



The News

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ISSUE 563

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WEDNESDAY
21 Dec 2022

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

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR THE 2022 COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM – CESSNOCK ELECTORATE



Cessnock City Council - Branxton Community Hall Section 355 Committee	Branxton Community Hall air conditioning project	\$20,000
Branxton Preschool Inc	Renovating building to create a Community Hub	\$30,596
Mt Sugarloaf Croquet Club Inc.	Improve the playing surface for Mt Sugarloaf Croquet Club's lawns	\$9,920
Sugarvalley Neighbourhood Advancement Group Inc	Community playground equipment and safety upgrade all ages and abilities	\$29,755
Cessnock Minor Rugby League	Ride-on mower	\$15,000
Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW Ltd	Installation of a music system	\$30,000
Cessnock City Council	Hedleigh Park shade sail	\$17,000
Kearsley Community Sporting Association Incorporated	Lighting Project Stage 2	\$24,530
The Canopy Incorporated	Enhancement of multipurpose community outdoor activity and play area	\$23,480
Hunter Food Relief Centre	Hunter Food Relief Centre - Food trailer	\$30,000
Stanford Merthyr Infants School	Construction of covered walkway and community barbecue facilities	\$37,000
Kurri Kurri & District Preschool Kindergarten Inc.	Rejuvenating our preschool spaces	\$30,000
Cessnock District Rescue Squad Inc.	Radio upgrade	\$30,000
Kurri Kurri Little Athletics Centre	Fully monitored publicly accessible defibrillator project	\$5,990
Wine Country Cricket Club	Refurbish our cricket nets	\$13,351
Kurri Kurri Community Men's Shed Inc.	Purchase a new combination planer	\$7,000
Cessnock High School Parents & Citizens' Association	SEEK community outdoor kitchen	\$16,702
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (NSW) Inc.	Electronic attendance system purchase	\$5,079
Little Wings Limited	Aircraft security	\$6,000
Nulkaba P&C Association	Sheltered outdoor settings	\$18,597



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29/12/2022- 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

30/12/2022- 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

2/1/2023 – Closed

Normal business hours will commence on the 3rd January, 2023 (Tuesday).

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

Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

The State Electorate of Cessnock has secured \$400,000 in funding for a total of 20 projects through the NSW Government's 2022 Community Building Partnership Program.

The Community Building Partnership Program was established in 2009 by the then Labor Government and has provided funding for more than 18,000 community projects across NSW to build or upgrade local facilities. State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP said the State Government funds will deliver much-needed improvements to local facilities including air conditioning, playground equipment, a shade sail, a food trailer and an outdoor kitchen. (See list above containing full details of the projects that have been funded)

"It is always great to see funding being injected into our community. Seeing our local community groups and organisations completing the projects funded by the Community Building Partnership Program is always a highlight." Mr Barr said.

"I congratulate all the organisations that were successful in their application and look forward to seeing how these projects make a real difference for community groups in the area."

Applications for the 2023 Program open in May 2023.

Covid & Double Demerit over the festive season.....

COVID CHRISTMAS ADVICE

NSW Health continues to recommend a COVID-19 test if you have cold and flu symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever) to keep yourself and others safe.

The NSW Respiratory Surveillance Report for the week ended 10 December shows 39,761 people were diagnosed with COVID-19 and 56 deaths reported - Hunter New England LHD had 4,730 cases, up from 4,387 the previous week, taking the Year-to-Date total to 392,706.

PCR testing continues to be available in NSW without GP referral, with NSW Health advising that RAT tests will often not pick-up COVID in the early stages of the illness.

If you are at higher risk of severe illness, get a PCR test as they are more accurate and help you get faster access to medical treatment such as antiviral medicines, if you are eligible.

If you are not at higher risk of severe illness, do a rapid antigen test unless your doctor tells you to get a PCR test.

COVID-19 testing clinics in NSW will remain open over the Christmas period and into the New Year with locations available at: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/testing-managing/clinics

THINK TWICE

The Double Demerits road safety campaign to encourage safe driver behaviour on our roads is in force from Friday 23 December until 2 January 2023 for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

The demerit point system provides an incentive for drivers to improve their driving behaviour, obey road rules and comply with NSW traffic laws.

Double demerits apply for offences including speeding, illegal use of mobile phones, not wearing a seatbelt and riding without a helmet.

Speeding, fatigue and alcohol are the three main causes of death and injury on our roads - so think twice before breaking the rules.

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Authorised by Dan Repacholi MP, 3 Edward Street, Cessnock



Fitting Finish At 2022 Fishing Club Awards Night



*Photo Above: (L-R): 2022 overall winner and Troy Field Memorial Shield winner Keza Duncan, Box Miller 2022 Inaugural recipient of the Larry Timmins Memorial Shield and Thomas Field the Inaugural winner in 2022 of the Troy Field Biggest Jewy Trophy.

The 2022 Greta Workers Fishing Club Season came to a close at the Annual Awards Night/ Christmas Party. The Committee would like to thank everyone who attended a wonderful night. The highlight of the night was a toss up between Keza Duncan being the first female to take out the overall category and beat all the men, Jayden "Box" Miller winning the Inaugural Bradley "Larry" Timmins Shield (named after club and local legend the late Larry Timmins) or Thomas Field winning the Inaugural Troy Field Trophy for the biggest Jewy-named after his late father the great Troy Field. The Major award winners were: Overall Points winner: Keza Duncan 1268.17 points
Overall runner up: Steve Nevin 1018.06 points
Ladies winner: Keza Duncan
Ladies runner up: Fee Jacobs

400.31 points
Junior winner: Lewis Jacobs 402.4 points
Junior runner up: Kye Barnes 34.4 points
Larry Timmins Memorial Shield: Jayden Miller
Troy Field Memorial Shield: Keza Duncan
Troy Field Biggest Jew Trophy: Thomas Field
Committee Pick: Aaron Fox Pearl Perch, tied with Jess Hammond Flathead
\$100 Snapper: Steve Nevin
\$100 Bream: Daniel Johnson
\$100 Australian Bass: Keza Duncan
Thanks to the money raised during the year at the Wednesday raffles and the generous sponsorship in 2022 from the Greta Workers Club, The Bottlo, The Harvest Bistro, Elite Concreting, Gocon Rural and The Sea Shanty there were loads of

wonderful lucky door prizes, Christmas Gifts for the kids, Award winners prizes etc. Josh from the Greta Bottlo also donated a number of bottles of alcohol for "the coin toss" that members and guests always find fun. The Greta Workers Club provided a full rock band named Early Daze who rattled the place with a wide range of music. They are highly recommended!! A great news story is PlattsSurfwear on the night committed to sponsoring in 2023. They are a top quality surf clothing brand so get in and get your last minute Christmas shopping done on their online website plattsurfwear.com.au That is it for another year from the fishing club, please follow our Facebook page for 2023 info or continue to read this wonderful local paper The Branxton Greta Vineyards News. Thanks Mike for always publishing our material.



Photo above: (L-R) Dominic Platt, Holly Nevin, Ruby Nevin Under 13 individual award winners

"Thank You For Your Service"



Photo above showing Bruce, at centre, holding the token presented to him by Federal Local Member Dan Ripacholi MP in appreciation for his remarkable 38 years service
Last week Dan Ripacholi MP, Member for Hunter stopped off at Fire and Rescue NSW Station 237 Branxton, to say thank you to Ian 'Bruce' Stevenson on behalf of the local community for his service and presented him with a copy of a speech he made about him in Parliament recently. Ian joined the Fire and Rescue NSW on the first of June 1984 and has served as a Volunteer, then a Retained Firefighter until he was promoted to the rank of Deputy Captain in 2013. "Not only has Bruce helped protect the local community, he has protected NSW 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 NSW Ambulance. Thank you for your service and enjoy some down time buddy," said Dan.

"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."
— H. Jackson Brown Jr.

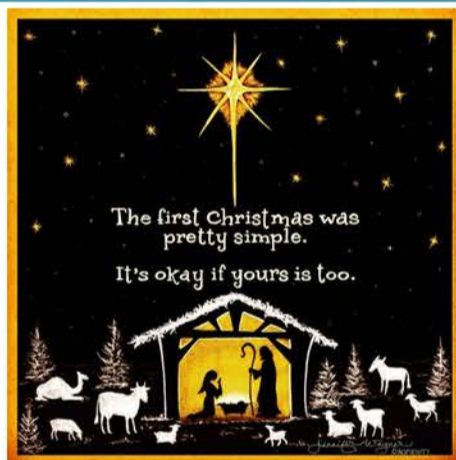
Ready for the Christmas Holidays?

Mooching around museums is a great way to relax while you revisit the past. Why not start at your local? Greta Museum Open each Wednesday & Saturday 11 am- 3pm (Closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve)
96 High Street, Greta, NSW.

Happy Holidays



REFLECTIONS



This year has been another extraordinary one as we have responded in love and care for one another as we have stayed home and self-isolated, maintained social distancing, "checked in" when we have gone out and by being vaccinated. Many of the restrictions we have lived with have now been eased, allowing us to spend time with our families and friends. It is not the first time that we have needed to do things in a new way.

At the first Christmas, Joseph and Mary were required to be registered, at the decree of Emperor Augustus. It was the first registration. Mary went with Joseph, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because Joseph was descended from the family of David. Once in Bethlehem, Mary's Son, Jesus, was born "and she wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for him in the inn." [Luke 2.7]

The very first Christmas was perfect, because Jesus was born as one of us. His birth was heralded by angels and his birthplace marked by a star. And the sign that the shepherds observed? They found Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, just as the angels had foretold. God's gifts to us are always perfect and perfectly timed. The most amazing gift we will ever receive is the gift of God's own Son, Jesus ... born as one of us, fully human and fully divine.

Love, hope, peace, and joy are sent to us and born as one of us in humble beginnings. Love, hope, peace, and joy are wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Love, hope, peace, and joy choose to come to us, to call us, to guide us, to save us.

God's love, hope, peace, and joy are shown to the world by the birth of his only Son. Jesus is God's eternal word and is the love, hope, peace, and joy of the world. Jesus is the greatest gift that can ever be given or received. As we celebrate Christmas this year, let us remember that it is the birth of Jesus Christ that we celebrate.

As we choose gifts for the people we love, may we remember that we give and receive gifts because God first gave us the gift of Jesus. The most wonderful gift we can give is to give our lives to following Jesus and trusting in God's promises. The most amazing gift we can receive is to receive God's love, hope, peace, and joy in the person of Jesus, born as an infant, in a stable over two thousand years ago and born into our lives each day. Let us open our hearts to receive him.

From all the local Christian community we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the blessings of the first Christmas rest gently upon you this Christmas Season and each day of the New Year. The first Christmas was pretty simple ... it's okay if ours is too!

YOUR friendly team

Mike Lowing: Editor, Journalist, Photographer & Administrator

Manager Advertising: Helen Lowing

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

Deadlines

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

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Out & About

with Mike Lowing



Cohan Young with "Zane Slomka Memorial Trophy" for the Boys Best & Fairest in the just completed local junior touch football comp. Mary Jane Slomka presented the trophy (pictured)



Ellie Young with "Zane Slomka Memorial Trophy" for the girls Best & Fairest in the just completed local junior touch football comp. Mary Jane Slomka, pictured, presented the trophy



Above: Cath Harvey & Peta Hughes enjoying the Twilight Markets at Branxton Community Hall held on the 10th December. 60 stalls attracted a very large crowd and best of all raised over \$1100 for Cancer Research. At right, The markets



North Rothbury Rural Fire Service annually Lolly Run was again a great hit this year with the younger set. Apart from some great lolly's he also presented seniors in the village with Christmas cakes courtesy of North Rothbury Tidy Town. Unfortunately, the brigade had a call out to a fire half way during the run but Santa did not have to join the brigade and continued on with his Lolly Run. See photo below



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OPEN all School Holiday ~ Only closed Christmas Day ~ Happy Christmas to all, Margaret, Len & Staff



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It's NOT too late to book your end of year Party; New Year or Christmas ~ Private rooms/ function available

Len, Margaret & Staff wish all our Members and Patrons a Wonderful Christmas & a Happy New Year



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

STEVE'S RANT

One hundred years ago, next year, radio broadcasts were only available to those people who had a BROADCAST LISTENER'S LICENCE.

At purchase, the radio or wireless was set to the wavelength of a particular radio broadcaster, and a subscription had to be paid to listen to that radio station. In 1923 a subscription cost three guineas. With inflation, that is \$268.84 in today's money. And an additional licence fee of 10 shillings of \$42.67 was also payable to the P.M.G. (Aust Post). This subscription became unsustainable as people began building their own radio sets, (Crystal sets) enabling them to receive radio programs from multiple broadcasters. Ham radios were different - short-wave radios, which received news from overseas and other ham radio users.

My wife's cousin still uses Ham radio to teach Morse code. Still available, amateur radio is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics and communication together. People use ham radio to talk across town, around the world, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones. It's fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need. If interested, you must have a license. The Australian Maritime College at the University of Tasmania manages these exams in Australia. If you pass the exam, the AMC will give you a certificate for the appropriate level. They will also recommend a call sign for you. When you have a certificate of proficiency you can apply for an amateur licence. There are fees and charges of course but if you use ham radio without a license the Feds will come for you.

When the official television transmission began in Australia in September 1956, a licence for viewing was added. From 1 January 1957, T.V. viewers were required to pay five pounds for their viewing pleasure (\$166.45) and

an additional 2 pounds 15 shillings (\$99.51) for radio. Non-payment was a punishable offence with fines of up to 50 pounds. (\$1664.46)

The Post Master General placed ads in local newspapers warning that house-to-house inspections were imminent.

To avoid fines, people hid their T.V. antennas in chimneys and roofs, and T.V. sets out of sight. Vans were driven around the streets at night to see who received TV sigs. Then, a knock on the door, and you had to present your license.

Great Government rip offs come in all manner of guises. You must carry your recreational fishing licence or a receipt showing your payment of the recreational fishing fee when you are fishing in NSW waters, freshwater and saltwater, or on or near NSW waters and have fishing gear with you. No more throwing a line in the creek.

Your tourism business may need government licences, permits, or registration before it can start. Examples include licences for accommodation providers, tour operators and travel agents, and residential short-term rental accommodation registration. They are gonna get you somewhere. If you require extra income and rent a room, chances are that you will forfeit your exemption from capital gains tax on the family home when you sell.

Government Fees and Charges mean all money the Government charges that relate to a bank account, transactions, facility limit or loan. This includes stamp duty, registration fees, financial institutions duty and account debits tax.

Solicitors Fees and Costs means: Fees and out-of-pocket costs of the lender's and loan servicer's lawyers, as applicable, including costs of the lender's and loan servicer's in-house counsel,



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support staff costs, costs of preparing for litigation, computerized research, telephone and facsimile transmission expenses, mileage, deposition costs, postage, duplicating, process service, videotaping and similar charges. Plus, GST. Costs and fees of expert witnesses, including appraisers. Investigatory fees. Costs for any opinion required by the Lender according to the terms of the Loan Document.

