

The News

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WEDNESDAY
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Branxtons' Charles Croucher is 9News new chief political editor



Nine's new chief political editor Charles Croucher &, below, where it all started

for the Branxton Greta Vineyards News until he finished his secondary schooling at Maitland Grammar and then headed off to Charles Sturt University in Bathurst to do a communication degree.

While attending university in Bathurst worked in radio at 2BS Bathurst.

Charles joined Nine News Darwin in 2010 as sports reporter and weekend news anchor, joining A Current Affair as a reporter in Melbourne in 2012.

From 2013 he was based at Parliament House in Canberra as politics reporter for Nine News, becoming US Correspondent in 2018.

For the past two years, he has been based in Sydney as co-host of Weekend Today.

He has covered elections in every state and territory in Australia, as well as international elections across five continents.

Darren Wick, Director of News and Current Affairs for Nine is reported to have said the most important reporting role at Nine is the Chief Political Editor in Canberra.

“We’ve built the reputation of 9News around excellent journalism and fearless commentary from Laurie Oakes and Chris Uhlmann. Charles Croucher is a brilliant political reporter and analyst. We’re very

excited about the leadership he will bring to our dedicated team covering the Federal Parliament,” he said.

“Charles will show our viewers what's really going on at all levels of government. His commitment and appetite for hard work are infectious. We can't wait to get him started.”



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SOCKS UP, SHIRTS IN



by Charles Croucher



Branxtons' Charles Croucher was last week announced as Chief Political Editor for 9News stepping into what is one of the most sought after roles in Australian media. Charles replaces the outgoing Chris

Uhlmann, who recently announced he would be retiring at the end of this year. Charles, who grew up in Branxton, first joined 9News in 2010, but at the age of 16 (2003) he was a sports writer/contributor

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.



Poppy Day Appeal Markets

Branxton RSL Sub Branch

Branxton RSL Memorial Hall
67 Maitland St, Branxton

Saturday

5th November 2022

9.00am - 2.00pm

Huntlee Park – a breath of fresh air



The official opening (L-R) Clr Dan Watton, Glen Swan Huntlee Senior Development Manager & Cessnock Deputy Mayor John Moores. Glenn cut the ribbon to officially open the park

A very enthusiastic crowd enjoyed the sun and celebrations of the much-anticipated Huntlee Park grand opening on Sunday 16th of this month.

The launch event was packed with entertainment for the children, and the young at heart, featuring superheroes, reptile shows, market stalls, a petting zoo and even a stunt clown blowing giant bubbles. People came from far and wide to celebrate and explore the new park.

“It was great to see such a massive support from everybody,” says Huntlee Project Director, Stephen Thompson. “It really goes to show how valued recreation spaces like these are, not just to a community, but to a whole region.”

“We’ve already installed smaller parks around the estate, but the Huntlee District Park is one of our key major parks that form part of our overall recreation plan for the whole of Huntlee.. The park will be a place where residents and the community can come together, have fun and make memories.”

Launch aside, on any day the Huntlee District Park is an impressive installation with three cube towers, slides and connecting tubes including two flying foxes and mammoth swings for the children to enjoy. Huntlee’s development team and landscape architects have gone to



Just part of the large crowd who attended the day



great lengths to make sure everyone is catered to, with all-ability access and public amenities; plenty of covered areas and seating; even a BBQ area, making the park and picnic grounds worthy of an extended stay. Looking around you’ll discover a basketball court and an adjoining dog park, so even our four-legged friends get a look in. Features like a mini-amphitheatre, market stand and food truck areas hint at the park’s potential as a

multi-purpose community hub for the residents of Huntlee and the wider Hunter area.

great lengths to make sure everyone is catered to, with all-ability access and public amenities; plenty of covered areas and seating; even a

Classical piano recital to aid in repairs of Branxton RSL Hall

The Branxton RSL sub branch hall is in urgent need to repairs. Our local sub-branch has held the ‘Anzac Tradition’ high for almost 100 years. The hall itself is a vital part of our community; it is used often as a meeting place for many of our community's organisations.

Local classical pianist, writer, actor and founder of the Newcastle Fringe, Phillip Aughey, is performing a classical piano recital next **Sunday the 30th October at the Uniting church, Branxton at 3pm.**

Admission is \$20 with all the funds to be used for repairs to the hall.

He will be playing works by Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninoff. When asked how many piano recitals Phillip has performed over the years for different charities, he replied, "I've lost count."



For membership details Contact Dr. Alan Beckley Secretary, Lions Club of Branxton Inc Mobile: 0426 261948



CHARITY PIANO RECITAL
 By Phillip Aughey
 In aid of the Branxton RSL sub branch
 Featuring works by
Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninoff
 30th October 2022
 Uniting Church Branxton
 3:30pm \$20

Sixth Annual ‘Dress in Pink’ fundraiser



Part of the large crowd in attendance

A very successful fundraising event for the benefit of Women’s Cancer Research was held at the Branxton Community Hall on Monday 10th October.

Sponsored by il Pastore of Greta, Greta Worker’s Club, Hillview Graze & Platters Co, Huntlee Mobile Car Wash, Bliss Beauty, the High Tea raised over \$5000, with 100% of the ticket sales, Donations, Raffle, 100 club & Merchandise sold all for the benefit of the worthy cause.

100 attendees were treated to a delightful High Tea and entertainment from the local duo ‘Pink Cadillac’, and an amazing quantity of 16 raffle prizes donated by local businesses and individuals ensured that many guests took home a prize or had a chance to win at the 100 club or guessing competition or a Lucky Door Prize.

In addition to the wonderful local support, guests travelled from Cooranbong, Warners Bay, Thornton, Maitland, and Cessnock.

Helen Scott has been hosting the fundraising events since 2015, and during the past 5 High Tea events, the Branxton/Greta Community generously donated over \$12k to Women’s Cancer, with the assistance of the Branxton Greta CWA ladies and their catering. A big thankyou to this year’s volunteers, Leanne & Brad, Eline, Chris & Kay, Cessnock Rotary (for setting and packing up), entertainers Sue & Chris, and to those who donated Raffle prizes including Marie Shearer, Hughes Mechanical, and Brittany from Maloney Designs for being the photographer for the day.

Long-time supporters who have been guests from day one, Doreen & Jeanette, Marica and her friends, and The RED HAT LADIES also once

again dug deep to contribute to the financial success of the day.

This year included a surprise visit from the pre-schoolers of St, Nic Learning Centre who spent some time with guests and played the tea pot challenge and enjoyed a popper and bubbles on the way back to school. The kids entertained the guests with gifts and song, and young and old alike were able to share some quality time for the benefit of all.

At the completion of the event, a little surprise for all was generously provided by Hillview Graze & Platter Co of Branxton.

Helen Scott sincerely thanks all supporters for attending and providing the donations to help make a wonderful contribution to a well deserving cause.



The food was wonderful & so well presented



Joy Bootes from Branxton a lucky winner

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“Wonderful gesture” by The Royal Federal Hotel Branxton with a \$1000 donation to North Rothbury Tidy Town



• Photo above: (L-R) Fran Finch, current Treasurer North Rothbury Tidy Town, Damian (Manager of The Feddy Hotel), Robyn Talbott, life member North Rothbury Tidy Town & Rev Ian Talbott also a life member North Rothbury Tidy Town & former Treasurer

Members of North Rothbury Tidy Town are still in disbelief at the generosity of the management at The Royal Federal Hotel Branxton.

To their absolute surprise (& joy), and out of the blue, their President received a call from the Assistant Manager, Robyn, to tell him that they would be donating \$1000 to help them with their finances so they can continue their voluntary work in the hamlet. “Robyn explained that they hold Thursday evening raffles & that the money generated is put back into the local community. How good is that! Thank you; a wonderful gesture,” said President Mike Lowing. “That kind of money will make a lot of difference as it will be put towards our \$4\$ application to Cessnock City Council for necessary equipment. In fact the donation is really \$2000. This year our \$4\$ brought an electric BBQ for Ayrefield Miners Memorial Park which is now operative. NRTT contributed \$4000 and Cessnock City Council matched it,” said Mike.

Over the years NRTT, with the councils \$4\$ program, has purchased a ride-on mower, a large Honda mower, a whipper snipper, a water cart and a few other odds and ends. Each purchase makes the volunteer work carried out that little bit easier.

The Royal Federal Hotel has also purchased a defibrillator from the proceeds of their Thursday Night Raffles. It is behind the bar in the Public Bar. “That cost \$2000 and very proud to have it,” said Robyn.



The defibrillator

REFLECTIONS Gospel 30 October 2022



Luke 19: 1-10 - Zacchaeus

This narrative, found in Luke 19:1-10, is the final story in a long account of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem. The story of Zacchaeus, the rich man, comes immediately after one concerning a beggar. Luke’s gospel is dated about 75-85 CE so it is later than Mark’s. Although Luke makes use of a great deal of Mark’s material in his gospel, this narrative is only found in Luke’s gospel. Luke presents Jesus’ message as having a universal note: it was for everyone, including those marginalised by society like women, the poor and Gentiles and those sinners despised by the religious leaders, like tax-collectors. These ‘sinners’ did not observe the detail of the Jewish Law, and therefore were believed to be condemned by God and so ritually unclean and condemned as outcasts. Luke also includes narratives where Jesus speaks harshly about wealth and possessions, in contrast to his emphasis on the importance of the poor and their nearness to God.

Luke’s gospel consistently presents Jesus as the Compassionate Saviour – the one who cares for those in need and for those rejected by society. This core theme is presented beautifully in the Zacchaeus account. The account is unique to Luke’s Gospel, as are the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Lost Son. Luke always portrays tax collectors favourably (3:12; 7:29; 15:1; 18:10). In return to Jesus’ openness to him, Zacchaeus makes the proper response. Having accepted Jesus’ initiative, Zacchaeus becomes generous with his resources, even seeking to make restitution for past wrongs. He is a rich man who repents, thereby achieving personal salvation.

Jesus’ initiative is a requirement of his mission. In order to find the lost, he must seek the lost. In such cases even the rich and rejected can be a part of the flock. Faith brings Jesus home to stay in Zacchaeus’s heart and the lost sheep back to the Shepherd.

So Zacchaeus responds: *“Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”* Two actions substantiate Zacchaeus’s new approach. A new generosity means that half of his assets are going to those in need. In addition, anyone who was robbed will be paid back with the highest penalty the law allows, a fourfold rate (Ex 22:1; 2 Sam 12:6). Normal restitution added only 20 percent (Lev 5:16; Num 5:7). This rich man, touched by Jesus and responding with faith, exemplifies the restoration of a “lost one” and opens up his resources to be shared with others. He does not have to sell everything to receive Jesus’ commendation. His heart is in the right place when it comes to possessions. In this way, Zacchaeus becomes an exemplary rich disciple.

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STEVE'S RANT

Should our Constitution enshrine discrimination and apartheid?

Two years ago, I was in favour of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and what it proposed. Since then, things have changed dramatically. We now have six Federal Parliamentarians from our Aboriginal Community which quiet effectively gives a voice to our first peoples.

The Closing the Gap report began in 2008 after the Council of Australian Governments promised to close critical gaps in December 2007 and approved the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. This set out six Closing the Gap targets:

- To close the life expectancy gap within a generation
- To halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- To ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four-year-olds in remote communities within five years
- To halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children within a decade
- To halve the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment rates by 2020
- To halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade

The Gap between indigenous children and non-indigenous children's education outcomes is closing, not because of better outcomes in Aboriginal communities but because education standards in the non-indigenous communities are plunging.

Additional targets were added in 2014 and 2015 to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance within five years and to have 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year-olds enrolled in early

childhood education by 2025. *Traditionally hunters and gatherers did not live in one place. They moved around their Country in search of food. Within the clan, all members had specific roles and responsibilities to ensure the survival of their community. Aboriginal children once they were old enough to run around, were left to their own devices until they became of age for initiation into adulthood. Then formal education of tribal history, law, and customs was undertaken. It was during these unsupervised activities of the young where basic survival skills were learned from the older children and elders. Formal education as it is understood by us white faces is alien to their culture. It is a pity that we white faces do not value, understand or benefit from their culture.* Childhood education - *the need for early child education is not disputed it is just that a different approach is needed to convince aboriginal parents in isolated outstations that it prepares children for the routine of formal 'whitefella' education is a necessity.*

In learning, the children must first want to learn, if you want to get a child to school, learning must create incentive, curiosity, enthusiasm, variety, realism, reward for achievement and competition. The method of teaching children through whatever medium used, must intrigue and delight the child, be carefully and expertly applied and importantly, be able to be tested.

As for incentive, better to put a swimming pool at every school house, than to send out inspectors.

While serving in PNG, my wife, three local soldiers, and I crossed the Prince Alexander ranges thru the Sapuain Village to Dagua on the coast. At one stage, we were approaching a village moving along the river knee deep in the

clearest of water. As we walked, the senior NCO cautioned my wife not to look up. There were cliffs on either side, and on the top were silent men, mostly naked except for gourds, carrying machetes. Reminding us of the film Zulu. As we reached the village, my wife and the soldiers hung back, and I went forward to meet the fellow who was waiting for me. (As you do in their culture). This man was wearing a T-shirt and a lap-lap. I addressed him haltingly in his language. When I had finished, he responded to me in perfect Oxford English.

This National had chosen to live in his home country the way his forefathers had before him. He was the village school teacher. No doubt, the children of that village were skilled in their natural way of life, knowing how to survive and had the best of both worlds. There was little outside contact as the locals had one days walk out to the nearest road through rain forest and over mountain ridges. Then a PMV (public motor vehicle) -truck, rough road trip to town. Consequently, there was no real outside influence. No western diet, drugs or liquor and no missionaries. No tech, phones or television. Paradise.

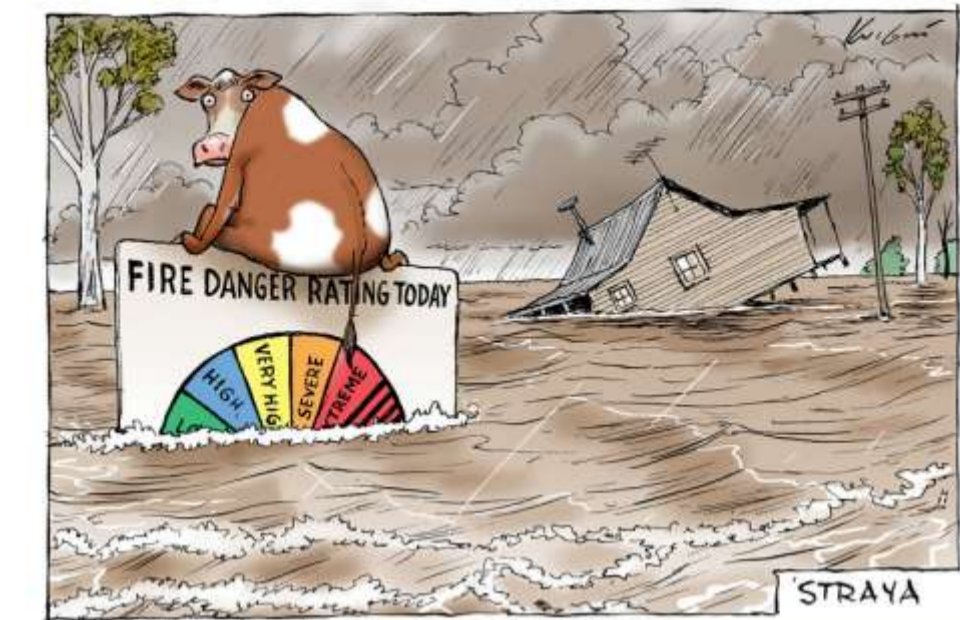
I witnessed the whites who chaperoned the Aboriginal dancers that performed during the South Pacific Cultural Festival in Wewak. These people might have thought they were 'cool getting the swan of a funded trip, were observed with disgust by myself and the local Army Officers. OLI PIPIA MAN (Rubbish people). They were unkempt, unwashed for three days and barefoot in the local Officers Mess. Their behaviour would not have been tolerated in Australia, they embarrassed the local young men, many of those who trained in OCS Portsea. Whereas the Aboriginals/ Islanders who were part of the troupe were polite, poised and perfectly mannered. Many Australians consider that everyone else on earth should live as they do. How self-righteous and misdirected is that? Start looking at our standards, kids dying in care, the generations who have never worked, and the drug users who lie unconscious in their underpants on the floor of their commission house while the world goes on around them. Close the Gap with who? Our illiterate underperforming children in state schools?

The ALP has taken the moral high ground, continuing the lie that we have invaded and not recognised our original Australians for two hundred years.

Against the tide In abandoning the state's pandemic restrictions, I do hope the premier isn't throwing the (public health) baby out with the (pandemic) bath water. The health system is already swimming against a high enough tide without needing any political flotsam added to the mix.

Name & address withheld at the request of writer

- Fake 1 climate change is a part of the natural cycle
- Fake 2 climate change is not that bad, life will find a way.
- Fake 3 I said things were getting hotter. Have you seen how much it rains
- Fake 4 model used to measure climate change is unreliable
- Fake 5 sea level not rising glaciers are not receding.
- Fake 6 there's no scientific consensus.
- Fake 7 the big conspiracy.



