnock  
Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR WE NEED TO KEEP TALKING ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

It was only a couple of columns ago that I wrote about homelessness right across our area. Indeed, in the weeks since, the media has written regularly about homelessness right across NSW, and indeed Australia. The state of homelessness right now, in this country, is an absolute, catastrophic case of market failure. People will have their various views about the range of political beliefs as to when/why/how Government should be present. At one end is heavy Government involvement and lots of Government controls on goods and services; at the other end is a free market let-it-rip baby approach!

Hopefully, no matter what our personal politics, we could all agree that people in our advanced wealthy society should be able to have an affordable and respectable roof over our heads.

There are many levers that a Government can pull to make housing more widely available. The decision that they really need to make is whether or not to be active in addressing homelessness. We really must demand more from our Governments, at all 3 levels, if we want to seriously do something about homelessness.

Let's start with making homelessness a higher priority that yet another billion dollars for new stadiums for a multi-billion dollar sport.

## BARR-BEQUES ARE REACHING ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

The return of my community Barr-beques will see me in 17 of our 69 villages in recent and coming weeks. Yes, there are 69 villages and towns across the Electorate of Cessnock.

No doubt some people will be disappointed that I am not having a Barr-beque in their local park, or at a time that matches their other work/life commitments. Can I say with certainty, there is absolutely no way to make the Barr-beque schedule fit perfectly for every person in the Cessnock Electorate, but I am doing my best to be as widely available as possible. As always, if you have a

more specific concern that you would like to discuss, please do call the office and we will find a time to meet/ chat/correspond about State issues that are important to you.

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](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp)", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at [www.claytonbarr.com.au](http://www.claytonbarr.com.au)

Cheers, Clayton



Member for Hunter  
Daniel Repacholi MP

It has been a busy few weeks across the Hunter electorate as I continue to find my feet and settle into the role.

I have been meeting and visiting as many people and organisations as I can to hear firsthand the issues that are important to you. This week I will have Senator Tony Sheldon, who is the Special Envoy for Disaster Recovery, in the electorate.

Tony is working alongside the Minister for Emergency Management, Murray Watt, to ensure much-needed support is delivered to communities when natural disasters hit. I will be taking Tony to the areas most impacted by the recent floods so he can see firsthand the damage caused and provide feedback to the Minister.

On 1 and 2 September, the Prime Minister will convene a Jobs and Skills Summit in Canberra which will bring together around one hundred representatives from unions, employers, civil society, and governments, to address shared economic challenges. The Jobs and Skills Summit will play a key role in addressing the challenges of rising inflation and interest rates, falling real wages and a trillion dollars of debt. The goal of Government is building a bigger, better trained, and more productive workforce; boosting incomes and living standards; and creating more opportunities for more Australians to get ahead

and to reach their aspirations. Given the limited numbers attending the Canberra Jobs and Skills Summit, I will be holding some local Jobs and Skills Roundtables to help inform the outcomes of the Summit and the development of the White Paper. Senator Tony Sheldon will be joining me for these roundtables. This week the Government opened The Volunteer Grants program. Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to help community organisations to support the efforts of local volunteers. The grants can be used to buy small equipment for volunteers or for the reimbursement of volunteer fuel, transport, or training costs. Grant funds can also be used to promote awareness and increase participation in volunteering opportunities. Locally there is a total of \$66,225 for the Hunter electorate. Applications close with my office on 19 September and more information on how to apply can be found on my website [www.danreapholimp.com](http://www.danreapholimp.com)

Cheers, Dan

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[www.danreapholimp.com](http://www.danreapholimp.com) Another round of the Local Sporting Champions program has also opened. The Program recognises talented sporting individuals aged 12-18 in the Hunter electorate who have excelled in sport and represent their team at state, national and international sport championships.

The grants of up to \$750 each are provided to assist in the costs of travel, accommodation, uniforms, and sporting equipment for young people aged 12-18 who compete at a state-level or higher.

Round 2 Applications are now open and close at 11:59pm on 30 September 2022. Details can be found on my website.

Parliament will resume on 5 September and I will be making my first speech on Monday 12 September. I will be posting details via my newsletters and social media as to the exact time so you can tune in if you like.

You can keep up to date with everything that is happening in Parliament and across the Hunter electorate by following my social media channels and if you have any issues or questions relating to any Federal Government departments or any of the work being done in Parliament, please make sure you get in touch through my office on 4991 1022.

Cheers, Dan



Member for Upper Hunter  
Dave Layzell MP

## INQUIRY REPORT RELEASED

THE NSW Government has released and responded to the 28 recommendations of the independent Flood Inquiry, commissioned in response to the major floods earlier this year.

Six recommendations have been supported and 22 recommendations supported in principle with further detail on the implementation of all recommendations to be released later this year.

Key recommendations include reshaping Resilience NSW to Recovery NSW which will focus on the first 100 days post disaster; establishment of a NSW Reconstruction Authority and training for the community to assist with their ability to respond and recover from disasters. The Inquiry recommends that government flood modelling be improved as a priority in all high-risk catchments and be extended as soon as possible to other high-risk catchments including the Hunter River.

**VENTILATION AND COVID-19** As significant numbers of COVID-19 cases continue to be recorded, NSW Health urges residents to ensure homes are well ventilated in a bid to tackle the virus. If you have people visit your home, air it for an extra hour after visitors leave to help remove virus particles that might still be in the air.

Good ventilation and other COVID safe behaviours such as washing your hands or using sanitiser, wearing masks and not visiting others if you aren't feeling well, can help prevent you from getting and spreading viruses like COVID-19 and flu.

The latest NSW respiratory surveillance data for the week ending 13 August reported the Hunter New England Local Health District had 7,920 COVID-19 cases for the week taking the Year Total to 344,958 whilst there were just 91 Influenza cases taking the local total to 14,386 for the current flu season.

**SENTENCING REFORMS** Offenders convicted of historical offences will be sentenced according to current sentencing patterns and practices under a bill introduced into the NSW Parliament. The Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Amendment Bill 2022 will generally require NSW courts to apply current sentencing practices to perpetrators of all crimes, regardless of when those crimes were committed.

At present, courts must apply the sentencing patterns and practices that were in place at the time an offence was committed, instead of at the time of sentencing, except in cases of child sexual abuse. The bill will also address a drafting gap in relation to Intensive Correction Orders, which had excluded certain child and adult sexual offences from Intensive Correction Orders, but not if they had occurred before 2000.

**NAZI SYMBOLS DECISION** In a historic decision, a new law making it a criminal offence to knowingly display a Nazi symbol in public without a reasonable excuse, has passed the NSW Parliament. The new offence in the Crimes Act 1900 will carry a maximum penalty of 12 months' imprisonment or an \$11,000 fine or both for an individual or a fine of \$55,000 for a corporation. The events that occurred under the Nazi regime represent one of the darkest periods of recorded human history and this new offence sends a clear message that the display of Nazi symbols, and the hatred and bigotry they represent will not, and should not, be tolerated. The Bill contains broad exceptions to allow Nazi symbols to be displayed where it is in the public interest in good faith, including for an academic, artistic or educational purpose.

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businesses, the arts, sporting clubs and community groups with in-kind and financial support.

I am a big believer in investing in our community and recognise the invaluable contribution that community and sporting groups make to enhance the towns where we live, work and play.

Sports clubs, arts and community groups within the Cessnock LGA can apply for funding under Council's Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme until this Friday 2 September. There is over \$90,000 available under the scheme which will allow clubs and groups to get important projects off the ground, improve facilities or purchase new equipment. Under the scheme there is \$30,000 available for local sporting groups, \$30,000 for Council owned community facilities such as halls, and \$33,685 for not-for-profit community, arts and cultural groups.

This grant scheme has delivered some fantastic projects and upgrades over the years and I strongly encourage community and sporting groups to look at the guidelines and get an application in. Council also provides support for community events and I am pleased Council will once again provide in-kind and financial support for Stomp Festival following a decision at the last Council meeting. The festival organiser, Cessnock Business Chamber, will be provided with \$17,304 of in-kind and financial support for this popular street festival themed around food, wine, music and fun times for the whole family. Stomp Festival has been cancelled the past two years due to COVID-19, and the festival team are working to bring it back with a bang on Sunday 30 October 2022 so I encourage residents to come along and enjoy what the festival has to offer. The 2019 Stomp Festival saw 17,000 people attend the event. They spent an estimated \$3.1 million in the local community. Council also supports Nostalgia Festival, a wonderful community event which injects another \$3 million into our local economy each year. Supporting community events like Stomp Festival, Nostalgia Festival, along with our other fantastic community events, has such a positive impact on local business, tourism, the local economy and the wider community. Cheers, Jay

The Russell Triplets Ben, Jake and Sam have qualified for the IronMan 70.3 World Sprint Championships in Utah and Dubai. At the recent Cairns IronMan event they completed the 2km swim, 90km bike and the 21km run in 4hrs 20mins crossing the finishing line 1 after the other. This time earned them a place at the World Championships. They will be representing Australia and putting the Hunter Valley on the IronMan world map in October and November this year. They thoroughly love and enjoy the endurance.

The Russell Triplets are ironic local sporting hero's and are always giving back to the community with volunteering in the local many sporting clubs in the Hunter. You'll see them going for leisurely jogs for them which equates to a sprint pace for the ordinary person. I know first hand the dedication and commitment it takes to mould into an elite athlete and the great sense of honour to represent the country. Join them at their fundraiser at the Royal Federal Hotel. WHEN: Sat. 10 Sept 6pm WHERE: The Royal Federal Hotel, Branxton Cheers, Dan

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## STOP PRESS

Russell Triplets  
Fundraiser



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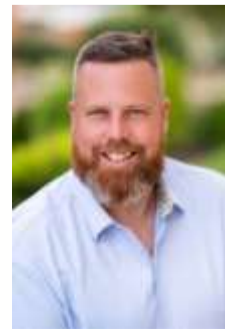
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Member for Hunter  
Daniel Repacholi MP

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# Pharmacist Advice *with*



**Medicines**  
Some medicines can cause or worsen hair loss. Ask a pharmacist or doctor for advice.

**Medical conditions**  
Some medical conditions can cause hair loss (e.g. anaemia, thyroid problems, cancer, HIV/AIDS). Stress, anxiety, pregnancy, serious illness and surgery may lead to hair loss a few months after the event.

**Poor diet**  
Poor nutrition, especially a lack of iron, may cause hair loss.

hair weaving and tinted sprays can hide hair loss.

**Self care**

People's reactions to hair loss are very personal. Some people become very distressed, as hair loss affects their body image and self esteem. Other people are not concerned by hair loss. If you feel distressed, talk to a doctor.

- Remember that treatments for hair loss take time to work.
- Handle your hair gently.
- Remember skin on the scalp is easily sunburned. Always wear a hat when outside, and apply at least SPF 30+ sunscreen to exposed skin.
- Be careful to protect your scalp as exposed skin on the scalp is easily damaged.
- Learn and use relaxation techniques.
- Eat regular, healthy meals, including plenty of fruits, vegetables and wholegrain foods. Limit foods high in fat, sugar or salt.

*Cheers, Andrew*

## Hair loss

Hair loss has many causes. It can be permanent or temporary. Most people's hair grows more slowly as they get older and some people, mostly men, go bald. Some types of hair loss can happen to anyone at any age. Medicines can sometimes help stop hair loss. Each hair strand grows out from a hair follicle just under the surface of the skin. A scalp has about 100,000 hair follicles. Hair strands on the scalp normally grow about 1cm a month for two to five years. Eventually, a hair strand stops growing and, after about three months, falls out. This happens when the hair follicle starts to grow a new hair strand.

A healthy person loses about 50–100 hairs from the scalp every day. If the hair-growing cycle is interrupted or hair follicles are injured or altered, hair strands may fall out early, not be replaced or be altered. This leads to thinning, or part or total baldness. Hair loss can also happen on other body areas. The medical name for hair loss is alopecia.

**Some types and causes of hair loss**

**Androgenetic alopecia (baldness)**

Androgenetic alopecia is a change in hair growth on the scalp that happens to many men and some women. Short, fine, pale hair starts growing in place of normal hair until eventually hair stops growing. Baldness is inherited from either side of the family. It is also related to age and to blood levels of certain hormones.

**Male pattern baldness** – hair is lost from the front of the head (receding hair line) and from the top of the head.

**Female pattern baldness** – hair loss is less noticeable than in men. Hair is lost from the top of the head without a receding hair line.

**Alopecia areata**

Hair is lost suddenly in one or more circular patches on the scalp or body. It can develop into hair loss over the entire scalp (alopecia totalis) or the entire body (alopecia universalis). It may be caused by an immune system problem.

**Cancer treatment**

Chemotherapy and radiation treatments can affect hair follicles and cause growing hairs to fall out.

**Trauma or hairdressing**

Overuse of chemicals (e.g. hair colours, perming solutions) and heat can damage hair and hair follicles. Regular tension on hair (e.g. tight rollers, tight plaits) or rough brushing can also cause hair loss. 'Trichotillomania' is hair loss due to a person pulling, plucking and breaking their own hair.

**Skin conditions**

Some skin conditions cause hair loss (e.g. dermatitis, psoriasis, infection). Tinea (also called ringworm) is a skin fungal infection. Tinea on the scalp causes a red, itchy, scaly patch, with hair loss in and around the patch.

**Scarring**

Hair does not grow from scar tissue.

**Treatment**

There is no permanent cure for male/ female pattern baldness or conditions where hair follicles are permanently damaged.

**Male/female baldness**

Medicines may help and work best if started in the early stages of hair loss. They can slow or stop hair loss and, in some cases, stimulate hair growth. It may be several months before hair regrowth begins and if treatment is stopped, hair loss will continue as before. Medicines for hair loss include:

- minoxidil lotion – available from a pharmacist without a prescription
- finasteride tablets – have a hormone effect that may help some men. Finasteride must be prescribed by a doctor
- spironolactone and cyproterone tablets – have a hormone effect that may help some women. They must be prescribed by a doctor.

