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The News

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ISSUE 562

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WEDNESDAY
7 Dec 2022

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

Dolly Parton Imagination Library turns the page on milestone



Cessnock City Library celebrated a very special milestone with 600 families now enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a worldwide literacy program launched in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) in January 2022.

At Rhymetime this week, special guests attended to mark the occasion. Also present were participants in the program who came along to meet some of the people who have helped to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library into the homes of so many local families.

Attendees included Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Community Health Nurse Manager Glenda Entwistle and Dolly Parton Imagination Library's Leo Krikmann and Kylie Collins. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library program delivers a free book each month, for five years, to babies born on or after January 2022.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said he was thrilled with the success of the program in its first year in the Cessnock LGA.

“I am proud that Council supports a program like this and I know it will have a positive impact on the 600 families who have joined so far,” Mayor Suvaal said.

“Reading brings so much joy to my children, and I am glad to see a program be implemented that gives children across our region the opportunity to immerse themselves in the joys of reading.”

Library services Co-ordinator, Rose-marie Walters said, “We are thrilled to have been part of the delivery of such a wonderful program and it is not too late for others to join. Just call in at one of our branches and complete an application form.”

Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries support literacy within our community by running free Rhymetime and Storytime sessions each week, and all are welcome.

Cessnock Library: Rhymetime 10am Mondays and Storytime 10am Tuesdays.
Kurri Kurri Library: Combined Rhymetime and Storytime 10am Wednesdays
Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries: Saturday Storytime at 10am



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BRANXTON WOMEN'S SHED

The Women's Shed is part of the Branxton Uniting Church and we would like to let everyone know what the Christmas/New Year arrangements are. The church is now having services on Sunday evenings at 5:30pm with a light dinner following and for Christmas we will be having a Christmas Eve service on Sat.

24th December at 5:30pm with a light meal following. Susan Gittoes is our Lay Preacher who leads our modern, all-age services with upbeat music and meaningful messages for today's world. Our Women's Shed is taking a break over Christmas New Year but not before we have a

few events, including our Christmas party! We are starting early next year as the ladies do not want to wait for school to return. In the New Year we already have an event planned at the Senior's Festival with the Branxton Lion's Club on Saturday 11 February 2023. We have had a very successful year with new people attending nearly every week. We have had lots of fun and laughter and everyone seems to find someone they 'click' with. We want to thank everyone who has donated craft items such as sewing machines, overlockers, fabric and yarn. As well as a big thank you to anyone who has supported us on various market days. Although the year is not yet over, it's very exciting to see what the new year will bring being part of such an amazing group of friendly, creative women. Cheers, Karen
womenshedbranxton@aol.com

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

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

96 High Street, Greta, NSW.



Bruce Stevenson retires after 38 years service to the community

Deputy Captain Ian "Bruce" Stevenson from the Branxton Fire and Rescue Station 237 is retiring after 38 years of meritorious service.

Federal Member for the Hunter, Dan Repacholi MP, on hearing that Bruce was heading to the bench made special mention in parliament last Monday. Here is what he said...

Deputy Captain Ian "Bruce" Stevenson from the Branxton Fire and Rescue Station 237, joined the NSW Fire Brigades on the first of June 1984. Ian has served as a Volunteer, then a Retained Firefighter until he was promoted to the rank of Deputy Captain in 2013.

Not only has Ian helped protect our local community, he has protected New South Wales and Australia for the past 38 years from major fires, floods, traumatic structure fires and motor vehicle accidents, whilst also being a vital team member and volunteer community first responder on behalf of the New South Wales Ambulance.

Ian was awarded the Merit Certificate from NSW Police Force for his efforts and duties performed at a horrific accident in 1993, a Commendation for Meritorious Service in the storms of 2007 and a Commendation for Meritorious Service from a tragic house fire in Singleton in 2019.

His departure from Fire and Rescue NSW be a major loss to our community, and a major loss to the very close nit family at Branxton Fire Station.

Ian is not only a true leader, but to many he has been a mentor, a best friend and father figure to so many.

His continued involvement, witty humour and appreciations will be sadly missed but always welcomed.

Thank you for your service, Ian, enjoy some down time buddy.

Personally over the last 20 years we have had Bruce and crew at our home in North Rothbury 3 times; 2 as medical first respondents and the other for a fire caused by electricity shortage.

No doubt there are possibly thousands of similar stories within our community; no doubt!

The other side of his service was the impact it would have had on his family life; on duty 24/7 and missing family time with a growing family.

To Kathy & family you all deserve a Commendation for Meritorious Service for your unending support.

On behalf of our local community we wish you well in a much deserved retirement and know you have left a huge legacy.

Well done.

Photo: Bruce Stevenson just retired Deputy Captain Branxton Fire and Rescue Station after 38 years service



Dates to Remember

- Thurs 8 Dec - Christmas Party
- Sat 10 Dec - Branxton Community Twilight Markets
- Thurs 15 Dec - Last day
- Thurs 12 January 2023 - We return

www.womenshedbranxton.com

www.singleton-branxtonunitingchurch.com

Christmas Eve Dinner Service

AT THE BRANXTON UNITING CHURCH
24TH DECEMBER AT 5:30PM

RSVP SUSAN 0407 723 257

Cessnock City Council Public Notices

02 4993 4100 62-75 Vincent Street, Cessnock
council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION 58/2015/1/1 - DEED OF VARIATION 3 TO THE HUNTLEE VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT

At the meeting of Cessnock City Council on 16 November 2022. Council resolved to place the Draft Third Deed of Variation to the Huntlee Local Voluntary Planning Agreement on public exhibition.

The Draft Third Deed of Variation will align the Huntlee Voluntary Planning Agreement with the Stage 1 Major Project Approval for Huntlee (MP10-0137) as modified, ensure Council is receiving an appropriate level of development contributions for the development and address various issues identified in the Planning Agreement since the document was first executed by Council and the Developer in November 2015.

The Draft Third Deed of Variation to the Huntlee Local Voluntary Planning Agreement is on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from **23 November 2022 until 21 December 2022** and can be viewed at Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Centre), Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries, and via Council's website at <https://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/huntlee-deed-variation-3>.

Scan the QR code for quick access to webpage where you can find all the information and ask questions directly to the Project Team.



In order to be considered by Council, submissions must be received by 5pm on **21 December 2022** and should quote "58/2015/1/1 - Deed of Variation 3 to the Huntlee Voluntary Planning Agreement".

Any enquiries should be directed to Council's Strategic Land Use Planning section on 4993 4293.

Council is committed to safeguarding the privacy of individuals and handling of personal information in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998 (NSW) and Information Privacy Principles, the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW) and Health Privacy Principles, and any subordinate legislation. The information in your submission is being collected for the purpose of Huntlee Local Planning Agreement Draft Deed of Variation 3. The information collected will be used for the purpose outlined, related administrative functions, compliance and complaint handling, internal auditing, and in accordance with Council's Privacy Management Plan and Privacy Statement which can be found on Council's website. The intended recipients of your personal information are relevant Council officers and your submission may be included, with personal information redacted, in a council report that will be published in the public domain. The supply of personal information with your submission is voluntary, however if you do not supply the information, your submission may not receive full consideration. Your submission may be shared with other government agencies associated with this project. Your personal information will be kept in Council's Information Management System in accordance with the relevant legislation. Council's address is 62-78 Vincent Street CESSNOCK NSW 2325. If making a submission through Council's webpage, your information will also be held by EngagementHQ and Council recommends you read their privacy statement. You may access, correct or update your personal information by visiting Council's website, contacting Council's Privacy Contact Officer on 4993 4100 or by sending an email to council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au. If you want to know more about Council's obligations regarding your personal information or what rights you have, contact the Information and Privacy Commission or visit their website ipc.nsw.gov.au.

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Manager Advertising: Helen Lowing

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Christmas Trading Hours

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Christmas Day Sun 25 DECEMBER	CLOSED
Boxing Day Mon 26 DECEMBER	CLOSED
Tues 27 DECEMBER	8am ~ 2pm
New Years Eve Sat 31 DECEMBER	7am ~ 6pm
New Years Day Sun 1 JANUARY 2023	CLOSED
Mon 2 Jan 2023	8am ~ 2pm

BACK TO NORMAL TRADING HOURS FROM Tue 3 Jan 2023

* All Chicken & Salad orders must be picked up by Saturday 24 December ~ shop closes at 6pm
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A hire fee of \$20 does apply
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STEVE'S RANT

Ranting since 2017

When training soldiers in their responsibilities under the Geneva Convention, the best example one can give is to treat others as you would wish to be treated. To reinforce that concept, a soldier is asked to imagine himself in a situation where they are a prisoner at the enemy's mercy. What should be their expectation?

If a well-trained and disciplined force captures you, you have little to fear if you do as you are told. On the other hand, if you have been captured by something like ISIS or AL Qaeda, you are simply a hostage or executed. Who the likely enemy is will determine how your unit operates and the rules of engagement. The ever-present problem is how to avoid civilian casualties and how to treat civilians.

In preparation for operations, these matters are determined. It is all straightforward and standard practice, but each soldier is responsible for their actions and may be held accountable.

What training do our police forces in Australia receive regarding the relationships between citizens and police? The general principles are that an arrest is the last resort in any dispute unless a warrant is pending and any force used is appropriate to the situation.

As with a military operation, a police action will be preceded by briefings where the protagonists are identified as a particular risk and the rules of engagement are detailed.

None of this absolves individual police from exercising their discretion as to ethical behaviour and being responsible for what they do.

Suppose there is a conflict between what the individual considers reasonable and lawful

and what they are ordered to do by higher authorities.

In that case, a soldier or policeman is entitled to refuse to carry out the said orders or to reinterpret those orders.

This principle was established at the Nuremberg trials in 1946. How then can we rationalise the actions taken by Victoria Police during the Dan Andrews lockdown debacle?

We cannot and should not. On multiple occasions, Victorian police officers assaulted civilian protesters and locked down non-compliers when attempting to arrest them.

This was illegal, unnecessary, and an abuse of power; intolerable in a democratic state.

That Dan Andrews declared a state of emergency to allow this behaviour is his responsibility, as he has admitted.

Andrews must now account to the citizens assaulted. Further, police officers who violate ethical behaviour should be named and censured. Illegal actions must have consequences for the perpetrators.

It is not acceptable that politicians can invoke disproportionate power in the name of anything short of total war.

A reckoning is due even in the face of last weekend's election results. Precedents of this nature do not belong in democracies.

Allied with the uniformed law officers are the judiciary and their responsibility for ethical behaviour.

In the past year, judges have ruled on matters outside the law. For example, a Queensland judge has stopped Clive Palmer from developing a coal mine in Queensland.

The local YOUTH VERDICT GROUP has successfully



opposed the Galilee Coal Mine because their future health and prosperity will be compromised by the resulting CO2 emissions when the mined coal is burnt.

Apart from their enthusiasm for the climate change religion, what qualifications does some legal person possess that makes them eligible to judge on such a technically complex and controversial project?

Just as leftie politicians' great enthusiasm for renewable energy trumps the rational consideration of the technical difficulties and costs, they are being warned about.

Alas, costs are a minor concern when spending other people's money.

The legal profession has never been held in high esteem.

I read recently they are now using lawyers instead of rats in scientific experiments. They are doing this for two reasons. One, the scientists become less attached to lawyers and two, there are some things even rats won't do.

Dialogue from Robin Williams in the film Hook –

AND
Written in 1591 in the Shakespearian Play Henry the

VI - Dick the Butcher Part 2 act 4 scene 2.

"The first thing we do, Let's kill all the Lawyers-

If your lawyers say you have a good case; settle immediately! The current pile on for class action against Medibank Private confirms the lack of ethical gravitas among large law companies.

Fancy advertising to advocate for possible damages claims, like a fishing expedition.

The ethics of companies willing to finance class actions for up to 75% of the claims are questionable.

These people are like vultures taking advantage of other people's troubles. The poor punters who pay for all this are you and me at the end of the money trail.

This results in higher service charges, taxes, rates and insurance premiums, which impact the economy.

What price do the rest of us have to pay if your MIL finds out you have herpes? She will never know where you dipped the wick.

Leave class action alone.

Cheers, Steve.

What's Happening & other

with Mike Lowing

COVID

In the last edition of The News I took a swipe at our Premier for relaxing mandatory restrictions viz., face masks & isolation if infected. On reflection I think I may have overstepped it just a wee bit!

Which brings me to current day China... the extraordinary protests in China against the problems covid restriction has caused to

ordinary people — as opposed to Chinese President Xi Jinping and the ruling elite of China's communist party — demonstrates that even in brutal dictatorships, people will revolt against arbitrary and unfair public health restrictions and for good reason. China, once praised by many governments public health officials for its efforts to combat the spread of COVID in the country where it originated, continues to pursue a zero COVID policy that even the World Health Organization, another early China cheerleader, says is unsustainable and misguided.

About to enter its fourth year of the pandemic, China's zero COVID policies have continued to place a third of its population in full or partial lockdowns in almost 50 cities, accounting for 40% of the nation's economic growth.

People have been confined to tiny apartments and homes for months, deprived of food and other basic necessities, subject to arbitrary and harsh treatment by the police.

Australia is not China. Our governments, like most in the world, have abandoned the idea that COVID can be eliminated — which is what "zero COVID" means, as opposed to treating the virus as an endemic — like the annual flu season.

That said, there is an elite class in Australia that seems to never want COVID-related public health restrictions on other Australians to end, constantly calling, for example, for the states to reimpose mask mandates and other public health measures. We've seen the deep societal divisions these restrictions have caused in our own country when people believe their democratic rights and their ability to earn a living are curtailed by

unreasonable public health measures.