On the 23rd of December 1901, the Immigration Restriction Act came into law. It had been among the first pieces of legislation introduced to the newly formed federal Parliament. The legislation was specifically designed to limit non-British migration to Australia. **It did not apply to Aboriginals.** From the beginning, Aboriginals, except in the Northern Territory, had the right to register to vote, but in four states, that was subject to qualification. Only South Australia and Tasmania allowed their Aborigines to vote on the same basis as other citizens. Legislation introduced by the Queensland Government in 1897 which effectively controlled the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897. Control which began in the tiny community of Wujal Wujal on Cape York Peninsula was once the Bloomfield River Mission, and remained under the control of the Hope Vale Mission Board until 1987. A period of 90 years, ending only 35 years ago. So much for Queensland. Here is a little piece of history. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5BLld-NHp0>*

In 1949 an amending Commonwealth Electoral Act extended the Federal vote to Aborigines who were enfranchised in their State of Residence, or had served in the Armed Forces. This was the first change to the very limited vote provided for Aboriginals in the 1902 Franchise Act. During the first reading debate Harold Holt confessed to "uneasiness at the way Aboriginals had been treated who are the true natives of the Australia continent." Arthur Caldwell at the time said Parliament was now "admitting some

These are a few examples put forward by deniers (cynics) Do these denier's consider the average person that gullible, to accept this kind of nonsense? I have seen with my own eyes, the rising water in parts of the Pacific Islands, Canada Alaska, New Zealand, China, glaciers receding kilometres from where they were a short time ago, I have dived on the great barrier reef, seen damage, with coral fading and dying. The events of recent times floods all over Australia with catastrophic damage and heartbreak. It's bad enough listening to the after dark commentators continually calling the critical thinkers of being climate alarmists. Yes, we have Conscience and common sense. Oh! I believe it's raining outside now, well what do you know it's

obligation to the descendants of Neanderthal man." In the Upper House Senator Katz, Labor Victoria said "given equal education opportunities the Australian Aboriginal can hold his own with a white man." Thus was the attitude to our first peoples in the middle of the last century. Previous thinking, was that anyone not born British, were hopelessly unfortunate. Sixty years ago, the Commonwealth Electoral Act of 1962 granted all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the option to enrol and vote in Federal elections. However, the states sadly neglected the documentation of these people, and some did not have birth certificates or the ability to prove their identity. Some parts in section 51 of the Constitution give the Australian Parliament the power to make special laws for the people of any race. This is called race power. The Australian Parliament already has the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. More arrogance. It does not need another voice. Before the referendum in 1967, the State Governments were responsible for the Aboriginal people. Each State had a different policy. Some people were discriminated against. Queensland, for instance, paid its Aboriginal workers less than others and monies were held back; they never received what they had earned. There must be no division between people. Black or white, Parliament has no business to make determinations for ancient cultures or religions. Opportunities not special legislation. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVTUptjaVGw>. dancing like birds. The divisions between people can be seen by their body language. Chinese consider it correct to eat with their bowls to their chins, using chopsticks, British use knife and forks, Americans use their forks, the French use a fork twisted into a

only about the hundredth time this year, maybe it's time someone to reboot the bloody computer.
The one between their ears
Gerald Irwin, Branxton NSW

dessert spoon to eat spaghetti. Malays with their right hands, the left being considered unclean. People who sit on the ground and eat rice with their fingers are just culturally different. Islanders prefer to squat or sit on the ground while we prefer chairs. They like wearing flowers in their hair as well as pens and pencils in their hair, a habit my wife has learned. Westerners carry bunches of flowers with blooms up, Europeans with blooms down. We don't automatically understand each other and may judge in ignorance. If you haven't noted the difference, then you may feel unease, and unexplained discomfort. Aware they are not of our tribe, even if they are the same colour skin. Manners and culture differ but all people are equal, and our laws should protect all.

A Voice to Parliament would provide the foundation fodder for division. The Voice is not going to create reconciliation. The ALP has not disclosed; what the Voice will do, who will be able to stand, who can vote for the representatives of the Voice, will there be elections, will it be advisory, will it have legislative power, parliamentary salaries, electric car and entitlements, be subject to the courts and ordinary laws and have a fixed term?

If you don't know the answer to those questions, you must vote **NO**. If you don't want to pay for The Voice, if you think six Indigenous Federal Politicians are enough, if you don't trust politicians, you must vote **NO**. If you are tired of the WOKE lefties, meddling, changing our ways and, dictating their druthers to the rest of us, and, if you resent Government interference in our lives, you must vote **NO**. One country, one law, one people? **CHEERS STEVE.** (Ed: Steve has two Indigenous grandchildren)

"Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again." — **Franklin Jones**
"Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back." — **Oscar Wilde**



though the current situation occurred almost solely while the Coalition was in government. Opposition Leader Peter Dutton is widely disliked in

Dutton's opportunity Everyone, including the government and (I suspect) the opposition, knows the stage three tax cuts should not proceed given the current state of the economy. However, Anthony Albanese also knows that if he does defer or cancel them, the opposition will immediately accuse him of not keeping an election promise and once again raise their old claim of Labor being bad economic managers, even

the electorate and disrespected for many actions and decisions he made while in government. One way he could start to rehabilitate his standing in the community would be to acknowledge publicly that changed conditions make the cuts unwise and that his party will support their abandonment as responsible economic management. We might just then start to consider him in a different light.
M. Mcgregor, Narrabri NSW

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News

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"The Branxton Greta Vineyards News" appeals to all advertisers to adhere to the Friday 2PM biweekly deadline which includes all editorial items as well. If you know you will be late please let our office know so that we can save space for you. This newspaper does not accept reports, advertisements or other instructions over the phone. We do accept items by Email.
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HIDDEN TREASURES HONOUR ROLL NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

State Member for the
Electorate of Cessnock,
Clayton Barr, MP
announced nominations

opened this week for the
2021 and 2022 Hidden
Treasures Honour Roll. The
Honour Roll gives our
community the opportunity
to recognise the outstanding
achievements of our local
women.

Mr Barr said the
contribution of volunteers
has never been more
important, as the past 12
months have seen our rural
communities facing multiple
challenges including floods
and COVID-19. It is during
times of adversity we see
the wonderful giving spirit

of our volunteers.
Mr Barr said, "Volunteers
are the heart of our
communities and across the
Cessnock Electorate we have
so many wonderful female
volunteers who give their
time and energy to help
others."

"The 2021 and 2022 Hidden
Treasures Honour Roll is a
terrific opportunity to
recognise our local heroes. If
you know a rural woman
who has gone above and
beyond, then I would
encourage you to nominate
her as a Hidden Treasure."

said Mr Barr.
The Hidden Treasures
Honour Roll is part of the
NSW Department of
Primary Industries' (DPI)
Rural Women's Network
program that recognises the
outstanding work of female
volunteers, and to celebrate
and acknowledge their
contribution to rural and
regional communities.
Nominations for the Honour
Roll can be completed
online.
To nominate a Hidden
Treasures volunteer,
complete a nomination form
online:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/>

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nomination or by
downloading the form on the
website and emailing it to
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women-nsw/rural-womens-
network/hidden-treasures](https://www.nsw.gov.au/women-nsw/rural-womens-network/hidden-treasures)

Nominations close 11:59pm
Wednesday 30 November
2022.

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4938 1773**

Communication Workshop

Cessnock and Wine
Country Toastmasters
Club will hold a one-off
Communication
Workshop on Monday 7
November at Cessnock
Leagues Club from 7-9
pm. The workshop will
include helpful tips about
public speaking and will
provide an opportunity to
practice in a safe and
friendly environment. Cost
is \$10; bookings are
essential.

For more information
contact Anna on 0422 116
747 or

anna.vannetten@bigpond.com.

Cessnock and Wine Country Toastmasters Club meets every Monday from 7-9 pm
(except P/H) at Cessnock Leagues Club. Find us on Facebook or check out
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Cessnock and Wine Country Toastmasters



CHARITY PIANO RECITAL

By Phillip Aughey

In aid of the Branxton RSL sub branch

Featuring works by

Chopin, Debussy and Rachmaninoff

30th October 2022

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3:30pm \$20

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Members say ..



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR THE PORT OF NEWCASTLE MUST BE MORE THAN JUST COAL

In the rush to sell off and privatise the state's assets, a deal was struck while selling our 3 major ports (Botany, Kembla and Newcastle) that would limit the ability of the Port of Newcastle to do anything much other than load coal and coal and coal.

The reason this deal was struck was to basically create an almost complete monopoly over who can import shipping containers and where that will take place. For the NSW Government, selling these assets to the highest bidder, an almost complete monopoly was designed to increase the bids on offer for the assets for sale. The net result was a higher price for the Botany and Kembla port assets and a limited future for the people of the Hunter. Let's be very clear about that – a massive door to the future of the Hunter was closed and sealed in that deal.

We all know that coal will continue to be exported out through the Port of Newcastle for the coming decades, but at some point in time that winds down and eventually stops. Therefore, setting up another purpose for our Port of Newcastle, another economy and another job creator, is extremely important to our future.

The beauty of the Newcastle port becoming a shipping container terminal would be that it can co-exist with coal movements, while ever they still exist, while at the same time building up our other forever economy. This was all willingly and greedily ignored by the NSW Government 8 years ago.

The state is now stuck in a situation where the future of the Port of Newcastle has been blocked and sold. Despite the then Treasurer and the then Premier of NSW stating categorically that there was no barrier to Newcastle becoming a shipping container terminal, these were in fact false claims. In addition to this, I participated in a pre-election (2019) debate with a significant National Party figure who basically apologised to the farmers of NSW and said that if

re-elected (2019) they would fix the Newcastle port problem. Well, the same Government that sold the ports in 2014 also won the 2019 election but nothing about Newcastle port has been fixed.

As it stands, if the Port of Newcastle increases its shipping container movements beyond 50,000 per year (about 10 ships) then the owners of the Ports of Botany and Kembla will be entitled to compensation. Enter the NSW taxpayer and their wallets.

We in the Hunter are now in the position of either standing by the original deal struck by the current NSW Government, and leaving the door locked to an important part of our Hunter future, or, imposing hundreds of millions of dollars of compensation on the NSW taxpayer. This is a mess brought to us by a Government that had its eye on the dollars and nowhere near enough concern for the people of the Hunter and inland NSW.

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can help, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to

cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

You can also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp, follow me on Instagram at "claytonbarrmp" or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au
Cheers, Clayton



Clr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council

Conversations about Singleton's "economic evolution" may often seem so lofty, it can be difficult to understand what it means for people and businesses at a local level now.

I'm pleased to say there are plenty of examples of programs that are achieving tangible results to upskill local residents, match workers with businesses, and support fledging business ideas. It's these programs, and these results, that are driving our economic evolution.

Best of all, our Singleton Employment Pathways and Business Builder programs are brilliant examples of collaborations between Council and the NSW Government with funding from the Resources for Regions program, along with Business Singleton, local businesses, training providers and industry experts.

We saw the results of the Singleton Employment Pathways program recently, when I attended the graduation ceremony for the first round of participants in our Hospitality Skills program with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole and Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP. Prompted by a shortage of skilled workers in our local hospitality industry, the program prompted a partnership between Council, Business Singleton, local businesses and registered training providers to develop a short six-week course targeting entry level hospitality workers.

Of the 15 participants, 11 have gained employment in the local hospitality industry and three learned skills to pursue their own small businesses. A second round of the training is now underway, and the same model could be applied to other industries.

We're also supporting innovation with a unique program to teach fledging businesspeople and entrepreneurs how to develop and pitch to potential customers and investors.

The Singleton Pitch Perfect program launches on Monday 24 October, offering one-on-one mentoring and group support to teach people how to sell their ideas successfully.

They'll then pitch their business idea, product or position to a panel of judges and a live audience to truly test their potential success. These are just two examples of how we're driving economic evolution at a local level, and another reason why the Resources for Regions program is so important to our community.

With our applications under Round Nine now submitted and awaiting assessment, we continue to actively lobby the NSW Government for a long-term commitment to Resources for Regions.

After showcasing what we can achieve and who the real beneficiaries of the program are – our local residents - I hope Mr Toole takes these success stories back to Macquarie Street as reasons to champion Resources for Regions, and more broadly, support for the economic evolution of

mining communities into the future.

Cheers, Cr Sue Moore



Member for Upper Hunter
Dave Layzell MP

BUILD BACK BETTER

Upper Hunter Electorate councils are now able to apply for funding to rebuild damaged roads and transport infrastructure, in order to better withstand future natural disasters. Dungog, Mid-Coast, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Upper Hunter, Maitland and Cessnock are among 26 councils affected by the February 2022 floods eligible for the package jointly funded by the Commonwealth and NSW governments.

While support to rebuild damaged roads was announced earlier this year, it only allowed for infrastructure to be repaired to pre-disaster conditions.

During March the NSW Government heard loud and clear about the need for a funding program where infrastructure was built back stronger and safer to better protect our communities during extreme weather events.

Building back better means councils could, for example, upgrade and improve key routes that were impacted during the major floods of earlier this year or raise road and bridge levels so they perform better during flooding.

Further information about the Regional Roads and Transport Recovery Package is available at: <https://nswroads.work/rrtrp>.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLAN

Legislation for the NSW Government's shared equity scheme has been introduced to Parliament.

Under the shared equity scheme, the state government would contribute an equity share up to 40 per cent for a new home or up to 30 per cent for an existing home purchased by eligible buyers.

Key workers such as teachers, nurses and police officers, single parents and older singles will be able to have the security of home ownership with a lower upfront deposit, no lenders mortgage insurance and no interest on the Government's equity share in a property.

Under the scheme up to 3,000 spots will be available each year for two years, participants must have a maximum gross income of \$90,000 for singles and \$120,000 for couples plus a minimum deposit of two per cent of the purchase price. For further information on the shared equity scheme visit: <https://nsw.gov.au/>

shared-equity-scheme.
COVID-19 UPDATE
Mandatory self-isolation for COVID-19 infection has now ended, however, NSW Health urges the community to remain vigilant and be COVID safe.

Stay home if you have cold or flu-like symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, cough or fever; get tested; wear a mask if you must head out and ensure vaccinations are up to date. NSW Health asks that we voluntarily register positive Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) through Service NSW to allow people to be connected to medical care as well as helping to inform the ongoing public health response.

If you have COVID-19 you may be infectious for up to 10 days but are most infectious in the two days before symptoms start and while you have symptoms, don't visit high risk settings for at least seven days.

For more advice on how to stay safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19 visit: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19.
Cheers, Dave



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

It has been fantastic to see the return of so many community events this year. This month another great facility has opened – Huntlee Park – and it is great to see so many local children enjoying the brand-new play facilities. There are many more wonderful events in store for the remainder of the year. I am very much looking forward to Stomp Festival this Sunday. It has been cancelled over the past two years due to COVID.

Council proudly supports this event. I encourage everyone to come along to support our local businesses, and enjoy what's on offer, including grape stomping, delicious local food and wine, entertainment for the kids, markets, music and more.

As Christmas approaches, I am thrilled to announce the return of Carols in the Park at Cessnock Sportsground on Friday 2 December. Carols in the Park has always been a warm community event, but tough times during the 2019 bushfires, and the COVID-19 pandemic, caused the event to be cancelled for three consecutive years. I strongly encourage residents to get the family together and come down and enjoy musical performances by local country music star Tara Naysmith, and 14-piece big band Santa's Little Helpers, with guidance from musical

director Greg Paterson. There will also be market and food stalls to enjoy, fireworks to behold, and a visit from Santa Claus himself.

Accompanying Carols in the Park this festive season, Council will once again run its annual Christmas Gift and Food Appeal. This is a donation-based campaign promoting generosity and giving within the community. I strongly encourage everyone to participate by giving a helping hand to those less fortunate this Christmas. New toys and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries or Council's Administration Building on Vincent Street, Cessnock, from Monday 21 November until Tuesday 6 December. All donations this year will be given to Samaritans, who have been able to deliver presents to an average of 156 local children in need for the past seven years. It would be wonderful to see the community band together to increase this number and help bring Christmas cheer to even more local children this year.

Cheers, Jay



Member for Hunter
Daniel Repacholi MP

It's been a busy couple of weeks since Parliament sat and we have returned this week for my first Budget. Over the last few months I have been working hard with all the Ministers to make sure that all of my Budget commitments are delivered.

The Budget is being finalised against a backdrop of natural disasters, rising inflation, a substantial downturn in the global economy, and structural spending pressures that are getting bigger.

The best defence we have against uncertainty in the global economy is a responsible budget at home – and that's what our Budget will be: solid, sensible, suited to the times. It will implement our election commitments by delivering responsible cost-of-living relief with an economic dividend through cheaper child care, cheaper medicines, paid parental leave and getting wages moving again, and investing in a stronger and more resilient economy through fee-free TAFE, cleaner and cheaper energy, a future made in Australia and trimming back the waste and rorts.

In difficult times hard choices are required to get the economy and the Budget back on track.

It will take more than one Budget to clean up the mess we've inherited from our predecessors. The week, Workplace Relations Minister Tony Burke will introduce the Secure Jobs, Better Pay Bill into Parliament. The Bill will include a number of measures designed to help workers across Australia negotiate higher pay packets and better conditions. It will also deliver on a number of the measures outlined by the Jobs and Skills Summit in September.

We will be working towards the laws being passed before the end of the year.

We have seen a number of major security and data breaches in the last few months, and our Attorney General has been working on Legislation to significantly increase penalties for repeated or serious privacy breaches. When we are asked to hand over our personal data, we have a right to expect it will be protected.

Unfortunately, significant privacy breaches in recent weeks have shown existing safeguards are inadequate. It's not enough for a penalty for a major data breach to be seen as the cost of doing business.

