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WEDNESDAY
15 February 2023

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Call for state government to provide adequate educational facilities for Huntlee & surrounds

LOCAL Elderslie resident & mother of three young children, Lee-Anne Moore, has called on the state government to provide adequate educational facilities for Huntlee newtown & the surrounding area.

Lee-Anne heads a large group of local residents intent on seeing a new infants/primary & high school provided in the near future.

Currently local school children, using the public schooling system, have to be accepted as infant/primary students in Branxton at Branxton Public School and those entering high school have been allocated Rutherford High School. Currently, Branxton Public School has around 400 pupils which is 175% over the accepted level.

Demountable class rooms have, for now, catered for the rapid increase in the numbers but space for adequate outside play areas is rapidly declining. Three more at the eastern end had to be installed just prior to the start of the 2023 school year.

Rutherford High School is 20k's away with a daily travel time for students of an hour and a half. They leave Branxton at 7:30am and return at 5pm which is an eight and a half hour day. Lee-Anne said that it is not acceptable. "High school children as young as 11 are putting in a tremendously long day and are expected to deal with home work & other on their return," said Lee-Anne.

State member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr has been very disappointed with the NSW Minister for Education, Sarah Mitchell, who has continually stated that there is no funding allocation at present for new schools in the area. This is despite Huntlee's Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) requiring them to provide land to the NSW Government for new schools. That has been done.

Clayton Barr said that it is his understanding that the Education Department has a 'new' plan which is to build a comprehensive education facility, kinder to year 12, at another site in Huntlee. "I am led to believe that the new site is now being prepared by the Huntlee developers and will be required to be signed over to the education department when the next VPA trigger point is reached CONT PAGE 3



Local activist Lee-Anne Moore with her partner & Children



Exciting news!!!!

Our brand-new mixed practice Veterinary Hospital is now open at 11/22 Empire Street Huntlee Branxton.

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Honour roll recognises the 'unsung heroes' of the Upper Hunter electorate

Sixty-nine new names, including nine from the Upper Hunter electorate, have been added to the 2021-22 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll which pays public tribute to the girls and women across regional, rural and remote NSW who have given their time and energy to helping others in their community.

Coordinated by the NSW Rural Women's Network, the 2021-22 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll recognises volunteering contributions made in those years.

Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell congratulated the nine recipients, who are from across the electorate, for their inclusion in the latest Hidden Treasures Honour Roll including:

Peree Watson – Branxton;
Danielle Fordham – Paterson;
Valarie Smith – Gresford;
Yasmin Jimmieson – Muswellbrook;
Anne Mason – Muswellbrook;
Ruth Van Bezouwen – Muswellbrook;
Patricia Kirkby – Merriwa;
Marie Scott – Merriwa; and,
Sharee Witney – Merriwa

"Volunteers are the backbone of our community. While honoured to be recognized I know I am just one person who lives in a small town who puts up their hand to run sports and other community organizations. This honour is for all of them too," said Peree Watson.

"There are some great stories among this year's awardees like Danielle Fordham, a former Tocal College student who is now Tocal's Alumni officer," Mr Layzell said.

"Yasmin Jimmieson is a former Muswellbrook Young Citizen of the Year and is currently a member of the State Emergency Service's Muswellbrook Unit while Patricia Kirkby was named Merriwa's 2021 Citizen of the Year.

"Sharee Witney played a significant role in the vaccination of Merriwa and district residents against COVID-19 and Peree Watson has made contributions to various organisations including Hunter Medical Research Institute, the Leukaemia Foundation and Got Your Back Sista.

"Women like Danielle, Valarie, Peree, Yasmin, Anne, Ruth, Patricia, Marie and Sharee play an important role in community development and making rural NSW a great place to live. It is so important we honour their contributions to ensure that voluntary work is valued and respected." Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor said Whether it's supporting individuals or groups within their communities through volunteering in aged care, emergency services, environmental management, health, sport, education and tourism, women are often the unsung heroes behind the scenes of the programs that keep our communities connected.

"They do this freely and without fanfare but they are the backbone of our communities and our society simply wouldn't function effectively without them, so it's incredibly important to take the opportunity to sing their praises and celebrate their significant contributions," Mrs Taylor said. Hidden Treasures is a project of the Rural Women's Network, a state-wide initiative of Women NSW that is funded by a \$3.7 million investment from the NSW Government.

