

The News

Free!

Serving the local community since 1997

...for your enjoyment

T: 49381773
M: 0414 757 826

“Your paper of choice”

WEDNESDAY
23 Nov 2022

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

Objections to ‘Huntlee’ decision



Cessnock City Councillors have resolved to lobby the NSW Minister for Planning, Anthony Roberts, to reverse an approval by the Department of Planning and Environment to allow allotments as small as 217m² at Huntlee.

The application by the developer of Huntlee to amend the approval to allow for a new housing lot type known as Urban One has been approved by the State Government. An Urban One housing lot allows for smaller residential lots of between 217m² and 354m². These lots would accommodate compact dwelling types and will be located around the commercial centre and proposed school site at Huntlee.

Community engagement undertaken in regard to proposed changes to the Development Control Plan for Huntlee showed strong opposition to Urban One lots. Chief among concerns was parking and traffic.

Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal said Councillors were standing with the community in regard to Urban One lots at Huntlee.

“The community has raised a number of valid concerns in regard to parking, traffic, and amenity,” Mayor Suvaal said.

“There are also concerns about the lack of access to educational facilities and health-care and the impact this would have by allowing further intensification of development at Huntlee.

Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal said Councillors were standing with the community in regard to Urban One lots at Huntlee.

“As local people, we know what is best for our community and we will do everything within our power to urge the State Government to reverse this decision.

“I am encouraging the community to speak up on this one by writing to the Minister.” Council will also write to the Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr asking him to make representation to the Minister to have the decision overturned.

A spokesperson for LWP the ‘Huntlee’ developers said that Huntlee has been working with Council Officers for some time on this proposal. “We are actively seeking engagement with the Mayor and Council to better understand and collaboratively work through any issues they may have,” he said.



Accredited General Practice

10 Dalwood Road, East Branxton

Dr T Sasi Sasitharan
MBBS, AMC, DCH (Syd), FRACGP

Dr Riju Verghese
MBBS, AMC, DCH, FRACGP

Dr Chaitali Biswas
MBBS, AMC

Dr Nishika Pathirana
MBBS, AMC

Dr Jeffrey Chow
B.Sc., BDS, MBBS

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 8.00 am - 5.30 pm *Offering cosmetic/anti-wrinkle treatment*

To make appointment, please call us on 02 4938 3366

Online appointments available through Hotdoc website

Mixed billing practice

Children under 16, pension/health care/DVA card holders/Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander bulk billed

**Now in the Hunter Valley
Vineyards
AirBnB & Short Term holiday specialists
Quality listings urgently required now**



Call John 0466 092 732



DAN REPACHOLI MP

As your federal representative, issues I can assist with include:

- Centrelink
- Medicare
- Child Support
- Aged Care
- Immigration
- Tax
- NDIS
- Communications including the NBN
- Veteran's Affairs
- Superannuation

Phone: 4991 1022
Office: 3 Edward Street, Cessnock, NSW 2325

Email: Dan.Repacholi.MP@aph.gov.au
Web: www.DanRepacholiMP.com

@DanRepacholi

Authorised by Dan Repacholi MP, 3 Edward Street, Cessnock

Rumours correct ~ Branxtons' Peree Watson is the ALP endorsed candidate for the seat of Upper Hunter for the forthcoming state election



(L-R) Dan Repacholi MP Federal Member for Hunter, Kate Washington MP, newly endorsed ALP candidate for Upper Hunter Peree Watson, Shadow Minister for the Hunter Yasmin Catley MP, & Jenny Aitchison MP.

The official announcement that Peree Watson from Branxton is the endorsed ALP candidate for the seat of Upper Hunter for the forthcoming state election was made on Saturday 12th November at Rose Point Park in Singleton.

With a glitterati of ALP MP's, a shadow minister, ALP aficionados & family the official announcement and campaign launch was made by the Shadow Minister for the Hunter Yasmin Catley MP.

On accepting the endorsement Peree said that she feels with a change in the boundary which now includes Branxton and not the Liverpool Plains that she can win the seat for the ALP.

The seat has been held by the Country Party/Nationals for more than a 100 years.

"Looking at all the statistics on the seat I believe the ALP can take the seat from the conservatives," said Peree.

The seat of Upper Hunter has undergone a redistribution for the state election on March 25th 2023 with Branxton, north of the railway line, now included in the National Party held seat. The seat now goes from the Great Dividing Range in the north to Dungog, Gloucester in the east with the two main urban areas being Muswellbrook & Singleton.

The new boundaries makes the Upper Hunter the third most marginal of the 47 seats the Coalition government would have in the 93-seat lower house. National Party Upper Hunter state MP David Layzell MP will have his margin of 2.6 per cent cut to a nominal 0.5 per cent after the latest redistribution adopted by the NSW Electoral Commission.

Since her time working at 'The News' Peree has worked professionally for the past 15 years in the charity sector as a community and fundraising manager. Her roles have included raising millions of dollars for the Leukaemia Foundation, Hunter Medical Research Institute, the Mark Hughes Foundation and *Got Your Back Sista*. Peree was born in Branxton and is the daughter of former CFMEU President & Branxton Golf Club Champion Mick Watson and Branxton Tidy Towns founder, local historian and also champion golfer Melita Watson. Peree's husband Ian runs a local small business and she has three children Elodie, Chiara, and Hari.



The official announcement & campaign launch

Greta & Branxton mark 'Remembrance Day'



Greta RSL SubBranch was host to this years Remembrance Day commemorative service held at the Rotunda next to the war memorial. Greta RSL SubBranch President Mrs. Adrienne Bevan was Master of Ceremonies with Branxton RSL SubBranch member & veteran, Brad Cooper, giving the 'occasional address'. Brad spoke about Australia's involvement in WW1 and the devastation it had on our 5million population & the disproportionate number of deaths and injury to our fledging nation.

"So great had been the loss of life, so devastating had been the destruction, that it was hoped it was the war to end all wars but it was, sadly, not to be".

Post(?) Covid-19 the numbers attending services are returning to the norm but, unfortunately, not a glimmer of local school children attending this years service. Greta SubBranch president Adrienne Bevan thanked Brad Cooper, Branxton SubBranch for his keynote address, the Airforce catapult party attendees from RAAF Williamtown, the Padres & Jimmy - Greta Sub Branch, the wreath layers and all RSL Members & guests. *'Lest we Forget'*

Ready for the Christmas Holidays?

Mooching around museums is a great way to relax while you revisit the past.

Why not start at your local?

Greta Museum Open each Wednesday & Saturday

11 am- 3pm (Closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve)

96 High Street, Greta, NSW.



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



YOUR friendly team

Mike Lowing: Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator
 Manager Advertising: Helen Lowing

The "Branxton Greta Vineyards News" is bound by an industry code of ethics. If you have a complaint, contact the newspaper first. If the matter is unresolved, then call The Australian Press Council on 1800 025 712. Complaints about advertising should be directed to the Editor and if the matter isn't resolved contact The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission on (02) 9230 9133.

Deadlines

"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.

PHONE: 0414 757 826

Email: thenews@hotmail.net.au Office: 12 Clift Street, Branxton, NSW 2335

MAB

FITNESS & HEALTH

Personal Training to your door

Contact Mark on 0408429710
 Facebook @mabfitnessandhealth

Live music 'in the park'



The community is being invited to reconnect with the Kurri Kurri CBD with live performances in the newly upgraded Col Brown Rotary Park. Over four big afternoons the park will come alive with live performances from home grown talents. Bring a picnic blanket and help support Kurri Kurri local businesses by purchasing food and drinks, or dining out after the show in one of the town's eateries. Cessnock City Mayor Jay

Suvaal said the live performances were set to be fun and family friendly events. "The Kurri Kurri town centre upgrade has seen a downturn in business and I am encouraging the whole community to come out and enjoy these events," Mayor Suvaal said. "The CBD upgrade works will be finished before Christmas, but until then, let's show our support for Kurri Kurri while enjoying some of our areas finest performers." Catch the following

performances live in Kurri Kurri:
Splashing Mood, Saturday 26 November, 4.30-7.30pm
Teasha & Mari, Saturday 3 December, 4.30-7.30pm
Sami Cooke, Saturday 10 December, 4.30-7.30pm
Jadily (Emily Jade), Saturday 17 December, 4.30pm -7.30pm
 This event is proudly organised by Cessnock City Council and supported by the Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program.
 # Photo Above: Splashing Mood

Community service celebrated with four new inductees to the Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame

Four new additions all in the community service category have been made to the Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame for 2022, with a special induction ceremony held at Singleton Civic Centre last night. Three generations of NSW SES (State Emergency Service) volunteers saw the Fellowes Family inducted as a meritorious family, recognising a combined total of 272 years of community service also to the Christian Israelite Church. Singleton Lioness carried on the community service theme 37 years after it was established, in recognition of a long list of fundraising efforts including 30 years of providing canteen facilities at annual Singleton Amateur Theatre Society (SATS) musicals to support the local community. John McAleer was inducted posthumously for his work through the St Vincent de Paul Society and personally to make sure people had a roof over their heads, and Bruce Merrick for decades of service as the longest serving volunteer with Uniting Care, providing entertainment at local nursing homes. Run in a partnership between Singleton Council and Peabody Wambo Coal since 2009, the Hall of Fame recognises and honours those people who were born in, or have a strong association with Singleton and who have attained prominence at a State, national or international level in their field of endeavour. Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame chair Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite said it was a wonderful occasion to celebrate Singleton's outstanding citizens. "This is one of my favourite events of the year because we pay tribute to individuals, families and community organisations who have given their time and energy for our community, or who have excelled on the state, national or global stage," he said. "I'm very proud of how the Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame has grown over the past 13 years, and to add four more pavers including a Meritorious Family for the first time in many years. "I sincerely congratulate all of our new inductees, their families, members and supporters, and thank Wambo Coal Peabody Energy for their ongoing support."



Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite



Hunter Valley Horse Riding & Adventures at Hilltop

Contact: Margaret on Phone: (02) 4930 7111 Address: 288 Talga Rd, Lovedale NSW 2325



Hunter Valley Horse Riding & Adventures, Located in the heart of the lower Hunter and wine country, offers a variety Horse and pony rides for the whole family from beginners to advanced riders. Our trips guarantee an action-packed itinerary. We offer a unique riding experience with stunning spectacular views whilst riding over the Molly Morgan Range.



the **tatts** hotel
Greta



If you don't get it within **7 minutes** it's **FREE**



Every second Thursday from 5pm enjoy being entertained by renowned singer, songwriter, musician and performer **Peter Stefanson**



Every second Thursday from 4pm with **Peter Stefanson**



Members' Christmas Party
 SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 4pm ~ 6pm

88 High Street, GRETA NSW 2334
 P: 02 4938 7302

OVER 70 WAYS TO SAVE

SAVINGS FINDER



The NSW Government is helping reduce your cost of living by giving you more ways to save, including:

- Up to \$110 Gas Rebate
- \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card

Join the millions who have saved and use the Savings Finder to see all the vouchers and rebates you are eligible for, or book an appointment with a Savings Specialist.

GET A BOOST FOR YOUR BUDGET
 service.nsw.gov.au



STEVE'S RANT

There has always been a different outlook on life between country people and city people. Poems by Banjo Patterson and Henry Lawson chronicled this difference 150 years ago and were accepted long before that. Life on the land and in country towns which service rural people requires acceptance of uncertainty and risk city folk rarely experience. Any exposure city folk have to the vagaries of country life is of having family or friends in the country and what the media portray, which is usually some disaster. Take your pick for plague, flood, droughts, fire, commodity prices or suicide. The good news stories get little attention. Thank goodness for the ABC's Landline, but how many people watch it? Most Australians know the different expectations between rural and urban populations, reflected in how they vote at election time. Socialist parties such as Labor and the Greens hold the city seats. Rural seats vote Conservative in general. This means National, Liberal, One Nation, or some single-issue candidate thrown up by local issues not being addressed by conservative parties. The balance of power revolves around areas not defined as urban or rural such as Sea or Tree change areas and the sprawling commuter belts strung out along rail and highway corridors. Examples are the NSW Central Coast, South Coast and Southern Highlands, Blue Mountains and areas such as Boring Bay. People in these areas tend to vote for the latest fad ideology or re-tread sporting or media personalities. When things the Government are, or are not doing, impact financially on people, swings big enough to change parties occur. Country people have little expectations from the

Government if they are not interfered with and services such as drivable roads, schools, medical facilities, and communications are maintained. They generally provide their own security: power, water, sewage and a roadside delivery box for essentials from town. Except for the local agronomist, they do not welcome bureaucrats wasting their time and telling them how to run their farms, enforcing access for mining companies, quotas for this and that and limiting water allocations when the State Governments have done SFA to store water upstream. The folk in the countryside vote for candidates and parties that reflect the above. For the last 15 years, no parties have provided sound representation worth having. Some individuals offer good representation but not being in the Governing parties their efforts get little support and even less attention from the media. Only when an individual sells their soul and seeks the balance of power in a party can the independent or minor party member do much. When this happened with the Gillard Government, the two independents, Rob Oakeshott and Tony Windsor, declared their support for Labor on confidence and supply in return for some legislative concession. Thus, allowing Gillard and Labor to remain in power with a 76-74 minority government. However, Windsor and Oakeshott achieved very little for Australia, and I cannot recall what they did for their electorates.

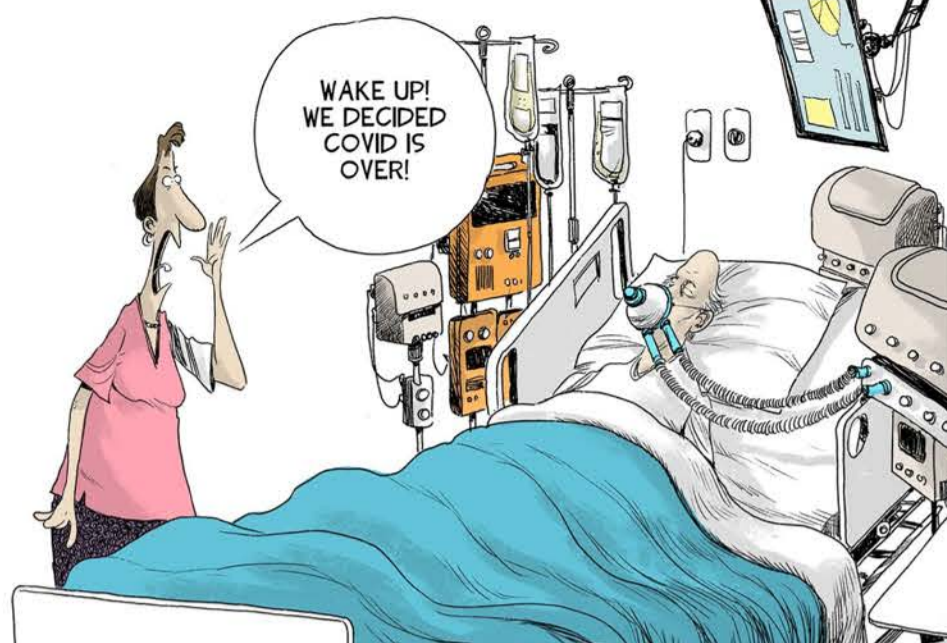
They were famous only for being a cheer squad for that idiot, Wayne Swan, the treasurer who squandered any chance of balancing the Federal Budget at the height of the mining boom. Where did the money go? So why has the National Party failed as a block to do what it should be doing for the country people? They have failed to maintain solidarity and weaker members have backed the wrong leader.

Why has the Liberal Party been hijacked by woke, wet left-leaning moderates without the wit to see through the lies put up by COP27, the UN, the Greens, the Teals and the Labor Party? As we know, the Liberal Party shot itself in the foot when the then Prime minister, Scott Morrison, was persuaded to adopt as policy the unattainable Zero emissions by 2050. The Liberal Party members responsible for this fiasco lost their seats in this year's federal election; as we have noted before, it was only Simon

'All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others'. Animal Farm is a parody of Stalinist Russia which Orwell criticises.

Birmingham who, unfortunately, survived this rout. The advent of the Teals in these seats split the vote, and preferences did the rest. The only remaining mainland liberal state NSW is plagued by the corrosive influence of dopes like Matt Kean. He found it absolutely essential that he attend COP27 in Egypt. Who paid for that little outing is yet to be established. Either way, it will only reinforce Kean's blindness to reality. His time will come next year in March when the people of NSW vote. Even if it takes a change of Government, Matt Kean must be gotten rid of. Our erstwhile Federal government leaders are hell-bent on screwing Australia with their "Ace in hand", Chris Bowen. Bowen's zeal for blind absolutisms in whatever he tackles is taking Australia to the pits. Watch his antics when asked to justify dismissing nuclear power as a viable option during question time. These twits consider questioning the theory of anthropomorphic climate change to be heresy. So, what does all this mean? Our Federal Parliamentarians are taking Australia to perdition in the genuine belief they are on the right track. This belief is driven by a socialist theology that free enterprise and capitalism are

wears a P2 mask in public indoor spaces, but am alarmed at the failure of most others to do so when COVID is on the rise again. It is known that mask-wearing is mainly effective if most people wear them in potentially high-transmission environments. It seems that most have been lulled into a false sense of security by the abrogation of government responsibility. They have now dropped the ball on COVID, and our more vulnerable people have truly been hung out to dry. That is not to mention the issue of long COVID, whose long-term effects on various organ systems are as yet unknown, and which can strike unpredictably. That our political systems are in danger of losing touch with humane and egalitarian values



Are you entitled?