The Bill will increase the maximum penalties that can be applied from the current \$2.22 million penalty to whichever is the greater of \$50 million or three times the value of any benefit obtained through the misuse of information; or 30 per cent of a company's adjusted turnover in the relevant period. Last week I welcomed Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications to the Hunter electorate.

We started the day on the Lake at Rathmines to announce that eligible residents in Arcadia Vale, Balmoral, Fishing Point, Buttaba and Rathmines can now place an order to upgrade their NBN connection to Fibre to the Premises. This will allow residents and businesses to take advantage of faster speeds.

We finished the day by visiting the NSW SES Singleton Unit to check out the satellite services that have been deployed at the base to provide backup and alternative communications during natural disasters.

As always, my office is open and ready to assist you with any Federal Government issues you may have. I look forward to hearing from you and working with our community to deliver for the Hunter.

Cheers, Dan

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PUBLIC EXHIBITION: HUNTLEE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN AMENDMENT

Council is responsible for the Huntlee Development Control Plan (DCP) chapter and ensuring the plan provides adequate controls to manage development outcomes within residential and commercial allotments at Huntlee. The State Government remains the Consent Authority for the Huntlee Major Project Approval and any modifications to it.

The amendment to the DCP chapter has been initiated to enable development controls for a new medium density housing format Lot Type, known as 'Urban One', within the Huntlee Town Centre. The Urban One Lot Type is a reference to a smaller residential allotment, i.e. between 217m² and 354m². The Urban One Lot Type will accommodate compact dwelling types, which will have the appearance of medium density residential.

Other minor amendments have been made to the DCP chapter to address matters identified since the transition of the plan to the DCP in 2018. These minor amendments are:

- updating document references to reflect changes to the legislative framework that have occurred over time; and
- include a 'no further subdivision' control in relation to residential and commercial lots at Huntlee to address the lack of a minimum subdivision lot size standard for Huntlee in the Cessnock Local Environment Plan 2011.

There are Information Drop-In Sessions for Community members to learn more about the project and give feedback. These are being held:

Tuesday 1 November 2022
12noon - 3pm
 Huntlee Playground
 1 Triton Blvd, North Rothbury

Thursday 3 November 2022
3pm - 6pm
 Huntlee Project Office
 1 Triton Blvd, North Rothbury, next to AJ's Café

The draft DCP chapter is on public exhibition from **19 October 2022 to 15 November 2022** and can be viewed at Council's Administration Building (Customer Services Section), Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries, Huntlee Office and Council's website at <https://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/huntlee-dcp>.

Scan the QR code below to be taken directly to the project page and give feedback:



Any person may make a written submission in relation to the project. Any views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a final decision is made on whether or not the Draft Plan should be made.

In order to be considered by Council, submissions must be received by **5pm on 15 November 2022**, referencing **"Huntlee Development Control Plan Amendment"**. Submissions should be addressed to The General Manager and can be submitted via Council's website at <https://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/huntlee-dcp>, email to council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au, or post to PO Box 152, CESSNOCK NSW 2325.

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Customer Relations Team on 02 4993 4100.

Council is committed to safeguarding the privacy of individuals and handling of personal information in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998 (NSW) and Information Privacy Principles, the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW) and Health Privacy Principles, and any subordinate legislation. The information in your submission is being collected for the purpose of the above projects. The information collected will be used for the purpose outlined, related administrative functions, compliance and complaint handling, internal auditing, and in accordance with Council's Privacy Management Plan and Privacy Statement which can be found on Council's website. The intended recipients of your personal information are relevant Council officers and your submission may be included, with personal information redacted, in a council report that will be published in the public domain. The supply of personal information with your submission is voluntary, however if you do not supply the information, your submission may not receive full consideration. Your submission may be shared with other government agencies associated with this project. Your personal information will be kept in Council's Information Management System in accordance with the relevant legislation. Council's address is 62-78 Vincent Street CESSNOCK NSW 2325. If making a submission through Council's webpage, your information will also be held by EngagementHQ and Council recommends you read their privacy statement. You may access, correct or update your personal information by visiting Council's website, contacting Council's Privacy Contact Officer on 4993 4100 or by sending an email to council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au. If you want to know more about Council's obligations regarding your personal information or what rights you have, contact the Information and Privacy Commission or visit their website ipc.nsw.gov.au.

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How to get medicinal cannabis & how effective is it

Any medical doctor can prescribe medicinal cannabis in Australia with the approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the relevant State or Territory's Health Department. Patients may be eligible to trial medicinal cannabis if they have a chronic medical condition where conventional treatment options were determined to be unsuitable, and there is evidence to support the use of medicinal cannabis for the condition. Most medicinal cannabis products are unapproved products in Australia as they do not appear on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). This means that you can't simply go to a doctor, obtain a prescription, and fill it at a pharmacy as you would with conventional registered medicines. Instead, the TGA, the governing body that regulates access to all medicines including medicinal cannabis, have created pathways for doctors to access medicinal cannabis products for their patients, where clinically appropriate. Australian registered medical practitioners who would like to access unapproved medicinal cannabis products for the treatment of

appropriate patients may choose to do so through the Special Access Scheme (SAS) or the Authorised Prescriber Scheme. Alternatively, doctors can suggest their patients for a clinical trial or refer them to a doctor more experienced with medicinal cannabis. **The evidence** There have been very few well-designed clinical trials using medicinal cannabis, so there is limited evidence on its success in treating different medical conditions, or on effective forms and dosages. The studies that have been undertaken have focused mainly on the following five areas. **Epilepsy in children and adult patients** Evidence supporting the use of medicinal cannabis in the treatment of certain childhood epilepsies is strongest. Where the use of several anti-epileptic drugs has not helped their condition, the cannabis compound cannabidiol has been used (as an add-on to current treatments) in drug-resistant epilepsy in children and young adults up to 25 years. Several studies have reported improved quality of life in paediatric and adult groups, but overall there are few studies of how effective cannabidiol is in treating adult epilepsy. **Multiple sclerosis (MS)** Nabiximols, a cannabis plant extract, is registered with the TGA for use in

muscle spasticity associated with MS, but is not listed on the PBS. Five studies out of ten carried out on other cannabinoids concluded that cannabinoids may be effective for symptoms of pain and/or spasticity and may have a positive effect on sleep and bladder symptoms. **Chronic non-cancer pain** Most of the studies on chronic non-cancer pain involved using medicinal cannabis in addition to other pain medications, and focused on chronic (long-term) rather than acute (short-term) pain. There is some evidence that cannabinoids can reduce pain in neuropathic pain, but for many people the reduction in pain may be small. **Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in cancer (CINV)** Only a small number of studies showed relief from symptoms of CINV in patients using medicinal cannabis and the quality of published evidence is low to moderate. **Palliative care** There are very few studies on medicinal cannabis treatment in palliative care, so it should be used only after standard treatments have failed. Medicinal cannabis may interact with chemotherapy and other medications used in palliative care. More studies are needed to better understand this.

Crispy 'chicken' Caesar salad

20m prep 30m cook 4 servings
With crispy 'chicken' pieces, this addictive plant-based salad will fool even the most loyal meat-eaters.

457 calories per serve
Allergens: Recipe may contain yeast, sulphites, sesame, gluten and wheat.

INGREDIENTS

- 400g packet vegan 'chicken' nuggets
- 2 baby cos lettuce, leaves separated
- 6 qukes (baby cucumbers), sliced lengthways
- 4 radishes, thinly sliced
- 200g yellow grape tomatoes, halved
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 'Bacon' bits**
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 2 tsp maple syrup
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp smoked paprika
- 40g (2/3 cup) coconut flakes

Dressing
 180g (2/3 cup) natural yoghurt
 2 tbsp tahini
 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice

METHOD

Step 1
 To make the 'bacon' bits, preheat oven to 150°C/130°C fan forced. Line a large baking tray with baking paper. Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl and toss to coat. Spread evenly over the prepared tray. Bake for 10 minutes or until the coconut flakes are lightly golden. Remove from the oven then toss well and spread out again on the tray. Bake for a further 5 minutes then set



aside to cool (the coconut flakes will become more crisp as they cool).

- Step 2** Increase oven to 200°C/180°C fan forced. Line a large baking tray with baking paper. Place the nuggets on the prepared tray and bake, turning halfway through cooking, for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through.
- Step 3** Meanwhile, to make the dressing, whisk together all the ingredients in a small bowl or jug with 2-3 tbs water. Season with salt. Pour in a little more water to thin, if necessary.
- Step 4** Arrange the cos lettuce leaves, quke, nuggets, radish, tomato and avocado in a large serving bowl. Dollop with the dressing and season. Sprinkle with the 'bacon' bits to serve.



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OPTUS HACKED

Possible legal consequences

Optus has revealed that more than 2 million customers have had their personal identification documents compromised by hackers. In a video posted to the Optus website, Optus CEO Kelly Rosmarin stated that approximately 1.2 million customers have had at least one number from a current and valid form of identification compromised. In addition to this, approximately 900,000 customers have had numbers relating to expired IDs compromised, as well as personal information. Whilst 7.7 million customers did not have ID documents compromised, the attack still exposed information such as email addresses, dates of birth and phone numbers and the company are urging customers to remain vigilant. Past Optus customers caught up in the data breach, are questioning why the company was still holding their data. Telecommunication regulation and privacy experts have also tried to get to the bottom of how long the data must legally be kept. There are data retention obligations telcos must comply with such as, when a customer purchases a prepaid mobile phone for example, companies are required to check ID and verify that person is who they say they are. This is to prevent prepaid mobile phones being used for criminal purposes and enable law enforcement agencies to identify the owner of a phone. While companies are

required to keep some data by law, they're also instructed to keep it safe. Two-class action specialists, Maurice Blackburn and Slater and Gordon, are considering suing Optus, and its possible others will follow. To proceed, there will need to be seven people signed up- one of whom will act as the "representative" or lead plaintiff, then they will need to file a statement of claim for financial, economic, or other loss. Multiple class actions are possible if those claims pursue different issues, or the firms could work together as they have done in the past. A settlement could potentially be worth billions, eclipsing the current record of \$500 million paid to victims of Victoria's 2009 Black Saturday bushfires. Based on what is currently known, there are two ways a class action could proceed against Optus. Firstly, negligence could be argued, with the scope of liability outline in state and territory legislation. To succeed on the basis of negligence, a court would have to find Optus had a duty of care to its customers to protect their personal information, that it breached its duty, and that customers suffered damage or loss. Secondly, it could be argued there was a breach of privacy in contravention of the federal Privacy Act in the Federal Court. To succeed on a breach of

privacy, the Federal Court would have to find that personal information held by Optus was subject to unauthorised access or disclosure and that the company failed to comply with the Privacy Act. In determining damages, a court will consider what efforts Optus has made to remedy the leak. Minimize the impact on those customers affect and pay for the costs of replacing identification documents. Though the economic loss per customer may be relatively small, when multiplied by the potential class action size of up to 10 million plaintiffs, the compensation could easily be billions of dollars. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) has also launched its own investigation into the personal information handling practices of Optus in relation to the breach. The OAIC's investigation will determine whether Optus took "reasonable steps" to protect customer's personal information from misuse, interference, loss, unauthorised access, modification or disclosure, and whether the information collected and retained was necessary to carry out their business. If the OAIC's investigation results in the commission satisfied that an interference with the privacy of one or more individuals has occurred or serious interferences in contravention of Australian privacy law, then Optus could face penalties in the Federal Court. *Cheers, Kerrie*



Rental crisis continues to grip New South Wales, with Sydney rates at nine-year low

After a brief hiatus in August where vacancy rates seemed to level out, September saw yet another drop in Sydney.

"The vacancy rate for Sydney overall dropped by 0.1% to be just 1.6%," REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said. "The drop is attributable to vacancies in the Inner, Middle and Outer Rings each dropping by 0.1% to be 2.1%, 1.1% and 1.5% respectively. "Vacancies in Sydney really are at a historical low. Not since November 2013, almost nine years ago, have we seen the residential vacancy rate for Sydney overall as low as 1.6%."

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

"Vacancy rates in the Hunter region and Wollongong remained stable at 1.4% and 1.1% respectively, and regional areas across the state continue to be extremely tight," Mr McKibbin said.

"These latest results show that there's no denying that a rental crisis continues to grip New South Wales.

"Cost-of-living pressures continue to mount for tenants and landlords alike, and recent interest rate hikes will undoubtedly put pressure on some landlords to increase rents.

"Undoubtedly, 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.

"Supply continues to be the key problem. In short, there is simply not enough housing to cope with demand and this is putting tremendous pressure on the rental market."

"It's difficult to see how the rental crisis will ease anytime soon."

8 tricky items you didn't know you could recycle

Most homeowners have a handle on what they can recycle day-to-day, but there are items that may stump even our top recyclers.

What's the right way to get rid of household waste?

Many people don't realise you can recycle these items – if you know the right places to go.

In NSW, the right place to go is to either your Household Chemical CleanOut event or lo-

cal Community Recycling Centre (CRCs) – both of which are free to residents. Here are some of the items that can be recycled via these means.

1. Batteries ~ You wouldn't throw your car battery in the bin (would you?), but did you know *all* batteries are best taken to a recycling centre?

Most states have designated recycling points for household and car batteries akin to the Community Recycling Centres or Chemical CleanOut events that take place in NSW. Some stores like Batteryworld and ALDI also have specialised bins where you can leave your old AAs and AAAs. Meanwhile, old mobile phone batteries can be disposed of via the recycling initiative, at Officeworks or most mobile phone stores..

2. Household cleaning products ~ Chemical CleanOut events will take any hazardous household chemical products off your hands for free, including: Hobby chemicals e.g photography chemicals, Solvents and household cleaners, Floor care products, Ammonia-based cleaners, Pool cleaners & Garden chemicals and poisons *Drop off at: Chemical CleanOut events only.*

3. Smoke detectors

When it comes time, take your smoke alarms to a Community Recycling Centre for recycling along with any batteries too! *Drop off at: Community Recycling Centre and Chemical CleanOut events*

4. Paint ~ If you have unused paint sitting in your garage from a job you did 10 years ago, you're not alone!

Drop off at: Community Recycling Centre and Chemical CleanOut events

5. Gas bottles ~ Fortunately, when your gas bottle can no longer be part of the Swap n' Go system, or is broken or damaged, they can be recycled via a Community Recycling Centre or Chemical CleanOut event.

Drop off at: Community Recycling Centre and Chemical CleanOut events

6. Light globes ~ Fluorescent light globes and tubes contain mercury. Therefore, they require special disposal. When you drop off your fluro lights at a Community Recycling Centre, they will be processed to maximise recycling. *Drop off at: Community Recycling Centre and Chemical CleanOut events*

7. Oils and fuels ~ Like the other potentially hazardous and highly flammable chemicals on this list, the only way to dispose of motor oil is by taking it to a designated safe recycling point.

Drop off oils at: Community Recycling Centre and Chemical CleanOut events

Drop off fuels at: Chemical CleanOut events only

8. Pesticides and poisons ~ Finally, pesticides, weed killers and other poisonous household chemicals are accepted at Chemical CleanOut events.

These materials can be nasty. Make sure there aren't any leaks and prevent spills by packing the containers securely in the boot of your car. If you need to, double wrap any containers to prevent potential spills.

Upcoming Events




**Branxton Community Hall
SAVE THE DATES**

Sat 10th Dec—Xmas Twilight Market

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Branxton Public School

Term 3 finished on a high with our School Concert. What a night! Fabulous performances from all the classes and the smiles on the faces of the students, staff and families said it all – a huge success! Rutherford High School, Helmut and his band of students were super helpful and we appreciate all their support



Concert

leading up to, and on the night of the event. Miss Towns has been nurturing our merry band of gardeners who helped to harvest a bumper crop of seasonal from our veggie patch. Lettuces, cabbages, snow peas, beetroot, rhubarb and carrots were all picked and some produce was freshly consumed and enjoyed by the gardeners. Students and staff shared the bounty collected and it was a delicious treat to have such lovely fresh food. Term 4 is off to a flying start with our amazing Primary Choir participating in the Choral Music Festival in Sydney. They performed with hundreds of students from around the state at the Sydney Opera House with an orchestra. How exciting! A big thanks to Miss Towns and Mrs Tuyl for making this finally happen after COVID delays. Kindergarten are spending quality time with their Year 6 buddies for the next few Friday mornings while we welcome our Kinder 2023 students for Orientation Visits. We're all looking forward to meeting our new families and making them feel a part of our school. Continue to stay updated about school events through SkoolBag and our Facebook.

Dates for the Calendar

- Friday 28th October – Kinder 2023 Visit 2
- Friday 4th November – Kinder 2023 Visit 3
- Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th November – Stage 3 Great Aussie Bush Camp
- Monday 12th December – Presentation Day at RTHS

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

Spring cleaning boosted by annual bulk waste collection in Singleton

Households across the Singleton local government area are being encouraged to schedule in their spring clean out, with Council's annual bulk waste collection locked in from 31 October 2022 for a period of four weeks.

The bulk waste collection service offers residents who receive a domestic waste and recycling service a one-off opportunity each year to dispose of bulkier waste items free of charge, simply by placing them on the kerbside for collection.