For more information and a full list of the 2021 and 2022 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll awardees, visit nsw.gov.au/women-nsw/rural-womens-network.

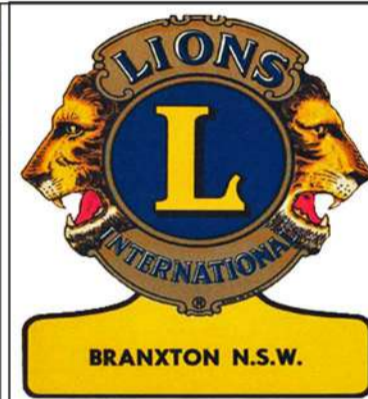


Awardee Peree Watson from Branxton. Peree is also the endorsed ALP candidate for the upcoming state election for the seat of Upper Hunter



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826



For membership details
Contact Dr. Alan Beckley
Secretary, Lions Club of Branxton Inc
Email: branxton.nsw@lions.org.au
Mobile: 0426 261948

Deadline for Glencore to appeal Glendell Coal Mine expansion elapses

The deadline for Swiss mining giant Glencore to appeal the Independent Planning Commission's (IPC) decision to reject their proposed Glendell Coal Mine expansion has now passed.

The IPC ruled in late October that the project would have "significant, irreversible and unjustified impacts on the historic heritage values of the Ravensworth Homestead complex". The homestead, which is made up of colonial buildings and gardens in the middle of the proposed mine site, has cultural and historic significance dating back to 1825.

Colonial records show a series of attacks and counter-attacks between Aboriginal people and settlers at the homestead and the adjoining Lethbridge Estate.

Greens MP and spokesperson for mining, coal and gas, Sue Higginson said: "We are completely relieved that this date has passed and now the mining company can't



challenge the IPC's decision. "Scott Franks and Robert Lester, and all the Plains Clan Wonnarua Traditional Owners have never given up on fighting to protect their lands. When the IPC rejected the expansion application last year, it was a huge moment of relief, but we still had to hold out while we waited to see if Glencore would appeal. Now knowing that the IPC's decision is final, Hunter Communities can at last breathe easy."

"Whilst this win is testament to the strength and tenacity of First Nations communities

working together to protect Culture and Heritage, it shows how destructive and powerless our cultural heritage laws are in this State."

"NSW is still without standalone cultural heritage laws and it's well overdue for us to legislate a cultural heritage framework that takes decision making powers out of the hands of mining companies and non-Aboriginal decision makers and hands the power back to Aboriginal communities and cultural knowledge holders."

"This coal expansion not going ahead is also good for

climate action, but it's not enough. We need to draw the line in the sand and put an end to opening up any more areas for coal and gas across NSW."

"Communities should not have to keep taking on billion-dollar fossil fuel companies to protect precious cultural heritage,

biodiversity and all of us from the dangerous impacts of climate change. For the climate and for First Nations justice, we need to see an end to coal and gas altogether." Ms Higginson said.

It has been reported that the Glendell project would have extended the mine's life until approximately 2044 and resulted in the extraction of an

additional 140 million tonnes of coal. It is estimated the project would support more than 1000 jobs and inject \$229 million into the Hunter economy.

∞ Photo at left: Ravensworth Homestead around 1894.

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FROM FRONT PAGE

Call for state government to provide adequate educational facilities for Huntlee & surrounds



Lee-Anne Moore being interviewed by local TV NBN

...which is the sale of 1500 residential lots, which if it hasn't happened yet is not far away," said Clayton.

"From what I can see the department of education is slow and lazy at building new schools so then while everyone is waiting along might come a private Catholic/Christian school and build one first. I have no problem the private/Catholic/Christian schools having a presence in any/every community but in terms of risk to new public schools what it means is that once an independent school is constructed this will be followed by enrolments and will take the 'pressure' off the nearby public schools. The state government will analyse their data and demographics and decide that no new school is required at all. They are doing this all over the state!" said Clayton.

"The one constant that the Minister for Education has is that she keeps to her story that the education needs of students living in Huntlee/Branxton are currently being met by Branxton Public School & Rutherford Technology High School. Totally incorrect & we need action ASAP," said Clayton.