Gone are the days when you could buy a block of land, build a garage, and live in it until you could afford to build your house. It's not complicated. I have done it; there are DA's for building anything, adjusting your boundary, and now fees if your Holstein farts. And does your milking stool comply with Certification to AS/NZS 4801 demonstrating your commitment to health and safety? Cessnock Council has Rangers who are not welcome in North Rothbury, nosing about overgrown or unsightly allotments and fining locals for parking their cars back to front on the road. It's un-Australian. Mind your own business. We were happy here until Cessnock Council discovered us 100 years too late. And CCC ordering trees to be removed and then proposing planting vegetation for park shade. Are you seri-

ous? That's not going to happen. Apart from the old gums and one fig the only trees in the park at North Rothbury are the ones I planted over the years. A wisteria tunnel might be nice. A council that is less ridged who can see what 'could be' instead of 'what is' would be a vast improvement. Not everyone wants to live with prescribed guides and imposed and enforced rules designed to draw in revenue. Prescribed guides for conduct or action follow you on holiday to the Noosa resorts. Body Corporate bylaws prohibit the hanging of any clothing items where they are visible from outside the villa. No chucking beach towels out on a balcony. Other friends in Noosa can't air bedding in the sun over the balcony (common in exotic Asia and Europe) or leave the car in the drive. It has to be put away in the garage. There are too many rules' fees, and supervision. The locals need a good dose of the Flodder family. But wait, there's hope for the holidays. Cameron's Corner was named after the New South Wales surveyor, John Brewer Cameron. 1879-1881. A vast area of Cameron's Corner is not a council area but run by a committee of local citizens. The Cameron's Corner Store is in the SW Outback QLD. Due to the uniqueness of the lo-

cality, the store has a QLD post-code, a NSW postal address and an SA telephone number. It was established in 1990 by a Vietnam War veteran, Sandy Nall, and his wife Cathrine. As of 2014, the store was operated by the sole permanent residents of Cameron's Corner, Fenn and Cheryl Miller. The store has a range of services, from FREE camping, accommodation, cold beer and drinks, meals - breakfast, lunch and dinner - souvenirs to Tri-State golf! New Year is celebrated three times within three time zones. There is even a good-condition airstrip for those who want to fly in and visit. Cameron's Corner Airstrip Coordinates: 28°59.334'S, 141°00.080'E Other than that, there is Lord Howe Island, and the Lord Howe Island Board. The Board administers Lord Howe Island, a NSW Statutory Authority established under the Lord Howe Island Act in 1953, which gives a high level of self-governance to the community. My granddaughter worked there as a Chef for twelve months, and it's her family's favourite holiday spot. Book ahead, only limited accommodation. You will need lots of cash, there's no mobile phone service, and it's as close to heaven as you'll get. Sea's 26 deg in summer. 2hrs from Sydney by air. Airstrip Coordinates 31.5389° S, 159.0766° E Conclusion. 2022 has seen us over taxed, over Governed and over a barrel. I, for one, am over it.

Happy Holiday Season,
CHEERS STEVE.

sneer at that with which they disagree. The body language is inappropriate. The ABC, owned by the taxpayers is persuading viewers to accept propaganda. We are well on the way to losing our hard-won democracy, today's young adults' sense of entitlement and a hand-out mentality, are vulnerable to noisy pressure groups. Those clusters pushing their idiot ideological themes and applauding the destruction of recorded history, the family unit (the strongest protection against totalitarianism) and the sovereignty of our Nation. The taking of the knee is disgraceful and pointless. Australia is a racist nation, and only people shocked by events in the USA took the knee. I was born overseas, and having seen

ex-pat Australian enclaves in countries where black people live, I know this to be true. So, I only take the knee for the fallen or to aim and open fire. Democratic countries must fight totalitarianism. It is a system of government that is centralized and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state. Australia is going broke and we have lost our morals. The State does not know best. This current situation is really serious. Sheep led by a wolf. As Ronald said. Freedom is fragile. The appalling thing is some people believe it is okay to be locked down.

M. Lind, North Rothbury

Letters to the Editor

Millennials are inevitably woke and green

This transcript from Ronald Reagan's Inaugural Speech 1981, needs quoting to today's Millennials who do not value real freedom, but think they do, and know it all. How many of the millennials have any other life experience other than a few years at Uni or of watching things on TV, listening to the comments of their peers. Bean-bag experts, who jump on line for answers to everything or to dispute what others tell them. Millennials are inevitably woke, and green. Yet would they recognise the smell of buffalo shit and know they must be near a village? Would they ever live

long term in a remote community and get to know the peoples thought and expectations? What is their reaction to dead being left in the street? Government requiring babies be aborted? Would they recognise the stink of diesel exhausts in Asian cities and the cooking smells of street vendors. Would the smell of burnt cordite bring memories of a battle? Have they lived under an oppressive regime? Been cancelled for their beliefs? Felt the trauma of a grieving mother? Part of what Reagan said; "Perhaps you and I have lived too long with this miracle to properly be appreciative. Freedom is a fragile thing and it's never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. And those in world history who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again.

Knowing this, it's hard to explain those among us who even today would question the people's capacity for self-governance. I've often wondered if they will answer, those who subscribe to that philosophy: if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else? Using the temporary authority granted by the people, in increasing number lately at all levels of government, have sought control even of the means of production as if they could do this without eventually controlling those who produce. And always they explain this as necessary to the people's welfare. "The deterioration of every government begins with the decay of the principle upon which it was founded." This was written in 1748, and it's as true today as it was then. Government is the people's business, and every man, woman and child become a shareholder with the first penny of tax paid. End of quote.

But just as we in Australia previously assumed responsibility to guard our young people up to a certain age from the possible harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco, we have a responsibility to protect them from the even more damaging effects of exposure to smut and pornography and violence. Worse than this is the current education systems undermining their confidence by asking them to question their gender and framing legislation allowing children to access spaces, they are not mature enough to process. Men can have periods and women penises. Many Millennials think freedom is allowing children to be exposed to indoctrination in their in the rush to reform and change all that went before. Then there is the irresponsible input of the Media. No one wants to endanger freedom of speech or the press, but individuals in the media have not simply reported the news, but in their enthusiasm to show off, they have taken up various causes. TV presenters

What's Happening & other

with Mike Lowing

It would be inappropriate, prior to Christmas, for me not to mention the enormous contribution the sporting club secretaries & publicity officers of all our community organisations make to our publication.

Club reports & results are critical to the dissemination of club news & individual achievements.

Again, it would be remiss of me not to mention all our other contributors who diligently provide articles for our readers.

To mention just a few; Mark Bercini our roving sports reporter, Scarlett Leotta (Media and Communication Officer at Cessnock City Council), Daryl Sheppard from Branxton Golf Club, Karen Quilty from Branxton Public School, David & Sue Peel from HVGC, Anne Lomas & Perri from Clayton Barrs' office, Chad & the girls from Dan Ripacholis' office, Denise McGoldrick from the Branxton Greta CWA, Judy Spillard from the VIEW Club, Briony O'Hara from Singleton Council, Karin & Jim from the 'Sheds' all & last, but by no means least, all our local members & mayors.

To all 'thank you'. A very special mention to all our advertisers who, have again, made our publication possible this year. Our publication normally has 25 issues a year but this year we have managed only 21. We have had a number of three-week apart issues for various reasons.

As I write this I see that our COVID infection rate in NSW is on the up again since last week.

I would urge our community to please still play safe; still wear masks, still social distance & minimize your time inside public venues. Become an al fresco aficionado!

The Branxton Greta Vineyards News will be having a very short break over the Christmas and New Year. Our first edition for 2023 will be 11th January 2023'

From all at The News have a great Christmas & may all you wish for in the New Year be yours. Cheers, Mike

Council seeks fair deal on waste levy

In an effort to see more money returned to local communities from State Government taxes and levies, Cessnock City Council has resolved to ask the State to review waste levy charges and related grants.

At Wednesday night's Cessnock City Council meeting, the council unanimously resolved to write to Premier Dominic Perrotet and Leader of the Opposition Chris Minns asking that 100 per cent of the waste levy paid to the State Government be returned to Cessnock for reinvestment in recycling facilities, landfill diversion, community education, technology improvements and circular economy opportunities. Cessnock City Council pays the State Government a Domestic Waste Management Service

Charge, known as the waste levy, of \$151.60 per tonne of landfill. Under the levy, on average, Council contributes \$5m per year. However, only \$95,000 of this amount was returned to the Council during the last financial year, under the Better Waste and Recycling Fund – a fund which has ceased to operate as an annual allocation and now must be applied for as grants, making funding non-assured.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said there were many worthwhile projects outlined in Council's 2020-25 Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy that could be funded under the waste levy.

"Councils across the State are getting a rubbish deal when it comes to the waste levy," Mayor Suvaal said.



"The levy was introduced to reduce landfill and promote recycling and resource recovery.

"However, the State Government is taking the levy and keeping more than 80 per cent of it, while returning less than 20 per cent to councils to fund the very activities it was set up to promote.

"If the State Government is serious about reducing landfill and promoting

recovery and recycling, it will return 100 per cent of the levy to local councils." For the purpose of the waste levy, Cessnock City Council is classified as metropolitan, which sees it pay \$64.30 per tonne more than neighbouring councils who are classified as regional. The Council will also ask the State Government to review the classification of Cessnock City Council.



Branxton VIEW Club's new President, Helen Christy Rix was delighted with the large attendance at our last meeting. Judy Groves brought along two ladies and Del Cruickshanks filled out her application to join our friendly club. Judy also gave a most comprehensive Delegate's report. Well done!

Evelyn Thrift gave a report on the schoolchildren whom we sponsor through the Smith Family Learning For Life Program. Our fundraising occasions contribute to the education and welfare of these disadvantaged children and we sincerely appreciate our friends and supporters who help us achieve our donations to this worthwhile goal.

Tuesday, 2nd April, 10 am at Branxton Community Hall is our popular donna-lou Fashion Parade and we

look forward to seeing you there. a light lunch \$15 is included. Bethany 0419 429 364 is our Secretary who can answer every question you may have. What a wonderful recovery, Bethany, we are so proud of you !! Bethany is also holding a fundraising "Party Life Party"-lovely candles, etc. at her home in Greta and is happy to invite anyone who would like to join us on Thursday, 28th March-11 am, Bring a plate towards lunch and \$5. All monies raised go to our Learning For Life students. RSVP to Bethany on the above number.

Sandie gave a report on the activities by the Branxton Greta Business Chamber. A wonderful donation to Greta Public school of \$2,500. On the 9th November at Greta Oval two special occasions will take place at the Greta Silky Oak Festival. The 80th Anniversary of the Greta

Army Camp and the 70th Anniversary of the Greta Migrant Camp. A most memorable celebration to remember for everyone.

On Thursday, 9th May, at Greta Workers Club I have arranged a speaker from the Department of Fair

Trading to address our VIEW club meeting. Advance notice to any individuals and clubs who are welcome to attend. Topics covered include avoiding scams, planning ahead for Seniors and consumer rights. There will also be a question time. Come along about 11.30 am, hear our speaker and join us for lunch if you wish. All welcome.

To our dear members, Jan Travis, Jan Bennett and Denise Hungerford. We trust that your health will continue to improve and that each day brings you closer to good health once more.

Our lucky new President Helen celebrated her imminent birthday by winning the raffle prize!

Happy Birthday also to Grace Brown of Lower Belford. You look younger every day!

Our gardens sigh with relief after the blessed rainfall and remind me of one of Cicero's knowledgeable sayings-"If you have a garden and a library you have everything you need."

*Peace and love to everyone
Judy Spillard*

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CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2022/23

Cessnock City Council Administration Building, Vincent Street Cessnock	Closed from 12pm, Friday 23 December 2022 until 9am Tuesday 3 January 2023.
Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries	Closed from 12pm, Friday 23 December 2022 until 9am Tuesday 3 January 2023.
Swimming Pools at Cessnock and Branxton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Eve - 6am to 12pm Christmas Day - CLOSED Boxing Day - 7am to 5.30pm 27 December Public Holiday - 7am to 5.30pm New Year's Eve - 6am - 12pm New Year's Day - 7am to 5.30pm 2 January public holiday - 7am to 5.30pm Operating hours are subject to weather conditions.
Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Eve open 7.30am-12pm Closed on Christmas day. Boxing day - 10am to 4pm 27 December public holiday - 10am to 4pm New Year's Eve - 7.30am-12pm New Year's Day - 10am to 4pm 2 January public holiday - 10am to 4pm
Cessnock Waste Management Centre	Closed Christmas day only, open as normal thereafter.
Household Waste, Recycling and Green Waste Collections	These services will be as normal during the Christmas/New Year period.
Ranger Services	Rangers will be unavailable during all public holidays during the Christmas/New Year period. In an emergency please call the Police.
Cessnock Performing Arts Centre	Closed from 12pm, Friday 23 December 2022 until 9am Monday 9 January 2023. Bookings still available online.
Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre	Closed Christmas Day only All public holidays (including Saturdays and Sundays 9am - 4pm) Normal business working days 9am - 5pm

Councillors and staff would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our community a safe and happy holiday season

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 Secretary, Lions Club of Branxton Inc
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 Mobile: 0426 261948

Members say ..



Cllr Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

In another sign that our advocacy work is paying off – quite literally – the NSW Government’s latest

Resources for Regions announcement delivered a total of \$12,713,850 for projects and programs across our local government area.

The Round Nine allocation takes our total tally to more than \$25 million since the improvements we advocated for were introduced three years ago, guaranteeing an allocated amount for mining communities, removing the benefit cost ratio and co-contribution requirement, and allowing programs that have supported mental health, skills development and business support along with infrastructure projects.

We saw more wonderful outcomes this time around, with more support for sport and recreational facilities, ever-important roads upgrades, new footpaths and improvements for the historical Singleton Showground, to name a few.

I make particular note of the Singleton Community Rural Halls Upgrade Program, which will deliver \$1,770,000 to improve our community halls at Broke, Bulga, Elderslie, Glendon, Glendon Brook, Hebden, Mirannie, Mitchell’s Flat, Mount Olive, Putty, Warkworth and Whittingham.

This is a special initiative because it goes to the heart of life in our rural communities, where halls play wide and varied roles as community centres, neighbourhood safe spaces and evacuation centres. Improvements such as new paths, toilets, outdoor areas, internal fit outs and updates to better meet building and current safety standards, as well as improved access and functionality will ensure these buildings continue to serve people of all abilities for generations to come.

On that theme, \$200,000 was also announced for the Singleton Access and Inclusion Enhancement program to promote understanding and awareness of access by providing training and education programs, portable equipment such as ramps and hearing augmentation, and a community-wide

International Day for People with a Disability event.

It’s a perfect supplement to the Disability Inclusion Action Plan adopted earlier this year, which works towards accessibility as well as inclusivity for all, and the Draft Community Development Strategy 2022-2026 that was publicly exhibited recently and addresses current and likely future issues affecting the social, cultural and wellbeing of the Singleton community.

Together, these are the basis for actions we’re taking to ensure everyone, regardless of cultural background, circumstances or ability, has the same access to opportunities and inclusivity in our rich community life. And what better time to celebrate all that we each bring to our community than Christmas? After overcoming what has been another challenging year for many, it truly is the season to be merry and bright as we look towards 2023. I wish you and your family a very happy festive season and look forward to what we’ll achieve together in the new year.

Cheers,
Cllr Sue Moore, Mayor



Member for Hunter Daniel Repacholi MP

It’s my last column of the year and I want to take some time to say thank you for an incredible last 7 months since I was elected. The year has flown by and I have made sure that I have kept incredibly busy working for you. It’s been a fantastic opportunity being the representative for the Hunter electorate and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

I thought Parliament had finished for the year but we will be going back later this week to pass the Government’s Energy Price Relief Plan. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures and we are taking urgent action to shield Hunter electorate families and businesses from the worst of these energy price spikes. We are working hand-in-hand with our State and Territory partners to find the best outcomes for all Australians; keeping Australians in work, keeping industry going, and making sure that families

and businesses can pay their bills.

We are experiencing sustained and unprecedented pressure on global energy markets. Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine is pushing energy prices to historic highs all over the world.

The urgent action we are taking with the Energy Price Relief Plan will shield Australians from the worst impacts of price increases, delivering responsible and targeted relief to families, small businesses and manufacturers.

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. In the Hunter electorate we have so many wonderful organisations that have adapted to changes in recent years and continue to support our community. Community organisations such as Meals on Wheels, all of our sporting clubs from rugby to netball, and bowling through to tennis, our community centres, our DV support services all rallied to continue to support our community throughout the last few years.

To our frontline personnel and those that supported keeping them on the frontline, thank you. They have been amazing too throughout very challenging and uncertain times our doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, educators, aged care workers, our police, ambulance, fire, SES, the list is large, and again on behalf of our community I offer them all our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

2022 has again been a challenging year, but we’ve come through it together and stronger. I’m looking forward to the New Year, and hope that 2023 brings us all a less challenges, more time with family and friends and prosperity for all in our community.

It is an opportunity to continue to harness the positives that have come out of the challenges of 2023. The Hunter electorate for me will always be the best place to live in the world. Wishing everyone again a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. My office will close for a couple of weeks over Christmas but they will be checking emails and messages daily so if you have an important issue over the Christmas break, don’t hesitate to contact my office and they will be in touch with you straight away. Cheers, Dan



Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP

FEE-FREE TAFE
A LANDMARK 12-month skills agreement has been signed between the Australian and NSW Governments to address the current skills shortage and deliver fee-free TAFE and more vocational education places.

It will provide immediate support through approximately 120,000 fee-free TAFE and vocational education and training (VET) places in 2023.

The course list will see fee-free places in the care sector, technology and digital, agriculture, construction, hospitality and tourism, sovereign capability, and other priority sectors including foundation skills.