After three-years of hard-won knowledge, we now know how to fight COVID — by protecting the most vulnerable and by continuing to encourage the widespread use of voluntary vaccinations, voluntary masking and basic personal hygiene measures that have worked for decades to contain the spread of viruses, from COVID to the flu.

Cheers, Mike

"I love Mickey Mouse more than any woman I have ever known."

Walt Disney

I know a mother-in-law who sleeps in her spectacles, the better to see her son-in-law

suffer in here dreams. - Attributed to Ernest Coquelin

I have learned that if you upset your wife, she nags you. If you upset her even more you get the silent treatment. Don't you think it's worth the extra effort? Anon



Grave consequences

In the US, where lockdowns and mandated vaccinations were mostly opposed — particularly by president Donald Trump, there have been, to date, 98 million confirmed COVID cases and more than 1 million deaths.

That's about twice the number of US deaths in both world wars. The freedoms of those dead were drastically curtailed.

If those rates were translated to the Chinese population of 1.45 billion, there would have been about 430 million cases and about 4.6 million deaths. Arguably, the Chinese government's policies involving severe lockdown, mass testing and vaccination saved millions of lives, not to mention preventing collapse of their broader health system.

Mike McGregor, Narrabri

A worthy recipient
Notwithstanding the parliamentary censure motion, I trust Anthony Albanese recommends Scott Morrison for an AC as suitable recognition for his untiring service to the Labor Party through his acts and deeds.
Name and address withheld at request of writer

Daily Thoughts

"I'm dating a guy who's twenty-one. That's seven in boy years."

Lisa Goich
"Courtship to marriage, as a very witty prologue to a very dull play." **William Congreve**
"Whenever I date a guy, I think, is this the man I want my children to spend their weekends with?"

Rita Rudner
"Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same."

Oscar Wilde
"All marriages are happy. It's living together afterwards that is difficult."

Anon
"It is most unwise for people in love to marry." **George Bernard Shaw**

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12 Clift Street,
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or

emailed to
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The News

Mike Lowing: Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator
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NORTH ROTHBURY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE Christmas 'Lolly -Run" and 'Rock Hunt' next Sunday



Guess what !
 Santa is coming
 to North Rothbury
 Sunday Dec 11th
 at 4pm

NORTH ROTHBURY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE



North Rothbury Rural Fire Brigade will, again, be hosting Santa next Sunday 11th December with their traditional "Lolly Run" through the streets of North Rothbury. Santa won't be alone as he will have a bounty of helpers from the Fire Brigade. The day is set to kick off at 11am with the Fire Station open until 3pm for any

members of the community to pop in and see them and to answer any questions they may have. A Christmas "Sausage Sizzle" will also be operating from 11am. "The Lolly Run is expected to start at around 4pm. We will also have some drawing & colouring-in set up for the younger set, said Brigade Captain Sonia Ivan.

"To keep the kids occupied while waiting for Santa, I have been busy painting Christmas Rocks for them to find! There will be around 50 hidden the night before. If you find one it's up to you ...keep/ rehide! They will only be placed in the streets in North Rothbury Village and not on any main roads for safety reasons. Every child that finds a rock, not only

gets to keep the rock, they will also get a wonderful surprise," said Sonia. Sonia also said that they expect to have a surprise for some of the older generation particularly those living in North Rothbury on their own. "Everyone is welcome so

put the day aside and join in the fun," said Sonia.

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MERRY
Christmas
 & HAPPY
new year

It has been an honour to serve our community as Mayor in 2022.

I have met so many wonderful people, and witnessed the incredible resilience and determined spirit of our community, particularly during the February and July flooding disasters.

While we've had our share of challenges, we've also seen many exciting projects come to life. I look forward to continuing to deliver important projects for our community in 2023.

On behalf of Cessnock City Councillors and staff, and my family, I'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Jay Suvaal

Mayor of the City of Cessnock



Members say ..



**Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP**

We continue to produce champions
This place we call home has recently delivered big results on State, National and International stages. A number of wonderful athletes have put their stamp on their various sports. We recently had a young athlete win 2 gold medals at the National Athletics Championships. One of our local Primary Schools recently won the State netball knockout competition - outlasting every other primary school in NSW. A local dancing team have recently won their way through to National championships to be contested in January 2023. And we had 4 local athletes (Jill grew up here so we are still claiming her) at the World Aerobics Championships just 3 weeks ago.

These are all reminders that people from our community can do anything. There is evidence all around us that our locals, that dare to dream and work hard to turn dreams into realities, can and do achieve great things. Outstanding! **THINKING OF OTHERS AT CHRISTMAS**
Obviously as we roll into December many people will have Christmas on their minds. Decorations and lights on homes and businesses are a guarantee that you know what time of the year it is. Some incredibly important events are happening to help make Christmas as good as it can be for people that might be struggling a bit in December 2022. A variety of local charities, businesses, churches and not-for-profits are gathering up donated goods to hand out to those that need a helping hand this year. Some of them are collecting food for hampers; some are collecting toys and clothes to make gifts baskets; and some of them are simply trying to raise some money so that it can be donated to good causes to be spent over the Christmas season. I would strongly encourage everyone to think about what they might be able to give or donate in December 2022 to quietly assist others.

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 499 7 7466, by email to cessenock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 7 78 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You can also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp, follow me on Instagram at "claytonbarrmp" or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au
Cheers Clayton



**Member for Hunter
Daniel Repacholi MP**

As I write this we are into the final Parliamentary sitting week of the year. Its been a busy couple of weeks out and about in the Hunter electorate and in Parliament. This week we will pass 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. Last week also marked 6 months since our Government was elected and what a six months it has been. Aged Care reform was one the first Bill passed by this Parliament and in the last few weeks we have seen the Fair Work Commission awarded aged care workers 1.5% 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. We have also legislated more minutes of care for residents from October 2023, 24/7 nurses in nursing homes from July 2023, capped home care package admin fees and banning exit fees, improved transparency and accountability and addressed 37 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care. There is more to do and we are not wasting a single day

in office getting on with the job we were elected to do. I recently had Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure in the electorate to talk about the significant infrastructure projects for the Hunter electorate. I took the Minister along to show her the plans for the \$269 million Muswellbrook Bypass, the Coulsons Creek Road upgrade which will receive funding of \$38.6 million the Muswellbrook Town Centre plan which will get \$10.5 million to complete and the plans for the Cessnock Skate Park which has been allocated \$1 million. This significant investment in the Hunter will support local jobs, increase connectivity and help grow the region. The commitment Muswellbrook bypass will improve safety, reduce congestion and support around 1,800 direct and indirect jobs. These investments will make a real difference for locals. I fought hard for these projects - we promised them, and now we're delivering them. I also spoke in Parliament about our local sporting champions. The Hunter has produced some outstanding sportspeople in the past, and it is important that we support the next crop of our local sporting talent. Unfortunately, succeeding in sport doesn't just take talent and determination - parents also often put their hands in their pockets to get their children to competitions. The Local Sporting Champions program provides financial assistance to young people to compete, coach or umpire in their chosen sport. 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



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

I would like to wish everybody in the Cessnock Local Government Area a very warm welcome to the festive season. It is a time for celebration, for love and for family. If you are travelling these holidays, I ask that you please do so

safely. The holiday period is a very busy time in the Cessnock LGA. The return of the much loved 'Carols in the Park' was a spectacular success. It was a pleasure to see so many community members enjoying each other's company and witnessing some Christmas magic. I had a great time with my family and I would like to thank all of the performers and organisers for hosting such a wonderful night. The commencement of the final month of 2022 also saw the opening of some greatly anticipated community facilities. Manning Park's leash-free dog area has recently opened and I encourage all of our community members with furry friends to make the most of the facility. It is great for dogs to be able to run free but please make sure your dog is well behaved and respectful of other dogs and people enjoying the park space. The final stage of the Millfield Skate Park also opened earlier in the month, on 2 December. The final stage added a whole new street style skating section, along with a new shelter and seating. It was great to see a variety of community members enjoying exciting performances from the professional BMX riders at the opening. I am thrilled that this collaboration between Cessnock City Council and Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council has resulted in such an amazing facility. This will be a great space for the youth of our communities to enjoy, exercise and express themselves. Some of our community's talented artists have been throwing live music performances in Kurri Kurri. We have already seen two amazing performances by Splashing Mood and Teasha& Mari and the stage is set for two more shows at the newly upgraded Col Brown Rotary Park this December. Make sure to get down and see Sami Cooke on Saturday 10 December, 4:30pm - 7:30pm and Jadily on Saturday 17 December, 4:30pm - 7:30pm. Attending these events is a great way to support local business in Kurri Kurri while the town centre upgrade is in the works. Lastly, would like to thank the community for its generosity in supporting Council's annual Christmas Gift and Food Appeal. Samaritans were very appreciative of all the food and gifts that were donated. The donations will go a long way in helping less fortunate children in our community to experience some Christmas magic this year.
Cheers, Jay



**Clr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council**

The impacts of the La Nina weather event and resulting flood emergencies continue to take a toll on our community, including an ever-growing roads repair bill estimated at \$15 million and climbing. Council is calling for urgent assistance from the Federal and State governments to address this issue now, quite simply because the scale and cost of the problem is far beyond the scope of any local government authority and delaying works would create greater problems for the future. I have written to the Prime Minister and Federal Opposition Leader, NSW Premier and State Opposition Leader as well as local members of parliament to highlight the urgency of this issue, and the Deputy Mayor and I have taken the community's case directly to the NSW Government when we met with Members of Parliament in Macquarie Street recently. Along with Local Government NSW and Country Mayors Association of NSW, which have declared a Statewide Road Emergency based on an estimated \$2.5 billion in road damages and resulting collapse of the local and regional road network, Singleton is asking that governments boost and fast track existing roads funding programs as well as provide new funding for plant machinery and skilled workers to expedite road repairs. Because not only does this issue impact our assets and motorists who must navigate sub-standard infrastructure, there are also significant consequences for our local economy. 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. Damage to this infrastructure adds further financial pressures on top of rising interest rates and ballooning inflation, squeezing our local economy even tighter. The case is simple - but urgent - that all levels of government must work together now to address this issue, and there would be no better time for an announcement than at Christmas on John Street on Friday 9 December. Our biggest community Christmas party has been boosted by a \$75,000 NSW Government Reconnecting

NSW Communities Grant to deliver a sleigh of festivities and activities to Singleton Town Centre from 6pm, bringing everyone together to celebrate what makes our community so special. There'll be live music and entertainment, food trucks, local wine and beer stalls, late night shopping and market stalls alongside kids' activities, including yuletide and circus-inspired street performers, face painting, balloonist, jumping castles and free gingerbread and fairy floss, all capped off with fireworks - supported by Yancoal - at 9pm at Rose Point Park. I look forward to seeing you there.
*Cheers,
Clr Sue Moore
Mayor of Singleton*



**Member for Upper Hunter
Dave Layzell MP**

HUNTER WARBIRDS ATTRACTS MORE FUNDING FOR THE UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE
Just days after the official opening of Hunter Warbirds and the Scone Memorial Airport upgrade, the facility has secured another significant boost thanks to Round Two of the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Activation Fund. \$1.486 million has been awarded to the Hunter Warbirds Restoration Facility. This will allow Upper Hunter Shire Council to continue to build on the work already underway following the establishment of Hunter Warbirds at the airport. Hunter Warbirds has a vision to offer a nationally significant living centre of heritage aviation experiences, which is a tourism drawcard for visitors to come to the Upper Hunter to learn more about aviation and pilot training. This won't only support Scone by increasing visitation, this will support local economies across the Upper Hunter and local jobs as more people spend at cafes, restaurants, hotels, motels and local shops. Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the Regional Tourism Activation Fund supports local economies and local jobs by backing unique tourism experiences that will attract visitors and showcase what regional NSW has to offer. We know regional NSW has Australia's best tourist destinations and experiences. We want to amplify that by helping create new experiences and

drawcards that put more heads on beds and attract more tourism dollars into regional communities, said Mr Toole said. The projects backed through the \$1.50 million Round Two of the Regional Tourism Activation Fund will give domestic and international visitors even more great reasons to experience the best regional NSW has to offer. Round Two focuses on accelerating the development of high impact tourism and events infrastructure that will increase the international appeal of destinations in regional NSW and boost the visitor economy through increased visitation and job creation. The \$180 million Regional Tourism Activation Fund is part of the NSW Government's \$3.3 billion Regional Growth Fund, designed to support growing regional centres, activate local economies and improve services and community infrastructure for regional communities. For more information, go to: www.nsw.gov.au/RTAFund
LOCAL EXPERTISE SHAPES FUTURE OF HUNTER
Community leaders and local representatives have been appointed as members on the Hunter Regional Expert Panel, one of four panels established to provide input into the NSW Government's Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund. The panel members were appointed after a competitive, merit-based recruitment process. The Hunter Regional Expert Panel members are:

- Mr Bob Hawes, Chairperson
- Professor Roberta Ryan, panel member
- Mr Joe James, panel member
- Ms Elizabeth Watts, panel member
- Mr James Barben, panel member
- Mr Warrick Jordan, panel member
- Mr John Turner, panel member
- Mr Brendan Moyle, panel member
- Ms Fiona Plesman, panel member & Mr Robin Williams, panel member

The panel, comprising of members with a diverse range of skills, expertise, backgrounds and experiences, will provide the government with advice and recommendations on applications received through the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund to ensure that decision-making is aligned with the needs of the local area
Cheers, Dave

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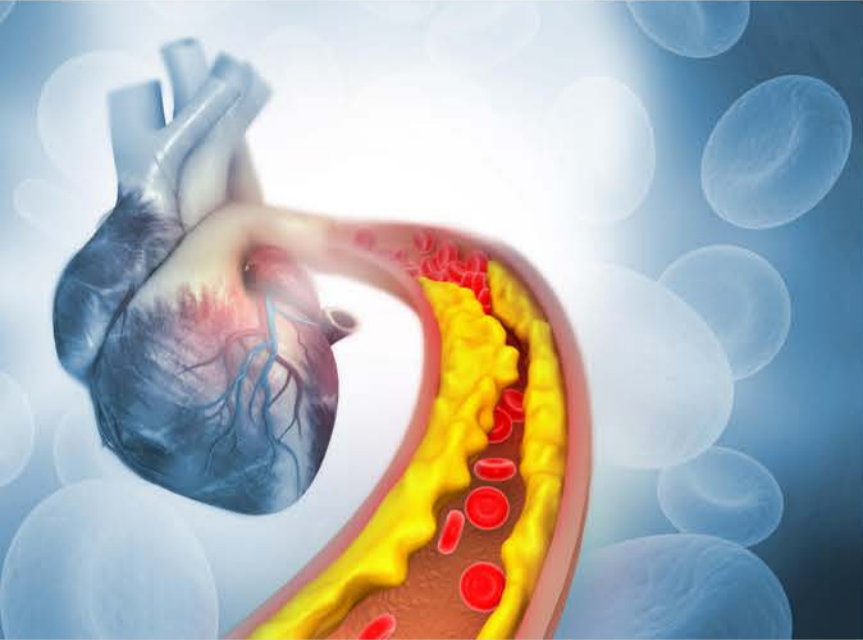
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Cholesterol



Cholesterol is fatty substance that's carried around your body with your blood. Your body produces some cholesterol naturally, and you can also get it from some foods. Having high levels of cholesterol in your blood is a risk factor for heart disease, so it's important to manage your cholesterol.