Are people who move near a rail line entitled to train-free peace? Are people who move near open cut mines entitled to dust-free washing? What about those near an ambulance station; siren-free silence? If it's already there, I'm all out of straws to clutch. Why not take advantage of living near a live music venue and blast your own music?

Sam Rogers, Maitland

Appeasement not the answer
Appeasing an aggressive and expansive one-party-state China with a president for life isn't worth all the wine sales in the world.

Mike McGregor, Narrabri

COVID-19 case rises put masks back on agenda
I am an older person who still

CHEERS, STEVE

was recently made clear by the royal commission exposing an extreme example - the shocking (known at the time to be illegal) policy of Robodebt, which was allowed to persecute the financially vulnerable over a number of years. Was this just an aberration by an out-of-touch government on the way out? But the signs are not good for a more pervasive deterioration in cultural values owing to the greed-is-good philosophy which is producing increasing social inequality and an indifference to the anonymous others who can conveniently be ignored by those monopolising the polity.

Kate Newton, Dudley

Daily Thoughts

"A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in

What's Happening & other

with Mike Lowing

When the NSW Premier decided to pull the plug on any form of preventative measures against Covid-19 I did say it was dumb, stupid and, as we know, against the advise of the NSW Chief Medical Officer, Dr Chant. Those that took the same line as me were many but the Premier was not going to backtrack; let it rip! From the initial 'let it rip' I have been watching the weekly NSW stats and watching the numbers steadily rise. Last week saw 27,869 new cases, 39 deaths, 1148 admitted to hospital & 37 in ICU. As a result NSW residents will now have to wear masks in all areas of hospitals & NSW Health has changed its Covid-19 risk rating from green to amber. Also, health authorities last Thursday recommended that NSW residents wear masks indoors and on public transport if social distancing wasn't available as "it gives you and any vulnerable people who may be near you an extra layer of protection". Premier make it mandatory for everyone's sake. Premier you and your cabinet are culpable of the most irresponsible public health decision I have ever seen.

Mike

FOR SALE
King Quail ~ Tuxedo, Tied & Golden Pearl Pied quail \$15 each
Phone Roger on 4930 4269

identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success." Robert Orben
"I had a terrible education. I attended a school for emotionally disturbed teachers." Woody Allen
I had a nostalgic English teacher who found the past perfect and the present

tense? Anon
Getting divorced just because you don't love a man is almost as silly as getting married just because you do.
Zsa Zsa Gabor

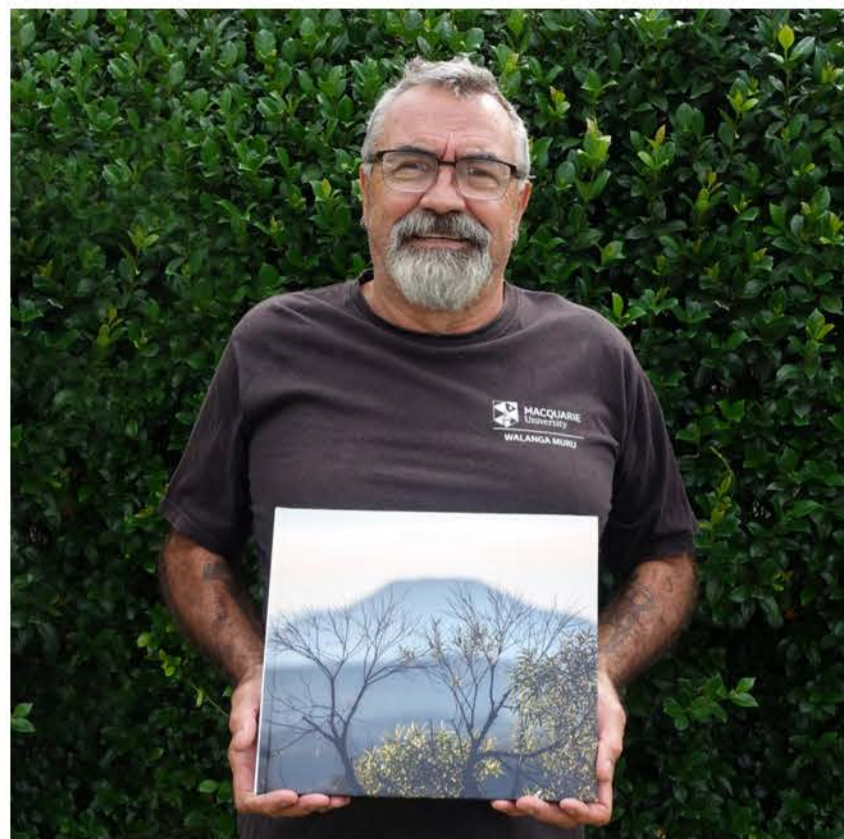
YOUR friendly team

Mike Lowing: Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator
Manager Advertising: Helen Lowing
The "Branxton Greta Vineyards News" is bound by an industry code of ethics. If you have a complaint, contact the newspaper first. If the matter is unresolved, then call The Australian Press Council on 1800 025 712. Complaints about advertising should be directed to the Editor and if the matter isn't resolved contact The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission on (02) 9230 9133.

Deadlines
"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.

PHONE: (02) 4938 1773 or after hours (02) 4938 3451
MOB: 0412 566 041 0414 757 826
Email: thenews@hotkey.net.au
Office: 12 Clift Street, Branxton, NSW 2335

Nominations sought for shires most outstanding citizens



Singleton 2022 Citizen of the Year ~ Uncle Warren Taggart

Contributions made by nominees have either been done on voluntary basis or exceed the normal requirements of the person's paid work

The Young Achiever of the Year Award is presented to a young person aged between 16 and 26 years who is judged to have made the most outstanding contribution to the Singleton local government area. Nominations must demonstrate some or all the following criteria:

- * Participates in the community
 - * Active in youth issues
 - * Caring, compassionate and sharing
 - * Shows vision
 - * Takes the lead
 - * Positive role model to peers
 - * Accepts responsibility for self and others
 - * Showed outstanding achievement in eg academic, sporting, cultural, environment or civic responsibility
- Nominating is easy – just head to <https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiaday> and submit a nomination form. Nominations close on Friday 25 November 2022. The 2023 Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year will be announced at the Australia Day ceremony at Singleton

Civic Centre on 26 January 2023.

2022 Citizen of the Year
Uncle Warren Taggart
 Dedicated Aboriginal elder, Wanaruah Aboriginal Land Council Board Member and Wambo Coal Singleton Hall of Fame inductee, Uncle Warren Taggart has worked tirelessly to both preserve and share the rich history and culture of the Wanaruah, Wonnarua people, including conducting regular tours of the culturally significant Baime Cave.

He is a long-time member of the Singleton Aboriginal Advisory Committee and has been instrumental in the organisation of NAIDOC Week activities as well as regularly delivering Welcome to Country at various events throughout the local government area. Named the 2016 Elder of the Year (Male) at the Upper Hunter NAIDOC Awards, Warren is particularly passionate about educating children and authored a colouring book aimed at pre-schoolers, illustrated by his daughter Kerri-Ann. Warren also works tirelessly to keep people informed about his beautiful Wanaruah, Wonnarua country through social media, radio and TV interviews, university and TAFE talks.

THEY are looking for Singleton's most outstanding citizens!

Nominations are now open for the 2023 Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year – and this is your chance to recognise the people you know who make a big difference in the community. The Citizen of the Year is presented to the person

aged 26 years or older considered to have made the most outstanding contribution to the Singleton local government area including but not limited to the year of nomination. Nominations must demonstrate some or all the following criteria:
 * Demonstrated commitment to the betterment of the

community
 * Law abiding
 * Undertakes activities which have had a significant impact within the community
 * Provides a positive role model for others
 * Takes the lead and shows vision
 * Undertakes activities that promote the welfare and wellbeing of the community

Has your phone stopped ringing?
You need to advertise your business
Call Mike at 'The News'
4938 1773

STANHOPE HANDYMAN SERVICES

Branxton and surrounding areas

I'll consider any job and will tell you if I can't do the work!

- ✓ Broad experience
- ✓ Lots of tools and equipment
- ✓ Small construction work
- ✓ Sheds built
- ✓ IKEA and other flat pack units built and installed
- ✓ Repairs and maintenance
- ✓ Renovations, painting and decorating
- ✓ Landscaping, paths, steps, pergolas, arbours, gardens, fire pits etc.
- ✓ High pressure water cleaning
- ✓ Clean-up and rubbish removed
- ✓ Firewood cut, split and stacked

Free quotes or will work for hourly rate on any project. *Seniors Discount!*

Great attention to detail and always clean-up at the end of the day! References available.

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

For a FREE quote, call Peter on: 0419 441 257

ENROLLING NOW

Tillys

Play & Development Centre

www.tillyschildcare.com.au/

Limited Vacancies

Transition to school preschool program

Gymbaroo classes

Playgroup

Large classrooms and natural play spaces

4a Nelson Street

Greta

49387211

Members say ..



Member for Hunter
Daniel Repacholi MP

It's been a busy couple of weeks out and about in the Hunter electorate and in Parliament. Last week we saw the introduction of the Secure Jobs, Better Pay legislation. By introducing this Bill, what our government is doing, is promoting job security, helping to close the gender pay gap, modernising the workplace bargaining system, and importantly, getting wages moving again. Workers have been held back and this has made our country fall behind, with wages kept low and insecure work at an all time high. This Bill will address those issues. The Fair Work Commission awarded aged care workers 15% interim pay rise recently. This is a first step in the right direction. Thank you to the aged care workers and unions who fought for this outcome, and everyone who voted to fix aged care. Last week I achieved a first, it was my first time being kicked out of Question Time. Unfortunately, I was a little bit too loud when reminding the opposition about what they did when in Government to hid power price rises. I said it in my first speech, and I will say it again, I will always be up front and will always have your back, but I probably should have gone a bit softer and apologise for that. I also raised concerns with Minister Clare O'Neill, Minister for Cyber Security, from local residents who have been affected by recent cybercrime. The Government is doing everything within its power to bring the perpetrators to justice. The Australian Federal Police and the Australian Signals Directorate have initiated an ongoing operation to investigate, target and disrupt cyber criminals. This operation will prioritise targets based on the harm they can cause and the threat to our national interests, and indemnify ringleaders, networks and infrastructure in order to disrupt and stop their operations. I know how distressing the release of personal information is for Medibank Private customers, and how important it is for you to have simple access to

support. Medibank Private has a one stop shop for Australians seeking advice and support and affected customers should call Medibank Private on 13 23 31 to access the full range of support and advice available from both Medibank Private and the Government. I recently welcomed Senator Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Energy and Climate Change, to the electorate and gave her a tour around the Hunter looking at heavy industry and power stations and the struggles they are having with power prices. We visited MolyCop at Waratah, Liddell Power Station at Muswellbrook and Tomago Aluminum. It was important for Jenny to see and hear first hand the issues our industries are facing so we can ensure we keep jobs here in the Hunter. The Hunter has our very own finalist in the Australian Training Awards. The Australian Training Awards are the peak national awards that showcase best practice in the Vocational Education and Training sector. The awards recognise and celebrate skill-based careers and skills excellence and are an important mechanism for promoting VET. The VET sector is central to training and skilling Australia's workforce, now and for the future. I congratulate Mellanie Sutton on being a finalist for Trainee of the Year. The Awards were announced on Friday 18 November. 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



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO HOMELESSNESS
It is estimated that across the Cessnock LGA there are somewhere between 500-1,000 homes being used as short term rentals on platforms like Airbnb. Essentially these are houses that are empty 80% of the

time and occupied by short term renters (tourists on holidays) about 20% of the time. Having a property that is rented out short term in this highly popular tourist area can be financially rewarding. For example, a nice clean 3 bedroom home might earn an investor \$40,000+ on an Airbnb listing. For comparison, this same home might earn an investor a smaller \$25,000 as a normal regular long term rental property. Some people in our community are doing very well investing in properties for the short term rental market. For some, this has allowed them to gather up 5 or 10 or 15 or more properties that are rented out with pretty high frequency. Good on them. They break no rules; they simply prosper through smart investing. But we do have a massive housing problem here in our community. We do have dozens and dozens of people that are homeless and sleeping in cars, or on streets, or couch surfing at various friends' homes. It's not that we have a shortage of houses, it's simply that we have a shortage of houses on the long term rental market. If just 1 in 10 of those houses currently on the short term (weekender) rental market were returned to the long term renters, this would instantly provide 50-100 homes for people to live in long term. That would go a pretty long way toward fixing our local problem with homelessness. Fingers crossed that some of those people that might own 5 or more short term rental properties might consider bringing one or two of them back to the long term market.

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.
Cheers, Clayton



Member for Upper Hunter
Dave Layzell MP

State Matters COVID-19 UPTICK
NSW HEALTH advises a new wave of COVID-19 is

currently being experiencing, with positive cases and hospital admissions increasing across the state. The weekly NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report for the week ended 5 November, shows Hunter New England Local Health District had 1,280 notifications with 23 admissions to hospital, Taking Hunter New England's total COVID-19 cases for this year to 373,956. While mask wearing is no longer mandatory in NSW, we are being urged to be cautious to protect each other from COVID-19 circulating in the community. NSW Health suggests putting on a mask when indoors or in crowded places, such as on public transport or at social and sporting events. For further advice on keeping COVID safe, visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe>

RURAL CRIME OP
Rural Crime Investigators have targeted the movement of stock, illegal hunting and the safe storage of firearms within vehicles and premises during their latest Upper Hunter operation. Officers from Hunter Valley, Orana/Mid-Western, Manning/Great Lakes, Richmond and Chifley police districts participated in Operation Fleece. Over three days police conducted 15 safe storage inspections and two Firearm Prohibition Order (FPO) searches within the Merriwa and Cassilis area. Thirty traffic infringement notices and two companion animal infringement notices were issued during the operation.

DON'T FORGET THE SENIORS
Businesses registration for the NSW Seniors Card program is now faster and more efficiently online, with the new digital process officially going live. Until now, businesses were required to submit paper forms and wait up to four weeks to get approved to join the program with on average just fifteen new businesses added each month. The new and improved digital registration process will save businesses time and make it easier for them to update their discounts and business details. Since launching the Digital Seniors Card in April, an average of 24,000 seniors have joined the program every month with a customer satisfaction rate of 90 per cent. Businesses can register by calling Service NSW on 13 77 88 for assistance or go to the Service NSW website www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-be-nsw-seniors-card-program-participating-business

LITERACY FUNDING
Literacy for Life Foundation has received \$1.5 million in NSW Government funding to lift

adult literacy levels in Aboriginal communities across the State. The funding will support the Aboriginal Adult Literacy Campaign to deliver community-led outcomes in line with local community needs and issues which have been identified. This funding will allow Literacy for Life to make a significant impact in Aboriginal communities with many adult students signing up to improve their reading and writing so they can assist their children's education. The NSW Government is committed to investing in outcomes for all Aboriginal people and communities to prosper and thrive across the state.

WAR MEMORIAL GRANTS
Community groups can make an application for funds to conserve the state's community war memorials under the current round of the NSW Government's Community War Memorials Fund. Round two is open until 13 February 2023 with \$125,000 available to support the repair, protection and conservation of community war memorials across the state. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to help with projects like conservation assessments, honour roll restoration, and repairs to war memorial structures and halls. To be eligible for funding, the memorial must be listed on the NSW War Memorials Register www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au Get more information about the Community War Memorials Fund and access the application format; www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/grants
Cheers, Dave



Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council

It's that time of year again when we begin the search for our 2023 Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year nominees, and when we encourage everyone to put forward those people they know who go above and beyond for our community. I wholeheartedly commend our 2022 Citizen of the Year, Warren Taggart and Young Achiever of the Year, Liam Byrne on their achievement and their service this year, and I know that there are many others like them who are worthy of recognition. Nominations are now open now until Friday 25 November 2022, and you

can find the criteria as well as submit your nomination on Council's website. The 2023 Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year will be announced at our annual Australia Day ceremony on 26 January 2023. With our new Christmas lights brightening up Baileys Union Park and the countdown already well underway to the end of the year, it's timely to reflect on all that has happened over the past 18 months. The 2021/2022 Annual Report was presented to Council's meeting last week, and served as a great record of all that has been achieved in the past financial year. While storms and floods may have headlined 2021 and 2022, there's also plenty that we can look back on and be proud of over the past 18 months. Most notably, the new Singleton Arts + Cultural Centre came to being with a special opening by NSW Minister for the Arts, Ben Franklin on 6 March 2022. The Centre has since hosted four specially-commissioned exhibitions and will continue to build on quality programming into 2023. Another highlight was the announcement of the first round of recipients of our Singleton Community and Economic Development Fund, delivering \$526,333 for a list of community projects in partnership with Glencore and The Bloomfield Group. Applications only recently closed for Round 2, and I look forward to who the next beneficiaries will be in early 2023. And with the end of COVID lockdowns came the return of events. The expanded Firewalk Festival and Firelight was a phenomenal success in May, drawing 23,195 registrations for free tickets - that's almost the entirety of the population of the Singleton local government area. But we're not finished yet. We're busy expanding Christmas on John Street on 9 December 2022 thanks to a \$75,000 NSW Government Reconnecting NSW Communities grant, and I have no doubt our record of success will continue with people of all ages invited from 6pm until the fireworks display at 9pm. You can see the 2021/2022 Annual Report on Council's website.
*Cheers, Cr Sue Moore
Mayor of Singleton*



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

The Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) is growing rapidly. It is one of my priorities as Mayor to ensure the LGA is prepared for growth. The 17th annual Development Consultation Forum was held at Cessnock Leagues Club on Thursday 27 October. It was heartening to see our local development experts present regarding how we are handling growth that far exceeds our expectations. Last year, 934 new dwellings were approved. That is almost triple the forecast of 318. Development in the Cessnock LGA injected \$352 million into the local economy during the 21/22 Financial Year. The Local Government NSW Annual Conference was held at Crown Plaza, Lovedale, on Sunday 23 October. I was delighted to open the forum and present on economic development in the Cessnock LGA. I also spoke of our region's history, natural beauty and the resilience of our community as we tackle the compounding challenges we have faced in recent years. It was great to meet with other mayors, councillors, general managers and staff who travelled from across the State to attend and visit the wonderful Cessnock and surrounds. Cessnock STOMP festival was a great success on Sunday 30 October. The festival celebrates the centrepieces of our LGA - food, wine and community. There were many fun activities, market stalls, performances from local musicians, amazing local food and drinks and of course, grape stomping competitions. STOMP festival is a free annual event with a huge benefit to the local economy. The Race that stops Cessnock - the Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix, finally made a return on Sunday 6 November, after a two-year hiatus. The day was a great success for many local businesses, with markets, food trucks, raffles, merchandise stalls, and plenty of activities for the kids. I would like to congratulate our winners and thank everyone who participated to make this famous local event so special. I would like to remind all residents that you can have your say on important matters in the community. The Cessnock Traffic and Transport Strategy and the Hunter Valley Destination Management Plan are open for exhibition at together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.
Cheers, Jay

FREE QUOTES • COMPETITIVE RATES



HUNTER COALFIELDS REMOVALS

Removals
Pre-pack and unpacking
Storage
Local moves
Interstate moves
Corporate moves
Antique furniture

LOCAL & INTERSTATE MOVES

www.huntercoalfieldsremovals.com.au

0429 777 375 **0414 362 227**
333 ELDERSLIE RD BRANXTON huntercoalfields2@gmail.com



Can Change Therapy

Psychotherapy, Clinical Hypnotherapy, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP)
Expectations change the structure of our brains! When we learn to expect good things, good things start to happen.
Want to change something in your life? Weight, Smoking, Alcohol, Anxiety, Depression, etc.
Phone 0417 949060 today to discuss, first consultation free.
www.canchangetherapy.com.au

CHRIS KING'S Lawn Care Services

0474 215 443
FREE QUOTES



Newcastle & Hunter Pet Crematorium

EST Bobs Farm 1985
Serving our region for over 37 years

Let our family take care of your family



0413 911 047
Private Pet Cremations Only

www.newcastleandhunterpetcrematorium.com

www.L3.Church
f L3.Church.HunterValley
Mob: Ps Aaron 0408 683 022



We would love for you to join us!

