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WEDNESDAY
18 Jan 2023

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China allows Aussie coal imports to resume



It has been reported and confirmed that China's state planner has allowed three central government-backed utilities and its top steelmaker to resume coal imports from Australia, the first such move since Beijing imposed an unofficial ban on coal trade with Canberra in 2020.

This is very good news for the Hunter as around 14,000 people work in the coal mines of the Hunter Valley.

Although that's a large number, it's still a small share of overall employment in the region, though there are many thousands more workers and businesses that rely indirectly on the coal industry to make a living. In the Upper Hunter, it's an acute issue. According to the region's local councils, 35 per cent of jobs in the Muswellbrook local government area and more than 50 per cent in the Singleton are a flow from the coal industry.

Grahame Kelly, General Secretary of Mining and Energy Union, CFMEU said that ultimately this is positive news for our export coal industry.

“Australia was the biggest source of coking coal imports to China until the trade ban was imposed 2 years ago. Even though our quality coal has found other markets the additional demand is very welcomed,” said Grahame.

Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi MP said that the Hunter has been a powerhouse of the NSW energy and export market for well over a century, and we will continue to be for centuries to come.

“Whilst ever there is an export market for coal, the Hunter and its workforce will continue to fill that market,” he said.

The partial easing of the coal import ban comes after the Australian and Chinese foreign ministers met last month seeking to reset the frosty diplomatic relations between the two nations.

Australia used to be the second largest coal supplier to China before the ban, accounting for nearly 30% of China's coal imports or more than 70 million tonnes of supply. Chinese buyers favour high-quality thermal coal and coking coal.

As reported by AAP the National Development and Reform Commission summoned China Datang Corp, China Huaneng Group, China Energy Investment Corporation and China Baowu Steel Group on Tuesday to discuss the resumption of coal imports from Australia, two people familiar with the matter said.

The firms will be granted permission to purchase Australian coal only for their own use, the people said. China imposed restrictions on Australian commodities including coal and wine just over two years ago after relations between Beijing and Canberra turned sour over several political and public health matters.

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“Some (Chinese) traders have started to ask for prices of the February cargoes after the NDRC meeting,” one of the people said, adding that the current Australian coal prices are still attractive to Chinese buyers.

Australian thermal coal with heating value of 5500 kilocalories was traded at about \$US135 (\$A200) a tonne on a free-on-board basis as of January 3, and is assessed to be traded at around 1150 yuan (\$A246) a tonne when reaching China.

That would be slightly cheaper than China's domestic coal prices of about 1,200 yuan, traders said.

It has also been reported that Baoshan Iron & Steel, a listed subsidiary of Baowu Group, last month told a Shanghai Stock Exchange investor platform that “importing Australian coal will have a positive effect on the company's coal procurement and structure adjustment, and will lower the logistic costs at our Zhanjiang base”.



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Authorized by Dan Repacholi MP, 3 Edward Street, Cessnock



Public Exhibition of the Hunter Valley Bush Fire Management Committee draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan

A Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP) is a comprehensive document that maps and describes the level of bush fire risk across

an area and the proposed treatments to minimise and mitigate the risk. A BFRMP identifies bush fire issues, identifies assets at risk, assesses the level of

risk, and establishes treatment strategies to minimise the risk and who is responsible for carrying out the treatments identified. These treatment strategies

may directly affect you and your property. The Hunter Valley BFRMP, has recently been reviewed. The Hunter Valley Bush Fire Management Committee (BFMC) invites you to view the draft

BFRMP and make comments by 19th February 2023.

A BFRMP is an important document which aims to protect the community and assets. The Hunter Valley BFMC encourages everyone to take the opportunity to review the draft BFRMP and ensure any concerns are addressed. Your comments are invited on the Hunter Valley draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan, now on public exhibition online at: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/managing-bush-fire-risk/bush-fire-management-committees/hunter-valley>

or <https://www.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say/draft-hunter-valley-bush-fire-risk-plan> and at the following locations:

- Muswellbrook Shire Council – Campbells Corner 60-82 Bridge St Muswellbrook; and
- Singleton Shire Council – 12-14 Queen St Singleton

Where possible, submissions on the draft BFRMP should be submitted through the online portal as above.

Written submissions can also be sent to The BFMC Executive Officer by email to Hunter.Valley@rfs.nsw.gov.au. All submissions should be received by 19th February 2023. For further enquires, contact Inspector Mark Denton, on 6575 1200.



with Karen Johanson.



We returned last Thursday with a very loud and busy hall as everyone caught up from the Christmas holiday break. We welcomed some new ladies and gratefully accepted some donations of yarn, fabric, crafting magazines and materials. We will be open now every Thursday from 9:30am in the Branxton Uniting Hall. All all welcome to join us for coffee, cake and a chat. (Remember, you don't need to actually do any craft!) We have the Seniors Festival Open Day coming up on Saturday 11th February between 10am and 2pm. The Branxton Lions Club

will be there cooking the BBQ along with lots of displays and opportunities to purchase from locals. On the 18th February we hope to be at the Miller Park Markets. Look out for our pink gazebo! We will also be at the Tocal Field days on 5th, 6th and 7th May. This is a new event for us to be a part of and are eagerly looking forward to it. Cheers, Karen.

womenshedbranxton@aol.com

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REFLECTIONS

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Sunday 22 January 2023
Matthew 4:12-23 or Matthew 4:12-17

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

[As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

Light and Darkness

Zebulun and Naphtali were part of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, which was destroyed when the Assyrians invaded. The people were sent into exile. Even in this time of darkness, God provided hope and light. The time of Jesus was also a time of darkness, with oppression by the Romans. Jesus provides light in this time by proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

Good Enough?

In Jesus' time, rabbis would call people to follow him. But typically they would call people who were knowledgeable and "good enough". But Jesus is calling fishermen and other people who in Jewish society of the day would not have been considered worthy. God doesn't require us to measure up. We do not have to be wise or learned or skillful. We just need to be willing. He can work with whatever we have to offer.

Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25



YOUR friendly team

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

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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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NSW Police unveils enhanced online Sexual Assault Reporting Option (SARO)

The NSW Police Force has unveiled an enhanced online reporting option to allow victims of sexual assault to provide information without having to take part in a formal police interview.

While police always encourage victims of any crime to make a formal report, it is acknowledged that for a number of reasons, victims of sexual assault often do not wish to speak about their experiences nor speak with police and go through the legal process.

The NSW Police Force's Sexual Assault Reporting Option (SARO) has been in existence since 2012, allowing victims to report a sexual assault without any obligation to participate in further lines of inquiry.

From today (Friday 13 January 2023), the SARO is accessed through the online Community Portal and is available in 12 languages, making the reporting option more accessible to victims.

This replaces the old process of printing and completing a 14-page document and emailing the State Crime Command's Sex Crimes Squad.

NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Police Paul Toole said the advancement in the online reporting system puts victims of sexual assault first when reporting and investigating these serious crimes.

"While we want to stop would-be perpetrators before it's too late, it's absolutely critical we take a victim-focussed approach to supporting those involved through the reporting option," Mr Toole said. "Through the hard work of those involved in the Sexual Violence Project, NSW Police have been able to identify ways to better support victims through their journey and to also ensure we take all opportunities to reduce offending.

"While the online portal does not commence a police investigation, it empowers victims of sexual assault to take the first step and record their sexual assault, whether or not they wish at a later date to have the matter investigated.

"The NSW Government is committed to providing the best services and support for victims of crime, and I am passionate about this project and what it can do to help those in vulnerable positions come forward on their own terms."

NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb said this is an important step forward to help victim-survivors of sexual violence retain control over their level of contact with police and what happens next.

"For many victim-survivors, a police investigation and court process are the farthest thing from their mind and often they feel further traumatised through the process," Commissioner Webb said.

"We understand and recognise that a successful prosecution is not always the desired outcome or the only measure of success

"Victims can report via SARO anonymously without further contact from police, or they can elect to be identified and request that police follow up in certain circumstances.

"We know that sexual violence continues to be under-reported, and we hope that by providing victims with alternative reporting options we will be better placed to understand sexual violence in the community, assist victims, and hold offenders accountable."

State Crime Command's Sex Crimes Squad Commander, Superintendent Jayne Doherty, said the NSW Police Force is continuing to review and improve its practices and procedures around sexual violence.

"Our ongoing focus is to create a trauma-informed, victim-centric response to sexual violence – the enhanced SARO is another important resource for both survivors and investigators," Det Supt Doherty said.

"While trauma affects individuals in different ways, reporting can be therapeutic for those victims who wish to share their experience and do so online from their own home or a safe location. For some victims, this may be their first disclosure of the sexual assault.

"The number of SARO reports continues to steadily increase each year, with the monthly average increasing from 64 reports in 2021 to 70 in 2022.

"This allows us to continue to gather information which can be used to develop future strategies that target repeat offenders and can determine modus operandi or links between cases."

Full Stop Australia's Director of Clinical and Client Services Tara Hunter said this is a great step forward in addressing the barriers experienced by victim-survivors when engaging with the justice system.

"The enhanced SARO will provide choice and greater accessibility for victim-survivors of sexual violence.

"We know sexual violence in our community continues to be under-reported and we see the SARO as a tool for victim-survivors to make initial contact with police following an incident of sexual violence, where they are able to record the details and return to making a more formal statement if and when they are ready."

"Full Stop Australia supports these improvements to increase the reporting of sexual violence incidents in our community and look forward to continue working to better our justice and support systems for survivors of sexual, domestic and family violence."

The Community Portal sexual assault page will include an online reporting form (SARO) that allows victims to:

- report their sexual assault in English or 11 other languages,
- report their sexual assault anonymously,
- upload images such as screen shots of social media or dating app profiles,
- respond to SARO questions that are tailored to their experience,
- request follow-up contact from a police officer,
- download their SARO report from the site and via email or text,
- receive a SARO reference number on the site and via email or text, and
- access the community portal via desktop and mobile devices.

The SARO questionnaire can be located on the NSW Police Force website: <https://portal.police.nsw.gov.au/adultsexualassault/ssexualassaultreportingoption>

CRIME STOPPERS
[.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au)
1800 333 000

Daily Thoughts.....

"Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger." ~ **Franklin P. Jones**

"Whenever I see an old lady slip and fall on a wet sidewalk, my first instinct is to laugh. But then I think, what if I was an ant, and she fell on me. Then it wouldn't seem quite so funny." ~ **Jack Handey's Deep Thoughts**

"Never tell your mom her diet's not working." ~ Joel, age 14 from **"Advice from Kids"**

My formula for success is rise early, work late, and strike oil ~ **Paul Getty**

"When you cannot make up your mind between two evenly balanced courses of action, choose the bolder." ~ **W.J. Slim**

"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**

"A worrier always seems less troubled by what happens today than by what might happen tomorrow." ~ **Unknown**

"If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you've never tried before." ~ **Anon**

"There are three things which I consider excellent advice. First, don't smoke to excess. Second, don't drink to excess. Third, don't marry to excess." ~ **Mark Twain**

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Is there a legacy of value from the previous Liberal Federal Government? Yes, if we discount the impulsive and reactive statement and action by ScoMo, which gave the media so much ammunition to undermine the Liberal Party whilst ignoring the erosion of democracy by State and Territory Governments. The most adverse decision made by the Liberal Government was to announce a fifty per cent reduction of greenhouse gases by 2050. This gave licence to the catastrophists and scientifically ignorant (the Greens, Teals, Labour Party and certain independents) to demand greater reductions with flamboyant disregard for the inflationary costs and destruction of our ability to create the wealth that pays for our standard of living. The smoke screen of fear of the coronavirus and global warming gave the leftie communist and socialist politicians and bureaucrats free reign to practice their dark arts of suppression of free speech, freedom of movement, the imposition of mandates and the reckless abandonment of responsible Government. Citizens were arrested and imprisoned. The suppression was done under the umbrella of the so-called National Cabinet, which the Federal Government convened, then quickly lost control of. As a result, the health systems, law enforcement, education and general week-to-week administration by the State and Territory Governments were allowed to collapse at a crippling cost to the nation's economy and balance sheet.

That said, the existential (real) threat from the Chinese Communist Party was finally recognised and plans to counter the threat were finally being, at least, thought about by the Government. The threats were on two fronts; trade and military. This realisation happened after the release of the book "Silent Invasion" by the Author Clive Hamilton in 2018 and his second book "Hidden Hand" co-written with Mareike Ohlberg, released in 2020.

Hence the announcement of the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal, the alignment of Democratic Nations against Totalitarianism and the acceptance that our Defence Force, as currently

STEVES' RANT

structured, is out of balance with the present threat. We are so fortunate that despite the change of Government last year, the Labor Government has continued with the initiative commenced under the previous Government to push the need for guided weapons further. We need to manufacture our missiles in Australia that can be fired from land-based vehicles, any small vessel equipped with GPS, radar and secure communications, and deployed from the air. But, unfortunately, we are far from achieving the capability to defend ourselves. Australia needs a secure logistics system that can maintain intense defensive and offensive operations for a sustained period, including self-sufficiency in petrol, oil, lubricants (POL), ammunition, manpower, food, manufacturing and national population cohesion. Currently, all these are yet to happen, particularly national cohesion. Working against this is our public education system which undermines or devalues achievement, competition, civic pride, personal responsibility and standards of behaviour, let alone levels of learning. Despite increased education spending well above inflation, a cabal of unionised teachers and bureaucrats with leadership from tertiary institutions have made our primary and secondary education services nothing more than a babysitting exercise. And parents don't know any better; children are instructed not to tell parents. No accountability, certainty of tenure = Pubic Service NIRVANA. Try this out Questions for an 8th grade in 1890.

1. Name three ways a Noun may be used in the nominative case and three ways in which a noun may be used in the objective case.
- a State briefly the causes of the war of 1812. (US V. UK)
- b Name two engagements of the war, and
- c Name two prominent commanders.



3. Find the sum of 5/9, 5/6, 3/4, 11/36.
4. What number diminished by 33 1/3 per cent of itself = 38?
5. What and where are the following?
Liverpool, Panama, Suez, Ural, Liberia, Quebec, Pikes Peak, Yosemite, Danube, and San Diego. (extract from a thesis by Angelo M Codevilla, RESETTING THE EDUCATIONAL RESET)
The more significant part of our population is resigned to the great reset (those that have heard about it) as defined by the WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, the UNITED NATIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND and THE WORLD BANK. If we surrender our national sovereignty to these international authorities, we will not have to think, worry or envy others. Just do what you are told, and keep your head down. This is not a joke; it is happening right now as Australia signs up for international treaties. There has also been the suggestion that the continual use of the treaty-making process to increase the legislative powers of the Executive Government beyond its express constitutional powers will lead to the erosion of the federal system and the 'extinction' of the States. The Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee has reviewed the external affairs power (in the context of treaty-making) and tabled a report with recommendations entitled: *Trick or Treaty?*

Commonwealth Power to Make and Implement Treaties. 1994. Bob Hawke used International Environmental Laws to stop the damming of the Franklin River. Be that a good thing or bad thing currently, we are facing Human Rights Abuse charges, too, being accused of not looking after the Great Barrier Reef despite evidence to the contrary. Meddling from UN bureaucrats in our sovereignty, acting in ignorance, doing so on political grounds. Mr Albanese wants you to vote yes to the Voice without explaining the details and has stated those who oppose the Voice are racist (name calling for political reasons). So, how is it that our future prosperity and well-being are in the hands of dopes like Chris Bowen, Tony Burke, Mark Dreyfus and Adam Brandt, to mention just a few? We need to start thinking and questioning everything. Last, do not doubt that 'Big Brother' is watching you. In her book SHOSHANA ZUBOFF 'The Age of Surveillance Capitalism': The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power, is a 2019 non-fiction book where the Author studies Google and Amazon, defining social-economics texts of modern times—in other words, building business by spying on your profile to sell you things. If a company can do that, imagine what the totalitarian Chinese Communist Party are doing! Be told, all the best for your survival, **CHEERS, STEVE**

What's Happening & other with Mike Lowing

It's hard to believe, but another year has come and gone. Like a lot of people you've probably made a New Year resolution. Whether it's starting (and sticking to) a fitness routine, changing your eating habits or striving for a better night's sleep. And, of course, it's perfectly fine to not make any resolutions at all, because, as most 'resolutioners' know, they can be

difficult to keep. The year gone? In all honesty, 2022 was a year with mixed experiences. It was a rollercoaster of ups and downs. After fighting off the coronavirus from 2020, the year started with the war in Ukraine & geopolitics, typically a dormant beast, awoke with a vengeance; China-US tension, inflation at a long-time unseen high level, a huge spike in the cost of living and natural disasters such as floods and more floods, a federal change of government in Australia and the queen's death added to the mix. However, it wasn't all bad news. There were a lot of positive events, such as Argentina winning the 2022 World Cup with Australia doing exceedingly well, an Australian owned & trained horse won the Melbourne Cup, the world population crossing 8 billion, Elon Musk taking over Twitter & Donald Trump in all sorts of trouble.

Locally, we produced 24 papers for the year with just under 1000 news reports and regular features such as 'Members Say...', pharmacy advice, pet and gardening articles, letters to the editor, Steves' Rant, police report, school news, local cattle market report, computer advice article & movie reviews.

Local news (just a few snippets from the year gone) started with the restoration & renaming of Miller Park Sports & Recreation Club to The Miller Park Hotel with its official opening on Australia Day. With a new artificial bowling green it also saw the reformation of the bowling club that has gone from strength to strength.

March saw Cessnock City Council agree to hand the management of Branxton RV Park to the CMCA, local lass Helen Scott named Cessnock City Council 'Women of the Year' & the awarding of the National Emergency Medal to all our Rural Fire Service volunteers for service during the 2019/2020 fire season.

April saw local Elderslie blacksmith Will Maguire, who had a very successful exhibition in Sydney, donate a good portion of his sales money to the UN Refugee Appeal in support of the Ukraine.

May saw our long term local police officer, Bob Biles, retire after 38 years service. It appears that he's now concentrating on lowering his golf handicap instead of, previously, lowering our local crime rate.

May also saw the election of endorsed ALP candidate, Dan Repacholi MP, to the federal seat of Hunter at the federal election. He replaced Joel Fitzgibbon who did not seek re-election after serving 25 years as our federal member.

June saw a NSW Supreme Court decision to void the December 2021 Singleton Council local government election results because of the failure of the ivote system. A by-election was held in July. July gave us an announcement that a 206 unit retirement village had been approved for Huntlee with a \$6million luxury clubhouse. Around the same time the new Anvil Creek bridge was officially opened.

August was bad news month for the residents of North Rothbury after it was disclosed that the revamped cost to provide reticulated sewer to the hamlet had gone from a previous costing of \$60,000 per household to an estimated \$100,000.