Types of cholesterol
 There are 2 different types of cholesterol:

- **High density lipoprotein (HDL cholesterol)** is called the 'good cholesterol' because it helps to keep cholesterol from building up in your arteries.

- **Low density lipoprotein (LDL cholesterol)** is called the 'bad cholesterol' because it is the main source of cholesterol build-up and blockage in your arteries.

You may see them listed as HDL-C and LDL-C on your blood test results. Total cholesterol is a reading of your good and bad cholesterol. Triglycerides are another form of fat in your blood that can also raise the risk of heart disease.

When there is too much cholesterol in your blood, it builds up in the walls of your arteries (plaque). Over time, this build up causes 'hardening of the arteries' - your arteries become narrowed and blood flow to the heart is slowed down or blocked. You may suffer chest pain and a heart attack.

Causes
 A variety of lifestyle choices can affect blood cholesterol levels. These

are things you can do something about:

Diet: Eating foods high in saturated fat and trans fat make your blood cholesterol level go up. Cholesterol in foods also has a small effect. Reducing the amount of saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol in your diet helps lower your blood cholesterol level. High triglycerides result from eating food high in fat and kilojoules.

Weight: Being overweight is a risk factor for heart disease. It also tends to increase your cholesterol. Losing weight can help lower your LDL and total cholesterol levels, as well as raise your HDL and lower your triglycerides.

Physical activity: Not being physically active is a risk factor for heart disease. Regular exercise can help lower LDL cholesterol and raise HDL cholesterol levels.

Smoking: High triglycerides result from tobacco smoking as well as diet. There are some lifestyle factors that can affect cholesterol levels that you can't do anything about:

- **Age and gender:** As you get older, your cholesterol levels rise. Before menopause, women have lower total cholesterol levels than men of the same age. After menopause, women's LDL levels tend to rise.

Your family history: High cholesterol can run in families. Your genes partly determine how much cholesterol your body makes. For example, **familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH)** is an inherited condition where your body doesn't remove enough

cholesterol from your blood. **If you think you may be at risk of familial hypercholesterolaemia, talk to your doctor.**

Symptoms
 You can have high cholesterol and feel well. So it's important to get your cholesterol checked regularly.

Diagnosis
 The best way to find out your cholesterol levels is to have them checked by your doctor. This involves a blood test.

Generally we aim for lower LDL (bad) cholesterol and triglycerides, and higher HDL (good) cholesterol.

Reaching healthy cholesterol levels
 Talk to your doctor about the best way to achieve a healthy total cholesterol combination of HDL, LDL and triglycerides.

Lifestyle changes
 Your doctor may tell you that the best way to manage your cholesterol is to make some changes like eating less saturated fats and more healthy food, or they may ask you to see a dietician. Lifestyle changes can make a big difference. For many people, changing what they eat and drink is enough to lower their cholesterol. Find out more about what you can do to help your cholesterol.

Medicines
 Lifestyle changes are not enough for some people. Your doctor may also prescribe medicines to help control your blood cholesterol. Make sure you take it as prescribed and get your cholesterol levels checked regularly. It's also important to continue with healthy lifestyle choice.

Cheers Andrew

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1h 20m prep/ 1h 35m cook/24 servings
 This easy cake combines a traditional fruit cake with the lightly spiced flavours of panforte and richness of dark chocolate. You'll be sneaking off to the kitchen for 'just another sliver' all through the holiday season!

INGREDIENTS
 500g mixed dried fruit
 125g dried figs, chopped
 140g (1 cup) dried cranberries
 65g (1/3 cup) mixed peel
 125ml (1/2 cup) freshly squeezed orange juice
 250g butter, chopped
 200g (1 cup, firmly packed) brown sugar
 3 eggs, lightly whisked
 300g (2 cups) plain flour, sifted
 35g (1/3 cup) cocoa powder, sifted
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 1/2 tsp ground ginger
 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
 100g dark chocolate, chopped
 85g (1/2 cup) blanched almonds, lightly toasted
 75g (1/2 cup) pistachios kernels, lightly toasted
 60g (1/2 cup) walnuts, lightly toasted

Italian Christmas cake



METHOD

Step 1

Preheat oven to 150°C/130°C fan forced. Grease a 20cm round cake pan. Line the base and side with baking paper.

Step 2

Combine the **mixed dried fruit, figs, cranberries** and **mixed peel** in a large saucepan. Add the **orange juice, butter** and **sugar** and stir over medium heat until butter has melted and sugar has dissolved. Transfer to a large bowl. Set aside, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until just lukewarm.

STEP 3

Add the **eggs** into the dried fruit mixture and stir to combine. Fold in the **flour, cocoa powder, cinnamon, ginger** and **nutmeg** until combined. Fold in the **chocolate, almonds, pistachio** and **walnuts**. Transfer mixture to the prepared pan. Smooth the surface.

STEP 4

Bake for 1 hour 30 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Set aside in the pan for 30 minutes to cool slightly before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Daily Thoughts

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. --Anita Koddick
 If you are going to walk on thin ice, you might as well dance. --Unknown
 The self is not something that one finds. It is something that one creates. --Thomas Szasz

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25/12/2022	CLOSED	CLOSED
26/12/2022	10:00 am	4:00 pm
27/12/2022	10:00 am	4:00 pm
28/12/2022	9:00 am	5:30 pm
29/12/2022	9:00 am	9:00 pm
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My staff and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for letting us into your lives, to be your voice, in 2022.

The Cessnock Electorate Office will close at 5pm on Wednesday 21 December, 2022 and will re-open at 9am on Monday 9 January, 2023.

Clayton Barr, MP

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock



Phone: 4991 1466
Email: cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au
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Authorised by Clayton Barr, MP, 110 Victoria Street, Cessnock NSW 2325, for advertising Parliamentary entitlements - December 2022.



DAN REPACHOLI MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUNTER

From my family to yours,
We would like to wish everyone a *Safe and Happy Christmas*
All the best for 2023!

Phone: 4991 1022
Email: Dan.Repacholi.MP@aph.gov.au
Office: 3 Edward Street, Cessnock

Authorised by Dan Repacholi ALP (NSW Branch)

To: The Upper Hunter Electorate

Compliments of the season!

Have a Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy and safe start to 2023

Dave Layzell MP
MEMBER FOR UPPER HUNTER

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Authorised by Dave Layzell MP, 20 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook NSW 2333. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

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Seasons Greetings from the Councillors and staff of Singleton Council

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Branxton Public School News

We are almost at the end of another school year and are looking forward to Presentation Day, Party Day and Christmas fun. Not too many days left for our Year 6 students before they farewell primary school and get ready for high school! Well done to all students who participated

in this year's ICAS Assessments. A special mention to Emily and Isabelle who both achieved a High Distinction in English which means that they ranked in the top 1% of year 3 participants. Congratulations girls.

It was Stage 1's turn to enjoy their Cross Country 'Fun Run' this week. Again, the focus was on participation and fun and it was clear that the students all enjoyed the event.

We welcomed Brenden from the Sydney Botanical Gardens to our school last week. Brenden worked with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to create our own native garden. The students learnt about the native plants and landscaping skills including how to correctly plant native plants. All students showed respect and enjoyed creating a special area in our school. 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.

Continue to stay updated about school events through SkoolBag and our Facebook.

Dates for the Calendar

Monday 12th December – Presentation Day at RTHS

Wednesday 14th December – PBL Assemblies

Thursday 15th December – Party Day and Water Fun Activities

Friday 16th December – Last day of the year for students

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



Photo above: Isabelle & Emily
Photo at left: Brendan and gardeners
Photo at left top: Brendan with students

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Our environment is more than a background it's our home and we are

committed to caring for it. Local Lions Clubs are continuing to build partnerships

Caring for the Environment

Wildlife volunteers rescue, rehabilitate, support, and release injured and orphaned Australian wildlife.
 The Jesmond Lions support the Hunter Wetlands Centre is a conservation sanctuary, with over 200 wildlife species identified as visiting the site. Located on 45 hectares of internationally significant wetlands. Charmhaven Lions support Walkabout Wildlife Park at Calga.
Other Lions Clubs may form partnerships that help Australian biodiversity in their local area.
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The Wildlife Carers Network Central West Inc. Based in Mudgee
 Hunter Wildlife rescue based in Toronto
 Organisation for the rescue and research of cetaceans (ORRCA) Newcastle, Terrigal and up down the coast
 Koalas In Care – Greater Taree, Great Lakes & Gloucester
 WINC (Wildlife in Need of Care) – Port Stephens, southern Great Lakes, and southern Dungog LGAs



From the Lions' Den



LIONS NSW-ACT SAVE SIGHT FOUNDATION - What is your sight worth to you?

Another example of where Lions Australia make a big impact on the health and wellbeing of all Australians is the Lions Save Sight Foundation of New South Wales and ACT. The story of this is that the Lions Save Sight Foundation provided the University of Sydney's Save Sight and Eye Health Institute with seeding funds over a six year period to assist with its establishment and partnered with the NSW Government Sydney Area Health Service to establish the Lions NSW Eye Bank. The Foundation currently contributes \$110,000 each year towards the Lions NSW Eye Bank. Another example of where Lions Australia make a big impact on the health and wellbeing of all Australians is the Lions Save Sight Foundation of New South Wales and ACT. The story of this is that the Lions Save Sight Foundation provided the University of Sydney's Save Sight and Eye Health Institute with seeding funds over a six year period to assist with its establishment and partnered with the NSW Government Sydney Area Health Service to establish the Lions NSW Eye Bank. The Foundation currently contributes \$110,000 each year towards the Lions NSW Eye Bank.

The Lionsgrants program assists clubs in the purchase of equipment for hospitals and individuals, in training of medical personnel, printing of medical publications and salaries for the Lions Eye Bank. Since its inception in 1974, the Foundation has provided funding of more than \$4,500,000 in grants.

During November, Branxton Lions member, Alan Beckley, was invited to go to the Sydney Eye Hospital in Macquarie Street Sydney to observe the work at the hospital which is part of the research paid for by the grant from the Lions Eye Health Foundation of NSW & ACT. Lions members were shown around the Eye Hospital facilities and they were told about the world-class research that is carried out there into eye disease and blindness.

Among many other things they do, the Lions NSW Eye Bank participated in 811 eye tissue transplants during 2022, saving the sight of all those people who otherwise might be blind or have severely reduced vision. The Lionsgrants program assists clubs in the purchase of equipment for hospitals and individuals, in training of medical personnel, printing of medical publications and salaries for the Lions Eye Bank. Since its inception in 1974, the Foundation has provided funding of more than \$4,500,000 in grants.

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The Sydney Eye Hospital

Branxton Greta Touch Football – Lions helping the local community.

Branxton Lions were on duty at Miller Park supplying soft drinks and sausage sandwiches to attendees at the Touch Football event on Wednesdays throughout November and early December. Busy mums said the BBQs had helped them feed their hungry youngsters who had expended valuable energy on the football field after a hard day's work at school. See here, customers patiently wait in the queue for their snacks



Patient customers wait for their sausage sandwiches

Bunnings: back to the future?

Branxton Lions were back at Bunnings Singleton on Saturday 28th November, dispensing their famous sausage sizzles and running a raffle. Branxton Lions thanked the management at Bunnings for their continual support of local community groups with fund-raising. Branxton Lions have been providing a BBQ at the Singleton branch on eight occasions this year. Pictured here is Bunnings employee Tom who is helping Branxton Lions Treasurer Cathy and Lions member Enrie with the raffle draw. The lucky winner of first prize was Robert from North Rothbury. Second prize went to Damian from Merriwa. Happy Christmas to all!



Bunnings employee Tom with Branxton Lions Cathy (left) and Enrie (right) helping with the raffle draw.

As this may be our last bulletin of 2022, May we wish readers a very merry Christmas and happy New Year. See you all in 2023! Regards, The Lions Club of Branxton Inc.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Wheelchair accessibility to reach new heights in the Hunter

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce a wheelchair accessible hot air balloon will soon grace the skies above Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA).