Weekly on Sundays @ 4pm
Greta Public School Hall
2 Wyndham Street, Greta NSW

LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE



a place to belong, a place to call family

Pull out the old, Put in the new
We'll make your house look brand new

PH: 0474 215 443
nuggett75@icloud.com



Hunter Valley Electrics

Mark Mellross
Owner / Operator

400c Standen Drive
Lower Belford NSW 2335
0455 911 700
mark@huntermvalleyelectrics.com.au
www.huntermvalleyelectrics.com.au
HVE Pty Ltd t/a Hunter Valley Electrics

COALFIELDS CLIMATE CONTROL

Air Conditioning / Refrigeration / HVAC / Engineering / Electrical

0422 493 102

www.coalfieldsclimate.com.au
ABN: 89 616 271 277 L#: 217653C ARC: AU42682

MPH Cleaning

Specialising in
Domestic/Commercial
Window Cleaning.
Exit Cleans



Call Mark on 0412 980848

The Branxton Greta Vineyards News
call Mike on
4938 1773

BAGLEY PAINTING

"Quality painting, affordable rates"

- Over 30 years experience so you can be assured of quality & professional service.
 - FREE quotes with no obligation
- P: 0400 523 056 OR 4038 3178**

Deans Turf Supplies

Your Local Turf Grower of:
*Kings Pride Soft Leaf Buffalo & *Kikuyu
Phone: Scott Dean
Ph: 0249 381 874 Mob: 0407 006 953



e: deansturf@bigpond.com
460 Elderslie Road Branxton
Inspections welcome by appointment

STANHOPE HANDYMAN SERVICES

Free quotes or will work for hourly rate on any project. *Seniors Discount!*

Great attention to detail and always clean-up at the end of the day! References available.

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

For a FREE quote, call Peter on: 0419 441 257

Local Trades & Services Directory

Local Trades & Services Directory

News

To enquire about advertising in The Branxton Greta Vineyards News call Mike on 4938 1773

News

For all your advertising needs call Mike on 4938 1773

News

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

4938 3300

Company LIC: 237774C
ABN: 93 149 933 246

P.R.W BUILDING Pty Ltd



MASTER BUILDERS AUSTRALIA

PAUL WORTH
MOB: 0429 305 554

818 Lambs Valley Road
Lambs Valley NSW 2335



Hunter Valley Electrics

Mark Mellross
Owner / Operator

400c Standen Drive
Lower Belford NSW 2335
0455 911 700
mark@huntermvalleyelectrics.com.au
www.huntermvalleyelectrics.com.au
HVE Pty Ltd t/a Hunter Valley Electrics

The Branxton Greta Vineyards News
call Mike on
4938 1773
M: 0414 757 826



Brett Hubner Plumbing

0421 427 596

~ Your Local Greta Plumber ~
Servicing all areas

Water Servicers • Gas Servicers • Hot Water Systems
Blocked Sewers, Drainage & Storm Water
Guttering • Bath & Kitchen Renovations

L/no: 140922C

Former TV sports presenter Cameron Williams charged with domestic violence offence

Story by Paulina Vida

Former high-profile sports presenter for Nine News Sydney, Cameron Williams, has been charged with a domestic violence offence.



In the early hours of Sunday morning police were called to a property on Putty Road at Howes Valley in the Hunter region following reports of a "domestic-related incident".

"Following inquiries, a 59-year-old man was arrested and taken to Cessnock Police Station and charged with common assault (DV)," police said in a statement.

Police confirmed to the ABC the man arrested was Mr Williams. The Coogee local who resigned from the Nine network earlier this year due to health concerns was granted conditional bail. In a statement, his lawyer Paul McGirr alluded that more details were forthcoming and that his client would plead not guilty. "Cam Williams is a loving father to his children who is extremely embarrassed by all this," Mr McGirr said.

"At this stage, there's a lot more to the story, we'll enter a plea of not guilty, obtain a brief of evidence and then go from there." Mr Williams started his journalism career in 1984 as a newspaper cadet at Brisbane's Courier Mail, later joining The Australian in its sports department before transitioning to television.

He worked in a number of broadcasting roles until 2006 when he signed with Nine working on some of their flagship programs including Today, Nine News and Friday Night Football. His resignation from the network in March after 16 years came as a shock, with his departure effective immediately.

"It's with a heavy heart I have decided to resign from Nine. Leaving the best team in News is difficult and being part of that team an honour," Mr Williams said in an email to staff at the time.

"But I have struggled for years with increasingly poor health and I want to address that now for the sake of a more important team, my family."

Director of News and Current Affairs, Darren Wick, thanked Mr Williams for his "significant contribution".

"Cam is leaving us to focus on his health and then to pursue other opportunities that we look forward to hearing more about," he said.

Mr Williams is due to appear at Singleton Local Court this Thursday, November 24.

Rubella

Symptoms & Causes
Prevention



What is rubella?

Rubella (or German measles) is an infectious viral disease of humans. Although in most people infection is mild, infection in early pregnancy can cause serious birth defects or miscarriage. What is congenital rubella syndrome?

Congenital rubella syndrome occurs in up to 90 per cent of babies born to women who are infected with rubella during the first ten weeks of their pregnancy. Congenital rubella syndrome can cause a

or mouth or by direct contact. Rubella is easily spread to people who have not been vaccinated or previously infected.

The time from exposure to onset of illness is usually 14 to 21 days. People with rubella are usually infectious from seven days before the rash occurs until four days later.

Who is at risk?
Anybody who is not immune (either from past infection or vaccination) is at risk of rubella.

How is it prevented?

- People with rubella should stay at home for at least four days after onset of rash, and avoid contact with

(especially men), may not be immunised. Vaccination against rubella is very important for women (and men) of child bearing age to reduce the chance of pregnant women coming into contact with, and contracting, rubella infection.

- People born during or after 1966 who have not received two doses of rubella containing vaccine can access free MMR vaccine through their GP. People who are unsure if they have received two doses of a rubella containing vaccine in the past can safely be given another dose.

It is very important for



Just for Grins A lighter moment ~ out of the mouths of...athletes

- * Torrin Polk, University of Houston receiver, on his coach, John Jenkins: "He treats us like men. He lets us wear earrings."
- * Boxing promoter Dan Duva on Mike Tyson going to prison: "Why would anyone expect him to come out smarter? He went to prison for three years, not Princeton."
- * Stu Grimson, Chicago Blackhawks left wing, explaining why he keeps a colour photo of himself above his locker: "That's so when I forget how to spell my name, I can still find my clothes."
- * Chuck Nevitt, North Carolina State basketball player, explaining to Coach Jim Valvano why he appeared nervous at practice: "My sister's expecting a baby, and I don't know if I'm going to be an uncle or an aunt."
- * Shelby Metcalf, basketball coach at Texas A&M, recounting what he told a player who received four F's and one D: "Son, looks to me like you're spending too much time on one subject"
- * Amarillo High School and Oiler coach Bum Phillips when asked by Bob Costas why he takes his wife on all the road trips, Phillips responded: "Because she is too damn ugly to kiss good-bye."

Daily Thoughts

- "Between the optimist and the pessimist, the difference is drroll. The optimist sees the doughnut; the pessimist the hole!" **Oscar Wilde**
- "Donuts. Is there anything they can't do?" **Homer Simpson**
- "The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook." **William James**
- "If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas." **George Bernard Shaw**
- "You see a lot of smart guys with dumb women, but you hardly ever see a smart woman with a dumb guy". **Erica Jong**

miscarriage or birth defects including heart damage, deafness, brain damage, and eye problems including cataracts.

What are the symptoms?

- The symptoms of rubella may include a mild fever, rash, runny nose, conjunctivitis and often swollen lymph node. Aching joints are also common, especially in women.

In rare cases, rubella infection can be complicated by lowering of the platelet count (thrombocytopenia) which can cause bleeding, or by encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

How is it spread?

- Rubella is spread from an infected person by droplets from the nose

non-immune people.

- The best protection against rubella is through vaccination with a rubella containing vaccine. In NSW this is provided as part of the Immunisation Schedule as MMR which protects against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), and MMRV which also protects against varicella (chickenpox).
- MMR vaccine should be given to children when they are 12 months and MMRV at 18 months of age.
- Rubella containing vaccines are safe and effective and have been used worldwide for many years.
- While many older adults are immune to rubella because they have been vaccinated or infected as children, young adults

all women planning a pregnancy, to know whether they are immune to rubella. Women planning a pregnancy should have a blood test, which can be done by their local doctor, to check that they are protected against rubella. A rubella containing vaccine should not be given to pregnant women, and pregnancy should be avoided for one month following vaccination.

How is it diagnosed?
Rubella can be difficult to diagnose because there are many other viruses that cause similar illnesses with a fever and a rash. Definite diagnosis requires a blood test.

How is it treated?
Treatment for symptoms of rubella include, rest and plenty of fluids.



15m prep ~ 15m cook ~ 4 servings
This eat-with-your-eyes pan is what Fish Friday goals are made of: golden fillets drenched in a buttery, garlicky sauce with spring greens – on the table in 20 minutes!

INGREDIENTS
2 lemons
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
4 (about 600g) skinless salmon fillets
80g butter, chopped
3 garlic cloves, crushed
2 tbsp chopped fresh continental parsley leaves, plus extra leaves, to serve
1 bunch asparagus, trimmed

METHOD
1. Juice 1 lemon . Cut the remaining lemon into thick slices. Heat oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook lemon slices

Lemon garlic butter salmon



for 2 minutes each side or until caramelised. Transfer to a plate.

2. Add the salmon , top-side down, to pan and cook for 2 minutes or until golden. Turn over salmon and move to 1 side of pan.
3. Add the butter , garlic and parsley to the pan. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until aromatic. Add lemon juice, lemon slices and asparagus . Bring to boil. Simmer for 3-5 minutes or until fish flakes when tested with a fork in the thickest part. Spoon the butter mixture over the fish. Top with extra parsley to serve.

Lochinvar HOTEL

NOVEMBER

BISTRO

MONDAY NIGHTS
CHICKEN SCHNITZEL
\$10.50

TUESDAY NIGHTS
BURGER & BEER
\$19.90

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
CRUMBED STEAK
\$10.50

ENTERTAINMENT

**Come and join us this
Saturday night ~
Have a meal in the
Bistro & enjoy the
Entertainment!**

SAT 26



MICK JONES

7.00 - 10.00pm

114 New England Highway, Lochinvar
Ph: (02) 4930 7216 Em: lochinvarhotelmotel@gmail.com



WITH

Gemma BUNNER BA/LLB (Hons),
Acc Spec (Personal Injury) &
Kerri SHAW B.Comm/LLB (Hons)

P: (02) 4046 1805 | F: (02) 4017 0646

SHAW & BUNNER
LEGAL

Stamp duty



Stamp duty is often one of the most significant costs associated with buying a house. Premier Dominic Perrottet said the scheme, dubbed "First Home Buyer Choice", will be a game-changer for first-home buyers. The legislation which passed last week covers all properties bought by first home buyers worth up to \$1.5m.

NSW first home buyers will soon be able to choose whether to pay an annual land tax instead of stamp duty. Currently, homebuyers pay a tax in the form of stamp duty when they purchase a property. The one-off payment can add thousands of dollars to the overall cost of buying a property. Under the new legislation, first-home buyers will have the option to pay smaller annual amounts. Under the new program you can choose to instead pay an annual tax of \$400 plus 0.3 per cent of the land value (not the purchase price). If the first home buyers opt for the annual land tax option, they are not locked into the property tax forever. If properties that are subject to the property tax are sold, they will not be locked into the property tax for subsequent owners. The new owners, if they are first home buyers, can then choose whether to pay the annual land tax or stamp duty. If they're not buying their first home - the usual stamp duty rules apply. If you bought the property as a first home buyer, opted

for the property tax and then turned it into an investment the scheme changes. You will be required to pay \$1500 plus 1.1 per cent a year. The policy is specifically designed to help first home buyers get into the property market. When it comes to deciding whether to opt for the lump sum payment or property tax, you should take in to account your own personal situation. The median time people hang onto their homes in NSW is ten-and-a-half years. First home buyers generally keep them for a little longer than that. Everyone's circumstances are different and you should always get independent financial advice. Whilst it is hoped the new legislation and changes will encourage more first home buyers to the property market, and at a faster rate, there are a few criticisms of the scheme including that there is a chance the price of houses will increase and there is the chance that future governments will increase the land tax rates. Labor has promised to repeal the legislation if they

win the March 2023 election. It is important to note that the existing first home buyer stamp duty exemptions and concessions are not changing. The current exemptions and concessions for first home buyers include:

- Homes valued at less than \$650,000, full exemption no stamp duty.
- Homes valued at between \$650,000 and \$800,000, concessional stamp duty rate.
- Vacant land valued at less than \$350,000, full exemption.
- Vacant land valued at between \$350,000 and \$450,000, concessional stamp duty rate.

The new scheme will be applicable to purchases of properties where the value is greater than the thresholds for the current exemption and concessions listed above, that is over \$800,000 for homes and \$450,000 for vacant land.

Cheers, Kerri



Australia's population is about to soar, but where are millions of extra people going to live?

Emily Hutchinson, Rent Specialist and Property Journalist

Australia is expected to have a population of 29 million by the end of 2030, which is three million more than now, and keeping up with the growing demand for housing is going to be a major hurdle. The country's population went backwards during the early stages of Covid, with a net loss of 85,000 people in the 2021 financial year.

But with borders reopened, Treasury expects net overseas migration will return to pre-pandemic levels this year, and remain at the long-run average of 235,000 people over the medium term. Unsurprisingly, the most populous states of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland are predicted to have the highest number of residents by June 2026.

NSW and Victoria are tipped to growing by 300,000 and Queensland by 400,000 to have resident bases of 8.5 million, 7 million, and 5.6 million respectively. "Ensuring the supply of new homes keeps up with Australia's growing population is going to be a key challenge over the coming years," PropTrack economist Anne Flaherty said.

Pete Wargent, co-founder of national buyer's agency BuyersBuyers, said that while population growth had temporarily halted due to Covid, it's been slowly creeping back up, adding pressure to the housing market.

"After a lengthy period of closed international borders, population growth hasn't been much in the news of late," Mr Wargent said. "Now, for the first time in a decade, we have full employment and a genuine skills shortage, and after a hiatus, we should expect a strong rebound in net overseas migration."

Renters will be the first to feel the squeeze With Australia's border now open and universities welcoming back students from overseas, the

competition for inner-city rentals is at an all-time high, driving prices up accordingly. PropTrack's latest Rental Report for the September quarter shows rent prices have increased at the fastest quarterly rate on record, surging by 4.3% in the past three months to reach a national median of \$480 per week. As the population increases rapidly in coming years, Ms Flaherty said many renters will be struggle to stay housed.

"There is already an undersupply of rental accommodation. A slowdown in development activity as population growth resumes will exacerbate supply issues over the coming years.

"This will reveal itself in the rental market – new Australians are more likely to rent than buy in their first few years, so this is where the pressure of a larger population will be first felt.