September was a quiet month for news but October saw some good news with the announcement that local Branxton lad, Charles Croucher, had been appointed 9News Chief Political Editor taking over the reins from long term chief Chris Uhlmann. The News, sheepishly, took some credit as Charles had commenced his career, while still at school, writing a sports article for us.

November again gave us some good news with local lass Peree Watson getting ALP endorsement for the seat of Upper Hunter in the coming NSW state election in March this year after a redistribution which saw Branxton & East Branxton (north of the railway line), the localities of Broke, Howes Valley, Milbrodale, Mount Thorley and surrounds, taken from the Cessnock electorate and now lodged into the Upper Hunter electorate. The Nationals, Dave Layzell MP, is the current sitting member with a nominal advantage of .5%.

My guess for 2023 is volatility as a result of the war in the Ukraine and the ongoing pandemic. Have a good year. *Cheers, Mike*

Letters to the Editor

A little about almost everything I consider alarming
At the risk of being cancelled, my political views have mellowed over the years. I come from an Irish working class background and so logically should be left/Labor leaning. Paradoxically, my parents ALWAYS voted conservative and so that sentiment seemed to stick. I remember when Gough Whitlam was elected in 1972 I suffered mild panic in that my conservative world was collapsing. But he shook the topor out a bit and when he went a bit far with Kherulani the democratic process rectified the problem.

You've got to credit good PMs on both sides: Hawke and Keating ('gotta love his straight talk) and Howard and I'd include Abbott, who I believe got a bit of a rum deal. As opposed to Rudd/Gillard/Rudd and Turnbull and ScoMo. So the revolving door seems to work generally. The fatal flaw in politics currently, in my view, is what I call the 'Verdants' ie., the Greens and Teals, because of the latter day Spanish Inquisition known as Climate Catastrophe. To be clear, absolutely the climate changes and has been doing so since the beginning of the current interglacial, ten thousand years or so ago after the preceding ice age that lasted 10-40 times that long. My problem and that of the climate zealots, is the 'catastrophisation' of a natural event. My really big problem now that I've got a few grandkids is the

child abuse in schools being masqueraded as climate science which tends to make children think there's no hope for the future so what's the point of trying? So why am I not onboard with the 97% consensus? Don't get me started on the way they arrived at 97%. I have no problem with cleaning up our act a bit and very credible activists like Michael Shellenberger, Patrick Moore, Bjorn Lomberg, William Happer, Roy Spencer, Judith Curry and John Christie make endless sense but all agree that renewables (solar and wind) cannot achieve the base load reliability required to maintain society as we know it. We have made the decision to play with matches by adopting the AUKUS protocol so why not go the tiny step further and at least not make the concept of nuclear prohibited by law? Of course no one is going to suggest investing in nuclear if

it's illegal. For Chris Bowen to say no one is interested is a purply on those grounds alone. His assertion that the NIMBY (not in my backyard) principle is a major impediment is also unrealistic. We moved to the Shire in 1979 and have lived there in three locations but at no time have we been more than 15Km from a nuclear reactor. That's that inconvenient truth that is ANSTO at Lucas Heights. Shire folk (no, not hobbits) don't continually whinge and whine and protest about that. On the other hand, I don't see any wind turbines in Teal seats! My other problem with renewables is to make it seem like the concept is possible; natural gas (a hydrocarbon) and biomass (trees for God's sake) are often included in the stats. Biomass means cutting down carbon sinks and burning them, releasing the CO2 again and gas also releases the demon gas, so

that's plainly disingenuous. Nobody much likes to discuss the environmental impact of what's required to produce solar panels and turbines, let alone the environmental impact of disposing of them. If I hear cleaner CHEAPER energy referred to any more I'll probably bust something. On what planet has renewables resulted in cheaper electricity?? Remember Harry Messel's HSC science text books? I don't know that biology has completely reversed itself but CO2 was required for plant respiration and increased levels resulted in reduced water consumption and better yields. NASA even admits to a greening of the planet with

increasing CO2 levels. If you live in the Hunter, what about jobs for the people? Claims that renewables will provide employment for the thousands dispossessed when the mines shut down??? Doing what exactly? One last view of mine, Piers Akerman, who along with Tim Sheridan, is one of the few journalists I can read without requiring additional anti hypertensives. **Richard Foran, via email**

Submit a letter to the editor

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

or emailed to thenews@hotmail.net.au

The Branxton to Greta Cycleway back on track; update



Transport for NSW has, of December 2022, approved the location of the final stage of the shared pathway between Branxton & Greta in the far northern lane of the New England Highway, between the intersection of Maitland Street, East Branxton, and Devon Street, Greta. The project had stalled while Cessnock City Council & Transport for NSW determined what alignment the final stage would take; the north or southern side. The Central Hunter Business Chamber was determined that it should take a Northern alignment

and made representations to Cessnock City Council. The CHBC main concern about the southern Alignment was, inter alia, having to cross a very busy road. They considered it extremely dangerous. The Transport for NSW approval means that design can now commence to move the traffic lane markings to the south to enable the 2.5m wide pathway to be accommodated along with the required clearance distances between the pathway, a safety barrier and the new road edge line. Once design is completed, the pathway construction

will commence. During the course of the works there will be some unavoidable traffic disruptions. Council received funding to construct the 3.3 km long by 2.5m wide concrete off-road shared pathway/cycleway on the northern side of the New England Highway in 2019. Prior to the opening of the Hunter Expressway in 2014, the section of the New England Highway between Branxton and Greta was part of the primary national route through the Hunter.

Branxton RSL Memorial Hall given State funding grant for repairs

The Branxton community is set to benefit from works to stabilise the concrete piers of the town's RSL Memorial Hall, ensuring a future location for activities and events thanks to a \$40,000 grant from the NSW State Government. Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the hall in Branxton's main street has provided a location to support veterans and the surrounding communities of East Branxton, Greta, & North Rothbury for nearly seven decades. "This hall has been enjoyed by so many members of the community over the years, especially ex-service personnel with Branxton and district which continues to have an active RSL Sub Branch," Mr Toole said. "Halls like this are the heart and soul of a community, so I'm proud the NSW state Government is providing this grant to shore up the building's foundations so locals can use it for many years to come."

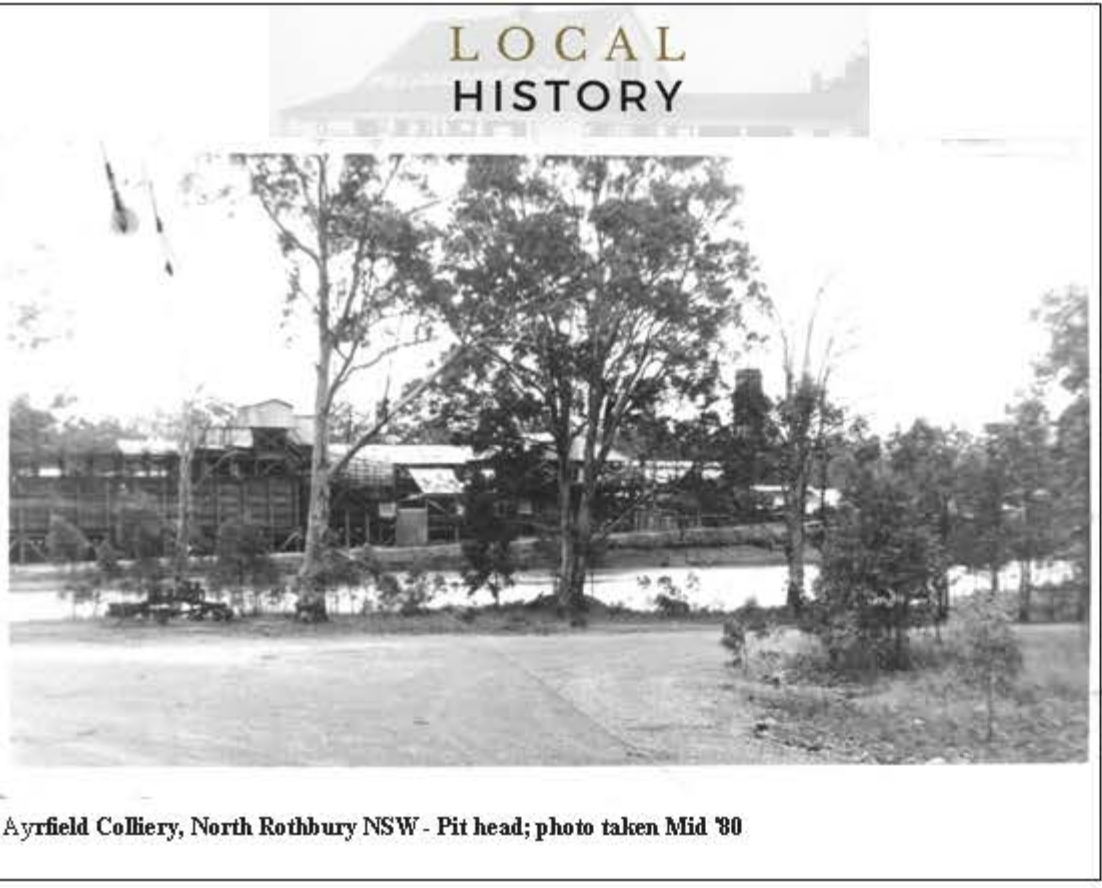
"The RSL and community have done a fantastic job leading restoration works so far, and when it is completed, it will ensure Branxton Memorial Hall remains a centerpiece of the region." Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell said the grant would fast-track work already underway, with 16 of the 100 piers now replaced. "Branxton RSL Sub Branch has a maintenance and upkeep plan of the hall and I appreciate the organisation's efforts to make an application for funding so this much needed project can be progressed." Sub Branch president

Brian Fumer OAM welcomed the NSW Government support as a significant boost so that its plans for the building can take a significant step forward. "The work on the piers will provide the foundations for both the Memorial Hall and the future work that the Branxton RSL Sub Branch wants to do in supporting the veteran community and their families," Mr Fumer said. "We are centrally located being close to the nearby Australian Army's School of Infantry at Lone Pine Barrack, Singleton and the



Member for Upper Hunter, Dave Layzell MP at left with Deputy Premier Paul Toole centre & RSL SubBranch President Brian Fumer OAM at the hall.

Hunter Expressway also allows easy access for personnel from RAAF Base Williamtown."



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Monday 06/02/23	Maitland	0408221398	9am
Tuesday 07/06/23	Branxton	0428387635	9am
Tuesday 07/02/23	Toronto	0429659990	9am
Wednesday 08/02/23	Moonan	0407235687	9am
Wednesday 08/02/23	Pelican	0417667878	9am
Thursday 09/02/23	Mt Sugarloaf (West Wallsend)	0438586655	9am
Saturday 11/02/23	Myall Park (Hawks Nest)	0409443586	9am
Sunday 12/02/23	Nelson Bay	0476158555	11.30am
Sunday 12/02/23	Newcastle National Park	0420963719	10am

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A Mafia Godfather finds out that his bookkeeper has cheated him for ten million bucks.

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When the Godfather goes to shakedown the bookkeeper about his missing \$10 million bucks, he brings along his attorney, who knows sign language.

The Godfather asks the bookkeeper: "Where is the 10 million bucks you embezzled from me?"

The attorney, using sign language, asks the bookkeeper where the 10 million dollars is hidden.

The bookkeeper signs back: "I don't know what you are talking about."

The attorney tells the Godfather: "He says he doesn't know what you're talking about."

That's when the Godfather pulls out a 9 mm pistol, puts it to the bookkeeper's temple, cocks it, and says: "Ask him again!"

The attorney signs to the underling: "He'll kill you for sure if you don't tell him!"

The bookkeeper signs back: "OK! You win! The money is in a brown briefcase buried behind the shed in my cousin Enzo's backyard in Queens!"

The Godfather asks the attorney: "Well, what'd he say?"

The attorney replies: "He says you don't have the guts to pull the trigger."

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Members say ..



Member for Hunter
Daniel Repacholi MP

Firstly, let me wish a Happy New Year to all the residents in the Hunter electorate! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your friends and family.

The first few weeks of January are a chance for me to reflect on the year that has gone, the year to come and what we want to achieve with it. I have long given up on punishing New Year's resolutions and shudder at the thought of 'Dry January', but I've always set myself the goal of learning or taking up something new every year. 2023 promises to be another big year in Parliament and several changes have already been put in place from 1 January or are due to start soon.

From January 1, cheaper medicines under Medicare came into place to help ease the cost of living. Australians will now pay up to 30% less for prescription medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme, with the maximum co-payment dropping from \$42.50 to just \$30. Not all medicines will be cheaper, but the majority will be.

This year, over 180,000 fee-free TAFE and vocational education and training places will be available to provide immediate support to help equip more Australians for the jobs of the future and to help tackle the skills crisis we inherited. More details on the places are available from my office.

We are also putting in place 10,000 New Energy apprentices who will receive up to \$10,000 in direct support under the New Energy Apprenticeships Program. This is helping more apprentices to complete their training and go on to have successful careers, while building a pipeline of skilled workers in sectors essential to Australia's transition to a clean energy economy. There is an additional 20,000 Commonwealth supported places at our universities, including 963 new places right here in the Hunter. These places are for students from lower socioeconomic families, students from regional areas, like the Hunter electorate, Indigenous Australians, Australians with a disability, and

Australians who are the first in their family to ever set foot in a university. We have also introduced price caps for Home Care packages to reduce excessive administration and management charges, care management prices. Prices will be capped at 20% of the package level and package management prices will be capped at 15% of the package level. The Disability Support for Older Australians Program has been extended with approximately 2,300 existing clients benefiting from the delivery of consistent, timely, and high quality specialist disability services including support to transition to aged care services where appropriate. We have also expanded our downsizer super contributions program, which enabled over-55s to boost their retirement savings if they downsize when the kids move out. Thousands of pensioners and other income support recipients (including eligible Veterans) will benefit from a doubling of the asset test exemption to 24 months, and deemed income on the exempt proceeds will be calculated using only the lower deeming rate. All youth and student payments will increase by 6.1% to help ease the cost of living for around young people, students and carers. There is more to do, and I look forward to hearing from everyone in the Hunter electorate throughout the year.
Cheers, Dan



Cr Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council

With the Christmas tree packed away for another year and the summer holidays in full swing, January is a time to appreciate being Australian and to recognise those citizens who go above and beyond in our community. Our Australia Day program provides the perfect opportunity to rejoice in all the things that make the Singleton local government area a great place to live before school goes back for 2023. After having to cancel last year's event due to COVID-19, we're excited to see our Australia Day Eve community event, Twilight, return with free entertainment in the

Townhead Park precinct from 6.30pm on 25 January. Twilight is the perfect celebration of what it is to be an Australian, and what better way than to kick back and enjoy a summer sunset with family and friends. Roll out your picnic blanket and enjoy food trucks and free family activities including jumping castles, face painting and reptile show, all capped up with a magical outdoor cinema under the stars. The fun continues on Australia Day with the traditional BBQ breakfast and official Australia Day ceremony where we'll see the announcement of the Singleton Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year. We are fortunate in Singleton to have so many residents who selflessly contribute their time and energy to making our community better for everyone, and any one of our nominees is worthy of this honour. I also look forward to welcoming our new Australian citizens, with 15 people who have not only chosen to make their homes in Australia, but in Singleton.

For more information about our Australia Day events, visit Council's website or Facebook page. I wish everyone a very happy new year. One of my many goals for 2023 is simple, but requires no less hard work — I want to maintain momentum to keep pressure on both levels of government to get the best outcomes for the people of Singleton. I look forward to what's in store and what we'll achieve together for our community.
*Cheers, Cr Sue Moore
Mayor of Singleton*



Member for Upper Hunter
Dave Layzell MP

Happy New Year!!! Welcome back to land of the living after a well deserved break for many over Christmas. Although let us not forget those who had to work over the festive period while the rest of us had downtime. Nonetheless it is fantastic to be back in a new year looking forward to all the challenges ahead. Although it has to be said that the rubber really doesn't start to hit the road until the kids head back to school. As a result, January for many of us comes as a time of reflection, in the after-glow of our NYE resolutions that are often

already broken by the end of the first week. We spend the month of January reflecting on those big questions about our lives to date, what do we want; where are we going? Maybe I'm speaking for myself and generalising but I always feel that life slows down just a few moments in the early new year to reflect on some of those questions that throughout the year we generally have no time to indulge in. Let me share some of my thinking this year. It has been a reflection of what the last 18 months has been like. There are times when I have felt on top of things, then others where I felt like I was drowning and throughout it all, the pace has been fast and furious. Not all the goals have been achieved but many steps forward have been made. So far to go, and so little time always feels like the mantra. Its fast paced and a pressured environment but I wouldn't have it any other way. I'm not sure what advice the yoga meditation teachers would give for this lifestyle.

In amongst the daily battles, phone calls, discussions, meetings, attending events that form part of the job, there are also a number of high level principles that drive my decision making. Core principles that form the basis of my efforts, time management and decision making. During the month of January, it is crystal clear what these are so let me try to elaborate.

* Firstly, enhancing **regional health services** which is probably the most important issue for us all. Regional areas will always be challenged with distance from core services and making sure we can access them when we really need them is a primary priority.

* Secondly, ensuring a **quality education in regional areas** for our children. Our teachers do an amazing job teaching our kids under sometimes stressful situations so we need to make they have the facilities and support around them to achieve this all important goal.

* Thirdly, keeping a **sense of security** in our families and our communities. We all want to have that feeling of safety when we are at home, for our loved ones, for our friends and for our wider community. That also means having the ability to own your home or the confidence to run a small business. That is why the role of our emergency services are so important. Whether it is the Police or Fire & Rescue or the volunteer agencies such as RFS, SES or VRA. As a community, we need their support as much as they need our support to do what they do, when we really need it.

* Another core principle is making sure we have the right infrastructure in place to **support those who are less fortunate**. The great privilege of my position is

to have the opportunity to meet the people who work in the community services sector. Often the work that they do and the value they give to our society far outweighs the monetary rewards they receive.

That is why it is important to make sure we have **strong industries** that can provide the jobs and the opportunities for people to support their families. There can be no higher goal than making sure we provide our families as they grow and mature. The Upper Hunter is blessed with strong job market and we need to enhance the industries we have, while making sure we diversify into new industries going into the future. Finally we all need a community around us to give us a **sense of belonging**. The community is where we spend our time, where we play our sports where we spend our social hours. My goal is to make sure that I can contribute to enhancing our sense of belonging in our communities. It is the group that pulls us all together as a team, that can support us when we are weak and keep us grounded when we over reach but most importantly it gives a sense of being part of something bigger than ourselves. Whilst it is not always an easy life, country life is the greatest asset we have and we need to protect it for future generations.