The four-week collection schedule is:

- **Week 1** (from 31 October): Singleton
- **Week 2** (from 7 November): Darlington, Dunolly, Gowrie, Hambledon Hill, Huntview, Maison Dieu, McDougalls Hill, Singleton Heights, Wattle Ponds, Wylies Flat
- **Week 3** (From 14 November): Belford, Big Ridge, Branxton, Bridgman, Camberwell, Clydesdale, Combo, Dalwood, Dyrring, Elderslie, Falbrook, Fern Gully, Glendon, Glendon Brook, Gouldsville, Greenlands, Hebden, Lambs Valley, Leconfield, Liddell, Lower Belford, Middle Falbrook, Mirannie, Mitchells Flat, Mount Olive, Obanvale, Pokolbin, Ravensworth, Reedy Creek, Rixs Creek, Roughit, Scotts Flat, Sedgefield, Stanhope, Westbrook, Whittingham
- **Week 4** (From 21 November): Appletree Flat, Broke, Bulga, Doyles Creek, Dural, Fordwich, Glennies Creek, Glenriding, Jerrys Plains, Lemington, Long Point, Milbrodale, Mount Thorley, Redbournberry, Warkworth

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning Services said eligible residents could place up to two cubic metres of domestic waste on the kerbside the weekend before their collection week. Items placed out earlier will be considered illegal dumping and may attract a fine. "Our annual bulk waste collection always proves very popular with residents, and much like our mattress musters, tyre drop off days and other initiatives on our sustainability calendar, we expect most eligible households to take advantage of this fantastic service," he said.

"Don't forget when you're doing your clear out that your trash could be someone else's treasure, so we're encouraging everyone to use sites like Facebook marketplace, Gumtree, and eBay to sell things like furniture, bikes, kid's toys and décor items and reduce your bulk waste pile."

Each property will be serviced by the bulk waste collection once. Acceptable bulk waste items include general household waste, fully dismantled swing sets and trampolines, scrap metal, rolled floor coverings up to 1.5m in length, and furniture.

Items that will not be accepted include mattresses, fridges and freezers, air conditioners, e-waste, green waste, hazardous solids, liquids and batteries, commercial builders' rubble and bricks, tyres, mirrors, glass tabletops, window panes and sliding glass doors. Waste must be separated into piles of general waste and scrap metal for collection so that items can be recycled and disposed of sustainably.

For further information, including the full list of acceptable and unacceptable items and bulk waste terms and conditions, please visit Council's website at

<https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/bulkwastecollection>



Choir



Garden Harvest

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Reward increased as investigations continue into 1993 death of Cessnock teen Allison Newstead

The NSW Government, together with the NSW Police Force, has announced the reward for information into the suspicious death of 17-year-old Allison Newstead in the state's Hunter has been increased to \$750,000.

Allison Newstead was last seen by her parents on Wednesday 6 October 1993, when she left their Cessnock home, heading to a café.

She was reported as missing the following day after she failed to return home.

Her body was found by police at an abandoned colliery in Pelton, about 8km south-west of Cessnock, seven days later (Wednesday 13 October 1993).

At the time, extensive inquiries were undertaken by local police to determine the circumstances

surrounding Ms Newstead's death, which is believed to be suspicious.

In 1994, a coronial inquest into the matter was

terminated and subsequently referred to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP).

A 30-year-old man was then charged with concealing her body and perverting the course of justice, however, in 1997, was acquitted. Since that time, inquiries into Ms Newstead's death have been undertaken by detectives from the State Crime Command's Unsolved Homicide Unit under Strike Force Bain.

In 1998, the NSW Government announced a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Allison's death.

Today, that amount has been increased to \$750,000.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Police Paul Toole said it was critical that anyone with information provide it to police.

"It might seem like an insignificant piece of information to you, but even the smallest amount of intel could be the missing piece of the puzzle police need to solve the case," Mr Toole said.

"Officers have worked tirelessly on this case, and I sincerely hope this reward can deliver some answers and closure to Allison's loved ones."

Homicide Squad Commander, Detective Superintendent Danny Doherty, said it's hoped the increase will incentivise anyone who may have held onto information since Allison's death, to come forward.

"Allison's naked body was found underneath sheets of corrugated iron and physical evidence at the scene suggests that she was likely dragged to that location," Det Supt Doherty said.

"Investigators do believe there are still people out there – particularly associates of Allison from the time – who have not yet spoken to police and may have useful information.

"That includes multiple persons who we suspect may have been

there when Allison died, or who have direct knowledge of the circumstances of her death," Det Supt Doherty said.

Loretta Newstead, Allison's mother, said her family's life changed forever the day she died.

"Not a single day goes by that we don't think of Allison and wonder if we will ever know what

happened to her on the night she was taken from us," Ms Newstead said.

"We really need somebody to be held accountable for the heartache,

grief and anguish we as a family have had to endure for the last 29 years.

"I hope this substantial reward will prompt somebody to come forward with new information and deliver justice for Allison," Ms Newstead said.

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



Allison Newstead



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Cycleway from Branxton to Greta gets the go-ahead

CHECK THE DATE

Cessnock City Council have advised that the RTA have allocated \$1,520,000 in their 5-Year Priority Works Programme for Cycleway Construction between Branxton & Greta.

The construction of the cycleway will begin after June 2003, and will take approximately four years to complete. The announcement was welcomed by both communities as a community asset well worth the wait. It comes on the back of the new cycleway between Branxton & North Rothbury which has been a bonus to both communities. This cycleway, built at a cost of \$320000, has had constant use since completion & has given both Branxton & North Rothbury residents much better access.



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SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13 – WE NEED YOU THERE!

On Sunday November 13 Lions Australia is calling for members of the community to participate in ‘Lap the Map’ for diabetes prevention. The Branxton Lions Club along with clubs across the country will be hosting family friendly walks and other activities to promote a healthy lifestyle and raising awareness of diabetes in Australia. ‘Lap the Map’ is an important part of Lions Australia’s overall mission to reduce the prevalence of diabetes in Australia. All participants Australia wide involved will hopefully walk the distance of **25,760 kms**. Australia’s circumference.



Facts about Diabetes:

Diabetes is recognized as the world’s fastest growing chronic condition

Type 2 Diabetes affects one in 11 adults (415 million)

12 per cent of global health expenditure is spent on diabetes (USD\$673 billion)

Type 1 Diabetics are generally children from birth to about 12 years of age

Registration and family-friendly walk

Registration for the event will be from 9:45 at the Branxton Oval, John Rose Avenue, Branxton with the walk beginning at 10:00 a.m. heading towards the Miller Park Hotel and return which is approximately 2.5km distance. The “Lap the Map” event is a Free event with income from Raffles and the Branxton Lions BBQ to go to support Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation. Many local businesses have already indicated an interest and are prepared to donate to the day’s activities. Branxton Lions Club is working towards giving the community the most up to date information about Diabetes by holding this awareness-raising activity. **Please join us on November 13.**

Miller Park Meat Raffles – you could win a major prize, but you’ve got to be in it to win it!

All of the month of October the members of the Lions Club of Branxton have had the opportunity to raise funds through the Meat Raffles on Fridays and Sundays through the good offices of Miller Park Hotel. Rod Taylor, President of Branxton Lions, said he is very grateful to the management at Miller Park Hotel for generously donating their time and efforts in the Meat Raffles to assist fund-raising efforts for the Branxton Lions Club. All proceeds - ‘every dollar’ - of fund-raising by Lions Clubs is donated to deserving causes, usually for disadvantaged people living locally. Some photos below of one of the raffle events show Branxton Lions members (L to R) Lyn Clark, Colleen Anderson and President Rod Taylor and the effervescent Master of Ceremonies from the Miller Park Hotel, Glen, announcing the lucky prize winners.



Branxton Lions members (L to R) Lyn Clark, Colleen Anderson, and President Rod Taylor.



Huntlee Park & Playground opening



From the Lions’ Den

Bunnings Singleton Saturday Sizzle

On Saturday 15th October the Lions Club of Branxton were back again to provide the ‘sausage sizzle’ at Bunnings Warehouse, Singleton. Seen here below some photos of the ‘happy campers’ and satisfied customers.



The team from Branxton Lions having a short break from distributing sausage sangers.



A customer receiving his favourite snack.

Big Red Kidney Bus for NSW the final launch!

The Big Red Kidney Bus for NSW was recently officially handed over from a partnership of organisations including Lions District 201 N3 representative, Bill Layfield (Toronto Lions Club) at Parliament House, Sydney. This was the culmination of many years of dedicated work by our District committee in getting financial support and overcoming



The partnership team behind the Big Red Kidney Buse project, including Bill Layfield (centre).

many obstacles along the way. Congratulations were announced to all involved. Kidney patients now have an option to schedule a holiday and still be able to undergo their crucial dialysis. The Lions Big Red Kidney Bus is a state-of-the art mobile dialysis unit fitted with three dialysis chairs capable of providing up to 1,500 treatments a year



NSW Health Minister fronting the media standing next to the Bus.

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

Huntlee Playground – Official Opening Day

The following day, the very active members of Branxton Lions provided a BBQ at the Huntlee playground opening day. There were crowds of local people present at the event with many young families and people of all ages enjoying the sunshine and a myriad of activities (not always for the faint-hearted), and market stalls of all descriptions. The event was voted a resounding success and attendees were extremely impressed by that massive equipment contained in the



Lucky Branxton resident Katie, was the propitious raffle winner pictured here receiving her Bunnings \$100 gift voucher from Branxton Lions member Lyn Clark.



The biggest problem at the event was managing the queues – to ensure everyone received their snacks and drinks.

playground which should entertain and challenge young people for many years to come.

There seemed to be many hundreds of people attending from the local community and it was a very happy day all round. One of the main problems for the members of Branxton Lions Club was to manage the length of the queue of people waiting for the delivery of their favourite snack or soft drink. The Lions almost sold out of sausage snags and drinks – but not quite!



Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:

- * Miller Park Hotel Raffles. Friday 28 October, Sunday 30 October – beware of dark deeds on Halloween Monday 31st!
- * Lions Board Meeting. Wednesday 2 November
- * Lions District Convention – Leagues Club Cessnock 4 – 5 November
- * BBQ for Branxton RSL Centenary & Poppy Appeal. Saturday 5 November
- * Lap The Map. Sunday 13 November
- * Lions Lunch. Thursday 17 November
- * IGA raffle. Saturday 19 November
- * Bunnings. Saturday 26 November

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Heritage works at historic Ramsay's Leap

Cessnock City Council has completed vegetation removal works on a historic retaining wall known as Ramsay's Leap. Ramsay's Leap is part of the World Heritage listed Australian Convict Sites and is believed to have been built by convicts in 1830. The wall is named after an incident that happened at the site. A prisoner named Ramsay reportedly leapt over the six-metre-high retaining wall to evade police while being escorted from St. Albans to Wollombi in the early 19th century. The terrain in the area was very difficult to navigate at the time, so convicts were made to build a series of bridges, stone walls, culverts and buttresses to create a suitable road between Sydney and the Hunter Valley between 1826 and 1832. This road became known as The Great North Road and is now known as The Convict Trail. Ramsay's Leap can be found in the steep gully between Mount Manning Junction and Wollombi on The Convict Trail. Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal said he was glad to see conservation work going ahead at the site. "Heritage sites like Ramsay's Leap are an important reminder of where we have come from," Mayor Suvaal said. "This will be a great way for people to learn more about the history of our area and its people." Vegetation removal works from the wall and the rock face will allow for site assessment and heritage maintenance in the future. This project has been funded by the NSW State Government under the Caring for State Heritage category of the NSW Heritage Grants Program. Council is matching the NSW Government's contribution of \$150,000. More information about Council's current works can be found at <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Works>.

Cessnock City Council will host a panel discussion next month on the theme: Less is More.



The discussion will be facilitated by executive leadership and personal mastery Coach, Alexandra Joy. It will cover topics including living with less, decluttering, sustainable living, minimalism, avoiding waste, growing your own food, and more. The panel experts include Maitland's Purple Pear Founders, Kate Beveridge and Mark Brown. They bring more than 20 years' experience teaching farming, sustainability, permaculture, biodynamics and community building. Other panel experts include professional organiser and decluttering extraordinaire Susan Thiebe, and Manager of the Newcastle branch of OzHarvest Richard Stark. This free event will take place on Thursday 24 November, from 6 to 7.30pm, at the East Cessnock Bowling Club, 6-12 Victoria Street, Cessnock. Refreshments will be provided.

The Hunter Gas Pipeline

The Hunter Gas Pipeline is a proposal to build an underground natural gas pipeline that will connect the gas hub at Wallumbilla (near Roma in Queensland) to Newcastle and the Sydney market. The pipeline would cover a distance of approximately 833km, with 611km in NSW including Singleton. The project was approved by the NSW Government in 2009. A five-year extension was approved in October 2019 to commence construction by October 2024. Singleton Council has no role in the approval or regulation of the project. However, Council is committed to supporting our community to advocate to the developer to ensure all views on the project are heard. Council is gathering as much as information about the project as possible both as a potentially impacted landholder and to provide to our community, subject to legal limitations.



Hunter Valley Horse Riding & Adventures at Hilltop

Contact: Margaret on Phone: (02) 4930 7111

Address: 288 Talga Rd, Lovedale NSW 2325



Red bin lid replacement

Cessnock City Council is working towards replacing green bin lids with red lids to help reduce confusion about what should go in each of your three household bins.

Red bins are for general waste

Yellow bins are for recycling

Lime bins are for organics

If your household still has a bin with a green lid, fill out this form and council will arrange for it to be swapped over:

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/waste/redbinlid



Some interesting Census comparisons 2016 vs 2021

POSTCODE 2335, NSW

2021 v 2016 Census All persons Quick Stats

Area code POA 2335	2021	2016
People	8,124	6,156
Male	49.90%	49.70%
Female	50.10%	50.30%
Median age	34	35
Families	2,324	1,677
Average children per family		
for families with children	1.9	1.9
for all households (a)	0.9	0.9
All private dwellings	3,100	2,364
Average people per household	2.9	2.8
Median weekly household income	\$2,207	\$1,758
Median monthly mortgage repayments	\$1,963	\$1,890
Median weekly rent	\$415	\$320
Average motor vehicles per dwelling	2.3	2.2

A night of Christmas magic returns to Cessnock!

Can you hear those sleigh bells jingling? After a three-year hiatus the much-loved Cessnock City Council's **CAROLS IN THE PARK** is set to go off with a bang on Friday 2 December at Cessnock Sportsground from 5pm.

Country music star and local resident **Tara Naysmith** returns to the Carols stage in 2022 as our host. **Santa's Little Helpers** – a 14-piece big band comprised of talented musicians from across the Hunter – are also back for another year of musical magic under the guidance of Musical Director **Greg Paterson**. Greg is well known for his outstanding contribution to big stage musicals and his wonderful work as an arranger – not to mention his sell-out performances at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre – and has been a part of the Cessnock Carols family for many years.

Of course, the night would not be complete without a visit from the man himself; and, as in years past, the night will culminate in a spectacular fireworks display that is sure to delight and amaze. A selection of food trucks will be on hand to help feed the hungry masses, and for those keen to get a jump on their Christmas shopping there'll be markets stalls stocked with gift ideas, all expertly curated by Hunter Events Group.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Jay Suvaal is excited to see the return of this much-loved civic event.

"After a tough few years for our community it's great to have Carols in the Park back. An event like this is a perfect way to bring us all together and mark the end of the year. We're lucky to have such a wonderful event, with great family entertainment."

Gates open at 5pm with the Carols performances from 6:30pm, followed by fireworks from 9pm. Pack a picnic rug, head down to Cessnock Sportsground and join us in making this a truly wonderful community event.

Please note that Carols in the Park 2022 is *strictly* an alcohol-free event.

The event is proudly presented by Newcastle Permanent Building Society (major sponsor), Cessnock City Council, Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, Rover Motors and Hunter Events Group.

MILLER PARK HOTEL

MPH

Bistro LUNCH & DINNER

BOWLING GREEN

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Courtesy BUS
Kids PLAYGROUND
Functions WELCOME

TAB

What's On

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Book Now! ... don't be disappointed

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 3pm
 Thursday: Brisket Night

What's On

Wednesday: **BINGO** Every Wednesday @ 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. October beneficiary is **B'rx't Lions Club**
 Saturday: * **Karaoke** ~ every second Saturday . 8pm start ~ THIS **SATURDAY 29th October**
 Sunday: Raffles 5pm drawn 6:30pm
 Bowling Green is open for all barefoot bowl events.

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



Monday to Friday
4pm—6pm

Happy Hour

New Alfresco area now available for all functions

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER 2022
MARKETS 9:30am ~ 2pm

6 Maitland Street, Branxton NSW 2335 P: 4067 4141

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This weeks Product Champion

Ivanhoe Wines



Stretching across the foothills of the majestic Brokenback Mountain range, the Ivanhoe Estate is a patchwork quilt of vineyards and has become one of the most photographed and talked about vineyards in the Hunter Valley.

Owned and operated by Stephen and Tracy Drayton since 1996, the Ivanhoe Estate continues to produce premium Hunter wines and is renowned for its gutsy reds and great whites. A fifth-generation member of the famous winemaking Drayton family, Stephen brought the historic Ivanhoe vineyard to life with his own style and passion.