"If demand to rent outpaces the supply of new rental properties, this will drive rents further upwards."

Supply needs to keep up with demand With more people in need of a roof over their head, encouraging investors to enter the market is a key consideration for governments.

Currently, soaring interest rates are leaving investors feeling unmotivated. New lending to landlords in August was \$8.9 billion, which is the lowest it's been since June 2021.

While the recent federal budget identified the issue and mapped out ways to tackle it, Ms Flaherty said authorities aren't acting fast enough.

"It was pleasing to see the Commonwealth acknowledge the importance of bringing together different tiers of government as well as private and institutional investors to tackle the supply issue as part of their Housing Accord. But their target of one million new homes is

With more people in need of a roof over their head, encouraging investors to enter the market is a key consideration for governments.

from 2024 onwards." Mr Wargent said to ensure more stock is being added to the market, borrowing needs to become more accessible to investors.

"At some point, it must become easier for landlords to borrow to supply the new rental stock that's needed," he said.

Since October 2021, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority – the banking regulator – has required lenders to apply a 300 basis point serviceability buffer to home loan applications, to ensure borrowers would still be able to meet their repayments if interest rates rose by 3%. Previously, the buffer was 250 basis points. "Lending assessment buffers are too stringent at the moment at 300 basis points, so it's no surprise that rental vacancy rates are at all-time lows and tightening," Mr Wargent said.

Building more is key for affordability As of 2020, Australia had an estimated 10,558,000 residential dwellings, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

While the number of dwellings developed each year fluctuates with market trends, the overall number produced has increased over the past 20 years from 146,500 dwellings per year to more than 201,000. But construction sector woes like supply chain disruptions, rising costs and a labour shortage, will put downward pressure on this figure.

Build-to-rent projects such as Home Apartments are creating more stock within the rental market, but aren't being built fast enough to keep up with the increase in population.

Government has stepped in to create more social and affordable housing through the Housing Australia Future Fund, which will see 30,000 homes built in the first five years, but many say it's a drop in the ocean compared to what's actually needed.

It may sound like a substantial number of homes are being constructed, but Ms Flaherty said the pace of building had slowed due to several factors.

"While nearly one million new homes were constructed over the past five years, this is well out of the ordinary and was driven by extremely low borrowing costs and government supports such as HomeBuilder," she explained.

"The situation has now changed. Not only has the cost to borrow increased, but construction costs and timelines have also grown significantly, while at the same time property prices for existing stock are declining. This is reducing the appeal of buying new and is likely to contribute to a slowdown in development activity."



Upcoming Events

Branxton Community Hall
SAVE THE DATES

Sat 10th Dec—Xmas Twilight Market

"As long as people can be judged by the colour of their skin, the problem is not solved." — Oprah Winfrey
 "Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value." - Albert Einstein
 "Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary." — Reinhold Niebuhr

Has your phone stopped ringing?
You need to advertise your business
Call Mike at 'The News'
4938 1773



For membership details
 Contact: Dr. Alan Beckley
 Secretary, Lions Club of
 Branxton Inc.
 Email:
branxton.nsw@lions.org.au

M: 0426 261948

HUNTLEE

◆ TAVERN ◆

Live Local?

UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP ON OUR APP TO "LOCAL" FOR LOCAL PRICES

\$4.50 Schooners

WEEKDAYS FROM 3PM TO 5PM

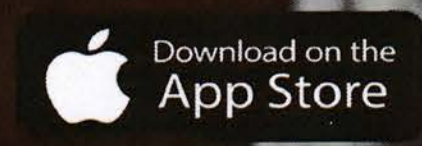
SEE STAFF TO UPGRADE YOUR APP

LOCAL POSTCODES 2335, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2334

WHATS ON

HUNTLEE TAVERN
2022
NEW YEARS EVE
SPECIAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE
THE AVENUE
FREE ENTRY - SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER - PLUS DJ TILL LATE

WHATS ON



Terms & Conditions Apply

ANZ Branch Cessnock closure brings united response



to the ANZ Bank urging it to reverse its decision, announced earlier this month, and commit to keeping the Cessnock

Government Area, especially the elderly and people with a disability. Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal said the decision by the bank was beyond disappointing. "These banks are making record profits and have an obligation to provide services to their customers, including those living in regional and rural areas. "There are many in our community who have patchy access to the

internet. The bank's proposed solution to go online to bank will see many customers walk away from the ANZ. "Cessnock Council has voted and I expect the people of Cessnock will vote with their feet if the closure goes ahead. I urge the community to let the ANZ know how they feel about this decision." The Council will also write to the Federal Member for the Hunter Dan Repacholi seeking further advice on what more can be done to stop big banks from closing branches in regional communities.

Give generously this festive season

Cessnock City Council will once again run its annual Christmas Gift and Food Appeal, with donations being accepted from last Monday 21 November to Tuesday 6 December 2022. Residents are encouraged to donate new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items which can be dropped off at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries or Council's Administration Building on Vincent Street, Cessnock. All donations this year will be given to Samaritans Assistance Centre Cessnock which will deliver to those doing it tough in the local community.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal is encouraging people to give what they can to help those who are less fortunate in the lead up to Christmas. "Christmas is the perfect time to think of others, and your generosity and kindness will be felt in the lives of vulnerable families across the Cessnock LGA," Mayor Suvaal said. "Samaritans is a wonderful community organisation who has been able to deliver presents to an average of 156 local children in need for the



past seven years, and it would be great to see this number increase this year." Donations will be accepted until Tuesday 6 December, with donations distributed by Samaritans from Monday 14 December 2022. For health and safety reasons, please ensure all donations are new and unwrapped.

*Photo above: Mayor Jay Suvaal with Denise Crossley from Samaritans.

Cessnock City Councillors unanimously resolved to condemn the decision by ANZ to close its Cessnock Branch in April 2023, at its last council meeting. The Council will now write

branch open. The bank will also note the significant impact this decision will have on the bank's customers in the Cessnock Local

A bicycle safety check to complete with your child

The brake levers should not touch the handgrips even when squeezed hard.

The bell or horn should sound so that others can hear it.

To test the headset, apply the front brake and rock the handlebars back and forth. There should be no clunking or looseness. The handlebars should turn freely.

The front and rear wheel and pedal reflectors should be clean and properly secured.

Squeeze the brake levers. The brake blocks should contact the rims squarely. The wheels should not turn if you push the bike forward while the brake is being applied.

The seat should be bolted firmly.

The chain and derailleur springs should be lightly oiled so the gears change smoothly.

The wheels should spin freely and should not be buckled. They should not move sideways on the axis.

The tyres should not be bald, cut or frayed or bulge at any point. They should not squash when squeezed.

The pedals should spin freely and be undamaged.

Labels in diagram: Gear lever, reflector, handbrakes, reflector, tyre, chain, reflector, tyre, reflector.



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826

NOW OPEN

MAVERICKS

EAT IN, TAKEAWAY & DELIVERY

COLES HUNTLEE
WWW.MAVERICKSEATERY.COM.AU
MON-SAT : 6.30 AM - 8.30 PM
SUN : 8 AM - 8 PM

OVER 70 WAYS YOU CAN SAVE

SAVINGS FINDER

The NSW Government is helping reduce your cost of living by giving you more ways to save, including:

- Up to \$285 Low Income Household Energy Rebate
- Up to \$110 Gas Rebate
- \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card

Use the Savings Finder to see which vouchers and rebates you're eligible for or book an appointment with a Savings Specialist.

GET A BOOST FOR YOUR BUDGET
 service.nsw.gov.au





BRANXTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

We welcomed a special guest to a great afternoon of building connections in our community. A special thank you to Kirsty Lee Akers for inspiring our students and sharing her perspective of being a local Wonnarua woman. Thank you to Vicki Winters, Maitland AECG president, for her

continued support and to our family and community members for encouraging our students every single day. Kindergarten enjoyed their Cross Country 'Fun Run' in Week 5. While the back playground is getting smaller and smaller with the work going on, we managed to create an interesting and challenging obstacle course. The focus was on participation and fun and the smiles on the faces of the students as they completed the course showed we hit the mark. Congratulations to the Year 5 students who presented their 2023 leader speeches last week to the whole school. Regardless of the results, they are all leaders in our eyes. Well done! Support our P&C's Christmas fundraiser by donating goods to your child's class and purchase raffle tickets on the link provided on Seesaw and SkoolBag. Stage 3 returned weary, but ready to finish off the school year in a positive way after their Great Aussie Bush Camp adventures. They packed a lot into their time there and learnt some new things about themselves. Continue to stay updated about school events through Skool-Bag and our Facebook.

Dates for the Calendar
Monday 12th December – Presentation Day at RTHS
Thursday 15th December – Party Day and Water Fun Activities
Friday 16th December – Last day of the year for students



Year 5 School Leader candidates

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



Kristy Lee Akers



Christmas
MEMORIAL SERVICE

1st Saturday in December
Commencing at 10am

Hillside Chapel, Palmdale Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park
 Palmdale Road, Palmdale

We invite you to attend a beautiful memorial service with our community to offer comfort and to show that we do not grieve alone.

Our service will include: Music, song, a candle-lighting ceremony, a Christmas ornament with your loved one's name for you to take home and light refreshments to share.

For further details, please phone 4362 1203

Miller Park Meat Raffles

The Lions Club of Branxton had the opportunity to raise funds for their not-for-profit organisation during the month of October participating in the Meat Raffles through the good offices of Miller Park Hotel. All proceeds - 'every dollar' - of fund-raising by Lions Clubs is donated to deserving causes, usually for disadvantaged people living locally. The Lions Club members were delighted to be presented with a cheque at the end of the month by Miller Park Hotel manager, Glen Cliff which was accepted on behalf of Lions President Rod Taylor, by Colleen Anderson, pictured below.



MPH Manager Glen Cliff presenting a cheque to Lion Colleen Anderson on the left is Lion Alan Beckley



ABOVE: A photo record of the meat raffle in October with MC Glen (right), and Lions members Janette Harris and Ken Meary.

Touch Football Club BBQ

The Lions Club of Branxton were recently contacted by the popular touch football club of Branxton/Greta to provide a BBQ at their weekly sports meetings. Several hundred young people and parents were seen last week at the Miller Park venue and hungry youngsters were provided with tasty BBQ fare by the waiting Lions members. Seen here setting up and cooking the yummy sausage sizzle. The Lions



Lions members patiently waiting for the customers



members were told that keeping the young touch football players well-fed was essential to the peace and tranquility of the town!

PHOTO: Some customers seeking refreshment

Lions relaxing with fun and lunch

The old saying goes '... all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy' - well the Lions Club of Branxton does not have a member called Jack and they DO know how to enjoy themselves with fun and fellowship. The proof is here in the following photographs when the Lions attended the monthly lunch social meeting at Miller Park Hotel.



Lions enjoying their lunch at Miller Park Hotel



From the Lions' Den

World Diabetes Day

Sunday November 13 was World Diabetes Day, and the Lions Club of Branxton set out to raise awareness of the prevalence of diabetes and the need to ensure a good diet and healthy fitness practice. Recently, national newspapers have reported there is a crisis in the Australian health system because of the rising tide of diabetes. Doctors are calling for a national action plan to cope with the growing crisis. Incidence of diabetes has almost tripled in the last 20 years and Diabetes Australia estimates that more than three million Australians will have the disease by 2050. A hard-hitting report recently published spelled out the dire medical consequences of succumbing to this disease. Professor of metabolic health and Director of The Boden Institute at the University of Sydney Stephen Colagiuri said: "Diabetes is a serious condition and its seriousness is often underestimated and not appreciated. It's not doom and gloom in terms of what can be done about it. The national strategy is a very good guide, but the strategy needs to be implemented to make a difference."



Dan Repacholi MP posing as a fireman with young people and the real fire officer from Branxton RFS.

One in ten hospital admissions currently is due to Diabetes and serious complications from the disease. The Lions Club of Branxton recently raised awareness of the disease and the need for healthy eating and exercise in the recent Lap the Map event at Branxton Oval. Local participants including MP Dan Repacholi, his wife Alex, and two daughters along with local Scouts and residents walked the Branxton Lap the Map route of 2.5 kilometres. They were met back at the Oval with a BBQ, healthy fruit and drinks and participated in games and face-painting. Information about diabetes was handed out and the walking distance was faithfully recorded to add to the distances Lions members had walked to contribute to the Lions Australia national goal of 25,760 kms (east to west distance of Australia). When the distance walked by Branxton Lions and the Lap the Map event were added up, they totaled 1,486.74 Kms - a good contribution towards the national goals. As a special treat the local RFS attended to show off their fire tender and equipment. Lap the Map organiser, Wendy Lawson said a big thank you to all the local businesses who sponsored the awareness raising event by providing some of the food and raffle prizes: Piggott's Pharmacy, Stay Sharp, Blue Gum, Gold Cobra, kfit, Coles of Huntlee. Thanks to all and we hope the people of Branxton learned a bit more about this devastating disease.



Dan and Alex Repacholi pictured with some members of the Lions Club of Branxton. The organizer of Lap the Map on the right, Wendy Lawson.

An example of what Lions Club do

And here is an example of what the Lions Club of Branxton do with money they receive when they carry out fund-raising activities.

Recently, Branxton Lions Treasurer, Cathy Murray (right) presented a cheque to the Branxton and surrounding areas Women's Refuge. The cheque was to try to make Christmas a bit more special for the Ladies and children living in the refuge. The members of Lions clubs are all volunteers who give up their time to raise money for charities and good causes, mainly in the local area. Every dollar raised by Lions activities is returned directly to the community. We support Lions Foundations, charities, disadvantaged local people, and volunteer-based organisations that benefit the community. We raise money by organising competitions and events and enable people to invest in their local community. Over the years many thousands of dollars have been raised by the Lions Club of Branxton to donate to good causes.



PHOTO: Branxton Lions Treasurer, Cathy Murray presenting a cheque to Paula from the Women's Refuge in Branxton

Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:

- Bunnings BBQ Singleton. Saturday 26 November
- Branxton Lions Board Meeting and AGM 4 pm Monday 5 December, Branxton Golf Club
- IGA Christmas Raffle Friday 9 December
- Community Hall Christmas Markets - BBQ and Raffle Saturday 10 December
- Lions Christmas Party Thursday 15 December

The number of Lions events are reducing towards Christmas and the New Year but we look forward to 2023 and the service to the community that it brings.

Month	Time/Day / Date	Event
December	DECEMBER	Hunger Relief
HUNGER RELIEF MONTH		

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Pool safety saves lives

Cessnock City Council has launched its annual Be Pool Safe campaign which will promote the importance of swimming lessons, backyard pool safety, and supervision this summer. The fearful fact that kids can drown without a sound will be echoed during the campaign, and that swimming lessons can make all the difference.

The 2022 Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report highlighted the temporary closure of swim schools during the COVID-19 pandemic would likely impact Australians for years to come. This is due to kids missing long periods of swimming and water safety education, and many not returning to their lessons.

The report also noted that 339 people drowned in Australian Waterways between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022, with an estimated additional 686 involved in non-fatal drowning incidents. This is a 15% increase compared to the previous year, and a 24% increase compared to the 10-year average.



Cessnock mayor Jay Suvaal with his children

Cessnock City Council Mayor said with summer fast approaching, it was more important than ever to get your kids into swimming lessons, and educate them about pool safety.

“The NSW Government’s First Lap vouchers are still available, which provide families with a \$100 voucher towards swimming lessons for children aged 3-6 years,” Mayor Suvaal said. “I have two young kids who love the water and I’ll be looking to get them into lessons in the lead up to summer. I encourage other parents to do the same.”

Cessnock City Council is also issuing free family passes to Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre, and Cessnock and Branxton pools to kids who complete the NSW Department of Education Intensive Learn to Swim program.

Residents can find out more about First Lap vouchers and local participating providers by visiting www.service.nsw.gov.au/first-lap-swim-voucher.

Cessnock City Council has a range of information regarding pool safety and fencing on its website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/BePoolSafe.

Seniors, level up your tech skills with FREE workshops

Don't get left behind in the digital age we now live in! There is still time to become a tech savvy and scam-safe senior.

Members of the community are also invited to join the small, friendly workshops supported by expert staff where you can learn new skills to help you get connected. Upcoming workshops please see below. Regular sessions are available for those taking the first step to becoming tech savvy by mastering their smartphone, computer or tablet. These workshops please see below.

The library also offers free and friendly thirty-minute one-to-one tech help sessions every week. These sessions are at Kurri Kurri Library each Thursday from 2pm and at Cessnock Library each Friday from 10am. Bookings are essential. Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters is encouraging local seniors to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities. “It’s about teaching you that technology isn’t terrifying or to be avoided, but can be an incredibly useful tool when you have the skills to get the most out your device.”

Head to ‘What’s On’ at cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries to view the full range of workshops.

Bookings are required. Book online or by calling Cessnock Library on 4993 4399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 4937 1638.



Smartphones - Android Kurri Kurri Library – Fri 9 Dec 2022 10am-12pm

Smartphones - Android Cessnock Library - Thu 12 Jan 2023 10am-12pm

iPads Kurri Kurri Library – Fri 17 Feb 2023 10am-12pm

Collaging Photos Kurri Kurri Library - Thu 24 Nov 10am-11am

Keeping Your Data Safe Cessnock Library - Thu 24 Nov 1.30-2.30pm

Learn a language apps Cessnock Library - Thu 1 Dec 10am-11am

Snag your FREE family snap with Santa at The Levee this festive season

From toy hunts, mini markets and Santa photos, The Levee in Maitland is jingling with festive cheer this Christmas season, with fun and games for everyone to enjoy.