So as I finish my January of reflection, it is clear that my mission for this life is to leave our region in a better way than when I arrived in this world. Keeping true to this ideal is still the mantra of my life, my actions and my decision making. I wish everyone the best for the new year and look forward to working with you all going forward.
Cheers, Dave



Member for Cessnock
Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR BRANXTON TO MOVE NSW STATE BOUNDARIES AT NEXT ELECTION

Most parts of Branxton are currently in the Electorate of Cessnock for the purpose of NSW state political representation. But that's all about to change. Every 8 years the

boundaries of the 93 Electorates of NSW, represented by 93 MPs in State Parliament, are considered for change, based on population growth. Ideally, each Electorate should have about the same number of voters, so that each voice in Parliament is roughly equal. Over the past 8 years, each Electorate has had about 55,000 voters. Over the coming 8 years each Electorate will have around 60,000 voters. Because the Electorate of Cessnock has seen quite rapid population growth, some of the current communities, towns and villages will be transferred out of it and into Upper Hunter.

Places like Branxton (most of it), Broke, Milbrodale, Putty and a few other villages will be affected. In the case of Branxton the new boundary line will be at the rail line.

As of 25 March people that live to the north of the rail line will vote in the election for the Upper Hunter MP and after that date, for the next 8 years (at least) will be represented by the successful Upper Hunter candidate.

South of the rail line, those living in Huntlee, North Rothbury and surrounds, will continue to be represented by the MP for Cessnock. And all existing areas of Greta will also stay in the Cessnock Electorate. A reminder of course that the Electorate of Cessnock currently extends down into parts of Lake Macquarie Local Government area (LGA) and into parts of the Singleton Local Government area too. The Cessnock Electorate, for state politics, is more than just the Cessnock LGA. You will hear and read more about this in the coming weeks. Meanwhile I continue to be your State MP right up until 24 March.

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can help, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You can also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp, follow me on Instagram at "claytonbarrmp" or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au
Cheers, Clayton

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- * You can go to a public toilet without a support group.
- * You can leave the motel bed unmade.
- * You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.
- * If someone forgets to invite you to something, you can still be friends.
- * Your underwear is \$10 for a three-pack.
- * If you are 34 and single, nobody notices.
- * You can quietly enjoy a car ride from the passenger's seat.
- * Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.
- * You don't mooch off other's desserts.
- * You can drop by to see a friend without having to bring a little gift.
- * You are not expected to know the names of more than five colors.
- * You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt.
- * You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.
- * The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades.
- * Your belly usually hides your big hips.
- * The world is your urinal

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Heat and COVID-19



As we move into the summer months, including potential heatwaves or long periods of extreme heat, it's vital we also continue to keep our community safe from COVID-19.

COVID safe advice for a hot summer

It's important to **prepare yourself and stay safe in the heat. Babies and children, older people and those with a chronic illness are more at a risk** during a heat wave. While managing a heat-wave might be a bit different this year due to COVID-19, make sure you always stay COVID safe wherever you are: Keep in touch with rela-

tives, friends and neighbours, especially those who are elderly, living alone or isolated, when the weather heats up. Be COVID safe: give them a call or check in virtually by email, social media or video

Monitor for symptoms.

Symptoms of **heat-related illness** include lethargy, dizziness, headache and thirst. If you develop symptoms you should rest and seek out a cool place. If your symptoms are severe, seek medical help immediately and call Triple Zero (000) if it's an emergency

Some symptoms of heat-related illness may be similar to COVID-19 symptoms such as fever and shortness of breath. **Get tested** if you have any COVID-19 symptoms

Create cool rooms in your home to go to during extreme heat. South facing rooms cooled by indoor and outdoor shading, fans or air-conditioning are best. If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19, stay separated from people you live with. Seek out local cool places

if it's too hot at home.

If you visit air-conditioned indoor venues like cinemas, libraries, shopping centres and other public buildings, stay COVID safe: keep 1.5 metres apart from people you don't live with, wash your hands often and wear a face mask if you can't physically distance

Stay hydrated if you're heading outdoors and it's a hot day.

Remember that public water fountains may be closed due to COVID-19 so always carry water with you. Stay 1.5 metres apart if queuing at a water fountain

Consider the heat if planning a COVID safe summer outdoors. Seek out the shade and cool breezes. Avoid being outside during the hottest part of the day and always carry water. Stay COVID safe and follow COVID-19 rules for **outdoor gatherings**

Prepare your house for the heat if you are working from home over summer due to COVID

What should I do if I have a heat-related illness (e.g. heat stroke)? Do I need to get tested for COVID-19?

Symptoms of **heat-related illness** can be varied, including tiredness, feeling unwell, cramps, high body temperatures, confusion, shortness of breath and fits. Anyone can be affected by becoming overheated. Early stages of heat-related illness like dehydration, heat rash or heat cramps can be treated by effective first aid: drink plenty of water use cool packs stop strenuous physical activity

move to a cool location. Heat stroke is a medical emergency so it is important you don't delay treatment. Call Triple Zero (000) and ask for an ambulance.

Some symptoms of heat-related illness may be similar to **COVID-19 symptoms** such as fever and

shortness of breath. **Get tested** if you have any COVID-19 symptoms.

Heat can also make existing medical conditions or chronic illnesses worse, so make sure you speak to your GP before summer about how to manage your health in the heat.

How should I look after my elderly or isolated relatives, friends or neighbours in a heatwave during the COVID-19 pandemic?

When the weather heats up make sure you keep in touch with relatives, neighbours and friends, especially those living alone or who are isolating and waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

Be COVID safe: Give them a call or check in virtually by email, social media or video call. Consider asking them if they are prepared for the heat and a COVID summer:

Have they spoken to their GP about staying healthy in the heat?

Is their home prepared for the heat? For example, is there cold water in the fridge and is the air conditioner set to cool?

Do they know who to call in an emergency?

Who is at greater risk in hot weather (including heatwaves) during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The people most vulnerable to heat at any time are **babies and young children, older people** and those who are socially isolated or have a chronic illness, and this risk is increased during a heatwave.

Due to COVID-19, there are more people staying at home and, if their home is now well prepared for the heat, they might be at risk of developing a **heat-related illness**.

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A decadent pancetta and mushroom layer makes this beef wellington extra special.

1017 calories per serve **Allergens:** Recipe may contain sulphites, gluten, wheat, egg and milk.

11 Ingredients

1.1kg **beef** fillet, tied at intervals with kitchen string
 500ml (2 cups) red wine
 2 1/2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
 1 onion, finely chopped
 500g mixed mushrooms, trimmed, finely chopped
 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
 1 bunch fresh thyme, leaves picked
 100g finely minced pork fat (see notes)
 2 x 375g pkts Carême All-butter Puff Pastry, just thawed
 1 egg, lightly whisked
 200g thinly sliced pancetta

5 Method Steps

• Step 1

Place beef in a glass or ceramic bowl. Pour over the wine. Cover with plastic wrap and place in the fridge for 24 hours to marinate, turning at least once.

• Step 2

Remove the beef from the wine and pat dry with paper towel. Heat 1 tbs olive oil in a large frying pan over

Beef wellington



medium-high heat. Cook the beef, turning, for 5 minutes, until evenly browned all over. Transfer to a plate to cool. Remove the string.

• Step 3

Heat the remaining 1 1/2 tbs oil in the frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook the onion, stirring, for 3-5 minutes or until softened. Add the mushroom and garlic and cook, stirring often, for 5-7 minutes or until the liquid evaporates. Stir in the thyme and season with cracked black pepper and a little salt. Stir in the pork fat. Transfer to a bowl and set aside to cool.

• Step 4

Preheat the oven to 210C/190C fan forced. Line a large baking tray with baking paper. Place 1 pastry sheet on a lightly floured surface. Brush a 10cm-wide strip along 1 side of the pastry with egg. Place the other pastry sheet alongside, overlapping the 10cm strip. Press lightly to seal. Arrange the pancetta slices over the pastry to cover. Top with mushroom mixture. Place the beef in the centre. Roll up the pastry tightly to cover the beef and filling. Brush the edges with egg to seal. Fold in the ends to enclose the filling. Carefully transfer to prepared tray, seam side down. Brush the pastry with the remaining egg.

• Step 5

Bake for 40 minutes, until the pastry is golden and crisp. Remove from the oven and rest for 15 minutes before slicing.

Editors note:

In 2001 I obtained 550 copied pages of The *Greta & Branxton Gazette* from the NSW State Library. I published the page opposite in 2002 & then, mainly through time constraints, I put it on the back burner.

Over the festive season I had another look at what I had and did a little research using Trove & Google. This rudimentary look lead me to glean the commencement date of the Gazette; 1831. I am still trying to ascertain when they stopped publishing. One thing that stood out was *Letters to the Editor*. I would say that the law of defamation was pretty much non-existent. It wasn't just letters but also editorials.

In the letter published in the extract printed on this page is a good example *And no later than last week he had the unblushing of frontery to speak of the sanitary measures taken by his own egotistical self to secure the health and cleanliness of the town.*

The circulation area was given as Greta, Leonfield, Branxton, Allandale, Pokolbin, Knockfin, Elerslie, Dalwood, Lochinvar, Cessnock, West Maitland, Morpeth, East Maitland, Singleton, Largs, Woodville &c., &c.

The only region I was not aware of was Knockfin but I assumed it was near Lochinvar as there is a Knockfin Road on the outskirts.

Looking at some of the family names was interesting as we still have many descendants still living locally.

It also appears the George Wyndham was a good cricketer. He was born in 1863 and would have been close to 30 in 1892.

The Elderslie Bridge. — £73 has been collected towards the picnic to celebrate the opening of the Elderslie bridge. It was a lot of money as the average income then was roughly £150/year (\$300/year).

The paper cost 3pence as noted on the front page which was not cheap. In one editorial I came across the editor admonished those people who continually refused to purchase a copy and relied on friends or family who would give them their copy when they had finished with it.

I any of our readers would like a copy of the 550 pages please feel free to contact me and I will organize it. It is a rather large file so if you could provide a flash card I will copy them for you. My contact mobile is 0414 757 826.

Cheers, Mike

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THE GRETA & BRANXTON GAZETTE

Circulating in Greta, Leonfield, Branxton, Allandale, Pokolbin, Knockfin, Elderslie, Dalwood, Lochinvar, Cessnock, West Maitland, Morpeth, East Maitland, Singleton, Largs, Woodville, &c., &c.

GRETA & BRANXTON GAZETTE

MARCH 26TH, 1892

131 YEARS AGO

Local

The Elderslie Bridge.— £73 has been collected towards the picnic to celebrate the opening of the Elderslie bridge. The date is not yet fixed.

Cricket.— The following will represent Greta in a badge match against Branxton at Branxton to-day:— S. M. Page, M. J. Sheppard, A. B. Ford, J. Crennan, E. and D. Fogarty, J., E. and D. Palmer, C. Rowley, S. Searston, and Dr Walker.

Appointment.— Mr. McShane, Clerk of Petty Sessions, has been appointed commissioner for taking affidavits of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, concerning any matter within the jurisdiction of such court.

The Lock-up.— Extensive alterations are proposed to the local lock-up. The roof is to be covered with galvanised iron, the outside of the building painted, the inside walls kalsomined, and all repairs necessary are to be done. Tenders will shortly be called for the work.

Public Holiday.— Thursday, 7th April, has been *Gazetted* a public holiday for the police district of Maitland, being the second day of Maitland Show. There will be no delivery by letter carriers on that day, and the Post Office will be open on that day from 9 to 10 a.m. only.

Greta Court-house.— The sum of £1500 (\$3000) has been voted by the Government for the erection of a Court-house at Greta. The Council should take steps to have the court-house erected at once, or else the money may be spent in other ways as it was before.

Floods.— On Saturday last one of the heaviest thunderstorms which have yet visited Greta passed over the town. For some time the rain fell in torrents, and in a very little while the creeks were bankers. The culvert near Mr. Dixon's in High-street was covered by a foot of water, and Nicholson's, Cleaton's and the other houses on that side had streams of water flowing through them. In Hunter-street the water hid the stone-work was to be proposed height which for the new culvert, and was high in Mr. T. Heaney's house. In Newtown Mr. Woods house had several inches of water in it, and the underground tank let in the flood, spoiling the water. The Nelson-street culvert was without doubt the cause of a lot of the damage in

Newtown, the water being three feet in Archard's house, while on the other side of the culvert the water was several feet lower. The culvert in Wyndham-street also showed that it was too narrow, and as a result both culverts suffered severely in the approaches. The new culvert in Branxton-street suffered slightly, the water coming down here with tremendous force, and for a time there was over a foot of water in the main road near Southall's. The storm extended to Branxton.

Keen's bridge was covered two feet by a raging rushing torrent, and the wonder is that the frail structure did not disappear. In Branxton the water was all over the bridge, and within a few inches of entering Mr. Ward's bar. This was the heaviest fall of rain known here for years.

Colliery.— For the fortnight just ended the miners have worked 5¼ days. Two ships with a carrying capacity of 5800 tons are in port, and the next pay should be a good one. Another large ship is reported as close to port.

Death.— Mrs. Alf Miller of Corindah a daughter of Mr. John Hughes of Branxton and sister to Mr. William Rudd, died at Branxton on Thursday morning from inflammation of the lungs. The funeral was held yesterday, Rev. Tollis officiating, when a large number of the townspeople followed the remains to the Branxton cemetery.

Narrow Escapes.— Two narrow escapes from drowning occurred in the creek at the rear of Sawdon's store on Thursday. In the morning a little boy named Joe Jowett fell in the creek and was rescued when nearly drowned by some of his mates. In the afternoon, the storm which occurred at Lochinvar and Allandale, caused the creek to rise very rapidly, and a little fellow about four years old, Joe Jones, was attempting to cross when the flood caught him and carried him down the stream, which in a few minutes was a banker. Mr. Robert Dunn & Mr. W. Jowett, who had just returned from work, heard the screams of the other children and immediately rushed to the scene. Mr. Dunn very pluckily dived into the torrent with all his clothes on, and with the greatest difficulty managed to pull the youngster out. When rescued the boy was black in the face, and Dr.

Rogers was sent for, but he happily recovered in a few minutes.

Court.— At the West Maitland Police Court on Thursday Robert Livingstone, for being drunk, fined 20s (\$2) or seven days goal. He took it out.

Edward Byron for same offence was discharged. Eliza Rhodes, obscene language, fined 20s (\$2), and 6s 8d (0.66c) costs. W. Smith, for stealing a brush from J. Dilley, was discharged.

The Burwood Pit.— The Burwood Pit worked three days in six weeks.

A miner named Thomas Cunnick got terribly crushed by a fall of coal on Wednesday, in the Black Creek tunnel No 10 section. It appears he was engaged at the time wedging down a large block of coal, when about two ton broke off unexpectedly and pinned the poor unfortunate fellow to the ground. The mass of coal nearly covered him up. When he was extricated he seemed more dead than alive, and plenty of willing hands soon had him conveyed home to Mr. J. Black's residence, where he boarded. Dr. Floyer was soon in attendance, and after a careful examination of the poor fellow, the Doctor said that the injuries were mostly internal and very severe, and held little hopes of saving his life.

BRANXTON

On Sunday morning last, Rev. W. Tollis preached in the English Church, Branxton, and in his sermon made touching reference to the terrible sudden death of Mr. E. V. C. Meyne, who had been cut off without a moment's warning. Mr. Tollis spoke in terms of highest praise of Mr. Mayne's life. He was a good and true churchman, and his loss would be severely felt.

At the Police Court on Wednesday, before J. N. Brooks, Esq., P. M., Edwin Geary, State school apprentice, was charged with absenting himself from the hired service of John Sexton. The indentures were cancelled and he was ordered to be detained in custody pending the arrival of an official of the department.

The Branxton cricketers last Saturday journeyed to Maitland to play the disputed badge match with the 2nd East Maitland, but the latter team not putting in an appearance at the proper time, Branxton claimed the match. A game was however started, but rain put a stop to

it after East Maitland had lost three wickets for eighteen runs.

The following will represent Branxton in a badge match against Greta to-day: W. Meyne, J. Freel, W. & G. Ballantyne, J. Hatcher, J. Dagg, D. Thrift, G. & C. Eckert, C. James, G. Wyndham.

GRETA SCHOOL OF ARTS

The annual meeting of the Greta School of Arts was held on Wednesday evening. Mr. E. Dixon was voted to the chair.

The annual report & balance-sheet were read by the secretary, Mr. M. North as follows:—

Second Annual Report of Greta School of Arts for year ending Dec. 31st, 1891
Gentlemen.— Your committee have much pleasure in laying before you a more favourable report than the previous one, i.e., financially speaking. The contributions during the first year were £376/6 (\$74.65), for this year £421/7/4 (\$85.74) being an increase of £5/10/10 (\$11.09).

It is very much regretted that the trade of the district has not improved since our last report, which is sadly against the progress of the Institution.

We also regret that we have not been able to improve the library, on account of want of funds, but with improved trade your committee feel confident that they would soon be able to do this, and make it more attractable.

The number of volumes issued during the year were 220 to about 20 readers, an average of 11 each.

The following proprietors of newspapers have supplied copies gratuitously, for which the committee, in the name of the members, tender their sincere thanks, viz.— The Greta & Branxton Gazette, The Wallsend & Plattsbury Sun.

JAMES FINLAY,
Acting Chairman.

The report and balance sheet were read and adopted on the motion of Mr. J. Finlay, seconded by Mr. E. Thomas.

The following officers were then elected: president, Mr. E. Dixon; vice-president, Mr. J. Finlay; treasurer, Mr. W. Jowett; secretary, Mr. M. North; committee: Messrs. E. Thomas, W. B. Tipper, G. Scott, W. Kennedy, R. McEwan, J. A. Campbell, T. Harman, J. Allen, R. Allen.

A discussion took place as to making the institution more popular, and the

general feeling being that the building at present used was in an inconvenient situation, the officers were instructed to inquire as to a suitable building in High-street, and report at next meeting.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

OPEN COLUMN

We do not hold ourselves responsible for our correspondents' opinions.

To the Editor

Sir,—Will you kindly permit me, through the medium of your paper, to enlighten the aldermen and ratepayers of Greta as to the best plan for retaining a good supply of typhoid fever in our midst for next summer. It will require no scientific knowledge nor difficult process to keep a latent stock on hand. All that is required is for a few of our town residents to do, as a leading townsman does, and allow their cesspits to overflow and drain on their neighbour's property, thereby polluting and defiling everything on or about the place.

This is my unfortunate position, and up to the present I have not looked for the law to redress my wrong, but trusted to my neighbour with the overflowing cesspits to do what was necessary in the matter to quench the nuisance. But no, though he should be the first to set an example, the nuisance still continues. And no later than last week he had the frontery to speak of the sanitary measures taken by his own egotistical self to secure the health and cleanliness of the town.