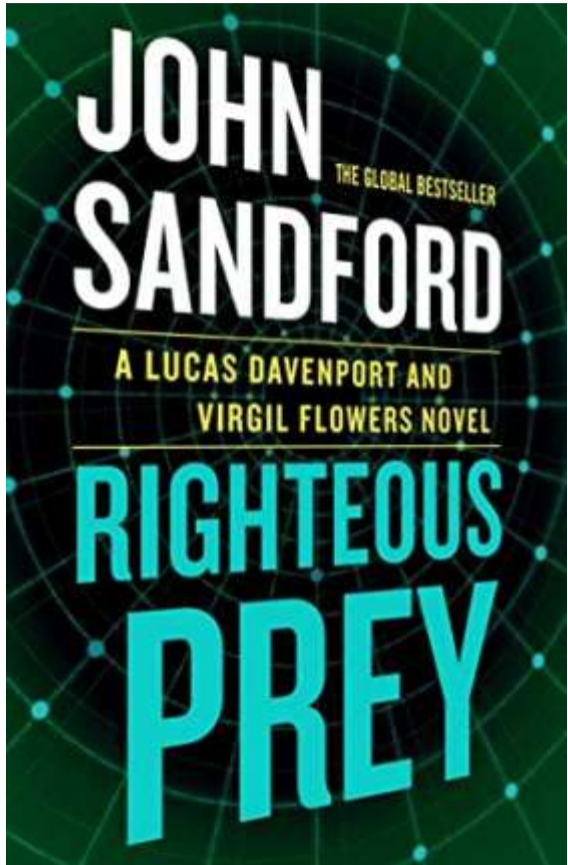
We love running our business in the Cessnock LGA as the local council understands the importance of tourism for our business as well as the agricultural requirements of running a vineyard.

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government

#supportlocalcessnock

Contact: 02 4998 7325 | Website: ivanhoewines.com.au
 Email: info@ivanhoewines.com.au





The most relaxing tale of double-digit murder you'll read this year.

RIGHTEOUS PREY
Lucas Davenport and Virgil Flowers join forces once more with each other and a host of other law enforcement officials to take down

a cabal of white-collar vigilante killers. The Five, as they style themselves, are a group of Bitcoin billionaires oozing self-righteousness who've declared war on crooked politicians, heartless corporate leaders,

slumlords, and right-wing radio bloviators. That's an awful lot of targets, and it's no wonder that even though The Five issue regular manifestos, progress reports, and teasing hints about where they'll strike next, the FBI has been helpless to identify and protect their victims. Not surprisingly, the two U.S. senators from Minnesota want Lucas, a U.S. Marshal, on the job, and Lucas wants to work with Virgil, his old protégé at Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. At first their progress is frustratingly slow, but things heat up abruptly when they identify a likely suspect who's promptly executed by Vivian Zhao, the scheming self-proclaimed economist who's the brains behind The Five. During a routine inquiry, Lucas and Virgil get an unexpected glimpse of Zhao, who flees the scene and issues an S.O.S. to the surviving members of The Five asking for funds to finance her flight. By now, of course, every one of the conspirators is afraid that Zhao, the only one who knows their identities, will flip on them, and Lucas and Virgil's race to find the ringleader is complicated by the vigilantes' race to cover themselves by killing anyone who might betray them, beginning, of course, with each other. Sandford manages the ensuing circular firing squad with

brisk expertise, though it's hard to generate much suspense over the threats to such a despicable bunch. **The most relaxing tale of double-digit murder you'll read this year.**

Another opinion by Lesa's Book critiques
RIGHTEOUS PREY BY JOHN SANDFORD
If you're a John Sandford fan, is there anything better than a novel that unites Lucas Davenport and Virgil Flowers? *Righteous Prey* has all the witty comments and humour that only comes when two men work as a team. It's what I loved about Robert B Parker's books with Spenser and Hawk. When Lucas and Virgil work together, they have that same kind of brotherhood. Until "The Five" hit the Twin Cities, their two previous murders were just news stories to Davenport and Flowers. The press release in San Francisco claimed they were a group of wealthy killers who were going to murder people who need to be murdered. A predator was killed in San Francisco. Then, a politician was killed in Houston. And, the killers are donating Bitcoin to charities for each victim they kill, victim 1 and victim 2. Their press releases even hint at the next victim, although it never says where the murder will occur. But, when the third murder

occurs in Minnesota, a politician asks Lucas Davenport, a U.S. Marshal, to work with the FBI. And, Virgil Davenport is sent in by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The FBI may be in charge, but Lucas and Virgil always have their own methods of talking with witnesses. Sometimes, they just chat. Other times, they put on a little pressure. But, the pair are able to read each other, play on their strengths, and find clues that the FBI misses with their formal tactics. This is another one of those books with an interesting ending, not quite what anyone expects. It's violent and unexpected, and appropriate for this book. Fans of the ongoing series know what's going on in family lives of Davenport and Flowers, and that's part of the appeal of the books. We've seen Virgil move from writing magazine articles to attempting a book. Their families are essential in providing support for both men. They have partners who accept their career choices, despite the danger. And, that's important in *Righteous Prey* when the group of killers are so dangerous.

It's an unforgettable book by a master who knows how to pull the strings of characters and readers.

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (23 OCT '22)

- NEW THIS WEEK**
- 1. RIGHTEOUS PREY** by John Sandford
The 32nd book in the Prey series. Virgil Flowers and Lucas Davenport go after a group of vigilante killers.
44 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 - 2. 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 1 last week
69 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 - 3. 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
 - NEW THIS WEEK**
 - 4. MAD HONEY** by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan
After returning to her hometown, Olivia McAfee's son gets accused of killing his crush.
5 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 - 5. FAIRY TALE** by Stephen King
A high school kid inherits a shed that is a portal to another world where good and evil are at war.
Ranked 3 last week
181 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 - 6. 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 5 last week
 - NEW THIS WEEK**
 - 7. OUR MISSING HEARTS** by Celeste Ng
Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner goes on a quest to find his mother, a Chinese American poet whose work he was taught to disavow.
3 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 - 8. DREAMLAND** by Nicholas Sparks
Musicians from different backgrounds are attracted to each other and a mother flees with her son from an abusive husband.
Ranked 6 last week
39 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 - 9. 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 8 last week
67 WEEKS ON THE LIST
 - 10. 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.

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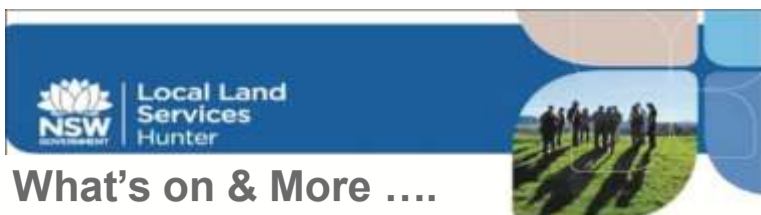
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ABOUT



Camp was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the son of Anne Agnes (Barron) and Roswell Sandford Camp. His mother's family was German and Lithuanian. He received a bachelor's degree in American history and literature¹ and a master's in journalism, both from the University of Iowa. From 1971 to 1978, Camp wrote for *The Miami Herald*. In 1978, he moved to Minneapolis and started writing for *The Saint Paul Pioneer Press* as a features reporter; in 1980 he became a daily columnist. That year, he was a Pulitzer finalist for a series of stories on Native American culture. In 1985, during the Midwest farm crisis, he wrote a series entitled "Life on the Land: an American farm family," which followed a typical southwest Minnesota farm family through the course of a full year. For that work, he won the annual Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing¹ and the American Society of Newspaper Editors award for Non-Deadline Feature Writing. He worked part-time at the *Pioneer Press* in 1989 and left the

next year. Camp is an avid fiction reader himself. When asked in 2018 "What's your favourite book of all time?" by the New York Times, he responded, "An impossible question. If you put a gun to my head—say a .40-caliber Walther PPQ, or maybe a .45 ACP Colt Gold Cup—I'd say *The Once and Future King*, by T. H. White."¹ Both weapons he mentioned make appearances in many of his novels. Camp is a personal friend and hunting companion of fellow Minnesota author Chuck Logan. In 1989, Camp wrote two novels that would each spawn a popular series. *The Fool's Run* (Kidd series) was published under his own name, but the publisher asked him to provide a pseudonym for *Rules of Prey* ("Prey" series), so it was published under the name John Sandford. After the "Prey" series proved to be more popular, with its charismatic protagonist Lucas Davenport, *The Fool's Run* and all of its sequels were published under John Sandford. In 2007, Camp started a third series (also under the name John Sandford), featuring Virgil Flowers, who is a supporting character in some of the "Prey" novels, including *Invisible Prey* and *Storm Prey*. Lucas Davenport is the protagonist of the "Prey" series. In the first three novels, he is a maverick detective with the Minneapolis Police Department. At the end of *Eyes of Prey*, he's forced to resign to avoid excessive force charges, partly due to his knowledge of the connection of a senior police officer to that case. He returns in *Night Prey* as a deputy chief (a political appointment), running his own intelligence unit. Beginning with *Naked Prey*, Davenport is an investigator for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), acting occasionally as a special troubleshooter for the governor of Minnesota in politically sensitive cases. He serves in that capacity through *Gathering Prey*, at the end of which he quits working for the BCA, later becoming a United States marshal. The novel *Mind Prey* was sold for a TV movie, and Davenport was portrayed by Eric LaSalle. Another of the novels, *Certain Prey*, was adapted into a movie in 2011 by USA Network starring Mark Harmon as Davenport.



What's on & More

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- Identifying your goals and developing an appropriate design

- Site preparation
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 - Post-planting maintenance
- The workshops will include a planting demonstration so please bring a hat, gloves, sunscreen and water bottle and wear sturdy shoes.

RSVP

To register, please complete the online form.

CONTACT

Anthea Slack

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Susan Rowland
susan.rowland@lls.nsw.gov.au

0428 647 057

The workshop is part of the Hunter Local Land Services 'Dig It! Small scale revegetation' program, supported by funding from the NSW Government.



HRLX Singleton

Report Date: 19/10/2022

Total Yarding: 454 (+193)

Numbers nearly doubled for a mixed quality penning of mostly younger cattle. There were ample to suit the restockers and feeder buyers, the prime pens were limited in supply. There were pens of heavy weight older steers along with heavy cows. Demand was strong for the better bred younger cattle, as the plainer pens struggled in the competition. The over 200 kg wealer steers to the restockers trended dearer and ranged from 570c to 785c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers made from 580c to 685c/kg. The yearling steers sold well especially those with weight, as the restockers and feeder buyers paid from 500c to 575c/kg. The yearling heifers to feed and the restockers made from 440c to 545c/kg. The best prime younger lot to the butchers reached 560c/kg. Heavy weight steers to the processors ranged from 375c to 450c, with the older heifers reaching 410c/kg. The better finished heavy weight cows remained firm at 370c to 395c/kg.

Market Reporter, Neil Geddes

Score

Report Date: 18/10/2022

Total Yarding: 965 (+579)

Consignments tripled and the quality on average was fair to good. The majority were younger cattle with numbers to suit both the restocker and lot feeder buyers. Cows were represented with higher yielding pens and some well muscled heavy bulls were yarded. Demand was very strong for the younger cattle. The over 200kg wealer steers to the restockers ranged from 615c to 770c and up to 820c/kg for the lightweights. Same weight wealer heifers also to the restockers made from 576c to 682c, with the lighter end reaching 745c/kg. The medium and heavy weight yearling steers to feed and the restockers received from 450c for the heavier drafts to 614c/kg, the latter for the medium weights. Yearling heifers to the same buyers made from 500c to 612c/kg. The best high yielding yearling with weight and purchased by the butchers reached 540c/kg. The heavy weight grown steers and bullocks to the processors ranged from 436c to 446c, with the older heifers reaching 406c/kg. The better selection of heavy weight cows received from 370c to 406c, with the best heavy weight bull topping at 344c / kg.

Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

TRLX Tamworth

Report Date: 17/10/2022

Total Yarding: 1845 (+1205)

There was an influx of young cattle with the overall numbers increasing sharply to 1845 head. The quality of the young cattle was mixed with some good lines of well bred yearlings alongside a few plainer types. There was a fair supply of heavy grown cattle and a good number of cows, these showing an improvement in quality. The usual orders were in place and restocker demand was strong. The high demand for light and medium weight yearling steers combined with the availability of lines resulted in dearer trends through these grades with significant improvement in places. Heavy weight yearling feeder steers sold on a mostly firm market trends with some of the lesser quality steers cheaper. There were cheaper trends through all weight classes of yearling heifers to restock and feed, competition on feeders not quite as strong. Heavy weight trade yearlings also sold to cheaper trends. Demand was weaker for the well finished heavy grown steers to process with more presented in the heavier weight class. This taking one processor out of the market. Well finished grown heifers also sold to cheaper trends. A better quality penning of cows saw an improvement in averages, the market trend however was slightly cheaper. Extra competition in the bull market saw them show some improvement. Market reporter, James Armitage

Racing Review & Breeding News

Raucous Valley crowd hails new hero Anamoe by Brad Waters

Courtesy Racenet.com.au
Melbourne sports fans have adopted a new hero – Anamoe.

Anamoe owned by billionaire Dubai royalty, prepared by a Sydney-born and bred trainer and ridden by a Sydney-based Kiwi jockey didn't matter to the people at The Valley. Anamoe united both sides of the divide between the members and public at The Valley, where the gap between clientele is much narrower than Flemington or Caulfield. A chant of "An-a-moe, An-a-moe" similar to the AFL's "Coll-ing-wood" cadence rose soon after the stallion crossed the line to win yet another epic Cox Plate.

The centenary Cox Plate was a race without flops, a race without shock disappointments. The first four in betting filled the first four placings but only three lengths covered the first 10 runners home, while even the \$71 shot Maximal wasn't disgraced, finishing less than six lengths from the winner.

But a large majority punters, Sheikh Mohammed and Godolphin's huge army of staff got what they wanted – an Anamoe triumph. The mood was obvious when McDonald received the loudest ovation, outstripping locally-based stars Jamie Kah and Damien Oliver, when introduced to the crowd pre-race.

Two Cox Plates run in four empty racecourses were forgotten in a joyous 40 minutes before the great race with Ben Clarke doing a great job with the national anthem before jockey and singer Robbie Dolan took the mantle of delivering the crucial rendition of

"Horses" from Darryl Braithwaite. Dolan and co-singer Cassie McIvor did Horses as a duet with plenty of help from the sellout crowd on hand at Australian racing's classic amphitheatre.



Surely the pair and their band can expect a repeat booking for same time, same place next year? Their performance had abundant energy and did its part boosting the anticipation before the first Cox Plate with crowds since 2019. The 10 minutes between the Horses singalong and the Cox Plate runners hitting the track only serves to heighten the anticipation and pressure as jockeys and trainers have one last chance to think before what The Valley has branded "the best two minutes in sport".

A wall of noise covered the sound of the gates crashing back at the start of the \$5m event but the 12 riders and horses might have been on their own planet as they fought for position.

There's nothing in racing like the roar when a Cox Plate favourite challenges for the lead on the home turn in the big race. It's been heard many times in the great race, recently when the legend Winx loomed up to the leaders in both her third and four Cox Plates. It seemed like the whole track was on Anamoe as he got the better of the

game frontrunner Zaaki on the home turn but it wasn't all smooth sailing for his backers in the last 150m. Zaaki wouldn't wilt while I'm Thunderstruck and El Bodegon charged home to get within a long neck of Australian racing's newest superstar in another classic Cox Plate. James McDonald channelled professional wrestling legend Hulk Hogan as he cupped his ear with his hand looking for more cheers for the

Cox Plate champ as he paraded him in front of the people lined along the fence in the home straight. Despite being a four-year-old stallion, there's a gentle side to Anamoe, despite his tiredness after a massive effort to win a gruelling Cox Plate, it felt like he still had the desire to please people. He stood patiently as photographers got their shots of him and trainer James Cummings while the grandson of five-time Cox Plate-winning trainer Bart Cummings, stroked and patted his neck to let Anamoe know he had done something special.

Out in the walking ring post-race, Anamoe even stood still looking into phone camera lenses as a couple of racegoers were lucky enough to get selfies with the latest Cox Plate winner. Zaaki's trainer Annabel Neasham summed it up when assessing the import's performance. "He was the best last year but other horses have come through and he's not the best now," she said. Neasham's right. Anamoe proved himself the best in the business right now. And it's likely to stay that way until he heads off to stud.



What you need to know

The highlight of the Melbourne Spring Racing Carnival, the Group 1 taying showdown attracts a field of genuine turf stars including a host of international raiders.

Offering an incredible \$7.43 million in prize money, the Melbourne Cup is the richest handicap race in the world and is second in prize money only to the \$15 m The Everest held in Sydney in October when it comes to flat racing in Australia. Key lead-up races into the Melbourne Cup field each season include the Group 1 Ladbrokes Cox Plate (2040m) and the Group 3 Geelong Cup (2400m). Makybe Diva (2005) was the last horse to take out the Cox Plate – Melbourne Cup double without a run between the two spring majors. She also saluted in the 2003 and 2004 Melbourne Cup results and is the sole triple champion of the 'race that stops a nation'. In 2021 Verry Elleegant

became the 14th overall mare and 12th individual female galloper to win the Lexus Melbourne Cup improving on a lead-up third in the Cox Plate. The Geelong Cup – Melbourne Cup double meanwhile was last completed by Dunaden (2011) who was the second French raider in as many years to take out the latter after Americain won the same two races the previous spring. Held on Turnbull Stakes Day in early October, the Group 3 \$750,000 The Bart Cummings also offers a Melbourne cup ballot exemption. International horses are making more and more of an impact in the Melbourne Cup results. The first Northern hemisphere-trained Melbourne Cup winners was the Dermot Weld-trained Vintage Crop (1993), while from 2014 – 2020 five of the seven Melbourne Cup winners were from overseas including in 2020 when

Twilight Payment defeated fellow raiders Tiger Moth and Prince Of Arran in an all-international Melbourne Cup trifecta. Shocking (2009) meanwhile was the last Australian-bred Melbourne Cup winner before Vow And Declare (2019) broke the drought saluting for Australia in the 2019 Melbourne Cup Results. In 2021 the internationals were again in the Melbourne Cup trifecta with Spanish Mission from the UK running third behind Verry Elleegant and the beaten favourite Incentivise. There have been many dual Melbourne Cup champions since the first, inaugural winner Archer going back-to-back in 1861-62, but Makybe Diva (2003-05) remains the only triple Melbourne Cup winner in history. The Melbourne Cup training record is held by former champion horseman Bart Cummings dubbed the "Cup

King". Cummings celebrated his 12th Melbourne Cup victory in 2008 with Vieved.