Make sure to grab a photo with Santa in his lounge room at The Riverlink starting Thursday 24 November.

Sessions run every Thursday from 3.00pm to 7.00pm and every Friday and Saturday from 9.00am to 1.00pm until Saturday 17 December.

Simply scan the QR code to join the digital queue so you can explore The Levee and pick up some Christmas gifts for the family while you wait for your turn to see Santa. Photos are free and will be emailed to you within four business days.

If you’re looking for a last minute gift idea or something delicious to share on Christmas Day, you’re sure to find it during ‘A Merry Little Christmas’ at The Levee on Sunday 11 December, from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Soak in the festive atmosphere and occupy the little ones with Christmas activities while perusing the gifts and produce from local makers, growers and producers.

The Levee Public Programs Officer David Graham says, ‘Santa also needs some help finding 10 lost toys that some naughty elves have hidden in shop windows around The Levee precinct.’

‘By picking up a map at a participating store and completing the hunt, you will go into the draw to win the lost toys.’

‘Plus, while exploring the windows, make sure you vote for your favourite shopfront Christmas display to be in with a shot of winning a \$100 voucher to your favourite business at The Levee. There are over 20 shops in the competition.’

Mr Graham said The Levee boasts a ‘wide range of specialist stores and national retailers and is the perfect place to get all you need for the big day.’

‘Shop local this year, and you’ll support small businesses while finding gifts you can’t get anywhere else. All that while you create lasting memories with our fun and free program of Christmas activities.’

Singleton calls for urgent assistance as \$15 million road repairs bill continues to climb

With a roads repair bill estimated at \$15 million and climbing in the wake of multiple flood emergencies, Singleton Council has joined calls for urgent assistance from the Federal and State governments to address the issue now.

In a Mayoral Minute to last night’s Council meeting, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the scale and cost of repairs was beyond the reasonable scope



of any local government authority and delaying works would create greater issues for the future.

The issue has been included on the latest Singleton Infrastructure Agenda.

Council resolved to join with Local Government NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW in declaring a Statewide Road Emergency based on an estimated \$2.5 billion in road damages and resulting collapse of the local and regional road network.

Council will write to the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Federal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton, NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet, NSW Opposition Leader and local members of Parliament to raise the issue.

Cr Moore said unprecedented circumstances required an unprecedented response and called for urgent government assistance to boost and fast track existing roads funding programs as well as provide new funding for plant machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs.

“With three floods in the past 12 months alone, the impact on road infrastructure across the Singleton local government area is significant. Council staff have made a preliminary estimated cost of \$15 million, but we expect this number to continue to grow,” she said.

“As well as the impacts on our assets, we must also consider the consequences for the local economy given the local and regional road network is critically enabling infrastructure and vital for primary producers and other industries reliant on road transport for the distribution of goods to markets and ports.

“It is therefore urgent that all levels of government work together to address this issue not only for our community now, but for the future.”

Photograph: Broke Road, Broke following July 2022 major flooding event



Hunter Valley Horse Riding & Adventures at Hilltop

Contact: Margaret on Phone: (02) 4930 7111 Address: 288 Talga Rd, Lovedale NSW 2325

Hunter Valley Horse Riding & Adventures, Located in the heart of the lower Hunter and wine country, offers a variety Horse and pony rides for the whole family from beginners to advanced riders. Our trips guarantee an action-packed itinerary. We offer a unique riding experience with stunning spectacular views whilst riding over the Molly Morgan Range.



MILLER PARK HOTEL

MPH

Bistro LUNCH & DINNER

BOWLING GREEN

02 4067 4141

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 6:30pm

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.

Saturday: * Karaoke ~ every second Saturday . 8pm start ~ THIS SATURDAY 26th November

Sunday: Raffles 5pm drawn 6:30pm

Bowling Green is open for all barefoot bowl events.

New Alfresco area now available for all functions



SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022

MARKETS 9:30am ~ 2pm

- * 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

6 Maitland Street, Branxton NSW 2335 P: 4067 4141

Support Local & Product Champion Campaign

Follow us!



@advancecessnock



Shopping local creates more local jobs



Support Local Competition

#SupportLocalCessnock

Terms and Conditions apply

WIN \$5000 worth of Prizes*

Six million Australian's are employed by small businesses across local communities



Support our local businesses by entering our Support Local competition

To have your business featured as a Product Champion please visit www.advancecessnock.com.au and complete a Business Profile

This weeks Product Champion

Wild Learning



Wild LEARNING



We provide art classes, sewing, craft and creative workshops, music lessons, choir and painting parties.

Our programs are unique and inclusive of all abilities. We have activities for children, teens, adults and groups - and everything we offer is about making creativity fun, inspiring and connected.

We have incredible support from the local community for everything that is happening at Wild Learning - Cessnock is the best community to run a business in because people really care about supporting local facilities.

We have just launched 6 creative festivals per year themed around different concepts - from vintage and retro craft to all things floral and botanical. For more information visit www.wildlearning.com.au

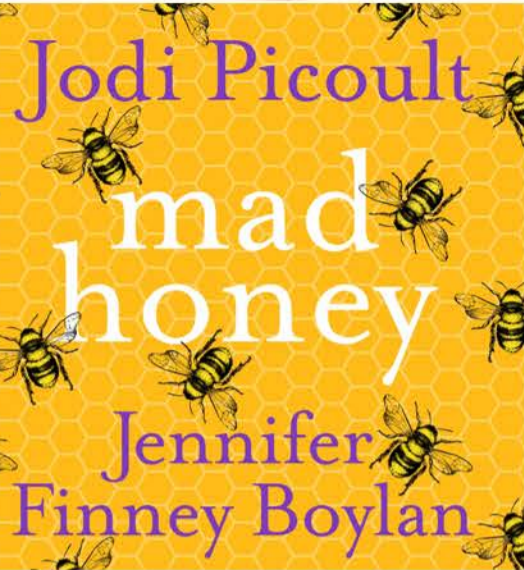
Contact: 0412 835 865 | Email: hello@wildlearning.com.au
Website: www.wildlearning.com.au

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government



Australian Government

#supportlocalcessnock



longer. It didn't bother me but I know some readers had a problem with that. I hope readers approach this story with an open mind. I keep these spoiler free and I don't want to reveal the twist. I think some will probably see it coming and others may not. I've read reviews that explain key plot points and sometimes it's fine for the particular story but other times, you want to go into the novel fresh and not have that reveal in the back of your mind.

I believe the authors chose to present the story like that for a reason and I want to respect their process. That said, speaking in somewhat vague terms, I feel like this was eye opening story covering a segment of the population that is underrepresented in the media—unless, they're being vilified by politicians. This story, while of course fiction, does give a face and voice to the journey that many people go through.

Verdict
Mad Honey is an important and impactful read. It's very well done and will make you think. And those are always the ideal book club selections. I see why Good Morning America chose this for their October pick. It will for sure get a lot of people talking. However, there is a melancholy feel to it though and it's quite tragic. So something to keep in mind.

ABOUT
Jennifer Finney Boylan (born June 22, 1958) is a bestselling author, transgender activist, professor at Barnard College, and a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times*. Boylan was born in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and graduated from The Haverford School, a private prep school in Haverford, Pennsylvania, in 1976. She graduated from Wesleyan University in 1980, then completed graduate work in English at Johns Hopkins University. Boylan was on the faculty of Colby College from 1988 to 2014. In 2000, she was named "Professor of the Year" at Colby College. She moved to Barnard in 2014, where she is both

Professor of English and Anna Quindlen Writer-in-Residence.

Boylan has written thirteen books, including novels, collections of short stories, and her memoir. Her 2003 memoir, *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders* was the first book published by an openly transgender American to become a bestseller and was described by *The Advocate* as "a seminal piece of the trans literary canon". Her memoir, *Good Boy: My Life in Seven Dogs* was published on April 21, 2020 with Celadon Books. In October 2022, she will publish *Mad Honey*, a novel co-written with the #1 New York Times bestselling author, Jodi Picoult. She was a Contributing Opinion Writer in *The New York Times* from October 2007 to April 2022. In 2013, Boylan was chosen as the first openly transgender co-chair of GLAAD's National Board of Directors. Boylan also serves on the Policy Advisory Board of Gender Rights Maryland¹ and the Board of Trustees of the Kinsey Institute for Research on Sex, Gender, and Reproduction. Boylan is a trans woman. She has two children, Zaira and Sean, with Deirdre Boylan, whom she married in 1988.¹ Boylan began transitioning in 2000. In 2019, she told the LGBTQ&A podcast, "I've been maybe three or four different women at this point in my life. Early on in transition, I was very youthful. I cared a lot about my appearance and being sexy and my clothes. Fashion was really important to me, passing was really important to me. Appearing cis, I'm sorry to say, was probably more important to me than it should have been...It's the spectacular mystery of life, the way we keep becoming other versions of ourselves." She lives with her wife in New York City and Belgrade Lakes, Maine. Nine years after she began her transition, Boylan published an article for *The New York Times* stating that "my spouse and I love each other, and that our legal union has been a good thing – for us, for our children

and our community". Boylan plays keyboard instruments as well as the zither and describes playing in various bands in her autobiography.

Jodi Lynn Picoult is an American writer. Picoult has published 27 novels, accompanying short stories, and has also written several issues of *Wonder Woman*. Approximately 40 million copies of her books are in print worldwide, translated into 34 languages.^[3] She was awarded the New England Bookseller Award for fiction in 2003. Picoult writes popular fiction which can be characterised as family saga. She frequently centres storylines around a moral dilemma or a procedural drama which pits family members against one another. Although she is often characterised as an author of chick-lit, over her career, Picoult has covered a wide range of controversial or moral issues, including abortion, assisted suicide, race relations, eugenics, LGBT rights, fertility issues, religion, the death penalty, and school shootings. She has been described as, "a paradox, a hugely popular, at times controversial writer, ignored by academia, who questions notions of what constitutes literature simply by doing what she does best."¹

Picoult was born in Nesconset, New York, on Long Island and has one younger brother.¹ She graduated from Smithtown High School East in June, 1983. She has described her family as "non-practicing Jewish". Picoult wrote her first story at age five, titled "The Lobster Which Misunderstood". Picoult's mother and grandmother were both teachers, and she says that their influence on her was very important.

In 2016, Picoult joined the advisory board of Vida: Women in Literary Arts, a "non-profit feminist organization committed to creating transparency around the lack of gender parity in the literary landscape and to amplifying historically-marginalized voices, including people of color; writers with disabilities; and queer, trans and gender

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (6 Nov '22)

- NEW THIS WEEK
IT STARTS WITH US by Colleen Hoover
- NEW THIS WEEK
THE BOYS FROM BILOXI by John Grisham
- 71 WEEKS ON THE LIST
IT ENDS WITH US by Colleen Hoover
Ranked 4 last week
- 46 WEEKS ON THE LIST
VERITY by Colleen Hoover
- NEW THIS WEEK
DEMON COPPERHEAD by Barbara Kingsolver
- 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST
LONG SHADOWS by David Baldacci
Ranked 1 last week
- 41 WEEKS ON THE LIST
UGLY LOVE by Colleen Hoover
Ranked 7 last week
- 7 WEEKS ON THE LIST
FAIRY TALE by Stephen King
Ranked 5 last week
- 183 WEEKS ON THE LIST
WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens
Ranked 6 last week
- 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST
MAD HONEY by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

Colleen Hoover has 4 of the top 10!



Jodi Lynn Picoult

nonconforming individuals". Picoult's website says that VIDA: Women in Literary Arts is a research-driven organization. She was the co-founder, with Marjorie Rose, of the Trumbull Hall Troupe in 2004 as a means of providing children with a

fun, educational theatre experience. Children from grade 6 through grade 12 audition to be in an original musical written by Picoult and composer Ellen Wilber. The proceeds are donated to local charities.¹ The organization's contributions since its founding have exceeded \$120,000.

Australian Government
Department of Defence

WARNING NOTICE DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

Residents of areas adjacent to Singleton Training Area are warned it is a Defence Army Live Firing Range. Singleton Training Area is described generally as the area bounded to the south by Pokolbin State Forest, to the east by commercial vineyards and to the west by a combination of rural developments and open cut coal mines. The northern boundary is defined by the Golden Highway which separates the range area from the Singleton Military Area.

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

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

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

Persons found trespassing on Defence Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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

TAX RETURNS From \$110

DIANNE PRESTON ACCOUNTING & TAXATION SERVICES

- Registered Tax Agent/Accountant With Over 20 Years Experience
- Electronic Lodgement (REFUNDS IN 14 DAYS)
- Eftpos & Fee From Refund Available
- Rental Property & Investments
- After Hour Appointments Available

PH 49387023

Email: prestonaccounting@bigpond.com
ADDRESS: 59 Florence St Greta 2334



Jennifer Finney Boylan



What's on & More

BEEFING UP YOUR BOTTOM LINE | MANAGEMENT SERIES

Join us for this online management series focuses on beef breeding and management. Starting from calving, covering lactation nutrition, pasture management, weaning and herd performance analysis. Topics include analysing the herd, cow and calf management and pastures.

Presented by Nikki Henderson from Henderson Livestock Consulting. Nikki is an accredited MLA presenter, Livestock Nutritionist and Independent Consultant. Expression of interest for this event are now open, please register by Monday 21 November so you don't miss out!

These events will be starting soon and registration is a must. Contact details Albert Mullen on 0428 670 524 or via email albert.mullen@lls.nsw.gov.au
When: 21 Nov 2022 (all day)
Region: Hunter
Where: Webinar

Racing Review & Breeding News

Heart ailment forces trainer De Montfort to retire

By Ray Thomas



Trainer Mark De Montfort has been forced into retirement due to a heart ailment.

De Montfort, a former leading Sydney jockey, has been diagnosed with an excessively slow heart-rate that can cause fainting spells, fatigue and other medical problems. Doctors ordered De Montfort, 63, to stop riding trackwork which prompted the trainer to make the decision to retire. "I've always said when I can't ride I don't think I want to train," De Montfort said.

"Riding has always been a major part of my enjoyment training racehorses so when the doctors said I couldn't ride anymore, my hand was forced earlier than when I would have wanted. "I've been doing this (trackwork) for 49 years without a break so it's a big shock to the system." De Montfort, a naturally-gifted sportsman who is also very good golfer and touch footy player, has always been extremely fit and active but began to notice he was feeling fatigued at trackwork.

"In the last month or two I was tired all the time and felt like I was unfit which I couldn't understand," he said.

"I went to the doctor, he did an ECG then referred me to the specialist and they identified the issue. "I only noticed it when I was riding or working hurriedly at the stables because I would have to sit down and get my breath back.

"Basically, I have an excessively slow heart-rate, my blood doesn't pump through fast enough. I could have a pacemaker fitted but my doctors said I needed a lifestyle change." The respected De Montfort's retirement from training coincided with his mother becoming ill. Sadly, she passed away last weekend.

"I got to spend more time with mum for the last two months which was a blessing," De Montfort said. De Montfort had been scaling down his Warwick Farm training business in recent months and has had his horses transferred to other stables.

Symo's Girl was De Montfort's last winner, scoring at Queanbeyan back on September 6. Chalkey was the trainer's final runner, finishing unplaced at Canberra later the same month.

De Montfort trained for 15 years, preparing more than 120 winners including dual Group 3 winner McClintock (Bill Ritchie Handicap, Moonga Stakes). He took out a trainer's licence after a highly successful three-decade career in the saddle where he rode over 1000 winners including 13 at Group 1 level.

De Montfort's big race wins as a jockey included the 1999 Golden Slipper on Catbird, 2001 Epsom Handicap on Final Fantasy, the 1987 Rawson Stakes-Tancred Stakes-AJC Australian Derby

treble on Myocard, 1986 Doncaster Handicap on Row Of Waves, and 1997 George Ryder Stakes on Quick Flick.

"I don't know what the future holds," De Montfort said.

"I can still walk around a golf course and do light duties so I'd like to think I'm not out of racing.

"There are a million things I can do in racing but I just can't ride trackwork anymore. It has hit me pretty hard to be honest because riding has been my life."

From G-strings and masks to chasing Magic Millions glory

By Ben Dorries



Trainer Graeme Green had a slow racehorse, \$1500 in the bank and the shirt on his back. Soon, he didn't even have the shirt on his back. The Gold Coast Magic Millions has packed a lot of colourful stories into its rich history but never before has a one-time male stripper been trying to win the top prize.

"I was between marriages in my 20s and walked out of the first one with just the shirt on my back and a slow racehorse and \$1500 and I had to survive somehow," Green recalls.

"The first time I stripped, a mate said his sister-in-law was having a 21st birthday and they couldn't find a male stripper. I said I would do it if they found me an outfit to wear.

"I wore a Zorro outfit but I always had a mask on, so no one really knew who I was. "I always had a G-string and a mask on, I never went past the G-string.

"I didn't want to put false advertisements out there! I would get \$100-\$150 a show and it kept me going for a week or so because I only had a couple of horses in work and they weren't that fast." Green never went "The Full Monty" in his days as the first male stripper in country Grafton, NSW, but there was never a dull moment. The colourful horse trainer, now in his 60s and training in Rockhampton in central Queensland, has now been happily married for more than

30 years.

But it was a case of doing whatever he could to get by when he was a young buck in Grafton.

"The first time I did it, it was done as a joke," Green says, with a laugh.

"It went from there and I started doing hen's nights and birthday parties, invitation only.

"One poor girl one night, it was her party and she wanted to take me home but that was out of the question. "And then my second wife came along and put a stop to it.

"I did have some photos of me doing some stripping but the last lot of photos that were taken my wife actually destroyed. "I was quite fit in those days and it was all good fun."