Fellow citizens, what can we think of a man like this?—who has the arrogance to stand up and laud his own actions in public, knowing at the same time that the excremental drainage from his property was poisoning the air and undermining his neighbour's health without one effort on his part to prevent it, though it had been brought under his notice twice.

When we find such a man posing as an earnest disciple of Sanus in public, and acting so contrary in private, though for humanity's sake he ought not, we shall have no need to wonder if others act in the same way, and I should like to ask my fellow townsmen if they can make his public utterances agree with his private actions. If they cannot he stands a self-condemned hypocrite.

W. G. PHILLIPS



WITH

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

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Things to Remember Over the Holiday Period



Much like the rest of 2022, the Christmas period is likely to be an unusual one. Now that we are able to get back to "semi-normal" events such as holidaying and visiting family and friends, don't forget that, with the silly season, comes a few extra reminders to ensure the safety of yourself and others.

Stop, Revive, Survive
Driver Reviver sites operate across NSW at peak holiday periods. They offer a safe place to stop for a biscuit and a cup of Bushells tea or coffee. These sites are clearly signposted and are supported by Bushells Tea and the Centre for Road Safety. The Driver Reviver program is run by volunteer community groups including the Volunteer Rescue Association, State Emergency Services and Lions Club International. The Roads and Maritime Services website has an online map of Driver Reviver sites across NSW. Drivers and motorcyclists should use

rest area stops when driving during non-peak periods.

Mobile speed cameras
The NSW government have announced that it will be reintroducing warning signs at mobile speed cameras. All mobile speed camera vehicles will be marked in a policy to make them more visible to motorists. Government data reveals that the mobile speed cameras in NSW have slapped drivers with more fines in the past year than in the five years prior to removing the signs.

For now, these vehicles are not marked but whether they are marked or not, for the safety of yourself and other you must be vigilant when driving and ensure that you are sticking to the correct speed limit.

RBTs and Drug Testing
In NSW, on-the-spot fines can be issued for a first offence if the BAC reading is below 0.079, however for subsequent offences, the driver will have to attend court. In NSW there are five levels

of drink driving. Each range has a different maximum penalty and maximum and minimum licence suspension periods.

In New South Wales, it is illegal to drive with the presence of illicit drugs in your system. Any driver, rider or supervising licence holder on a road or road related area can be directed to take one or more oral fluid tests. It is also an offence of drive in New South Wales with the presence of cocaine or morphine in blood or urine. Drivers are not randomly tested for these drugs using the roadside drug tests described above. The testing must take place at a police station or hospital within 2 hours of the person driving, or the result is not valid and cannot be used in court as evidence.

Again, for the safety of yourself and other you must be vigilant when driving and ensure that you do not drive if you are under the influence.

Cheers, Kerri



Why aren't home prices falling as quickly in regional areas as capital cities?



Eleanor Creagh, Senior Economist
Rapidly rising interest rates have sparked a quick rebalancing of housing markets after last year's extremes, but some areas are holding up relatively well.

Regional areas continue to exhibit a lesser pace of price falls than the capital cities, rising 0.06% in October compared to a 0.11% decline across the capital cities.

Home prices in the capitals are now 2.1% below their level a year ago and up 24.4% on pre-pandemic levels. In regional Australia they're still 6.5% above their level a year ago and 46.6% up on March 2020 at the onset of Covid.

Why are so many regional pockets holding up so well?

Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) denotes sub-state geographical areas as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the output of data across the country. In regional areas, SA4s tend to have smaller populations (100,000 to 300,000) centred around townships, with the regions presenting geographical, social, and economic similarities.

Analysis of these SA4 regions shows home price falls in regional Australia are not as widespread as metro areas. Out of the 42 regional areas classified as SA4s, 28 have seen prices fall from their peak, while 41 of the 46 metro regions have seen home prices slip from peak levels.

Demand for more affordable properties and larger homes has provided support, resulting in regional areas faring better than capital city areas in 2022.

In addition, conditions remain tougher for regional buyers, with the number of properties listed for sale still well below pre-pandemic levels.

This means regional buyers have less choice and less negotiating power – another reason why regional areas are exhibiting a lesser pace of price falls relative to the capital cities.

That said, there are some regional pockets where the shine seems to be wearing off.

The regions where prices are falling fastest

Throughout the Covid period, interest in lifestyle properties surged thanks to more people seeking larger homes and space, especially in regional locations.

The remote work boom helped supercharge values in sea- and tree- change locations, as no many people no longer need to be tied to the office. A number of Aussies took advantage of the relatively more affordable housing in regional areas compared to respective state capitals.

But now that interest rates have risen substantially and buyers' borrowing power has been reduced significantly, regional hotspots where values are typically higher are seeing prices fall fastest.

Housing market conditions have slowed as consumer confidence has fallen and mortgage servicing costs have risen. Lifestyle and amenity rich regional New South Wales and southeast Queensland are as that boomed with city buyers during the pandemic have been the first to see prices fall.

The SA4 regional market seeing the largest price falls to date is Richmond-Tweed, home to popular Byron Bay. It was also impacted by flooding earlier this year. Home prices have fallen 6.3% from their peak.

It's closely followed by the Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven, where tree-changers sought space in the likes of Bowral. Home prices in that region have fallen 5.3% from their peak.

In fact, regional NSW is home to the most poor-performing regions, with four out the top 10 regional SA4s where prices have slipped the most.

Greater Sydney regions also account for 80% of the top 10 metro SA4s where prices have fallen most. Interest rate rises and reduced borrowing power affect higher-priced regions most, with Sydney feeling these effects.

Other markets that thrived during the pandemic, like the Sunshine Coast, Geelong, and the Illawarra have also seen home price growth slowing rapidly.

It's often the case that the upper end of the market experiences larger price declines, and at the moment, much like the trend we see across the capitals, it's the comparatively higher value regions within regional Australia that are seeing steeper price falls.

However, in most of these markets, home prices are still up more than a staggering 50% on pre-pandemic levels. The combination of interest rates moving sharply higher, rising mortgage costs, and expectations of continued price falls, has weighed on buyer demand and is clearly contributing to slowing activity.

As mortgage affordability worsens with interest rates continuing to rise this will weigh on demand and property prices in the period ahead. While the regions overall continue to outperform the capital cities, as interest rates rise and borrowing capacities are reduced, prices will continue to fall – including in those markets that have held up well to date.

However, it's likely that the more affordable regions where supply remains limited will still see stronger competition and exhibit a slower pace of price falls as a result.

Locally, Greta has taken the mantle for a percentage change in median price with prices rising an amazing 130% since March 2020. The median price is now \$687,000. Next comes North Rothbury with a price rise since March 2020 of 86% and a median price of \$800,000.

Other price rises since March 2020 and median price are:-

* Maitland 58%	\$1,051,000
* Telarah 66%	\$582,000
* Singleton 51%	\$570,000
* Wallsend 48%	\$733,000
* Merewether 55%	\$1,925,000
* Cessnock 62%	\$590,000 &
* Kurri Kurri 66%	\$583,500

Quotable Quotes..

"The wise young man or wage earner of today invests his money in real estate." - **Andrew Carnegie**

"Buy land, they're not making it anymore." - **Mark Twain**

"The best investment on earth is earth." - **Louis Glickman**

Land monopoly is not only monopoly, but it is by far the greatest of monopolies; it is a perpetual monopoly, and it is the mother of all other forms of monopoly." - **Winston Churchill**

"I would give a thousand furlongs of sea for an acre of barren ground." - **Shakespeare**

"Ninety percent of all millionaires become so through owning real estate." - **Andrew Carnegie**

"Landlords grow rich in their sleep without working..." - **John Stuart Mill**



Central Hunter Community Broadcasters Inc.
Broadcasting to Cessnock & Maitland in the Hunter Valley, NSW

P: (02) 4991 1286 Email: secretary@2chr.org

2CHR (Central Hunter Radio) is a community radio station based in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, Australia.

2CHR was formed in 2000 through the amalgamation of two aspirant stations: Cessnock Community Radio (CKRFM) and Radio Maitland (RMFM).

The station serves as voice media for the community of the Central Hunter area. It is operated completely by volunteers from the non-profit organisation - Central Hunter Community Broadcasters Inc

Training courses in basic radio skills for would be presenters are provided. Other volunteers receive training in production, office and computer skills.

Sponsorship and Membership are welcomed and actively sought as the powerhouse of the station.

The station broadcasts from Bimbadeen near Cessnock on 96.9M. Programs include a wide variety of musical tastes interspersed with hourly News and Weather. There is also pertinent local information and bulletins, regular community notices and many specialty shows of cultural and social interest.

Broadcasts cover an area that includes the renowned vineyard areas around Pokolbin and Rothbury and out to the coal mining and agricultural areas of Cessnock and Maitland as well as historic Wollombi and the Quarebolong valley

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For membership details

Contact: Dr. Alan Beckley
Secretary, Lions Club of

Branxton Inc.

Email:

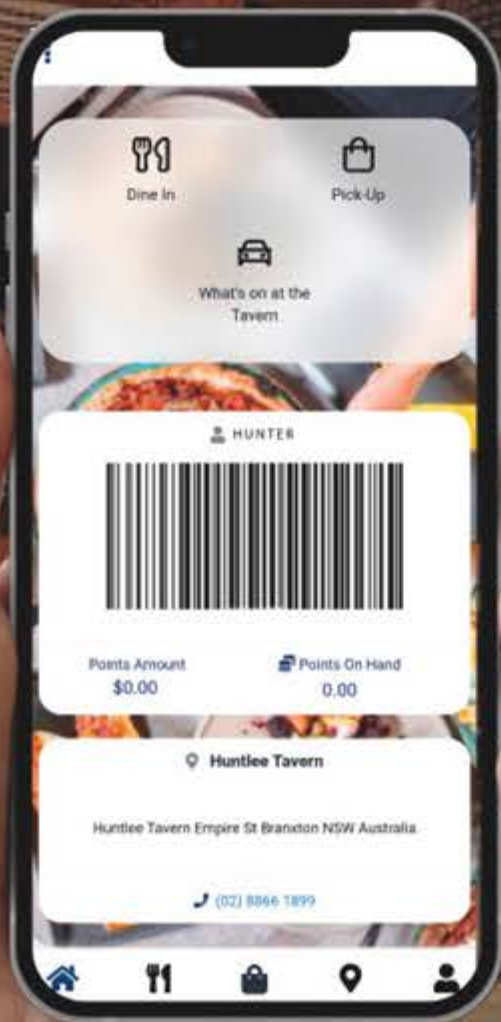
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point of view

with Orson Carter



What is worse is that this is being sold to the public without actually fully explaining the process and the intent.

Covid
I remember when Covid-19 was first a thing and hadn't really landed here yet; we were in Noosa having lunch with friends up there and jokes were bantered about like 'I'll have a Corona (virus) with lime(disease)'. As the year progressed; Ruby Princess, bodies stacked in the streets of New York and other horror shows unfolded. One took it more seriously and so Astra Zenica and Pfizer reigned and closures and distancing prevailed. One wondered about how the local cornerstore was coping as you got your weekly shop delivered from Woolies/ Coles and packed it away after a liberal spray with Glen-20. I felt the majority were having a first and second job, especially if you were elderly with the odd pre-existing condition or two. You would switch on the TV at 11am to get the statistics. One did one's best. Doubt

flourished. On one hand you had Sweden doing a bare minimum as opposed to Dan Andrews's approach or China welding doors shut. Suddenly, it all became very political. Often it was politics vs science and each side of the political spectrum had its own experts. The average punter became very confused. Still very confusing. Penny Wong is trying to mend some fences with China, the same China that's opening up their Covid restrictions and visiting Chinese are in doubt again as they may harbour more virulent strains (like are already spreading from the USA). It will be good when the science finally becomes clear on this topic so life can return to something approaching normalcy; something Australians seem only too happy to embrace. **The Republican case** Now I can see the Republican case. Why do we have some individual whose only claim to fame is their hereditary background as the head of state, particularly when they don't even reside in this

country. May as well have a Kardashian. Well, fair enough, except for the fact that the issue would have to be about 683rd in importance to the average man on the street. Will the establishment of a Presidency and the abolition of the Australian Monarchy make the slightest difference to the actual life of the punter? What about dealing with issues that actually matter: cost of living, inflation, education standards, health care... god forbid, even the overhyped environment catastrophe/emergency/ crisis!!! Maybe we should concentrate on the trillion plus national debt or worry about Chinese intentions in the region. We're talking about a purely ceremonial institution that has worked flawlessly since federation. If it was a complete catastrophe, by all means, fix it. But why ditch a perfectly functional system for... what exactly? Where are the fabulous republics we are hot to emulate? The UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand amongst other examples are happily functional

democracies. All are Constitutional Monarchies. Okay, so we change it. Then an issue arises that demonstrates that it wasn't such a great idea. Can we go back to how it was? Maybe if we ask nicely. The Republican initiative smells a little like the Voice. A virtue signalling non-event designed to shift the public focus of real issues. A bit like the bread and circuses of Ancient Rome. We also have the possibility, depending on the model, of someone that thinks they have a real mandate to shape policy, especially if the president is somehow elected. Australia REALLY needs another level of government, the way one needs another hole in the head. If it's to be an appointment, perhaps when he's completed his term as Australian ambassador to the US, Kevin Rudd could step up. Or Malcolm Turnbull! If there was ever an example of something not being broken, this is it. It's very like the flag issue. Something that's served us well, so let it be.

The Voice....
I think most of us would agree that ANY disadvantaged or downtrodden group in our community deserve our sympathy and assistance. However, incorporating reverse apartheid enshrined in our constitution is not the answer. This is 3-4% of the population being elevated politically above the remainder. This concept was roundly and correctly condemned when it was the system in South Africa and it is the same concept at work in the Voice. The word "racist" is bandied about freely nowadays but this Voice initiative is, by definition, racist: (racist /adjective characterized by or showing

prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized. [Oxford]) So, the Voice is, at best, reverse racism in that the group discriminated against happens to be the majority; but all discrimination is unfair. The obvious people to blame here are, of course, the Jews and their offshoots, the Catholics and indeed their subsequent disgruntled splinter groups, any of whom perpetuate the concept of original sin: when generations are guilty of transgressions (allegedly) committed by their antecedents.

Well what about the percentage of the population not of British heritage, which numbers a lot more than 3-4% of the population. They weren't involved in 1788. All non-aboriginal citizens are discriminated against with the Voice. I rather prefer the rejoinder from white Americans to black Americans when they state that they haven't owned any slaves and the current black Americans haven't picked any cotton. This (the Voice) is virtue signalling, pure and simple and in itself will do nothing to improve the lot of the aboriginal people any more than have any of the preceding or extant committees or advisory bodies.

Resources revitalise Branxton town centre

Branxton pedestrians and motorists are set to benefit from upgraded street parking and an improved streetscape for Branxton town centre, thanks to a \$626,337 grant from Round Nine of the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government's Resources for Regions Fund. Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the funds will be used to

grade the northern side of Branxton from Church Street to Anvil Creek Bridge to draw locals and visitors back into the area. "Mining plays a very important role in the NSW economy, supporting tens of thousands of jobs, so it's absolutely critical we support the industry to future-proof communities like Branxton," Mr Toole said.

"With a significant reduction in motor vehicle traffic over the years, this project will position the historical Branxton town centre as the place to stop for visitors heading to the Hunter Valley. "This is one of 355 projects worth \$560 million the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government has rolled out to mining communities since it

was established in 2012." Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell said this project built on the \$31 million rolled out under Round Nine of the Resources for Regions Fund across 21 projects in the Upper Hunter electorate alone. "These funds will be used to improve pedestrian access by widening the

footpath, installing new street furniture and formalising on-road parking, so everyone who visits the local businesses in town has an enjoyable experience," Mr Toole said. "The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government is committed to supporting regional mining towns that supply our State with these precious resources, and I am pleased Cessnock City Council put forward these projects to support the ongoing prosperity of the local community." Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said the upgrades to Branxton Town Centre will bring the main street back to the heart of the community and make it a more inviting and accessible space for pedestrians. "We're dedicated to increasing connectivity in Branxton, creating a solid relationship between the main street and our side streets and promoting a sense of arrival for those visiting our town," Mayor Suvaal said.



Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP making the main street funding announcement last Tuesday in Branxton. Deputy Premier Paul Toole is standing to his left

Find us on..

House of the Month



Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Hodges of 8A Thomas Street, North Rothbury for being voted House of the Month for January 2023

The Resources for Regions Fund aims to ensure a strong future for NSW mining communities by upgrading local infrastructure and amenities, revitalising townships and building essential community facilities. Resources for Regions is part of the NSW

Government's \$3.3 billion Regional Growth Fund, designed to support growing regional centres, activate local economies and improve services and community infrastructure for regional communities.

Twilight to bring the summer vibes to Singleton

A free outdoor cinema will headline festivities in Townhead Park as part of Twilight on 25 January, marking Australia Day in Singleton. The annual sunset community event will also include a host of entertainment including live music, roving entertainment, food trucks, slip and slide, reptile display, jumping castles, giant outdoor games, face painting and sensory area. The fun will continue on Australia Day with a BBQ breakfast and the Citizen of the Year award ceremony at Singleton Civic Centre. Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the Australia Day eve event was a great way to kick off the festive spirit while reveling in all that is great about being Australian.

"After having to cancel last year's event due to COVID-19, we're really excited to see Twilight return in 2023 with a jam-packed program of free family-friendly entertainment in the newly completed Townhead Park precinct from 6.30pm," she said. "Twilight is the perfect celebration of what it is to be an Australian, and what better way than to kick back and enjoy a summer sunset with family and friends."

"Roll out your picnic blanket on the green and enjoy the food trucks and plenty of free family fun — activities like jumping castles, face painting and the reptile show will keep the kids entertained, and the outdoor cinema under the stars will be the perfect way to cap off festivities as the sun goes down." Singleton's official Australia Day proceedings, including the address by special guest Dr Emma Beckett, the announcement of the Singleton Citizen and Young Achiever of the Year and citizenship ceremony will be held on Australia Day at the Singleton Civic Centre on 26 January 2023. The traditional BBQ breakfast for a gold coin donation will kick off at 8am,



followed by the official ceremony at 9am. "Australia Day is a really important event on our calendar where we get to recognise the people who make our community better, and to celebrate what makes Singleton the best place to live, work and visit," Cr Moore said. "I am also very excited to be welcoming 15 new Australian citizens at our official ceremony — it's a very special day for our newest residents and their families, and it's always such a pleasure to share in their joy. "It's a great program for people of all ages to come together to mark what we all have in common as Australians, and I encourage as many people as possible to be part of it."