Wigs, hair transplants or scalp reduction surgery may be options if medicines do not help.

**Other types of hair loss**

- In alopecia areata hair may grow back by itself. Some medicines (e.g. corticosteroids, dithranol, minoxidil) may help hair growth.
  - Fungal scalp infections can be treated with antifungal medicines.
  - Hair loss due to stress, surgery, pregnancy, medicines, medical conditions or poor diet usually stops once the cause is removed.
  - Hair lost during cancer treatment usually grows back after treatment is finished.
- Hair transplants and surgery can reduce the size of bald patches. Wigs and cosmetic treatments such as

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## Local artist a finalist in the National Capital Art Prize

North Rothbury artist **Linda Lunnon**, at right, is one of 128 finalists in the 2022 National Capital Art Prize (NCAP).

Linda is primarily a wildlife and botanical artist, but has recently started branching out into human portraits, in her preferred medium of scratchboard.

Scratchboard is a unique medium where a panel or card is covered with a fine, smooth layer of clay and sprayed with black ink. Sharp tools are then used to scratch the ink away to reveal the white clay underneath.

Her shortlisted piece for the NCAP 'Carry me', celebrates the

relatively short but special window of time in which your children are still small enough to carry in your arms.



The NCAP is a relatively new art prize offering over \$45,000 in prizes, and attracted entries from all over Australia.

The exhibition commences with an awards night on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, and will be open to the public for four weeks from Thur 22<sup>nd</sup> September at The Fitter's Workshop, a heritage-listed building in Canberra.

People's Choice is open for voting online until the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022, head to [www.nationalcapitalartprize.com.au](http://www.nationalcapitalartprize.com.au) for more information.

To find out more about Linda's illustration work, visit [www.lindalunnon.com](http://www.lindalunnon.com).

■ At left: 'Carry me' Linda's entry in the 2022 National Capital Art Prize. It has been included as one of 128 in the finals.

### Country-style chicken pies



20m prep; 1h 35m cook; makes 6  
**Allergens:** Recipe may contain sulphites, celery, milk, sesame and gluten.

**These little pies, packed with a rich chicken, bacon and veggie filling, will warm everyone from the inside out.**

**Ingredients**

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 12 shallots, peeled, halved
- 200g cup mushrooms, halved
- 4 Coles RSPCA Approved Australian **Chicken Breast** Fillets, chopped
- 4 bacon rashers, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 carrots, peeled, thinly sliced
- 2 celery sticks, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup (35g) plain flour
- 1 cup (250ml) red wine or chicken stock
- 400g can diced tomatoes
- 2 dried bay leaves
- 2 thyme sprigs
- 3 sheets frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1 Australian Free Range Egg yolk
- 1 tbsp milk
- Sesame seeds, to sprinkle
- Poppy seeds, to sprinkle
- Dried chilli flakes, to sprinkle (optional)



**4-Method Steps**

**Step 1**

Heat half the **oil** in a heavy-based saucepan over medium heat. Add the **shallot** and **mushroom** and cook, stirring, for 5 mins or until brown all over. Transfer to a heatproof bowl.

**Step 2**

Heat remaining oil in the pan. Cook **chicken**, in batches, turning occasionally, for 5 mins or until browned. Transfer to bowl with mushroom mixture. Add the **bacon** and **garlic** to pan. Cook, stirring, for 2 mins or until browned. Add **carrot** and **celery** and cook, stirring, for 5 mins or until browned. Return the chicken mixture to the pan. Stir to combine. Add **flour** and cook, stirring, for 1 min or until well combined. Add the **wine** or stock and bring to the boil. Stir in the **tomato**, **bay leaves** and **thyme**. Reduce heat to low. Cook, covered, for 40 mins or until the sauce thickens and the chicken is tender. Season. Cool slightly.

**Step 3**

Preheat oven to 200°C. Place the **pastry sheets** on a clean work surface. Use a 10cm pastry cutter to cut discs from the pastry, reserving excess. Use a 3cm heart-shaped cutter to cut shapes from reserved pastry. Spoon chicken mixture among six 1 1/2-cup (375ml) pie tins. Arrange pastry discs over the tins to enclose the filling. Whisk **egg yolk** and **milk** in a small bowl. Brush lightly over the pastry. Decorate with **pastry hearts**. Sprinkle with the **sesame seeds**, **poppy seeds** and **chilli flakes**, if using.

**Step 4**

Bake for 30 mins or until the pastry is golden brown and puffed.





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### Rental crisis takes hold; Sydney vacancies drop to new low while Hunter Valley vacancy rates marginally decrease

**After a brief reprieve last month, the latest REINSW Vacancy Rate Survey results show that residential vacancies in Sydney have once again taken a dive.**

“The vacancy rate for Sydney overall dropped by 0.3% for the month to be just 1.7%,” REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said. “The drop is attributable to vacancies in the Inner Ring dropping by 0.7% to be 2.2% and brings the residential vacancy rate to its lowest level in almost five and a half years, when it sat at 1.7% in August 2017.”

“This really is a historical low for Sydney and shows that the rental crisis has definitely taken hold.”

Areas outside the Inner Ring of Sydney fared better, with the Middle Ring of Sydney remaining stable at 1.4% and the Outer Ring rising by 0.1% to 1.6%. Outside Sydney, vacancy rates in the Hunter decreased, while the Illawarra increased.

“In the Hunter region, the vacancy rate decreased by 0.1% to be 1.6%,” Mr McKibbin said. “The Illawarra region increased to 1.2% (+0.3%).”

Vacancy rates across regional New South Wales were a mixed bag, with some areas easing and others tightening.

“Vacancy rates for the Albury, Mid-North Coast, Murrumbidgee, Northern Rivers, Orana and South Coast areas all recorded increases,” Mr McKibbin said. “However, the Central Coast, Central West, New England, Riverina and South East areas each dropped. “REINSW members are telling us that they’ve never experienced such a lack of supply. The shortage of stock is extreme and there’s no denying that the rental crisis is real.”

“In the face of cost-of-living pressures, many tenants

would embrace the opportunity to secure a more affordable rental property. However, despite rent increases, they’re choosing to stay put because they’re just not confident that they’ll be able to secure another property.

“It’s a very stressful time for tenants.”

### A major increase to the migrant intake cap will put pressure on housing – especially rentals

**The Federal Government is considering a dramatic increase to the country’s annual migration intake to address a critical skills shortage, according to reports.**

Speaking to the media last week, Skills and Training Minister Brendan O’Connor wouldn’t be drawn on speculation that an influx of 30,000 to 40,000 extra arrivals is on the table.

However, speaking ahead of a Jobs and Skills Summit comprising businesses, unions, training providers, state and territory governments, and the Commonwealth, Mr O’Connor revealed an immigration review is underway. Media reports indicate a new cap of 200,000 is being strongly considered, with those occupations and industries most under pressure to be prioritised.

But experts warn the already stretched housing market will be impacted by a sudden surge in demand, particularly in the private rental space.

Eleanor Creagh, senior economist at PropTrack, said properties are currently being leased at the fastest pace ever.

“The rental market is already tight - particularly in the major capitals as people return to cities,” Ms Creagh said. “This is seeing increased competition and rental price pressures.”

Dwindling supply coupled with high demand is seeing prices skyrocket and many would-be tenants left struggling to find somewhere to live.

The imminent return of skilled migrants, as well as international students, will put further pressure on rental markets, she said.

“In fact, overseas searches to rent have already skyrocketed in recent months. In the last six months compared to the six months prior, overseas rental search volumes are up 59% thanks to the borders having reopened.”

Australia has the second-highest labour shortage in the developed world, according to OECD figures, and urgent action is needed to boost the availability of skilled workers said Minister O’Connor.

### Class Action Lawsuits

Class action lawsuits are something often reported on but what is a ‘class action’ and what kinds of claims can be bought by way of a class action lawsuit. A ‘class action’ is a lawsuit in which either one person, or a number of people, sues a company or institution on behalf of a larger ‘class’ which can be defined by a list of names or by a set of criteria. In order to commence a class action there must be seven or more persons with claims against the same defendant, the claims must arise out of the same or similar circumstances, and the claims must give rise to at least one substantial common issue of law or fact. The types of class action proceedings bought in Australia vary greatly and include:

- Shareholder class actions involving disclosure obligations, misleading and deceptive conduct by companies in take-overs, in prospectuses and in releases to the ASX.
- Consumer actions such as unfair bank fees cases, or the current class actions against AMP relating to charging customers for financial advice that was never given.
- Negligence claims such as the Queensland floods and Black Saturday bushfire actions.
- Defective product cases for things like breast, knee and hip implants.
- Employment law cases such as when employees are

subject to the same workplace discrimination or other employment law violation.

The main benefit of group proceedings is that they enable a dispute involving potentially large numbers of people to be resolved by way of a single case, this can increase access to justice by reducing the expense and responsibility that each member takes on. Generally class actions are funded through third party litigation funding where the litigation funders enter into an agreement, to pay the legal costs of the representative party and to accept liability to pay the respondent’s costs if the class action is unsuccessful. In return, if the claim is successful, the funder receives its money back together with a share of the amount awarded which depends on the size of the case, the timing of the settlement and the costs incurred.

If a class action settles the Court must approve the settlement, the Court will consider whether the proposed settlement is a fair and reasonable compromise of the claims of the class members. Courts have demonstrated a willingness to disallow or amend proposed

settlements, for example where the proposed settlement fails to adequately differentiate between group members’ claims, or where the proposed settlement provides for commissions to a litigation funder greater than the funder is contractually entitled to. The largest sum recovered by claimants in a class action in Australia is \$494 million which was recovered by way of settlement in proceedings against three defendants arising from the “Black Saturday” bushfires near Kilmore East Kinglake in Victoria in 2009. The settlement was reached following a trial that had lasted 208 days and was approved in December 2014.

*Cheers, Kerri*

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# WHEELS ON

# Out & About

with Mike Lowing

**ON the 18th August** the Branxton & Greta RSL Sub Branches combined to commemorate Vietnam Veterans' Day on the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in 1966. It was the 56th Anniversary of the battle. The service was held at the Branxton War memorial Rotunda with Branxton RSL Sub Branch President, Brian Furner OAM, leading the service. Mr. Jim Phillis, from Greta RSL Sub Branch, led the Commemoration of the Fallen; Mr. J. Bevan, Mr. 'Taffy' Fortune, Mr. D. Axsentieff & Mr. Peter Groves.



**MILLER PARK HOTEL BRANXTON** monthly markets held on the 21st August, 2022. A good crowd attended the inaugural Miller Park Hotel Markets enjoying a wonderful sunny winters day with plenty of stalls offering a good selection of wares. The first month, in July '22 was 'weathered out'. Next market day is on the 18th September 9:30am to 2pm.



**THE TRUCKIES & PARTNERS REUNION** held at Miller Park Hotel, Branxton, on the 20th August 2022.

AGAIN, a good crowd attended the very well organised event. Organisers efforts did not go astray as they raised over \$7000 for their benefactor, MS Australia. A list of sponsors/donors is at left who the organisers wish to thank. There was a mixture of modern & vintage trucks, around 20 trucks in all. 'Well done' to all concerned.



Branxton Lions Club, Gilbert & Roach Hexham, Dennis & Diane Kellaher, Penske Detroit  
**Singleton, Bower's Heavy Haulage, Volvo Commercial Vehicles, Country to Coast Care, Miller Park Hotel, Valley Hydraulics, Auto Pro Singleton, Valley Brake & Clutch, Singleton Earth Moving, WOW Detailing, Westrac, Royal Federal Hotel, Singleton Trailer & Caravan, Col Armour Logistics, North Star Motors, Carter's Heavy Haulage, C & M Bulk Haulage & Greg Ernst (Cockroach).**



The catafalque party who attended from 'Lone Pine' Barracks, Singleton



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The wreath laying ceremony

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## Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

Branxton, Greta & surrounds

never seemed to own a licence to sell alcohol from it. The licences belonged to Edward Doyle in 1839, Henry Joseph Cohen in 1840, James Watson in 1842. In August 1844, Samuel advertised the house at Anvil Creek as 'lately known as Shamrock Inn', for lease. It contained six rooms, a kitchen and stable with a good enclosed paddock attached. This was probably on Samuel's land as another form of income.

Samuel died aged sixty on 19 June 1860, and was buried in the Branxton General Cemetery. His wife Catherine, and sons then took up land at 'Maryborough', Bowmans Creek, Singleton. Catherine died aged eighty-three in 1895, and was buried in the Branxton, St Brigid, Catholic Cemetery, along with their two sons, Charles in 1918, and William in 1935.

For more local family histories and other interesting artefacts, call into Greta Museum at 96 High Street, Greta, next to the Greta Bakery. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 11am - 3pm.

Cheers, Neridah



■ The first Anvil Creek Bridge which shares its name with the bridge at the bottom of Nelson St, Greta

Samuel Marshall was born at Nottingham, England between 1792-1799. He committed larceny (personal theft), as a young man and was convicted at York, Doncaster Borough Quarter Sessions, to seven years transportation. He was described as 5'9½" (176½ cm), with a pale, ruddy complexion, dark sandy hair, and hazel eyes. He was tried on 24 October 1814, received his sentence, and left in August 1815 on the *Ocean*, arriving in Sydney on 30 January 1816. Samuel was on the list of convicts employed by John Howe of Windsor, in 1818-1820. He accompanied John Howe on his second expedition, working for him as a labourer, in search of a line of road from Windsor to the Coal (Hunter) River around 1820.