The first of its kind in NSW, the hot air balloon will provide wheelchair users and those with



reduced mobility the opportunity to experience ballooning in the picturesque Hunter Valley. The specifically designed balloon basket has an access door, seat, and harness to ensure patrons with various mobility considerations are safe and secure during the flight. To ensure the experience is inclusive at every point, a wheelchair accessible mini bus will transport passengers directly to their accessible hot air balloon flight. The accessible hot air balloon flights will be operated by Balloon Aloft, an iconic Hunter Valley experience operator who has been delivering Australia's best balloon flights for over 40 years. Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal is looking forward to seeing this wonderful initiative take off in the Cessnock LGA.

"The idea behind this project is to increase the number of inclusive adventure tourism options on offer in the Cessnock LGA, which will also bring more visitors to our area," Mayor Suvaal said.

"The other amazing thing about this accessible hot air balloon is that people with disability and reduced mobility can enjoy the experience with their family and friends as it will fit up to eight people."

This project was made possible with a \$341,249 grant under the Regional Tourism Activation Fund (RTAF).

The \$30 million RTAF provided by the NSW Government will accelerate the development of new and enhanced tourism infrastructure providing visitors with unique and high impact experiences while visiting regional NSW.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Taylor Martin said the Regional Tourism Activation Fund is helping to establish unique tourism experiences that attract visitors and showcase the outstanding assets our regions have to offer.

"Projects backed through the Regional Tourism Activation Fund will give domestic and international visitors more great reasons to holiday away from the city," Mr Martin said.

"We are ensuring everyone has the opportunity to experience our regional communities, with funding to support accessibility and inclusion improvements."

The RTAF provides support to projects that improve accessibility and inclusion and enhance the visitor experience.



Christmas closures

Council advises that the office, libraries and Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (formerly known as Cessnock performing Arts Centre) will be temporarily close during the Christmas period. The following closures apply:

- Council office and libraries will be closed from 12pm Friday, 23 December 2022 until Tuesday, 3 January 2023

- Performance Arts Culture Cessnock will be closed from 12pm Friday, 23 December until Monday, 9 January 2023



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.

At the Movies

A man goes into a cinema with his dog to watch a film. It's a romantic comedy and when there's a funny scene the dog starts laughing. A little later on there's a sad part and suddenly the dog starts crying.



This goes on throughout the entire film, laughing and crying at all the right places. A man sitting a few rows back has witnessed the entire thing and decides to follow the man out.

In the foyer, he approaches the dog owner and says, "That's truly amazing!" "It certainly is" The dog owner replied, "He hated the book!"

Celebrate the spirit of the season at Christmas on John Street

Santa Claus is coming to town as the Singleton community wraps up for the town's biggest Christmas party on Friday 9 December.

Bringing all the magic of the festive season, the much-loved annual event brings more than 5,000 people into Singleton's town centre, and Mayor of Singleton Cr Sue Moore said this year's event would be boosted even further by a \$75,000 NSW Government

Reconnecting NSW Communities Grant to deliver a sleigh of festivities and activities, including free professional Santa photos.

In keeping with tradition, Singleton firefighters will chauffeur Santa to the event in their 1960s Bedford vintage truck, plus there'll be live music and entertainment, food trucks, local wine and beer stalls, late night shopping and market stalls alongside Maker's Alley with kids' activities including yuletide and circus-inspired street performers, face painting, balloonist, jumping castles and free gingerbread and fairy floss.

To cap off festivities, an epic fireworks display – supported by Yancoal – will go off with a bang at 9pm from Rose Point Park.

"Preparations are in full swing for a massive evening of music, food and festive cheer, but the best thing about this event is the wonderful festive spirit and the sense of community that really takes over the entire town centre," Cr Moore said.

"John Street will be transformed into Santa Claus Lane and overrun with jolly circus-style street performers including acrobats, a contortionist and bouncing elves plus performances from Singleton Town Band and local dance groups, and retailers will be open for late night shopping so you can check off all the items on your Christmas list.

"There will also be free professional photos with St Nick to capture the spirit of the season at Santa's North Pole grotto, all thanks to Singleton Rotary.

"Christmas on John Street really goes to the heart of community with people coming together to celebrate the season, and I can't wait to see as many people as possible from 6pm on Friday."

Christmas on John Street is a free, accessible, family-friendly event. Secure your free ticket <https://christmasonjohnstreet2022.eventbrite.com.au>



Walka Water Works partially reopened on Monday 5 December

The site has been closed since February, when widespread asbestos contamination was discovered that posed a risk to the community.

This initial, partial reopening stage will include restoring vehicular access to Walka via Scobies Lane and pedestrian access via Pumphouse Road, reopening walking and running trails to the public, the car park and toilet block.

Opening hours will remain as 7.00am to 7.00pm during daylight savings, and 7.00am to 5.00pm otherwise.

The remainder of the Walka Water Works site remains closed to the public and will be reopened in a staged approach as Council works in partnership with Crown Lands to complete remediation works. We've installed fencing, signage and capped specific areas to mitigate the risk to the community.

Asbestos air monitoring will be in place during the opening week, and during any future remediation or grounds maintenance within the restricted areas.

Walka will continue to experience intermittent closures while the remediation works are ongoing, which will be communicated by Council via its website and social media. Communication updates will include notice of temporary closures when we mow restricted areas, due to the hazardous nature of onsite asbestos issues.

General Manager, David Evans thanked the community for their patience while Council undertook the necessary work to make Walka safe again.

"It's been a long road to get back to a position where we can safely reopen parts of Walka to the community, and we're pleased to be able to welcome Maitland back to one of its favourite sites," Mr Evans said.

"We're exploring every opportunity to expedite the remediation and working closely with Crown Lands to do it, and we'll keep the community informed throughout the journey.

"It'll be great to see some of our community groups return to the site too, and I know that there'll be a few hundred Parkrunners keen to hit the ground running."

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Taylor Martin MLC welcomed the partial reopening as part of an ongoing plan.

"Walka Water Works is greatly loved by the community and is one of NSW's and the Hunter's most unique public sites, and so the NSW Government is working with Maitland City Council to progressively clean-up and reopen the 64 hectare Crown reserve," Mr Martin said.

Council experienced delays against its initial timeframe of November with longer than expected lead times for materials and several unexpected, urgent repairs that were required.

One of those urgent repairs came about after officers discovered a well trafficked footbridge over the spillway on the eastern boundary had rotted decking and needed actioning to allow access.

Remediation of the wider site will continue in the future, and Council will keep the community informed of the progress of those works.



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

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Terms and Conditions apply

WIN \$5000 worth of Prizes*

*Per Category

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



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



LESSONS in CHEMISTRY

"An utter delight, wry and vibrant and compulsively readable."
CLAIRE LOMBARDO
author of *The Most Fun We Ever Had*



Bonnie Garmus

anything less than herself, and the determination of those around her to squeeze her into an acceptable mould.

There are, inevitably, a few first-novel flaws: the narrative perspective hops around too often, dallying with minor characters when its strength is in Elizabeth's inner life. There's a semi-magic-realist strand from the viewpoint of Elizabeth's unnaturally perceptive dog, which some readers may find charming and quirky and others somewhat grating. But Garmus understands the importance of a satisfying resolution; if her revenge comedy relies a little too heavily on coincidence, that's all part of the larger-than-life, Technicolor world she has created. It's easy to see how fluently the story will translate to the screen, but the real pleasure of the novel is in the dry wit of Garmus's writing.

ABOUT
Bonnie Garmus is a copywriter and creative director who has worked widely in the fields of technology, medicine, and education. She's an open-water swimmer, a rower, and mother to two pretty amazing daughters. Born in California and most recently from Seattle, she currently lives in London with her husband and her dog, 99.

These days it's pretty amazing for a 64-year-old woman to get her first novel published at all, let alone in 35 countries. Especially if the woman is a privi-



Bonnie Garmus

leged white American with no tragic back story to tell. But then Bonnie Garmus's *Lessons in Chemistry* is a pretty amazing book. It's sold over 75,000 copies in the UK since coming out eight weeks ago and shot to number two in *The Sunday Times* bestseller list. Her mother, Mary, to whom the book is dedicated, was a nurse before she gave up work to have children. "My mother probably never would have categorised herself as a feminist," Garmus says. "But she talked about her time as a nurse and I could tell this was the most meaningful part of her life."

Garmus' daughters are 28 and 30. She and her husband adopted them from China when they were very young – an experience that she says inspired the novel's message that the families we create for ourselves are more important than biological bonds. Elizabeth Zott and her daughter Madeline gradually team up with

other people in their area who don't quite fit in, from a single dad to a housewife who loathes her husband. "In the book, there's a lot about 'found family'. And that's one of the reasons why," says Garmus, referring to adopting. "Also one of our daughters is gay and she has a lot of friends whose families have rejected them because they're gay or trans or for whatever reason. Just imagining being rejected by your family for something that is biologically normal is tough to see. So I like the idea of found family. Her friends always have family with us."

She's delighted *Lessons in Chemistry* is striking a chord with her daughters' generation. "This book is really resonating among young women, who I think need to know: *let's not go back there. Let's move forward. Let's fight forward.*"

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (30 Nov '22)

5 WEEKS ON THE LIST

1. IT STARTS WITH US by Colleen Hoover
In the sequel to "It Ends With Us," Lily deals with her jealous ex-husband as she reconnects with her first boyfriend.
Ranked 1 last week
NEW THIS WEEK

Colleen Hoover has 3 of the top 10!

2. THE LOST METAL by Brandon Sanderson
The seventh book in the Mistborn series. The fate of millions depends on a decision by the frontier lawman turned big-city senator Waxillium Ladrian.

75 WEEKS ON THE LIST

3. IT ENDS WITH US by Colleen Hoover
A battered wife raised in a violent home attempts to halt the cycle of abuse.

Ranked 3 last week

5 WEEKS ON THE LIST

4. THE BOYS FROM BLOXI by John Grisham
Two childhood friends follow in their fathers' footsteps, which puts them on opposite sides of the law.

Ranked 4 last week

50 WEEKS ON THE LIST

5. VERITY by Colleen Hoover
Lowen Ashleigh is hired by the husband of an injured writer to complete her popular series and uncovers a horrifying truth.

Ranked 5 last week

2 WEEKS ON THE LIST

6. DESERT STAR by Michael Connelly
Ballard and Bosch bury old resentments as they go after two killers.

Ranked 2 last week

11 WEEKS ON THE LIST

7. FAIRY TALE by Stephen King
A high school kid inherits a shed that is a portal to another world where good and evil are at war.

Ranked 10 last week

187 WEEKS ON THE LIST

8. WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING by Delia Owens
In a quiet town on the North Carolina coast in 1969, a young woman who survived alone in the marsh becomes a murder suspect.

Ranked 12 last week

4 WEEKS ON THE LIST

9. NO PLAN B by Lee Child and Andrew Child

The 27th book in the Jack Reacher series. Reacher goes after a killer but is unaware of the bigger implications.

Ranked 6 last week

2 WEEKS ON THE LIST

10. LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY by Bonnie Garmus

A scientist and single mother living in California in the 1960s becomes a star on a TV cooking show.

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (30 Nov '22)

New Varroa mite detections in Lochinvar

This parasite is the most serious global pest of honey bees. Drone bees can move varroa mites from hive to hive and even between apiaries. Mites are agile, move into hives quickly and transfer through bee-to-bee contact. There are strict quarantine requirements in place to protect the Australian honeybee industry. It is estimated that establishment of varroa mite in Australia could result in losses of over \$70 million a year. NSW DPI Chief Plant Protection Officer Satendra Kumar said the current eradication zone will be expanded to cover this infected premises and a new biosecurity order has been made. "NSW DPI is putting significant resources into surveillance across the purple zones which surround the red zones, so it is not unexpected that we would find some mites," Mr Kumar said. "The purple zone is there so we can delimit the spread of the Varroa mite from the

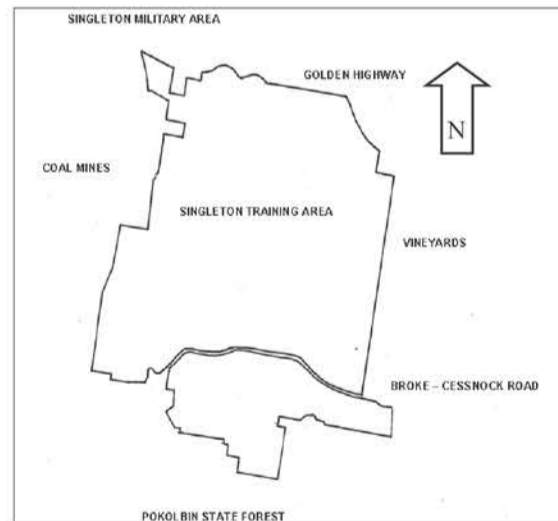
infested sites and we remain confident in containment. "Response staff have carried out surveillance on over 10,000 hives in the purple zone, and almost 30,000 hives state-wide." The Lochinvar case comes less than a week after the mite was discovered in a hive at a property near Cessnock, also outside the red zone at the time. "The detection was kind of just outside an existing red zone so it pushes that zone out by another 10 kilometres," DPI spokesman Mark O'Brien said. "But it's obviously significant in the context of the response." "Just like COVID when you're contact tracing of a person infected at the pub and you go back and interview all their friends, it's the same thing. Furthermore, beekeepers have tested over 85,000 hives through the approved hive movement program in the General Emergency Zone and all beekeepers are now required to carry out mandatory alcohol wash



surveillance at least every 16 weeks. "NSW DPI acknowledges this incursion is difficult for many people and would like to thank the industry and communities helping the response to achieve the goal of eradication," Dr Kumar said. Australia is the only major honey producing country free from varroa mite, the most serious pest to honeybees worldwide. Beekeepers work side-by-side with government as part of Australia's early warning system to detect exotic honeybee pests, the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program, which includes surveillance hives and catch boxes at strategic locations around our ports and airports.