The agreement confirms TAFE’s central role in the VET sector with all governments also agreed on a vision and guiding principles for longer-term VET reform to commence in 2024.

For more information on fee-free TAFE including eligibility criteria applies for selected certificates and diplomas visit: www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-short-courses

SUBSIDENCE REVIEW
The Coal Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 2017, which covers ground movement caused by underground coal mining known as mine subsidence, is currently being reviewed by the state government.

Past and present coal mine operators, property owners and residents in mine subsidence districts, industry organisations and anyone interested in property and compensation are encouraged to provide input.

In NSW, property owners can lodge a claim for compensation if their property is damaged by mine subsidence such as damage ranging from jammed doors and cracks in walls, to structural damage. The review covers the relevance of the objectives of the Act, compliance and enforcement of the Act, the coal mine subsidence compensation system and development regulation for mine subsidence districts to make sure the laws are still appropriate and fair for everyone. Public consultation is open until 19 December; www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/mining-subsidence.

MANUFACTURING FUND
A new Future Industries Investment Program aims to

drive growth in emerging industries and ensure NSW remains at the cutting-edge of modern manufacturing. The \$30 million program will focus on attracting more investment in industries such as medical technology, digital systems, clean energy, defence and aerospace.

The program forms part of the state government’s response to the Modern Manufacturing Taskforce’s report which is available online; www.investment.nsw.gov.au/living-working-and-business/modern-manufacturing/ The Future Industries Investment Fund is an open, competitive grant program that will provide rebate support for eligible businesses that create a minimum of 20 ongoing net new full-time equivalent jobs in NSW; or invest a minimum of \$3 million in capital expenditure excluding program assistance. Further details on applications are available at; www.investment.nsw.gov.au/living-working-and-business/grants-and-rebates/nsw-future-industries-investment-program/

BASC VOUCHERS
Parents of school-aged children, including those starting Kindergarten in 2023, now have an opportunity to claim a \$500 voucher for Before and After School Care (BASC). Parents, who haven’t already downloaded and redeemed a BASC voucher, are encouraged to apply before the summer holidays are over to help cover the cost of vacation care.

Every family with a child going into Kindergarten next year is able to download and redeem their voucher until 31 January if they have not yet done so. Cheers, Dave



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT A CASHLESS FUTURE?

There are a number of issues getting media attention at the moment that forces us to think more and more about a future society that no longer uses cash. How would that affect you? Are you someone that still likes to go into your bank and withdraw cash? Or are you someone who prefers getting your cash from an ATM? Or are you someone who might get a little bit of extra cash out when you buy your groceries? Are you someone that still likes to have a little bit of cash going backwards and

forwards in our day to day lives? Or are you already living a cashless life? There is no doubt that some businesses are already experiencing 80%+ cashless transactions. For many businesses in a position like this it starts to get to the point that the concept of a “float” in a cash register becomes unnecessary work – to balance and bank, etc. I don’t know when it will happen, but it seems highly likely that we will go cashless at some point in time. I for one will be sad when it happens and it’s definitely going to make Monopoly more difficult to teach the kids.

A HUGE THANKS AND BEST WISHES TO KRYSTAL

Many readers of the Cessnock Advertiser will be very familiar with the name Krystal Sellars (nee Adams). For the past 10 years Krystal has been our “everywhere” local journalist working unbelievable hours as she turned up to every event. It didn’t matter if it was early morning, late at night, on weekends or public holidays, Krystal would be there with her camera and notepad recording the news of our people.

A local newspaper is in many ways the historical record of a community. In future years those looking back in time will rely on the work of Krystal and her team to remind us of what happened in Cessnock between 2012 and 2022, just as we relied on the work of Bruce Wilson for the 42 years prior to that (Krystal worked with Bruce in the last 7 of his 42 years).

Farewell Krystal. Best wishes for the next phase of your life and career. And a massive, sincere, heart-felt thank you for all that you have done. Bravo! I do hope that you all have a wonderful and safe festive season. Enjoy. Cheers, Clayton



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

It has been a real privilege to serve the Cessnock Local Government Area community over the past 12 months as Mayor. There is no doubt that 2022 has delivered many challenges for our community, including two major flooding events. Yet again, this community has demonstrated incredible resilience.

While we have faced adversity, we have achieved much towards making our local government area an attractive place to live, work and play. Notably,

Council has delivered the Cessnock Pool Splash-pad, the McFarlane Street inclusive playground, the final stage of the Millfield Skate Park, new sporting facilities at Carmichael Park, a fenced off-leash dog area at Manning Park, and many other projects that have improved and increased recreational opportunities for our community, particularly for our young people. The Performing Arts Centre Cessnock, formerly known as CPAC, redevelopment is now underway. I am very excited to see this project completed. It will deliver, in addition to our current top-end theatre space, a cultural hub with a new exhibition space, retail space and a new box office. I will also look forward to seeing the completion of the Kurri Kurri town centre upgrade in time for Christmas. I want to thank the Kurri Kurri community for its patience as Council has worked to deliver this exciting project.

We are a fast-growing community. During the 21/22 financial year, council approved 934 new dwellings, tripling Council’s forecast. It also adopted the Heddon Greta-Cliffleigh Corridor Structure Plan, which identifies current and future infrastructure and servicing needs within the corridor. Council is very much looking to creating a positive and well-planned future for our local government area. I encourage you to visit the Cessnock City Council website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) to see all our plans and projects.

It is heartening to see the community come out in full force to enjoy many celebrations and gatherings for the first time since the interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some highlights from the past year include the return of the Australian Postie Bike Grand Prix, STOMP Festival, Seniors Festival, Youth Week, NAIDOC Week, and Carols in the Park— which this year saw 3,500 gather for the event. These events and celebrations shine a light on our strong community spirit.

On a final note, I wish you and your family a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year to come. Cheers, Jay



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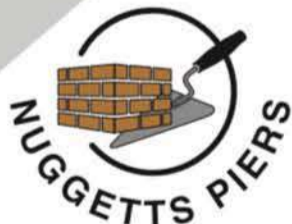
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The Silent Killer

Some of the most common medications dispensed in pharmacy are blood pressure medications. Understanding why they are so important and how they fit into your medical regimen can help to maximise the benefits of these medications. Also looking at other ways to assist your medications to control your blood pressure can be a vital component of a long and healthy life.

Heart disease is Australia's biggest killer and is strongly linked to high blood pressure. It is associated with approximately 50000 Australian deaths each year, and this number is on the increase due to our ageing population. It is known as the silent killer because often people don't realise that they have high blood pressure until they have a simple blood pressure test at their doctors or at a pharmacy. Lower blood pressure means that you have a lower risk of stroke, coronary heart disease, chronic kidney disease, heart failure and death. Maintaining a blood pressure below 120/80 is recommended and sometimes medications may be needed to achieve this. If you already have high blood pressure you talk to your doctor about a blood pressure target for you.

Your risk of heart disease can be broken down into two different categories. Non-modifiable risk factors and modifiable risk factors. Non-modifiable risk factors are those that we have no control of and include, your genes, age and gender. Modifiable risk factors are risk factors that we control ourselves. These include physical activity, smoking, diet, weight, some medications and alcohol consumption.

Regular physical activity is strongly linked to a lowering of blood pressure. At least half an hour of moderate intensity exercise each day helps to keep a healthy heart. The half an hour doesn't have to be done in one session it can be broken up into separate periods of the day. If you haven't done exercise in a while it is important to start slow and work your way up. Choosing an activity that you enjoy can be fun, especially when you do it with a group of friends.

Quitting smoking isn't directly linked to a lowering of your blood pressure but it greatly lowers your risk of cardiovascular events that can also be associated with high blood pressure. A smoker is 2-6 times more

Blood Pressure Chart

CLASSIFICATION	SYSTOLIC	DIASTOLIC
Normal	< 120 mm Hg	< 80 mm Hg
Elevated	120-129 mm Hg	< 80 mm Hg
High	≥ 130 mm Hg	≥ 80 mm Hg

likely to have a heart attack and 3 times more likely to have a stroke over a non-smoker. Nicotine patches are now available on the PBS and there are also some other prescription products that can help you to quit smoking. If you don't want to see your doctor the pharmacy has a large range of over the counter products. The pharmacist or pharmacy staff will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have.

Sometimes it is very difficult to stick to a healthy diet. Australians on average eat 5 takeaway meals each week. Sometimes these can be healthy but most of the time unfortunately they aren't and can contribute to high blood pressure. A diet high in fruits, vegetables and whole-grain foods can cause a decrease in blood pressure. It is also recommended that you include a moderate intake of low or reduced fat dairy products and moderate amounts of lean unprocessed meats, poultry and fish.

Polyunsaturated fats and monounsaturated fats, like olive oil and canola oil, are recommended over saturated fats. A moderate intake of caffeine has been associated with a lower risk of heart disease but can cause an initial increase in blood pressure. Eating 1 row (20g) of dark chocolate each day can lower your blood pressure by up to 10 points. This is thought to be because of the high levels of magnesium and antioxidants. Salt is a major contributor to high blood pressure in the Australian population. The average Australian consumes approximately 9g of salt per day. The current recommendation is to consume a maximum of 4g and even less if you have been diagnosed with high blood pressure. Instead of adding salt to flavour foods, try adding herbs, spices, onion, garlic, wine or lemon juice for flavour.

Obesity is now an epidemic in Australia. It has been linked to many different chronic conditions in Australia including but not limited to diabetes, heart disease and arthritis. Weight loss can be a large factor in reducing blood pressure and for people who don't have high blood pressure it can help to keep it low. In someone who is obese, for every 1% of weight lost it is

expected that your blood pressure will go down by 1mmhg.

There are many medications that can cause an increase in blood pressure. Sometimes your doctor may even prescribe some of these for you, which is okay. They will take into account the risk of your blood pressure increasing due to the medication. Some medications that you by elsewhere, even in the supermarket though can cause that also cause an increase. Some common medications that increase blood pressure include, many cold and flu tablets, Nurofen, aspirin and other anti-inflammatories, various herbal mixtures and even some nasal sprays and eye drops.

People who drink alcohol tend to have a higher blood pressure than those that don't. I order to minimise the amount that alcohol affects your blood pressure, it is recommended that you limit the number of alcoholic drinks to 1 standard drink per night for females and 2 standard drinks for males, with at least 2 alcohol free nights per week.

Top tips for maintaining a healthy blood pressure:
 -if your doctor prescribes you a medicine, develop a process that helps you to remember to take it. It doesn't do you any good sitting on the shelf in its box.
 -remember that any positive change is a good change. Don't try to change everything at once, change one thing at a time. When you get on top of it, work on the next step.
 -set yourself achievable goals and reward yourself when you reach them.
 -if you feel you are having side effects to your medications tell your doctor or pharmacist. We can often give you advice on ways to deal with them and sometimes another medication may be suitable.
 -know what your blood pressure is and get it checked when you get your prescriptions dispensed. As our blood pressure can change quite allot over the day it is a good idea to get it checked at different times.
 -stick to a healthy diet and minimise salt intake
 -reward yourself when you have achieved a goal

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Ingredients

- 40g butter
- 1 large red onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 cup (75g) fresh breadcrumbs (made from day-old bread)
- 1/3 cup (25g) finely grated parmesan
- 1 lemon, zested, cut into wedges
- 1/4 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon drained capers, chopped
- 1.8kg Coles Australian Pork Leg Roast Boneless
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons sea salt
- 1 garlic bulb, halved
- 1kg baby potatoes
- Steamed broccolini, to serve
- Traditional gravy, to serve

Method

- Step 1
 Preheat oven to 230C. Heat the butter in a small frying pan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic. Cook, stirring, for 5 mins or until onion softens. Transfer to a bowl. Add the breadcrumbs, lemon zest, parmesan, parsley and capers. Stir to combine. Season.

Lemon and parmesan pork



- Step 2
 Place the pork, rind-side up, on a clean work surface. Pat dry with paper towel. Turn pork over and use a small, sharp knife to make a 5cm-deep cut under the centre of the meat to make a cavity for the stuffing. Place the stuffing across the centre of the pork. Roll up the pork to enclose the filling. Use kitchen string to tie the pork at 3cm intervals to secure. Place, rind-side up, in a large roasting pan. Drizzle with half the oil. Sprinkle with salt. Rub the salt over the rind and into the cuts. Roast for 30 mins or until rind begins to crackle.

- Step 3
 Reduce oven to 180C. Roast for a further 30 mins. Arrange the potato, halved garlic and lemon wedges around the pork. Drizzle with remaining oil. Roast for 1 hour or until pork is just cooked through. Transfer the pork and vegetable mixture to a serving platter. Set aside, covered, for 15 mins to rest.

- Step 4
 Thickly slice the pork. Serve with the potato mixture, broccolini and gravy.

8.5/10

Daily Thoughts ...

"If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world."

J.R.R. Tolkien

"Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint!" Mark Twain

"Imagination is more important than knowledge, for knowledge is limited while imagination embraces the entire world."

~ Albert Einstein

"Never trust a man who says he's the boss at home. He'll probably lie about other things too." ~ Anon

"There are bigger things in life than money -- bills, for instance." ~ Anon

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23/12/2022	9:00 am	5:30 pm
24/12/2022	9:00 am	5:30 pm
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
30/12/2022	9:00 am	5:30 pm
31/12/2022	9:00 am	5:00 pm
01/01/2023	10:00 am	4:00 pm
02/01/2023	10:00 am	4:00 pm
03/01/2023	9:00 am	5:30 pm

INDIVIDUAL RETAILER HOURS MAY DIFFER

coles TRADING HOURS

19/12/2022	6:00 am	11:00 pm
20/12/2022	6:00 am	11:00 pm
21/12/2022	5:00 am	11:00 pm
22/12/2022	5:00 am	11:00 pm
23/12/2022	5:00 am	11:00 pm
24/12/2022	5:00 am	11:00 pm
25/12/2022	CLOSED	CLOSED
26/12/2022	6:00 am	10:00 pm
27/12/2022	6:00 am	10:00 pm
28/12/2022	6:00 am	10:00 pm
29/12/2022	6:00 am	10:00 pm
30/12/2022	6:00 am	10:00 pm
31/12/2022	6:00 am	10:00 pm
01/01/2023	7:00 am	10:00 pm
02/01/2023	6:00 am	10:00 pm
03/01/2023	6:00 am	10:00 pm

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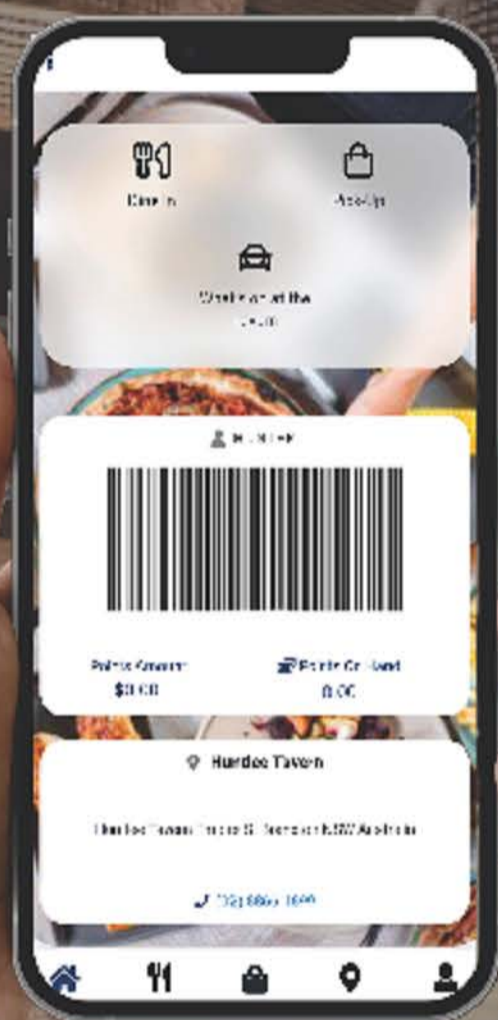
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WE REWARD OUR LOCALS

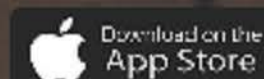
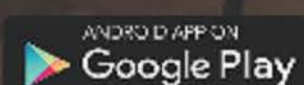
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STEP 2: SEE OUR FRIENDLY BAR STAFF TO COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP WITH LICENSE & POST CODE

STEP 3: ENJOY THE DISCOUNTS AND EARN POINTS (TO BE USED FOR PAYMENTS)

5/1/1927 ~ 13/1/2022

John Saxon Bryant OAM

GRETA FEEDBACK



Ex-Greta resident & 'The News' journalist John Saxon Bryant OAM has passed away after a long battle with illness. John had been a resident at RFBI Benhome Masonic Village, Maitland for about 3 years and is where he sadly passed away. He was just short of his 96th birthday. He is survived by his wife Shirley, daughters Christine & Judith and grandchildren Reyes, Remi & Casey. A private interment will be held tomorrow the 22nd December 2022 at Black Hill. I first met John in 1997 just after I commenced

publishing The News. John had a family history of journalism. His father Jack was the editor of the Sydney 'Sun' newspaper. He started his working career doing a fitter and turner course and followed that with a civil engineering qualification. He spent around 25 years at sea; firstly on tankers, then a pilot bringing ships into port and finally he was the first person to provide cruises on Sydney Harbour. He also pursued farming and grazing with 1400 acres at Inverell just prior to moving to Greta in the late 1980's. We had many common



One migrants story by John Bryant

The migrant ship "General Sturgis" docked in Sydney on Saturday 21st May 1949 & amongst the immigrants aboard was a six year old Latvian girl, Selga Starkis, who was accompanied by her grandmother. After spending a week in Bathurst, they were transferred to Greta and were in the first group to be housed in the newly refurbished Greta Army Camp, arriving in Greta on 28th May 1949. Selga's brother had become ill just prior to the "General Sturgis" departure and arrived July 1949 at Greta, accompanied by his mother. Selga's memories of those early days are still vivid in her mind; the strange



sights, sounds & smells as well as the food, which was nothing like their own and comprised mainly of mutton & some vegetables, chokoes & pumpkin which they had never tasted and many found inedible. Nevertheless, everyone soon settled down and adjusted to the ways of their new homeland, Selga is as "Aussie" a person as you will find and now lives at Green point, with her husband Dimi Pesudors. Dimi also was at Greta Camp from October 1949 to December 1952, but amongst the thousands housed there, they did not meet for some years and then it was in Sydney, that they met. The couple married in 1964 and celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary at the Greta Dance on the Saturday of the Camp Reunion. Hearty congratulations to you both!!!

an OAM for services to the local community and his involvement with a fund raising committee 'A Room for Crystal'. John was keen to help with the paper and I agreed that he should report on

happenings in Greta and any matters that took his fancy. I have republished a few of John's early articles.