For his services he was promised fifty acres of land. He was on the list of persons to receive grants of land when he was in Windsor in September, 1821. He had been 'free by servitude' by the time the 1822 Census/General Muster was held. He was first offered a plot on the Hawkesbury, but declined it from lack of means for improving the land.

In 1827, his circumstances improved so he then sought, from Governor Darling, the land he had been promised. He eventually received his fifty acres, in and near Anvil Creek, in the Parish of Branxton. The land's northern boundary was said to stretch along the present New England Highway, from Anvil Creek Bridge to the present Dalwood turn off. All the current Miller Park and the Branxton Golf Course land on the eastern side of Anvil Creek is said to have been included, as well as a section of the western side of the creek to the present Cessnock Road. In those days it was regarded as being part of the Patricks Plains (Singleton) district. In this instance, it appears the section of Anvil Creek that was called Anvil Creek in the 1830s near the present Greta Station (that became part of Greta) is not connected.

In the 1828 Census, Samuel was thirty-five years old and had one young convict labourer, Thomas Boulton, who had arrived on the *Countess of Harcourt*, who helped him work the farm. He was also assigned another convict Charles Howle, from the *Florentia*, on his arrival in 1828. By that stage Samuel was said to have seventy-five acres, with fifteen acres cultivated and fifteen acres cleared, along with forty-five cattle, and one horse.

He married Catherine Spalding/Spaulding, at the early Newcastle, Church of England, Christ Church Cathedral in 1832. Catherine had been born in the colony about 1814, a daughter of Irish convict Bryan Spalding/Spollon/Spaldon and Mary Walsh/Welsh/Welch. Although coming from Windsor, Catherine had been working, in 1828, as a servant for Leslie Duguid and had been living in Lochinvar. Her father Bryan had also been a convict, sent out for vagrancy in 1804. By 1814 he was freed and became a land holder at Windsor. His partner Mary had also been a convict and they had four children.

Together Samuel and Catherine had six children, Mary in 1836, Ellen in 1838, Samuel jnr. in 1841, John in 1845, Charles in 1849 and William in 1853 who were all registered as Roman Catholic at Maitland, although they were born at Anvil Creek. Although the couple were married in an Anglican Church, Catherine was Roman Catholic which, in the very early years, took some time to become accepted in the colony; she also wanted her children to be of the same faith.

Samuel satisfied the stipulations that went with his grant on 13 September 1836, by his occupying and improving it, and was rewarded with his deeds of land. He named the property 'Carlton in the Willows'. In the December 1837 Muster, Samuel is recorded as being the master of sixteen assigned convicts.

In December 1840, the Sydney Monitor recorded Samuel as the owner of the building 'Shamrock Inn' at Anvil Creek, although he

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**Lions socialising again!**

The Lions Club of Branxton have recently been holding some social events with their members. The first of these events was a morning tea held at the Branxton Lions 'shed' next to the Community Hall. All members and partners were invited to a delicious morning tea but with a serious purpose; to honour the lives of two prominent Branxton Lions members who passed away in the last two years: Alan Becker – a 33-year Lions member who was typically found getting equipment ready for the next Lions event, and Ron Hungerford the well-known local businessman who dedicated 55 years to the Lions cause.



The two VIPs at the event, Denise Hungerford (standing) and Cynthia Becker.



Alan Becker – behind the BBQ as usual!



Ronnie Hungerford proudly displaying the Melvin Jones Lions Award

Branxton Lions members flocked to the shed to enjoy their morning tea plus other goodies and are seen here celebrating the lives of their former members. Plaques will be displayed in the Lions shed dedicated to Alan and Ron. At the event, Branxton Lions President, Rod Taylor presented a plaque dedicated to Alan Becker, while Ron's widow, Denise had received a certificate for his 55 years of Lions service. President Rod praised the long-serving former members for their unstinting work and dedication to help disadvantaged people locally in their volunteer work for the Lions Club of Branxton.

**From the Lions' Den**

**Anyone for lunch?**

The members of the Lions Club of Branxton also made merry at the recent Lions lunch which is held monthly and is organised at a local eating place - this time at the Lochinvar Hotel.



Branxton Lions members and partners enjoying their lunch and chatting at the event held at Lochinvar Hotel. Branxton Lions members and partners enjoying their lunch and chatting at the event held at Lochinvar Hotel.

**Lions Garden Project – Lions 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Australia – Lions Park**



Before

Branxton. The day for planting the Garden came in August. Native species of plants were used such as: *Xerochrysum* (Strawflower) and/or *Goodenia ovata*. Watch the space in Lions Park opposite Miller Park – you could be the first person to spot the garden sign!

Pictured below the motley crew of gardeners – members of the Lions Club of Branxton and Landcare members.

**Lions Garden Project – Lions 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Australia – Lions Park** Branxton. The day for planting the Garden came in August. Native species of plants were used such as: *Xerochrysum* (Strawflower) and/or *Goodenia ovata*. Watch the space in Lions Park opposite Miller Park – you could be the first person to spot the garden sign! Pictured below the motley crew of gardeners – members of the Lions Club of Branxton and Landcare members.



After

**Lions Garden Project – Lions 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Australia – Lions Park** Branxton. The day for planting the Garden came in August. Native species of plants were used such as: *Xerochrysum* (Strawflower) and/or *Goodenia ovata*. Watch the space in Lions Park opposite Miller Park – you could be the first person to spot the garden sign! Pictured above the motley crew of gardeners – members of the Lions Club of Branxton and Landcare members.

Here are some facts about this iconic Australian animal:

Come across a male platypus in mating season and you could be in for a painful shock. Male platypuses have a hollow spur on each hind leg connected to a venom secreting gland. While their venom is lethal, there are no recorded deaths from platypus stings.

Like a shark, the platypus uses electronic impulses to detect underwater prey and locate objects in the darkest depths of the creeks and rivers they call home. They feed on insect larvae, freshwater shrimps, worms and yabbies, which they bring to the surface to eat. Despite being a mammal, platypuses lay eggs, making them a monotreme, one of only five monotreme species left in existence. Platypuses have two layers of fur for insulation and waterproofing. They use their fur to trap a layer of air next to their skin so they can remain buoyant and dry while underwater, which they are for about 12 hours every day.

No one knows why, but when they are put under UV lights platypuses give off a biofluorescent green-blue glow. The name for a baby platypus is a puggie. Prolonged droughts, bushfires, a changing climate and land clearing have impacted the platypuses' habitat and decreased their population. So it's more important than ever to work towards conservation and restoration of the platypus and their habitat.

**August was PLATYPUS month!**

**VITAL PLATYPUS STATISTICS**

**Adult length:** Typically 0.5 metres (males), 0.4 metres (females).

**Adult weight:** Typically 1.0-2.4 kilograms (males), 0.6-1.4 kilograms (females). Maximum recorded weight = 3.0 kilograms. Animals living in the colder/southern parts of the platypus's range are generally larger than those found in the warmer/northern parts.

**Age when first mature:** 2 years

**Mating period:** Late winter to spring

**Size of eggs:** 15-17 millimetres long

**Number of babies in a litter:** 1-3 (most typically 2)

**Length of egg incubation period:** 10-11 days

**Length of lactational period:** 16-20 weeks (in captivity)

**Life span:** Up to 21 years in the wild. More than 25 years in captivity.

Have you ever seen one in real life???



**Fight Diabetes with the Lions Club of Branxton and Walk across the entire country!**

**World Diabetes Day** is in November, but the Lions Club of Branxton is asking members of the community in Branxton, Greta, North Rothbury, and surrounding areas to **START WALKING NOW** to fight Diabetes. We need you to join in the **Lap the Map** national mega-event and record any distances you walk between now and the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Facts about Diabetes – but IT IS PREVENTABLE!**

Diabetes is recognised as the world's fastest growing chronic condition. One in 11 adults has diabetes (415 million) 12 per cent of global health expenditure is spent on diabetes (USD\$673 billion) Every six seconds a person dies from diabetes (5.0 million deaths)

You can notify the distance you have walked, run, or cycled to: Alan Beckley, Lions Club of Branxton, Email: [Branxton\\_Lions@outlook.com](mailto:Branxton_Lions@outlook.com)

**Generous donation from Bunnings Warehouse, Singleton**



Recently, Bunnings Warehouse Singleton made a very generous donation to the Lions Club of Branxton, recognizing the long relationship between the two organisations in delivering the traditional 'sausage sizzle' at the hardware stores outlets. Pictured here are the crew of Branxton Lions at the Saturday BBQ with the member of staff from Bunnings who kindly organized the donation with Branxton Lions member Colleen Anderson and handed over to President Rod Taylor.

**Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:**

- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** – Lions raffle outside IGA Branxton
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – Bunnings BBQ at Singleton plus Lions Fathers' Day Raffle
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September** – Branxton Lions Management Board Meeting – Branxton Golf Club, 4pm.
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September** – Lions lunch 12 midday – venue tba
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** - Lions 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Australia - Lions Garden Project.

**Lions Club Diary Dates:**

Month	Time/Day / Date	Event
September	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lions Australia 75 <sup>th</sup> Birth-
October	Thursday 13 October	World Sight Day

**Recycling 'Check It! Before You Chuck It'.**

Research shows that Australians care about the environment and know recycling is important, however with 200+ recycling labels in use, getting recycling right can be difficult. Helping Australians recycle right, the national campaign **'Check It! Before You Chuck It'** calls on all Australians to look for and check the Australian Recycling Label (ARL) on their packaging every time they are at the bin so that they recycle/dispose of their packaging correctly. The ARL provides easy to understand instructions about how to correctly dispose of all parts of a product's packaging – for example, the lid, tub, and sleeve of a product might all need to be disposed of differently. ARL resources can be found in the following Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1bv8SaP4om-2KnkEZKxMmJPHmxb4vimhy>



If you have any questions about any of the content above, please contact Alan Beckley, Lions Club of Branxton. Email: [Branxton\\_Lions@outlook.com](mailto:Branxton_Lions@outlook.com) Mobile: 0426-261948

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# LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

## Ken Liddell appointed as new GM Cessnock City Council

**Cessnock City Council will welcome a new General Manager next month following a successful recruitment process.**

Ken Liddell will take up the role on Monday 5 September after seven years as City of Newcastle Director Infrastructure and Property, where he has also served as Acting General Manager.

This appointment was made by the elected council and Mr Liddell's extensive experience in local government, with his engineering qualifications and a solid history delivering large scale works and infrastructure, will serve to deliver community priorities.

Mr Liddell will join the Council during a time at which it faces enormous challenges. This year's flood events, in March and July, have devastated our road networks and infrastructure. Council faces a huge task as it work towards recovering from these natural disasters, and Ken will be key in driving this recovery.

Mr Liddell said he was eager to commence the role and looked forward to getting to know staff and the Cessnock community, while liaising closely with the Mayor and Councillors to achieve good outcomes.

"It is an exciting opportunity to be a part of such a fast-growing community and I am committed to working with the Council to ensure local services and infrastructure requirements are made a priority," Mr Liddell said.



## More than \$90,000 in community and sporting grants up for grabs

**Sports, arts and community groups within the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) can now apply for funding under Cessnock City Council's Dollar for Dollar Grants Scheme.**

The grant scheme is about supporting community and sporting groups to deliver projects and events that will enhance community life in the Cessnock LGA.

There is \$30,000 available for local sporting groups to get important projects off the ground.

This could include improving sporting facilities or purchasing equipment for the long-term benefit of sporting clubs and their members.

Another \$30,000 is on offer for Council owned community facilities such as halls and other buildings in need of an update. This grant scheme supports the completion of minor capital works or the purchase of equipment that will help improve the facility.

Not-for-profit community, arts and cultural groups have \$33,685 in funding available. These grants can be used to undertake projects or events that increase opportunities for community participation, improve community well-being, or benefit cultural development in the wider community. This grant scheme can also be used to undertake improvements to Council owned facilities that contribute to the cultural or artistic use of the facility.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said he believes in investing in the community and recognises the invaluable contribution that community and sporting groups make to enhance the towns where we live, work and play.

"Council has more than \$90,000 in grants available under this scheme and I strongly encourage community and sporting groups to look at the guidelines and get an application in," Mayor Suvaal said.

"This grant scheme has delivered some fantastic projects and upgrades over the years, and provided community and sporting groups with new equipment to improve their facilities and offerings."

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 2 September 2022. To find out more and apply, visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Grants](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Grants).



## Cessnock Council pops the cork on funds for street festival

**Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce it will once again provide in-kind and financial support for Stomp Festival, following a decision at councils last meeting.**

The festival organiser, Cessnock Business Chamber, will be provided with \$17,304 of in-kind and financial support for this popular street festival themed around food, wine, music and fun times for the whole family.

Stomp Festival has been cancelled the past two years due to COVID-19, and the festival team are working to bring it back with a bang on Sunday 30 October 2022.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said he is proud to support community events like Stomp Festival because they have such a positive impact on local business, tourism and the wider community.

"The 2019 Stomp Festival saw 17,000 people attend the event, who spent an estimated \$3.1 million in the local community, which is just fantastic," Mayor Suvaal said.

"I encourage the community to come along to this fabulous event to not only support our local businesses, but enjoy what's on offer, including grape stomping, delicious local food and wine, entertainment for the kids, markets, music and more."

## Vibrant new look unveiled for Baileys Union Park



**The transformation of Singleton's Town Centre into a modern and connected destination for boutique shopping, dining and local business has been boosted by the completion of upgrades to Baileys Union Park into a vibrant community space.**

The \$440,000 project was funded under the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program and is an extension of Singleton Town Centre Upgrade Stage Two that was completed in 2021. The LRCI Program supports local Councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Works at Baileys Union Park included the installation of paved walkways and landscaping including new gardens, plus the installation of picnic tables, shelters and drinking fountains, all designed to address connectivity issues in the area, increase amenity by screening the adjoining industrial zone, as well as encourage more people to come to the Town Centre and spend time in Singleton.