Do you REMEMBER when.....

THE NEWS Issue No 129 13th Feb 2003 page 34

Australia Day Award for Greta Firefighters

by John Saxon Bryant

Representing Captain Peter Becker, Greta's Rural Fire Service President and Deputy Captain Ned Roberts was presented with a plaque at the Cessnock Australia Day Celebrations.

Mayor Clarence recognised all of the Captains and Deputies present for their outstanding service as volunteers, their courage and brave deeds in the protection of lives and property, not only in the recent local fires but for many years past.

Ned told "The News" that it had been a pleasure to see the Rural Fire Service personnel of local district brigades present and to receive the award in place of Captain Peter Becker, who was presently in Canberra with six members of the Greta brigade.

"This is the first time that Greta has been called interstate and we will see more of this as all of the States will be integrating to a larger extent in the future", Ned said. "I am very pleased to be working with Captain Becker and the likes of Deputy Captains such as Steve Miller, Rodney Bush, John Degiergas, to mention just a few. Also our teenage crew, girls and boys, who do a very good job, without needing much instruction", Ned concluded.

When asked about his recently awarded Service Medal and Clasp being for 26 years in the brigade, Ned said that he had always enjoyed the work, apart from his

regular job, serving in the Rural Fire Service was his only interest.

All at The News join in offering heartfelt thanks to all firefighters and are delighted to see Greta receive a plaque recognising their outstanding service.

"20 Years Ago"

Photo Below: Cessnock Mayor John Clarence congratulates Ned Roberts on their award.




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From the Lions' Den

Have you made your New Year's resolutions to relax more?
 Members of the Lions Club of Branxton are looking forward to February and March for their New Year relaxing community events – first the NSW / Cessnock City Council liaison in the Seniors Festival and second is the Clean Up Australia day coupled with the Lions Awareness Day.
Join in the MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR of Branxton and Greta during the Seniors Festival
 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 some photos from the 2022 event.



Cessnock City Council Mayor, Cliff Jay Suvaal at the 2022 event in Greta with Lion member Bob (Dusty) Rhodes



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

MORE DETAILS ABOUT 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 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, and other local organisations have been invited.

Clean Up Australia and Lions Awareness Day are back for 2023

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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Here is what a charming love song can do!

Regular readers of 'From the Lions Den' will know of the environmental preservation project that Branxton Lions undertook in 2022 (and is ongoing) with the endangered species, the Regent Honeyeater bird, which is indigenous to areas of the Hunter Valley. Now, one of the reasons for their lack of numbers has been identified by researchers – and it is all about love songs!

Singing lessons give threatened birds a lift

(Originally published in THE TIMES, written by Bernard Lagan)
 It was the saddest of swan songs. A beloved Australian bird, the regent honeyeater, was fading to extinction because young males were not being taught to sing, so could no longer attract a mate. Scientists discovered last year that juveniles among the critically endangered breed had resorted to copying the songs of other species because there were no longer enough adult males to pass on their soft, chiming love song. However, their imitations were so bad that female regent honeyeaters were rejecting them – a phenomenon never observed before among wild animal species, according to research. Now, scientists have enrolled young males of the species in singing school with wild captured adults as teachers – and the results are a hit with females. The teaching trial in a zoo is aided by 16-hour tapes of wild regents singing that are played through loudspeakers in aviaries.

"We have a different version of that tape for every day of the week," said Dan Appleby, a conservation biologist at the Australian National University who studies the birds. "So there's the same songs but arranged in a way that might hopefully appear more natural so that they're not just learning it like an alarm clock and stop paying attention to it." Fathers do not sing until they have chased their offspring away from the nest so young male birds must learn their love songs from other adults in the flock. But teachers are scarce. "This lack of ability to communicate with their own species is unprecedented in a wild animal," the study, published by the Royal Society, says.

Until the mid-20th century thousands of regent honeyeaters moved throughout southeast Australia in search of nectar and other plant sugars. But the loss of 85 per cent of their woodland habitat to land clearing, mainly for farming, and to fires has caused the population to crash to fewer than 300 wild birds, distributed sparsely over an area the size of Italy. The decline of the birds also affects other plants and animals. Regent honeyeaters help to maintain forests of eucalyptus trees through pollination, providing food and habitat for many other native animals such as koalas.

Mick Roderick, an ecologist at BirdLife Australia, said: "It's incredibly rewarding to see zoo-bred birds form mixed flocks with wild birds." Further research will show how successful the singing lessons have been. For now, Appleby says, the results are very encouraging.

The **Regent Honeyeater** is a flagship threatened woodland bird whose conservation will benefit a large suite of other threatened and declining woodland fauna. The species inhabits dry open forest and woodland, particularly Box-Ironbark woodland, and riparian forests of River Sheoak. Regent Honeyeaters inhabit woodlands that support a significantly high abundance and species richness of bird species. These woodlands have significantly large numbers of mature trees, high canopy cover and abundance of mistletoes.



Regent Honeyeater



The **FIVE GLOBAL CAUSES** of service that Lions Australia and Lions International are focusing on are: **Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Environment, Hunger, Vision, plus Membership.**

Happy New Year from Branxton Lions – here is the New Year thought: *Bring it on 2023! May all the new adventures be yours this 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



LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

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 clearing 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.



Remain vigilant in and around water

As part of its annual Be Pool Safe campaign, Cessnock City Council is urging residents to keep a watchful eye on kids engaged in water-based activities.

Water play can be a fun activity for kids of all ages in the hot summer months. However, without proper supervision these activities can quickly lead to drowning and near-drowning experiences. It is important when supervising children to maintain constant visual contact, without distractions, even if children can swim.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said it's important for families to remain on high alert when children are playing in, on or around water.

"Sadly, all it takes is 20 seconds and a few centimetres of water for a child to drown, so it is important to stay alert around water and ready to react to any situation," Mayor Suvaal said.

"By following the correct safety procedures and remaining vigilant, all families will be able to enjoy a fun and safe summer in the water".

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



Australia Day Citizenship and Awards Ceremony

Cessnock City Council's Australia Day Ceremony includes their biggest citizenship ceremony of the year and the Australia Day Awards Ceremony.

The citizenship ceremony is where our newest citizens make their Pledges of Commitment. It is the final and most exciting step in gaining Australian citizenship.

After the new citizens have officially finished their pledges, a free morning tea will ensue. Morning tea will be followed by the Australia Day Awards Ceremony.

These awards recognise those who are working hard to make a real difference in our community. Awardees are nominated by fellow members of the Cessnock community, signifying the community's appreciation of recipients' efforts.

Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal will be handing out awards and greeting the newest citizens, alongside their MC for the day, singer/songwriter Tara Naysmith.

WHEN: Thursday, 26 January 2023 | 10:00 AM PACC, 198 Vincent Street, Cessnock,



Visitor Economy Grants set to boost local business

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce the latest round of Visitor Economy Grants to boost local business through mid-week tourism.

Organisations or individuals wanting to host events, run projects and hold conferences in the Hunter Valley region are invited to apply for the grants, which provide funding to support mid-week visitation.

The program aims to attract organisations to the Hunter Valley and builds on Council's aim to facilitate the growth of the Hunter Valley visitor economy.

Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal said attracting mid-week visitation would help create more jobs and boost the local economy.

"Figures show that with just 10% more mid-week visitors we could create up to \$15 million of extra cashflow in the Cessnock Local Government Area," Mayor Suvaal said.

Powerful Perceptions is a local business which has previously received a Visitor Economy Grant from Council. The company used the grant to launch the Plan Your Event Hunter website, an online listing site showcasing everything an individual or organisation could want to plan the perfect event in the Hunter. This includes hospitality services, entertainment, venue hire, styling hire and more. Plan Your Event Hunter has a particular focus on increasing the revenue of local businesses by boosting midweek visitation to the Hunter region.

The website will allow local businesses to collaborate with one another, enhancing their offerings. It will also give locals with "side hustles" an opportunity to increase their profitability and grow their business.

Powerful Perceptions Director Rachel Fraser said she was passionate about improving small business growth and the socio-economic development of our "beautiful" region.

"I'm convinced that Plan Your Event Hunter will create amazing opportunities for a wide variety of local businesses," Ms Fraser said.

Applications for the second round of grants will take place between 1 – 28 February 2023.

For more information on the Visitor Economy Grants, see: <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Community-services-and-support/Council-grants-and-club-grants>

Council offers community organisations extra support

Cessnock City Council is offering financial support in the form of a rates subsidy to local not-for-profit community organisations. The subsidy covers up to 50% of council rates to recognise the value of community organisations.

The financial support will help with the delivery of services and activities provided by community groups in the Cessnock Local Government Area.

Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal said the rates subsidy strengthens and rewards community organisations.

"This is a good initiative to make sure all of our valued community groups receive help at rates time," Mayor Suvaal said.

"Financial assistance helps support the activities and services community groups provide, this leads to improved and continued participation in community events."

"I strongly encourage all of our community organisations to apply and take advantage of the rates subsidy."

To be eligible, organisations must meet the principles of Council's Rates Subsidy Policy, which can be viewed on Council's website and complete the rates subsidy application with required supporting documentation.

Applications for the 2023-24 financial year subsidy must be lodged with Council by 15 March 2023.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by 1 June 2023. If you would like to apply, please contact Council's Customer Services department on 02 4993 4100.

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 of 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.



Photo Above (L-R): Matt Bentley, Director - Powerful Perceptions; Rachel Fraser, Director - Powerful Perceptions; Alena Pople, Economic Development Officer - Cessnock City Council; Hannah Bird, Graphic Designer - Powerful Perceptions, Gabby Butcher, Photographer - Writing with Light

Do you REMEMBER when....

Out & About

THE NEWS Issue No. 31, Thurs 26th, January 1999 Page 22



Above: Peter Luck, Channel 7 presenter, was in Branxton prior to Christmas, to research the events surrounding the Rothbury Riots of 1929. His first port of call was to see 'Obbie' Butler who was present on the day Norman Brown was shot and killed. Peter filmed an interview with 'Obbie' for an upcoming program. We will endeavour to find out the date the program will be aired and inform our readers. Peter is pictured with Santa & kindly donated the cost to Tidy Towns.



Top Left: John Williamson, Australian C & W star on his way to Moree. John says he usually stops at Branxton, on his way North, for a meal or coffee break. True to form we caught him leaving Pereg's.

Left: Karen Scarfe, of Talga Road enjoying a meal at Tatts in Greta. Karen works at Bimbadgen Estate, McDonalds, Pokolbin.



Above: The executive new chef at the Royal Federal Hotel at Branxton, Peter Brough (standing) with 'mine host' publican Dave Axsenteff.

Most people in Branxton will recognise Peters face as he and his wife are the present owners of the Top Shop in Bridge Street.

Peter took over the top job at the Royal Federal Oasis Restaurant on the 4th. January and it has been full steam ahead since then.

Peter has had 15 years experience as a chef. His last Restaurant was situated in a Hotel. He and his partner ran the Restaurant for about 4 years and had a particularly strong following. Peter does specialise in seafood, pasta & grills. "The ingredients - Fresh, Fresh, Fresh, quality meat, vegetables and seafood" Peter said. Dave said that he is very pleased with Peters approach to his job and the quality of the meals served.

"The basis of good food is fresh, fresh, fresh"

Peter has had 15 years experience as at Flemington (Victoria) which was also partner ran the Restaurant for about 4 strong following. Peter does specialise basis of any good food is the ingredients - Fresh, Fresh, Fresh, quality meat, vegetables and seafood" Peter said. Dave said that he is very pleased with Peters approach to his job and the quality of the meals served.

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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





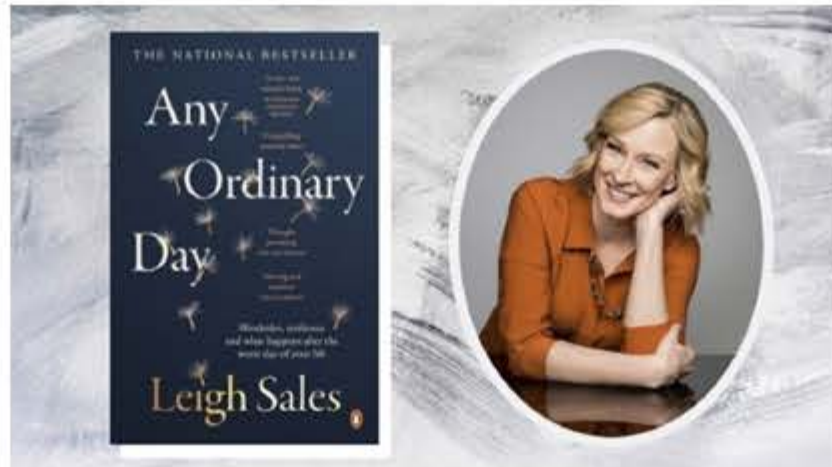
Book Reviews

Any Ordinary Day review: Leigh Sales and negotiations with sudden grief

By Astrid Edwards

Any Ordinary Day, the third non-fiction book by Leigh Sales, is described as an investigation into how "ordinary" people face life's unexpected (and often horrific) twists and turns. She talks to those who have lost children and spouses, as well as those who have come close to death themselves. But Sales offers readers more than these interviews, sharing reflections on her own work as a journalist and her responsibility to the public. We trust Sales to interview people of interest on the ABC's 7.30. But here she is in a different mode, writing in the first person and revealing her thoughts as she prepares for and conducts these interviews. In *Any Ordinary Day*, she talks with well-known individuals who have experienced tragedy and trauma, including Walter Mikac (who lost his family in the Port Arthur Massacre) and Michael Spence (the bereaved vice-chancellor of Sydney University), as well as people whose job it is to be there in the midst of crisis, such as a social worker, a police officer and a priest. Contrary to what Sales expects, she finds these interviews – involving intimate details about the most distressing moments of people's lives – life affirming. The interviews are thought-provoking, but the strength of the work is what Sales does with them. She conducts research (there are 22 pages of notes) across a range of disciplines in an attempt to understand – and even quantify – ideas that may shed light on how we deal with the unexpected. She draws from philosophy, mathematics, law, religion and psychology, and considers faith, friendship and the importance of having a purpose. And in

her inimitable style, Sales asks questions most of us would only dare to think. With the help of the Australia Bureau of Statistics, she takes the time to quantify the likelihood of Louisa Hope both being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and experiencing the Lindt Café siege (one in 1.39 billion), as well as the chances of Stuart Diver being widowed a third time (it turns out, the odds favour him going first). Most powerful are Sales' reflections on not just her own experiences, but her actions. For a public figure in Australia, this is rare indeed. She does not spare herself, finding fault in several of her interviews, including her coverage of Hurricane Katrina, for which she received Australia's highest journalism honour, a Walkley Award. When Sales is reflecting on her work as a journalist, we see a little of what might be keeping her up at night. It is worth reading *Any Ordinary Day* in the light of her 2009 essay, *On Doubt*, in which she muses on how rare it is for public figures to express anything but certainty. In *Any Ordinary Day*, she does just this by laying bare her own insecurities. The book is a worthy read for the interviews and research alone, but with this added layer, it deserves close consideration. *Any Ordinary Day* is not a manual on how to grieve, but it is an exploration of how individuals and society often approach grief. And there are insights we can all employ about how to help those who are grieving. Leigh reminds us to accompany those in pain, because the only thing worse than what has happened is for people to ignore those who are left. While obviously different, it adds to the small body of recent work (including Joan Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking*) that looks at how



to deal with grief without the aid of religion. *Any Ordinary Day* is also a contribution to public thought on how we can all reflect on our own actions. It is a work that will interest anyone looking to contemplate individual blindspots, but also those looking to understand the nature of our public discourse and the responsibilities of players in it.

ABOUT

Leigh Peta Sales AM (born 10 May 1973) is an Australian journalist and author, best known for her work with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Sales hosted ABC TV's current affairs program *7.30* from 2011 to 2022. In November 2022, it was announced that Sales had been appointed as the new host of ABC TV's weekly documentary series *Australian Story*. Sales was born in Brisbane and attended Aspley State High School in that city. She received a bachelor of journalism from the Queensland University of Technology and Master of International Relations from Deakin University. Sales joined the ABC in Brisbane in 1995. Since then, Sales has held several prominent roles with the ABC and was New South Wales political reporter covering the 1999 and 2007 state elections. In addition, she reported on the 2000 Summer Olympics. Sales was the network's Washington correspondent from 2001 to 2005. The stories which she covered included the Iraq War, the 2004 U.S. presidential election, Guantanamo Bay, and Hurricane Katrina. Sales was the ABC's national security

correspondent from 2006 until 2008 and was based in Sydney. From 2008 to 2010, Sales was a co-host of the ABC's *LateLine*, a late-night national current affairs show with a heavy emphasis on federal politics and international affairs. Sales also hosted the ABC's *Australia Votes* for the 2016 Australian Election and again for the 2019 election and hosted her last in 2022. In December 2010, Sales was appointed anchor of the ABC's current affairs program, *7.30*. She has interviewed every living Australian prime minister and many world leaders and celebrities, including Hillary Clinton, the Dalai Lama, Aung San Suu Kyi, Paul McCartney, Patti Smith, and Salman Rushdie.

In 2019, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her services to broadcast journalism. In February 2022, Sales announced she will step down from *7.30* in June 2022 following the federal election. She said she planned to continue working for the ABC. In November 2022 Sales was announced as the new host of ABC TV's weekly biographical documentary series *Australian Story*, to commence the role in early 2023.

Publishing career

Her first book, *Detainee 002: The Case of David Hicks*, was published in 2007 by Melbourne University Publishing (MUP). The book covers Hicks' case as well as a detailed explanation of the Bush administration's detainee policy in the War on Terror and the Australian government's cooperation. Sales' second book, *On*

Doubt, was published in 2009 as part of MUP's series *Little Books on Big Themes*. It covers the rise of opinion in place of straight news reporting and the value of bringing a sceptical mindset to politics and policy, instead of ideological certainty. A second edition was published in 2017, with an additional chapter noting the Trump presidency and the rise of fake news. Her third book, *Any Ordinary Day*, was published in October 2018. It examines the way people adapt to life-changing blindsides, drawing on Sales' personal experience as well as her years covering high-profile news events that drastically changed people's lives. Sales' writing has also regularly appeared in major Australian publications, including *The Monthly*, *The Australian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and, before its demise, *The Bulletin*.

In the wake of fellow ABC presenters Hamish Macdonald and Lisa Millar both deactivating their Twitter accounts due to the high level of personal abuse they received on the platform, Sales wrote an opinion piece for the ABC in September 2021 exploring the issue of bullying received by journalists on Twitter which she described as "insidious" and "unhinged". This in turn prompted a public conversation on the topic. **Chat 10 Looks 3 podcast** In November 2014, Sales started podcast with Annabel Crabb called *Chat 10 Looks 3*. It is independent of the work they do for other media outlets and is an opportunity for them to talk about books, movies,

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction 15 Jan 2023

1. 11 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.