As you can see he covered a lot of ground. 'Vale' John Saxon Bryant & may he RIP.

Centre Street is now being paved with bitumen which pleases residents, who have seen their street develop from a muddy track, where only a few years ago, cars were sometimes bogged to the axles. The eastern end of Hunter Street will receive blacktop within a few weeks, leaving only a relatively few of Greta's Streets and Lanes unpaved.



By John Bryant

While travelling by train during the holidays, I was amused by the way that wits have improved their skills in altering signage. Years ago, near the drivers compartment, a sign read "Please do not speak to the driver", which became "Please to not pea into the river". The latest effort is much more refined, "At night travel near the guards area, marked with a blue light". This sign now reads "At night rave near the guards area naked with a blue light".

Cancer Appeal Ball by John Bryant

The Annual Ball in aid of the Maitland Cancer Appeal Committee was held at the Greta Workers Club on Saturday 14th August 1999 and attended by eighty seven people. Music was provided by the three piece band of Cessnock, "The Entertainers". This is the eighth year in which Greta Workers Club have sponsored the ball, hosted by Clare Hill, which, with entrance fees, raffles and donations raised \$1164 all which will be for the Appeal. The Maitland Cancer Appeal Committee are most appreciative of Clare and the Club's effort in fund raising toward promotion & support for research and the treatment of cancer in the Hunter Valley.

Kirkton Charity Ride by John S. Bryant

The fifth annual fund raising ride, in aid of Kirkton Public School, in which 170 riders took part, raised approximately \$4000 for the school and was the fifth ride, with evening entertainment, to be held at "Glenrae" the Standen Drive Lower Belford property of organisers Debra & Glen Beattie. Although rain had been forecast, the day was fine, overcast and cool, providing ideal conditions for both horses and riders who completed the 25km trail which led through the picturesque undulating country of Lower Belford. Well known Light Horseman Joel Donekin led a part of the ride through his fine acreage and provided first aid to one or two riders who had minor mishaps along the way. Our sulky served as a field ambulance, toward the end of the ride, when a teenage girl who had been managing a fractious mount with great skill, was thrown, eventually, but fortunately, did not sustain serious injury. Debra is taking a well earned break from being organiser next year, everyone appreciated the work of the dedicated volunteers which she has led over the years to make this one of the best rides on the calendar. Thanks Debra, from all concerned and we look forward to seeing you on horseback next year.



Left Our reporters John & Shirley with pony "Fred". Both John & Shirley had a great day & will be back again next year.

Local Junior Touch Football Wrap Up – 2022/23



Premiers Waterways "Wolves" following an epic 4-3 victory in the Grand Final

The Greta/Branxton Touch Football Association's Mini and Mod competitions were completed on Wednesday 14/12/22, with the Waterways Wolves taking out the Mods Grand Final with a 4-3 win over the KFit Cheetahs. Oscar Schneeweiss scored 3 tries for the Wolves in a match winning performance, with Adam Vella crossing for the other. In a fitting grand final played in great spirit, the Cheetahs were gallant in defeat, with Will Hanlon (2) and Jayden Slomka crossing for their tries. Many thanks go to our team sponsors for the season. Our Minis were proudly sponsored by Pittman Building Services (Panthers), Feddy Smokehouse (Sharks), Hunter Engineering (Hares), Mitre 10 (Matadors), Adept Mining (All Stars), MAB Fitness & Health (Mustangs), CAN Graphic Design (Dragons), Gold Cobra (Cobras), S & L Excavations (Steelers) and Precision Power (Panthers). Our Mods were proudly sponsored by KFit (Cheetahs), BCD (Brumbies), ARA Trading (Alligators), Valley View Landscaping (Vikings), Waterways (Wolves), Gutterguard (Gorillas), Forage Events (Falcons), Vivid Stoneworks (Vipers), MLC Fab (Magpies) and Hunter Dental (Hawks). This year saw a record 241 kids registered which was again a record on the previous years. The presentation was held at the conclusion of the Mods Grand Finals, with awards presented to the following: Girls Leading Try Scorer – Charli Cole (Wolves) 6 Tries Boys Leading Try Scorer – Brody Billington-Sarina (Alligators) 18 Tries "Zane Slomka Memorial" Girls Best & Fairest – Ellie Young (Magpies) 9 points "Zane Slomka Memorial" Boys Best & Fairest – Cohan Young (Magpies) 14 points



Our last week of school was a busy one! We sadly farewell many staff members who are going on to new adventures. These include Mrs Ballenden who has accepted a position at Raymond Terrace PS, cutting her travelling time in half! She has been an amazing influence at our school for over 11 years and we have her to thank for many of the programs in use at BPS. We wish her well in her new position and thank her for everything she has done to improve the outcomes for students, staff and families. We also farewell our Year 6 students as they complete their primary school education and move on to high school. We wish them lots of luck and look forward to seeing them achieve great things in the future.

Congratulations to all students who received awards at our annual Presentation Day. Our leadership team was announced and have already started taking on their new responsibilities. Our last PBL Assembly was held before the system is upgraded next year. It was great to see lots of family members there. Don't worry, there will still be opportunities for you to celebrate your child/ren's achievements in 2023!

Party Day and Water Fun activities were a hit. We were blessed with perfect weather and the students who were happy to get wet certainly did get wet! Thank you to Mrs Goodyer for her wonderful photos of this event, as well as so many others during the year.

We wish all our families a happy and restful festive season. Be safe and enjoy the time together.

Stay updated about school events through SkoolBag and our Facebook.

Dates for the Calendar

Monday 31st January – Years 1 to 6 return for 2023

Monday 6th February – Kindergarten first day

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

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



Photo at left: Year 6

Photo below: School & community farewelling Year 6



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CAUTION - Touch Football – results in hungry youngsters!

Throughout November and December the Lions Club of Branxton have been providing much-needed supplies to hungry youngsters participating in the extremely popular and lively touch football training at Miller Park on Wednesday afternoons. After a hard day at school and then playing their hard-running games the young football stars are famished and very much look forward the world-famous Lions sausage sizzle and cold drink. Mums and Dads said they were happy to rely on the Lions BBQ as it relieved the extreme hunger pangs of their youngsters. Pictured below, the Lions team get the BBQ stoked up and serve up the goodies.



From the Lions' Den

MORE DETAILS ABOUT EVENT

Clean Up Australia and Lions Awareness Day are back for 2023



Please come and help Clean up the environment in your community

LIONS AWARENESS DAY
Learn what the Lions Club of Branxton do in YOUR community



Lions Club of Branxton in partnership with Clean Up Australia, Cessnock City Council and Branxton Scouts

YOU are cordially invited to join the Lions Club of Branxton To celebrate *Lions Awareness Day* AND *Clean Up Australia* day

You are cordially invited to join the Lions Club of Branxton to celebrate *Lions Awareness Day* and *Clean Up Australia* day on Sunday 5th March 2023 between 10am and 1pm. Please come and help the local teams *Clean up* the environment in the community of Branxton. The Lions Club of Branxton are partnering with the 1st Branxton-Greta Scout Group and other local community organisations to achieve the clean-up starting from Lions Park in Branxton.

WHERE: Lions Park, Branxton
Dalwood Road, Branxton
(Opposite Miller Park)

DATE: Sunday 5th March

TIME: 10am to 1pm

CONTACT: Wendy Lawson
Lions Club of Branxton.

Email:
Branxton_Lions@outlook.com

WHERE: Lions Park, Branxton, Dalwood Road,
Branxton (Opposite Miller Park)
DATE: Sunday 5th March
TIME: 1000 am to 1pm



Christmas Raffle

Branxton Lions had a fund-raising raffle with prizes donated from Bunnings Warehouse (Singleton), Big W (Singleton) and our own local auto-mechanics, Hughes Mechanical of Branxton— thanks to all our sponsors! Raffle tickets were sold at Bunnings Christmas Community event, outside IGA Branxton, and at the Branxton Community Hall Twilight Christmas Market. The lucky winners of the raffle were: first prize, Debbie from Muswellbrook; second prize, Bec from Greta; and third prize, Jason from Branxton. So, happy Christmas to all the prize winners and raffle participants who made good 'investment' in their local community. Pictured below: Lions members Ken Meany and Agnes Meany with Lions Treasurer Cathy Murray at the Bunnings event.

CHRISTMAS twilight market



The Branxton Lions Team cooking up a storm at the Community Hall event: L to R: Enrie Winter, Sean



MacCormack, Ken Meany, John Webb, and Branxton Lions Vice President Alan Humphreys.

Final Event for the Year 2022

The final event for 2022 was when Branxton Lions enjoyed their Christmas party in true Lions style taking the day off from working hard for disadvantaged people in the community and having FUN! Pictured here are the Branxton Lions members with their partners enjoying the event and ho-ho-mirth! All the members and their partners enjoyed the day and President Rod Taylor thanked the hosts, Agnes and Ken Meany, for their unrivalled seasonal hospitality. Branxton Lions are always searching for new members to help in their never-ending quest to help others and provide service in the community. If YOU are interested in making a difference, please contact the phone number or email at the end of this article.



Cessnock City Council Seniors Festival comes to Branxton & Greta



The first event is the Cessnock City Council Seniors Festival which has been brought forward from its usual April slot to February. Saturday 11th February 2023 between 1000am to 2pm is the date of the free event and it will be located at two venues: Branxton Women's Shed: corner Clift Street and Drinan Street, Branxton, NSW 2335 and Branxton Greta Men's Shed: 49 Branxton St, Greta NSW 2334. To remind readers of the fun, we have supplied a photo from the 2022 event. The event, is an open day and craft markets presented in a partnership between the Lions Club of Branxton, Branxton Greta Men's Shed and Branxton Women's Shed. This is the second year of inclusion in the Seniors Festival event. This year (2023) it will also feature a 'magical mystery tour' for participants, supplied by courtesy of Northern Coalfields Community Care Association (NCCCA), between the events and activities of great interest to Seniors involving fitness, sport, and good living. Branxton Lions will provide a BBQ of their famous sausage sizzle sandwiches along with cold soft drinks. There will be demonstrations of handicrafts, craft sales, and handmade home cooking, cakes, and preserves. Also, local community organisations such as the RSL, Branxton Scouts, Branxton Guides and other local organisations have been invited.



Inside the Branxton Women's Shed at the 2022 event, showing yummy produce from local community groups



The mean team of helpers at the event in a previous year for the Clean Up Australia and Lions Awareness event.



Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:

Lions Club Diary Dates:
The FIVE GLOBAL CAUSES of service that Lions Australia and Lions International are focusing on are: **Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Environment, Hunger, Vision, plus Membership.** With a view to spreading out service events and fund-raising for these causes, the District 201N3 Lions Diary Dates document has been devised to show where Lions Clubs can impact on national and international efforts to address these important issues over the whole of the year. If you have any questions about any of the content above, please contact Alan Beckley, Lions Club of Branxton. Email: Branxton_Lions@outlook.com Mobile: 0426-261948



Members of the Lions Club of Branxton are always feeling positive and looking ahead to a better future for their local communities, so we thought we would flag up some excellent events in February and March next year – 2023. Members of the Lions Club of Branxton wish readers a very merry Christmas and happy New Year. Looking forward to see you all in 2023!

Spring into the new year with the Singleton Mattress Muster

Singleton is springing into the new year with the return of the popular Mattress Muster event, where residents can drop off up to four mattresses for free at the Singleton Waste Management Facility on Saturday 21 January 2023.

In addition to the cost savings for residents, they'll also be helping the environment with 75 per cent of mattress components to be recycled.

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Singleton Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning said the Mattress Muster was a highlight on Council's sustainability calendar, with 29.6 tonnes of mattresses collected in the 2021/22 financial year alone.

"The Singleton Mattress Muster is a really important event for our

community that encourages recycling and reduces the incidence of illegal dumping, which are significant outcomes in the Singleton Sustainability Strategy," he said.

"We know that disposing of unwanted mattresses can also be expensive for households, so this is a service truly benefits our community in more ways than one – it helps people get rid of old mattresses cost effectively, as well as to make sure the mattresses are then properly disposed of in a way that is environmentally sustainable.

"Up to 75% of mattress components can be recycled and made into other products, and anyone who comes along on Saturday 21 January 2023 can be rest assured that cleaning out their homes responsibly will also have a positive impact on the planet."

Mattress components that can be recycled include:

1. Steel springs – recycled into products such as roof sheeting
2. Foam – recycled into products such as carpet underlay
3. Husk – recycled into weed matting and mulch
4. Timber – recycled into kindling, mulch and animal bedding

Fabric – used in products such as acoustic paneling

The Singleton Mattress Muster will be held on Saturday 21 January 2023 between 10am and 2pm at the Waste Management Facility on Dyrning Road, Fern Gully.

Proof of address will be required and there is a limit of four mattresses per customer.



See through the eyes of a person with dementia

Have you ever wondered what the world looks like through the eyes of a person living with dementia? Cessnock Library invited family members and carers to a free workshop conducted by Dementia Australia last Thursday 12 December, 10am-1pm.

The three-hour workshop utilised virtual technology to allow attendees to experience the world through the eyes of a person living with dementia.

According to Dementia Australia, there are currently up to 487, 500 people living with dementia, making up approximately 65% of the community.

With EDIE (Educational Dementia Immersive Experience), participants will experience an approximation of the changes in sensory perception caused by dementia. The immersive experience will allow participants to enhance their knowledge of dementia while exploring a supportive approach to assisting those living with dementia.

Library Services Co-ordinator, Rose-Marie Walters said the workshop offered much valuable information.

"EDIE provided family members and carers a 360-degree immersive experience that enables them to see first-hand the challenges faced by people with dementia," Ms Walters

Refreshments were provided.

For more information, contact the facilitator, Bronwyn Colley on 0490 431 951.



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.

Inflatable pools – what's the real cost?

As part of its annual Be Pool Safe campaign, Cessnock City Council is calling for residents to think carefully before purchasing an inflatable pool for the kids this Christmas.



While inflatable or portable pools may appear as a low cost, easy installation option to stay cool this summer, it is important to note that they present a significant drowning risk for young children, especially toddlers.