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning Services Group said the project had a tremendous impact on the overall vibrancy of Singleton Town Centre, with the park acting as a key gateway between the New England Highway and John Street.

Works, which began in late February, were delayed by a month due to wet weather caused by the La Nina weather event.

"The upgrades at Baileys Union Park breathe new life into Singleton's CBD, creating another fantastic green space for the community to enjoy while also adding to the overall amenity of Singleton Town Centre as a regional destination for people to shop, eat and meet," he said.

"This project extends the modernisation of John Street and encourages greater pedestrian connectivity between Baileys Union Park and the award-winning Riverside Park and entices motorists on the New England Highway to come into the town centre from Campbell Street.

"This section of the town centre also has particular historic significance as the area where Benjamin Singleton established his inn, and it's incredible to think that 60 years ago, and for almost a century before then, Baileys Union Park was a site to sell produce and livestock.

"Today it's a beautiful space our entire community can enjoy, and a boost for our local economy as the Town Centre becomes even more attractive to visit and do business."

■ Photo above: Singleton Council's Manager Infrastructure Services Damian Morris and Parks Management Officer Mitch Moy at Baileys Union Park



## CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

### 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. This project forms part of [Council's Operational Plan](#). You can find it within the Operational Plan with the Project ID RRL 2021 008.

### 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.



# Locals supporting locals.

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

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

## #supportlocalcessnock

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

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

Keep safe, please adhere to the social distancing rules.



## #supportlocalcessnock

\*Full Terms & Conditions at [advancecessnock.com.au/supportlocal](http://advancecessnock.com.au/supportlocal)



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What's On

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

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## RESTAURANT

- Monday: \$16.50 Roast Dinner Deal which includes dinner roll & soft drink/schooner
- Tuesday : \$12.00 Cheap Tuesday
- Wednesday: \$12.00 'Schnitty' Night & Social Bowls from 3
- Thursday: Brisket Night

## What's On

- Wednesday: **BINGO** Every Wednesday from 7 Sept @ 9:30am
  - 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 B'xrt Little Athletics
  - Saturday: \* **Social Bowls** Names in by 12:30pm & 1pm start
    - \* **Karaoke** ~ every second Saturday from 14th May. 8pm start
  - Sunday: Raffles 5pm drawn 6pm
- Bowling Green is open for all barefoot bowl events.

- \* **Restaurant OPEN 7-Days a week for Lunch & Dinner** (New Spring Menu 1 Sept)
- \* **Catering for all functions**
- \* **Barefoot Bowls**
- \* **Parties welcome**

**Monday to Friday**  
**4pm—6pm**

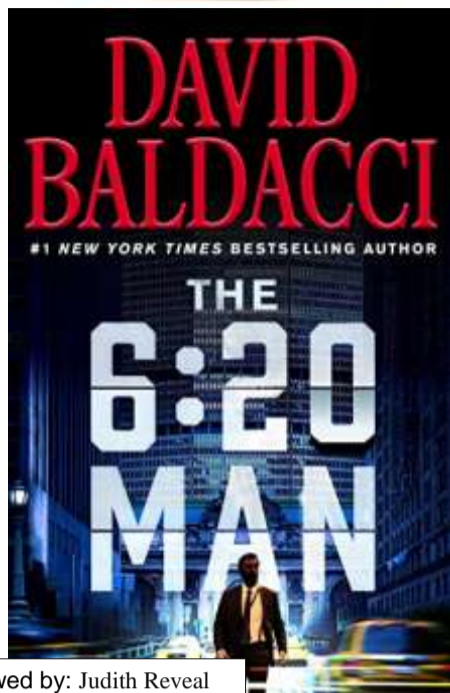
6 Maitland Street, Branxton NSW 2335 P: 4067 4141

**SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER**  
**9:30am ~ 2pm**





## Book Reviews



Reviewed by: Judith Reveal

**“One of Baldacci’s strongest skills is inserting a multitude of coincidences into the story while keeping it on track and not deviating or distracting the reader.”**

One would think that by this time, prolific author David Baldacci would have run out of ideas, but his fans will be thrilled to know that is not the case.

Baldacci’s new book, *The 6:20 Man*, is what keeps him on top of his game. He opens

the book with a good hook, “Travis Devine took a shallow breath, ignored the heat and humidity that was rising fast along with the sun, and rushed to board the 6:20 train, like it was the last flight out of Saigon.” Travis Devine, Baldacci’s newest hero, is an ex-Army Ranger who carries a lot of baggage from his military experience. In a desire to please his overpowering father’s demands that he be financially successful, as are

his brother and sister, when Devine leaves the army, he earns his MBA and finds himself in a mundane job with the powerful Wall Street financial firm of Cowl and Comely.

A boring job at the lowest rung on the business ladder, one that barely keeps him alive in New York, a town where nothing is affordable, Devine asks himself, Why? Devine shares a flat with three other people: Will Valentine, a Russian émigré who is a world class hacker; Jill Tapshaw, a brilliant computer specialist who runs her romance matchup business from her home and small office; and Helen Speers, a recent graduate from law school. His boring daily trek on the 6:20 train into the city begins with a ride that makes a stop next to an uber-wealthy man’s house. This is the only interesting part of his daily slog, when a well-toned young woman in a really small bikini strips and dips. The train starts up again, and the 6:20 returns to boredom.

Now here is where Baldacci begins laying out the very coincidences that Devine does not believe in. On this particular day, coincidence seems to become a part of Devine’s life when he receives a mysterious email, “She is dead.” When he arrives at work, he learns that a coworker, Sara Ewes, has committed suicide in an office supply closet. Devine doesn’t like coincidences, especially when they involve him, and

indeed Ewes’ death involves him, as he had dated and slept with her. Only one time, but then again, it doesn’t take more than one time to make a coincidence. After work that evening, Devine begins his investigation of Ewes’ death by investigating where she died on the 52nd floor of the building. But he finds much more when he sees the owner of the firm, Brad Cowl, having sex with another of Devine’s coworkers, Jenn Stamos. Curious, Devine follows Stamos to a small bar where he finds himself engaged in an alley fight with three men, the leader of them a WASP named Christian Chilton. Devine’s army training kicks in, and he easily overcomes the three young toughs.

Devine approaches Stamos and learns that Ewes and Stamos were in love. Within a few days, Stamos is found brutally murdered—another coincidence? Baldacci throws in another twist when Devine is called to a small restaurant to meet a retired army general, Emerson Campbell. Campbell knows about Devine’s military past and the secrets he carries, and Campbell offers Devine the opportunity “to serve your country again as a member of the Office of Special Projects.”

It’s that or go to prison for his previous military crime. The project? In his capacity as employee at Cowl, find out the company’s darkest secrets in money laundering.

Devine accepts.

And they keep coming when Devine is summoned to Cowl’s home for a talk—the home where the beautiful young woman, Michelle Montgomery, swims for the benefit of the men traveling on the 6:20. Yet another coincidence when Devine encounters Christian Chilton at Cowl’s mansion.

Devine is approached by NYPD Detective Karl Hancock who is investigating Ewes’ death, and it doesn’t take long for Devine to learn that Ewes did not commit suicide, but was murdered, and he is a prime suspect. But what is Devine to make when two homicide detectives approach him, and he learns that there is no NYPD detective by the name of Karl Hancock?

Baldacci creates a maze that continues to grow, and each twist and turn becomes more coincidental. Sara’s parents arrive from New Zealand, and in an attempt to learn more about Sara and why she died, Devine approaches them. Within days, they are murdered. Four deaths, all associated in one way or another with Cowl and Comely, cannot be anything more than coincidence, and Devine doesn’t like coincidences. Nine deaths in all. By the time we reach the final climax, and each character is put in his or her appropriate place, we’ve figured out who the real murderer is . . . or have we?

It should be noted that Baldacci’s characters are not always what they seem, and discovering their reality is part of the intrigue of *The 6:20 Man*.

One of Baldacci’s strongest skills is inserting a multitude of coincidences into the story while keeping it on track and not deviating or distracting the reader. It is obvious that Baldacci did his homework regarding military protocols and Wall Street financial inner-workings, and he converts what he learned into easy-to-understand details.

The only thing that Baldacci leaves unanswered is the character of Rachel Potter, a nosy TV news reporter. She appears only twice in the story, and not again at the end. Her role, although a well-developed character, is not finalized. But if that’s the worst that can be said about *The 6:20 Man*, we can disregard it. It’s clear that this story is a keeper. We can only hope it is the start of another series by David Baldacci. Judith Reveal lives in rural Maryland. She is the author of the Lindsey Gale Mystery series including: *Cheating Death*, *The Music Room*, *A House to Kill For*; historical fiction, *The Brownstone*; and nonfiction *The Four Elements of Fiction: Character, Setting, Situation, and Theme*; *Around Greensboro*; as well as a memoir, *Essays on Growing up Middle Class in Post World War II America*. Her latest novel, *Crossroads*, was released in 2020.

## ABOUT .....



**David Baldacci** (born August 5, 1960) is an American novelist. An attorney by education, Baldacci writes mainly suspense novels and legal thrillers. David Baldacci was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. He graduated from Henrico High School and earned a B.A. in political science from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law, after which he practiced law for nine years in Washington, D.C. He is of Italian descent. Baldacci began writing stories as a child, when his mother gave him a notebook in which to record them. He wrote for more than two decades, penning short stories and later screenplays without much success. While practicing law, he

turned to novel writing, taking three years to write *Absolute Power*. Published in 1996, it was an international best seller. To date, Baldacci has published 40 best-selling novels for adults as well as seven novels for younger readers.

Baldacci resides in Fairfax County, Virginia, with his family. Baldacci and his wife, Michelle, are the co-founders of the Wish You Well Foundation, which works to combat illiteracy in the United States. Baldacci became involved with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society after his sister, author Sharon Baldacci, was diagnosed with MS. Baldacci has been sitting on the board of trustees of Mark Twain’s historic home in Hartford. In 2019, he donated \$1 million to the home.

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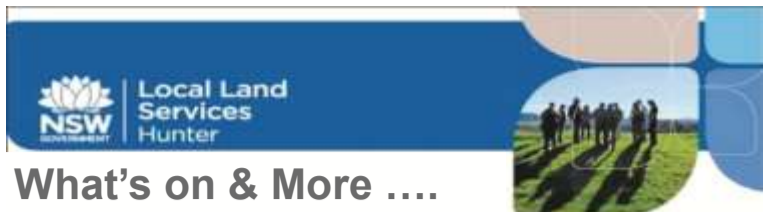
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## The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (28 AUGUST '22)

1. 173 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING* by Delia Owens  
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.  
*Ranked 1 last week*
2. 61 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*IT ENDS WITH US* by Colleen Hoover  
A battered wife raised in a violent home attempts to halt the cycle of abuse.  
*Ranked 2 last week*
3. 36 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*VERITY* by Colleen Hoover  
Lowen Ashleigh is hired by the husband of an injured writer to complete her popular series and uncovers a horrifying truth.  
*Ranked 3 last week*
4. 31 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*UGLY LOVE* by Colleen Hoover  
Tate Collins and Miles Archer, an airline pilot, think they can handle a no strings attached arrangement. But they can't.  
*Ranked 4 last week*
5. 59 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO* by Taylor Jenkins Reid  
A movie icon recounts stories of her loves and career to a struggling magazine writer.  
*Ranked 5 last week*
6. 21 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*NOVEMBER 9* by Colleen Hoover  
Is Ben using his relationship with Fallon as fodder for his novel?  
*Ranked 6 last week*
7. 8 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*ALL YOUR PERFECTS* by Colleen Hoover  
Quinn and Graham’s marriage depends on past promises.  
*Ranked 11 last week*
8. 5 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*THE 6:20 MAN* by David Baldacci  
When his ex-girlfriend turns up dead in his office building, an entry-level investment analyst delves into the halls of economic power.  
*Ranked 8 last week*
9. 15 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*BOOK LOVERS* by Emily Henry  
While on vacation in North Carolina, a literary agent keeps running into an editor.  
*Ranked 12 last week*
10. 9 WEEKS ON THE LIST  
*EVERY SUMMER AFTER* by Carley Fortune  
The love story of Percy and Sam is told over the course of six summers and one weekend.



## What's on & More ....

### FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE AND LUMPY SKIN DISEASE INFORMATION SESSION (SCONE)

Please join Hunter Local Land Services for an information session on foot and mouth disease (FMD) and lumpy skin disease (LSD).

The sessions will cover:

- Signs to look out for (FMD and LSD)
- How the diseases are transmitted
- Preventative steps to implement on farm
- What happens if a case of FMD or LSD is diagnosed in Australia.

- What is a livestock standstill in response to a case of FMD (or other emergency animal diseases)

**The importance of the national livestock identification system (NLIS) and tracing in an outbreak.**

**WHERE AND WHEN**

Scone Bowling Club, 10.30 - 11.30am, Friday, 2 September 2022

**RSVP is essential so that the venue and catering can be managed. Register here to save your spot.**

#### THIS EVENT IS COVID SAFE

Numbers are limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. All confirmed registrations will be required to comply with the NSW Government COVID-19 requirements. Subject to cancellation in response to COVID Regulations.

#### CONTACT

Lyndell Stone (0429 532 855 or lyndell.stone@lls.nsw.gov.au)  
Jacky O'Neill (jacky.oneill@lls.nsw.gov.au).

Climate Driver Update - Wet outlook continues with an increased chance of La Niña developing this spring

The Bureau of Meteorology ('the Bureau') has moved from 'La Niña WATCH' to 'La Niña ALERT' with the likelihood of La Niña returning this spring increasing to around 3 times the normal risk.