Green, who first touched on his stripping past to ANZ Bloodstock earlier this year,

TRLX Tamworth

Report Date: 21/11/2022
 Total Yarding: 1065 (+15)

There was no change in numbers with 1065 head penned. Yearlings were well supplied along with heavy grown steers and bullocks. Cows were also well supplied. The quality and condition of the offering was generally good with heavy-weight yearling feeder steers well represented. The full field of buyers were in attendance. Demand was weaker for the most part particularly noticeable in heavy feeders and export cattle. Market trends were generally cheaper through the yearling steers with an odd exception in steers to restockers. Medium and heavyweight feeders steers experienced significant price reductions. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed saw a slightly cheaper trend of 6c to 8c/kg. Secondary quality young cattle to all destinations sold to much cheaper market trends. Heavyweight grown steers to feed and process sold to significantly cheaper trends with limited competition. Well finished grown heifers also sold to cheaper trends down 10 to 25c/kg. There was another substantial fall in the cow market with heavyweight 3 and 4 scores as much as 40c/kg cheaper under weaker demand and reduced buyer participation. Heavyweight bulls were also much cheaper. *Market reporter James Armitage*

Saleyard: Score

Report Date: 15/11/2022
 Total Yarding: 350 (-454)

Consignments more than halved, with the drawing area again receiving substantial rainfall. The breed and quality was mixed, with the majority entering the younger categories. The export cattle were scarce in the pens. The better bred popular breeds sold well, however any plainer and mixed bred cattle struggled in the competition. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers ranged from 594c to 786c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers received from 532c to 664c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers trended cheaper, mainly due to breed, as the better end to the restockers and lot feeders sold up to 596c before averaging 517c/kg. The same weight yearling heifers to the feeders and restockers made from 440c to 548c/kg. The better muscled vealer steer to the butchers topped at 566c/kg. Grown steers and heifers to the processors trended cheaper, with the steers and bullocks ranging from 400c to 410c, as the heifers reached 402c/kg. The heavy weight cows trended 15c cheaper, with the better covered lots making from 360c to 378c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 330c/kg. *Market Reporter, Neil Geddes*

Saleyard: HRLX Singleton

Report Date: 16/11/2022
 Total Yarding: 738 (-167)

Consignments slipped marginally and the breed and quality was mixed. The majority were younger cattle more suited for the restockers and lot feeders, with those suitable for the butchers carrying extra weight this week. The export cattle were mainly cows. The market trends were cheaper, especially the cow categories. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers lost 30c, although the better bred pens still reached 780c before averaging 641c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers trended 30c cheaper and sold from 495c to 665c/kg. Yearling steers to the restockers and lot feeders ranged from 475c to 585c for the medium weights, with the heavier end selling cheaper at 420c to 515c/kg. Yearling heifers to the feeder and restockers also trended cheaper and made from 400c to 545c/kg, depending on weight and breed. The younger cattle suitable for the butchers were also discounted, with the best reaching 545c/kg. The grown steers and bullocks eased 25c and topped at 390c/kg to the processors. The heifer portion also trended cheaper and reached 350c/kg. The heavy weight cows lost 60c and received from 300c to 320c/kg. *Market Reporter, Neil Geddes*

Saleyard: Gunnedah

Report Date: 15/11/2022
 Total Yarding: 780 (-1300)

Numbers fell sharply to 780 head as once again floodwaters took control of movements. Yearlings were well supplied with several lines of high quality cattle penned. The balance of the offering was quite mixed for both quality and condition. A reduced gallery of buyers were in attendance. Demand was weaker and competition reduced through the yearling steers resulting in cheaper trends throughout. All weight classes showing significant reductions. The quality of some of the steers minimising price change in places. The cheaper trends continued through the yearling with considerable price reductions. The reduced processor competition adversely affected the heavy grown cattle with both steers and heifers to process showing substantially cheaper trends. The cow market saw the greatest price reductions with limited processor competition. *Market reporter, James Armitage*

Rockhampton romp.

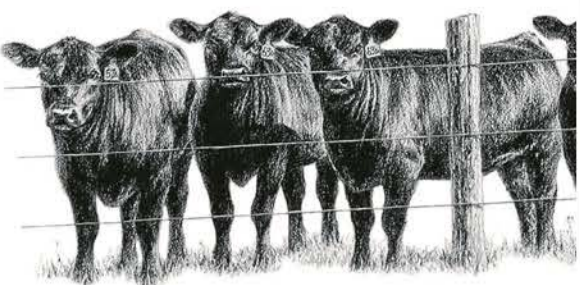
"The horse won with a bit of arrogance, Bubba got off and said the horse has got a ten-speed gearbox and he was only in second gear," Green said.

"He is the most expensive horse I've ever bought and he is starting to live up to expectations.

"He has got to perform well on Saturday and if he can step up to the mark maybe we can start thinking about the Magic Millions. (beaten a length into 2nd place)

"His attitude to work is great, for a two-year-old he is very relaxed and there is no madness or silliness in him.

"In the trials he sat off the pace, you can work him on a sixpence, he is very versatile and he can go forward or take a sit." Shamedy contested the \$75,000 QTIS 2YO Handicap (1200m) last Saturday and drew barrier seven running second.





For cyber criminals, ransomware is the popular weapon of choice

By Rob Di Pietro

Of all the cyber threat vectors, ransomware attacks remain among the most persistent, presenting a serious threat to Australian organisations large and small.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, when the rate of ransomware attacks spiked, we've seen a constant and steady increase in their numbers – the Australian Cyber Security Centre's (ACSC) most recent threat report indicates in the 2020-21 financial year, ransomware attacks increased by 15 per cent. Even more worrying is that this number is likely just a fraction of the real scope, given cybercrime so often goes unreported. Despite the increasing rate of ransomware attacks, however, lived experience indicates some organisations are failing to effectively mitigate the risk of attack, with some still unsure of what ransomware actually is.

Ransomware is a type of malware that works by locking up or encrypting files so they can no longer be accessed. A ransom, usually in cryptocurrency,

is demanded to restore access to the files. Increasingly, cybercriminals also exert additional pressure on victims via "hack and leak" tactics, whereby they threaten to release or sell stolen data on the dark web. Ransomware is deployed by cybercriminals – both state and non-state actors – who search for IT system vulnerabilities. The use of cryptocurrencies can make transfers to ransomware criminals hard to trace. And because these criminals are often located in extraterritorial jurisdictions – notably some Eastern European nations – where they are able to act with virtual impunity, there is little legal or law enforcement recourse for ransomware crimes.

As the popularity of ransomware as a cyber weapon of choice by cybercriminals has increased, ransomware "business models" have evolved.

"Ransomware as a service" models have seen the commoditisation of cybercrime, with ransomware malware sold on the

dark web for the use of amateur cybercriminals. An analysis from the US conducted in 2020 found buying malware online was "incredibly easy", with advanced malware tools selling for as little as \$US50 (about \$75). Furthermore, it reported "almost all premium malware sellers provide buyers with in-depth tutorials and ideas about using their products for technically unskilled buyers".

Head of the ACSC, Abigail Bradshaw, recently noted that sophisticated ransomware syndicates are often geographically dispersed to help them avoid traditional law enforcement and prosecution. Highlighting the increasingly slick business model, Bradshaw said: "A ransomware syndicate might have a marketing arm based in one country, an access arm whose sole job is just to obtain access to vulnerable networks in another country, and its franchise operation operating from another country."

As previously noted, "hack and leak" is a tactic now commonplace among ransomware criminals, as it offers the opportunity for double extortion. And while an organisation of any size can be struck, "big game fishing" targeting large organisations remains a lucrative form of attack.

The most common way these criminals get into systems remains via phish-

ing exploits but password guessing, credential stuffing (the use of stolen credentials often bought on the dark web) and the scanning of networks for vulnerabilities are also key methods of entry. Ransomware actors are increasingly targeting executives and employees via "grab and go" tactics, whereby they threaten to release potentially damaging or embarrassing stolen data, which in turn creates additional pressure to pay the ransom. As ransomware attacks continue to become more sophisticated there are several trends that may evolve.

The first will see cybercriminals increasingly enter systems via the backend, cutting out the need for the initial exploit and potentially providing far greater access to and control over systems. The second is that we may see these criminals pivot away from the use of cryptocurrencies for payment. This will be due to increased regulation of cryptocurrency globally, which is currently occurring, as well as severe fluctuations in cryptocurrency exchanges, which can dramatically reduce the profitability of these transactions. And while it remains uncertain how ransom payment will be demanded, we do know these criminals are creative and will find a way to ensure they get paid.

Rob Di Pietro is PwC Australia's Cybersecurity and Digital Trust Leader.

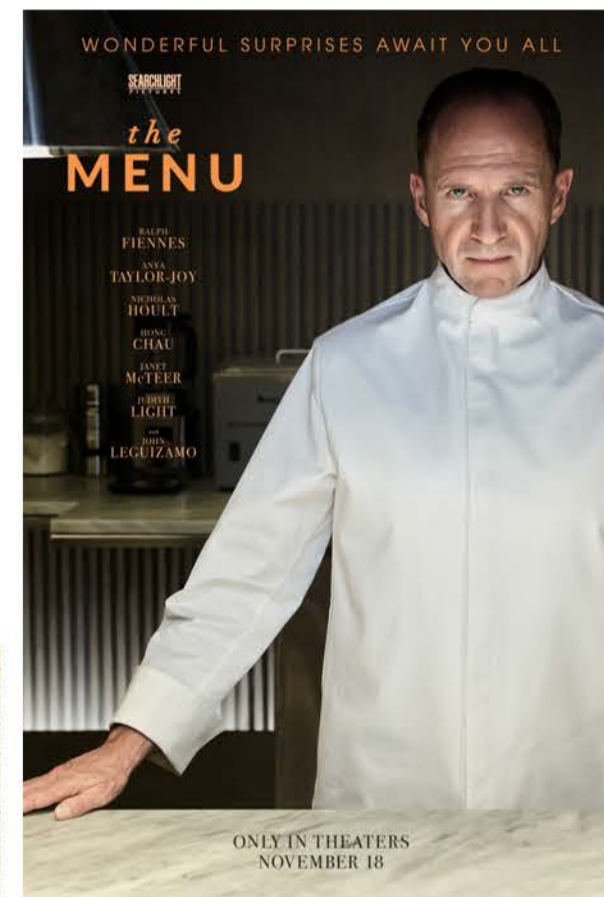


A couple (Anya Taylor-Joy and Nicholas Hoult) travels to a coastal island to eat at an exclusive restaurant where the chef (Ralph Fiennes) has prepared a lavish menu, with some shocking surprises.

Director: Mark Mylod
Producer: Adam McKay, Betsy Koch, Will Ferrell
Writer: Seth Reiss, Will Tracy

Toronto Review: Mark Mylod's Psychological Thriller 'The Menu'

By Valerie Complex



using food as the harbinger of death. Food-service and sex workers are highlighted here because society looks down on the professions. It's a reminder that they deserve respect. The all-star cast of *The Menu* is in perfect unison. Judith Light, John Leguizamo, Chau, Fiennes, Taylor-Joy, Hoult, Janet McTeer and many others believed in Reiss and Tracy's smartly written script enough to be a part of it. There is chemistry all around, with the actors playing off each other and supporting one another's actions as the film moves forward. Important to highlight Chau, who has been killing it recently. She commits fully to every role —

A group of wealthy people arrive on a mysterious island and receive the meal of a lifetime in Mark Mylod's psychological thriller *The Menu*. Written by Seth Reiss and Will Tracy, the film stars Ralph Fiennes, Anya Taylor-Joy, and Nicolas Hoult. A five-star restaurant called Hawthorne is creating a special menu for some high-profile guests: a famed food critic, a "movie" star, some finance bros, affluent couples, and fans of its Chef Slowik (played by Ralph Fiennes). They received invitations and show up with their egos, arrogance and money. The outlier, Margot Mills (Taylor-Joy), is Tyler's (Nicolas Hoult) date who wasn't on the invite list. The façade doesn't impress Mills. She knows something is off about the atmosphere as soon as she arrives. Elsa (Hong Chau) is Slowik's second in command and helps the place run smoothly.

Hawthorne's kitchen is run like the military. They march food to their guest's seats, respond to

commands in unison, and only speak when spoken to. No one thinks this is weird except for Margot. The chef regards his guest with disdain. Maybe a hint of things to come? He crafts his dishes based on his life and the lives of his guests. He seems to know secret information about them all and reveals these learned facts through various meals. These people are meant to be at Hawthorne, and all but Margot deserve what's coming to them. *The Menu* provides unnerving satirical commentary on the class divide and how the wealthy are a bottomless pit of need that will never be satisfied. Slowik realizes that Margot doesn't come from money and clocks that she is a sex worker, which fascinates him. Interacting with the wealthy is a soulless experience that zaps all the fun and love out of any art. At one point, Margot talks about enjoying her line of work until interacting with hubristic rich men.

Essentially, Hawthorne is the poor rising up and

and now this. Chau is going to walk away with something this award season. I just know it. The sound design and Collin Stetson's score are bombastic in a good way. The film wouldn't be as enjoyable without it. The sound cuts right through your body like a knife. Every shriek, clap and clank of the glass is clean and precise. Mylod weaves these elements into his purposefully awkward shooting style with glimpses of Ari Aster's aesthetic. The director guides the audience down a winding path that will throw them off, so they'll never see what's coming.



As the COVID-19 pandemic has swept across the world, another, less visible, epidemic has occurred concurrently – a tsunami of cyber-crime with global losses totalling more than US\$1 trillion. While rampant in scale and diverse in form, there is one typology of cyber-crime that presents a unique threat to businesses and governments the world over: Ransomware. –

While some of the most spectacular ransomware attacks have occurred offshore, Australia has not been immune. Over the

past 18 months, major logistics company Toll Holdings Ltd has been hit twice; Nine Entertainment was brought to its knees by an attack that saw the company struggle to televise news bulletins and produce newspapers; multiple health and aged care providers across the country have been hit; and global meat supplies were impacted after Australian and international operations of the world's largest meat producer JBS Foods were brought to a standstill. It is likely other organisations have also been hit but have kept it out of the public spotlight.



MacDroid's

HI-TECH GADGETS SALES · SERVICE · SUPPORT

For Sales, Service & Advice...



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

1300 622 376

Cruise ships shouldn't be able to flush sick passengers into the community

By Margot Saville, Journalist and author



The Majestic Princess docked in Sydney. CREDIT:RHETT WYMAN

Have we learnt precisely nothing from the Ruby Princess debacle in 2020, which led to the deaths of 28 people and unleashed a COVID-19 wave that could have overwhelmed the Australian health system?

Sure, almost three years later most of us are vaccinated and boosted and an influx of COVID-19 cases can do less damage – but should a behemoth like the Majestic Princess be free to flush out more than 660 sick passengers into the community with nothing more than a warning to stay off public transport?

We are already experiencing our fourth COVID-19 wave, according to Chief Medical Officer Dr Kerry Chant, with a tripling of cases in the 24 hours to Thursday. Will the Majestic Princess's unwanted ballast be a "drop in the ocean", given those surging case numbers? This seems a let-it-rip or, in this case, let-it-ripple policy.

The cheapest fare paid by the 3300 passengers on the Princess Pandemic was about \$150 per day, which partly explains why cruising is so popular. According to the investigative website Cruise Market Watch, this ship carried 88,800 passengers in 2021, earning \$US130 million-plus (\$194 million). That money goes back to the US-based parent company, Carnival Corporation & plc, which consists of two separate companies registered in the tax haven of Panama and in the UK. This means that while Australia receives no tax revenue from Carnival, the country's taxpayers will cover the health costs of the latest debacle.

Footage of passengers

disembarking showed many of them to be elderly, the group with the highest risk of death or disability from COVID-19. This problem is not going to disappear but will be an ongoing, costly issue for the Australian health system. But COVID-19 is not the only negative outcome associated with cruising. The industry is very polluting, and its greatest impact in Australia is on residents near berths. In this country, the industry is much less regulated than in the US or Europe.

In 2013, the cruise terminal was moved to White Bay in lieu of being built at Barangaroo. Inner-west residents started to wake up wheezing and breathless. Doctors in adjacent Rozelle and Balmain started to see dozens of adults and children reporting mysterious medical symptoms, ranging from excruciating headaches to respiratory issues.

Resident Lisa-Marie Murphy told Alan Jones on his radio show in 2015 that she was "horrified" when she learnt what toxins were in the fumes. "One of my daughters gets a splitting headache virtually every day the ships are in, and she doesn't want to go to school," Murphy said. "These are chemicals you don't want anywhere near your kids."

The problem was eventually identified as the pollutants from the cruise ships' diesel exhaust, which is carcinogenic. After extensive lobbying, the community eventually succeeded in getting a NSW parliamentary inquiry into the problem in 2015. From that, they won a few concessions;

from January 1, 2020 cruise ships had to switch to fuel with 0.5 per cent sulphur (it's 0.1 per cent in the US and Europe) one hour after they entered an Australian port. They also won from the government the promise that when docked, the ships would switch to less polluting shore power. The Port Authority of NSW announced earlier this month that two shore power berths would be available in the Bays Port Precinct (Glebe and White Bay) by the end of 2024, to run on renewable energy. This would reduce carbon emissions by 14,000 tonnes per year, the equivalent of taking 4000 cars off the road, it said, adding that it would also reduce noise by 10 decibels.