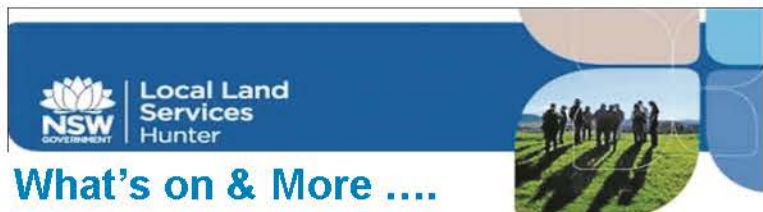
WARNING NOTICE DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES



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.

BRANXTON N.S.W.

For membership details
Contact Dr. Alan Beckley
Secretary, Lions Club of
Branxton Inc
Mobile: 04 26 261948



What's on & More

DONATED NEST BOXES INSTALLED FOR BUSHFIRE IMPACTED SPECIES

A total of 65 nest boxes have been installed for bushfire impacted species on private property adjoining bushfire impacted areas that were known to have been important habitat for a number of threatened species. Supported by the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery for Species and Landscapes Program, Hunter Local Land Services engaged Aboriginal Working on Country Rangers, employed through Taree Indigenous Employment and Development (TIDE) and several landholders to install nest boxes. Senior Land Services Officer, Hunter Local Land Services Rye Gollan said the boxes were handmade and donated by a couple in Sydney, Ron Claassens and Ann Moulard, both dedicated to conservation and working with a research organisation, who raised money through their networks (including overseas donors) to build the nest boxes for bushfire impacted areas. "The couple put aside almost 12 months of their time to dedicate to building hundreds of boxes that went to Kangaroo Island, areas of Victoria, Bundanoon and other severe bushfire

impacted areas, with Hunter Local Land Services being one of the many beneficiaries," Mr Gollan said. "The nest boxes were installed in bushfire impacted areas of the Mid Coast region targeting local populations of threatened species likely to still be recovering." Mid Coast Council, a key partner, also installed a small number of the boxes in their reserves. With up to 30% of key habitat impacted by bushfires in the Mid Coast, these nest boxes should help provide additional refuge and nesting habitat critical to the survival of hollow-dependant species. "This is particularly important for larger species such as the Greater Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, Glossy Black-cockatoo, Powerful, Sooty and Masked Owl which require the mature forests to provide large enough hollows - of which, the already limited habitat was significantly burnt within our region," Mr Gollan said. In Kiwarrak and Killabakh areas, 46 Greater Glider and possum boxes, 12 Antechinus/Pygmy

Possum and 7 parrot boxes have been installed on private properties adjoining priority habitats in National Parks and Forestry lands. "While many other boxes were donated to other organisations across the state, we will be the first organisation to install, monitor and provide an update on the effectiveness of the boxes to the donor so that they can share this with all those who supported them. It's the least we can do given all the effort Ron and Anne put in to build them," Mr Gollan said. The boxes will be monitored over several months and a report will be collated on any fauna recorded in them. Along with providing additional habitat outcomes, Hunter Local Land Services aim to increase community awareness surrounding these threatened species, and the actions that other landholders can take to protect and improve their habitat in the future.

Gunnedah

Report Date: 29/11/2022 Total Yarding: 1750 (-1070)

With the market falling and feed stocks plentiful for the most part numbers fell to 1750 head. Yearlings were well supplied along with well finished grown cattle and cows. The quality of the yearlings was fair to good however very mixed for breed. Condition through the young cattle was fair to good. The usual processors and feedlots were in attendance however demand was somewhat subdued. Limited supplies of lightweight young cattle suitable to restockers met weaker demand to sell to cheaper trends of as much as 20c/kg on the steer portion. The lightweight heifers were a shade dearer in places. A good supply of medium and heavyweight yearlings saw trends cheaper as much as 28c on the secondary quality and less sought after breeds. The better quality and preferred breeds experienced only slightly cheaper trends. Medium and heavy weight yearling heifers saw a moderately cheaper market trend. It was noticeable through the young cattle that some restocker orders had opted to purchase heavier weights on the falling market. Restricted processor competition saw the well finished heavyweight grown steers sell to a much cheaper market trend with this carrying into the well finished grown heifers. Once again the cow market was cheaper with heavy 3 and 4 scores easing by 16 to 19c/kg.

HRLX Singleton

Report Date: 30/11/2022 Total Yarding: 697 (-32)

Numbers slipped marginally and the breed and quality was mixed, with the majority the younger vealers and yearlings. The bulk were suitable for the restocker orders, with the prime younger lots to suit the local butchers limited in supply. The export cattle were scarce in the pens. The overall trend was again cheaper, however the cows sold at similar prices, week-on-week. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers lost 35c and made from 465c to 656c, with the lightweights topping at 704c/kg. The same weight heifer portion to the restockers eased 14c and received from 450c to 585c/kg. Yearling steers to the lot feeders and restockers trended 30c cheaper, with the lighter weights reaching 562c, as the medium weights ranged from 398c to 520c/kg. Yearling heifers also to the restockers and lot feeders sold cheaper for the medium weights, with the better bred lightweights remaining firm. Prices for the medium weights ranged from 422c to 495c and topped at 536c/kg for the lighter end. The best prime vealer to the butchers reached 530c/kg. The heavy weight grown heifers to the processors trended cheaper and made from 300c to 330c/kg. The heavy weight cows sold at similar prices and ranged from 285c to 310c/kg. Heavy weight bulls reached 290c/kg. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

Score

Report Date: 29/11/2022 Total Yarding: 798 (-119)

Consignments slipped marginally and the breed and quality was mixed. The bulk were younger cattle more suited for the restocker orders, with percentages in prime condition to suit the local butcher buyers. The export cattle were scarce in the pens. The market trend was cheaper. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers lost another 40c and ranged from 492c to 668c, with lightweights reaching 732c/kg. The same weight heifer portion to the restockers also decreased 40c and received from 400c to 556c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to feed and the restockers lost 8c and ranged from 402c to 536c/kg. The same weight yearling heifers also to the feeder and restocker buyers decreased much the same as the steers and made from 400c to 480c, as the lighter weights topped at 550c/kg. The better prime younger cattle to the butchers reached 526c, however most averaged around the 444c to 487c/kg. The export cattle also trended cheaper, with the heifer portion to the processors making from 300c to 330c/kg. The heavy weight cows slipped 8c and ranged from 285c to 310c/kg. Heavy weight bulls topped at 294c/kg. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

TRLX Tamworth

Report Date: 28/11/2022 Total Yarding: 980 (-85)

There was a small reduction in supply with 980 head penned. Yearlings were well supplied along with well finished heavy grown steers. Overall the quality of the offering was fair to good with condition varying from plain to overdone. The usual processors were in attendance however there was reduced domestic activity. This was also the case from restockers and feedlots. Demand was weaker through the young cattle resulting in cheaper trends for the most part. Medium weight steers were as much as 10c/kg cheaper with an isolated sale showing little change. The heavyweight feeder steers were impacted severely with market trends significantly cheaper. Demand was weaker through the yearling heifers with cheaper trends throughout. There were vast ranges in price through the young cattle due to quality and breed variations. The secondary quality cattle were severely discounted. Despite an improvement in quality demand was weaker for the well finished heavy grown steers with market trends substantially cheaper for those to process. These trends carried through to the grown heifers. The cow market suffered further price reductions however the fall this week was not as great as in recent weeks. Heavy bulls also cheaper.

Waterhouse-Bott to train mare bought for \$10.6m

By Matt Jones

Alcohol Free has become the second-highest priced horse ever sold at a European auction when she was sold for 5,400,000 guineas (\$10.6m). The four-time Group 1 winner was the star attraction on the second day of the Tattersalls December Mares Sale. Australian owner-breeder Michael Sherrin, standing alongside agent Jim Clarke, opened the bidding at 1,000,000 guineas before Blandford Bloodstock's Richard Brown, BBA Ireland's Michael Donohoe and Coolmore. As bidding soared past 4,000,000 guineas Donohoe prevailed with a bid of 5,400,000 guineas. The sale is the second-highest price in European auction history. Donohoe said Australian racing fans will get to see the mare in action and the



Alcohol Free, winning the July Cup earlier this year, was sold for \$10.6m by Australian interests. Picture: Alan Crowhurst/Getty Images

prizemoney was a huge lure. Gai Waterhouse and Adrian will train Alcohol Free with The Everest among several potential big-race options. "She is for partnership to race in Australia," he said. "There is a lot of money to win in Australia. I think 87 races this year are worth a million (dollars) plus so we

hope to recoup a lot of what we paid for her, and add a bit more too. "She is a filly with speed for six furlongs but stayed a mile so there will be a lot of options for her. "She will probably race for a season and then be covered, and we will probably send her to Frankel. "So we will decide whether

we cover on northern or southern hemisphere time, but obviously Frankel is an exceptional sire and is doing it in both hemispheres." Alcohol Free ran 15 times for trainer Andrew Balding, winning six races and four Group 1s including the July Cup (1207m) where he beat top Australian sprinter Artorius.

Racing Review & Breeding News

Berry sets himself up to achieve Group 1 goal



Tommy Berry is determined to join the 100 Group 1 club. Picture: Mark Evans/Getty Images

By Matt Jones

Tommy Berry is entering what should be the most successful part of his career and he has spent recent seasons setting up the next decade. The 31-year-old believes what he and his team have done will give him the opportunities to join an exclusive club and end his career with more than 100 Group 1s. "I look at guys like Hugh Bowman and Kerrin McEvoy and their best 10 years were probably in their 30s," Berry said. "I was always aligned to a stable like Gai Waterhouse or the Hawkes yard, and it

1500 career winners but he has had a slow start to the this season by his lofty standards. His winning strike rate is 10.6 per cent, which is down from 19.8 per cent and 16.5 per cent for his past two seasons. He has picked up two Group 1s, but was not satisfied with how the spring went and is keen to have a bumper summer. "Group 1s are good and that's what you aim for, but consistency is something I've always tried to pride myself on and it's been a pretty ordinary start to the season for me," Berry said. "I haven't been consistent at all and I think that's been due to suspensions. I'm just getting rubbed out too much and it halts your momentum in terms of the rides you get. "The season I challenged James (McDonald) in the premiership and had more than 100 city winners was when I hardly had a suspension. "I probably get suspended more than others, along with Nash Rawiller. We're probably the top two. We're just trying too hard sometimes to get the job done."

wasn't until the last trip to Hong Kong, where I spent 12 months, that I decided that I wanted to be freelance. "There's just so many good trainers to ride for. My manager's job is just as important as mine, and Paul Joice has done a good job for me. "I feel like I've secured myself with big trainers like Chris Waller, Team Hawkes, John O'Shea, Annabel Neasham, Ciaron Maher and David Eustace, and the Snowdens, and I can thrive on those connections in the next 10 years." He has had a wonderful career with more than



performing repairs themselves.
Self Service Repair
 To ensure a customer can safely perform a repair, it's important they first review the Repair Manual. Then a customer will place an order for the Apple genuine parts and tools using the Apple Self

intended for individual technicians with the Knowledge and experience to repair electronic devices. For the vast majority of customers, visiting a professional repair provider with certified technicians who use genuine Apple parts is the safest and most reliable way to get a

Apparently being a Technician is EASY!!!



NOTE ~ The following is an article from Apple.

Apple announces Self Service Repair Apple parts, tools and manuals — starting with iPhone 12 and iPhone 13 — available to individual consumers Apple today announced Self Service Repair, which will allow customers who are comfortable with completing their own repairs access to Apple genuine parts and tools. Available first for the iPhone 12 and iPhone 13 line-ups, and soon to be followed by Mac computers featuring M1 chips, Self Service Repair will be available early next year in the US and expand to additional countries throughout 2022. Customers join more than 5,000 Apple Authorised Service Providers (AASPs) and 2,800 Independent Repair Providers, just like Macdroids who have access to these parts, tools and manuals. The initial phase of the program will focus on the most commonly serviced modules, such as the iPhone display, battery and camera. The ability for additional

repairs will be available later next year. "Creating greater access to Apple genuine parts gives our customers even more choice if a repair is needed," said Jeff Williams, Apple's chief operating officer. "In the past three years, Apple has nearly doubled the number of service locations with access to Apple genuine parts, tools and training, and now we're providing an option for those who wish to complete their own repairs." Apple builds durable products designed to endure the rigours of everyday use. When an Apple product requires repair, it can be serviced by trained technicians using Apple genuine parts at thousands of locations, including Apple (in store or by mail), AASPs, Independent Repair Providers and now product owners who are capable of

Service Repair Online Store. Following the repair, customers who return their used part for recycling will receive credit towards their purchase. The new store will offer more than 200 individual parts and tools, enabling customers to complete the most common repairs on iPhone 12 and iPhone 13. Self Service Repair is

repair done. Or just pop into Macdroids and get the job done properly with Apple Certified Trained Technicians – yep, real ones with over 30 years experience in the Electronics industry. Have a great Christmas folks and thanks for being a client over recent years, we really appreciate it. Frank Macdroids



MOVIE REVIEW

SERIOUSLY RED

The story of a woman who is obsessed with Dolly Parton.
Genre: Romance, Comedy, Drama
Original Language: English (Australia)
Director: Gracie Otto
Producer: Robyn Kershaw, Jessica Carrera, Sonia Borella, Timothy White
Writer: Krew Boylan, Krew Boylan
Runtime: 1h 34m

Seriously Red: Failings and flailings lift simple story of self-acceptance

Graeme Tuckett



Seriously Red (M, 94mins) Directed by Gracie Otto *½**
 Seriously Red is a wee Aussie number from earlier this year. Writer and lead actor Krew Boylan (Primal) is Red. She's a trainee housing valuer and full-time misfit. Red lives in her mum's converted garage, dreams of being somewhere other than small-town New South Wales and is nursing an infatuation with Dolly Parton. A staff party that goes right off the rails leaves Red freshly unemployed, but at least she has improbably caught the eye of a talent agent, during a particularly catastrophic rendition of Nine To Five. Seriously Red unfolds as neat wee story about the importance of being yourself. And of how hard that lesson might be to learn when you have your heart set on being a professional impersonator of someone else. And as that film, Seriously Red kind of works. It earns a few laughs and wraps itself up neatly in time for the credits.