2. Ranked 1 last week

8 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.

3. 81 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. 56 WEEKS ON THE LIST

VERTY 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. 78 WEEKS ON THE LIST

THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO by Taylor Jenkins Reid

A movie icon recounts stories of her loves and career to a struggling magazine writer.

6. 11 WEEKS ON THE LIST

MAD HONEY by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

After returning to her hometown, Olivia McAfee's son gets accused of killing his crush.

7. 51 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.

8. 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST

TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW

by Gabrielle Zevin Knopf

Two friends find their partnership challenged in the world of video game design.

9. 11 WEEKS ON THE LIST

THE BOYS FROM BLOXI by John Grisham

Two childhood friends follow in their fathers' footsteps, which puts them on opposite sides of the law.

10. 6 WEEKS ON THE LIST

DESERT STAR by Michael Connelly

Ballard and Bosch bury old resentments as they go after two killers.



Colleen Hoover has 4 of the top 10!

The New York Times Best Sellers

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

television, the media and culture. The podcast won two awards at the 2019 Australian Podcast Awards in the "Literature, Arts & Music" and "TV, Film & Pop Culture" categories. Described by Sales and Crabb as shambolic and peripatetic! the podcast episodes are recorded every two to three weeks. The podcast has spawned livestream shows in Australian capital cities and a book titled *Well Hello* published in September 2021. Self-proclaimed "chatters or chatterati" have formed a *Chat 10 Looks 3 community* on social media plat-

forms built around the same tenets as the podcast - friendship, kindness, and an agreement to not discuss politics. Sales has said "a community has sprung up around (the podcast) who shares these in-jokes and language and interests. When I consume podcasts ... I tend to see myself as a member of the audience, not as a member of a community. That's why it caught me by surprise" **Personal life** Sales was married to Phil Willis and they have two sons. After 20 years of marriage, Sales and Willis separated in December 2016.

Best Australian fiction of 2022

Every year the staff Readings' vote for their favourite books of the past 12 months. Here are the best Australian fiction books of the year, as voted for by Readings' staff, and displayed in alphabetical order by author.

Limbo by Robbie Amott

Robbie Amott has crafted a quiet coming-of-age story that closely follows the seemingly disparate threads of a life, while exploring family, masculinity and love. *Limbo* is another gem in Amott's already outstanding body of work.

Cold Enough for Snow by

Jessica Au

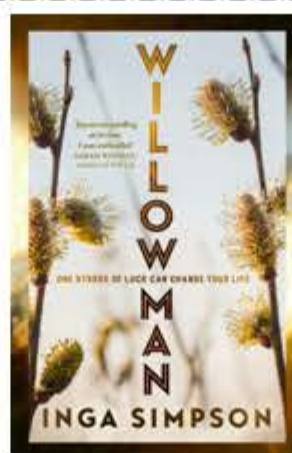
Jessica Au's extraordinary book was the winner of this year's Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction, the latest accolade in an already long and enviable list of award shortlistings and wins for Au's sophomore novel. At just under 100 pages, the premise of the book is deceptively simple: a mother and daughter travel a rain-misted Japan together, revealing gaps in their ability to communicate. ***Sunbathing*** by Isobel Beech A young unnamed woman has a quietly transformative stay at a friend's family villa in Italy. Initially suffocated in a looping web of devastation over losing her father to suicide, the narrator spends her

days washing dishes, picking vegetables from the garden, and walking the sun-dappled Abruzzo landscape. Within the contained space of this small Italian refuge, she starts to heal.

Sunbathing is a sensitive and lyrical work of great care that manages to find the words for an otherwise inconceivable experience.

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning Australian writer Geraldine Brooks, *Horse* is a remarkable work of historical fiction based on the real-life story of the legendary race-horse, Lexington. This lyrical and deeply moving novel offers a powerful exploration of racism and the legacy of



According to Readings' staff this novel will almost certainly become a new Australian classic.

Exiles by Jane Harper

Exiles is the third and final book featuring Aaron Falk, the charismatic federal investigator from Jane Harper's monumentally bestselling debut, *The Dry*. *Exiles* is a captivating read, and a deeply satisfying send-off for a well-loved literary protagonist. ***Sakavika Burning*** by Gail Jones Jones' psychological acuity as a writer is on full display, showing the everyday lives that make up vastwaves of social and artistic upheaval. Readers who relish fiction inspired by – but not beholden to – history will be enthralled by this moving work from an author at the height of her powers.

The Lovers by Yunna Kassab

Told as a fable, Yunna Kassab's *The Lovers* poetically explores the universality yet singularity of a love story.

Kassab's writing is lyrical, intimate, and the novel's questions will linger longer after the final page.

All That's Left Unsaid by Tracey Lien

Tracey Lien's extraordinary debut mixes gripping drama with unforgettable characters to create a textured, considered examination of family trauma and community relationships.

Iris by Fiona Kelly McGregor

This powerful character study is based on true events and the real life figure of Iris Wehber. Wehber, a fascinating woman whose grit and ambition is captivating, is destined to become a new literary hero for many. A luscious read for those who enjoy vivid historical novels, chatty dialogue and dramas such as *Deadwood*.

Willowman by Inga Simpson Batmaker Allan lives a quiet life where the static sound of cricket over the radio is his most cherished companion. Taught his craft as a young boy in England, Allan reveres the solace and craftsmanship of creating cricket bats from a singular piece of willow; there is an intangible magic to the process. When Allan discovers a young batsman with great potential, he decides to craft a bat specifically for him from a prized piece of willow that he has been saving. This single act is the catalyst for Simpson's shimmering story of love, family, ambition, and – of course – cricket.

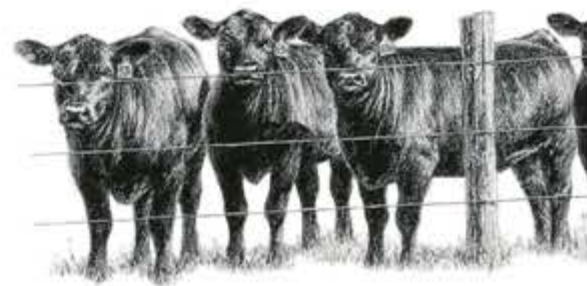
This novel will almost certainly become a new Australian classic.



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GRAZING MANAGEMENT | TOCAL

Build on your knowledge during this two-day course delivered by renowned Pasture Ecologist Dr Judi Earl.

You will leave the course with an understanding of the effects of grazing management on soil health and pasture condition, how to maximise pasture growth rates through grazing management and more confidence in matching stock numbers to feed availability.

Lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided.

WHEN AND WHERE

Thu 9 Feb 2023, 9am – 4:30pm & Fri 10 Feb 2023, 9am – 4:30pm

Glendarra Conference Room, Tocal

COST

\$330 per enterprise, incl GST

REGISTER: Registrations essential. Priority will be given to landholders in the Paterson, Allyn, Williams and Chichester catchments.

CONTACT

Col Freeman, Sustainable Agriculture, Local Land Services

(col.freeman@lls.nsw.gov.au or 0428 043 427).

When 9 Feb 2023 - 10 Feb 2023 Region Hunter

FIRST AID TRAINING & EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPO | MOONAN FLAT

We are teaming up T.A.K. Training and local emergency services to offer fully funded, accredited, full-day first aid training to community members.

Empowering local rural communities and their leaders with knowledge and information not only around administration of first aid, but also to assist with emergency preparedness will stand the community in better stead to tackle any future challenges.

Do you have first aid training?

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These are all critical questions that are often put in the "too hard basket" but now is the time to start developing your skills and have those important conversations – it could save a life!

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

On the day a 1.5 hour emergency services expo is also planned from 12:00 to 1:30 pm that the whole community is invited to attend.

When 4 Feb 2023 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Region Hunter

Where

Moonan Flat, NSW

Contact

Lori McKern, Community Engagement Officer, Upper Hunter

0419 186 271

lori.mckern@lls.nsw.gov.au

Racing Review & Breeding News

Snowden Magic: From bricklaying and footy to champion trainer

By Ben Dorries



Paul Snowden. Picture: Getty Images

Paul Snowden once had a short-lived career as a brickie but working for his famous father Peter is really all he has ever known. The son of the legendary trainer, the younger half of one of Australia's most iconic and successful training partnerships, quickly realised his future wasn't in bricks and mortar. And, given his pedigree, horse training was always a hot favourite over his fledgling football career to make a long-term living. "I played league for a long time and I had a real good crack, I played every game as if it was my last," Snowden said.

"Dad said I had to get a trade. "I tried being a brickie's labourer for a while and I wasn't much good at that. "It was hard work. "I was probably always going to work in racing though. "The first horse I really remember having much to do with was a horse called Aussie Royal which broke the track record at Quirindi which stood for a long time. "Dad used to lead that horse and I used to lead another horse called Surprise Choice. "I was probably seven or eight years old and

loading these horses off the track and saddling them up and riding on my pony trying to keep up. "That was my childhood, these are the things that the kids today miss out on. "My pop was a stockman at the abattoir so I was either there or down at the stables causing havoc." The father and son Snowden team have won 19 Group 1s in partnership after having their first runner as a training duo in 2014. Big race wins have flowed thick and fast, including scoring the first two Everest's with their

champion sprinter Redzel. For Paul Snowden, who cut his teeth as trackwork rider and stablehand at Crown Lodge in Sydney in 1990 before working his way up the ranks, every success is a family success. After convincing his father to establish their own public stable, the two now work hand-in-hand. Like every family dynamic though, not everything is always plain sailing. But Paul Snowden gives a unique insight into how the partnership works. "We are no different to any other family run business, we have differences of opinion," Snowden said. "Dad is really the only boss I've ever known. "These days, to a degree, it's more of a working relationship rather than a father and son relationship. "It's to and fro. "We spitball ideas together and sometimes our thoughts will flip over and one of us will end up agreeing with the other one, and say 'you know what, that's not a bad idea after all'."



Paul Snowden, Kerrin McEvoy and Peter Snowden after Sepoy won the 2011 Blue Diamond. AAP.

"You have to talk and we have to communicate and we have always been good at that." These days, Paul Snowden is more the front and centre man for the training operation. The trainer, simply known as "Snowy", is now a shadow of his former self after a weight loss regimen and a lifestyle change which saw him strip off the kilograms. One day, Paul Snowden could take the training reins in a solo capacity.

But that day is not likely to be soon and he is certainly in no rush. "Dad is not the type of person who will retire," Paul Snowden said. "He will just take a step back and he's been doing that anyway for the last three or four years. "These days, Dad doesn't go to the races midweek and he doesn't go to the races every Saturday. "But both of us are up to speed with what each other are doing and what we are thinking.

"We talk to each other when it's important to do so and when we want to, I don't want to annoy Dad with too many phone calls and I'm sure he is the same with me." It was seven years ago that the Snowdens produced Capitalist to win the 2YO Magic Millions Classic and they are hoping history can repeat with one of their three runners in the rich juvenile race on Saturday. (ed. written prior to the race)

Gunnedah

Report Date: 10/01/2023 Total Yarding: 870 (+170)

There were 870 head penned an increase of 170 on the last sale. Wealers and yearlings suitable to restock and feed made up the majority. Apart from cows and a few heavy steers and heifers there were limited cattle to suit processors. The quality of the young cattle was generally good. Not all regular buyers were in attendance. With the break in sales bringing little rain and temperatures on the increase the demand from restockers and feedlots was weaker. Competition was also somewhat subdued. Comparing the market to that of the previous sale 3 weeks ago all classes of young cattle experienced cheaper trends. Reduced competition on some classes saw some significant price reductions. The limited supply of heavy grown steers saw a firm to cheaper market trend with some quality related price change. A similar trend for the well finished grown heifers. Demand for cows held on with the market showing little change.

Singleton

Report Date: 11/01/23 Yarding: Not given

Numbers increased marginally compared to the last 2022 sale and the quality was mixed. There were fewer wealers penned, with good runs of yearlings. The majority were more suited for the restocker and feeder orders and the export cattle were limited in supply. The market trend was cheaper throughout. The wealer steers and heifers to the restockers decreased 40c to 50c, with the over 200kg steers making from 400c to 500c/kg. The heifer portion received from 350c to 432c/kg. The yearlings also trended 40c to 50c cheaper, with the medium weight steers to the restockers and lot feeders ranging from 376c to 425c/kg. The heifer portion sold from 330c to 450c/kg throughout the different weight ranges. The prime conditioned and high yielding younger cattle suitable for the butchers also trended substantially cheaper and reached 476c/kg. The cows sold 20c cheaper, with the plainer lighter weights making from 220c to 274c, while the heavy weights received from 210c to 240c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 240c/kg. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

Scone

Report Date: 10/01/23 Yarding: Not given

The first Scone cattle sale for 2023 produced a mixed quality penning of generally younger cattle and the numbers nearly doubled compared to the last 2022 market. The export cattle were limited in supply, with the bulk offered cows. Some buying orders were absent and the first market suffered cheaper price corrections throughout most categories. The wealer steers and heifers to the restockers trended 50 to 60c cheaper, with the over 200kg steers receiving from 400c to 550c/kg. The same weight heifer portion ranged from 370c to 452c/kg. The yearlings lost much the same as the wealers, with the medium weight steers to the restockers and lot feeders making from 314c to 478c, as the lighter weights topped at 500c/kg. The heifer portion made from 320c to 436c/kg throughout the different weight ranges. The prime younger cattle suitable for the local butchers also sold considerably cheaper and topped at 430c/kg. The older heifers to the exporters and local processors sold 20c cheaper and received from 262c to 376c/kg. The heavy weight cows also eased 20c, with the better covered drafts ranging from 256c to 280c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 270c, while the cows with calves ranged around the \$1800 to \$2100/unit range. Market Reporter, Neil Geddes.

Tamworth

Report date: 16/01/23 Yarding: 968 (+403)

The numbers increased to 968 head. There was a good supply of yearlings along with a few wealers. Grown cattle were in fair supply. The quality of the offering was quite mixed with some very well bred young cattle penned alongside a fair supply of plainer lots. There was increased buyer participation with the return of several orders. Varying trends through the young cattle. Restockers were active on the wealers. Medium weight yearling steers to restock and feed sold to cheaper trends with the plainer quality cattle most affected. Heavy feeder steers saw a firm to cheaper market trend. An odd exception being the best of the highly sought breeds they saw an odd dearer sale. Increased competition saw lightweight yearling heifers sell to a dearer trend with the medium weights showing little change. Heavy yearling heifers were quite a bit cheaper under restricted competition. Trends were firm to cheaper for heavy grown steers to process despite increased processor participation. Well finished grown heifers followed a similar trend. Increased competition had little effect on the cow market with trends cheaper by as much as 20c/kg on a lesser quality penning.



Some top software technology trends expected in 2023

Because of the pandemic situation, the new software technology in computers has drastically changed the direction of goods aimed at the leverage remote communication & e-commerce. However, these are not the only places where IT companies are going to increase their activities.

Video Games and Related Goods

There is rapid progress is expected in this industry for the first time in Dublin after the global market report 2020-30 for the video game software. The document claims that the total capitalization of the new software technologies in computers for video games is in decline because of the Covid 19 & subsequent economic crisis. The figure evaluated in the year was \$167.2 billion, but it dropped to \$166.4 billion in 2020.

However, it is forecasted that the gaming sector will grow in the upcoming year as one of the trends in the software industry global scale. According to the report, the years 2021-22 will compensate the developers with a rapid recovery.

The growth of this software technology trend for video games & related products is estimated to reach \$223.2 billion by 2023-24. If it happens, then it will be the new trend in software development. With the rise in video games and related goods the Computing, Networking & Storage Industries are also getting more utilities than previously. And for this, companies like apct.com helps the software industry by providing solutions for Computing, Networking & Storage Industries.

E-commerce

Retail purchasing is gaining momentum via the internet at different times. According to the statistics, the volume scale in this sector was estimated at \$1.3 trillion in the year 2014, but now the volume is reached \$4.9 trillion. Hence, over the years the market has roughly quadrupled.

This growth figure for the new software technologies in computers will also impact the developers to make the new trends in software for e-Commerce. In 2023, it is assumed that the development of applications to provide online services will become the top trend.

Voice Commerce

Voice commerce is considered one of the largest IT trends in the industry of new software technologies in computers. It's a new technology that allows you to carry the actions via voice commands. Google & Amazon are some of the examples that have already approached this unique trend. The products by these companies are actively introduced in the market. The users can perform different activities through voice commands without touching their devices. The technology trend gains huge popularity because of better time management that is resulted from the ability to control the system on the go. This software technology claims to make a new trend and it is expected to be \$40 billion to be brought by voice-based robots. The figure will become bigger in 2023 since both the companies make improvements to their devices.

The Rise of Native Applications

First of all, we need to understand the fact that smartphones are an inseparable part of our life. The estimate of smart-

phone users is about 3.8 billion in 2022. It will become inevitable for most businesses to offer a top-class user experience to their clients. To provide a better user experience, modern-day businesses are looking to operate in highly competitive niches. Many experts suggested that the native application will be the top new software technology in computers for 2023. The native computer programs are in vogue because of high customer experience. So, you can consider it as one of the top software technology trends in 2023.

Cloud Technologies

Cloud-related technologies will remain a trend in the upcoming year as it is before. The IT portal suggests that the global pandemic leveraged the interest to use cloud applications for data processing & storage. The experts say that most of the important data is running in clouds today. Hence, the new software technology in computers will take a greater extent in the year 2023. Because of the trend in cloud technology, more IT companies will focus to satisfy the market.

Open Source

Most software developers release open source applications to the public domain so, that lots of people can get free access to the new software technologies in computers and it will become an alternative to commercial software. This is useful for those people who use to work remotely without having corporate accounts. In the context of the software technology trend, this segment will remain popular among people in 2023. Open-source software is considered to be secure as compared to commercial analogs. The new

technology trend will impact the general condition of the IT industry because it is a significant part of the market, which belongs to open source.

Chatbot Development

The domain of chatbot development is still considered the most popular among people as a new software technology in computers. It is used to accelerate the communication between different parties. The online chat support is useful to cut down the cost on operators & other staff. It includes Telegram, Facebook, Skype, and Viber which use chatbots actively today. The study says that around 58 percent of chatbots work in the B2B segment while the rest 42 percent work in the B2C segment.

Cloud Gaming

Year after the games for personal computers & consoles are becoming more demanding and this is why that cloud game comes into the world market. Now, you don't need anymore to purchase expensive components for playing the games. A good data bandwidth and the data stream are enough for playing online games. Approximately 125 million people will start using cloud gaming software in the upcoming years. By this, we can estimate the popularity of new software technologies in computers.