Lee-Anne Moore said that we need a Huntlee High School as soon as possible. "And also a primary school, but mostly ~ we need Huntlee High School!! Please share this news story. Please tell your election candidates how important this is to you. Now it's up to our community to keep the focus on it until both parties commit to building public schools at Huntlee. There is a state election in about 6-weeks so please let the candidates know how important this issue is," said Lee-Anne.

We contacted LWP, the Huntlee developers, who have advised that they aren't in a position to provide a comment on this at the moment.

BlazeAid Sets Up Camp in Millfield to Assist Flood-Impacted Communities

Cessnock City Council, in partnership with Singleton Council, is proud to announce the establishment of a BlazeAid temporary camp in Millfield. The camp is being set up as a response to the July 2022 Flood disaster, and will provide much needed labour support to local landholders in areas of Cessnock & Singleton, who have been unable to re-build fences that were damaged during the floods. Many of these landholders have been significantly impacted by the floods, including being isolated for up to 3-4 weeks, creek bank erosion, and damage to other structures on their property. The camp will be run by experienced BlazeAid coordinators and volunteers and will provide physical helping hands to support those in need. BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organization that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. Working alongside the rural families, their volunteers help to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed.

BlazeAid, in collaboration with Cessnock and Singleton Councils, will be setting up a temporary camp at Millfield Cricket Ground. The camp will be funded by the NSW

Reconstruction Authority (formerly Resilience NSW) and will be able to accommodate up to 20 volunteers. The camp will open from Monday, 13th February 2023, with an official launch on Friday 17th February.

Cessnock City Council Mayor, Jay Suvaal is excited to welcome the group to the area.

"Our residents in Cessnock LGA and particularly the Wollombi Valley have suffered significantly following the floods in both March and July last year. Many structures were inundated, residents isolated, possessions washed away and fences knocked down. We are very grateful to the volunteers of BlazeAid and the NSW Reconstruction Authority for working with us to support our community during their time of need"

Mayor Jay Suvaal added, "We would like to invite local Millfield residents to join us for the official opening of the BlazeAid Camp on Friday 17th February at 6pm, which will be a BBQ provided and cooked by Cessnock Men's Shed with the camp coordinators, volunteers and landholders from the Wollombi Valley who will be receiving their support over the coming months. This BBQ will provide an opportunity for residents of Millfield to meet the BlazeAid volunteers and understand more about the organization and its role in supporting the flood-impacted community," concluded Mayor Jay Suvaal.



Greta Museum

Continues to open and exhibit Army and Migrant Camp photos and memorabilia, as well as coal mining, sporting and some family histories, and artefacts, from the local area's past.

Open each Wednesday and Saturday 11am – 3pm at 96 High Street, Greta, in the former Greta Council Chambers.

Forecast proven correct



"It may have seemed out of sequence when the NSW Rural Fire Service issued its seasonal bushfire forecast during the floods late last year – but the warning has proven accurate." said Dave Layzell MP Member for the Upper.

"After the rain and heat, there has been grass growth and subsequent browning of the landscape plus we have seen bush burn in the Upper Hunter this summer."

So here are the RFS's tips to prepare for bush and grass fires starting with home and property preparations and learning what the new **Fire Danger Ratings Alert Levels** mean.

Importantly, have a fire action plan which you can discuss with your family and household so everyone knows what to do if threatened by fire: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare



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Philip is among a rare group of 'NOVIDs' in Australia. Here's how he's avoided COVID-19 so far



Since the first recorded case of community transmission of COVID-19 in Australia, Philip, Christine and Shakira are among those who — as far as they know — have never had the virus. They are known as "NOVIDs" — the people who've managed to evade contracting COVID-19 three years into the pandemic. It is estimated about one in 10 Australians may fall into this category, although experts admit the exact number of people who are yet to have contracted COVID is unknown.

How many Australians have never had COVID?

Advertisement
Adrian Esterman, Chair of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of South Australia, believes about 10 per cent of the adult population has never had COVID. He based his estimate on the most recent serology reports done by the Kirby Institute and the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance.

"They get blood samples usually from the Red Cross, and they check them to see who's got antibodies against the virus, which could only have been gotten from being infected," Professor Esterman told SBS News.

"The last report was in November, and they found 70 per cent of the adult population had been infected."