The closest ever finish in Melbourne Cup history occurred in 2011 when the French-trained Dunaden narrowly held off Red Cadeuax. Dunaden was also the second French galloper in as many years to win top prize after Americain became the first in 2010 for the 150th anniversary of the Melbourne Cup. Melbourne Cup favourites have a poor record in the race with the only one to salute for the punters since Makybe Diva (2005) being Fiorente (\$7 in 2013). Roughie hopes in Melbourne Cup betting have had plenty of success including most famously in recent years Prince Of Penzance (\$101) who scored the upset at triple figures for trainer Darren Weir in 2015. There were big Melbourne Cup odds on offer for the 2020 winner Twilight Payment who won at 25/1. The 2021 Melbourne Cup winner Verry Elleegant won at odds of \$18 improving on her seventh the year before.

Melbourne Cup final acceptances close on Victoria Derby Day this Saturday.



Apple or Samsung?

It's a bit like saying Microsoft or Apple (with computers). If we're talking about phones, everyone has an opinion. If you were a senior executive at Nokia you'd now be saying 'what the hell happened'?

Apple Devices. If you like the multilayer of Apples phone security, you'll never switch to an Android phone. But if you woke up one morning and all of a sudden your passcode has changed, you'll quickly realise how devastating Apples system can be as they offer NO WAY in, no matter the circumstance.

Apple say this can never happen but that's of no comfort to a person living on their own, has several thousand photos on their device, never ever used a passcode...but this morning there is one there that's preventing access to their device.

This may not seem like a problem unless you have thousands of photos that weren't backed up. **Here's what to do: Don't keep trying random numbers.** You know what your passcode is right? If you've tried a few variations and now the phone is saying 'disabled for 1 minute', you need to go to the next step.

Contact Apple. You'll hear things like, "is it your phone?" "Did you buy it 2nd hand?" "You must have had a passcode previously", and finally, "your phone will have to be reset to be able to use it". This is sort of true, however if you didn't have a backup to iCloud, **DON'T RESET IT JUST YET.** We may be able to retrieve your photos first. If you reset your phone, then all is lost unless you have a backup.

Apple screens are pretty good. We've seen phones where they were run over by a truck, pieces missing out of it and it still worked!

When replacing the screen, try and always fit an original Apple screen... they are better than the generics (Macdroids has both options available) The charging sockets are also very reliable. This is because the charge cable fits in no matter which way you insert it.

All glass phones are attractive, but not very practical. One drop and it's all over. In most cases, the back glass will crack and maybe the screen too. Not even a Lifeproof or Otterbox case will protect it in every situation. We can replace the back glass on ANY iPhone for \$150.

One thing I don't like is Apples refusal to reset any device to default and remove the icloud login information. If you're like most people, you bought an Apple device years ago, set up your Apple ID with user name and password and then never had to use it again, until now. Many of my clients can't remember their Apple ID password and haven't recorded it anywhere and if you can't remember the answers to those stupid SECRET QUESTIONS, what then?

Again, you'll need to contact Apple but if you can't prove that you are the owner of that device, they won't help you and that device now becomes a door stopper or Frisbee. It's a crazy system. It's like a bank saying... 'you forgot your password? Hahahaha, sorry but we've got to close your account and keep your money too!' Would the banks get away with doing that? HELL NO!

In effect, that's what Apple is doing so why do we just accept it? That's why I don't use Apple devices. If you're Apple, it's a great business model as it results in the sale of a new device. **Samsung Devices.** Samsung security is also

pretty good. If you have a Samsung phone you can protect yourself simply by inserting an SD Memory card into the phone. It's a cheap way of backing up your photos and its automatic once inserted. Samsung devices are less restrictive than Apple in the way they operate but their screens are not as durable. If you crack a Samsung screen, sooner or later it

Backup & Restore > Backup In there you'll find Samsungs Cloud option, Google's back up option and if you have a memory card inserted you can also do a full backup to the card. The SD card option is easy and cheap but don't lose your phone. A cloud backup means that you're storing your information on someone else's computer like Google,



OR

will turn off (go black, flash red or green) and then you'll have 2 choices. Replace the screen or replace the phone.

Recently, we've had a flood of Samsung customers coming in because they woke up one morning and a passcode appeared where they had never previously had one or it's now changed from the one they had. This is very uncharacteristic of Samsung devices and something that we've only seen happen in the last few weeks.

Like Apple, if you can't work it out, you'll have to reset your device and everything on it will be lost unless you had a backup. You can backup to many different systems. Unlike Apple devices, getting stuff of your Samsung phone or tablet is easy and you can back up to your cloud account, SD card, Computer or even USB stick in a matter of minutes.

Cloud Backup is the way to go. There are a few options available. In settings >

Samsung, Dropbox etc. These are relatively safe. Having said that, I don't store passwords there, but they're great for all your photos.

I use a combination of SD Card and Dropbox. This means if I lose my phone I can get all my stuff back from my Cloud account. Are Cloud accounts safe? I guess there's always a risk but typically, backups don't store passwords so although your photos, contacts and other bits of info are up there, they won't have access to your passwords.

I see half a dozen people a day for repairs where they don't have a backup. And finally, decide whether you're an Apple family or a Samsung family as these brands don't talk to each other very well. Sign of the times in this anti-social media world I guess? help@macdroids.com.au or call 1300 622 376 or drop into the shop at Greenhills, East Maitland.

Cheers, Frank

MOVIE REVIEW

Don't Worry Darling

Alice and Jack are lucky to be living in the idealized community of Victory, the experimental company town housing the men who work for the top-secret Victory Project and their families. The 1950's societal optimism espoused by their CEO, Frank--equal parts corporate visionary and motivational life coach--anchors every aspect of daily life in the tight-knit desert utopia. While the husbands spend every day inside the Victory Project Headquarters, working on the "development of progressive materials," their wives--including Frank's elegant partner, Shelley--get to spend their time enjoying the beauty, luxury and debauchery of their community. Life is perfect, with every resident's needs met by the company. All they ask in return is discretion and unquestioning commitment to the Victory cause. But when cracks in her idyllic life begin to appear, exposing flashes of something much more sinister lurking beneath the attractive façade, Alice can't help questioning exactly what they're doing in Victory, and why. Just how much is Alice willing to lose to expose what's really going on in this paradise?



In Review: 'Don't Worry Darling'
An Eisenhower-era utopia enters The Twilight Zone in Olivia Wilde's calamitous follow-up to 'Booksmart.'
Scott Tobias
Dir. Olivia Wilde
123 min.

It takes a while for *Don't Worry Darling* to reveal itself as abysmal, because it spends such a grueling amount of time being merely pedestrian, planting the seeds for the twist that will knock it wildly off course. Set in the candy-coloured Twilight Zone of Victory, California, an experimental community that reads like an eerily crystalline vision of the Eisenhower '50s, the film offers a conformist utopia of prefab houses and lush, manicured lawns. Every morning, the wives follow their husbands out to the car, wave as they drive away in migratory formation, and retreat back to their homes for housework, perhaps emerging later in the day for a little light gossip. It's a highly artificial environment, a utopia carved out in the desert, with no evident connection to the outside world. Written by Kate Silberman and directed by Olivia Wilde, the team behind the energetic but facile comedy *Booksmart*, *Don't Worry Darling* doesn't

waste much time pretending nothing is amiss in Victory, but those cracks in the facade take a while to spider out and finally shatter. Against this backdrop, Florence Pugh really pops as Alice, whose passion for her husband Jack (Harry Styles) sustains a domestic fantasy that's otherwise short on stimulation. Without kids to occupy their time and thoughts, Alice and Jack share a robust sex life and a stress-free routine that a thoroughly unreflective woman might enjoy. But Alice is not a Stepford wife type. She struggles in the role she's been asked to play. And so, *Don't Worry Darling* becomes a grueling wait for that other shoe to drop, with Wilde alternating scenes of a vacant paradise with escalating shocks to the system. The only interesting wrinkle is that Victory is understood as a group project, like mid-20th century suburban pilgrims realizing conventional values in their purest form. It also helps that Chris Pine, as the leader of this initiative, gives the only compelling performance besides Pugh's, holding court with the serene self-confidence of the truly diabolical. He has

answers to every question and, behind the scenes, answers to every threat, too. To him, Victory isn't just a community—it's a philosophy. Every beat of this story will feel familiar to even the most casual science-fiction fan, to the point where naming any one of the many films it resembles will give the game away. Beyond the smaller quibbles about the slack pacing, the thematic obviousness and the variable performances—Styles is the classic example of a musician whose stage magnetism collapses on screen—*Don't Worry Darling* doesn't expose itself as an outright calamity until all its cards are on the table. Once all those teasing questions about Victory finally get answered, they prompt a whole new round of questions, most of them rhetorical. (Sample questions: "Seriously?" "How could that possibly work?" "Are you kidding me with this shit?") There's a message here about modern gender roles and reactionary politics, but *Don't Worry Darling* is a fake-prestige movie, as vacuously embroidered as the world it's trying to evoke.

2/5

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1300 622 376

Here's what's missing - everything': No schools and no services but houses keep going up

By Jordan Baker

The Sydney Morning Herald



(Ed. I have reproduced this well researched article after seeing new footings for obviously more demountables at Branxton Public School. Obviously Huntlee 'new town' has stretched the schooling facilities in our local area to bursting point. LWP have well planned our new city but it appears they have been let down by the NSW Government in the education sector)

The Clarke family had a house in Kings Langley, but as their brood of boys grew, they needed something bigger. They bought in Sydney's north-west growth area, where they could afford a brand new home with a surfeit of bedrooms and space. Plenty of other families had the same idea. Within a few years their once sleepy suburb, Marsden Park, became one of the child capitals of Sydney, with more children aged under nine – one in five residents – than almost any other suburb. While there were plenty of homes for all those families and kids, it became clear to Libby Clarke that there wasn't much else. The public primary was the size of a country school and now has 19 demountables. The closest shops were 20 minutes away; if she forgot milk, it was a 40-minute round trip, often in traffic. Trains came hourly, even at the peak. Narrow roads were choked. The hospital repeatedly promised for nearby Rouse Hill didn't exist, and still doesn't. Meanwhile, the population grows exponentially. "It puts a sour taste in your mouth," Clarke said. "They knew we were coming. Where did they think we were going to shop? Where did they think our children would go to school? It comes down to better planning. Stop rushing to get people into these houses."

Clarke is not alone. There is deep frustration among many of those who have moved to the high-growth areas on the city's fringe about a failure to provide the services they need – and, some say, were led to expect. The feeling is shared by people in other parts of Sydney, too, who have seen rapid development and ballooning population in their suburbs without the social infrastructure to match. It's an issue Labor will push hard at the upcoming state election, when seats such as Riverstone – which takes in Marsden Park – will be in play. It's a key issue for independents. Even Coalition MPs are campaigning on overdevelopment. Myriad issues are stopping infrastructure keeping pace with population in the north-west. An "archaic" demographic projection method, which is only now being improved. Too little communication between the tiers of government. A lack of clarity about exactly what services were promised, exacerbated by developers advertising schools and roads that were still just ideas on paper. And unexpectedly fast growth. "We are finding that some of these areas are moving much more quickly than anybody has ever anticipated," said one senior public servant. The city's north-west fringe is a patchwork of bucolic countryside, leafy 1990s homes with big backyards, and new housing of

varying quality. In the new estates, houses tend to take up most of the block (Australia is a world leader in big homes), leaving room for little more than a washing line in a tiny yard. At one estate typical of the area, visited by the Herald, the houses are so tightly packed together, a brave soul could step from roof to roof. None have room for trees. It has black bitumen roads and black roofing, to the horror of environmental experts who warn dark colours will only exacerbate intense western Sydney heat in the years ahead. Services are lagging, residents are irritated, but the houses keep going up. There are streets lined with nothing but timber frames, as homes are constructed en masse. Blacktown City is forecast to have almost twice as many houses by 2041 as it does now. By 2036, the council area's population will exceed that of Tasmania. Sydney needs houses for its booming population, and many voices, such as the Property Council, argue that unless councils meet their annual housing targets, the economics of supply and demand mean the cost of a home will remain beyond many Sydneysiders. But people moving into those areas say it takes more than a bunch of rapidly constructed houses to create a community. "So here's what's missing," said Angela Van Dyke of the Riverstone Neighbourhood Centre and Community Aid Service. "Everything. Public education. Public transport. Good urban design. Livability." Michelle Rowland, the Labor federal member for the north-west seat of Greenway (and also the communications minister), said the problem was due to a long-term failure of different levels of government to coordinate. "Developers, basically, in a lot of aspects, they do have free rein," she said. "The incentive of the developer is to maximise land use to maximise profit. Which is why you have a lot of residents complaining [about] what normally they'd call overdevelopment, but a lot of it is to do with lack of trees, a lack of environmental controls, houses are close together, streets are narrow." Responsibility for creating and resourcing new suburbs crosses the different tiers of government in complex and confusing ways. But some things fall squarely to one; hospitals, schools, public transport and some key roads are a state responsibility. "Hospitals are the one where I get the most complaints," said Rowland. Rouse Hill Hospital was first promised in late 2014 by then premier, Mike Baird, ahead of the 2015 state election. The site was bought late last year, but remains barren. There is no indication of when building might begin, let alone finish. In the interim, the population in its proposed catchment has grown by many tens of thousands. In the first quarter of this year, the closest hospitals to the north-west – Blacktown and Westmead – had some of the city's longest emergency department wait times. Labor leader Chris Minns said he would build the hospital. "It wasn't promised by us, it's been promised by the government," he said. "People have made deci-

sions about where to live based on things like that. This would have to be the overwhelming, No. 1 issue that I hear of any issue in NSW politics. Firstly, [they] were promised a set amount of infrastructure, which was either delayed or cancelled or pushed back. And secondly, and I think this is an under-appreciated part of living there, there's a massive increase in population that's not even there yet. They don't have the infrastructure they require right now." A spokesperson for NSW Health said work on the hospital would begin in early 2023. "A master plan and clinical service priorities for the new hospital are being finalised and scheduled to be announced in the coming weeks," they said. Labor deputy Prue Car, whose seat of Londonderry neighbours that of Riverstone and is facing similar problems, said roads aren't coping with the increase in traffic. "It would not be an exaggeration to say 20, 30,000 people have moved in over five or six years, and there's no budget allocation for Richmond Road," she said. "I would say in the north-west growth area, it's one of the top five issues. Everything is impacted by the fact that the main arterial is not workable. It means you can't get to school in time, you can't get to the station, it means emergency services can't get in." Another issue is schools. Northbourne Public School opened last year in Marsden Park to cater for the ballooning population. It is already over capacity, with 19 demountables. So are North Kellyville, Jordan Springs (14 demountables) and Gledswood Hills (in the south-west, with 22 demountables) public schools. The lack of a local high school is a particular sore point. The state government announced plans for a new one at Marsden Park before the last election and revealed the site last year, but Clarke is not reassured. "They won't say when it will open," she said. "What if our eldest son misses the boat?" But there are plenty of private schools. The non-government sector spotted a need for schools in the area years ago, and acted upon it. The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta opened St Luke's at Marsden Park in 2017, using a pioneering model under which the school day runs from early morning until the evening to suit parents with a long commute, and has recently opened another in Box Hill. In the south-west, Oran Park Anglican College opened in 2012, while Oran Park High opened in 2020. Clarke says she has four non-government schools within a five-minute drive of her house. "We're not religious people, so I don't want to pay for a religious education," she said. "I have three children. By the time the third got there, times would be tough." Her view was echoed by Western Parkland Councils in a submission to a parliamentary inquiry into school infrastructure. "This tendency to rely on the non-government sector ... to provide education facilities for new communities puts financial pressure on families."

CONT. NEXT PAGE



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@hotkey.net.au All contributions welcome

To the editor for his one eyed opinion on climate change... As a person who has recently travelled to Argentina, I have been quite surprised to hear how some towns who rely on tourism are already suffering from lack of snow on their ski fields and ice on their skating rinks. This is just one example. I'm sure if you research the effects of warming on the wildlife in Antarctica or even the increase of natural disasters due to changes in weather patterns, you will surely find ample evidence to change your mind on climate change. After all, even the most committed are coming around.

To the lovely Victorian couple who came to my assistance when my car had a flat tyre on Majors Lane last week. When he checked the spare it was found to be also flat; 20 minutes later, after taking it to Greta & pumping it up, he changed the now inflated tyre & saw me on my way. All I know of them is that their names were Rob & Lyn, they were from Geelong & were returning home after a trip to the Sunshine Coast in Queensland & loved our local wines... Thank you.

To the wonderful achievement of Nedd Brockmann who crossed the country on foot and has raised almost \$2million for the homeless. The 23-year old ran from Cottesloe Beach in Perth to Bondi, a fun of 3800km, in just 46-days. Should be made Australian of the Year ...