Climate models and indicators have shifted towards meeting La Niña ALERT criteria. A La Niña ALERT means the chance of a La Niña developing in the coming season has increased.

When La Niña criteria have been met in the past, a La Niña event has developed around 70% of the time.

La Niña refers to changes in sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean, with waters in the eastern Pacific being cooler than normal, and waters in the western tropical Pacific being warmer than normal. Trade winds strengthen, increasing the water moisture in the air, which usually brings rainfall to eastern and central Australia and a wetter start to the northern wet season.

The Bureau's 3-month climate outlook shows a high chance of above average rainfall for most of the eastern two-thirds of the Australian mainland between September and November 2022. The outlook reflects a range of climate drivers including a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event and warmer than average waters around Australia.

With wet soils, high rivers and full dams, and the outlook for above average rainfall, elevated flood risk remains for eastern Australia.

There is a 70% chance of La Niña returning this spring.

The Bureau is advising of very high chances of wet conditions over eastern Australia for the next three months. Should a La Niña event be established in the Pacific Ocean, the wet conditions will persist into summer.



## Racing Review & News

### Anamoe reigns supreme



#### Gunnedah

Total Yarding: 1240 | +960

Date Report: 23/08/22

Numbers returned to a level of normality following several weeks of rain reduced yardings. It was a mostly good quality penning with high quality, well bred yearlings a feature. The condition of the offering was mostly good with cattle to suit all buyers. The regular buyers were in attendance along with strong restocker competition.

Given the low numbers from the previous week there are few market comparisons available. Strong restocker competition for light and medium weight steer vealers, prices comparing favourably to recent weeks. Light weight yearling steers to restockers sold to dearer trends with quality improvements. The medium weights to restock and feed saw variations in averages due to quality with little change in the trend for feeders, the restockers were dearer. Heavy weight yearling steers saw those to feed remain close to firm, while well bred lines to restockers were significantly dearer. There was little but quality related price change for medium weight yearling heifers to feed. There was strong restocker demand for well bred heifers ready to join with market trends substantially dearer.

There were very few grown cattle from the previous week to compare market trends. The grown steers to feed attracted keen demand as did the limited supply purchased by processors. That was also the case for grown heifers. A very strong cow market saw a marked improvement on recent weeks. *Market Reporter, James Armitage.*

#### HRLX Singleton

Total Yarding: 552 | +294

Report Date: 24/08/2022

Numbers increased greatly and the quality was mixed, with the majority entering the vealer category and were more suited for the restocker buyers. The yearlings were limited in supply, while the export cattle were scarce in the pens, with the majority being cows. The market trend was dearer.

The over 200kg vealer steers trended considerably dearer and ranged from 530c to 716c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers and backgrounders continued the dearer trends and made from 480c to 630c/kg. The few medium weight yearling steers to the restockers and lot feeders sold to solid competition and received from 530c to 570c/kg. The yearling heifers made from 450c to 546c/kg. The best prime conditioned lots selling to the local butchers topped at 556c/kg.

Grown steers and bullocks made from 340c to 480c/kg, depending on weight and fat cover. Cows sold at similar prices, with the better covered heavy weights ranging from 342c to 375c/kg.

*Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.*

#### Scone

Report Date: 23/08/2022

Total Yarding: 673 | +476

Consignments increased greatly compared to the last few rain affected markets and the breed and quality was fair to good. The majority sold to the feeder and restocker buyers, with some lots in prime conditioned and suitable for the local butchers also penned. The export cattle were limited in supply, with only approximately 24 cows offered. The market trend was dearer.

The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers lifted 20c and more in places and ranged from 496c to 730c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers gained 20c and sold from 470c to 626c/kg. Solid gains were recorded for the yearling steers, with the medium weights to feed and the restockers ranging from 490c to 564c/kg. The yearling heifers to feed and the restockers also trended dearer, with the medium weights making from 500c to 548c/kg. The best yearling heifer to the local butchers weighing in excess of 400kg liveweight topped at 590c/kg.

The older heifers to the processors ranged from 400c to 454c and reached 496c/kg to the feeder buyers. Cows sold at similar prices recorded over the previous few markets with the better covered heavy weights making from 360c to 380c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 320c/kg.

*Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.*

#### TRLX Tamworth

Report Date: 22/08/2022

Total Yarding: 712 | +261

Several days of dry weather allowed producers to consign an increased supply this week. All categories were represented including a large line of store condition cows and grown heifers. Overall the quality and condition of the offering was good with limited supplies of secondary cattle available. The usual buyers were in attendance with demand high throughout.

Market trends responded to the high demand with light weight yearling steers to restockers selling to a significantly dearer trend. Breed and quality contributed. Medium weight steers to restock and feed were only moderately dearer with some quality related price change. Heavy weight feeder steers attracted strong competition with breed contributing to a substantially dearer market trend. There were strong gains for the most part through the yearling heifers to restock and feed, a big variation in quality accounting for some large price ranges. Heavy weight trade heifers sold to a slightly dearer trend.

Heavy weight grown steers to process sold on a much dearer trend with the supermarket trade active. The well finished grown heifers followed a similar trend. A very strong cow market saw the well finished medium and heavy weights as much as 20c/kg dearer. That line of store cows and grown heifers attracted keen restocker demand with prices well in excess of those paid by processors. *Market reporter, James Armitage.*

#### An emotional James Cummings has declared Anamoe the horse to beat in whatever races he contests this spring after his grand return in a cracking renewal of the Group 1 Winx Stakes.

In winning the opening major of the spring, the Godolphin glamour became the first Australian entire since Show A Heart in 2000-01-02 to win Group 1 races at two, three and four.

Anamoe was given a lovely trail fourth on the fence by James McDonald but with no room to shift out, he was forced to make his run towards the inside in the straight, ground which had appeared inferior earlier in the program.

But it proved no issue for Anamoe (\$2.50 fav), who exploded clear to beat the fast-finishing Fangirl (\$6) by 1-3/4 lengths with Profondo (\$15) a gutsy short head away third after being trapped wide.

Debbie Kepitis, a part-owner of the race's namesake and the runner-up, was

one of the first to congratulate Cummings, who admitted to being unusually emotional after Anamoe's performance.

"He means a lot to us," Cummings said.

"He is so beautifully bred, he is the type of horse that can carry a stable. We are very lucky to have him.

"There was pressure on him because he's a fresh horse and can get a bit too fractious. You are watching for every little sign they might not come back.

"How remarkable a pre-Christmas two-year-old winning over 1000m is still coming back winning Group 1 races as a four-year-old."

Cummings is unsure where Anamoe will run next but the Cox Plate is the focal point of his spring preparation.

There were some promising runs behind the winner with Fangirl coming from last to grab second, her trainer Chris Waller feeling a wide gate probably beat her.

"Fangirl just had to take her medicine from the draw and go back but finished off really well," Waller said.

Profondo was also outstanding, looking a brief threat halfway up the straight before peaking on his run after racing wide, while ATC Australian Derby placegetter Benaud caught the eye doing his best work late.





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

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

Mobile CMMS enables technicians to access asset logs, meter-reading history, parts inventory and warranty information in the field as they work. Using mobile CMMS technology can also improve accuracy and efficiency by eliminating redundancy and reducing the time needed to manage work orders. Today, a constant stream of new mobile technologies is fuelling a fundamental shift in the way smartphones are used for maintenance. As a result, the modern smartphone could overtake the wrench as the tool of choice in the maintenance technician's tool belt. The simple reason for this shift is the extraordinary technology inside your smartphone. Certain features and apps can turn your phone into a must-have maintenance gadget. They can enhance your CMMS experience or provide the tool needed to perform a task without having to search for specialist equipment or tools.

Below are 12 such features and apps, although many more are also available.

### Camera

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

### Voice Recognition

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

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

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

**Maps and GPS**  
The majority of smartphones come with maps and GPS technology, allowing you to use satellites to pinpoint the latitude and longitude coordinates of your current location to within a few feet. This

enables technicians to locate dispersed assets in the field without the need to search through reams of outdated maps. A maps app can guide you to the work order asset in your CMMS.

### Flashlight

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

### Unit Measurement Converter

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

### Strobe Lights

Strobe lights (or stroboscopes) can be used to study the behavior of rotating, oscillating or vibrating equipment. They are often employed as tachometers to accurately calculate the running speed of belts and motors. The technician adjusts the frequency of the strobe until the belt or motor appears to freeze. At this point, the speed of the motor can be calculated and adjusted if necessary. A stroboscope can also be used for balancing, verifying alignment and checking for looseness. There are a number of apps that turn the camera flash into a stroboscope. Simply search your app store for "stroboscope" or "strobe tachometer" to download and test for yourself.

### Vibration Analysis

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

**Magnetic Field Detector**  
Your smartphone comes with magnetic field sensors to determine magnetic north. Several developers have designed magnetic field detector apps that can be

used to measure magnetic fields around the smartphone. The apps use the embedded magnetic sensors in the smartphone to turn it into an electromagnetic field (EMF) meter. These apps are ideal for simple tasks like checking for power lines behind drywall. However, use a proper Gaussmeter if you need exact measurements.

### Metal Detector

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

### Sound Level Meters

Sound level meters measure the level of sound intensity in decibels at any point in time. A number of apps can convert your smartphone into a basic sound pressure meter. These apps use complex Fourier transform algorithms and the smartphone's built-in microphone to measure noise in decibels. The apps are limited by the hardware on the phone, so it may be difficult to measure in extreme cases.

However, they are reliable and accurate enough for non-critical applications. If you need precision accuracy, buy a proper sound pressure level (SPL) meter.

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

More next month (back to basics)

If any of your sensors aren't working on your device, we can probably fix it at Macdroid's Greenhills

See you next month  
Frank

# MOVIE REVIEW

## NOPE



Two siblings who run a California horse ranch discover something wonderful and sinister in the skies above, and the owner of an adjacent theme park tries to profit from the mysterious, otherworldly phenomenon.

Two siblings who run a California horse ranch discover something wonderful and sinister in the skies above, and the owner of an adjacent theme park tries to profit from the mysterious, otherworldly phenomenon.

**Rating:** M (Some Violence/Bloody Images|Language Throughout)

**Genre:** Horror, Mystery & Thriller, Sci-Fi

**Original Language:** English

**Director:** Jordan Peele

**Producer:** Jordan Peele, Ian Cooper

**Writer:** Jordan Peele

Jordan Peele continues to astound with latest film *Nope*

Kate Rodger



After their award-winning collaboration on *Get Out*, Jordan Peele reunites with his leading man Daniel Kaluuya - this time for a very different kind of horror. This is *Nope*. OJ (Kaluuya) and his firebrand of a sister Em run a horse ranch in a deserted Californian valley, training horses for Hollywood. Soon the recent, rather unusual death of their father becomes increasingly extra-terrestrial, maybe? And the siblings' curiosity becomes an almighty quest for the

impossible. Allow me now to wax lyrical, wafty word-clouds of non-spoilery whimsy which I hope will send you straight to the cinemas rather than ruin that experience. What you'll find is once upon a Hollywood science-fiction side-hustle western steeped in old-school sitcom child star vibes dipped in a bit of bloody from time to time and with a cup that runneth over when it comes to genuine jump-frights and laugh out

louds. Enough said. It's a big fat yep to *Nope* and the less you know the better. Jordan Peele continues to astound, mixing his genres but continuing to amplify his own unique voice. This latest film is his most Hollywood while not being Hollywood at all. A sci-fi horror was always gonna suck me in and I loved it. **Four-and-a-half stars.**



# NRL should play grand final in Sydney without ransom demand

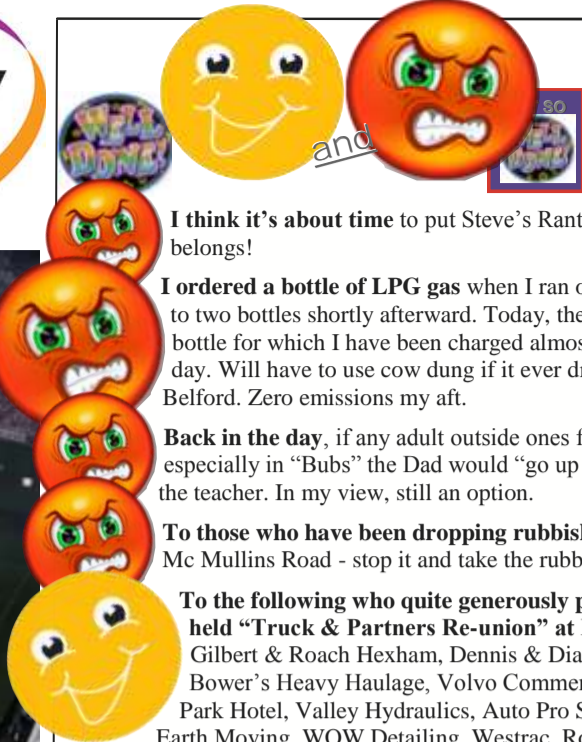
The Sydney Morning Herald



**Peter FitzSimons**  
Columnist and author  
What is wrong with this picture above?  
In the past four years the NSW taxpayer has put a lazy billion dollars or so to give the NRL a brand spanking new state-of-the-art stadium to be mainly used by that code, where the Sydney Football Stadium (SFS) used to be, knocking down a 30-year-old stadium to do so.  
Within 10 days of that stadium actually opening, the NRL says to NSW: "Give us \$8 million or we'll take the grand final off you this year, and send it to Queensland."  
And the NSW Government pays! Seriously, is something out of kilter here? When you put the NSW taxpayers' massive generosity on one end of the see-saw, is it not outrageous that all we have at the other end is a hand that alternates between showing the finger of contempt, the clenched fist of anger, and the palms outstretched grasping for ever more, more, more?  
All up, it is surely no big deal the NRL grand final moves around the country in the manner of the Super Bowl in the United States. But do you think maybe, just this year at least, by way of showing appreciation the NRL could have said, "Hey, thanks NSW, this one's on the house!"  
I do.  
All up, it confirms the Perrottet government was right to refuse to back the boutique stadiums, and it will be right to cancel the new Penrith stadium and the money earmarked for the so-called Centres of Excellence for four clubs. By all means put money into sport, but make it money for community sporting infrastructure not squillions to ungrateful sports businesses.  
**Stabbing pains for Manly**  
It happens in this game. Every now and then when presented with particular issues you do your best, and make your stand, only to find – oh, Gawd – the horse you backed in has just run into the fence. (See my following item on the Swans.)  
For once, this time it wasn't me. But I refer to the famous issue of last month with the "Manly Seven" and their refusal to have