He estimates that number would have risen to somewhere around 90 per cent today.

The frequent traveller

Lawyer Phillip Schubert lives with his partner in Canberra when he's not travelling to Hobart for work. Both have so far managed to avoid getting a positive COVID test.

Mr Schubert said while he followed all of the COVID restrictions when they were in place, he's since said goodbye to his mask and has recently enjoyed being part of social gatherings again. While it's hard to determine exactly how many people in Australia have had COVID-19, serology reports are able to provide some indication. Source: Getty / Rawf8

He's also managed to evade a positive result even after spending time with friends who later found out they'd had COVID — and even the dreaded infection from exposure inside planes, given his frequent travel to Hobart.

"I've sat on so many planes and thought, is this the time I'll get it? But luckily not," he said.

Mr Schubert admitted it was possible he may have contracted the virus without having serious symptoms.

Like the other NOVIDs that SBS News spoke to, Mr Schubert was fully vaccinated but said it was probably "weird blind luck" that he had not contracted the virus.

The multi-vaccinated

Christine Brooks, a 62-year-old Geelong resident,

is a NOVID.

She does not have any children in her household, works part-time in a small office and worked from home for a period.

Christine Brooks from Geelong understands a level of luck has helped her avoid COVID, saying her risk was probably reduced due to her quieter lifestyle.

She said she was up to date with all her COVID vaccinations, still wears a mask to go shopping and lives a much quieter lifestyle to the one she did in earlier stages of her life, which she said had probably helped her chances of avoiding the virus.

Ms Brooks admits living by herself was also probably a factor.

Professor Esterman said children were often the ones who brought the virus home from childcare or school.

"There must be vast numbers of people who pick it up from their children, unfortunately," he said.

The socially-cautious

Shakira Hussein from Melbourne has been very careful about where she goes, who she sees and in what settings.

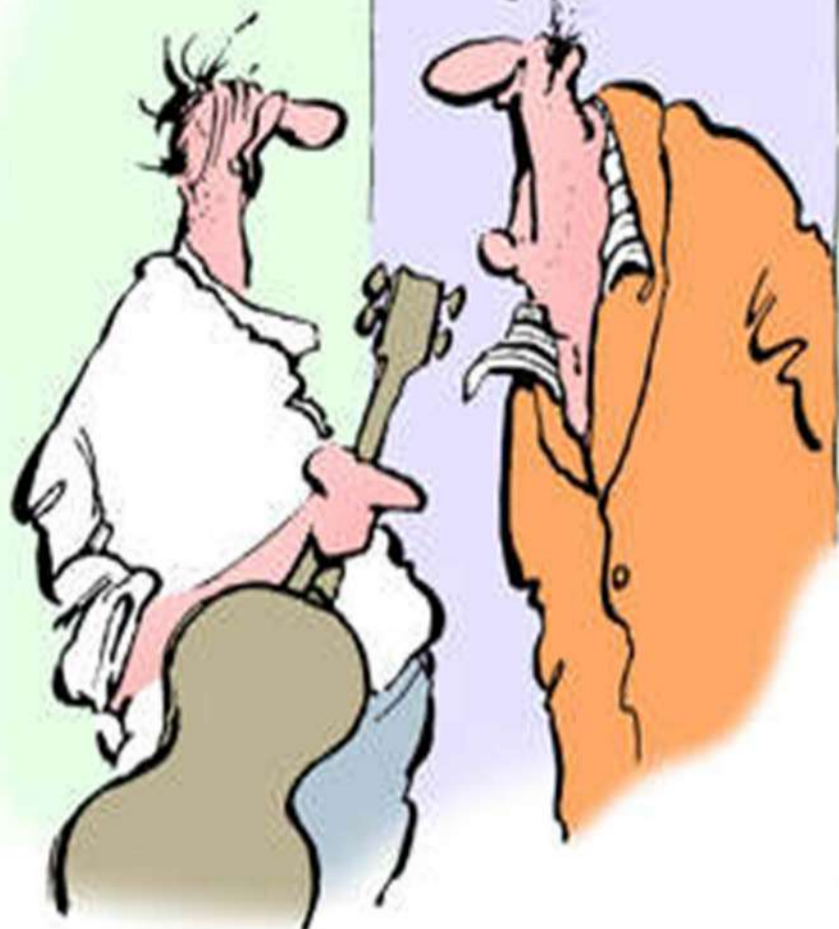
Having multiple sclerosis means she is at a higher risk of severe illness if she were to contract the virus.