The 2022 Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report found that in 2021/22 most drowning deaths occurred for children aged between 0-4 years of age in a swimming pool environment (35%). While there is no substitute for constant supervision, inflatable pools must be surrounded by a four-sided pool fence and self-closing, self-latching gate just like permanent pools.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said it's important that families consider the potential real cost of not following the rules and regulations with owning a pool, whether it be permanent or inflatable.

"Sadly, all it takes is 20 seconds and a few centimetres of water for a child to drown, so it's important to know your responsibilities before making the purchase," Mayor Suvaal said.

"By following the correct safety procedures and always supervising your kids, all families will be able to enjoy the water and cool off these summer holidays."

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

Christmas/New Year Operational Hours 2022/23

Details of the operating hours of Singleton Council Services over the 2022/23 Christmas and New Year period are shown below:

Singleton Administration Centre

- The Administration Centre will close from midday on Friday, 16 December 2022 and will reopen for normal operating hours on Monday, 19 December 2022.
- The Administration Centre will be closed from noon on Friday, 23 December 2022.

Regular operating hours will resume on Tuesday, 3 January 2023, with after-hours phone diversion in place during this period.

Singleton Visitor Information Centre

- The Singleton Visitor Information Centre will close from midday on Friday, 16 December 2022 and will reopen for normal operating hours on Saturday, 17 December 2022.
- The Centre will close from noon on Friday, 23 December 2022 and will reopen on Saturday, 24 December 2022 from 10am - 3pm.
- The Centre will be closed on Sunday, 25 December and Monday, 26 December and will reopen on Tuesday, 27 December 2022. Modified opening times of 10am - 3pm will be in place from Tuesday, 27 December 2022 until Monday, 2 January 2023.

The Centre will resume normal operating hours from Tuesday, 3 January 2023.

Singleton Public Library

- The Library will be closed from midday on Friday, 16 December 2022 and will reopen at 9am on Saturday, 17 December, 2022.

The Library will also close from midday on Friday, 23 December, 2022 and will reopen at 9am on Tuesday, 3 January 2023.

Colleen Gale Children's Services

- Colleen Gale Children's Centre will close from midday on Friday, 16 December and will reopen from 6.30am on Monday, 19 December 2022.
- Colleen Gale Children's Centre will also close from midday on Friday, 23 December 2022 and will reopen with normal operating hours at 6.30am on Tuesday, 3 January 2023.

Singleton Heights Sports Centre

The Singleton Heights Sports Centre will be closed from Saturday, 24 December 2022 and will reopen on Tuesday, 3 January 2023.

Singleton Gym + Swim

- The Singleton Gym + Swim will be operating normal hours on Saturday, 24 December 2022 from 6am - 6pm and will be closed on Sunday, 25 December 2022.
- The Centre will open on Monday, 26 and Tuesday, 27 December 2022 from 10am - 6pm.
- The Centre will be operating normal hours from Wednesday, 28 to Saturday, 31 December 2022 and will be open on Sunday, 1 and Monday, 2 January 2023 from 10am - 6pm.

The Gym and Swim will resume normal operating hours from Tuesday, 3 January 2023.

Singleton Waste Management Facility

- The Waste Management Facility will be operating normal opening hours except for Sunday, 25 December 2022 when the Facility will be closed.
- The Facility will be operating from 9am - 4pm on Monday, 26 December 2022 and Tuesday, 27 December 2022 and also from Saturday, 31 December 2022 to Monday, 2 January 2023.
- The Facility will resume normal trading hours on Tuesday, 3 January 2023.

There will be no kerbside services on Christmas Day with scheduled services continuing on Monday, 26 December 2022.

Duty Planning Enquiries

- Duty Planning Enquiries will not be available from midday on Friday, 16 December 2022 to 8.30am Monday, 9 January 2023.
- Pre DA Meetings will not be available from Monday, 19 December 2022 to Monday, 30 January 2023.



the success lead to a world-wide expansion for the manufacture of the machines. The picture on the left shows the original state of the rotavator as it was found in the shed of Greg Wiseman of Greta and donated to



The Branxton Greta Mens Shed has recently restored a Howard 'The GEM' Rotavator. This is the second Howard device the Shed has renovated after the earlier renovation of the small lawn tractor, the Kelpie. Howard machinery were invented and build by Arthur Clifford Howard from Gilgandra who first started experimenting with Rotavators in 1912. 10 Years later he formed a company and

the shed on the proviso that we restored it to working condition if possible. The first order of task was to transport the device to 'The Shed' and getting a good look at the actual state it was in. The engine was removed as well as all moveable parts and



linkages to allow for a good clean up and detail inspection. The engine was seized but deemed otherwise to be in restorable

condition as were all of the other parts. Having stripped the engine to just the gearbox it was given a thorough clean up and repainted in the traditional Howard orange colour. All engine parts got a thorough cleanup and re-spray with undercoat, ready for the final paintjob. Also all other components were cleaned sanded down and repainted in the traditional Howard orange colour and stored for the final refitting once the engine block had been refurbished and fitted. And then came the task of putting it all back together again. All hands were on



deck for this task although most hands were their mainly for looking and giving well-meaning advise! Finally on Wednesday November 16 completion was achieved and the 'Gem' was started up. The job completed, under budget, and to the

satisfaction and applause of all. For moving pictures and sound, refer to the Shed's Facebook page. To all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. The Mens Shed



CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES IN THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BRANXTON GRETA LOCHINVAR 2022

SERVICE OF CAROLS AND READINGS:
 Friday 16th December at 6pm at Holy Trinity Lochinvar. Saturday 17th December at 6pm at St Johns Branxton.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: for those for whom Christmas is difficult this year: Tuesday the 20th December at 6pm at St Johns Branxton.

CAROLLING AT BRANXTON GARDENS:
Friday 23rd December at 6pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE AND HOLY EUCHARIST:
Saturday 24th December at 6pm at St Johns Branxton.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS: Saturday 24th December at 11pm at St Johns Branxton.

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY EUCHARIST:
 Sunday 25th December 9am at St Johns Branxton. Sunday 25th December 11am at Holy Trinity Lochinvar

Anglican Church
Branxton Greta Lochinvar

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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

#supportlocalcessnock





Book Reviews

A memoir of loving hard, falling apart and fighting back, set to an unrivalled playlist

MAWUNYO GBOGBO



Reviewed by: Loretta Barnard
 "Hip Hop & Hymns is an interesting read, providing a brave, unvarnished look at identity and race in Australia. And it's a paean to the power of music."

From philosopher and author Raimond Gaita's extraordinary memoir *Romulus My Father*, to musician and poet Omar Musa's powerful novel *Here Come the Dogs* – and plenty of other fine works in between – readers have been given insights into some of the difficulties faced by Australians who are different from mainstream white society. Gaita's father fled Yugoslavia as a boy, and in the years following the end of World War II, arrived in Australia with his wife and little son; Musa has written about the in-betweenness of his Irish and Malaysian heritage and growing up Muslim in Australia.

Now another author has added her voice to this list. Mawunyo Gbogbo was born in Ghana, and was a small child when she migrated to Australia with her family, ultimately settling in Muswellbrook in the Hunter region of New South Wales. For many

years, the Gbogbo family was the only African family in the area. In *Hip Hop & Hymns*, we read stories of her parents' experiences in their new country as well as the author's own memories and reflections on growing up Black in Australia. The first part of her memoir is a coming of age story, and although it's a standard sort of coming of age story in many ways, to my mind this was the most engaging part of the book.

One of the constants in her life was the church. The Gbogbos were regular attendees at Sunday services, where young Mawunyo revelled in the hymns sung by an enthusiastic congregation. Christianity is a pervading thread through the book. The other pervading thread is music. As a teenager, she knew film soundtracks by heart, but the music that spoke to her the loudest was hip hop, which she calls 'an entire culture'. Her brother's growing record collection opened her eyes to music that could challenge the establishment. American musicians like Ice-T, Tupac Shakur, Dr Dre and others rapped about the real world. As well as subjects like drug use, their music addressed serious social issues such as racial injustice, politics, history, and Black pride, issues that resonated with her even as she recognised the disrespect to women in the 1990s hip hop songs she listened to, where women were routinely referred to as 'bitches and hoers'. But even as she disliked the misogyny, the music grabbed her. Importantly too as a 16-year-old, this

music became one of the 'few connections in Muswellbrook to Black people'. And while lyrics were important, Gbogbo was also responding to the 'synthesised beats, the clever sampling of hit songs, present and past. Despite being a budding lyricist myself,' she writes, 'to me the beats, the instrumental, the melody – these were the most important elements to a song'. There's a great line in her book where she talks about her mother complaining that she was spending too much money on CDs and Mawunyo comments, 'I wasn't just buying music when I bought a new CD. I was buying an experience.' That's a very relatable sentiment for music lovers. So music and Christianity are central motifs, but this is a memoir of a girl who dreamed of becoming a journalist, and we read of the sometimes tortured path she walked to reach her goal and study for her degree. At 21, she was accepted to study in the United States for a semester, which was an eye-opener. While in New York – an exciting vibrant city worlds away from regional Australia – she took on an internship at *The Source* magazine, the so-called Bible of hip hop music. She attended industry events, researched material for press releases, and met many of the movers and shakers in the hip hop world. She was on a steep learning curve, but suffered a few personal setbacks. She writes compellingly of her time in America, and devotees of hip hop will especially enjoy this section of the



book. *Hip Hop & Hymns* is a memoir of great honesty: an African-Australian girl speaking candidly about her flawed self-image over the years, and how she ultimately came to proud acceptance. She's open about the mistakes she made, the teenage shoplifting, her use of drugs and alcohol, how she dealt – or didn't deal – with some of the appalling racism she was subjected to, and how much worse that racism was for her Indigenous friends; and she shares details of a breakdown she experienced in her early twenties. We read about her conflicting emotions about, and enduring love for, the boy she fell in love with at school and met up with again years later. The book's press release tells us that hip hop helped form Mawunyo Gbogbo's identity, and her memoir reflects that. These days she's a music and pop culture reporter for Double J and ABC News, thus combining her love of music with her passion for journalism. *Hip Hop & Hymns* is an interesting

read, providing a brave, unvarnished look at identity and race in Australia. And it's a paean to the power of music.

About

Mawunyo Gbogbo
 Mawunyo Gbogbo is a music and pop culture reporter for Double J and ABC News, and the author of *Hip Hop & Hymns*. She has worked as a journalist for ABC NewsRadio; a features reporter and Producer for ABC Radio Sydney; a segment producer for the Today Show on the Nine Network; and an associate producer for Insight on SBS TV, where she won a UN Media Peace Award. Mawunyo was born in Ghana, raised in Muswellbrook in the NSW Hunter Valley, and now calls Sydney home

Local sport defibrillator grant program

The Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program allocates grants to assist local sporting clubs and recreational facilities across NSW in the purchase and maintenance of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).
 The NSW Government is allocating \$2 million over four years, 2022-2026 to assist sporting clubs across NSW in the purchase and maintenance of AEDs. State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP encourages eligible applicants to make an application to the Office of Sports. "This program makes sports safer for our local sporting groups and their supporters."

More than 33,000 Australians experience cardiac arrest every year and early access to CPR and defibrillation can influence survival rates by up to 75 percent. Survival

rates from sudden cardiac arrest decrease each minute defibrillation is delayed. Early access to CPR and defibrillation will improve the chance of survival. "I encourage all of our local not-for-profit sporting organisations, groups and



recreation related services to put in an application for this potentially life-saving equipment, in case of an emergency occurring" said Mr Barr.

Eligible applicants will need to be one of the following:

- Incorporated, not-for-profit sports and recreational clubs or other incorporated organisations in NSW that are sport or

recreation related

- State or national sporting organisations on behalf of member clubs located in NSW

- Licensed sporting clubs, providing that the project directly benefits sporting activities

- Sporting clubs associated with a school, church or university providing they are an incorporated not-for-profit club in their own right

- Councils, and sport and recreational facilities owners on behalf of sports and recreational clubs Service clubs such as Rotary, CWA and Lions, on behalf of sports clubs Up to \$3,000 is available for approved applications to cover the cost of purchase of an approved AED package. Applications are currently open and will close at 1pm on Friday 10 February 2023.

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction (18 Dec '22)

1. NEW THIS WEEK
A WORLD OF CURIOSITIES by Louise Penny
 The 18th book in the Chief Inspector Gamache series. When an attic room that was sealed off 160 years ago is opened, an old enemy returns.
2. 7 WEEKS ON THE LIST
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.
3. 77 WEEKS ON THE LIST
IT ENDS WITH US by Colleen Hoover
 A battered wife raised in a violent home attempts to halt the cycle of abuse.
4. 52 WEEKS ON THE LIST
VERITY by Colleen Hoover
 Lowen Ashleigh is hired by the husband of an injured writer to complete her popular series and uncovers a horrifying truth.
5. 7 WEEKS ON THE LIST
THE BOYS FROM BILOXI by John Grisham
 Two childhood friends follow in their fathers' footsteps, which puts them on opposite sides of the law.
6. 4 WEEKS ON THE LIST
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.
7. 13 WEEKS ON THE LIST
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.
8. 189 WEEKS ON THE LIST
WHERE THE CROWD 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.
9. 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST
TRIPLE CROSS by James Patterson
 Detective Alex Cross and the true-crime author Thomas Tull search for a serial killer known as the Family Man.
10. 47 WEEKS ON THE LIST
UGLY LOVE by Colleen Hoover
 Tate Collins and Miles Archer, an airline pilot, think they can handle a no strings attached arrangement. But they can't.

The New York Times Best Sellers

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

BUTLER Peter John
 2/1/73 ~ 16/3/03



Peter you would have been turning 50 on the 1st January 2023.

What a party it would have been.

Happy Heavenly 50th mate; whatever or wherever you maybe.

Just know how much we all wish you were here with us.

Love forever,
 Mum, Dad, Melissa and family



BRANXTON N.S.W.

For membership details
 Contact Dr. Alan Beckley
 Secretary, Lions Club of
 Branxton Inc
 Mobile: 0426 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: 13/12/2022

Total Yarding: 700 (-470)

There was a reduced penning of 700 head to finalise sales for the year. A good supply of quality yearlings penned while all categories had representation. A reduced field of buyers in attendance with several processors having secured requirements over the break. An improved quality penning of vealer heifers sold to cheaper trends. Light and medium weight yearling steers sold to dearer trends under solid competition and some improvement in quality. The heavy-weight feeders attracted weaker demand to sell to a cheaper trend. There were strong gains for an improved quality penning of yearling heifers. Heavy grown steers to process saw the higher quality lines sell to a slightly dearer trend while the lesser quality lots were cheaper. Well finished grown heifers met weaker demand to sell to a cheaper trend. That was also the case in the cow market.

HRLX Singleton

Report Date: 14/12/2022

Total Yarding: 343 (-156)

The last Singleton cattle sale for 2022 produced a smaller penning of mixed quality cattle. The majority were younger cattle more suited for the restockers, with the prime conditioned lot to suit the local butchers carrying extra weight. The export cattle were mainly cows and the usual buyers competed in a cheaper market, with breed and quality contributing in places. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers trended cheaper and ranged from 450c to 565c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers struggled in the competition and trended cheaper and sold from 400c to 540c/kg. The yearling steers to feed and the restockers sold to solid competition, with the medium and heavy weights making from 442c to 526c, as the lighter end reached 540c/kg. The majority of the yearling heifers suitable for the restockers were infused with the dairy breeds and these made from 252c to 350c, with the better bred pens topping at 515c/kg. The higher yielding younger cattle in prime condition and purchased by the butchers topped at 525c/kg. Cows sold close to firm, with yield and quality lower, this week. The better covered heavy weights to the processors made from 275c to 280c/kg. The lighter weights ranged from 250c to 280c/kg. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes

Scone

Report Date: 13/12/2022

Total Yarding: 386 (-139)

Consignments slipped for the last Scone cattle sale for 2022 and the quality was mixed. The bulk entered the younger categories, with ample numbers in prime condition to suit the local butchers. There were approximately 40 cows penned and the market trend overall was firm to dearer, however any plainer types struggled in the competition. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers remained firm overall, with some breed related price adjustments and prices ranged from 526c to 645c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers maintained firm values and received from 522c to 560c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to the restockers gained 8c and made from 456c to 528c, as the same weight heifer portion to the same buyers trended dearer and received from 406c to 510c/kg. The best grain assisted yearling to the local butchers reached 520c/kg. The older heifers improved 5c and reached 380c/kg. Cows sold close to firm, with the better finished heavy weights ranging from 280c to 315c/kg. The best heavy weight bull to the processors reached 320c, with restockers paying up to 490c/kg for a well-muscled bull. The Scone cattle sale will resume selling on the 10/1/2023. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes

TRLX Tamworth

Report Date: 12/12/2022

Total Yarding: 540 (-300)

The final prime sale for the year saw a reduced penning of 540 head presented. All categories were represented in front of a reduced buying presence. The quality of the penning was fair to very good. A line of very good vealers were put forward. The quality of the vealers attracted both processor and restocker competition and as a result sold strongly with a dearer trend recorded. There was not a lot of change in the restocker and feeder market for yearling steers. Odd dearer sales in all weight classes along with some breed related price change. Medium weight yearling heifers sold to a slightly dearer trend as did the lightweights to restockers. There was a firm trend for the few heavy grown steers to process while the well finished grown heifers to process sold on a firm to slightly cheaper trend. Demand for cows was a little stronger with the market trend dearer, up to 10c/kg.