But what makes Seriously Red interesting – and the reason I liked it – is the sense that Boylan and director Gracie Otto (she has made several very good documentaries, but Seriously Red is her first feature) are aiming for something a bit spikier and darker, even if that film hasn't quite made it to our cinemas. Otto has assembled a fabulous, if under-used, cast of Aussie TV and bit-part players, including comedian Celeste Barber. The one big-name here is actual Emmy-winner Bobby Cannavale, as a scene-stealing Neil Diamond tribute. A side-plot involving Red's night with an Elvis impersonator (Rose Byrne) remains inconclusive, as though a story was written, but all we get to see are the beginning and the end. Red's more serious love interest is a Kenny Rogers' impersonator, conveniently called Kenny, sporting such obviously glued-on facial hair I assumed it was to be worn onstage only. But no, the beard hangs in there, clinging to Kenny's

jawbone like an emaciated squirrel, for the duration of the film. And yet, it's these flailings that lift the film. Questions over Red's actual mental health are raised – and the film sometimes seems to be about to veer into Nurse Betty – via Hedwig And The Angry Inch territory. Just sensing the potential for that made me enjoy Seriously Red a lot more, than if it had just played nice – and a fable of self-acceptance-with-tunes was all it ever aimed to be. In 2018, a film called Wild Rose made Jessie Buckley a star, playing a Scottish single mother who dreams of killing it in Nashville. Like Seriously Red, Wild Rose didn't quite work, but the parts of it that were good, were absolutely bloody fantastic. If you saw Wild Rose, you'll remember it fondly today – and I reckon you'll remember Seriously Red the same way.



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Porkies and pork barrels lead to poor politics



John Hanscombe



The air is thin on the high moral ground. So thin, some who try to ascend the summit will say and do silly things and find themselves back down where they started, in the lowlands of political chicanery.

The oxygen must have run low for the Labor Member for Gilmore, Fiona Phillips, last week, a day when the government held the high moral ground, launching a censure motion against the former prime minister and secret minister for everything Scott Morrison. In a back-slapping speech about the Albanese government's achievements in its first six months in the big chair, she repeated a couple of falsehoods. The first was that the government delivered a pay rise for aged care workers. It didn't.

The Fair Work Commission, independent of government, granted the sector a long overdue 15 per cent pay rise. The second fib was that pensioners were benefiting from the biggest allowance increase in three decades. The implication was the government somehow made that happen. It didn't.

That increase was courtesy of automatic indexation, again independent of government. It was delivered because the cost of

living is spiralling out of control. As porkies go, they're small. Little fudges of the truth designed to make the government look shinier. And Fiona Phillips is a lowly back-bencher so chances are few people were listening. But Phillips is crucial to the government's majority. She held the seat by just a couple of hundred votes, becoming the government's 77th member. Seats like hers are also probably

a reason the government voted down an amendment to its national anti-corruption commission legislation seeking to bring the time-honoured practice of pork barrelling into the commission's remit. Ever since the seat went ultra-marginal three

elections ago, Gilmore's been wallowing in federal promises and pledges. Highway upgrades, town by-passes, emergency management centres, job-creating expansions to the local defence establishment; they're trotted out frequently and loudly in this once blue-ribbon, set-and-forget Liberal seat. But is it pork?

In August, the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption defined pork barrelling as "the allocation of

public funds and resources to targeted electors for partisan political purposes".

The most spectacular examples of pork barrelling involve the distribution of grants by ministerial discretion. The sports rorts scandal that temporarily derailed the political career of Bridget McKenzie in the previous government was emblematic.

And who can forget the former NSW premier Gladys Berejiklian admitting to ICAC last year that she saw nothing wrong with pork-barrelling.

"I don't think it would be a surprise to anybody that we throw money at seats to keep them," she told the hearing. Far more subtle is the showering of pledges on marginal seats for political gain.

Gilmore was once a seat where voters were happy to see the local MP at the village fair, club bingo night or the opening of an envelope and nothing much else happened. Now, the electorate sees federal elections as a three-yearly bonanza. It's grown fond of pork and will expect more.

The barrels will be rolled out again. No major party will be prepared to end the practice when their political fortunes rest on it.

Great for the marginal seats but the whole country is poorer for the practice.



You can e-mail, fax or simply drop your JWD or LNSWD into our office - 12 Clift Street, Branxton or Fax: 4938 3301 or E-mail: thenews@hotkey.net.au
All contributions welcome

to the people in McMullins Road and Victoria Street, East Branxton, who own cats, especially a ginger cat and a black and white cat, please put a bell on your pets as they are killing the native wildlife.

the potholes at the Royal Federal hotel corner and Cessnock Road Branxton has once again shown us that road building & road repair technology has yet to reach our local shore. After the last rain I'm positive I saw a pelican feeding one of its young in the largest of the potholes!

to Maitland state member Jenny Aitchison who has started a petition calling on the NSW Government to immediately increase staffing at Maitland Hospital. Recently I had the misfortune to go to their emergency department and it wasn't pretty! 6-hour wait! The staff on that evening were working like drovers dogs and you could see that they were bitterly frustrated at the situation. Make an effort to sign the petition; they need 10,000 signatures.

Isn't it about time that Cessnock Council initiated a heavy-duty garbage collection even if it is only once a year. This will enable me to stop depositing mattresses and the like in country ditches. I urge all residents to call their local councillors and ask the question (Singleton Council do it and it is hugely successful).

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Classified's

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

Drum lessons: Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 1/2 hour). Beginners welcome. call Josh on 0458 611 362

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

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

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

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

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

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

Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. 0407 453 494

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

Seamstress: Sewing & mending P: Brune 0413 351 057

Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 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
 - WED 14 DEC** - Branxton Public School PBL Assemblies
 - 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 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:

- * 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.

Branxton
WE SERVE



before the Mitsubishi was later seen stopped on James Street; however, the driver had fled on foot. With the assistance of Polair and the Dog Unit a man was found hiding in the rear yard of a house on O'Brien Street, about 1.30am. The 33-year-old disqualified driver was taken to Cessnock police station and charged with police pursuit - not stop - drive dangerously, drive motor vehicle during disqualification period, drive recklessly/furiously or speed/manner dangerous and negligent driving.

He appeared before Cessnock Local Court today (Thursday 24 November 2022) where he was formally refused bail to appear before the same court on Wednesday 7 December 2022. The constable sought medical treatment for a minor leg injury

Appeal following car bombing - Rutherford

Friday, 02 December 2022
Criminal Group Squad detectives are appealing for public assistance after a car bombing in the Hunter region earlier this year.

About 8.30pm on Thursday 27 October 2022, emergency services were called to a home on Avery Street, Rutherford, after reports of a loud explosion on the street.

Occupants of the home attempted to extinguish a small fire at the rear of a Chrysler sedan parked outside. Crews from Fire and Rescue NSW attended a short time later and extinguished the blaze.

The car was seized for forensic examination.

Officers from Port Stephens-Hunter Police District established a crime scene, before detectives attached to the State Crime Command's Criminal Groups Squad commenced an investigation under Strike Force Ucles.

It's believed a number of people involved have links to outlaw motorcycle groups (OMCG). As investigations continue, police have released images of the vehicle as they continue to appeal for anyone with information to come forward.

Anyone with information that may assist Strike Force Ucles investigators is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

Missing person - have you seen Lee?

Lee BOURKE, 39 years of age, and her partner Andrew SHEATHER, 40 years of age, have been reported to NSW police as Missing Persons. There are concerns for their welfare.

Lee is described as Caucasian, about 160cm tall, with long blonde hair.



Lee (pictured below) is known to frequent the Newcastle and Hunter Valley areas.

If you have information about Lee's whereabouts, please call Singleton police Ph 65787499 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 33 000.

Rural Crime Prevention Team - NSW Police Force

Livestock fraud alert

The Rural Crime Prevention Team is asking farmers to be cautious of scammers purporting to sell livestock online through social media and marketplace platforms.

RCPT investigators have been made aware of recent incidents in NSW, where livestock that don't exist have been advertised online fraudulently. As livestock producers look to increase their buying capability through online

sales, the RCPT has a few tips to assist buyers when purchasing livestock:

- If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably isn't. You should inspect the livestock in person prior to purchasing, to ensure the animals are as described in the ad.
- Know who you're dealing with. If you've only ever met someone online or are unsure of the legitimacy of a business, take some time to do a bit more research. It is better to use online sites that you know and trust.
- Never send money to anyone you don't know. While online transactions can be simple and convenient, please remember that face to face transactions are the best way to minimise the risk of fraudulent activity.

For further information on protecting yourself against scammers please visit link https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/.../resources_-_fact.../fraud 'Scamwatch' also provides information

Disqualified driver charged following pursuit - Cessnock

Thursday, 24 November 2022
A man has been charged with various traffic offences following a pursuit with police in the Hunter Region last week. About 12.50am (Thursday 24 November 2022), officers from Hunter Valley Police District were conducting patrols of the Cessnock area, when they attempted to stop a Mitsubishi Mirage on Cessnock Road.

The Mitsubishi failed to stop, and a pursuit was initiated travelling along Duffie Drive before turning onto Aberdare Road. At the intersection of Quarrybylong Street, the driver of the Mitsubishi lost control and collided with a police vehicle and a male constable standing nearby.

The pursuit was terminated shortly after

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FMD: Know the Facts

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) affects pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, deer, alpacas, camels and buffalo

FMD does not cause disease in humans, horses or companion animals

dpi.nsw.gov.au/fmd

POLICE, FIRE & AMBULANCE 000 IN AN EMERGENCY	POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE 131 444 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES	CRIME STOPPERS 1800 333 000
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They said it...
"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect". **Mark Twain**
Well done is better than well said". **Benjamin Franklin** "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken". **Oscar Wilde** "Winners never quit, and quitters never win". **Vince Lombardi** "It's nice to be important, but it's also important to be nice. Never forget that". **Sacha Baron Cohen (Borat)** "Doubt can motivate you, so don't be afraid of it. Confidence and doubt are at two ends of the scale, and you need both. They balance each other out". **Barbra Streisand**

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 \$285 Low Income Household Energy Rebate
- \$100 Active Kids Voucher
- \$100 Creative Kids Voucher

Join the millions who have saved and use the Savings Finder to see all the vouchers and rebates you are eligible for.

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



Tips For Your Dogs

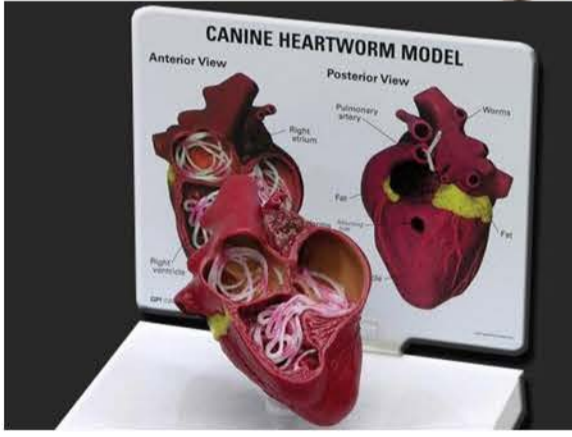
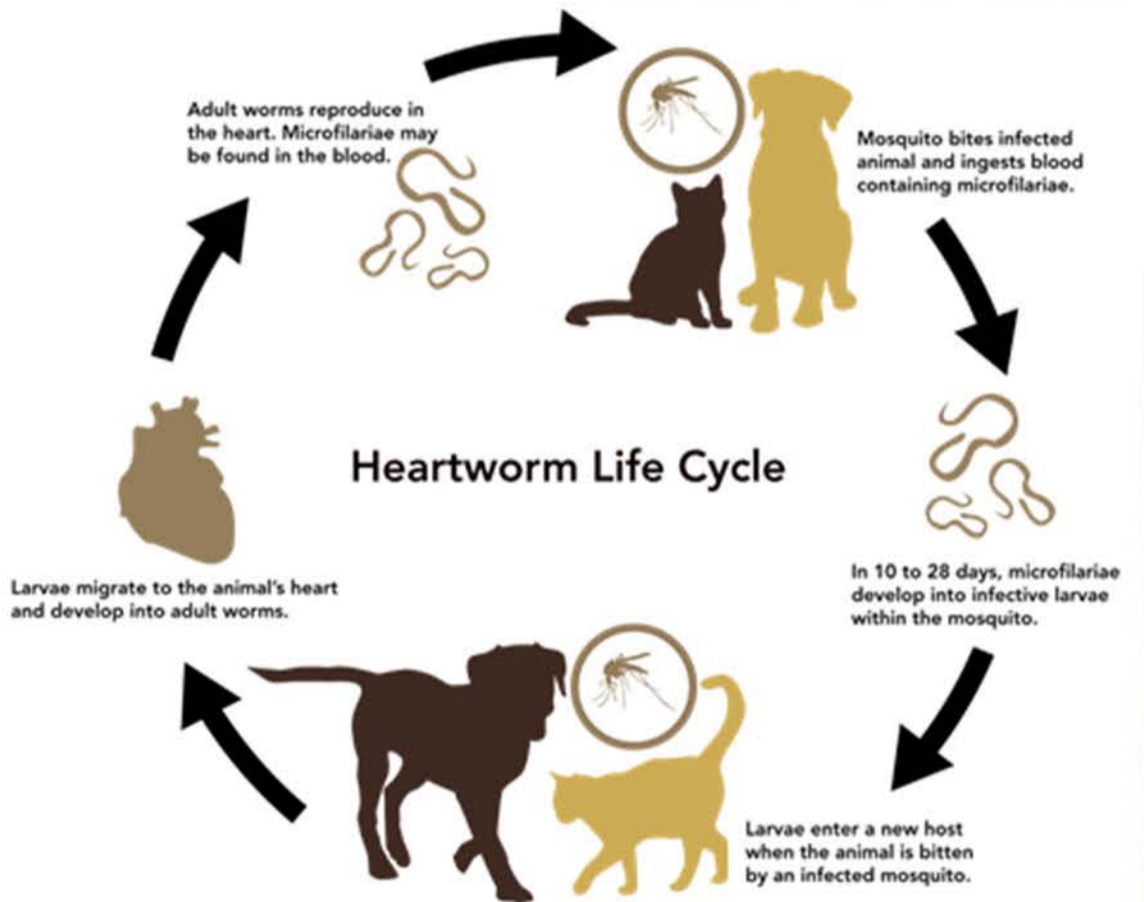
& Cats



What is heartworm?

to help experts find out more about heartworm infection in pets, which will assist in the treatment and prevention of the disease. With the information currently available, it has been concluded that prevention is the best form of heartworm control.