anything do with wearing the rainbow stripes in support of LGBTQI people, because it would offend their religion. Most people were appalled, including me. They're going to trash the whole season, bring the game and the club into disrepute, rather than show support for the notion that we're all equal? *Seriously?*  
Other sport commentators took the unwavering view that when it came down to religion, everyone should back off, as it was their perfect right to observe their pious beliefs, no matter the consequences. It didn't have to be logical. It just had to be religious, and all bets were off – bar the gambling logos on those same jerseys.  
But then came last Sunday, as Manly played the Titans, and one of the Manly Seven, Haumole Olakau'atu crossed the stripe to put the ball down before jumping up and making some strange hand signals – the number "61", followed by an imitation of hands cuffed together.  
As we learnt it was in support of the former NRL player, Manase Fainu, who just the following day was off to prison after being convicted of stabbing a young Mormon church leader in the back with a steak knife in 2019. Olakau'atu – who grew up with Fainu in Guildford with its postcode of 2061 – was supported by two others of the Manly Seven, Josh Schuster and Josh Aloiai, with Schuster even displaying the initials "MF" in big letters on his wrist.  
Get it?  
On the one hand their faith was so strong they just couldn't bring themselves to associate with anything so un-Christian as the idea that gays are equal. On the other hand they're quite happy to wear Manly jerseys while supporting someone convicted of stabbing a bloke with a steak knife!  
As #awkward as it must have been, Paul Kent was honest enough – and I mean that sincerely – to admit on his league show NRL360 on Monday night, how badly he felt let down.

"Only a couple of weeks ago," he said, "we were here on this show, particularly me, defending the values of Olakau'atu and a few of the players at that club for their stance with the pride jersey and I said whether you like it or not they follow a Christian faith and they are defending that faith. A fortnight later they're now coming out in support of a guy who has just been convicted of stabbing a bloke essentially. You can't have it both ways ..." Precisely.  
And either way, you cannot build a premiership-winning team out of players like that.  
**Swans now part Sydney's sporting furniture**  
Where is that beer ad when you need it? You know the one, "They said you'd never make it!"  
It surely would have fitted well with the Swans celebrating 40 years in Sydney as the SCG was awash in red as 44,659 fans came out to see the Swans put the Collingwood Magpies to the sword.  
For, speaking of *mea culpas*, I was one of many who said at some volume and distressing frequency the Swans would never make it in Sydney and right up to the mid-1990s, was sure they must collapse. But they didn't.  
The AFL played the long game, continuing to support them no matter what, and has been rewarded, with the Swans being, if not quite the pride of the league, surely something close to it – having now six grand final appearances for two wins to show for their time in Sydney.  
And by and large, they have been a great addition to the Sydney sporting scenes, producing great ambassadors for the game, many memorable moments and bugger-all serious atrocities that I can think of? *Bravo. Sigh.*  
Peter V'landys on the state of play of his relationship with the NSW Premier: "He is a good human being. But don't have a bet with him because if you win he won't pay you."



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](mailto:thenews@hotmail.net.au)  
All contributions welcome

**I think it's about time** to put Steve's Rant in the rubbish bin. That's where his rubbish belongs!

**I ordered a bottle of LPG gas** when I ran out on the ninth of July, increasing the order to two bottles shortly afterward. Today, the horses birthday, at last I received one gas bottle for which I have been charged almost two hundred dollars. New cost is \$20 per day. Will have to use cow dung if it ever dries out. 1043mm rain since Jan. 1 in Belford. Zero emissions my aft.

**Back in the day**, if any adult outside ones family talked about a child's private parts, especially in "Bubs" the Dad would "go up to the school" and bash the bejesus out of the teacher. In my view, still an option.

**To those who have been dropping rubbish** (beer bottles included) in Rusty Lane and Mc Mullins Road - stop it and take the rubbish home. Don't be a tossa!

**To the following who quite generously provided help/donation for the recently held "Truck & Partners Re-union" at Miller Park Hotel:-** Branxton Lions Club, Gilbert & Roach Hexham, Dennis & Diane Kellaher, Penske Detroit Singleton, Bower's Heavy Haulage, Volvo Commercial Vehicles, Country to Coast Care, Miller Park Hotel, Valley Hydraulics, Auto Pro Singleton, Valley Brake & Clutch, Singleton Earth Moving, WOW Detailing, Westrac, Royal Federal Hotel, Singleton Trailer & Caravan, Col Armour Logistics, North Star Motors, Carter's Heavy Haulage, C & M Bulk Haulage & Greg Ernst (Cockroach). Over \$7000 was raised on the day for MS Australia.

Classified's

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

**Drum lessons:** Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for ½ hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362

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

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

**For Sale:** 2 ton chainblock \$100, Hardwood Timber beam 4800 x 290 x 75, \$50. 2470 x 140 x 100, \$20, Humes prime coat solid exterior door, 2040 x 820 x 35, New \$120, sell \$50, Painted solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, \$20, trailer axle with Holden hubs and stub axles, \$20, 4 White roll down security shutters 1800, 1860, 1760, 1650 wide with 2000 drop, Free Ph.**0437312905**

**For Sale:** Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused, or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on **0458721077**

**For Sale:** Collectable rabbit traps from \$10 P: 0421 102 711

**For Sale:** Alpacas Ph **0400697148**

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

**Riding Lessons:** agistment, horses trained. **0407 453 494**

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

**Seamstress:** Sewing & mending P; Brune 0413 351 057

**Wanted:** all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j z50jz ct70 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**

**WHAT'S GOING ON?**

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

[www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au](http://www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au)

**THE BEATLES 50 YEARS ON**

**Next date: Saturday, 24 September 2022 | 08:00 PM to 10:30 PM**

Come and relive all the Beatles classic hits in one sensational two hour concert experience, presented by the world's premier 'Beatles' band, THE Sensational BEATLE BOYS.

Direct from sold out concerts in Canada & North America, South Africa and Asia, THE BEATLE BOYS will transport audiences back to those incredible days when the Beatles dominated the music charts with as many as 7 songs in the Top 10 starting at No 1.

Hear every classic Beatles song that ever made it to No 1, and relive the magic and unique sound that made the Beatles the greatest rock 'n' roll band the world has ever known. No less than 35 chart toppers that made the four 'mop tops' so much a part of our lives back in those heady days of the 60's together with the timeless hits of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison & Ringo Starr. You'll hear and sing along to *Help, A Hard Day's Night, Can't Buy Me Love, Yesterday, Love Me Do, She Loves You, Eleanor Rigby, Hey Jude, Let It Be* and many more; brought to Australian audiences with love from us to you.

**Dates for your diary**

**The "For your Diary" section of The News is a FREE community service.**

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**FRI 26 AUGUST** – closing day for nominations EOI for Singleton Arts and Culture Advisory Group. Expressions of Interest outlining related experience and reason for nominating to join the group. For more information and to download the EOI form, visit [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/publicexhibition](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/publicexhibition), or call Council on T 02 6578 7290.

**FRI 2 SEPTEMBER** – Lions raffle outside IGA Branxton

**SAT 3 SEPTEMBER** – Bunnings BBQ at Singleton plus Branxton Lions Fathers' Day Raffle

**TUE 6 SEPTEMBER** – Branxton Public School Book Week celebrations

**SAT 10 & SUN 11 SEPTEMBER** – HUNTER VALLEY GIN & JAZZ FESTIVAL & HOPE ESTATE; Time: 10am-5pm. All-day live Jazz

**THUR 15 SEPTEMBER** - Branxton Public School CONCERT

**THU 22 SEPTEMBER** - Branxton Lions 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Australia - Lions Garden Project

**SUN 25 SEPTEMBER** - HUNTER EVENTS WEDDING FAIRS - HUNTER VALLEY AT OAKS CYPRESS LAKES RESORT, 15 THOMPSONS RD, POKOLBIN Time: 11am - 2pm

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

**SEPT 2022**- Lions Garden Project Lions Australia 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary garden – Lions Park Branxton.

If you have any questions please contact Alan Beckley, Lions Club of Branxton. Email: [Branxton\\_Lions@outlook.com](mailto:Branxton_Lions@outlook.com) Mobile: 0426-261948.

**SAT 10 DEC** – Branxton Community Hall; Christmas Twilight Markets

**SAT 17 DEC** – The Killers at Hope Estate

**Upcoming Concerts**  
**ANDREA BOCELLI SAT 29 OCT 2022** - @ Hope Estate "If God had a singing voice, he would sound a lot like Andrea Bocelli" – Celine Dion  
Michael Buble in Concert ~ 30 November 2022 at Newcastle Entertainment Centre

**☉ Daily Thoughts**

Take each other for better or worse, but not for granted. -- *Unknown*  
Be kind to unkind people. They need it the most. -- *Unknown*  
After all this is over, all that will really have mattered is how we treated each other.  
--*Unknown*

# Father's Day

at **St Patricks of Nulkaba**

Time:

**8am - Approx 12noon**

**ANNUALLY ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER**



**Branxton VIEW Club report**  
 Branxton VIEW Club celebrated their 34th birthday with visitors from other VIEW Clubs and a total of 75 happy friends helped us to celebrate the day. Our beautiful birthday cake was made by Denise Hungerford and decorated by Yvonne Bell-Well done talented ladies! Special guest VIEW State Advisor Ann-Louise O'Connor presented 3 of our members with awards. Edith Mcrae is our longest serving member; Joan Nightingale 30 years service pin and Sandie Smith 20 year service pin. Well done ladies and sincere congratulations from all of us. Popular bush poet Heather Searles entertained us with her hilarious poems which brought peals of laughter amongst our ladies. Our next function is our popular donna-lou fashion parade to be held at Branxton Community hall 17th October - new seasons styles sizes 8 to 26 available for purchase on the day. Cost is \$15 which includes a light lunch. Everyone welcome enquiries Bethany 0419 429 364 All monies raised go to support our 7 disadvantaged Australian school children through the Smith Family Learning for Life program. Peace and love to everyone,  
*Judy Spillard*

Many find comfort in visiting a Memorial Site, especially at special times of the year like Father's Day. It is a place to remain symbolically, emotionally and spiritually connected to our loved ones. Join us this Father's Day for a complimentary morning tea in the tranquil surroundings of our beautiful gardens to reflect and remember.

**FREE morning tea for all visitors**



**What's happening at the Men's Shed**  
 The shed is celebrating Men's Shed Week from 4-10 September 2022. There are now some 3000 Men's Sheds from Bairnsdale (Australia) to Balbriggan (Ireland) and this week we are celebrating another year of mateship, community spirit and mental health awareness. Some sheds in the country are having special 'open' days displaying what happens at the shed and what they have created. At the Branxton Greta Mens Shed we consider every day we are at the shed an 'open' day, so we invite interested members of the community to come and see how we operate and what we do, in general, but especially during this week. We underwrite the work undertaken throughout the Men's Shed network – the achievements and benefits of Men's Sheds for members and communities are immeasurable. So we've dedicated an entire week to celebrating all things Men's Sheds. So come and see us at the Shed, 49 Branxton Street, Greta in the old St Mary's primary school, Wed-Thu-Fri from 8-11:30. Cheers,  
*Kevin*

**St Patricks of Nulkaba**  
 Cnr Wine Country Drive and Kerlew Street, Cessnock



For enquiries please contact our office **02 4991 5556**

**WANTED**

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

**BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE**  
 P: 4938 3300





## Spring gardening tips and ideas



**Spring is the best time to get out in the garden. The winter chill has gone, the days are getting longer and your garden is about to burst into life.**

### Make grass greener

To get your grass going, get out the garden fork and aerate your lawn. In early spring, apply a weed killer to remove broadleaf weeds and those pesky bindii. Follow up a few weeks later with lawn fertiliser to keep the grass growing strong and prevent new weeds. If you have some bare patches or want to start a whole new lawn from scratch, now is the time to prepare the lawn to grow grass from seed. When the soil warms up, you'll be able to establish your grass before the heat of summer hits.

### Trim and tidy

Prune trees and shrubs to remove any withered winter leaves. Trim your

hedges to encourage new growth. If you haven't done it already, summer flowering shrubs like hibiscus and hydrangea should be trimmed now so all their energy goes into producing beautiful blooms. Leave it any later and you risk cutting off the buds.

### Time to plant

Spring is the perfect time to plant just about anything. The soil moisture is still high and plants can become established before the heatwave hits. To add organic matter and nitrogen to your veggie patch, consider a green manure crop. Once it starts shooting, dig it back into the soil for a naturally prepared bed. For a complete list of what to plant based on where you live, check out any spring planting guide.

### Fertilise

Before the growing season gets into full swing, just about everything will

appreciate a good dose of fertiliser. Blood and bone and dynamic lifter are perfect for Australian natives. Just throw a handful over every four square metres. Dig compost and manure through the veggie patch and soluble fertilisers to any veggies that you already have planted. Potted plants will love liquid fertiliser for a quick boost and a dose of slow release fertiliser to keep them going. Use specialist fertilisers for roses, citrus and orchids as they contain the particular nutrients these plants need.