Ms Hussein believes being extra cautious has played a role in her avoiding COVID—Ms Hussein, who is in her 50s, said she'd been semi-isolating in the months before COVID had arrived in Australia after she underwent an aggressive treatment that had weakened her immune system.

"I had thought 2020 was going to be the year I'd take on the world again," she said. Instead her self-enforced isolation has continued into 2023 in many ways.

"I have a sort of hierarchy, which might sound really mean, but it's about, who do I care about? Who do I meet outdoors? And also, who cares about me enough? Who do I feel confident with being mindful enough of my health?"

While Ms Hussein believes being extra cautious has played a role in her avoiding COVID, she said she understood others had been even more careful and still contracted the virus.



Lingard
HERMAN

"D'you think you could play a little louder? I keep falling asleep."

She has taken two overseas trips in recent years, one to the United Kingdom to see family when an uncle died from COVID and one to New Zealand for work.

How have NOVIDs avoided the virus?

While certain factors may reduce the risk of contracting COVID, Professor Esterman said it was unclear why some people managed to evade COVID.

"There could be genetics at play," he said.

"We know some people have got a genetic profile that makes them resistant to HIV, for example. There are studies around the world now to try and find out if people that have a particular combination of genes that might cause reason for it, but we don't know yet."

Adrian Esterman, Chair of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of South Australia said serology reports were the best indicator of how many people have had COVID—

He suggested another possibility could be that some people had some level of "cross-immunity".

"We know that about 40 per cent of common colds are caused by coronaviruses [other than COVID-19]. It could be that if you had a recent

cold, you get some sort of cross-immunity."

Professor Esterman pointed to the fact that most children who get COVID-19 did not get seriously ill.

"Young children have always got snotty noses and got coughs and colds and it could well be that that's giving them some protection," he said. He said while vaccinations protect people against serious illness and death "extremely well", they currently gave little protection against infection. He said it was therefore possible that some people who considered themselves to have never had COVID, may have actually had it without being symptomatic and realising.

The longer a person could hold off contracting COVID, the better, he said.

"The longer you can be without being infected, the better chance of new antivirals and vaccines. All of these are being developed as we speak." Professor Esterman has himself not yet had COVID.

"If I can spend the next 12 months without getting it, there's a chance that even if I did get it I'd have much better treatment options," he said.

(This article appeared under SBS News and thought it very interesting; hope you enjoyed it)



How disappointing

How disappointing to have someone diminish the work you do in keeping our area beautiful. (Roger Yandel The News 3 Feb). It's not what someone would normally do is it? Was it provoked?

Has the group or a member done anything that has upset anyone? Telling the elderly they cannot mow firebreaks around the home is elder abuse, and undoing the work or legacy of others is not in the best interests of community. Perhaps someone has overstepped the mark assuming the group is empowered to be arbitrary and capricious? Who knows, but

someone is not a fan. My granddaughter is an environmental scientist and has knowledge of rare orchids in the area. The location is being kept secret by Newcastle Uni. I noticed that your group has chosen not to remove Freesia alba x Freesia leichlinii a significant environmental weed in South Australia and Western Australia and an environmental weed in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

This species can form dense infestations that compete with native vegetation, particularly native ground orchids and grasses. The native orchids can be quite tiny and difficult to see. Of course, these freesias are favourites of the locals, any decision to remove them would not be popular?? However, can one be selective in deciding what weed to remove and what not to?

Local government has a legal

responsibility for managing weeds across their lands under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 and require landowners to comply. If your group wants to assist council you could form a pothole committee. Time would be better spent planting trees to compensate for those forests (Dylans Scrub) removed by Huntlee, for re-housing the displaced birds and

wildlife.

Maureen Lind, Nth Rothbury

Weird science

Tony Abbott's recent joining to a climate change sceptics group has drawn attention once again to what Rob Oakeshott said years ago: that the science department at Abbott's old school has a lot to answer for.