Racing Review & Breeding News

\$10m Melbourne Cup on VRC wish list



Champions Day was a huge success. Picture: Vince Caligiuri/Getty Images

By Gilbert Gardiner

A \$10m Melbourne Cup is part of a Victoria Racing Club New Year's resolution. News Corp has established the Flemington hierarchy intends to lobby Racing Victoria for a \$2m boost for the race that stops the nation. It follows last month's record Melbourne Cup Carnival for wagering and prizemoney, which culminated with the re-imagined \$10m triple Group 1 Champions Day on the fourth and final day of the carnival. Racing Victoria is responsible for prizemoney increases. Ongoing talk of a reshuffled spring next year, with a daring move to push Group 1 races deep into November could strengthen Flemington's already mammoth four

-day Cup carnival. The Cup was replaced as Australia's richest race in 2017 with the incarnation of the then \$10m The Everest. The Cup increased from \$6.2m to \$7.3m in 2018 and then again to \$8m in 2019. The Everest moved to \$15m to solidify its place as Australia's biggest purse followed by the upgraded \$10m Golden Eagle, increased from \$7.5m last year. VRC executive general manager (racing) Leigh Jordon would not be drawn on the club's Cup wish. But Jordon confirmed further prizemoney increases to the runaway success Champions Day would form part of discussions with Racing Victoria. Flemington would like the

Champions Sprint, Mile and Stakes boosted from \$3m to \$5m apiece to cement the 1200m, 1600m and 2000m races as spring grand finals. "We want to keep improving the day," Jordon said. "The wagering uplift across the week showed a massive increase on Champions Final day, so why wouldn't we keep strengthening it. "From a club perspective it's a no-brainer." Punters wagered a record \$144m on the revamped Champions Stakes Day - up 21 per cent on the previous \$119m record. The four-day carnival turnover totaled a record \$776m, a seven per cent increase year-on-year and a 23 per cent increase on pre-Covid results in 2019.

RV stewards reactivate Weir jigger inquiry

By Gilbert Gardiner Integrity boss Jamie Stier has confirmed Racing Victoria has reactivated the Darren Weir jigger scandal inquiry stewards adjourned back in October 2019 pending the conclusion of criminal

proceedings. Disqualified trainer Weir on Wednesday escaped conviction on three animal cruelty (abuse) charges but was fined \$36,000 in the Warrnambool Magistrates' Court. Stewards on February 6, 2019 imposed a four-year disqualification on Weir for "possession" of jiggers, an electronic shock device also known as a cattle prod. Evidence presented to court last Wednesday, closed-circuit television footage clearly showed Weir using a jigger on three horses at his stable on October 30, 2018. Stier confirmed to News Corp on Thursday stewards are "furthering that inquiry" from October 2019.

"The matter has always been there and the RAD Board themselves said if further information came to hand, further charges could be heard," Stier said. "Now we move to looking at the materials which came to light (Wednesday), we need to have the stewards investigate the matter and as they investigate the matter, that will open up lines of inquiry. "They'll progress the matter as promptly and as quickly as they're able to, but they won't be rushed." Stier said Weir's disqualification, set to expire on February 6, 2023, has no bearing on the restarted inquiry. "We don't put deadlines on these types of matters, the priority is to make sure a thorough investigation is run and whatever time it takes to complete a proper process that is the time it will take and that's the primary consideration," Stier said.



Should stewards elect to lay further charges on Weir, for use of an electronic shock device, the "serious offence" under the rules of racing must be heard and determined by the Victorian Racing Tribunal. The Weir matter and looming expiry of the four-year disqualification, which opens the door for an application to return to training, is a hot-button issue for Racing Victoria in a social and political climate geared around the prevention of animal cruelty. "The suitability policy applies equally to all persons in our sport as well

as those wishing to join or re-join the sport," Stier said. Stier would not be drawn on the optics or potential outcomes. "We don't prioritise one decision necessarily ahead of the other," Stier said. "But I think it was probably pitched correctly by Judge Bowman back in the RAD Board hearing where I think he said words to the effect of 'use of jiggers is abhorrent and has no place in thoroughbred racing.'" Weir must satisfy RV's 12-point licensing and registration suitability policy should he wish to return to racing following his disqualification." Photo above: Darren Weir



there is one there that's preventing access to their device.

This may not seem like a problem unless you have thousands of photos that weren't backed up.

Here's what to do: Don't keep trying random numbers. You know what your passcode is right? If you've tried a few variations and now the phone is saying 'disabled for 1 minute', you need to go to the next step. **Contact Apple.** You'll hear things like, "is it your phone?" "Did you buy it 2nd hand?" "You must have had a passcode previously", and finally, "your phone will have to be reset to be able to use it".

This is sort of true, however, if you didn't have a backup to iCloud, **DON'T RESET IT JUST YET.** We may be able to retrieve your photos first. If you reset your phone, then all is lost unless you have a backup. Apple screens are pretty good. We've seen phones where they were run over by a truck, pieces missing out of it and it still worked! When replacing the screen, try and always fit an original Apple screen... they are better than the generics (Macroids has both options available) The charging sockets are also very reliable. This is because the charge cable fits in no matter which way you insert it.

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

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

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

accept it? That's why I don't use Apple devices.

If you're Apple, it's a great business model as it results in the sale of a new device.

Samsung Devices. Samsungs security is also pretty good. If you have a Samsung phone you can protect yourself simply by inserting an SD Memory card into the phone. It's a cheap way of backing up your photos and its automatic once inserted.

Samsung devices are less restrictive than Apple in the way they operate but their screens are not as durable. If you crack a Samsung screen, sooner or later it will turn off (go black, flash red or green) and then you'll have 2 choices. Replace the screen or replace the phone.

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

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

Cloud Backup is the way to go. There are a few options available. In settings > Backup & Restore > Backup In there you'll find Samsungs Cloud option, Googles back up option and if you have a memory card inserted you can also do a full backup to the card. The SD card option is easy and cheap but don't lose your phone.

A cloud backup means that you're storing your information on someone else's computer like Google, Samsung, Dropbox etc. These are relatively safe. Having said that, I don't store passwords there, but they're great for all your photos.

I use a combination of SD Card and Dropbox. This means if I lose my phone I can get all my stuff back from my Cloud account.

Are Cloud accounts safe? I guess there's always a risk but typically, backups don't store passwords so although your photos, contacts and other bits of info are up there, they won't have access to your passwords.

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

(Ed., I regularly use Frank for any technical problems we have with our mobile phones & computer systems. I can highly recommend him as a highly competent & ethical businessman)

MOVIE REVIEW

THE WHALE

CTC

The Whale Review: Brendan Fraser Is the Saving Grace of A24's Thematically Incoherent Movie, Which Is a Punishing Watch

Isaac Feldberg
Two hours of contrived miserablism posturing as an exercise in radical empathy, **Darren Aronofsky's** *The Whale* is at least honest — rather, callously didactic — about the disgust it feels for Charlie, the 600-pound man played by **Brendan Fraser** at its center. The A24 film even goes so far as to open on Charlie masturbating, these furious exertions triggering a heart attack right before an evangelical missionary (**Ty Simpkins**) arrives to discover him gasping and incapacitated, gay porn still streaming on his laptop. Charlie is subject to many such humiliations throughout *The Whale*, which charts the last five days ahead of what exasperated caregiver **Liz (Hong Chau)** assures him will be his death from congestive heart failure.

A middle-aged English composition teacher shut inside his small Idaho apartment, outside of which it rains and rains and rains, Charlie has grown morbidly obese since his partner took his own life. Now requiring the use of a walker to move around, as well as grabber sticks to assist with picking up smaller items that have fallen out of arm's reach, he's largely couchbound, wheezing and choking his way through this final stretch of physical decline. Cheerfully lecturing students over Zoom about the importance of being honest in their writing even as he keeps his camera off to hide his appearance, Charlie otherwise spends his days eating. Whether Charlie is chowing down on meatball subs and buckets of fried chicken provided by Liz, devouring pizzas he orders to his front door, or guzzling plastic Diet Coke bottles kept by his bedside, Aronofsky choreographs the emotions we're to feel toward this binge-eating — revulsion, horror, morbid curiosity — by cranking up the foley audio to emphasize its wet, squelching sounds and slathering on **Rob Simonsen's** lugubrious orchestral score.

The camerawork, courtesy of Aronofsky's longtime DP **Matthew Libatique**, moves around Charlie with an ease and fluidity that further scorns the character's immobility,

either coming close enough to catch the crumbs tumbling from his lips or retreating to leer at his lumbering, sweat-drenched frame from a distance. What *The Whale* sees of Charlie's surroundings, too, from the rusty handles installed above his bed and shower to the grotty detritus of items hoarded around the apartment, underscores its sense of him as a prisoner of the flesh. (That the film also utilizes a constrictive Academy ratio registers as yet another flourish, though one that backfires by suggesting the single location's dramatic insubstantiality more than Charlie's . . . claustrophobia within it.)

These aesthetic choices convey that death is . . . inevitable for someone this fat but the slow march there will make it feel like a release, a final freedom. Before that point, though, Charlie will be visited not only by Liz, who hopes to save his life, and that missionary, who's more interested in his soul, but also by two figures from his past — resentful daughter **Ellie (Sadie Sink)**, whose hatred for Charlie has festered like an infected wound in the years since he abandoned her to run off with one of his students, and her vexed mother **Mary (Samantha Morton)**, a similarly spiteful alcoholic. Along with Liz, who's livid about Charlie's refusal to go to a hospital (he uses his lack of health insurance as an excuse), Ellie and Mary form a chorus of rage and resentment, one ugly note played at a deafening volume, raining down verbal or emotional abuse on Charlie to expound upon his physical agony. In response, Charlie offers only kindness and gentle optimism, taking his place as a Christ-like figure in the midst of some personal Passion. Based on the 2012 play by **Samuel D. Hunter**, who adapted his own work for the screen, *The Whale* takes to an extreme its interrogation of the body as a site of spiritual redemption, though its efforts to shoe-horn **Herman Melville's** *Moby Dick*, the saga of Jonah and the whale, and that evangelical missionary character into Charlie's martyr-like narrative of suffering and sacrifice serve to literalize the story and limit any deeper reading. It's easy to see what Aronofsky, who's never met

a Biblical allegory he couldn't muddle despite structuring his films around them as some matter of navel-gazing gimmick, responded to in this material, though it's dramaturgically leaden and

thematically incoherent on the page, and thus in adaptation amplifies his worst tendencies as a director.

Ever since *Requiem for a Dream*, Aronofsky has been devoted to exploring physical and spiritual crucibles, but the sense that the director's viewpoint on these ordeals is that of a bigoted, self-serious scold has become more difficult to deny over the years. The tell, in *The Whale* and his previous films, lies in Aronofsky's ghoulish fascination with visiting exaggerated torments upon his characters, from the fingernail-ripping psychosis experienced by **Natalie Portman's** ballerina in *Black Swan* to the ritualistic brutalization of **Jennifer Lawrence's** virginal wife in *mother!* It's in these visceral sequences of abuse and degradation — often directed at socially vulnerable classes — that Aronofsky comes alive as a filmmaker, and in his screenplay's clumsy attempts to find within them a greater, cleansing profundity that he most falters. *The Whale's* most heated sequence finds Charlie shoving pizza into his mouth and then vomiting, despondently, as his body rejects it; and its nadir, as such, might be the hideously crude and clumsy climax between Ellie and Charlie, in which his repeated entreaties to honesty are met with the recitation of her bizarre class essay.

If there's a saving grace in *The Whale*, it's that already much-ballyhooed central performance from Fraser, which transcends the film's histrionics with its attention to the flawed, noble-minded man inside *The Whale*. Beneath massive amounts of prosthetic fat and CGI, Fraser plays this character with a level of compassion and sensitivity that goes beyond legitimizing his surprising late-career renaissance. In refusing to reduce Charlie to the freighted metaphorical object — of grotesquerie, pity, ridicule, and tragedy — that *The Whale* otherwise treats him as, Fraser is so genuinely affecting that it serves to expose the shortcomings of others involved with the production, his dramatic integrity and interest in this character's humanity illuminating their lack of the same.

That *The Whale* is a punishing watch was to be expected, but that it feels this deplorably phony suggests nothing so bloated and overindulged as the egotistical self-regard of its creators. **Grade: D**

When is a Warranty is NOT a Warranty.... True or False?

Your 18 month old iPhone died this morning and you're going to cop a HUGE repair bill to get it fixed.

Well, it depends. If it has physical damage like a broken screen or back glass or obvious signs of case damage, get your credit card ready as no matter what is wrong with the device, they'll claim that the impact damage caused any/all existing faults.

However, if you've looked after your pride and joy that cost as much as a small used car to buy, and there is NO physical damage, you're in luck!

The ACCC & ASIC recently introduced a great term. It's called 'Implied Warranty'. This means that although manufacturers state that your device is covered for a certain period, say 1 year from the date of purchase, **Implied warranty coverage can last as long as four years**, although the length of the coverage varies from state to state.

AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER LAW

The Manufacturers Return Policy and Limited Product Warranty is in addition to any other rights and remedies that you may have under the Australian Consumer Law. Goods come with guarantees that cannot be excluded under the Australian Consumer Law. You are entitled to a replacement or refund for a major failure and compensation for any other reasonably foreseeable loss or damage. You are also entitled to have the goods repaired or replaced if the goods fail to be of acceptable quality and the failure does not amount to a major failure.

So, if you believe that your phone should last say at least 3 years without breaking down, then THAT is the warranty period, regardless of what the manufacture claims. The device must be of merchantable quality. Retailers and Manufacturers hate it with a passion but in this throw away society, why should the people who genuinely look after their devices be punished due to crappy technology?

Try it and let me know how you go but remember, if there is any physical damage at all, get your credit card ready. BTW, it doesn't hurt to cry a little when you go to get it fixed.

help@macdroids.com.au
When is a 3 month guarantee on repairs better

than a lifetime guarantee on repairs? The short answer is NEVER!

Here's the reason for the variety of length of repair guarantees...

No Guarantee — Generally, these are repairs done by mates in exchange for alcohol and if you've seen the sort of tragic 'mates' repairs that I have, you might want to pay them with Pepsi Max instead.

3 months — It's a cheap repair using inferior parts by generally untrained people and the repair centre expects it to break down soon after 3 months so you can get on the merry go round again.

6 months — Marginally better than 3 months but they're still expecting you to come around again and fork out more of your hard earn cash. Generally done by untrained staff. Don't be afraid to ask them what formal training they've had (that doesn't include YouTube videos).

12 months - This should be the minimum. If the repair centre is doing the job properly with quality parts they should have no hesitation in offering this.