### Watch out for pests

As the weather warms up aphids become active in the veggie patch or on the new growth of roses. Psyllids can also appear on the new growth of Lilly Pillies and need to be controlled to prevent them spreading. Use a garden insecticide to keep them in check.

## The do's and don'ts of training your dog

### RSPCA Australia

Dogs bring a huge amount of joy and excitement to our lives – but good training is crucial to making sure that unwanted behaviours don't cause issues for both you and your dog.

Foundational training that is important for your dog to learn includes how to walk on a lead, developing their recall, and responding to basic commands such as 'sit' and 'stay'. These commands are important for your pet's safety as well as making your life together easier. Beyond these necessary lessons, training your dog can also develop into a fun form of bonding and relationship building, where you can both learn together.

Setting the foundations with rewards-based training can help make sure your dog enjoys their training, and cement good behaviours. Rewards-based training relies on rewarding dogs when they perform the behaviour you are trying to achieve, and ignoring (but not punishing) unwanted behaviours. It's different from other forms of training such as 'aversion' training, where dogs are punished for unwanted behaviours, and which can lead to stress for your dog.

Rewards-based training allows you to train your dog using positive reinforcement and working in line with their natural behaviours, and is the most humane and effective form of dog training.

The 'rewards' used in rewards-based training can be a tasty treat, a play with their favourite chew toy, or just a 'good boy/girl!' in a positive tone of voice and a pat.

So, what does rewards-based training actually look like? An example would be if your dog was in the habit of jumping up to greet people. It's likely that if you tried aversive methods of training, such as putting your knee up when your dog jumped, this wouldn't address the behaviour and could possibly result in your dog jumping from further away to avoid the knee.

Using a rewards-based training method, you would focus on rewarding your dog when she doesn't jump, and ignoring her jumping entirely (including eye contact). This

would mean that when your dog jumps, you would ignore her, and wait until she has all four paws on the ground to reward her with a treat, or attention.

It's likely that your dog will jump again, probably with less effort, and you should keep rewarding her only when all four paws are on the ground. Soon, your dog will learn it's not the jumping that is being rewarded, it's the standing or sitting – and she will start to volunteer the behaviour that you want.

Rather than punishing your dog for jumping, which is likely to cause confusion and stress and unlikely to achieve a positive result, rewards-based training creates a positive pattern of behaviour through rewarding the right actions from your dog.

With patience and the right rewards, you and your dog are bound to have a fantastic bond, and be able to enjoy all of your time spent together.

If you have a brand new puppy or have adopted an older dog, and you aren't sure where to start with their training, it's always a good idea to get professional help and enrol in a puppy school – check out your local RSPCA to see if they run puppy school courses in your area.

If you're experiencing unwanted behaviours with your dog, seek the advice of a veterinarian or animal behaviourist.

### What vaccinations should my dog receive?

*Vaccinations are an important part of caring for your dog as they prevent or reduce the severity of infectious diseases such as canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus, and canine parvovirus, which can cause serious health consequences and even death.*

Core and non-core vaccines Core vaccines are those that all dogs should receive as these protect against potentially fatal diseases. The core vaccines for dogs are canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus and canine parvovirus [1]. They are combined within a single vaccine commonly known in Australia as the C3 vaccine. Non-core vaccines are those that are administered depending on the risk. This is based on an assessment of the dog's location, lifestyle,

and risk of exposure to the infection. Therefore, it is important to ask your veterinarian about which vaccines are most appropriate for your dog. Non-core vaccines in Australia include those which provide protection against infections caused by canine parainfluenza virus, Bordetella bronchiseptica (these both contribute to kennel cough) and leptospirosis. The canine parainfluenza virus and Bordetella bronchiseptica vaccine (more commonly known together with the core vaccines as a C5 vaccine) is recommended for dogs who regularly come into contact with other dogs, such as on walks, at the park, day-care, puppy preschool, or boarding. The leptospirosis vaccination is recommended for dogs who are in at-risk areas, have access to stagnant bodies of water, or have contact with livestock or rodents.

Leptospirosis is also a zoonotic disease, which means animals, including dogs, can pass the disease on to humans.

Australia is a rabies-free country and thus a rabies vaccine is not necessary for dogs remaining in Australia. If you are planning on taking your dog overseas, you will need to speak to your veterinarian about what vaccinations will be necessary for your dog to travel to and live in the destination country.

### Puppy vaccinations

The first core vaccine should be given at 6-8 weeks of age, then a booster vaccine given every 2-4 weeks until 16 weeks of age. The final vaccination should not be given any earlier than 16 weeks of age. The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) provides an example vaccination schedule for a puppy to start at 8 weeks of age, where a 4-week interval between vaccinations would total three puppy vaccinations by 16 weeks of age. A booster vaccine is recommended at 6 months of age to ensure that a protective immune response develops in any dog that may not have responded to any of the first three vaccines.

Puppies should have had all their routine puppy vaccinations before going to public places like the park, to reduce their risk of coming into contact with other dogs or an environment that could be a source of infectious disease. Check with your veterinarian when your puppy will be fully vaccinated, and can safely go to public places. Before your puppy is fully vaccinated you can take them out but you should carry them and limit their exposure to other dogs and areas where dogs might have been. The Australian Veterinary Association advises that puppy preschool properly conducted in a clean environment should not pose a risk to a puppy that is not yet fully vaccinated.

If your veterinarian has recommended the canine parainfluenza virus and Bordetella bronchiseptica vaccine, this is usually given as a single intranasal vaccine (dripped into the nostrils, with the dog's head held slightly back), with your puppy's second core C3 vaccine, and then annually.

This vaccination can also be given by a needle under the skin (as a single injection mixed with the core vaccines) with the core C3 puppy vaccines in two separate doses, 4 weeks apart (usually with the 2nd and 3rd puppy vaccine), and then annually. Different veterinarians may use different protocols, so it is best to check with your veterinarian which vaccine they use.

If your veterinarian has recommended the leptospirosis vaccine, this is usually given with the core puppy vaccines in two separate doses, 4 weeks apart (usually with the 2nd and 3rd core C3 puppy vaccines), and then annually.

The non-core vaccinations may be given at the same time as a core vaccination, to reduce veterinary visits or alone (for example, if your dog needs to go into boarding at short notice).

### Tetanus

Puppies and dogs are not routinely vaccinated against tetanus because of the low occurrence of tetanus in dogs. However, some veterinarians may recommend your puppy or dog gets vaccinated against tetanus in certain situations. Puppies and dogs who engage in activities that could result in a deep penetrating wound may be at risk of contracting tetanus.

We recommend talking to your veterinarian about a tetanus vaccine for your dog if your dog or puppy lives or regularly goes near horses, farms, or bushland.

### Adult dog vaccinations

Once your dog has completed all their core puppy vaccinations and the booster, your dog requires their core vaccination every 1-3 years, depending on the duration of immunity provided by the vaccine your veterinarian uses – it is best to check with your veterinarian which vaccination they use. If your veterinarian has recommended any of the non-core vaccinations (canine parainfluenza virus, Bordetella bronchiseptica or leptospirosis), they are required annually.

If you attain a dog of any age with an unknown vaccination history, you may need to ensure that the dog has a full initial course of vaccines like a puppy does to ensure adequate protection. It is best to speak to your veterinarian about this and also if you intend to relocate interstate or to a new country.

Your veterinarian will always do a health check before administering a vaccination to ensure your puppy or dog is healthy. The core vaccines used in dogs are very safe with a very low incidence of adverse reactions. The benefits of protection from serious infectious disease significantly outweigh the risks of developing an adverse reaction. If you have any concerns about adverse vaccine reactions or the health of your dog, it is best to speak to your veterinarian.

## Azaleas—care a maintenance

For all their radiance, azaleas have an Achilles heel. They require the use of sprays to keep them in good health.

Their magnificent flowers are prone to a disease called petal blight, which causes the flowers to wilt as if the shrub is water stressed. As the disease progresses, the flowers become brown and remain on the plant. The disease is spread by wind and water. The only remedy is to apply a **fungicide** as the buds begin to show colour in late winter or early spring and reapply fortnightly during flowering. Flower Power recommends **Mancozeb Plus**. Shear over plants as they finish flowering to remove any disease-infected blooms. Collect up diseased flowers and dispose of them into the garbage bin (do not compost).

Feed azaleas after they have flowered applying an azalea and camellia food (follow application instructions on the container). Flower Power recommends **Kahoota**. Azaleas also benefit from a mulch of aged cow manure, such as **Supersoil Cow Manure Blend**.

As new growth appears, the plants are vulnerable to pest attack from either azalea lace bug or two-spotted mite (also called red spider mite). Both insect pests feed under the leaves and cause the foliage to develop unsightly mottling. They also reduce the plant's vigour. Treat lace bug with **Yates Baythroid** and control two-spotted mite with **Mavrik**, or **eco-oil** is an organic option.

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# The News SPORT



## BRANXTON VETS Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> August Vets Report; 2BBB Stableford: Pairs Trophy

**Winners:** Paul and Joe Johansen 37 pts  
**Runners Up:** Tom Young and K. Badcock 36 pts  
**Third:** Col Hughes and Dennis Wright 35 pts  
**Ball Comp:** A. Cannon and J. Flynn; B. Smith and A. Cannon; R. Brooks and K. Anderson; E. Barrett and J. Davidson  
**NTPins: Ladies:** T. McMillan  
**Gents:** A. Cannon  
 Members Draw: Not Won Thursday's Pairs Trophy Day proved to be quite difficult for all 32 players with the cool, windy breeze, cored and sanded greens and the two temporaries ensuring all players were challenged throughout the 14 holes played. The Johansen pair of Paul and Jo won the challenge with their combined effort of 37 pts, just ahead of Tom Young and his partner K. Badcock on 36pts, with Col Hughes and Dennis Wright showing some form to finish third on 35 pts. Alan Cannon had a good day as a swinger in his group, winning a ball with both partners. He also won the NTPin on the last, showing he was indeed in form.

## BRANXTON GOLF CLUB SAT COMP Saturday, 13 August 2022 SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 25  
 Grades A Peter Wilton 36  
 Grades A Joshua Tracey 36  
 Grades B Jeff Haywood 38  
 Grades B Casey Smith 34  
 Grades C Chad Watt 45  
 Grades C Steven Primmer 38  
 NTP 2/11 Stephen Ross  
 NTP 4 Peter Wilton  
 NTP 9/18 Jeff Haywood  
 NTP 13 Joshua Tracey  
 Balls 8 Distributed down to score: 33  
**Pro's N.T.P 18<sup>th</sup> Hole Jeff Haywood 203cm = \$58 Proshop Voucher**  
 A small field of 25 players competed in Saturday's Stableford event, with some excellent scores recorded in all grades. Peter Wilton once again won A Grade with his excellent 36 pts, defeating our current Club Champion, Joshua Tracey, on a count-back. Both scores are truly outstanding considering the course is still recovering from the recent floods—it does show the course is starting to recover well as

the overall scores for the day were quite good, with 33 pts needed to win a ball. Jeff Haywood is a player to watch in the upcoming months judging by another win in B Grade with his 38 pts. His score also included the Pro NTPin on the last and the 9<sup>th</sup>—he obviously loves playing this hole. Casey Smith's 34 pts was good enough for runner up. Chad Watt had a day out to remember, winning C Grade with an outstanding 45 pts—9 shots better than his handicap. Steve Primmer may feel a little unlucky as he finished runner up with an excellent 38 pts. A reminder to all members that the Pete Matthews Memorial Day is scheduled for next weekend. Other upcoming events include the semi finals of the Singles Knockout; the revised dates of the Pairs Knockout and the Mens and Women's Calendars are all on the Club's Website.

## Saturday, 20th August 2022

**SATURDAY COMP – PETER MATHEWS MEMORIAL 2BBB STABLEFORD + SINGLE IN CONJUNCTION**  
 Sponsor: BRANXTON PROSHOP  
 Field: 50  
 2BBB WINNERS RICHARD CROOKS/ TIMOTHY LANE 45PTS  
 2BBB 2<sup>ND</sup> CHRIS OBRIEN/ LUKE MATT 43 PTS C/B  
 2BBB 3<sup>RD</sup> JOHN BURGESS/ MALCOLM CROSSLEY 43 PTS  
 2BBB 4<sup>TH</sup> GARY ANDERSON/ JAY HARVEY 42 PTS C/B  
 2BBB 5<sup>TH</sup> MICHAEL CARLING/ DAVID KINCH 42 PTS  
 2BBB 6<sup>TH</sup> STEVE ECCLES/ GARRY TAYLOR 41 PTS  
 SINGLE WINNER TIM LANE 37 PTS  
 SINGLE 2<sup>ND</sup> GARY ANDERSON 36 PTS C/B  
 SINGLE 3<sup>RD</sup> JOHN BURGESS 36 PTS  
 N.T.P 2<sup>ND</sup>/11<sup>TH</sup> PETER WILTON 425 CM  
 4<sup>TH</sup> TIM LANE 300 CM  
 13<sup>TH</sup> – N/A  
 9<sup>TH</sup>/18<sup>TH</sup> PAUL BUSH 185 CM  
 ALL PLAYERS WHO DID NOT WIN A VOUCHER RECEIVE A BALL.