Early signs could be shortness of breath, loss of stamina, or a nagging, dry cough. As the disease progresses, breathing becomes more difficult, and in severe cases the abdomen may swell with fluid. Your dog could become lethargic and lose weight and their appe-



Heartworm is a parasitic worm that can infect your pet through a mosquito bite. An infected mosquito injects a larval stage of the worm under your pet's skin. These larvae mature in the pet's organs for approximately six months, traveling through the body to the heart and blood vessels of the lungs. These adult worms breed to produce microfilaria (baby heartworm) in the bloodstream which are then drawn up by a mosquito when it feeds on the pet, continuing the cycle once again. Mosquitoes are hard to keep out of both the yard and house, so even your indoor-only pets are at risk.

How common is heartworm?
The prevalence of heartworm in Australia remains poorly understood. What we know is wherever there are mosquitoes, there is potential for heartworm. There are ongoing studies

What are the signs of heartworm?
Dogs
Initially, it's tough to tell that anything is wrong with your pet at all. Heartworm is a slow onset disease, so months or even years may pass before the signs become obvious. When symptoms do appear, your canine companion could have a large heartworm burden. Worms interfere with the movement of the heart valves, creating turbulence in the blood flow, and causing the blood vessels that lead to the lungs to become "blocked" with worms. This puts the heart under immense strain, where it can become enlarged and exhausted.

Cats
Usually, there are few clinical signs of heartworm in cats. Your cat could develop slight lethargy or a cough, but sudden death is more common if your cat's heartworm has gone undetected and untreated. It only takes one to two adult heartworms infecting your furry feline for the disease to potentially become fatal.

SPORTS RESULTS

LOCAL Senior CRICKET REPORT



with Mark Bercini

Week 8
Week eight of district cricket was completed on Saturday 26th November, with Greta/Branxton recording wins in first, third and fourth grades, with second grade going down. The highlight of first grade's 110-run win over PCH at Singleton's Cook Park was Josh Dagg's

thrashing of Hotel Cessnock at Baddeley 2. Jamie McNamara also posted an unbeaten century, smashing 102 off just 48 deliveries which included 16 boundaries and 4 maximums. Son Noah McNamara shared in a great partnership with 64no, with Ben Lahey (53) and Cameron Carmody (48) all scoring freely. Hotel Cessnock were skittled for 83 in reply, with Jamie McNamara completing a memorable milestone by taking 5-18 off 6.3. Lewis Jacobs (2-25 off 6) and Adam Kerry (2-12 off 5.5) took a brace of wickets each.

Fourth grade continued on their merry way with a 5-wicket win over Supporters at Baddeley 1. Greta/Branxton's best bats were Peter Watson (18no), Zac Watkins (15) and Nigel Charnock (14no) in their 5-74 reply to Supporters' 71. Earlier in the afternoon Nigel Charnock (4-31 off 9.2), Alistair Leslie (3-15 off 10) and Zach Macbeth (2-20 off 5) took wickets.
Week 9
Week nine of district

Wine Country made 7-186, with co-skipper James Halpin (2-39 off 9), Jason Varley (2-55 off 8) and Jamie Moore (2-32 off 7) sharing the wickets. The Blues responded with 7-156, with Jesse Wright leading the way with 28no. Pat Nugent (26), Sean Wright (19), James Allerton (19), Regan Rolfe (18) and Blake Kellett (16) all made starts.

Third grade were humbled by 5 wickets at the hands of the Piranhas at Miller 2. The Blues were knocked over for just 43 batting first, with Jamie McNamara the only batsman to show any sort of resistance with 17. The Piranhas were five down in reply, with Adam Kerry taking 4-18 off 5).

Fourth grade remained at the top of the ladder following 5-wicket victory over Wine Country. Wine Country made 83 batting first, with veteran Alistair Leslie continuing on his recent good run of form with the two-piece by bagging 5-16 off 9.



Greta/Branxton first grade player Josh Dagg is having a stellar year with the bat.

unbeaten 121. The 37-year-old came to the crease at the fall of the first wicket, and hit a dozen boundaries in a typical innings off just 109 balls. It was the club's most recently appointed life member's second top grade century for the club. Brent Watson (46), skipper Joey Butler (37) and Mark Bercini (20) were the other main contributors. PCH were all out for 144 in reply, with Pat Andrews (3-8 off 8) and Watson (3-28 off 5) picking up a treble of wickets each, while Will Regan (2-5 off 4.1) also bowled tidily.

Second grade went down by five wickets to Bellbird at Carmichael Park. Greta/Branxton were all out for 97 batting first, with Regan Rolfe (37), Adam Curnuck (27) and Wayne Chandler (17) the only batsmen in double figures. Bellbird reached the modest target in the 20th over, with Jason Varley the pick of the Blues' attack with 2-22 off 4.

Third grade amassed 4-287 in their 204 run

cricket was completed last Saturday, with Greta/Branxton picking up wins in first and fourth grades, with second and third grade suffering defeats.

In first grade at Miller Park, Josh Dagg continued on his real purple patch of form as he notched an unbeaten 87 to follow up his century and 90no in the previous two weeks. This laid the platform for his side's healthy first innings total of 4-245. Chris Murray is making every post a winner in the top grade as he notched a fine half century 56, with Mark Bercini (34), Reuben Andrews (23) and Brent Watson (14no) all cashing in on the favourable batting conditions. The Piranhas did not lay down in reply, batting the full forty overs to finish on 8-176. Jace Lawson (2-35 off 7), Watson (2-36 off 8) and Alex Walkling (2-13 off 3) all collected a couple of wickets each for the Blues.

Second grade suffered their second straight defeat, this time by 30 runs against Wine Country at East End.

Correy Stone was next best with 3-29 off 9.1. Greta/Branxton lost five wickets in reply before reaching the target, with Jess Rutter (34) and Riley McKewen (21) amongst the runs.

Points Tables
First Grade (Coalfields Cup) Valley/JPC 42, Bellbird 36, Greta/Branxton 33, Creeks 30, PCH 27, Wine Country 21, Piranhas 21, Glendon 6.
Second Grade Bellbird 53, Wine Country 42, Greta/Branxton 34*, Chelmsford Hotel 31* * game in hand.
Third Grade Wine Country 39**, Piranhas 35**, Bellbird 32**, Hotel Cessnock 31*, Greta/Branxton 31**.
* byes received, no points allocated.
Fourth Grade Greta/Branxton 54, Wine Country 45, Supporters 38, Piranhas 33.
Club Championship Bellbird 348.40, Greta/Branxton 319.25, Wine Country 301.35, Piranhas 168.35.

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The News SPORT

SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Robert McMillan 27 pts; Steve Condran 26 pts
Ladies: Winner: Robyn Friis 30 pts
Runner Up: Jan Davidson 29 pts 3rd: Caren Caldwell 28 pts
NTPins: Men: Paul Johansen Ladies: Caren Caldwell
 Thursday's Stableford drew a good field of 46 players with many excellent scores recorded across the field.

Craig Howe won Division 1 and had the score of the day with his excellent 32 pts—a round which included many wonderful recovery shots and some solid all-round golf. Mike Ford, finished runner up on a countback, so can consider himself a little unlucky especially after having 22 pts on the first nine. Keith Anderson was third a shot back with John Burgess on the same score. 27 pts was needed in Division 1 to win a ball. Graham Scobie won Division 2 with his pleasing 31 pts, a shot ahead of Robert Brooks, Tom Young and Barney Ward, indicating a very close tussle in this grade. Robyn Friis made a welcome return back to the Vets after a small break to win the Ladies with her 30 pts, just ahead of Jan Davidson and Caren Caldwell. Paul Johansen's NTPin was apparently looking good for a hole in one before stopping short of the hole—Dennis Wright, who also hit a great shot into this hole was unlucky to miss the NTPin prize. Caren Caldwell was the sharp shooter for the Ladies. Paul Johansen was pleased with his play today as he was able to exact "some revenge" with his wife Jane after last week's humbling loss!

The Annual General Meeting was held last week with John Atton remaining President and Lee Hunt continuing on as Captain. Special thanks were given to outgoing Secretary Lester Bootes, current Treasurer Audrey Brown who will remain Treasurer until later in 2023 when she is moving away; and Marg and Lee Hunt for their tireless efforts with the raffles and general organisation. All members displayed their gratitude to the whole committee, capably led by John Atton, for their wonderful organization over the last 12 months, particularly with the Covid lockdowns and incredibly wet, flooding weather. The full minutes will be displayed on the Vets Noticeboard and online. The Club's 2023 Program of events will also be on display with the next "Free" event being held at Shortland on Monday, 19th December.

2022 SATURDAY COMP Branxton
 Saturday, 26 November
 PAR Field: 49 Grades A Peter Mackenzie -1 Grades A Lee Hunt -2 Grades A

Branxton Vets Thursday

24th November
 Overall Winner: Jane Johansen 32 pts c/b Runner Up: Eddie Barrett 32 pts 3rd: Jan Davidson 30 pts Ball Winners: all on 30 pts; Mike Ryan, Craig Howe, Stephen Condran, Marg Hunt; Murray Kingston 29 pts, Mike Ford 29 pts The Annual Christmas party was preceded by a 14-hole stableford, shot gun start, with a large field contesting this stableford competition on a beautiful, quite warm, late spring day. Jane Johansen once again won the day with an excellent 32 pts, leaving her husband Joe well in her wake. Eddie Barrett continued his recent good form to finish runner up on the same score. The ball winners were all around the same score in a very closely fought competition. The presentation was followed by an excellent lunch provided by our Club's Blue Thai caterers with a Trivia Quiz (once again prepared and presented by Roger Yandle) making it a great day to celebrate our Vets Golfing for 2022. We sincerely thank the committee for organizing this event once again. We also thanked our outgoing Secretary since 2014, Lester Bootes, for his wonderful dedication and support over these years, as he was always an inspiration to all golfers with his positive attitude and love of the game. I always looked up to Lester as a golfer in which we can aspire to as he walked the course well into his eighties and was never negative in his approach to this game—a game he only took up on retirement. We all wish him well as he battles some ill health and has to give up this wonderful game of golf.

Branxton Vets Thursday, 1st December Stableford

Division 1: Winner: Craig Howe 32 pts (SOD)
Runner Up: Mike Ford 32 pts 3rd: Keith Anderson 31 pts 4th: John Burgess 31 pts Ball Winners: Murray Kingston 29 pts; Peter Conroy 29 pts; Daryl Sheppard 28 pts; Eddie Barrett 27 pts
Division 2: Winner: Graham Scobie 31 pts
Runner Up: Robert Brooks 30 pts; 3rd: Tom Young 30 pts; 4th: Barney Ward 30 pts Ball Winners: Dennis Wright 29 pts; Barry Turner 27 pts; Glenn Fletcher 27 pts; Peter Sekulich 27 pts;



Looks like a fun day!

Riley Maytom -3 Grades B Andrew McGovern 5 Grades B Hunter O'Neill 2 Grades B Stephen Ross 2 Grades C Lennard Porter 3 Grades C Richard Turnbull 3 Grades C Steven Primmer 1 NTP 2/11 Matthew Schnell 313cm NTP 4 Joshua Tracey 47cm NTP 9/18 Hunter O'Neill 450cm NTP 13 Joshua Tracey 133cm Balls 15 Distributed down to score: -3 Pro's NTP 18th – Riley Maytom 476cm = \$84 Proshop Voucher Saturday's Par event proved to be quite a challenge for all golfers on Saturday with Peter McKenzie continuing his recent good form in winning A Grade with a -1 score. Lee Hunt, another golfer in good form of late, finished runner up with a -2 score with up and coming young golfer, Riley Maytom, a revelation during the club's championships, third with his -3. Andrew McGovern recorded the day's best par score in winning B Grade with an excellent +5 score, well clear of runner up Hunter O'Neill on Plus 2 with Club Captain, Steve Ross, picking up another prize in finishing third on a countback. Lennie Porter had an excellent day out in winning C Grade with his Plus 3 score, only on a countback from Richie Turnbull, another golfer playing very well of late. Steve Primmer finished third with his plus 1. The shot of the day undoubtedly belonged to Club Champion, Joshua Tracey, on the 4th, with his tee shot finishing only 47 cms away. He also won the NTPin on the ninth, showing how well he is hitting his irons. Riley Maytom finished his day very well, winning the Pro Pin on the last, picking up an \$84 voucher. -3 was needed to win a ball showing how difficult these par events can be.