Lifetime Guarantee — These guys are at the top of their game. Sure, the repair may cost a few bucks more but you'll only pay once. The repair centre doesn't want you to come back with the same fault again because they know it'll be FREE, and that's just a huge waste of their time and resources so they'll do the job properly with the best parts available, the first time.

help@macdroids.com.au

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

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

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

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1300 622 376

I won't be spending Christmas with family – it will be the best day ever
by Wendy Squires



CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

Like most people, I'm looking forward to Christmas this year. However, unlike most, my eagerness is not because I enjoy the season, it's because I can't wait for the whole painful palaver to be over. You see, I am a Grinch of sorts in that I'm someone who loathes the commercialism and consumerism the season signals, who cringes at the sound of carols, and who thinks Santa's knee is no place for a small child. Apart from seeing the season as a mass tree massacre (why cut down something beautiful only to take it indoors and watch it die?), gluttony on a gross scale and an accelerant to already volatile relationships, I have a much more personal and disconsolate reason to say no-no to all the ho-ho.

poppa hiding shillings in his boozy pudding for my brother and me to greedily chip our teeth on; my mother with a wobbly paper hat sitting on her over-sprayed 'do; my stepfather sharpening the carving knife theatrically. Despite many such Christmases turning into an ugly argument (something I have witnessed in other families on this high-pressure day), it is still not hard to become nostalgic, or to imagine that we all might have matured enough to get along by now. As happy, if not jubilant, as I am with my lot every other day, life viewed through the filter of December 25 can appear bleak and barren. So, to stop my blues from turning black, the last few years I've been doing my best to avoid anything involving

Another year, I thought I'd take advantage of no one being at the local dog park and set up camp there for the day. Sadly, a contingent of homesick backpackers decided to do the same, singing carols with festive zest. (On the upside, they were very friendly and generous with their beers.) There were gifts for all, generously donated by many companies and individuals. There were beaming smiles from recipients, their eyes welling with happy tears for a change. Yes, there was a Santa and there were carols, but I couldn't have cared less; I've never felt more filled with what the Christmas spirit should be. No prizes for guessing where I will be again this year. And the year after. Because you don't have to have a family to feel



You see, I have no family to spend the day with. I have a brother I adore, but he lives overseas and so, every year, I'm left to find other ways to get through the day of forced merriment. Generally, this means lunching with one of my chosen family – my friends; I'm eternally grateful to say that I have many I could not love more if we shared a bloodline or womb of origin. I can enjoy these get-togethers as the added guest or "orphan" at another family's table, but there will come a moment – even if fleeting – when I feel alone and, well, lonely. I think of my own family, now all gone. I reminisce about my

finsel, crackers, Mariah Carey or that dodgy, sweaty bloke in the red suit. One time, I took my dog to the beach and we had a wonderful day swimming and eating on our own. When I regaled others with how painless the experience was, the following year I had a dozen mates join me, turning what had been a solitary day into a party, complete with Santa hats and reminders of the very thing I was trying to avoid. I have since done the stay-at-home-and-draw-the-curtains thing, which would have been fine had my internet not shut down, forcing to watch free-to-air Christmas crapola which left me screaming for mercy.

part of the big one that is humanity at its best. But last year I hit the jackpot and had the best Christmas ever! Instead of feeling sorry for myself, I decided to go to a place that always gives me perspective, a sanctuary of goodness and love and giving. I went to work. You see, for the past 18 months I've been a media advisor for the Salvation Army, a job that fills me with purpose and joy. And so, last Christmas Day, I worked in a production line that included CEOs, celebrities and salt-of-the-earth everyday people – some of whom had travelled for hours for the privilege – and fed the homeless.

Well Done! and **SO Well Done!**

Not happy. This was left outside the Brantxton Doo Stop Op Shop Sunday afternoon. Due to lack of space we 'Do Not' take furniture. Where is it supposed to go? Not happy at all. Also, Good quality baby equipment Dumped. Surely it could go to the people who have lost everything in the floods!

Why do people today choose safety over liberty?

If you didn't go to the Brantxton Twilight market held at the Brantxton Community Hall, you missed one of the best markets held in the area this year. Congratulations to all; stallholders and the organizers

To North Rothbury Rural fire Service for your Lolly Run & kiddies 'find a rock' last Sunday. Also, thank you for the Lions Christmas cake & to North Rothbury Tidy Town for supplying them for the older North Rothbians.

'Thanks from Brantxton Lions to Libreri Farm Eggs, Brantxton who donated a large supply of eggs for Brantxton Lions to cook at recent community BBQ events.'

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

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

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

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

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: 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**

Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50jl z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew **0435814841**

Wanted: Clean Fill Required North Brantxton 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: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue **0497257081**

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

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

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

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

Dates for your diary > The "For your Diary" section of The News is a FREE community service. It will be returning with our first 2023 issue on 11/1/23

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

WHAT'S GOING ON?

www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

Friday, 24 February 2023 | 08:00 PM to 10:30 PM

Following their Sold Out National Tour in 2022, Australia's new 'Kings of Variety Television' are back in 2023 with a brand new show! **The Robertson Brothers** are thrilled to be returning with their new heart-warming and uplifting **1960's Variety TV Show!** Geoff and Ben Robertson are back as your charming and cheeky hosts for this nostalgic night of entertainment as they pay tribute to the musical giants of the 1960's - **The Bee Gees, Simon & Garfunkel, Roy Orbison, Cliff Richard & The Shadows, Frankie Valli, The Everly Brothers, Neil Sedaka and The Seekers.** Unlike anything you have ever seen before this 150 minute ground-breaking and interactive theatrical TV experience is filled with all the fun, music and long forgotten memories of the fabulous 1960's. The Variety TV Show audience is taken on a unique and emotional journey back to the best years of their lives.

BRYANT John Saxon OAM
Aged 95 years
Formerly of Greta
Beloved husband of Shirley. A loved father and grandfather.
Family and friends are respectfully advised John passed away on 13th December 2022. Privately interred.
A Memorial Service will take place in the New Year. Details to be advised.



In the first five years following the introduction of random breath testing across the state, road fatalities fell from 1,303 in 1980 to 1,067 in 1985. In 1980, the percentage of road fatalities linked to drink driving was 30%. Of the 275 road fatalities recorded in NSW last year (2021), 17% were attributed to drink driving – cutting the percentage by almost half and reducing the number of alcohol related fatalities by 88%.

In January 2007 NSW Police also commenced testing motorists for drug driving. Deputy Premier and Minister for Police Paul Toole said community attitudes have shifted over the last four decades.

“Today, drivers are well aware that they could be stopped for a random drug or breath test anywhere and at any time,” Minister Toole said.

“The statistics speak for themselves - since RBTs were introduced, thousands of lives have been saved. “We all want to ensure everyone gets home safely to their loved ones this Christmas period – and no one should rob a family of that with a selfish decision to get behind the wheel after they’ve been drinking.

“If you are planning to have a few drinks over the festive season, leave the car at home and have a Plan B.”

Traffic and Highway Patrol Commander Assistant Commissioner Brett McFadden said alcohol and drug driving was still a major concern for police.

“Despite road fatalities having dropped since the introduction of RBT, it is still disturbing that many drivers can’t see an issue with having a few drinks, or consuming illicit drugs, before getting behind the wheel,” Assistant Commissioner McFadden said. “Getting behind the wheel of a car under the influence – no matter how much you consume – is not a sign of someone who is in control, it’s a sign of someone who can be up to 25 times more likely to be involved in a crash because of their state of intoxication.

“Our aim is to bring alcohol and drug-related fatalities to zero.

“Alcohol and drug-related fatalities are 100% avoidable. The message is simple – don’t drink or

take drugs and drive, have a plan ‘B’ if you’re planning on having a few, and speak up if you see someone getting behind the wheel under the influence. “We all have a part to play in keeping our roads safe.”

Minister for Metropolitan Roads Natalie Ward said since the introduction of RBT, we have seen alcohol related road deaths fall from 389 in 1980 to 47 in 2021.

“RBT has been key in driving down drink driving, saving an estimated 9,100 lives in NSW since it began and preventing the trauma those deaths would have caused to many more,” Mrs Ward said.

“Drink driving still contributes to about 15 to 20 per cent of deaths on NSW roads each year, so I’m urging all drivers to help us reduce that to zero.” Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Sam Faraway said the introduction of RBT laws was a watershed moment for NSW in helping reduce the road toll.

“It also marked a change in community attitudes and driver behaviour towards drink driving from being almost socially acceptable – to now being generally regarded as reckless behaviour that puts lives at risk. We also know from attitudinal research of NSW drivers, that drink and drug driving enforcement has high levels of community support.” Mr Faraway said.

“Throughout its 40 years, RBT has been well supported by large scale public education campaigns to further deter drink driving, from our ‘Will you be under .05 or under arrest?’ in the 1980s through to our ‘Plan B’ and ‘Stop it. Or Cop it’ campaigns today.”

Some local history~1955 flood Branxton



The above photo was lifted from the March 12, 1955, edition of the PIX Magazine & the caption read ~

“Water 10’ deep in Branxton main street as army ducks patrol flooded area. Single story house at right is almost covered.”

The shot was taken from an army ‘duck’ which were brought in as the emergency unraveled. The photo was taken just past the Branxton Inn, looking back to the Commercial Hotel

Four decades of random breath testing marked by decline in road fatalities

Deputy Premier and Minister for Police, Paul Toole has joined Transport for NSW and NSW Police Force to mark four decades of random breath testing on NSW roads, ahead of the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

Saturday 17 December 2022 marked the 40th anniversary of the introduction of random breath testing across NSW roads.

Prior to random breath testing, the state’s annual road toll regularly surpassed 1,200 fatalities, and authorities recognised that measures needed to be introduced to address the issue.

In 1982 NSW became one of the first jurisdictions in the world and the first in Australia to introduce random breath testing.

Prior to the introduction of random breath testing police could only stop a motorist due to their manner of driving.

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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

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



How to Look After a Dog: 4 Basic Care Tips

If you're a dog owner, it's important to know how to properly care for your pet. Dogs need exercise, food, water, and shelter in order to stay healthy and happy. So whether you're a first-time dog owner or just looking for a refresher course, read on for the basics of dog care! Here is the list of 4 steps of basic care:

- * Keep fresh water and food available
- * Trim your pet's nails regularly
- * Exercise and walk on a daily basis
- * Go to the veterinarian frequently

Keep fresh food and water

It is important to keep fresh food and water available for your dog at all times. Dogs can become dehydrated very easily, so it is important to make sure they have access to plenty of water. It is also important to feed them a healthy diet that includes all the necessary nutrients they need to stay healthy. There are a variety of different dog foods available on the market, so it is important to do some research to find the best food for your particular dog.

Trim your pet's nails regularly

It's important to keep your dog's nails trimmed for both their comfort and your own. Overgrown nails can be painful for dogs, and can also cause problems with their posture and movement. Trimming your dog's nails regularly will help to keep them healthy and comfortable.

There are a few different ways that you can trim your dog's nails. You can use a traditional dog nail grinder, or you can opt for a battery-operated grinder. Whichever method you choose, it's important to be careful not to cut the quick of the

nail (the pink part in the center), as this can be very painful for your dog. If you're not sure how to trim your dog's nails, ask your veterinarian or groomer for help. In addition to trimming your dog's nails, you should also brush their teeth regularly. Plague and

smells. It's also a chance for them to socialize with other people and animals. Dogs should be walked at least once a day, but ideally two or three times. The length of the walk will depend on the individual dog and its needs. Some dogs may need a longer walk than others, depending on their age, breed, and level of activity. Puppies, for example, often have boundless energy and need plenty of exercise to burn it off. Older dogs, on the other hand, may not be as active and may only need a short walk around the block. Whatever the case, it's important to tailor the walk

to your dog's needs and make sure they're getting the right amount of exercise. If you're unsure, speak to your veterinarian for advice. **Go to the veterinarian frequently** As a dog owner, you are responsible for your dog's health and wellbeing. This means that you need to take them to the veterinarian regularly. Depending on your dog's age, breed, and general health, you may need to take them every few weeks or every few months. However, it is always better to err on the side of caution and take them more often than less.

During these visits, the vet will check your dog's overall health and make sure that they are up-to-date on all of their vaccinations. They will also be able to identify any potential health problems early on and treat them accordingly. In short, regular vet visits are essential for keeping your dog healthy and happy.

Tips for Brushing a Dog's Teeth tartar can build up on your dog's teeth, just like they do on human teeth. This can lead to gum disease, which can be painful and uncomfortable for your dog. Brushing your dog's teeth regularly will help to keep their mouth healthy and prevent problems down the road. There are a few different ways that you can brush your dog's teeth. You can use a traditional toothbrush, or you can opt for a finger brush. Whichever method you choose, it's important to use canine-specific toothpaste, as human toothpaste is not safe for dogs. If you're not sure how to brush your dog's teeth, ask your veterinarian or groomer for help. **Exercise and walks on a daily basis.** It's important for dogs to get exercise every day. A good way to provide this is by taking them on walks. This not only benefits their physical health but also their mental well-being. Walks are a great opportunity for dogs to explore their surroundings and take in all the new sights and

Step One: Find the Right Time
1/10
Brush your dog's teeth when they are calm and relaxed. Your goal: Set a routine. Working up to brushing daily is ideal. But if their mouth is healthy, even three days a week can make a difference.

Step Two: Gather Your Tools
2/10
You'll want to use a toothbrush made for dogs. Be sure to use dog toothpaste, too.

Step Three: Assume the Position
3/10
Make sure you're in a spot where your dog is comfortable

Step Four: Get Their Gums Ready
4/10
Test your dog's willingness to have you touch their mouth by rubbing your finger along their upper gums and teeth. This will help them get used to the feel of something against their teeth

Step Five: Test the Toothpaste
5/10
Put some dog toothpaste on your fingertip. Hopefully, you'll find one they see as a treat.

Step Six: Try the Toothbrush
6/10
When pup is used to you opening and touching their mouth, start using the toothpaste and toothbrush together.

Step Seven: Use a Circular Motion
7/10
Brush in small circles, getting top and bottom on each side.

Step Eight: Focus on the Plaque
8/10
Brush a few teeth at a time, working up to more each day. Aim for two minutes total.

Step Nine: Be Reassuring
9/10
Keep the mood light while you're brushing your dog's teeth

Step Ten: End on a Positive Note
10/10
When you're finished brushing your dog's teeth, reward them with their favorite treat or extra attention.



How To Make Free Mulch

Autumn leaves aren't just pretty, they're full of essential minerals for your garden. The problem is they fall in such numbers that they can overwhelm the compost bin or form an impenetrable layer if left on the ground. They are best composted separately in a leaf mould heap, where they break down via a special type of slow, cool decomposition driven mostly by fungi, rather than the warm, fast action of bacteria in a standard heap. Leaf mould produces a wonderful end product that can be dug in to improve any soil, used as mulch or incorporated into potting mix. And forget the balancing and turning of traditional compost, just pile up the leaves, wet and forget. For the best leaf mould, use leaves from deciduous trees, leaving out any with fungal or viral infections. If you don't have enough in your own garden, collect them from footpaths and nature strips in the neighbourhood. Leaves from evergreen trees break down more slowly, so keep them to a minimum. In six to 12 months you'll have a rich mulch to use on pots and garden beds and within a year or two, a

nutritious soil conditioner that also makes a brilliant addition to homemade potting mixes. **TIP** Large leaves left on the lawn block sunlight, which can weaken turf. Run the mower over the lawn with the catcher off and the shredded leaves will soon disappear into the grass. Make leaf mould Although you can make leaf mould with just a heaped-up pile of leaves, the process is easier to manage with some sort of container. In a small garden, use the bin bag method. Collect fallen leaves and save them in a garbage bag, hosing with water to soak the whole lot. Make a depression in the top of the tied-off bag and punch a few holes to let in rain. Punch more holes at the base to let excess moisture drain out and keep the bag in a shady area. If you have space, build a leaf bin, which will allow you to pile your leaves as high as possible. They'll rot down, so don't worry if your pile is tall to begin with. Leaf mould can take two years to rot, so have more than one bin if you want to use it fully rotted. **TIP** Plane and sycamore leaves can take three years to rot. Shred them finely or

run over the pile several times with a lawnmower to speed things up. **Feed the garden** Depending on how long you leave it to break down, leaf mould has many uses in the garden. It is ideal for use around trees, shrubs, perennials, woodland plants and ferns, while annuals and vegetables prefer the higher nitrogen available in normal compost. Young leaf mould is usable after six to 12 months when the leaves start breaking up and crumble easily. Use this young product to mulch garden beds and around trees and shrubs, dig it into the soil to add organic matter before planting, or use it as topdressing for lawns. Well-rotted leaf mould is a dark brown crumbly material that's produced after one to two years, with no real sign of the original leaves. This material can be used the same way as young leaf mould but also as seed-raising mix. Or combine it with equal parts washed sand, loam and garden compost to make potting mix. To make leaf mould, build a bin in a sheltered part of the garden where rain can still get to the leaves, like next to a shed, as they decompose faster if kept damp.