Cessnock Council fines you a heap of dollars for parking your car facing the wrong way or even if you are in your driveway... ridiculous!!!!

FREE Classified's Classified's

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: **0429 381 908** repairs. Comtronics P: **4991 1128**
Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362
For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: **0429 438 460**
To Lease: Granny flat or use as treatment room, massage etc, great spot, \$200 per week [no kitchen] 4 week bond in advance text, Edwin for pictures **0487427203**
For Sale: 2 ton chainblock \$100, Hardwood Timber beam 4800 x 290 x 75, \$50. 2470 x 140 x 100, \$20, Humes prime coat solid exterior door, 2040 x 820 x 35, New \$120, sell \$50,
 Painted solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, \$20, trailer axle with Holden hubs and stub axles, \$20, 4 White roll down security shutters 1800, 1860, 1760, 1650 wide with 2000 drop, Free Ph.**0437312905**
For Sale: Practically new medium sized Mobility Scooter . Only 3yrs old and driven 3 times, as owner didn't have the confidence to use it. Brand new batteries just installed as it has been unused. or a long time. Always kept inside. Comes with canopy and shopping bag. 2200 ONO (value \$4500) Inspection by arrangement. Please call Cherie on **0458721077**
For Sale: Collectable rabbit traps from \$10 P: 0421 102 711
For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta **0412 976 809**
Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. **0407 453 494**
Share Accommodation: East Branxton \$180 + share utili-

ties cost P: 0407 383 026
Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew **0435814841**
Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Branxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: **0413161296** Fred
Work Wanted: Need a house cleaner \$25/hr P: 0488 588 333
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) **0414 278 292**
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on **4938 3601**
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron **0416 128 701**
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul **0478103814** or **49987567**
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue **0497257081**
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: **4998 1583** or **Trevor on 0429 320 787** for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: **0458 606 804**
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: **4938 3153**
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on **0447 381 989**



THE TINA TURNER STORY
 Next date: Saturday, 29 October 2022 | 08:00 PM to 10:00 PM
 Presented by Rock Room Productions - This show is the ultimate tribute concert to one of the most iconic and loved musical artists of our generation. Get the electrifying concert experience of Tina Turner with this glorious, energetic stage production, brimming with Tina hits from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. The powerful raspy vocals, high-intensity dancing and thrilling stage presence live on stage, complete with band, backing vocalists and dancers to make this the definitive tribute show, and a fabulous fun night out! Hear all the energetic Rock and soulful RnB hits that made Tina Turner one of the biggest names in music of the 20th century. Hits such as *Simply the Best*, *What's Love Got to Do With It*, *River Deep Mountain High*, *Proud Mary*, *Nutbush City Limits*, *We Don't Need Another Hero*, *What You Get is What You See*, *Private Dancer* and many more. Don't miss out

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

DATES FOR BRANXTON PUBLIC SCHOOL
 Friday 28th October – Kinder 2023 Visit 2
 Friday 4th November – Kinder 2023 Visit 3
 Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th November – Stage 3 Great Aussie Bush Camp
 Monday 12th December – Presentation Day at RTHS
FRI 28 OCT – Central Hunter Business Chamber; Breakfast meeting at Greta Workers Club 7am ~ 9am. Guest speaker is Dave Layzell MP Member for Upper Hunter
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



Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:
 * Miller Park Hotel raffles. Fridays 28th October. Raffles will be held in the evening over a period of approx. 1.5 hours.
 * Lions Board Meeting. Wednesday 2 November
 * Lions District Convention – Leagues Club Cessnock 4 – 5 November
 BBQ for Branxton RSL Centenary & Poppy Appeal. Saturday 5 November
 * Lap The Map Sunday - 13 November
 * Lions Lunch. Thursday 17 November
 * IGA raffle. Saturday 19 November
 * Bunnings. Saturday 26 November

Here's what's missing - everything: No schools and no services but houses keep going up

..... At the same inquiry, planning and education bureaucrats gave an insight into why infrastructure is lagging. Until this year, projections given to health and education have relied on local government area-level data. Only now is the NSW Department of Planning able to use more suburb-level data for its forecasts, thanks to a more precise dataset from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. "We used to use local government area boundaries," said Matt Berger, the manager of population insights at the planning department. "Demand from users like health and education and transport for more granular data has been increasing for the last - well, it's always increasing."

Another reason is that the growth has been faster than expected. "What we saw was a slow burn in Oran Park that suddenly appeared to be really quick," said School Infrastructure NSW chief Anthony Manning, telling the same inquiry that his organisation was working out ways to reduce the three-to-four year gestation period for a new school, such as building classrooms offsite. At Marsden Park, it was a similar story. "What we didn't anticipate was the speed of the growth of that suburb and the density of the occupants of that suburb ... we are finding that some of these areas are moving much more quickly than anybody has ever anticipated."

One issue is that "we have no control over the number of houses a developer might choose to build in a year", said Manning, who is overseeing a multibillion-dollar school building program across NSW, begun by the Coalition government. "We might know that the rezoning gives them 10,000 dwellings, and they might even give us a view as to how quickly those developments will move through. But as you know from most of the



developments, they sell the plots. Once they sell the plots, it's up to the individuals to get on and build them. And that can happen at a ferocious rate." David Cross used to be chief of staff to Education Minister Sarah Mitchell before becoming chief executive of the Blueprint Institute, a Liberal-aligned think tank. He said planning for schools was frustrated by a failure of different levels of government and developers to talk to each other, as well as the "archaic methodology" used in population projections. "Then you have cowboy developers who reserve space for a new school in a proposed development without talking to the government, even if there is no direct need for one," he says. "This in turn sets a community expectation that a school will be built, which then often pressures government to spend money in that community even though it is better spent building a school elsewhere where there is greater need." Development is one of the issues Labor will be pushing ahead of the March election. There are key seats in play on the city's fringe, including Riverstone, where sitting Liberal MP Kevin Conolly is retiring; the new, nominally Labor seat of Leppington; and Holsworthy, held by the Liberal Party with a 3.3 per cent margin. When asked what he would do differently, Minns said, "it's a complex one. The thing we would not do is really condemn big parts of Sydney to major population growth without the needed

infrastructure to cope and survive. We're going to release our infrastructure plans closer to the next election, and we're committed to fairness when it comes to planning in metropolitan Sydney. We're going to have to look at intermediate measures, such as toll relief and a western Sydney catch-up fund to bring some fairness back to where the capital work expenditure is." In response to questions from the Herald, a spokesperson for Anthony Roberts, the minister for planning and homes, said the government was "pulling all levers at our disposal to fast-track housing supply in the right areas at the right time with the right infrastructure, including for the North West and South West growth areas. Already 123 infrastructure projects worth more than \$1.04 billion, such as roads, open space, drainage, sewerage, and the purchase of land for schools, are underway or have been delivered." Car called for a public conversation about the sort of services new communities should be able to expect. "If you are moving out ... to the north-west growth area, why should you have less access to public infrastructure than other people in Sydney?" she said. "These are good, hardworking people who are up to their eyeballs in debt for a huge house, and they don't have anything around them. It creates a massive divide in Sydney between those people who have access to opportunities and those that don't because of where they live."



Growth without associated public infrastructure

Like so many others I have a growing concern at the pace of population growth and residential development within our area without the necessary associated public infrastructure.

Huntlee is not the only residential development happening in our area, but it is by far the largest.

My concern was heightened when the sign on Empire Drive, Huntlee advertising "site of new school" was replaced with a new sign advertising some future residential development. Whilst there was a lot of talk about what was and wasn't being developed, a lot of what I was hearing was contradictory, so late August I decided to contact the relevant bodies.

Initially I wrote (emailed) Schools Infrastructure NSW, Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Education and Early Learning, MLC, Clayton Barr, MP State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock and the Huntlee Corporation. The crux of my email was requesting clarification "if and when any new schools are currently planned for development and when they would be expected to be operational."

Unfortunately, the short answer is "there is no planning underway for a new primary or high school in the area."

Kristy Harrison, Community Liaison Officer for Huntlee responded: "Huntlee are currently undertaking works to prepare a designated school site that we are required to provide to under our planning approval. This parcel of land will soon be released to the Department of Education. However, the construction and establishment of a public school is

governed by the Department of Education."

Clayton Barr, MP was also very quick to reply:

"The short answer is that while there may be a school or schools constructed sometime in the future, it will not be anytime soon."

Clayton Barr, MP also made representations to NSW Minister for Education and Early Learning, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC and Clayton forwarded the response:

"The educational needs of students living in the Huntlee area are currently being met by Branxton Public School and Rutherford Technology High School. As such, there is no planning underway for a new primary or high school in the area."

Anticipating the less than favourable responses received, I was also hoping to compile relevant statistics to support a petition to parliament for the establishment of a new primary school to service the area of postcode 2335. The information I was seeking was generic in nature. I did undertake my own research on the relevant body websites and ABS and whilst some information was readily available, I was hoping for data specific to postcode 2335. To this end I emailed:

Cessnock and Singleton Council requesting the number and value of residential and business development applications and residential and business building approvals for financial years 2015/2016 to 2021/2022 for postcode



2335. From both I received the same reply:

"Please be advised that this request should be lodged as a Formal GIPA (Government Information Public Access) application. Note that this application incurs as fee for service."

Branxton Public School and Rosary Park Primary requesting generic information on school enrolment numbers, capacities, staffing and classrooms numbers, land size and expansion plans for periods 2016-2024. The principal of Branxton did reply by phone, in short she advised that "Branxton Public School was coping with the current demand." 5 x Early Childhood Learning Centres registered

in the 2335 postcode area requesting centre capacities by age, enrolments, and expansion plans for years 2016-2024.

Nil responses. What I am disappointed about from the councils, schools and ECL centres is that the information I requested was generic in nature and I would expect it to be a records keeping and reporting requirement of their operations.

I have attached copies of the correspondences for your reference.

Michele Goodyer, Mayne Street, North Rothbury

WANTED

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton

Recent sales

SOLD UNIT 2

SOLD UNIT 10

SOLD UNIT 12

SOLD UNIT 18



How to Grow a Rose - The Basics

Roses are a wonderful hobby and will give you years of happiness, as they can live for well over 50 years.

Generally, roses are easy care plants and once established, can survive through some of the toughest conditions. However, young or newly planted roses are delicate, and need regular watering and attention to become established and hardy.

In the right conditions, roses will generally take 2 years to become established. Below is some basic rose growing information, that will help you grow not only a rose but a beautiful specimen that will reward you for years to come.

1. Deep watering - Watering is the most important factor to growing healthy roses. Water is the Key to Life!

Roses have a reputation of being drought tolerant, and this is true once they are established. However, when planting new roses, it is important they are kept moist through regular watering. New roses that do not receive adequate water will delay breaking dormancy, suffer dieback, or simply will die.

Australia has a history of experiencing drought conditions and in many parts of the country water is scarce. A correct watering technique is vital so as not to waste this precious resource. By training our roses to send their roots deep into the ground they will require less water once established and will be insulated from extreme temperatures. The watering information below will encourage your roses to establish their roots deep into the ground and reward you for years to come.

ROSES PLANTED IN GROUND
In the first year after planting, roses require 10 litres of water, two to three times a week. Once your rose plants are established, they will only require one deep soak per week in the cooler months. Increase this to twice per week during warmer months or in warm/hot climates. If you receive substantial rainfall of 15-20mm over a period of a week, it should not be necessary to water. There is no better way to water plants than by rain. Resume watering a week after rainfall.

DRIPPER SYSTEMS
We recommend a dripper system as the most efficient way to water roses. Unlike other watering methods it is the ideal way of providing a deep soaking, directly to the root zone. To determine how long the system needs to run in each session, place a bucket under one of the drippers and note how long it takes to fill. For the time poor, dripper systems also have the advantage of

automation by adding a timer. So even if you are busy or away on holidays, the roses will be watered correctly. AVOID the use a handheld hoses and lawn sprinklers. DO NOT use soaker hoses as they will not water deep rooted plants efficiently. DO NOT water each day, it is unnecessary and encourages root growth near the soil surface. When dripper systems are not practical, try the 'Bucket Technique'.

1. With a bucket that holds approximately 9 litres of water, puncture 4 or 5 small holes in the base.

2. Place the bucket directly next to the rose and fill with plain water. Move aside any mulch so that the bucket sits directly on the soil.

3. Allow the water to completely drain from the bucket. This gives the plant a good deep soaking, without the risk of runoff.

If you are under water restrictions, or water is scarce - USE GREY WATER!! Avoid detergents with high phosphate levels. Water using the above Bucket Technique.

POTTED ROSES
Potted roses require watering daily. Provide enough water that it starts to run out the bottom of the pot. Ensure pots are well drained. Never sit your potted roses in a saucer but instead allow the water to drain away.

Pots provide the roots with little insulation from the sun. The potting mix can dry out quickly and the plants become dehydrated and scorched. Ideally, try to keep them out of the midday sun during heat waves. HINT: plant trolleys are a great aid to easily move heavy pot plants.

FOR BOTH IN-GROUND AND POTTED ROSES

1. Mulch - an important tool in water retention. Keep the mulch to a maximum of 5 cm deep or the mulch material will absorb the water before it reaches the soil.

2. When soil is very dry, it becomes hydrophobic. This means it will not absorb or retain moisture. Giving a dose of Eco Hydrate or similar will help the soil retain moisture.

2. A soil pH of 6.5 - They can handle a bit each side but not the extremes. An incorrect pH will restrict the plants access to nutrients.

3. 6 hours of direct sunlight - They will survive with less but will be spindly and produce less flower. More sun = more flowers and growth.

4. Food - There are lots of products on the market. DO NOT FERTILIZE AT TIME OF PLANTING. Wait until the flowers start showing colour.

Planting Information:
When to plant: The best time to plant or transplant a rose is

during winter when they are dormant/bare root. You can plant a rose from a pot during the growing season but extra care must be taken to ensure the rose does not go into shock.

Soil Preparation: the soil is best prepared a 6-8 weeks in advance of planting. Ensure you test the soil pH before working the soil and correct where needed. Roses can adapt to most soils except sand. The basics of preparing soil is to add organic matter such as compost and a bit of blood and bone, turn it over a few times and then let it sit. Do not plant where a rose has been without changing the soil.

Ongoing Rose Care: Watering correctly is the most important factor to growing healthy roses. During spring, summer and autumn, you may experience pests or fungi that love roses. Spraying when the new leaves appear, and on a regular basis, will stop most problems - PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN A CURE. This is especially important if you are in a humid climate. Our 'Prevention Is Better Than A Cure' Rose Care Spray: Eco Oil or Eco Neem- for pests Eco Fungicide - for the fungal diseases Charlie Carp - foliar feed (this will make your garden smell a bit fishy but it is great stuff) Put all three of these in the recommended dosages (as instructed on packaging) into one spray bottle. Religiously spray once a week, both under and over leaves until they drip. This spray mixture is organic and not systemic, therefore it will not remain on the foliage or plant for extended periods of time. It will also not harm you, your pets or any of the 'good bugs' in your garden.

There are many chemical sprays are on the market, please use only as directed and wear protective clothing.

Winter Pruning: Pruning roses is not difficult, however, it is a task many find daunting due to the vast amounts of information and opinions available on the topic. To be honest, you cannot really prune a rose wrong. Pruning does not harm the rose at all, you will not kill the rose by pruning - **so don't stress!** Pruning is best done mid to late winter or early spring - remember to hold off until the most severe frosts have passed in frost prone areas.

10 Commands to Teach Your Dog

According to the latest statistics from the RSPCA - 38% of households in Australia own a dog. In total, there are 4.8 million dogs in Australia, accounting for roughly \$7 billion of the pet industry expenditures. We love our dogs so much - we are willing to spend money on grooming, vet check-ups, food and everything else to keep our pups happy and healthy. However, apart from these must-haves, pet owners need to train their dogs and teach them the basic commands properly. Dog training creates mental stimulation and encourages discipline and obedience to make your dog more active and well-behaved. Not to mention it is a rewarding way to strengthen the human-pet relationship even more. There are various dog obedience training facts you need to understand - but here are some of the essential commands you can teach to your pooch

NAME RECOGNITION
Purpose: to address your dog properly while teaching commands.

Description: before you train your dog any activities, teach your dog to recognise their name. This should be the very first step to instil discipline. It is easier to teach your pup commands and exercises if you address them appropriately. An obvious sign that your dog responds well is if they stare or look at you upon calling their name. Don't forget to provide a reward or affection when they get it right.

LEAVE IT OR NO
Purpose: to tell your dog not to grab or pick up something they are approaching or about to ingest.

Description: you may not want your dog eating whatever is unnecessary to digest. This is the reason why a 'No' or 'Leave It' command is helpful. Begin by holding treats on both hands. Gradually move the first hand or treat to your pooches' face to trigger them to lick or sniff at the treat, then say the 'leave it' or 'no' command. Whenever your dog is trying to grab the first treat from your hand, do not give it to them. Give the second treat from the other hand when your dog finds no interest in the first treat anymore. This action signals that they followed the desired behaviour. Make sure to practice the exercise

until your dog masters it. **COME**
Purpose: to signal your dog to come back to you, keeping your pup out of trouble.

Description: this command should start by putting a collar and leash on your dog. With a certain distance away from your dog, gently pull the dog's leash towards you then say 'come'. As your dog manages to move towards you, make sure to give them a treat, praise or affection. Repeat this activity until your dog learns it properly.

WATCH ME OR LOOK
Purpose: to guarantee that your dog's attention stays or focuses on you.