Cross-Platform

At the time of developing a computer application or a website, it is important to make them accessible through different communication channels. The demand for cross-platform support is increasing day by day since the number of smartphone users is growing. This is not about the web-based & mobile versions of the computer programs, but it is for the compatibility of different platforms. Well, the trend has been observed in the last few years

MOVIE REVIEW

A Man Called Otto

Based on the comical and moving New York Times bestseller, A Man Called Otto tells the story of Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks), a grumpy widower whose only joy comes from criticizing and judging his exasperated neighbors. When a lively young family moves in next door, he meets his match in quick-witted and very pregnant Marisol, leading to an unexpected friendship that will turn his world upside-down.



A Man Called Otto: Works well enough as a middle-brow hankie dampener

US remake of a Swedish film about a neighbourhood curmudgeon's rehabilitation handles the tonal shifts less deftly than the original

Even if you were not previously aware that this tolerable weepie derived from a Swedish film, you would, after the first 20 minutes or so, almost certainly guess it had origins outside the United States. There is an uncertainty of tone.

Nobody seems quite who they are supposed to be. Hannes Holm's A Man Called Ove, an Oscar nominee in 2017, focused on an ageing grump - enemy of all his neighbours - who constantly fails to kill himself on his way to (this really can't be a spoiler) becoming a little more accommodating. It was a sentimental piece, but the Nordic sensibility permitted the blending of real bleakness in with the mawkish comedy. Those outbreaks sit less comfortably in a mainstream production from Columbia Pictures.

The new film, directed by a German - Marc Forster of World War Z and Quantum of Solace - dares to replace veteran Rolf Lassgård with the always welcome Tom Hanks. The two men are nearly exact contemporaries, but the Swedish actor made more of a lumbering, weighty everyman of the pemickety widower.

Comparisons with Victor Meldrew were unavoidable. Slimmer than usual, Hanks, for all his everyday clothing, looks as toned and fit as a man who has spent the past 40 years enjoying the healthiest variation of the Hollywood lifestyle (which indeed he has). He seems hewn from less human clay.

Anyway, the thing still works well enough as a middlebrow hankie dampener. Forster and his team keep the icy atmospherics by moving us to Pittsburgh in deepest winter. Otto Anderson lives miserably in a tidy, bland cul-de-sac whose bylaws he enforces with the rigour of a camp commandant. Nobody help anyone who puts a can in the wrong recycling bin. Just as he is plotting to hang himself, a new couple (Mariana Treviño and Rachel Keller, both lovely) move in across the street and inveigle him into assisting with their hopeless attempts to set up home. Meanwhile a stray cat is trying to make friends and an older, estranged neighbour pleads with Otto to mend fences.

If you are waiting for that film in which a grumpy old fecker just gets grumpier, you will be waiting a while longer. Not unlike the earlier picture - based on a novel by Fredrik Backman - A Man Called Otto wants to have it all ways. Here is a man who rails against, as he sees it, all the vacuity of modern life, but, despite those curmudgeonly attitudes, he is endlessly open to all races,

sexualities and gender identities. He may find himself unable to make up with a needlessly wronged old pal, but he is the one who opens up his door to a misused trans character.

Fair enough. It would be asking a lot to transform a bigoted monster into a lovable old codger for the last act. Hanks has a relatively short gap to traverse and he does so with all the expected charm. Truman Hanks, the star's son, is on hand to walk us through flashbacks so shamelessly sentimental they allow a scene in which a restaurant applauds when young Otto kisses his future wife. For the most part, the picture ticks along at a calm Scandinavian pace, but, every now and then, Forster gives in to his more bombastic instincts. The cuts between a flashback catastrophe and a contemporary, life-threatening crisis to the rising strains of Kate Bush's (immortal, to be fair) This Woman's Work place more than a mere finger on the emotional scale. One senses, after that is over, the now overheated film fanning its armpits all the way to the final credits.

It seems unlikely, however, that many viewers will emerge entirely unmoved. The actors are too good. The pay-off too irresistible. We have started the cinematic year with far thinner broth. *Donald Clarke*
Donald Clarke, a contributor to The Irish Times, is Chief Film **3/5**



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1300 622 376

Taking a lesson from people with chronic fatigue, many patients with long covid are scaling back daily activity to cope

By Amanda Morris

The Washington Post



Kaia Arrow, 32, has lived with ME/CFS for 12 years. Scaling back activities and conserving energy has helped her live a more normal life. ((Chloe Ellingson/For The Washington Post)

What is it like to live with the chronic fatigue of long covid? It feels like dragging your body through wet cement, says Judy Schaefer, 58, a once avid hiker who lives in Seattle. It's knowing that simple tasks, like showering or cooking dinner, will be exhausting, says Alyssa Minor, 36, a physiotherapist in Calgary. It's trying to exercise and instead, landing in the ER, says Harry Leeming, 31, of London. Experts say the extreme fatigue experienced by many long covid patients has a name: myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS), a condition previously known as chronic fatigue syndrome. Researchers estimate that about half of people with long covid have developed ME/CFS. There is no known cure for ME/CFS, but some experts say a complicated lifestyle change can help manage some of the symptoms. It's called "pacing."

Pacing is an "activity management" strategy, which requires people to carefully limit their daily activities, reduce their energy expenditure and track their symptoms. But pacing is difficult. It often requires scaling back on mundane tasks that most people take for granted, like rinsing dishes or chopping vegetables. And it means finding ways to reduce energy expenditure and effort — such as creating water and snack stations around the house to reduce trips to the kitchen. Even showering or picking children up from school can be debilitating for those with ME/CFS. While pacing can make a huge difference in quality of life for someone with long covid, it also comes with a cost. Pacing often means cutting back on both work and favorite activities like cooking, walking the dog or socializing with friends. And it can represent a challenging reversal for people who, until very recently, have been accustomed to leading busy, active lives. "I tell people to figure out what they can do every day without struggle," explained Ravindra Ganesh, a physician and

medical director of Mayo Clinic's Post-COVID-19 Care Clinic. People with long covid who have tried pacing say it has helped them return to a semblance of normalcy. Daria Oller, 38, of Lincoln Park, N.J., said that after getting covid in March 2020, she felt winded all the time, and the fatigue sometimes left her unable to get up or even speak. To cope, she started using a pacing strategy to manage her activities and energy level. She gave up running and regular dance classes and scaled back date nights with her husband and outings with friends. She also scaled back at her job as a physical therapist, giving up clinical work and now leads education sessions. She plans her clothing for a week at a time, to minimize effort later. These and other pacing strategies have reduced her symptoms, and leave her with just enough energy to keep working and enjoy the occasional fun activity. "My symptoms weren't constant anymore whereas I previously had been short of breath almost all of the time," Oller said. "It helped to give me a little more sense of control."

A lesson from longtime sufferers

While pacing is a new strategy for those with long covid, it's been used for years by people who suffer from ME/CFS. The cause of ME/CFS is not understood. Experts believe the disease can be triggered by illness, infection or stress. Before she learned how to pace correctly, Kaia Arrow, 32, of Toronto, often needed to stay in bed and could rarely leave the house. Arrow has lived for 12 years with ME/CFS, which was triggered by a post-surgical infection. She said that over the past few years she has gotten better at pacing, and now she can usually leave the house a few times a week and has started cooking again every few weeks. "Pacing made it so that I could predict what I could do, like on a small level for the first time in over a decade," said Arrow. "I

can cook for my husband. I can cook for my friends. Not frequently. But, that's more than I could do before."

The evidence for pacing

"Pacing is being active when you're able, and resting when you're tired, rather than pushing through symptoms," said Jaime Seltzer, director of scientific and medical outreach at #MEAction, a nonprofit advocacy group for people with infection-associated chronic illness. The effectiveness of pacing for long covid patients with ME/CFS hasn't yet been widely studied. But the World Health Organization recommends the strategy for long covid patients who experience a worsening of symptoms after activity, which is known as post-exertional malaise. While pacing is gaining acceptance, patient groups and doctors say more study is needed, and some experts remain divided about the best treatment approach. One of the largest studies to include pacing, published in the Lancet, found that cognitive behavioral therapy and graded exercise therapy may be better options for some patients. Graded exercise therapy involves a gradual increase in activity over time, but some doctors think it's too risky for ME/CFS patients. The study has been widely criticized for its methods. Another analysis of 18,000 survey responses showed that pacing had the highest reported benefit (44 to 82 percent of patients,) while cognitive behavioral therapy helped less (8 to 35 percent). Graded exercise therapy had the highest negative response (54 to 74 percent). Peter White, the lead author of the Lancet report, said that he stands by the results of the study. He noted that studying recovery or improvement in ME/CFS patients can be difficult because it often relies on subjective criteria. Another issue, he said, may be that some patients aren't receiving therapy that has been correctly tailored to patients with ME/CFS. Amanda Morris is a disability reporter for The Washington Post on its Well+Being desk. Before joining The Post in 2022, she was the inaugural disability reporting fellow for the New York Times



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

This dumping was found on Tuesday morning. It is located at the back of the shop against the small shed. To gain access to this property, the person would have had to drive down the to the end of the driveway of the neighbouring property, turn left, drive along the fence line to the opening and then drive to the shed. Unload the vehicle and then go back the same way. This person is guilty of trespassing on two properties and illegally dumping. Each day one of the Doo Stop Op Shop managers has cleared the donations from the front of the shop and to find what was at the rear of the property was upsetting to say the least.



Land Care arrived in North Rothbury last year but has done SFA, about the lantana on the NW side of Wine Country Drive. That side needs clearing 20 metres back from the road. Its a fire hazard and full of noxious weeds. Also home to native hopping mice. Remember this?



To the person/s who choose to use the shelter at North Rothbury park to display their artistic graffiti skills on the new BBQ, shelter door & tables, would love to catch up with you and have a little chat or other.

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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

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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

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Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 ct70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435614641

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

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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 3253

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 second 2023 issue on 25/1/23



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.

FRY BROS
4933 6155
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Innovative internship program to attract young people into emergency service careers launches in Singleton



Singleton locals will be the first in the State to participate in a ground-breaking internship program designed to provide young people with basic emergency services training. Funded by Singleton Council's Bushfire Community Wellbeing and Connectedness Fund, the Singleton Emergency Services Internship program is open to people aged 16 to 21 years who live in the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA). Through the program, participants will learn about emergency response preparedness and recovery by receiving practical hands-on training with local emergency services including NSW Police, NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), State Emergency Service (SES), Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Ambulance, as well as complete their First Aid Certificate. Dave Andrews, Manager of Singleton PCYC said with disasters including fires, floods, drought and a pandemic affecting Singleton in past few years, local youth had a great appreciation for the role of first responders in our community. He said the internship, which is based on PCYC's Rise-up and Fit for Service program, would run over eight weeks from 1 February 2023 with four-hour sessions every

Wednesday evening. "Our emergency service agencies are staffed by both professionals and volunteers and play an absolutely vital role in our community," he said. "This new internship program will give young people a fantastic insight into what it takes to work for these organisations. "Participants will have the opportunity to engage with active agency personnel and gain real hands-on experience with these organisations. They will also receive first aid training and increase skills in leadership and communication in the process." Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said if the program proved successful in Singleton, similar programs would be replicated across the State. "This historic program is the result of months of work between local agencies and the PCYC, and presents an incredibly unique opportunity for our young people to gain on-the-job training and experience in emergency

management and disaster preparedness," she said. "We hope those who undertake the internship may even consider a career in emergency services, and I encourage anyone aged 16-21 years to submit an expression of interest." Expressions of interest for the internship program close on 25 January 2023.

There are 15 spots available for the program. For more information, visit W.singleton.nsw.gov.au/emergencyservicesinternship or email the Singleton PCYC at dandrews@pcycnsw.org.au

Do you REMEMBER when....

THE NEWS No. 117 4th July 2002 page 37

St Brigid's Branxton 5th Class, 1934



THE above photo has been around awhile &, as you can see, it is in a fairly poor state. I hope it reproduces OK. Unfortunately you don't really know until it arrives back from our printer.

Back Row (L-R) Kevin Holz, Brian Barry, Lennie McKew, Victor Irwin, Willy Goodwin, Leon Meyn, Ronnie Brown, Francis Webberley. Second Row (L-R) Mary Bendeich, Darcy Owen, Lennie Horadam, Don Worrard, Kevin Redgrove, Jack Harley, Joyce Bacon. Third Row (L-R) Joyce Goodwin, Dorrie Holz, Dorrie Ernst, Joan Goodwin, Jean Goodwin, Monnie Thomas, Dottie Smith, Edna Becker. Front Row (L-R) Mary Thomas, Eileen Yates, Marie Rogers, Marjorie Ernst, Marie Toohey, Irene McMahon & Nellie McKenzie.

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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

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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

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Tips For Your Dogs

& Cats



RSPCA
New South Wales

Why is it so important to desex your pet?

Responsible pet ownership means making choices that help you and your companion animal (pet) have a safe and happy life. Desexing is a very important part of this and it is crucial to understand the role that desexing plays for the health, safety and protection of your companion animal. Desexing animals not only helps to prevent unwanted pregnancies – meaning fewer unwanted animals – but also research shows that desexed animals can actually live longer and healthier lives. Desexing can reduce the risk of certain diseases and behavioural issues, benefiting your animal's health and welfare. Here are some of the ways that desexing benefits both your companion animal and the community.

To prevent unwanted litters, injuries and roaming.

One of the most common reasons for desexing animals is to prevent unwanted pregnancies. The RSPCA receives over 103,000 animals every year and many of these unwanted animals are the result of unplanned breeding. Desexing reduces the risks involved with your pet being pregnant, giving birth, and raising young. Did you know that cats can get pregnant as early as four months of age?! Therefore, it is important to desex them before this time to protect them from unwanted pregnancies. Desexed animals are also less likely to roam, which reduces the risk of them being involved in a traumatic accident such as being hit by a car, becoming lost, getting into fights, being exposed to infectious diseases and fighting with other animals. Keeping your pet contained to your property will also help reduce roaming. **Keeping our pets healthy** Desexed animals are generally less likely to suffer from certain diseases

and illnesses such as mammary cancer and uterine infections in females and prostate problems in males. Desexing can also help prevent behaviours that are associated with the reproductive cycle that can be distressing, unpleasant, and challenging to deal with; for example, female cats 'calling' or female dogs having a blood vaginal discharge when they are on heat/in season and male dogs attempting vigorously to get to females in heat. Desexing cats and dogs can also help reduce problem behaviours such as aggression and urine marking in males. **Desexing is important for your pet rabbits too** It's not just about cats and dogs either! Did you know it is important to have your pet rabbit desexed too? Desexing has numerous benefits for both male and female pet rabbits similar to those for cats and dogs. These include reducing problem behaviours, facilitating easier bonding with new rabbits joining the family, preventing unwanted pregnancies and minimising health issues in the future such as cancer of reproductive organs. Desexing is best performed at a young age (16 to 20 weeks), so talk to your veterinarian when you first acquire your rabbit to find out more about the procedure and the recovery process to allow good planning. Generally, rabbits should live as part of a bonded pair of rabbits and desexing will assist with the bonding process. When planning to bond rabbits, it is best to have your rabbits desexed at least four to five weeks before introduction. Desexing is one of the most responsible choices you can make as a pet owner. Not only does it provide health and behavioural benefits for your companion animal, but it can potentially increase the time you have with them. Desexing also helps to prevent the number of

unwanted animals who are in need of a home. If you are looking to have your companion animal desexed contact your local veterinarian. If you are adopting, remember to ask the important question—is the animal desexed? or visit

a shelter that desexes animals prior to adoption such as the RSPCA. For more information on desexing your companion animal and the importance of early-age desexing, visit the [RSPCA Knowledgebase](#)

Importance of microchipping pets

Microchipping your companion animal (pet) gives you the best chance of reuniting with them if they happen to run away or get lost. It's also mandatory in many jurisdictions. Microchipping is a quick and easy procedure where a tiny chip – about the size of a grain of rice – is implanted just under the skin between the shoulder blades at the back of your pet's neck.

How does it work?

Each chip has a unique number that is detected using a microchip scanner. The microchip number is recorded on a registry with details about the animal and owner, so if the unthinkable happens and your pet goes missing then veterinarians, shelters or local councils can scan their chip and get your contact details.

Once a microchip is inserted, it will stay there for the duration of your pet's life. Collars and ID tags are great – and should still be used – but if your pet breaks free from their collar or their tag falls off, a microchip will still help them be identified.

Of course, one of the best ways you can prevent this is to make sure that your beloved companion animal is safely contained to your property. For cats, this means keeping them in enclosed escape-proof outdoor area or indoors, and for dogs who have access to a backyard, making sure that backyard is escape-proof.

Keeping everything up to date

While microchips are the best way for your companion to be returned home, it is only effective if you keep your details on the microchip database up to date. Should you ever move house or change your phone number – or if your companion animal ownership changes – it's vital you update the microchip database with which you are registered so they have access to your most up to date contact details.

The easiest way to update your contact details is to search on Pet Address using your pet's microchip number (this also can tell you which database you are registered with, in case you forget!). Pet Address will direct you to the pet registry that lists your pet's microchip number and will also allow you to contact them if you need your details changed.

If you can't remember your pet's microchip number, contact your vet or the database your pet's microchip is registered with if known, and they will be able to assist. In Australia there are seven microchip registries: Australasian Animal Registry, Central Animal Records Petsafe, HomeSafeID, Global Micro, NSW Government registry & SA Government registry

A quick and easy procedure

Some people might be worried that microchipping might distress their pet, but it's important to know that microchipping is a quick (only takes a few seconds), safe and simple procedure that causes very little discomfort to your pet. Some pets may flinch or yelp as the chip is implanted, however the pain is minimal and short-lived and most animals will forget about it very quickly. The benefits of microchipping in terms of identifying a lost animal and reuniting them with their owner far outweigh any minimal, momentary discomfort.

Ideally your pet cat or dog should be microchipped prior to you purchasing or adopting your pet. However, if your pet is not yet microchipped then we recommend that you make an appointment with your vet to have your pet microchipped as soon as possible (even in those states where microchipping is not yet compulsory). Some local councils and animal welfare organisations can also microchip pets.



In the Garden

Monthly Gardening Tips ~ January

If you can follow the seasons and understand the climate you live in, doing a few bits and pieces each month will help you maintain your garden in a neat and efficient way. Exactly what your garden needs in any given month does depend on whether you live in a cold, temperate or tropical climate. However what you must do in a cold climate can also be beneficial in a tropical one.

As such the advice I give will be 'general' but I will try and place the climate type that requires it in brackets.