This means residents will continue to suffer the health effects of these ships until the end of 2024, that is, two years away. How is that fair? There's no doubt that cruising is a very popular segment of the travel market and consumers deserve to have access to a product that delivers so much pleasure and value for money. I also have faith that Carnival enforces the COVID-19 guest protocols stated on its website, that all guests must be fully vaccinated (including boosters) and also provide either a self-administered negative RAT within 24 hours of boarding or a negative PCR within 48 hours. But it's hard to see how, during another COVID-19 wave, a foreign company is allowed to abrogate its responsibilities to the Australian taxpayer by simply releasing medically compromised passengers into our health system. Again.

and

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

the people who have killed an echidna, bearded dragon lizards and numerous kangaroos while travelling on Rusty Lane. This road is now a 60 kph zone! Please desist!

to the mongrels who attempted to steal my car while we were away on holidays. Even though you didn't get away with the car, thanks to an immobilizer, the amount of damage you did to the ignition was horrendous. With my insurance excess & 'spoiled' no-claim bonus I'm way out of pocket. Hopefully you've left some DNA behind & it's on record as the police are on the job!

to the young boys who like to come over to the south side of North Rothbury and ride your motor cycles ~ thank you for the lovely and horrendously loud noise your bikes make. There are a lot of people around here that do shift work & sleeping isn't an option when you strike! To the parents ~ if you can't stand the noise what makes you think that anyone else can? Take them away from built up areas to play if they must have these toys.

to the Cessnock City Council who put me on hold when I called to report rubbish and a dead kangaroo on Wine Country Drive. After an serious long time on-hold to be put through to Customer Service I conceded defeat. The rubbish and dead roo were still there the next day. What about a toll free number for council or at least a council where customer service is part of everyone's job?

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 ½ hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362

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

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

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

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

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

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

Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

Share Accommodation: East Branxton \$180 + share util-

ies cost P: 0407 383 026

Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

WHAT'S GOING ON?

www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

THE TINA TURNER STORY

Next date: Friday, 09 December 2022 | 08:00 PM to 10:00 PM

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 Rn'B 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!

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

SAT 10 DEC – Branxton Community Hall; Christmas Twilight Markets

MON 12 DEC – Branxton Public School ~ Presentation Day at RTHS

THUR 15 DEC – Branxton Public School ~ Party Day and Water Fun Activities

FRI 16 DEC – Branxton Public School ~ Last day of the year for students

SAT 17 DEC – The Killers at Hope Estate

UPCOMING CONCERTS/EVENTS

SAT 26 NOV, 2022 - THE CORRS FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY! Irish Celtic infused pop icons, The Corrs will return to Australia this November for an exclusive, one night only, performance at Hope Estate in the heart of NSW's Hunter Valley wine country. Hope Estate

SAT 17 DEC, 2022 - THE KILLERS ANNOUNCE AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND *IMPLODING THE MIRAGE TOUR 2022* Frontier Touring are thrilled to welcome The Killers back to Australia and New Zealand for a massive nine-date mix of arena and outdoor shows.

MAR 25 & 26 MAR 2023 ~ The Hunter Valley Airshow at Cessnock

Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:

- * Bunnings BBQ Singleton. Saturday 26 November
 - * Branxton Lions Board Meeting and AGM 4 pm Monday 5 December, Branxton Golf Club
 - * IGA Christmas Raffle Friday 9 December
 - * Community Hall Christmas Markets – BBQ and Raffle Saturday 10 December
 - * Lions Christmas Party Thursday 15 December
- The number of Lions events are reducing towards Christmas and the New Year but we look forward to 2023 and the service to the community that it brings.



Daily Thoughts

Natives who beat drums to drive off evil spirits are objects of scorn to smart Americans who blow horns to break up traffic jams. ~Mary Ellen Kelly

Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you and scorn in the one ahead. ~Mac McCleary

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after. ~Peter De Vries

The civilized man has built a coach, but has lost the use of his feet. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance," 1841



Knife crime targeted in two-day police blitz across NSW

Police have charged more than 140 people and seized numerous firearms and around 50 knives during a two-day state-wide blitz on knife-related crime. Operation Foil III was conducted between Thursday 17 November and Saturday 19 November 2022 to target young people in possession of knives in public and other known violent offenders. During the operation, 144 people were charged and police seized six firearms, 48 knives, and prohibited drugs and weapons. Additionally, intelligence-led targeting of locations and people resulted in almost 1000 move-on orders and transport infringements being issued across the two days. Police also conducted around 800 bail compliance checks. Deputy Premier and Minister for Police Paul Toole said the NSW Government remained committed to taking all necessary steps to reduce knife-related crime. "Everyone deserves to feel safe on our streets – and those that threaten that will face the consequences," Mr Toole said. "Knife crime can change someone's life in an instant, whether it's causing injury or death to innocent people, or for offenders, ending up before the courts. "The officers involved in Operation FOIL have done an incredible job engaging with the community and helping prevent knife-related crimes to keep us all safe. "Operations like this one make a real difference to our community, and the NSW Government will continue to work closely with Police on the best ways to prevent knife and youth-related crime and violence."

South West Metropolitan Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner Stuart Smith, said the model behind Operation Foil has proven successful throughout the year due to its two-pronged approach. "We have well-resourced police using intel to identify people and areas of concern related to knife crime with a view to suppress any further violence or related criminal activity," Assistant Commissioner Smith said. "That's the overt, high-visibility side of things; bail enforcement, suspect targeting – meanwhile, Youth Command is engaging with young persons who have been deemed 'at risk' of committing violent crime. "The use of knives, particularly by young males, is a serious concern for police, and further operations are planned to reduce their use and possession in public places," Assistant Commissioner Smith said. Incidents of note include:

- Five youths were arrested after a 16-year-old boy was threatened with a knife before being assaulted and robbed at a shopping centre in Penrith about 5.30pm on Friday (19 November 2022). Police were alerted and officers located the group at nearby Penrith Railway Station a short time later. They were taken to Penrith Police Station and charged with robbery in company. The teens will appear at a children's court at a later date.
- Around 8.40pm on Thursday (17 November 2022), police stopped a Black Jeep Cherokee on Moverley Road at South Coogee and spoke with the driver of the vehicle – a 33-year-old man – who is subject to a weapons prohibition order (WPO). During a subsequent search of the car, police located and seized numerous mobile phones, a bottle containing around 30 millilitres of Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB), an electronic stun device, cash, and more than 1.176kg of methylamphetamine. The man was arrested and taken to Maroubra Police Station, where he was charged with supply prohibited drug more than large commercial quantity, use prohibited weapon contrary to prohibition order, and deal with

property proceeds of crime less than \$100,000. He was refused bail and appeared at Waverley Local Court the following day.

- About 7.40pm on Friday (18 November 2022), police were conducting patrols of the Cabramatta area and stopped a grey Hyundai sonata and spoke with the 42-year-old driver. During a subsequent search of the vehicle, police located and seized more than \$35,000 cash, an amount of methylamphetamine, a large knife, and an electronic stun device. During a further search of the vehicle, police located modifications and a device allegedly used to make the car appear as an unmarked police car. The man was arrested and taken to Fairfield

Police Station and charged with deal with property proceeds of crime less than \$100,000, possess or use a prohibited weapon without permit, use prohibited weapon contrary to prohibition order, possess prohibited drug, and custody of knife in public place - first offence. The Canley vale man was refused bail to appear at Parramatta Bail Court the following day, where he was remanded in custody to appear at Burwood Local Court on 22 November 2022. Inquiries continue.

- About 1.50am on Saturday (19 November 2022), police were called to a licenced premises on Carrington Road at Waverley following reports a staff member had been threatened with a knife. Police located and arrested a 24-year-old man and took him to Waverley Police Station, where he allegedly became uncooperative and threatened police officer in execution of duty without actual bodily harm. He was refused bail to appear in court later that day.

Rothbury Water Cartage
Domestic Mining Civil Rail

Rothbury Water Cartage

- * 13,000 litre
- * Operating 7-days a week
- * Domestic, Mining, Civil & Rail

Call Peter on 0417 499 554 or email Grovers384@bigpond.com
26 Mayne Street, North Rothbury NSW 2335

C.R. SMYTH & SON
FUNERAL SERVICES

24 hours
7 days

Owned and operated by the Smyth Family since 02.02.1925 - celebrating 95 years of serving the communities of Maitland, Cessnock, Kurri Kurri & surrounds with compassion & respect.

Rutherford 4932 7744
Cessnock 4990 1425
Kurri Kurri 4937 4811

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 **SOLD** **SOLD** **SOLD**

UNIT 2 **UNIT 10** **UNIT 12** **UNIT 18**



In the Garden

Five common Australian garden pests and how to get rid of them

While there are lots of bugs that can be beneficial for your garden, others can be super destructive. If you've ever had an aphid infestation then you'll know what I mean. Fortunately, many garden pests can be controlled using simple, organic solutions.

Here are five common Australian garden pests and what you can do to rid your garden of them:

1. Aphids
There are more than 4,000 species of aphids and they vary in colour, with white, black, green, yellow, brown and even pink varieties existing. The two most widespread species in Australia are the cabbage aphid and cotton aphid. As simple as it may sound, a great way to efficiently reduce an aphid population is by crushing the insects with your fingers or removing the affected part of the plant. Washing affected areas with cold water also

works well.

2. Cabbage Moth
The cabbage moth is a common pest found in vegetable gardens. It lays eggs on the underside of leaves, eggs which spawn larvae that eat said leaves in abundance.
Encourage the predators of cabbage moth larvae into your garden – ladybirds, assassin bugs, lacewings and paper wasps. Also, remove any caterpillars you see and feed them to your chickens (if you've got any).

3. Grasshoppers
While you might not associate grasshoppers with garden destruction, in large numbers they can be very detrimental. Both adults and nymphs feed on grasses and broadleaf plants. The best way to keep grasshoppers under control is by encouraging birds to nest in your garden. They will do a good job of reducing their numbers.

Provide sources of water, food and nesting sites.

4. Snails and slugs
These slow-moving molluscs can damage seedlings, leaves, fruit, underground tubers and plant seeds, which can seriously affect your yields. To reduce snails and slugs, clean up any potential breeding sites. Snails and slugs love cool, dark, moist spots under boards, piles of leaves and old nursery pots, so get tidying.
5. Mealybugs
Mealybugs are small, soft bodied and covered in a white wax coating. They are pretty common and tend to affect ferns, orchids, ornamental plants, citrus plants, greenhouse plants and trees.

A strong stream of water from a hose is often enough to blast mealybugs off your plants. Doing so daily will make a marked difference. Again, natural predators will help lower numbers further.

OUR FAVOURITE FRIENDLY GARDEN VISITORS

Here are some good bugs you may find in your garden. While the adults are often easy to see, you may need a hand lens (such as a magnifying glass) to see all the life stages of these beneficial insects.

The native blue-banded bee.
1. BEES
Bees are probably the most recognisable of all garden insects as they buzz about foraging in flowers harvesting pollen and nectar. Honeybees are excellent pollinators and are vital to have if you want to produce fruit. As well European honeybees, there are also a host of native bees ranging from tiny to big insects such as the blue-banded bee and the teddy bear bee. Some native bees can be kept in small garden hives. Bees can be distinguished from wasps and flies as most carry pollen on their legs and can be observed flying from flower to flower.
Green lacewings are easily identifiable.

2. GREEN LACEWINGS
Green lacewings are frequent insect visitors and an absolute whiz at pest control. These good bugs will be seen in the garden as small, green insects with lacy wings befitting their name. This is the adult stage. Adults feed on nectar and lay eggs on the underside of leaves. The eggs are held on

long strands. Leave them to hatch, as the larvae do most of the pest control, feeding on aphids, mealy bugs, thrips, whitefly and more. At just 2-8mm in length, these baby lacewings are hard to see, but if spotted they'll have grey segmented bodies, six legs, small pincers and often carry the remains of their egg sac on their backs. Lacewings are used commercially to control insects in nurseries and horticultural crops.
Ladybirds are beloved in the garden for more than one reason!

3. LADYBIRDS
Ladybirds are insects we all love to see in the garden, but they are even more welcome when you realise how many other pest insects they can consume. Ladybirds and their larvae control aphids. Some native species also control mealy bugs and hard scale. One particular ladybird variety also controls the plant disease powdery mildew. Before spraying, squashing or hosing aphids from a plant, take a careful look to see if there are any ladybirds present. While the adults are highly recognisable with their black-spotted wings of red, orange or yellow, the larvae are less familiar. They are small and usually black with segmented bodies and hairs. If these good bugs are present

in your garden, let them have a go at pest control for you.

Paper wasps can be dangerous, but they also do plenty of good in the garden.

4. WASPS
Wasps abound in the garden, and most play an important role in pest control dealing with all sorts of pests including caterpillars, spiders and even house and stable flies. Wasps often gather insects to feed their young, while others parasitise pests and lay eggs into the unsuspecting insect. Many wasps are small and rarely noticed. One you may find evidence of in the garden is the mud wasp, which builds clusters of mud cocoons on walls. These large wasps are not dangerous and are carrying out insect control. If you can tolerate the mud colonies, your garden will benefit. Paper wasps, which build carefully crafted tiered nests hung in trees or shrubs or attached to beams or under eaves, are less benign if disturbed however they too are carrying out pest control in the garden. Highly dangerous and already common across southern Australia are the European wasp, which resembles a large honeybee but is an introduced pest. This wasp feeds on nectar but also insects and is attracted to sweet drinks and meat, making it an unwelcome guest at picnics and barbecue. European wasps also feed in fallen or damaged fruit.
A couple more next issue



Tips For Your Dogs

& Cats



Dog Training 101: How to Completely Train Your Dog

By JENNA STREGOWSKI

Are you ready to start training your dog or puppy? Proper training and socialization are among your dog's basic needs. It's important to start training your dog as soon as possible to sit, stay, come, go to their crate, and to go potty outside. And believe it or not, it's something you can do yourself as a beginner.

At first, dog training can seem pretty overwhelming, especially if this is your first dog. The truth is that training your dog is a very big project. If you take it step by step, you will find the task to be far less daunting. Here is some information to help get you started:

Start a Dog Obedience Program: Learn how to set a basic foundation before you begin to train your dog.

Train Your Dog Using Games: Training your dog should be fun! Everyone knows it's easier to learn when you are having a good time, so try implementing some games into your dog training regimen.

Six Weeks to a Well-Trained Dog: Using this schedule as a guide, you can teach your dog the basics in about six weeks.

Positive Reinforcement: There are many different ways to train a dog, but most dog professionals agree that the positive way is the best for both the dog and trainer.

House Training and Crate Training

Unless you plan to keep your dog outdoors—and few of us do because it's not recommended—you'll need to teach your dog where to eliminate. Therefore, house training (also called housebreaking or potty training) is one of the first things you need to work on with your dog. Crate training can be a very helpful part of the training process. This includes house training as well as many other areas of training:

Crate Training Dogs and Puppies: Here are the basics of training your dog or puppy to accept and even enjoy the crate. Not only will it help with housebreaking, but it will also give your dog a place of his own.

How to House Train your Dog: When it comes down to it, house training is not that complicated, but this doesn't mean it's easy. Consistency and diligence are key during the housebreaking process.

Submissive/Excitement Urination in Dogs: If your dog is still having accidents in the house, it may be more than a simple house-breaking issue. Your dog might urinate out of excitement or to express submissive behavior.

Leash Training Dogs and Puppies

Every dog needs to learn to walk on a leash. Besides the fact that most areas have leash laws, there will be times when keeping your dog on a leash is for his own safety. Learn how to introduce your dog or puppy to the leash, then teach him how to walk properly on the leash, even beside you on a bike. A loose leash walk teaches your dog not to pull or lunge when on the leash, making the experience more enjoyable for both you and your dog.

How To Socialize Dogs and Puppies

Socialization means training your puppy or adult dog to accept new people, animals, and various places by exposing him to these things. Socialized dogs are less likely to develop behavior problems and are generally more welcomed by others. Socialization can

also help prevent the development of fears and phobias.

The bottom line is that socializing your dog or puppy will make him a happier, more well-behaved dog.

Clicker Training for Dogs
Clicker training, a common form of positive reinforcement, is a simple and effective dog training method. Although it is still fine to train your dog without clicker training, many people find it helpful. With clicker training, you can easily and effectively teach your dog all kinds of basic and advanced commands and tricks. It's fast and easy to learn how to clicker train your dog.

Basic Commands and Fun Tricks

There are some basic dog training commands and dog tricks that every dog should know like come, speak, drop it, stay, back up, etc. Basic commands give your dog structure. In addition, they can help you overcome common dog behavior problems and will help keep your dog safe.

What's more fun than showing off your dog's cool tricks?! Dog tricks are a great way to take your dog training to the next level and give your dog some mental stimulation.

Proofing Behaviors and Troubleshooting

Proofing is the last step in training your dog to do any new behavior. Learn how to proof behaviors so your dog will be as obedient at the park or a friend's house as he is in your own living room. Remember, just because you have reached the final stages of training, it doesn't mean that behavior problems won't crop up. Learn about the most common dog behavior problems and how to deal with them. These guides

will help you navigate this part of the training process:

Proofing Behaviors: Practice behaviors in a variety of situations with different levels of distraction. Without proofing, your dog may behave well in your living room, but seem to forget all his training when he is outside the house.

Teach Your Dog Self-Control: This method teaches your dog that nothing in life is free, but that he needs to earn things like food and attention through obedience.

Common Dog Behavior Problems: Understanding potential behavior issues can help you detect and address them before things get out of control.

Dog Behavior Management Versus Dog Training: While dog behavior management and dog training are two different things, they are not mutually exclusive.