Bill Forbes, Medowie

YOUR friendly team

The News

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

with Mike Lowing

Seniors Festival

Saturday 11th Feb 2023

At right: The Mens Shed with just one of their current projects. Just one of many current projects; the restoration of The HMS Endeavour



Branxton Croquet Club welcoming learners



Dick at the Mens Shed showing the new lighting for the War Memorial. It will be unveiled ANZAC Day.



Kev Bell front left having a well deserved break with members of the Mens Shed prior to the opening the gates



The Ladies Shed in Branxton displaying their handcrafts



The Ladies Shed in Branxton displaying their handcrafts



The Mens Shed displaying some of their restoration handwork



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5 TIPS FOR SUN SAFETY

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Seek Shade



Cover Up



Source: CDC Sun Safety Tips

Members say ..



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

It was an honour to preside over the Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony on January 26th. Celebrating locals who are doing amazing work for our community, and welcoming new citizens to Australia is always a highlight of my role at Cessnock City Council.

A particular story I wish to highlight is of the Community Award recipient Jewell Harrison. At 10 years old, Jewell is a young lady who has dedicated her time and efforts to raise money for much needed cancer research in our community. Holding various events throughout the past year involving schools, local businesses and sporting clubs, she has raised over \$20,000 for the Cancer Council.

In honour of her late grandmother, Robyn Northrop, who sadly lost her battle with cancer in 2019, Jewel and her family created an event and rode their bicycles over 100km during a long weekend in October last year. It has been wonderful to see the success of the Dolly Parton – Imagination Library, which now has 652 children enrolled onto the program in the LGA. In 2022, 2900 age-appropriate, high-quality, new books were sent to children in our area to build stronger bonds and develop children's curiosity for discovery and learning.

As the new school year begins, I would like to extend my best wishes to all students, teachers, and families. I would like to encourage students to strive for excellence and make the most of their education. Take advantage of all that your school has to offer and never hesitate to ask for help when needed. Teachers, your dedication and hard work in guiding our young minds is truly commendable. Your efforts have a deep impact on the future of our community. Lastly, to the families of our students, thank you for your support and encouragement.

Cheers, Jay



Clr Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

With the countdown well and truly on to the NSW State election on 25 March, we're leading our own campaign to be strong for Singleton in 2023 and secure commitments that will preserve the prosperity of our local government area for generations to come.

Singleton has a strong and structured Advocacy Agenda outlining the needs of our community and the assistance we require from all levels of government. This is our most important tool when we meet with all the candidates for the Upper Hunter and the leaders of the major parties. But as campaigning and media attention begins to swirl, the voters in the seat of Upper Hunter also now appear to hold a trump card as the State's third most marginal seat.

Boundary redistribution notwithstanding, I maintain that Singleton will continue to be vitally important to the eventual Member for Upper Hunter and any future Government, as well as the economic evolution of the Hunter region. That's why we are taking the opportunity to zero in on five First Tranche election issues, taken from the Singleton Advocacy Agenda, which focus on future proofing and livability to secure Singleton's vitality for generations to come.

Through this approach, we are calling for a commitment to a statutory body to drive a whole of region approach to economic evolution; increased passenger train services to and from Singleton; a commitment to the continuation of Resources For Regions funding program for mining-affected communities; a continued commitment to the scope of works, timing and budget allocation for a new, purpose-built 24-hour police station for Singleton announced during the 2021 Byelection; and a commitment for fair funding and assistance to relocate Council's water and sewer depot as a result of the preferred route for the bypass.

In a further benefit for our community, we feel Singleton Council can demonstrate a strong position to partner with the

eventual Government to deliver on these issues not just for the people of Singleton and the Upper Hunter, but NSW. We're proud of our proactive approach in developing programs and strategies to support our community through whatever economic, social and environmental changes might come our way to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

But we need the support of all levels of government, and a tangible commitment from all the candidates for the seat of Upper Hunter and the major parties, to achieve our community's vision for a vibrant, connected, resilient, sustainable and progressive Singleton.