**Pro's N.T.P 18<sup>th</sup> Hole Rod Wilton 340cm = \$80 Proshop Voucher**  
 Saturday's Peter Matthews Memorial 2BBB competition was strongly supported with over 50 players enjoying the game with the

Branxton Course making some significant recovery after this year's flooding. Many players knew Peter well recalling many memories of Peter especially on game day such as his morning coffee before each game, his love of a cigar and the many golfing trips he organized over the last few years. He was also a passionate farmer and environmentalist, a dedicated detective with a personal love for the land and its farmers. He has been sorely missed since his untimely death in 2019. This annual memorial event is a testament to the respect and love for this wonderful man, with this year's event kindly sponsored by the Club Pro, Marcus Ryter. As it is, it was quite appropriate that Saturday's 2BBB event was won by Club President, Richard Crooks, and his playing Partner, 2021 C Grade Club Champion, Tim Lane, with an impressive score of 45 pts. Richard (with the help of many others) hasn't stopped working for this club since the floods, doing his best to ensure the course is playable and enjoyed by all golfers. Chris O'Brien and Luke Matt were runners up with their 43 pts, with John Burgess and Michael Crossley third on a countback. Prizes went down to 6<sup>th</sup> place, with all other players winning a ball. Tim Lane had a really good day, winning the Singles event with his 37 pts, just ahead of Gary Anderson (making rare appearance) and John Burgess, both on 36 pts. Rod Wilton kept the ball striking in the family as he won the Pro Pin on the last, with his brother Peter winning another NTPin on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>.

## Saturday, 27 August 2022 SAT COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 29  
 Grades A Peter Mackenzie 36  
 Grades A Robert Biles 33  
 Grades B Ed Garland 39  
 Grades B Micheal Carling 39  
 Grades C Charles Jubb 37  
 Grades C Colin Hughes 32

38cm  
 NTP 9/18 Reece Caldwell 363cm  
 13th N/A  
 Balls 9 Distributed down to score: 31

## Pro's N.T.P 18<sup>th</sup> Hole Neil Jordan 1006cm = \$40 Proshop Voucher

Saturday's Stableford proved to be a memorable day for Peter Mackenzie who not only won the A Grade Stableford Competition with his 36 pts, he had a hole in one on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> temporary green, which undoubtedly gives him the shot of the day as well. Robert Biles enjoying the early days of his retirement finished runner up in A Grade with his 33 pts. Eddie Garland won B grade with an excellent 39 pts, only defeating Michael Carling on a countback with the same score. Charles Jubb's 37 pts was good enough to win C Grade well clear of runner up Col Hughes with 32 pts. Col also hit a great shot to the 4<sup>th</sup> with his tee shot finishing only 38 cms from the cup. 31 pts was needed to win a ball. Neil Jordan won the Pro's NTPin on the last, picking up \$40 for his Pro Shop kitty. On another note, our 2020 Club Champion, now turned Professional, Corey Lamb, has had a great start to his Professional career, with 3 Pro-Am wins in a row—Gunnedah (4 under 66); Port Macquarie (10 under 67,67) and Kew (3 under 67—equal winner). He was also in contention at Hawks Nest this weekend before finishing T-23<sup>rd</sup> (68, 75). It has certainly been a very busy, profitable and confidence building week for young Corey—we look forward to watching him develop in future events.

## HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

**Sunday 7th August**  
 The Weekly Challenge has resulted in a 3 way countback with Steven Gibbs-Skuthorpe getting the nod from Ken Wilson and Andrew Parkinson after all 3 returned 36 points. Ball winners are: Tom Knight 35, The Sweeney 34, Jai Kumar 33, Wade Beard 33, Len Craft 33, Barry West 32, William Waite 32, Tony Krishna 31 & Blake

Medway 31 c/b  
**Tuesday 9th August**  
 The Tuesday Stableford has been won by Graeme Flynn with 38 points from Larry Forbes 36 & Drew Dewar 3rd with 35. Ball winners are: Steve Morrow 34, Ryan Wilson 34, David Ford 33, Chris Stebbing 33, Paul Smith 33, Kevin Dawkins 33, Rox 33, Rex Talbot 33, John Carmody 33, Adam Taggart 33, Arthur Cuttriss 32, Steve Piggott 32, Peter Franks 32, Barry Maher 32, Garry Marsden 32, Gary Arnold 32, Phil Darcy 32, Dean Morison 31, Joshua Tracey 31, Col Bradley 31, The Sweeney 31, Toot 31 & David Peel 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Lindsay Meyn (8th) & Chris Stebbing (17th)

**Wednesday 10th August**  
 The Ladies have finally completed the 2022 Championship playing a 2 Person Ambrose with Mother & Daughter Melita & Peree Watson claiming the title with 78 scratch with the handicap section going to Jenny Chambers & Sue Wilson with 68.75 net. Ball winners from the event were: Dale Hamilton & Christine Tancred and Mary Fortey & Isabel Skeates.

**Thursday 11th August**  
 The Vets Irish Stableford has seen some excellent scores handed in. Division 1 went to Larry Forbes with 71 points from Chris Norman 68, Division 2 to Kevin Smith with 80 from Rob Hannah 77 and Divison 3 to Muz with 80 with Kevin Coleman runner up with 70. Ball winners were: Graham Morris 76, Banjo 74, Garry Clarke 74, Garry Arnold 72, Rex Talbot 72, Bomber 72, Ryan Wilson 71, Morto 70, Bill Freeman 69, Renae Stevens 69, Paul Campbell 69, Wayne Berry 68, Col Braadley 67, Wayne Barber 67, Steve Jurd 66, Bill Harden 65, Kerry Bartlett 65, Noel Ellenor 64, Michael Tsakissiris 64, Peter Payne 64, Greg Ireland 64, Rox 64, John Tancred 64, Col Somerville 63, Graeme Smith 63, Dave Hollis 63, Bruce Chambers 63, Gunner 63 & John Carmody 63 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Paul Campbell (3rd & 4th) James Schofield (8th) & Chris Norman (17th)

**Saturday 13th August**  
 Mother nature has dealt another cruel blow in the effort to stage this years Club Championship with constant overnight rain putting the event once again on hold. The Medley Stableford played for the Members has seen Dean Morison return a credible 38 points for the win from Danny Schofield 36 and Bruce Chambers with 32 on a 7 way countback take 3rd place. Ball winners were: Graham Walker 32, Scott Jones 32, Morto 32, Steve Piggott 32, Stephen Zok 32, Peter McIntyre 31, Adrian Kent 31 & Thomas Vaughan 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Mark Noble (3rd) Garig Sharp (4th) Don Bradley (8th) & Peter Puerta (17th).

**Sunday 14th August**  
 The Weekly Challenge has been won by Adam Taggart

with 38 points from Alan Jamieson 37 and Rox Jnr with 36 on countback 3rd. Ball winners are: Myles Le Messurier 36, Steve Piggott 35, Pete Roderick 35, marjo Kemmeling 32, Dan Crush 32, Brandan Lee 32, Luke Christiansen 32, Jeff Ryan 32, Don Curran 32, Tania Hutchins 31, Blake Iddles 31, Larry Forbes 31, Thomas Vaughan 30, Toni Fisher 30 & The Sweeney 29 c/b

**Tuesday 16th August**  
 Larry Forbes has claimed the win in the Tuesday Stableford with 38points from Mark Fullbrook 37 & Myles Le Messurier in 3rd with 37 points. Ball winners are: Graeme Flynn 36, Peter Payne 36, Steve Piggott 35, John Stewart 34, Don Bradley 34, Gary Arnold 34, Chris Taggart 34, Col Bradley 33, Brett Janssen 32, Darrell Porter 32, Ryan Wilson 32, Ben Belcher 32, Matt Tomlinson 31, Wayne Burgess 31, John Carmody 31, Connor Thomson 30, David Peel 30, Beepa 29 & Peter Franks 29 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Larry Forbes (3rd) Peter Payne (10th) & Gary Arnold (17th)

**Wednesday 17th August**  
 The Ladies Championship is underway with Melita Watson holding a 4 stroke lead over Dale Hamilton in A Grade, B Grade is led by Leesa Robinson by 2 shots from Peree Watson & C Grade has Jill Ramsden up by 5 to Jeanette Irwin. The handicaps section leaders are Melita by 1 shot to Jenny Chambers, Di Atton on countback to Leesa in B Grade & Jeanette by 4 shots to Jill in C Grade. Round 2 is scheduled for this coming Wednesday. The Daily Stroke round has been won by Di Atton on countback to Leesa Robinson also on countback to Melita Watson in 3rd place. Ball winners are: Jenny Chambers, Jeanette Irwin, Peree Watson, Dale Hamilton & Mary Fortey. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dale Hamilton on (3rd & 17th)

**Thursday 18th August**  
 The Vets Medley 4BBB has been won by the team of Mick Gilbert & Graham Morris with 46 points from Spot & Ron Findley 45 with John Stewart & Rex Talbot 3rd with 45 as well. Ball winners are: Larry Forbes & Rox 44, Bill Freeman & Bindii 43, Denis Corke & Gary Arnold 43, Tom Bell & Rob hannah 42, Col Bradley & Michael Tasakissiris 42, Banjo & Reddis 41, Garry Marsden & Ian Newell 41, Mr Bad Hair & Doug Harley 41, John Martin & Dave Hollis 41, Bruce Cahmbers & Bomber 41, Dean Morison & John Carmody 40, Peter Perkins & Eric Smaith 40, Geoff Sweetaman & Peter Perkins 40, Boss Hogg & Ken McLaughlan 40, Don Bradley & Springy 40, Steve Piggott & Burgo 40, Maureen Donaldson & Kerry Bartlett 40, Toot & Ryan Wislon 40, John Tancred & Steve Pegler 39 & Fluff & Silver 39 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Spot

(3rd) Fluff (4th) Paul Campbell (8th) Reddis (10th & 17th)

**Saturday 20th August**  
 Mother nature finally allowed the 2022 Club Championship to get under way with A Grade leader Damien Porter holding a 2 stroke lead to Lee Heuston with Adam Jackson & Mark Noble one shot further adrift. Handicap leader is also Damien by one shot from Danny Schofield, Jacko, Dan Mcleod & Lee. B Grade Scratch has John Chenery holding a 3 shot advantage over Peter Puerta with Don Bradley another 2 shots back in 3rd. John is also leading the handicap section from Peter & Don by one shot. C Grade Scratch is led by Brian Connolly by 2 shots to Wayne Cowen with Mitch Curry another shot back in 3rd place. George Copas is leading the handicap section by 1 shot to Mitch with Wayne & Russ Lightfoot tied another 3 shots back. Tania Hutchins is leading the Ladies scratch & handicap from Pam Snaddon in the Ladies Weekend Championship. The Daily Stableford played in conjunction has seen Aaron Dries from Maitland GC claim A Grade with 39 points from Damien Porter 36, B Grade to John Chenery with 36 from Peter Puerta 35 & C Grade to George Copas with 37 from Mitchell Curry with 36 points. Ball winners are: Danny Schofield 35, Don Bradley 35, Lee Hueston 35, Dan McLeod 35, Jacko 35, Larry Forbes 34, Mark Noble 34, Bruce Chambers 33, Wayne Cowen 33, Peter McIntyre 33, Russ Lightfoot 33, Thomas Vaughan 32, Brian Connolly 32, Max Hindmarsh 32, Peter Perkins 31, Matt Killick 31, Spot 31, Mark Harry 30, Ben Bridge 30, Clayton Babic 30, Nick Looby 30, Andrew Schofield 30, Steve Piggott 29, Fluff 29, Jai Kumar 29, Michael Tsakissiris 29, Leon Dureau 29 & Garry Marsden 29 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Tanya Hutchins (3rd & 8th) Mick Gilbert (4th) Stephen Don (10th) & Dan McLeod .

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# The BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The NEWS SPORT

2022 HV Group 21 First Grade  
Round 2 Sunday 28th August

**16**  
Denman First Grade

**4**  
Greta Branxton First Grade

Greta Workers



## Harrington Fishing Weekend Wrap

On the weekend of the 19/20/21<sup>st</sup> August, The Greta Workers Social Fishing Club headed up to Harrington which is a fisherman's haven. You can fish rocks, beach, breakwall, estuary and offshore. As current overall contender Keza Duncan followed a few of the boats heading offshore to Crowdy Head, nobody could have predicted what the Friday morning was about to present. As members enjoyed good quantities of Squire, Keza watched the sunrise on the horizon as she wound in a number of Luderick and Drummer. Next she decided to put on a Tailor spinner and caught a few of them. To cap the morning off she then went over to the beach and caught 6 Bream. That was basically enough to

take out the weekend so a big congratulations on proving that you don't need a boat to beat the off-shories. Aaron "Foxy" Fox, logged his second score of the year skippering the Nevin father and son combo, and he scored the second highest points for the weekend with Tailor, Snapper, Flathead and Nannygai. Foxy also took out the \$50 target species prize for his 1.44kg Snapper. Anthony "Salami" Field continued to show his persistence with Snapper, Tailor and Bream in his best ever year with the Club. Jeff "Knuckles" Nevin fished tirelessly and kept his crew entertained but only managed 5 fish in two mornings offshore. Bodge Nevin managed 7 fish (mainly Squire). Fee Jacobs made the most of being onboard with a new crew and weighed in 5 Squire and a Flathead, Box Miller skippered

that vessel with 5 Squire, and wife Summer was well and truly over fishing by the end with 2 Flathead. Daniel "Boony" Johnson continued his form slump with 1 Flathead, and Jess Hammond weighed in the same. Sharna Canon logged her first points for 2022 with 1 Flathead on a morning where here Fiancé, Aidan "Doogs" McDougall woke up a bit worse for wear after a night around the fire telling stories. The next weekend away is Lake St Clair 16/17/18<sup>th</sup> September which is always a highlight on the calendar. There will be fishing comps, casting comps, and yabby races as well as a cook up. The Club is looking forward to a good turnout after Covid 19 cancelled the 2021 weekend. Pictured, at right, is Arron Fox with his 1.44kg Snapper



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