In Australia, January is a very important month in the gardening cycle because it can often be a very hot month. It is in January and February that your proactive work in the garden, or lack there off, will show.

If you have just left your garden to its own devices then it is this month that things will really start to look pear shaped. If you have been good and doing the few things required each month, continuing this now will go a long

way towards making sure your garden survives the harsh Australian summer. January is a good month to take cuttings from your favourite shrubs (cold climate). As long as you have kept the watering up and therefore kept your shrubs healthy, cuttings should take well in January with the sun and heat on offer.

Obviously cuttings require a bit of attention and a lot of water to make sure they survive. January is also a big month for fruit pests. Check your fruit trees for the various pests that are common to each individual fruit tree type and if needed, treat them. Your local nurseries are a good source for advice on what to treat particular fruit trees with. (cold and tropical) Another good tip for January is to prune your most vigorous growing plants just slightly.

In particular your roses (temperate) could do with a mild to good prune as this will encourage new growth and lead to a great display of flowers come autumn. Be careful not to

make this prune too vigorous and use dependable secateurs for the job. Bougainvilleas may also be trying to take over your garden so prune them back to keep them under control. (tropical) There is also still time to plant annuals like vincas, petunias and sunflowers that can handle full sun so you keep your garden looking great right into autumn.

Make sure you water them in well and plant them with either a good liquid fertiliser or a good slow release fertiliser. In fact you could give a light sprinkling of either a liquid or slow release fertiliser throughout your garden to keep the nutrients up. There you have it. With a bit of care your garden can come out of January looking even better than it did going into it. You can also ensure a solid show right into late autumn with some solid work during the summer heat. So get out there, slip slap and wrap and enjoy your garden in this beautiful weather!

A guide to caring for your garden during summer

In high summer, a little garden care and maintenance goes a long way. Working smarter rather than harder leaves more time for you to relax and watch your garden grow.

The summer heat isn't kind to plants and shrubs (or to us!), so it's a good idea to work in the cool of the morning and do only what's necessary. These smart little summer garden care tips will help both you and your garden get the best results from your efforts.

WHAT TO PRUNE IN SUMMER

Don't prune azaleas and camellias after the beginning of the New Year, as they're setting flower buds.

Prune buddleias, NSW Christmas bush, bottlebrush and lavender after flowering, and clip wayward tendrils of climbers such as star jasmine and wisteria.

Prune roses in late February, too. With fertiliser, water and soft mulch, they will produce a lovely flush of autumn roses. Don't cut the lawn too short – a bit of length helps shade the roots and conserve moisture.

HOW TO CARE FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IN SUMMER

Protect ripening fruit from birds, possums and fruit flies, and shade salad greens.

Water and harvest early in the morning, or pick vegies just before using.

Replenish lucerne, compost or sugar cane mulch.

Harvest garlic bulbs, leaving them in the sun to harden for a few days.

In warm areas, plant more beans, radishes and basil to extend the season.

Remove runners on strawberries and pot them up for next year.

SOME MORE SUMMER GARDEN CARE TIPS

Treat powdery mildew (which thrives in heat and humidity) on pumpkins, zucchini and melons with a weekly spray of one part full-cream milk and nine parts water. This works on grapevines, figs and roses too.

Concentrate on watering early in the morning, especially pot plants, vegies and fruit trees. Pull out weeds and keep mulch topped up.



Only prune roses when they have finished flowering - this will vary from species to species.

SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

44 players enjoyed some sunny, warm weather and the camaraderie of having a team mate in the 2BBB competition where the results were very tight across the field. Club President, John Atton is on a roll as he teamed up with fellow board member, Robyn Fris, to win the day's event with an excellent 39 pts, a score which included an amazing 26 pts on the first nine holes. Peter Conroy kept up his good form to finish runner up with his partner Murray Kingston, 2 pts back with countbacks needed to decide the rest of the placings. Craig Howe and Nerida Busch hit the best shots to the last. We all sincerely thank Club Captain, Lee Hunt, for organising the day and the calculating the scores after having a serious run in with a cow, calf and barbed wire fence at home—he looked like he had just finished a round in a boxing ring. We wish him well with his recovery in the next few days.

BRANXTON LADY GOLFERS

The Branxton Ladies Golf held the first round of their 2023 Summer Competition on Wednesday 11th January as a 9 hole Stableford.

Winner: Ruth McCarthy - 18 points
Runner Up: Jan Davidson - 17 points
Nearest the pin: Jan Davidson

HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

Thursday 29th December
The Vets Medley Irish Stableford has been highlighted with solid scoring. Division 1 to Mick Gilbert on countback to Rob Hannah after both returned 85 points, Division 2 to Doug Harley with 91 points from Rex Talbot 82 & Division 3 to Dave Gellwiler 75 from Norm Barry 73. Ball winners are: Wayne Berry 83, Bill Freeman 79, Beepa 78, Trevor Collins 75, Peter Perkins 75, Mick O'Brien 75, Peter McIntyre 74, Banjo 74, Col Somerville 73, Graham Donaldson 71, GB Harris 71, Rox jr. 71, Tom Bell 71, Greg Duval 1, James Schofield 69, Bernard Avery 68, John Stewart 68, Michael Tsakissiris 67, Steve Jurd 67, John Tancred 67, Kevin Coleman 65, John Carmody 65, Kerry Bartlett 65, Noel Ellenor 65, Tony Neale 65, Muz 65, Bomber 64, Garry Marsden 64, Steve Rawlings 64, Graeme Flynn 64, Paul Campbell 64 & Stephen Morgan 63 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to David Peel (3rd) John Grayson (4th) Fluff (8th) Michael Tsakissiris (10th) & GB Harris (17th).

Thursday, 12th January, 2023 2BBB

Winners: Robyn Fris and John Atton 39 pts
Runners Up: Peter Conroy and Murray Kingston 37 pts c/b
3rd: J. Flynn and Mike Ryan 37 pts
4th: Jane and Paul Johanson 37 pts
5th: Robyn and Gary McCarthy 36 pts
Ball Winners: Dennis Wright and Tom Young 36 pts; Geoff Geason and Jan Davidson 35 pts; Graham and Jan Scobie 35 pts; Barney Ward and Steve Condran 35 pts
NTPins: Men: Craig Howe
Ladies: Nerida Busch

field enjoyed excellent scoring conditions for their event. A Grade has been won by Peter McIntyre with 42 points from Stephen Zok with 41, B Grade to Michael Hughes with 42 from Wade Friith 40 and C Grade to Russ Lightfoot 39 from Tony Lorrman with 37. Ball winners were: Tom Bell 40, Bruce Hughes 39, James Marsh 39, Damien Porter 38, Denis Corke 38, Stephen Warham 38, Lee Houston 37, Stephen Morgan 37, Reddis 36, Connor Thomson 36, Mark Noble 36, Caleb Porter 36, Shawn Parish 36, James Schofield 36, Jacko 36, Steve Jurd 35, Russ Calderwood 35, Aaron Dries 35, Stephen Donn 35, Aaron Marks 34, Dale Johnson 34, Robert Dial 34, Col Somerville 34, Marjo Kummeling 34, Shanon Attewell 34, Max Hindmarsh 34, Peter Perkins 33, Bruce Chambers 33, Luke Johnston 33, Gary Arnold 33, Graeme Smith 33, Jason Mould 33 & Ryan Wilson 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Russ Lightfoot (3rd) Michael Hughes (4th) Peter Huckfeldt (8th) & Mark Noble (17th Hole-in-One).

Sunday 1st January

The Weekly Challenge has been won by the fast improving Brandon Lidbury with 43 points from Greg Morgan 40 on countback to David Neilsen in 3rd place. Ball winners are John Knuth 39, Nick Dunn 38, Kingsley Baldwin 38, Alan Jamieson 38, Nathan Pearson 37, Jeff Shanahan 37, Ty Cowley 3, Nathan Bendeich 37, Justin Ely 36, Ian Johnson 36 & Josh Mitchell 36 c/b

Wednesday 4th January

The Ladies Summer Stableford round has been won by Jenny Chambers with 34 points from Robin Woodward with 33 on countback to Robyn Dunlop. The Summer Stableford rounds will continue next Wednesday

Thursday 5th January

The overnight rain and wet start on Thursday left many of the Vets at home of those who turned out Terry Webb did best with 39 points from Michael Tsakissiris 38 on countback to Reddis in 3rd place. Ball winners are: Larry Forbes 36, Wazza 35, David Kerr 34, Norm Barry 34, Dazza 34, David Peel 34, Eric Smith 33, Scott Jones 33, Tony Neale 33, Michael O'Brien 32, Graeme Flynn 32, Mick Gilbert 32, Col Somerville 31 & Garry Marsden 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Garry Marsden (3rd) David Peel (4th) Mick Gilbert (10th) & Greg Ireland (17th).

Saturday 7th January

The Monthly Stroke rounds have seen some solid

rounds in the cool showery conditions with Peter McIntyre claiming A Grade with 68 net from Justin Ely 69 on countback, B Grade to Justin Woodbine with 67 from Ryan Wilson 69 & C Grade to Jack Fisher with 65 from Tony Lorrman with 69. Ball winners are: Craig Smith 69, Rox Jnr 70, Anthony Bower 71, Denis Corke 71, Connor Thomson 71, Trevor Collins 71, Tom Lundy 71, Spot 71, Bindii 71, Muz 72, Peter Huckfeldt 72, Terry Roughan 72, Nathan Pearson 72, Wayne Barber 72, Ron Higginbottom 2, Tom Foster 72, Bohdi King 72, Jeremy Holden 73, Minto 73, Ron Findley 73, James Schofield 73, Ty Cowley 73, Danny Schofield 73, Fluff 73, Russ Calderwood 73, Mark Noble 74, Terry Webb 74, Larry Forbes 74, Dez Bailey 74, Mick Gilbert 74, Michael Tsakissiris 74 & Patrick Wand 74 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to James Schofield (3rd) Peter McIntyre (4th) Denis Corke (10th) & Peter McLennan (17th) Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB

Saturday, 7 January 2023 STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL

Field: 45
Winners B Robert Hale 68
Grades A Michael Tracey 70
Grades A Gregory Tearle 70
Grades B Michael Carling 72
Grades B Paul Bush 73
Grades C Lee Jackson 70
Grades C Gary Walsh 73
NTP 2/11 Michael Tracey 85cm
NTP 4 Michael Tracey 180cm
NTP 9/18 Robert Hale 141cm
Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 76

Pro's NTP 18th - Ben Porter 320cm \$72 Proshop Voucher

Saturday's early rain didn't deter 45 players from competing in the first Monthly Medal of the year, a stroke event which always tests everyone's resolve as they battle their way around the tight Branxton course. Bobby Hale won his first ever Monthly Medal with the day's only sub handicap score of nett 68, with a very well played back nine which ensured his overall win. He also won the Nearest the Pin on the 9th which was the start of his solid back nine effort. Mick Tracey once again showed how it can be done in winning A Grade with his nett 70 with two Nearest the pins on the 2nd/11th and the 4th. His shot to the 2nd proved to be the shot of the day, finishing only 85 cms from the flag. His playing partner, Greg Tearle,

finished runner up with the same nett score. Mick Carling won B Grade with his nett 72, just ahead of Paul Bush's nett 73. Paul's social game at Pacific Dunes during the week must have been a good tune up for the day. Lee Jackson, teeing off early, won C Grade with his 70 with Gary Walsh runner up with his 73 nett. Benny Porter won the Pro's Pin to the last with a nett 76 needed to win a ball on a day where the conditions were quite challenging due to the early rain. The Summer Cup starts next week with the Mixed Foursomes Championships scheduled for the 22nd January. Club Captain Steve, on behalf of the Golf Operations Committee, has issued all golfing members a memo about how to ensure the "flow of playing can be improved for the enjoyment of all players". This notice has been posted on the wall near the Pro Shop and will also be available in the clubhouse. Some points of note include - only 4 players in groups (no exceptions); pace of play should be around 4hrs 30 minutes (as this is a 9 hole golf course); players must keep up with the group ahead; those using carts must be patient and only go ahead of the group ahead at their invitation; arrive for your tee time at least 10 minutes ahead and try to tee off on time; if you book a tee off time after 3.00 on a Friday do not expect the field to be rearranged to suit you; if you lose a ball (out of bounds, morning sun on the first or in penalty areas) play a provisional ball just in case the original ball isn't found; also ensure you vigilantly watch each other's golf balls so finding the ball is much easier; there will be no 2 putt rule issued for the temporary green—it keeps the condition the same for all players and ensure you understand the implementation of the local rule across the creek on the 2nd/11th in regards to the penalty area. If we can all adhere to these points, competition play can be finished more quickly and be more enjoyable for all.

Saturday, 14 January 2023 SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 47
Grades A Joshua Tracey 38
Grades A Riley Maytom 37
Grades A Mick Barrett 37
Grades B Steve Eccles 42
Grades B Joe Bereza 39
Grades B Andrew McGovern 34
Grades C Steven Primmer 39
Grades C Robert Miller 39
Grades C Geoff Geason 38
NTP 2/11 Steven Primmer 196cm
NTP 4 Lennard Porter 144cm
NTP 9/18 Adnan Al Dabet

108cm
NTP 13 Robert Hale 384cm
Balls 14 Distributed down to score: 33
Pro's NTP 18th - GREG TEARLE - 117cm = \$76 Proshop Voucher
Multiple and 2022 Club Champion, Joshua Tracey, showed his class in winning the A Grade Stableford Competition with another sub par round of 38 pts from his 1 handicap. Young Riley Maytom finished runner up with a well compiled 37 pts, defeating a rejuvenated Mick Barrett on a countback. Steve Eccles had the day's best round with an excellent 42pts, finishing well clear of Joe Bereza's 39 pts with Andrew McGovern third on 34 pts. Steve Primmer prevailed in C Grade with his 39 pts, defeating Robert "Shirl" Miller on a countback, with Geoff Geason

third a point behind. Shirl and his partner Pip Lancaster had more reasons to celebrate as they beat Steve Eccles and Bob Biles 3-1 in their "Keno" contest. Steve still can't believe they lost after his 42 pts (Bob had 32 pts and Pip 30 pts)—golf can be a funny game. Bobby Hale showed some glimpses of great form with his new 5 and 7 irons really impressive, especially his shot to the 13th giving him the nearest the pin, whilst his playing partner, Richie Turnbull, demonstrated some great putting prowess throughout the day. 33 pts was needed to win a ball. Greg Tearle won the Pro's Pin on the last whilst Adnan Al Dabet hit the shot of the day to the 9th, only 108 cms away. Next week is the 2nd round of the Summer Cup with the Mixed Foursomes Championships being held next Sunday.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

THE NEWS Issue No 224 10th May 2007 Page 44

Glen George receives inaugural award

On Saturday 5th May the Colts over 35's presentation was held at the Royal Federal, with former Colts first grade coach Glen George winning the inaugural award for the 'Best & Fairest' player in the ARL Masters competition held on the Gold Coast during March.

A healthy contingent of players and wives/girlfriends attended the dinner, with many a yarn told of the on and off the field incidents that occurred in what was a thoroughly successful tour enjoyed by all involved.

As mentioned above, Glen George won the Best & Fairest award in a closely contested battle from John Hunter, Leeroy Hamon and Warwick Dries.

Once again sponsors the Royal Federal Hotel, Oasis Restaurant, Greta Worker's Club, A-Plus Contracting and Tooheys are to be thanked for making this tour possible. Also a big wrap must go to organiser and captain/coach Scott Westwood who's hours of administration work to get the side up and running (literally, although difficult at times) in the tournament is to be commended.

The tournament will be held at approximately the same time again next year, with all players and support staff already expressing their interest to go around once again.



Glen George

Emergency Phone Numbers		
Dial 000 FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24 HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need: fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	Police Belford 6574 7149 Brook 6579 1491 Crest 4015 0000 Greta 4015 0000 Bishopsgate Bldg Nth R'way 4015 0000 Rothbury 4015 0000 Polokwane 4015 0000 Rothbury 4991 1733 Bishopsgate Bldg Nth R'way 4015 0000 Polokwane 4015 0000 Rothbury 4991 1733 Scott 6575 1200 Flat 6575 1200 Central (Cessnock) 4015 0000	Electricity Energy Australia 131 388 Hospitals Maitland 4939 2000 Cessnock 4991 0555 Singleton 6572 2799 SES 132 500 Crisis Stoppers 1800 333 000 Poisons Info 131 126 Hunter Water 1300 657 000 Austral 131 388 Oceania Emergencies 131 909 Lifeline 131 114 Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609 Centralink Self Service 136 240 Medicare 132 011 Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483
For non-life threatening calls..... Police Assistance Line (PAL) 131 444		

The BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News **SPORT**



LOCAL Senior Rugby League REPORT



with Mark Bercini

Greta/Branxton raced straight to the top of Pool B with a comfortable 6-wicket victory over the Piranhas at East End. After winning the toss and electing to bowl, the Blues restricted the home side to 102 after bowling them out in the nineteenth over. Brent Watson (2-13 off 4) and Pat Andrews (2-29 off 4) took a brace of wickets each, with Mark Bercini receiving the four-piece for a rare occasion and got lucky with 3-16 off 4.

Greta/Branxton lost four early wickets in pursuit of the modest target, however the experience of skipper Joey Butler (37no) and Josh Dagg (29no) got the rocky ship back sailing in the right direction. They reached the target without further loss with four and a half overs to spare.

The Blues now travel to Singleton this Saturday to take on PCH.

All games are now accessible on YouTube courtesy of the new FrogBox live streaming system.

Points Table Coalfields Cup T20

Points Table Coalfields Cup T20		P	L	T	D	Pts	NRR
Pool A							
Bellbird	11	-	-	-	-	6	5.10
Valley/JPC	11	-	-	-	-	6	1.98
Glendon	1	-	-	-	-	0	-1.98
Wine Country	1	-	-	-	-	0	-5.10
Pool B							
Greta/Brxt	11	-	-	-	-	6	1.87
PCH	11	-	-	-	-	6	0.40
Creeks	1	-	-	-	-	0	-0.40
Piranhas	1	-	-	-	-	0	-1.87



Coalfields Cup T20 Cricket Report - Week 1

The all new Coalfields Cup T20 competition commenced last weekend, with the inaugural tournament being played over four weeks.

2023 COACHES

- Under 6's Matthew Thomson
- Under 8's Brent Masling
- Under 9's Ryan Collins
- Under 10's Luke Thomas / Doug Waters
- Under 11's Kurt Evans
- Under 12's Joel Kirkman
- Under 14's Glen Maytom
- Under 16's Corey Aveiro
- Under 16's GLT Tammy Watson
- Under 18's Mark Bercini
- Reserve Grade Luke Day
- First Grade Brady Hammond

Further coaches will be appointed once registrations are finalised.

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