Saturday, 3 December 2022 Monthly Medal - STROKE

Field: 48
 Winners C Ted Zawirski 66 Grades A Michael Tracey 69 Grades A Chris Zawirski 70 Grades A Peter Conroy 71 Grades B Paul Bush 67 Grades B Neil Jordan 67 Grades B Craig Howe 67 Grades C Robert Miller 70 Grades C Mick Lutovac 71 Grades C Murray Kingston 72 NTP 2/11 Peter Conroy 202cm NTP 4 Gary Wilton 265cm NTP 9/18 Peter Conroy 170cm NTP 13 N/A Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 75
Pro's NTP 18th –PETER CONROY & MICK LUTOVAC 170cm = \$38 each Proshop Vouchers
 Saturday's Monthly Medal produced some excellent scores with Ted Zawirski winning the overall Monthly Medal with his impressive 66 nett score. Mick Tracey played very solidly, once again, winning A Grade with a nett 69 showing he has lost none of his ability over the years. Chris Zawirski, ensured the family had a great day, finished runner up a shot back, with the consistent Peter Conroy third with his pleasing nett 71. Paul Bush won a very tight B Grade with his nett 67, on a countback from Neil Jordan and Craig Howe, fresh from his win in the Thursday Vets Competition. Robert "Shirl" Miller won C Grade with his nett 70, just ahead of Mick Lutovac's 71 and Murray Kingston's 72. A nett 75 was needed to win a ball. The shot of the day belonged to Peter Conroy and Mick Lutovac on the last, where they shared the Pro NTPin. Interestingly,

Peter also won the NTPin on the 2nd/11th and the 9th where he finished exactly the same distance from the pin. Last week, Bob Biles and Gary Walsh won the Pairs Knockout, defeating Lee Hunt and Reece Caldwell 5 and 4. It was a very tight game until they turned and Bob and Barney set up their win before the 16th. After sealing their well earned victory, they finished in celebratory mode by losing the next few holes--as you do when the win is sealed! Ben Porter played hard on Saturday, as he finished in the mud at the back of the 4th, earning many laughs from his playing partners as the mud dried off for the rest of the round.

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Thursday 24th November
 The Vets American Stableford scores were again very good, aided by great playing conditions. Division 1 to John Grayson with 60 points from Jeff Morton 57, Division 2 to Rob Hannah with 60 from

Graham Donaldson 58 on countback & Division 3 to Dave Gellwiler with 60 from Tony Neale with 56 on countback. Ball winners are: Dave Blackburn 58, Garry Clarke 57, Ken McLaughlan 56, Kevin Dick 56, Greg Burke 56, Ryan Wilson 56, Michael Cunningham 56, Gerry Irwin 56, Beepa 55, Geoff Sweetann 55, David Peel 55, John the Pom 55, Bruce Chambers 55, John McLoughney 55, Peter Perkins 54, Tony Lorrimer 54, Springy 54, Peter Payne 54, Garry Marsden 54, Wally 54, Greg Ireland 54, Jeff Haywood 54, Jeff Taylor 54, Alick bender 53 & Paul Smith 53 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Bomber (3rd) John Grayson (4th) Eric Smith (8th) Wayne Berry (10th) & Bill Freeman (17th).

Saturday 26th November
 The ideal weather & playing conditions has led to many players beating Par in today's Medley Stableford with A Grade winner Luke Johnston surviving a 3 way countback with his 38 point return with runner up going to Larry Forbes also on countback, B Grade to Graeme Smith with 42 points from Peter Puerta 41 & C Grade to Luke Silay with 'the round of the day' 45 points from Justin King with 43 points runner up. Ball winners are: Andrea Connor 42, Anthony Bower 40, Zac Kronholm 40, Hugh Le 40, Bindii 40, Nicholas Hain 39, Caleb Burgess 39, Caleb Porter 38, Rox Jnr 37, Ron Findley 37, Geoff Sweetman 37, Darrell Porter 37, John Martin 37, Michael Cunning-

ham 36, Stephen Zok 36, Lewis Howells 36, Ty Cowley 36, Aaron Dries 36, Evan Powell 35, Peter Perkins 35, Alan Provenzano 35, Denis Corke 35, Steve Piggott 35, Morto 35, Max Hindmarsh 35, Dave Hollis 35, Tony Krishna 35, Gary Arnold 34, Graham Morris 34, Bruce Chambers 34, Tom Lundy 34 & Don Bradley 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Ron Findley (3rd) Dave Hollis (4th) Caleb Porter (8th) Aaron Dries (10th) Matt Killick (17th).
Sunday 27th November
 Stuart Horgan received the nod from the Judge for the win in the Weekly Challenge after he & Colin Hill returned 41 points, 3rd place went to Jackson Forsyth with 39 in a 3 way countback. Ball winners are: Gene Walker 39, Hugh Le 39, Brendan Bouke 38, Matt rabbett 38, Peter Jolly 38, Jash Arena 38, Ricky Timms 38, Justine Woodbine 38, Brendan Boumeester 37, Brendan Deppi 37, Phil Byron 36, Garry Giteau 36, Shawn Parish 36, Phil Small 36, Grahame Mankelow 35, Thomas Vaughan 35, Don Curran 35, Tony Im 35, David Michael Menzies 34, Ian Leggart 34, Steve Morrow 33, Jeff Shanahan 33, Marjo Kummerling 33, Phil Douglas 33, Andrew Medway 32, Jarrod Bailey 32 & Ivo Da Silve 32 c/b
Tuesday 29th November
 Wayne Burgess returned a solid 43 points to win the Tuesday Stableford from the ever improving Jeff Jarrett 41 & Scott Priestley 3rd with 39 points. Ball winners are: Barry Maher 38, Muz 38, Michael Cunningham 38, Ron Findley 37, Rex Talbot 36, Brendan Bourke 36, Rob Hannah 35, Ryan Wislon 35, Lindsay Meyn 35, Bruce Matthews 35, John Stewart 34, Paul Smith 34, David Peel 34, Denis Donn 34, Kevin Smith 34, Ryan Thomas 34, Phil Darcy 34, Bob Prentice 33, Ty Cowley 33, Col Bradley 33, Jarrod Bailey 33, Corey Anderson 33 & Ian Newell 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Steve Piggott (3rd) Rex Talbot (4th) Lindsay Meyn (8th) & Tom Bell (10th)
Wednesday 30th Nov
 Jill Ramsden has claimed the Ladies Stableford with a solid 39 point round from Robyn Dulop 38 & Mary Fortey in 3rd with 34 on countback. Ball winners are: Di Atton 34, Glenda Williams 34 & Melita Watson 33 c/b. Next week the Ladies will play 4 Per-

son Drop out Ambrose with a Shotgun start at 8 am.
Thursday 1st December
 The 1st Day of Summer has been marked with some sizzling scores, particularly in Div 3. Division 1 need a countback to split 5 players who had 37 point returns, Col Bradley with a sizzling 22 point back nine was declared winners from Graeme Smith, Division 2 to Ken Blakett with 42 from Paul Smith 41, Division 3 turned out to be the 'hottest' with a sizzling 48 point return by Toot nudging Boss by a point, hard to believe a 47 point round is runner up! Ball winners are: Ryan Wilson 40, Dave Gellwiler 40, Chris Stebbing 40, Mark Green 38, Greg Burke 38, Kevin Coleman 37, Wayne Berry 37, Beepa 37, Ken McLaughlan 37, Trevor Collins 37, Fluff 37, Kevin Dick 37, Mick Gilbert 37, Bill Harden 36, Ian Newell 36, Chris Norman 36, Bruce chambers 36, Michael O'Brien 36, Gary Arnold 36, Bomber 36, Denis Donn 35, Rob hannah 35, Kerry Bartlett 35, John Tancred 35, Michael Tasakissiris 35, Peter Payne 35, Rex talbot 34, Morto 34 & Wazza 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Garry Clarke (3rd) Gibbo (4th) Peter Payne (8th & 17th) & Banjo (10th)
Saturday 3rd December
 Another ideal day greeted the Monthly Stroke round field and some cashed in on the conditions. A grade went to Blake Pautz with 68 net on countback to James Marsh, B grade to Anthony Bower with 67 from Greg Burke 69 and C grade and the Mug to Bill Harden with 65net from Joshua Noble with 67on countback. Ball winners are: Stacey Brennan 67, Terry Roughan 70, Reid Cowley 70, Graham Morris 70, Dan McLeod 70, Col Somerville 71, Dave Agnew 71, Gary Arnold 72, Peter Puerta 72, Leon Dureau 72, Dave Hollis 72, Dean Freebairn 73, Scott Jones 73, Brandon Lidbuty 73, Luke Johnston 73, Hugh Le 73, Peter McIntyre 73, Graeme Porter 74, Lindsay Meyn 74, Bruce Chambers 74, Matt Tomlins on 74. Phil Small 74, Alan Provenzano 75, George Cpoas 75, Jackson Redman 75, Nicholas Hain 75, Don Bradley 75 & Lee Heuston 75 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Luke Johnston (3rd) Wade Attwell (4th) Phil Small (8th) Don Bradley (10th) & Graham Morris (17th).

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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 131 223 NSW Fire Brigade Branxton..... 4938 3396	Energy Australia..... 131 388 Hospitals Maitland..... 4939 2000 Cessnock..... 4991 0555 Singleton..... 6572 2799 SES132 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
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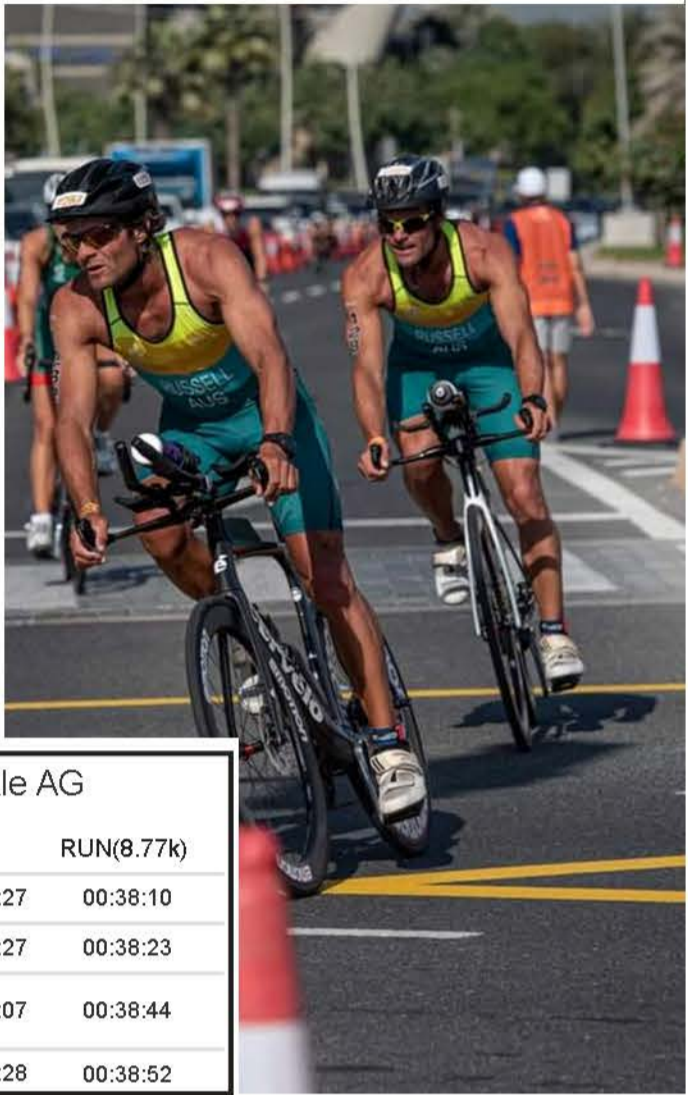
The BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News **SPORT**

Well done! Well done! Well Done!

Branxtons' "triathloning" Russell triplets were placed 6th, 7th & 9th out of 57 competitors at the 2022 World Triathlon Age-Group Championships in Abu Dhabi at the end of last month. They competed in the 30-34 male age bracket. A marvellous achievement. Sam, Ben & Jake, who have been training for the event over many months, were very pleased with the result. "A credible achievement from by the 3 of us," said Ben. "I completed the course in 2hrs and 4minutes in very hot

conditions. We finished in the top 40 overall out of all competitors. It was a unreal race and the course was fantastic. Going to have a little rest for a couple weeks," said Ben. The Championship Finals is the crown jewel in the World Triathlon's annual calendar. The multi day event staged the Elite, U23, Para and Age-Group World Triathlon Championships. The festival welcomed thousands of local, regional and international triathletes to the UAE's capital city, Abu Dhabi's Yas Island, and saw World Champions crowned.



Results: 2022 World Triathlon Age-Group Championships Abu Dhabi | 30-34 Male AG

Pos	YOB	NUMBER	TIME	SWIM(1500m)	BIKE(38.94k)	RUN(8.77k)
6	Sam Russell	1989 AUS 1283	02:03:38	00:24:21	00:03:00 00:56:42	00:01:27 00:38:10
7	Ben Russell	1989 AUS 1281	02:03:54	00:23:03	00:03:20 00:57:42	00:01:27 00:38:23
8	Aaro Belcher	1992 USA 1275	02:04:07	00:24:03	00:03:09 00:56:06	00:02:07 00:38:44
9	Jake Russell	1989 AUS 1282	02:04:22	00:22:30	00:03:11 00:58:22	00:01:28 00:38:52

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