Behavior management is an important part of any dog training program. Once your dog has mastered all the basics, you can consider moving on to more advanced tricks. These activities will help keep your dog active, fit and mentally stimulated. Plus, they will help strengthen the bond you share with your canine companion.

Remember that training is an ongoing process. You will never be completely finished. It is important to keep working on obedience training throughout the life of your dog. People who learn a language at a young age but stop speaking that language may forget much of it as they grow older. The same goes for your dog: use it or lose it. Running through even the most basic tricks and commands will help them stay fresh in your dog's mind. Plus, it's a great way to spend time with your dog.

Has your phone stopped ringing?
If so you need to advertise your business
Call Mike at 'The News'
M: 0414 757 826

The News SPORT

SPORTS RESULTS RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Golf Results Saturday, 12th November Peter Matthews Memorial 2BBB and Singles in Conjunction

Winners: Joe Bereza and Matthew Schnell 48 pts
Runners Up: Richard Turnbull and Thomas Wooton 45 pts
Third: Ben Porter and Mick Tracey 43 pts
4th: Riley Maytom and Kyden Maytom 42 pts
5th: Geoff Geason and Craig Howe 42 pts
6th: Eddie Barrett and Gary Musilak 42 pts

Singles Winner: Richard Turnbull 42 pts
2nd: Matthew Schnell 40 pts
3rd: Kyle Mounser 36 pts

NTPins: 2/11: Andrew McGovern 101 cms 4th: C. Smith 120 cms 13th: Craig Howe 165 cms 9th: Robert Hale 350 cms 10th: (2nd shot) Eddie Barrett 132 cms
 Pros Pin (\$96 club voucher): David Matt 342 cms

Saturday's Annual Peter Matthews Memorial attracted a good field of 56 players contesting the 2BBB and the Singles in Conjunction event with some excellent scores required to win. The overall Peter Matthews Memorial winners were Joe Bereza and Matthew Schnell with an impressive 48 pts, finishing 3 pts clear of the runners up, Richie Turnbull and Thomas Wooton. The prizes went down as far as 6th place with 42 pts needed to win one of the impressive prizes on offer. The winners won a voucher to play golf at Cypress Lakes with the runners up winning vouchers to play at the Crown Golf Course. In the Singles event, Richard Turnbull had his best round in some months, winning the event with an ultra-impressive 42 pts. This topped off a great day for Richie as he teamed up with his nephew, Thomas Wooton to finish runner up in the team event. Matthew Schnell also topped off a great day finishing runner up in the singles after winning the team event with Joe Bereza. Kyle Mounser finished third with his pleasing round of 36 pts. The club introduced another Nearest the Pin, the second shot on the 10th, with Eddie Barrett being the inaugural winner of this NTPin. David Matt won the NTPin on the last, earning

\$96 as well as winning the Accurate Drive Competition on the 16th after apparently getting some friendly assistance from the tree. Dave also had a great day winning both prizes. Mick Tracey once again showed his class recording an eagle 2 on the long 5th, a rare occurrence on this long par 4. Club Captain, Steve, wants to remind everyone that the Presentation Night is scheduled for Saturday, 26th November. Nominations for the 2023 Pennants are due by the 30th November. In other news, Corey Lamb just competed in the prestigious Victorian PGA Championships held at Moonah Links, finishing T41st in a high-quality field. Corey had rounds of 70, 74, 72, 73 (+1). He has now travelled into sunny Queensland to compete in the Queensland PGA Championship being held at Nudgee Golf Club on Thursday. It's great to see Corey make the cut in the last event and we wish him well in another high-quality field with such players as current European player Scott Hend, Jake McLeod, Zach Murray and Matthew Goggin playing in this championship.

Branxton Vets Thursday, 17th November Division 1:
Winner: Roger Yandle 30 pts (SOD)
Runner Up: John Burgess 29 pts
3rd: Craig Howe 28 pts
Ball Winners: Eddie Barrett 27 pts, Mal Ryan 26 pts, Peter Conroy 26 pts, Murray Kingston 26 pts, Lee Hunt 25 pts

Division 2:
Winner: Robert Brooks 30 pts
Runner Up: Peter Sekulich 27 pts
Ball Winners: Ray Showman 26 pts, Tom Young 26 pts, Glenn Fletcher 26 pts, Steve Condran 25 pts, Barry Turner 25 pts, Errol Munzenberger 25 pts, Robert McMillan 25 pts
Ladies:
Winner: Jane Johansen 28 pts
Runner Up: Marg Hunt 26 pts

Ball Winner: Robyne McCarthy 26 pts
NTPins: Ladies: Neridah Bush Gents: Murray Kingston

40 players enjoyed sunny conditions on a drying golf course on Thursday with some run evident around the course. The competition was very competitive in all divisions with Roger Yandle recording the "Score of the Day" with 30 pts in winning Division 1. John Burgess finished runner up a point behind with Craig Howe's 28 pts good enough for third place. 25 pts was needed to

win a ball. Robert Brooks won Division 2 with 30 pts as well, missing out on the overall daily honours on a countback. Peter Sekulich was runner up with his 27 pts while 25 pts was also needed to win a ball in Division 2. Jane Johansen won the Ladies with her 28 pts, just ahead of Marg Hunt's 26 pts. Both ladies now have bragging rights over their husbands (Paul and Lee) over the week, recording better stableford scores on the day. Neridah Bush won the Ladies NTPin with Murray Kingston being the sharpshooter in the Gents. **Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 13th November** Phousang Sihapanya has won the Weekly Challenge with an excellent 42 point round from Ryan Fenton 41 & Doris Hoare in 3rd place with 38 points. Ball winners are: Jeff Shanahan 37, Steve Piggott 37, Jackson Redmond 37, Phil Douglas 36, Seth Adams 36, Mark Fullbrook 36, Brad Murray 36, Craig Sharp 36, Justin King 36 & Brett Janssen 36 c/b

Tuesday 15th November The brave decision to hold off on fairway watering at the end of last week paid huge dividends when storms struck over the weekend and would have left the course without carts for much of this week. John Carmody made the most of the great conditions to return a solid 40 points to win the Tuesday Stableford from Sam Moss 39 & Tom Vaughan 3rd with 36 on countback. Ball winners are: Rob Hannah 36, Hugh Le 36, Wayne Barber 36, Phil Darcy 36, Garry Marsden 35, Wayne Cowan 35, Ian Newell 35, Dennis Donn 35, Kevin Smith 35, Springy 34, David Peel 34, Bob Prentice 34, Larry Forbes 34, Brandon Lee 34, Greg Ireland 33, Luke Meyers 33, Col Bradley 33, Burgo 33, Brendan Bourke 33, Terry Webb 33, Lindsay Self 32, Steve Morrow 32 & Lindsay Meyn 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Rob Hannah (3rd & 17th) Andrew Causey (4th) Kevin Smith (8th) & Phil Darcy (10th)

Wednesday 16th November

Inform Jenny Chambers has claimed the Ladies Stableford with a superb 42 point round and is sure to come under the eye of the handicapper, Di took 2nd place with 38 with Sue Williams 3rd with 36 Ball winners are: Melita Watson 35, Sue Wilson 35, Isabel Skeates 33, Jill Slatter 32, Robyn Dunlop 32 & Joy Provenzano 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Melita Watson on (3rd & 10th) **Thursday 17th November** Some excellent scores have been returned by the Vets in

the Irish Stableford format with Col Bradley receiving the nod from the judges in Division 1 when he & Chris Norman had 75 point returns, Division 2 to Curly with 86 points from Bill Freeman 81 & Division 3 to Phil Wetzler with a staggering 88 points for a massive win from Geoff Sweetman with 72. Ball winners are: Springy 75, Alan Bishop 74, Steve Piggott 74, John Stewart 72, Dean Morison 72, Beepa 72, Doug Harley 72, Burgo 71, Graham Donaldson 71, Rex Talbot 71, Fluff 70, Col Somerville 70, Jeff Haywood 70, Mark Green 70, David Peel 70, Darrell Porter 70, Bindii 69, Jeff Taylor 69, Ken McLaughlin 68, Michael O'Brien 68, Wayne Barber 68, Gary Marsden 67, Graham Morris 67, Larry Forbes 67, Rob Hannah 66, Mick Gilbert 66, Peter McIntyre 66, Ron Findley 65, Dave Blackburn 65, Boss Hogg 65, Jeff Morton 65 & Michael Tsakissiris 65 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Silver (3rd) Ken McLaughlin (4th) Darrell Porter (8th) & Rob Hannah (10th) & Rob Hannah (17th)

Saturday 19th November The Blue Tee Challenge has seen Wayne Barber win A Grade on countback from Anya Hutchins with 35 points, B Grade to Matt Tomlinson with 38 from Greg Duval with 37 & C Grade to Arsian Bhutta with 39 from Gary Arnold with 37 on countback. Ball winners are: Tim Beasley 37, George Copas 36, Anthony Bower 36, Andrea Connor 36, Jarad Hofman 35, Alan Bishop 35, Banjo Marsden 35, Wayne Cowan 35, James Schofield 35, Scott Jones 35, Luke Johnston 35, Lindsay Meyn 35, Glenn Williams 34, Mick Gilbert 34, Brandon Lidbury 34, Stephen Zok 34, Mike Carter 34, Nev Smith 33 & Peter Huckfeldt 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Dean Morison (3rd) Alan Bishop (4th) Russ Lightfoot (8th) & Matt Tomlinson (10th & 17th) Next weeks golf will be a Medley American Stableford



Week 7 Week seven of district cricket was completed last Saturday, with Greta/Branxton recording comfortable wins in first and fourth grade, second grade went down whilst third grade enjoyed the week off with the bye. After a slow start to the season, first grade clicked

Miller Park Bowlers Bring Home State Flag

Lawn bowlers from Miller Park Bowling Club Inc. travelled to Warilla to compete in the State Pennant finals against 15 other winning clubs representing their respective zones from across NSW. The competition went on for 3 days starting with sectional play that Miller Park won by beating Ettalong, Tea Gardens and Taffra to a knockout situation where the locals went through undefeated beating Tea Gardens again in the final to bring home the State Flag to Branxton. The squad of 13 consisted of Jason Preston, Jason Stewart, Glen Cliff, Darren Drayton, Grahame Dicker, Peter Martin, Keith Dicker, Ian Jordan, Phillip Garland, Chris Charnock, Steve Ready, Xander Webber and Shayne Mears. The team was managed by Club Secretary Faye Fuller. This has been a remarkable achievement considering the Club is still in its first operating year as Miller Park Bowling Club Inc. Congratulations!



117-run thumping of Wine Country at Miller 2. After recording their first win of the season the previous week against Glendon, where Jace Lawson (5-26 off 8) and Joey Butler (40) starred, the Blues found some nice batting form as they made first use of the very favourable batting conditions to post 6-221 from their forty overs. Josh Dagg was superb in his 90 not out, it was a typically productive innings and was an over or two shy of posting a well-deserved century. He was well supported by first grade club debutant Chris Murray (36) and looked comfortable with willow in hand. Nathan Holz (29) and Reuben Andrews (15) were the other batsmen to make an impression. Wine Country were all out for 104 in reply, with Lawson (3-14 off 8), stand-in skipper Brent Watson (3-13 off 6) and Holz (2-25 off 4) completing a fine all-round game.

Down on troops, second grade handed Chelmsford Hotel their first win of the season by 8 wickets at Miller 1. The Blues were skittled for 83 batting first, with Jason Varley (23), Regan Rolfe (15) and stand-in skipper Pat Nugent (13) all making starts. Chelmsford

Hotel reached the target in the 20th over after losing just the two wickets. These belonged to Tanveer Singh (1-18 off 5) and Jack Barattini (1-30 off 7). Fourth Grade, who were also down on troops recorded a great 6-wicket victory over the Piranhas at Miller 3. The Piranhas batted first and posted 139, with Alistair Leslie (4-19 off 10) and Nigel Charnock (4-11 off 7) picking up a quadrant of wickets apiece. In reply, the Blues reached the target in the 30th over after losing just the four wickets. Star-of-the-future 13-year-old Ben Regan made 31, Peter Watson made 29, with Sam Dagg (44no) and Nigel Charnock (15no) finishing the job to keep Greta/Branxton at the top of the ladder.

Points Tables
First Grade (Coalfields Cup) Valley/JPC 30, Creeks 30, Bellbird 24, PCH 21, Greta/Branxton 21, Wine Country 21, Piranhas 15, Glendon 6. **Second Grade** Bellbird 39, Wine Country 28, Greta/Branxton 28*, Chelmsford Hotel 25* * game in hand. **Third Grade** Bellbird 29*, Piranhas 28*, Wine Country 25**, Hotel Cessnock 25*, Greta/Branxton 21**.* byes received, no points allocated. **Fourth Grade** Greta/Branxton 40, Wine Country 35, Supporters 32, Piranhas 23. **Club Championship** Bellbird 255.95, Wine Country 230.65, Greta/Branxton 227.15, Piranhas 125.10 *Photo: Josh Dagg made an unbeaten 90 off just 83 balls to guide Greta/Branxton to victory in the first grade game against Wine Country at Miller 2 last Saturday

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000	Police	Electricity
FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	Branxton... 4938 1244 Lochinvar... 4930 7209 Ambulance... 131 233 NSW Fire Brigade Branxton... 4938 3396	Australia... 131 388 Hospitals Maitland... 4939 2000 Cessnock... 4991 0555 Singleton... 6572 2799 SES... 132 500 Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 Poisons Info... 131 126 Hunter Water 1300 657 000 Ausgrid... 131 388 Gas Emergencies... 131 909 Lifeline... 131 114 Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609 Centrelink Self Service 136 240 Medicare... 132 011 Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483
For non-life threatening calls..... Police Assistance Line (PAL)... 131 444	Rural Fire Brigades Belford... 6574 7149 Broke... 6579 1491 Greta... 4015 0000 Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Bishops Bdg... 4015 0000 Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury... 4015 0000 Pokolbin... 4015 0000 Rothbury... 4991 1733 Bishops Bdg... 4015 0000 Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury... 4015 0000 Pokolbin... 4015 0000 Rothbury... 4991 1733 Scotts Flat... 6575 1200 Central (Cessnock)... 4015 0000	

The BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT



October/November Greta Workers Fishing Club News

The October open weekend had a target species of Flounder and the November Forster/Tuncurry weekend had a target species of Tailor. Neither of these prizes were caught so the cash prize jackpots. In October the fast finishing Lewis Jacobs is really opening his shoulders on the competition now that footy is over, he top scored on 81.8 points with Snapper, Bream, Flathead and Nannygai in The Jacobs flash new vessel. He just pipped Daniel "Boony" Johnston who returned to some form back at his local



Leah and Lilly Langlands with their first ever weigh ins: Bream and Skipjack

spots. Boony weighed in Bream and Salmon. Other mentions for the weekend were Summer Spliet Miller who weighed in the biggest Nannygai for 2022 and Box Miller with the leading Morwong for the year. The Forster-Tuncurry weekend in November

produced some stunning weather and the fishermen and women did their best to catch a feed. Lilly Langlands weighed in for her first time with a Skipjack off Tuncurry Beach and her Mum Leah also broke her duck weighing in a Bream. The weekend didn't go without incident with an un-named red ute getting bogged to the chassis on Tuncurry Beach and a well know fibreglass boat running out of fuel after coming through the heads after 2 days fishing. Steve "Bodge" Nevin top scored for the weekend with a

good mix of Flathead, Nannygai, Morwong, Squire, Whiting and Teraglin. He outscored the in-form Lewis Jacobs (Squire and Flathead) and third place was Nevins Decky Aaron "Foxy" Fox (Flathead, Teraglin, and a club record breaking 1.64kg 50cm Pearl Perch). Keza Duncan after a failed deep sea trip on board the HMS



Aaron Fox with his 50cm Pearl Perch (1.64kg)



Summer Spliet-Miller with a nice Snapper

Boxhead dug deep off the bank and weighed in 8 Bream and 2 Flounder in one mornings efforts on soft plastics. The next and final outing for 2022 is an open on the 2/3/4th December with the target species being Teraglin with a jackpotted prize of \$150. The weigh in will be at 4pm on Sunday 4th followed by the AGM at 5pm. Saturday 10th December will be the

Fishing Clubs Christmas Party and Presentation commencing around 5pm and entertainment will be Early Daze. Another big thanks to our generous sponsors The Greta Workers Club, Harvest Bistro, Sea Shanty, Elite Concreting, Specks Bottlo, and Go Con Rural who are all great local businesses that need our support. Cheers, Steve

A PLUS

CONTRACTING & POLY WELDING

PHONE 4938 3425

ON CALL 24 HOURS 7 DAYS

EXPERTS

POLY WELDING
CIVIL EARTHMOVING
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
SPECIALISED SERVICES

- POLY WELDING EQUIPMENT TO 800MM
- LONGREACH EXCAVATOR EQUIPPED WITH GPS
- SPECIALISED SILT FENCING INSTALLATION MACHINE
- CIVIL WORKS INCLUDING CONCRETING
- GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FLEET
- SKID STEERS, BACKHOES, EXCAVATORS, WATERCARTS, AND GRADERS ALL WITH ATTACHMENTS
- TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES

WWW.APLUSCONTRACTING.COM.AU

Advertising and news information may be phoned direct to our office M0414 757 826, or call in personally to the office at 12 Clift Street, Branxton. The 'Branxton Greta Vineyards News' is published by B&VRE, 12 Clift Street, Branxton NSW 2335 & is printed by Spot Press. The Editor reserves the right to refuse to print advertisements and contributors' letters and accepts no responsibility for the veracity of statements made by advertisers and contributors. NEXT ISSUE: 7/12/22