OUR FAVOURITE FRIENDLY GARDEN VISITORS (CONTINUED)

The praying mantis is a gentle garden tenant.
5. PRAYING MANTIS Praying mantis look very scary, but are in fact benign and highly beneficial in gardens as they control a wide range of insects including caterpillars, beetles, aphids and mosquitoes. The name comes from their typical pose, which is to sit on a plant with their forelegs raised as though in prayer. Although some grow up to 12cm long, these solitary insects are often hard to see as they are camouflaged by their green or brown colouring. Watch out for the insect but also their egg cases, which resemble small woven baskets or other shapes in among twiggy growth. *Most spiders are relatively harmless garden helpers.*
6. SPIDERS Spiders are not beloved by many, however these eight-legged creatures (technically arachnids and not true insects) are exceptional at pest control. Most are entirely harmless

to us. Spiders including huntsmen and daddy long legs, which may be found in houses, can feed on flies, cockroaches and mosquitoes among other pests. Spiders may also live in flowers, on plants or in soil. Other beneficial spiders such as orb weavers build complicated webs at night that may be seen in the morning covered with dew. These webs catch many night-flying insects and are often prevalent in gardens in autumn. Dangerous spiders to watch out for are funnel webs (black hairy spiders) and red back spiders (black with a distinctive red mark). The Sydney funnel web may be found in webbed holes under rocks or soil along eastern Australia. Male Sydney funnel webs may find their way into discarded clothing or shoes left outside. They are often active in autumn, but always shake shoes or clothing left outdoors before wearing. Preferably, store shoes and garments on a shelf or indoors. Gardeners should also be watchful for red back

spiders, which hide in webs under sheets of metal and other material, in rubbish or even under pot rims. Red backs may also find homes in odd places such as handles of toys such as tricycles. Wear garden gloves and check hiding spots when gardening to avoid unwanted spider encounters.
7. PREDATORY MITES Predatory mites occur in gardens and are used as a commercial biological control. There are many mites, but the best known is persimilis (*Phytoseiulus persimilis*) which is very good at controlling two-spotted mite, a pest that feeds on the underside of leaves on many shrubs (such as azaleas, rhododendrons and beans). Persimilis are small, reddish insects with eight legs (at some life stages, though, they have just six legs). They are slightly larger than their prey, and pierce the bodies of two-spotted mites, which are clear insects with a pair of distinctive black spots on their bodies. Leaves attacked by two-spotted mites are often silvery and have webbing under the leaves. As these insects are tiny, they are best seen through a hand lens underneath a leaf.

The NewsSPORT

SPORTS RESULTS RESULTS GOLF

Richard Crooks 45.75 nett (53 scratch)

4th: Craig Howe and Barry Turner 46.25 nett (56 scratch)

5th: Peter Conroy and Peter Sekulich 47.25 nett (57 scratch)

6th: Graham and Jan Scobie 48.25 nett (63 scratch)

NTPins

Ladies: Marg Hunt **Men:** Tom Young

48 players enjoyed Thursday's 2 Person

Ambrose in almost perfect conditions with the team of

Tony Seamer and Joe Bereza victorious with their

nett score of 44.75, just ahead of Alan Cannon and

John Burgess only half a shot behind. Tony and

Joe's scratch score of 53, even par, was also the

day's equal best score off the stick so very well-done

boys! The winning scores down to 6th went down to

48.25 where the husband and wife team of Graham

and Jan Scobie enjoyed the spills together. Other

winner for the day included the Wombat

winner for 2022, that being Col Hughes who won 22

balls during the year, making him the most consistent

golfer of the year--another great effort. New Zealander,

Tom Young finished runner up. Jan Davidson won the

"Highest score of the year" award with a wonderful 35

pts with Alan Jack runner up with a similar score.

Captain Lee would especially like to thank

Peter Conroy for all his efforts in making these awards

happen in calculating these scores over the year. To finish

the day, Robert "Shirl" Miller won an early Christmas

present, winning the Member's draw of \$80. On

Monday, many Vets will enjoy the "free day" at

Shortland Waters, one of the days the committee

expertly organises throughout the year with the

proceeds from our raffles. Next week's event is a

singles stableford, 3 days before Santa arrives!

Branxton Golf Club Saturday, 10 Dec 2022

STABLEFORD

Field: 45

Grades A Daniel Turner 38

Grades A Mick Barrett 37

Grades A David Kinch 35

Grades B David Hodges 37

Grades B Andrew McGovern 37

Grades B Neil Bridge 37

Grades C Murray Kingston 39

Grades C Lennard Porter 36

Grades C Andrew Keogh 35

NTP 2/11 Neil Jordan 400cm

NTP 4 Richard Crooks 197cm

NTP 9/18 Paul Bush 590cm

NTP 13 Lloyd Barrett

167cm

Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 32

Pro's NTP 18th -STEVE PRIMMER 421cm = \$72

Proshop Vouchers

45 players competed in Saturday's Stableford with

32 pts needed to win a ball. Dan Turner made a

welcome return to the winner's list in winning A

Grade with his solid 38 pts, one clear of Mick Barrett's

pleasing 37 pts, with 2022 B Grade Champion, Dave

Kinch, third on 35 pts. Dave Hodges won a very

competitive B Grade with his 37 pts, on a countback,

from Andrew McGovern and Neil Bridge whilst

Murray Kingston picked up another cheque in winning

C Grade with the day's best stableford score of 39 pts,

well clear of runner up Lennie Porter with 36 pts

and Andrew Keogh's 35 pts. The shot of the day be-

longed to Lloyd Barrett on the difficult 13th,

finishing only 167 cms from the pin, whilst Steve

Primmer picked up the Pro's NTPin on the last. A

reminder to all members that the Wednesday

Twilight Competition is now happening with

registration at 4.00 for a 4.30 start. Next Saturday,

17th December, is the Branxton Pro Shop

Christmas Event, a 2BBB with a singles in

conjunction. In other news, our touring Professional,

Corey Lamb, was very unlucky to miss the cut at

the Gippsland Super Six at Warragul, Victoria, only

missing the cut by one shot after finishing even par

after two rounds (71,69). It certainly is a hard school

at this level, with Corey not far off the mark.

The new golf rules which will be implemented at the

beginning of 2023 make interesting reading so I

hope to include some of these in the next few

reports. They are all aimed in making golf quicker,

more fun and less complicated. We will see

how that works.

Branxton Golf Club Saturday, 17th December

Branxton ProShop Christmas Golf Day

2BBB Stableford and Singles in Conjunction

Winners: Steve Ross and Ken Radunz 48 pts

Runners Up: Robert Hale and Steve Ross 45 pts

Third: Richard Crooks and Chad Watt 44 pts c/b

4th: Andrew Keogh and Peter McKenzie 44 pts

5th: Dave Kinch and Michael Carling 44 pts

6th: Neil and Sam Bridge 43 pts c/b

7th: Robert Biles and Gary Walsh 43 pts

Singles Winner: Craig Howe 39

pts **Runner Up:** Andrew Keogh 38 pts c/b **Third:**

Ken Radunz 38 pts

NTPins: 2nd/11th Peter Wilton 342 cms 4th: Ken

Radunz 700 cms 9th Robert Hale 204 cms

13th Sam Bridge 546 cms 18th Joe Bereza 200cms

The Annual Branxton Pro Shop Christmas Golf Day

was held on Saturday, an event so generously

sponsored by our local Professional, Marcus Ryter,

with many prizes allocated for this event. Fittingly, our

Club Captain, Steve Ross, had a real day out, winning

the 2BBB event with Bobby Hale's brother-in-

law, Ken Radunz, with an excellent 48 pts. As he

stated after the round, they just combined very well. He

also finished second with Bobby Hale with 45 pts,

ensuring he had a great Christmas present to finish

the year. Our Club President, Richard Crooks

teamed up with Chad Watt to finish third. Prizes were

awarded to 7th place which was filled with our recent

Club's 2BBB Knockout Champions, Gary Walsh

and Bob Biles. Chad was worried that he wouldn't

play well with Richard, but he clearly did rather well--

maybe Richard's calming influence helped him play

his best golf. Craig Howe continues to play well, with

his 39 pts good enough to win the day's Singles event.

Andrew Keogh finished runner up with 38 pts with

Ken Radunz completing a great day to finish third on

the same score. The shot of the day belonged to Joe

Bereza on the last with Peter Wilton again showing

his prowess with his irons to win the NTPin on the

2nd/11th.

On behalf of Steve Ross, our Club Captain, we wish

everyone a great Christmas and hope this festive season

is one of great enjoyment for all members.

Hunter Valley Golf Club Wednesday 14th Dec

The Ladies began their Summer Stableford events

with Robyn Dunlop with a solid 40 points winning

from Melita Watson 39 & Jill Ramsden in 3rd place

with 37. Next week will see the continuation of the

Summer Stableford rounds. **Thursday 15th December**

The Vets 4BBB has been won by 2 very experienced

members with 86 years 'young' Alick Bender & his

'junior' partner Jock Kendall (84) combined to

great effect to record 47 points for a clear win,

runners up Tony Neale & Stephen Morgan with 46

with Col Bradley & Michael Tsakissiris 3rd

with 45 on countback. Ball winners are: Dave Black-

burn & Chris Stebbing 45, Burgo & Gary Arnold 45,

Wally & JC 45, Col Somerville & Larry Forbes

44, David Peel & Kevin

Smith 44, Steve Rawlings & Bones 44, John the Pom

& Wayne Berry 43, Ryan Wilson & Bruce Matthews

43, Graeme Smith & Noel Ellenor 43, Graham

Donaldson & John McLoughney 43, Garry

Marsden & Ian Newell 43, Wally & Dean Morrison 42,

Peter Payne & Gary Clarke 41, Morto & James

Schofield 41, Sue Peel & Melita Watson 41, Joel

Fitzgibbon & Dennis Donn 41, Greg Ireland & Wayne

Cowan 41, Chris Norman & Mark Green 41, Steve

Piggott & Ron Findley 41, Doug Harley & Phil

Wetzler 41, Rox & Banjo Burke & Geoff Sweetman

40, Jeff Taylor & Steve Piggott 40, Kerry Bartlett &

Ruff 40, Bill Freeman & Bindii 40 and Eric Smith &

Peter Perkins 40 c/b. Nearest-the Pins to Burgo (3rd)

James Schofield (4th) Chris Stebbing (8th) Stephen

Morgan (10th) & Graeme Smith (17th)

Saturday 17th December Great scoring

featured in the 2 Person Medley Ambrose with

Jarad Hoffman & London McPaul winning the day

with 58 net from Pater Payne & Gary Clarke with

60 with Peter McIntyre & Alan Provenzano 3rd with

60.75. The ball rundown went to 66 on countback.

Next week's event will be an Individual Medley Stableford.

SPORTS RESULTS



with Mark Bercini

Week 10

Week 10 of District Cricket saw Greta/Branxton

record victories in first, second and fourth grade,

with third grade defeated in a nail-biting finish.

First grade jumped into outright second on the

ladder following their easy 7-wicket victory over

Creeks at Singleton's Cook no.1 Greta/Branxton

restricted the home side to 116, with Alex "Penguin"

Walking the star with 5-10 off 6.1. Newcastle import

Mitch Casey was next best with 3-33 off 8. The Blues

reeled in the modest target after losing three wickets

in reply Josh Dagg once again starring with an unbeaten

40. Eddie Fisher (22no) was also at the crease for the

winning runs, with skipper Joey Butler (20) finding

some form.

In the big "double points" game at Miller 1, Greta/

Branxton recovered from a

hairy situation early to defeat Chelmsford Hotel by

81 runs. The Blues were 4-19 and 5-70 before a 126-

run fifth wicket stand between Connor Thomson

(89no) and Jamie Moore (68no) saw the home side

close their innings at 5-196. Chelmsford Hotel were all

out for 115 in reply, with co-skipper James Halpin (3

-36 off 8) leading the way. Thomson (2-17 off 6) and

Moore (2-13 off 3.2) completed excellent all-round

games with a brace of wickets each.

Third grade were edged out by just 2 wickets at the

hands of Wine Country at Baddeley 2. Greta/

Branxton managed 124 batting first, with Jamie

McNamara (80) making the majority of these. Wine

Country reached the target in the final over of the

match with just one wicket in hand. George McMullen

(3-15 off 8) and Ben Parkinson (2-24 off 9) were

Greta/Branxton's best with the two-piece.

Fourth Grade remained at the top of the ladder with a

comfortable 5-wicket victory over the Piranhas at

Miller 2. Chasing 129 for victory, the Blues reached

the target in the 34th over with five wickets in hand.

Jesse Rutter (57no) and Ben Lahey (40no) got the

job done, with co-skipper Zach Macbeth chipping in

with 17. Earlier in the day Macbeth (3-24 off 10),

Alistair Leslie (2-14 off 9.2) and Jesse Rutter took

the majority of wickets. **Week 11**

The final round of district cricket before the

Christmas/New year break was played out

last Saturday. It was not one of the club's most

memorable days of the season, going down in

the three grades played and having to forfeit

another due to a lack of players across all grades.

Missing seven regulars, first grade were only just

nudged out by Valley/JPC in the top-of-the-

table clash at Singleton's Cook no.3. Greta/

Branxton continued their great recent run of

batting form by posting 216 batting first. Josh Dagg

was finally dismissed after being unbeaten for

428 runs previously. He was dismissed for the

team high 64, sharing in a great partnership with

Chris Murray (50) who continues to make every

post a winner when playing in the top grade.

Jace Lawson (27), a cameo from Gregory

Andrews (20) and Darren Thomson (14) all

added to the healthy total. Valley/JPC

reached the target in the final over of the contest

with two wickets in hand to remain at the top

of the ladder. Another cameo performance

from Andrew "Stretch"

Bercini saw him hard to handle when he landed it

on the mown portion, taking 4-31 off 5.3, with

Lawson next best with 3-24 off 8.

Second Grade went down to Bellbird by 71

runs at Miller 1. Chasing 158 for victory, the home

side were all out for 86, with skipper Sean Wright

retiring hurt after copping a bouncer on the cheek-

The BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News **SPORT**



Sick", was the burley that attracted the big one. Jason would be awarded membership of the "caught f-all" fishing club in 2021 has fished hard this season and it has been great to see the hard work pay off. Bodge Nevin made it two months in a row finishing on top with 81.6 points. His catch consisted of Squire, Teraglin and Flathead. He pipped good friend Keza Duncan who weighed in a good feed of Luderick and Bream. President Jakey finished the weekend in third with a Speedo Sun burn, Snapper and Trevally. Coming up Saturday night 10th December will be the Christmas Party and Presentation at the brilliantly renovated Greta Workers Club starting at 5pm until late. The Club will be rocked by a great band Early Daze. The AGM was held after the last weigh in and all positions were re-voted in (Andrew Jacobs-President, Jason Salna-Vice President, Steve Nevin-Secretary, Fee Jacobs-Treasurer). There were a few changes for 2023 mainly some of

the species and the addition of a Glenbawn Dam trip in February, also that no registrations will be accepted after October 1 from now on. The 2023 Calendar is attached below and any questions regarding the fishing club can be asked on their Facebook Page (Greta Workers Social Fishing Club), or contact Steve Nevin on 0457547478, or email: Steve.nevin@hvo.com.au 2023 memberships can be paid at Wednesday raffles-see the committee or at the first weigh in January 29th 2023. The cost will remain the same (\$30 per person or family \$75) If you turn 18 in that year you are still classed under the family membership and considered a Junior. Stay tuned in the next edition for the prize winners from the presentation and thanks to everyone that has contributed to the fishing club in 2022 (sponsors, ticket buyers, members, families and friends) to make it the most successful year yet.

Pictured at right: Club President Andrew "Fred" Jacobs gladly hands over the \$150 cash prize for the month to Jason "Sumo" Salna

The final outing of the year
The final outing of the year was an Open and with plenty to play for the members spread far and wide in search of that final catch that could land a winning prize. The jackpotted \$150 monthly prize (Teraglin) was enough to inspire a handful to get a fishing charter off Lake Macquarie. This proved a master stroke as Steve Nevin believed he had the money and had all but spent it when Club Secretary and probably the most improved fisherman in 2022 Jason "Sumo" Salna stormed home with a late 1.38kg Trag on Sunday. It is believed that the self-propelled berley trail Jason created "Sea



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