Description: this command is executed by offering your dog a treat in your closed hand. Carefully move your hand closer to the dog's nose then towards the face. Once you get your dog's full attention while establishing eye contact, say the 'watch me' or 'look' command. As a reward, give your dog a treat or praise.

DOWN OR LIE DOWN
Purpose: to calm down an excited dog and address some dog's behavioural issues.

Description: this activity is a little challenging as it requires your dog to be in a passive position. Execute this command by offering a treat for your dog. Hold the treat with your closed fist then gently move it closer towards your dog's nose and face. Let your dog sniff at the object then allow them to follow by gradually moving your hand to the floor. Continue to slide your hand along the floor until your dog assumes a lying position. Once they are down, that is the perfect time to give the 'down' command. Offer your dog a treat or praise them for their behaviour. Repeat this exercise until they master it.



Tips For Your Dogs

& Cats

perfected the exercise. **STAND**
Purpose: to easily position the dog in cases where standing is required such as brushing the dog or being examined by the veterinarian.

Description: start by giving the 'sit' command. With a treat in your hand, move it towards your dog's nose forward then down. Following the direction of your hand holding the treat, move your hand forward until your dog assumes a standing position. Say the 'stand' command and reward your dog with praise or a treat.

WAIT
Purpose: to train your dog not to move or wander.

Description: execute this task by giving the command 'sit' when your dog is outside your car or just in front of a closed door. Open the palm of your hand then say the 'wait' command. Repeat this activity until your dog learns it properly.

HEEL
Purpose: to teach the dog to be well-behaved when you are beside them.

Description: start this command by holding the dog's leash with your right hand. Let your dog stay on your left side. Using your left hand, hold the treat and guide your Dog while walking or instructing them to sit. Give the 'heel' command. Make a few steps while guiding your dog at your side. Praise your dog or give him or her a treat.

FINAL THOUGHTS
We always want to have enjoyable relationship with our canine companions wherever we go. Teach your pooch these basic commands to address any behavioural problems and ensure a healthy and happy companion.

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The News SPORT

SPORTS RESULTS RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Veteran Golfers Thursday, 13th October

41 players competed
Division 1 Winner: Daryl Sheppard 29 pts c/b 2nd: Greg Noble 29 pts; 3rd: C. Howe 29 pts; Ball Winners: Joe Bereza 28 pts; Tony Seamer 28 pts; Peter Conroy 27 pts; Eddie Barrett 27 pts; Keith Anderson 26 pts; Mike Ford 26 pts
Division 2 Winner: Errol Munzenberger 30 pts (SOD); 2nd: Tom Young 28 pts; 3rd: John Atton 28 pts. Ball Winners: Rob McMillan 27 pts; Graham Scobie 27 pts; Robert Brooks 25 pts; Rod Moylan 24 pts; J.Flynn 24 pts
Ladies : No Ladies this week

NTPins: Men: Graham Scobie
 Errol Munzenberger recorded the score of the day in winning Division 2 on Thursday with his 30 pts. His score included a memorable birdie 4 (5 pts) on the 13th hole. He finished 2 pts clear of New Zealander Tom Young with 28 pts. Captain John Atton finished third with his 28 pts. 24 pts was needed to win a ball (although others did win one in the "bad players draw!"). Daryl Sheppard won a very competitive Division 1 with his 29 pts, on a countback from Greg Noble and C.Howe with the same score. Daryl's 13 pts on the last 5 holes proved the difference. It looks like Greg Noble is priming himself up well for the upcoming championships which start next week. 26 pts was needed to win a ball in Division 1, showing how close it was at the top. Graham Scobie won the NTPin whilst there were no Ladies playing today.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Thursday, 20th October 1st Round of Vets Championships

34 players competed
Division 1 Winner: Lee Hunt 27 pts (SOD); 2nd Eddie Barrett 25 pts; 3rd Craig Howe 24 pts; Ball Winners: John Crompton 25 pts; Daryl Sheppard 24 pts; Greg Noble 23 pts
Division 2 Winner: Darrell Fleming 27 pts; 2nd Ron Hebbe 26 pts; 3rd Col Hughes 25 pts; Ball Winners: Peter Sekulich 25 pts; S.Condran 23 pts; Tom Young 23 pts; Graham Scobie 22 pts; Glenn Fletcher 22 pts.
Ladies Winner: Jan Scobie 22 pts; 2nd Caren Caldwell 22 pts
NTPins: Men: Jim Sheedy
 Ladies: Caren Caldwell
Championship Leaders:
Division 1 Stroke: Greg Noble 62; Lee Hunt 63; John Crompton 64; Daryl

Sheppard 66; Craig Howe 69; Eddie Barrett 70

Division 1: **Nett:** Lee Hunt 52; Eddie Barrett 54; Craig Howe 55; Greg Noble 56; Daryl Sheppard 57; Peter Conroy 58; Murray Kingston 60

Division 1 Stableford: Lee Hunt 27pts, Eddie Barrett 25 pts; Craig Howe 24 pts; Daryl Sheppard 24 pts; Greg Noble 23 pts

Division 2 Stroke: Col Hughes 72; Ron Hebbe 72; Tom Young 76; Peter Sekulich 77; Graham Scobie 81; Ray Showman 81

Division 2 Nett: Darrell Fleming 46; Peter Sekulich 50; Ron Hebbe 51; Col Hughes 52; S.Condran 53; Graham Scobie 53; Tom Young 54; Ray Showman 55

Division 2 Stableford: Darrell Fleming 27 pts; Ron Hebbe 26 pts; Col Hughes 25 pts; Peter Sekulich 25 pts; Steve Condran 23 pts; Tom Young 23 pts; Graham Scobie 22 pts; Glenn Fletcher 22 pts.

Ladies Stroke: Caren Caldwell 74; Marg Hunt 101
Nett: Caren Caldwell 56; Marg Hunt 78
Stableford: Jan Scobie 22 pts; Caren Caldwell 22 pts; Marg Hunt 13 pts

The wet weather restricted the field for the first round of the club championships to 34 players, with some players failing to finish due to the heavy rain in the middle of the round. Surprisingly though, for those of us who finished, the conditions were quite good either side of the rain. Captain Lee Hunt recorded the score of the day with his 27 pts, just ahead of Eddie Barrett with 25 pts and Craig Howe with 24 pts. Newcomer Darrell Fleming, playing in his first competition game, won Division 2 with 27 pts as well, just ahead of life member Ron Hebbe on 26 pts and our Wombat Leader-board leader, Col Hughes, on 25 pts. The sharp shooters for the day were Jim Sheedy and Caren Caldwell. The Vets Club Championships will be very interesting entering the 2nd and last round next week, with 2021 Champion Greg Noble (62) leading by one over Captain Lee Hunt (63) with John Crompton (64) and Daryl Sheppard (66) not far behind. Col Hughes and Ron Hebbe lead Division 2 with 72 with Tom Young (76) and Peter Sekulich (77) still in the hunt. Caren Caldwell has a mortgage in the Ladies as Jan didn't record a stroke score and there were only 3 entrants. The nett and stableford competitions are very close although Darrell Fleming's net 46 in Division 2 will be hard to beat.

Branxton Golf Club 2022 Club Championships Overall Rounds 1 and 2 A Grade Scratch

Joshua Tracey 140 (69,71); Victor Matt 141 (71,70), Peter Wilton 149 (73, 76), Cameron Johanson 149 (77,72), Rod Wilton 152

(75,77)
Nett: Victor Matt 137 (69,68), Joshua Tracey 138 (68,70), Rod Wilton 144 (71,73), Peter Wilton 145 (71,74).

B Grade Scratch
 David Kinch 165 (84,81), Steve Ross (167 (82,85), Riley Maytom 169 (89,80), Robert Biles 170 (85,85), Ben Bridge 171 (84,87).

Nett:
 Ben Elphick 141 (71,70), David Kinch 141 (72,69), Riley Maytom 141 (75,66), Steve Ross 143 (70,73).

C Grade Scratch
 Gary Walsh 188 (91,97), Luke Matt 188 (92,96), Col Hughes 190 (96,94), Charles Jubb 191 (97,94), Geoff Geason 195 (94,101).

Nett:
 Luke Matt 146 (71,75), Charles Jubb 149 (76,73), Gary Walsh 150 (72,78), Col Hughes 152 (77,75), Adnan Al Dabet 152 (77,75)

Veterans
 Victor Matt 75 pts (37,38), Dave Kinch 71 (34,37), Steve Ross 69 (36,33), Rod Wilton 69 (35,34), Mick Tracey 67 (35,32), Peter Wilton 67 (35,32).

Mug of Mugs
 Steve Ross 143, Rod Wilton 144, Peter Wilton 145, Ben Bridge 147, Tim Lane 155.

Saturday's Stableford Field 59
A Grade: Josh Tracey 38, Victor Matt 37, Mick Tracey 35
B Grade: Ben Elphick 36, Steve Ross 36, Ben Porter 35
C Grade: Luke Matt 36, Gary Walsh 35, Geoff Geason 32

NTP 2/11 John Burgess 170cm
 NTP 4 Peter Wilton 96cm
 NTP 9/18 Joshua Tracey 113cm
 NTP 13 Reece Caldwell 267cm
 Balls 18 Distributed down to score: 30
 PRO/S NTP 18TH HOLE = Michael Tracey 36cm = \$98 proshop voucher

Sunday's Stableford Field 48
A Grade: Victor Matt 38, Peter McKenzie 36, Josh Tracey 35
B Grade: Riley Maytom 41, Casey Smith 37, Dave Kinch 37
C Grade: Chad Watt 34, Charles Jubb 33, Darrell Fleming 31
 NTP 2/11 Joshua Tracey 236cm
 NTP 4 Sam Edmonds 240cm
 NTP 9/18 Rodney Wilton 195cm
 NTP 13 Joshua Tracey 364cm
 Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 31
 PRO/S NTP 18TH HOLE = Ben Elphick 250cm = \$74 proshop vouche

The 2022 Club Championships began on the weekend with two rounds played in very sunny conditions (for a change). Defending Champion Joshua Tracey has started the championships in fine style with rounds of 69, 71 (140) to lead the championships by one stroke over the resurged Victor Matt (71,70). Peter Wilton and former Club Champion Cameron Johanson are a further 8 strokes back on

149. B grade is proving to be a close event with Dave Kinch currently leading on 165 (84,81), 2 strokes ahead of Club Captain Steve Ross on 167, with Junior Riley Maytom 3rd on 169. In C Grade local Vet Gary Walsh (91,97) and Victor's son Luke Matt (92,96) are leading on 188, with Col Hughes, Charles Jubb and Geoff Geason close behind. Next weekend should prove very interesting in all grades, particularly in a Grade with both Josh and Victor playing some outstanding golf being equal par after the two rounds.

On Saturday Josh Tracey won the stableford competition with an outstanding 38 pts, just ahead of Victor Matt on 37 pts with the evergreen Mick Tracey third on 35 pts. Ben Elphick won B grade with his 36 pts, just defeating Steve Ross with the same score, with Ben Porter third a point behind. Luke Matt won C grade with his 36 pts, followed by Gary Walsh 35 and Geoff Geason 32. The 30 pts was needed to win a ball. Mick Tracey, once again, picked up the Pro's NTPin on the last, earning the shot of the day as he finished a mere 36 cms from the pin—a wonderful shot, so close to a hole in one.

On Sunday, Victor Matt turned the tables to win A grade with an outstanding 38 pts off his 2 handicap, with Peter McKenzie and Josh Tracey filling the minor placings. Local junior Riley Maytom had the weekend's best stableford score to win B Grade with an excellent 41 pts. Casey Smith and Dave Kinch finished 2nd and third with their 37 pts. Chad Watt won C Grade with 34 pts, Charles Jubb was runner up with his 33 pts with Darrell Fleming third 2 pts further back. Josh Tracey earned the shot of the day on the 2nd/11th whilst Ben Elphick won the Pro's NTPin on the last.

Branxton Golf Club 2022 Club Championships A Grade Scratch: 2022 Club Champion: Joshua Tracey

Joshua Tracey 290 (69,71,75,75); Victor Matt 292 (71,70,76,75); Cameron Johanson 295 (77,72,76,70); Peter Wilton 306 (73,76,81,76); Rod Wilton 309 (75,77,77,80)

Nett: Victor Matt 284; Joshua Tracey 286; Michael Tracey 287; Peter McKenzie 291; Cameron Johanson 291; Rod Wilton 293

B Grade Scratch B Grade Club Champion: David Kinch

David Kinch 329 (84,81,81,83); 323 Riley Maytom (89,80,80,84); Ben Bridge 342 (84,87, 80,91); Steve Ross 347 (82,85,98, 82); Robert Biles 350 (85,85, 91,89)

Nett: Riley Maytom 277; David Kinch 281; Ben Bridge 294; Steve Ross 299

C Grade Scratch: C Grade Club Champion: Luke Matt

Luke Matt 374

Gary Walsh 380 (91,97,99, 93); Col Hughes 381 (96,94,96,95); Charles Jubb 385 (97, 94, 99, 95)

Nett: Luke Matt 290; Charles Jubb 301; Gary Walsh 304; Col Hughes 305

Vets Championships: Winner: David Kinch 143 pts (34,37,37, 35)

Victor Matt 140; Mick Tracey 137; Rod Wilton 132; Steve Ross 130

Mug of Mugs: Winner Rod Wilton 293

Ben Bridge 294; Peter Wilton 298; Steve Ross 299

Junior Champion: Riley Maytom

Saturday's Stableford Field 46
A Grade: Mick Tracey 36; Rod Wilton 34; David Matt 33
B Grade: Riley Maytom 39; Ben Bridge 38; Dave Kinch 37
C Grade: Luke Matt 38; Gary Taylor 31; Matthew Schnell 30
NTPins: 2/11 Ben Bridge 325 cms 4th: Luke Matt 160 cms 9/18 Paul Bush 426 cms 13th: Mick Carling 295 cms Pro's Pin 18th: Ben Bridge 51 cms \$80 voucher Balls down to 29 pts.

Sunday's Stableford Field 31
A Grade: Peter McKenzie 37; Cameron Johanson 37
B Grade: Steve Ross 36; Dave Kinch 35
C Grade: Gary Walsh 32 Charles Jubb 32
NTPins: 2/11 Ben Bridge 216 cms 4th: Steve Ross 444 cms; 9/18: Richard Turnbull 145 cms Pro's Pin: Gary Taylor 610 cms \$52 voucher Balls down to 31 pts

The Club Championships over the weekend proved to be quite a spectacle with all grades very competitive on the last day. **Joshua Tracey once again won the A Grade Club Championships (his third win after winning in 2017 and 2021).** Joshua's impressive stroke play was

very evident on the last day, when playing the long 14th hole, he was able to "take the short cut" through the corner despite that part of the course being quite a quagmire, leaving around 100 m to the pin. This is the third time he has been Club Champion with many runner up results as well for this impressive golfer. He had a titanic battle throughout the championships with Victor Matt (Champion in 1998) before prevailing by two shots after Victor briefly held the lead during the back nine. Victor played beautifully throughout this championship, which is especially memorable as he has now joined the Vets ranks. The 2018 and 2019 Club Champion, Cameron Johanson finished third, only 5 shots behind Joshua, after an incredible par 70 in the final round, on a day where low scores were very rare. Local Veteran, and occasional green keeper, David Kinch won B Grade in another tight battle by 4 shots from the eventual Junior Champion Riley Maytom. This is Dave's first major win so he was rather chuffed to win after 4 very impressive rounds in the competitive B grade field. Victor's son Luke Matt won C Grade by an impressive 6 shots, after setting up a sizeable lead on Saturday with his 88 off the stick

giving him a 14- shot buffer leading into the last round. Dave Kinch also won the Veteran's Championship whilst Rod Wilton won the Mug of Mugs. All the results will be available on the club's website. We must thank and congratulate Club Captain Steve Ross for organizing these championships, especially with the challenging weather over the weekend. All wet areas were roped off, GUR areas clearly sign posted and all results available soon after the event. Having done all this, Steve still managed to win the stableford event on Sunday—well done Steve.

On Saturday, Mick Tracey (36 pts) won the A Grade Stableford, Riley Maytom (39 pts) B Grade and Luke Matt (38 pts) easily won C Grade. On Sunday (37 pts) won A Grade on a countback from Cameron Johanson; Steve Ross (36 pts) B Grade and Gary Walsh (32 pts) C Grade. The shot of the weekend belonged to Ben Bridge on the last on Saturday, which only finished 51 cms from the pin—and earned him an \$80 voucher. He actually had 3 NTPins over the weekend – a quite an impressive effort.



2022 Club Champion: Joshua Tracey with dad Mick. Third time club champion

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The BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News **SPORT**

Miller Park Bowling Club win their inaugural Pennant

Newly reformed Miller Park Bowling Club has won their inaugural Pennant title for the club. They are now Zone 6 Division 4 Champions & are now off to the Hunter & state titles. The team beat Gresford Bowling Club last Saturday morning and then played Scone RSL on Saturday afternoon to make the final on Sunday morning against East Cessnock Bowling Club who also won their heat games. It was a great game played by all of them and they went on to beat East Cessnock Bowling Club in the final 55 to 47 to win the master board and final.

A huge thank you goes to Dale McNamara and all their supporters for

travelling to scone to cheer them on; it was a great team win by all.



The Team: Jason Stewart, Jason Preston, Glenn Cliff, Keith Dicker, Grahame Dicker, David Ison, Steven Ready, Chris Charnock, Ian Jordan, Darren Drayton, Peter Martin, Xander Webber & Phil Garland

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