The time for action is now.
Cr Sue Moore
Mayor of Singleton



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR 'TAKEN TO THE CLEANERS' ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Over the past 10 years the NSW Government has spent billions and billions of dollars on public transport, almost all of which is in Sydney. Public transport is of key importance in any city of 5 million people. Spending the money is one thing. But getting value for money is something altogether different. Making sure that our taxpayer dollars are spent carefully and wisely is an incredible responsibility for any Government. There can be little doubt, or little defence, for the many thousands of millions of wasted dollars spent on public transport in recent years. We have had 2 different types of ferries purchased and built overseas, to be used on our Sydney waterways as public transport. The vessels that are intended to go up the river to Parramatta and the like are; dangerously too high to go under bridges meaning that people can't sit on the top deck; built with windows that make it impossible for the staff of the vessels to see out at night; can't do emergency stops; and are full of asbestos.

The vessels purchased to travel across Sydney Harbour to Manly, can't dock at the usual Manly wharf on low tide; have leaks in the hull (bottom of

boat); cracks in the fuel tanks after just months in use; windows that shatter in heavy swells; and emergency doors that are locked so as to not take people's fingers off. There have been various sets of trains purchased from overseas companies and shipped into Australia. Some of them don't fit the tracks. Some don't have facilities for our guards that manage passenger safety at each stop. Some don't have re-fuelling in the correct position to fit our facilities. Various sets of trams have also been purchased and shipped in from overseas only to be taken off the tracks within months due to cracking throughout the carriages.

Throughout all of this, having spent these many billions of dollars employing workers in other countries, manufacturing in Australia has been dying. And to top it all off, the original negotiated price for these various forms of public transport have blown out in costs by many thousands of millions of dollars. This money could have built dozens of brand-new hospitals, or up to a hundred new schools, or allowed us to employ a thousand or more doctors in our health system, or made massive road improvement right across the state. No matter what your personal politics are, it would be hard to give the various Transport Ministers in NSW, over the past 10 years, any grade other than an F for Fail. We really do need to be far more careful with taxpayer dollars and pay far more attention to the contracts we sign.

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



Member for Hunter Daniel Repacholi MP

Paid Parental Leave passes the Lower House
Changes to Paid Parental Leave have passed the Lower House. We're making it fairer and

encouraging parents to share care.

Paid parental leave reform was one of the most frequent proposals raised at this successful Jobs and Skills Summit in September. We made the summit one of our first priorities, and we did this because we are a sensible, proactive government. Families in Hunter and around Australia deserve to have the financial support in place that they need so they can focus on what's important: providing the best possible start to the life of the newest member of their family. This bill is supporting better outcomes for children. It's important that the decision to have a child should not come at a financial sacrifice for women. Women should not have to choose between having a family and maintaining economic equality.

This is a bill that is good for both the parents and children of Australia and the Hunter because when fathers take a greater caring role from the start it benefits mums, dads and their kids. This Bill is about modernising the scheme and bringing it into line with modern parenting. Gone are the days when raising children and looking after the newborn was solely the responsibility of the mother.

The changes being introduced will remove the notion of primary and secondary carers and make it easier for both parents to access this payment.

Hunter's Cheaper Child Care

This week in Parliament I spoke about the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Cheaper Child Care) Bill 2022 we introduced.

Quality child care is a vital part of a young person's development, and it is the Labor Party who knows this, and it is the government who cares about education and child care. We care about child care so much that we're actually going to do something to fix the issues that were ignored by the previous government.

This government leaves no one behind, and that's why we introduced the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Cheaper Child Care) Bill 2022. Child care should be accessible, and it shouldn't only be for the ones that can afford it.

That's exactly what this bill is going to make a reality. Because of this bill, 6,300 families in the Hunter will be better off. This bill will ensure that 6,300 more parents will be able to get back to work. That's 6,300 more employers with additional staff.

Most importantly: because of this government's bill, 6,300 more children in the Hunter will have access to early childhood education, a head start in learning and a head start in developing

both independence and vital social skills.

Cheers, Dan



Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP

IMPROVED TRAVEL ADVICE

TWO more local councils will soon be providing real-time traffic information for motorists with the NSW Government adding further local roads to Live Traffic NSW.

Muswellbrook Shire Council and Singleton Council are among the next group of councils being added to Live Traffic NSW from 23 February. Mid Coast Council and Maitland City Council were among the initial 22 local government areas chosen to expand the Live Traffic website and app last October.

This will help ensure people travelling through the Upper Hunter electorate know the status of local roads, particularly during emergencies like floods and bushfires, in real time from Live Traffic with the data shared to third party apps like Google Maps, Waze and Tom Tom.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH
Expressions of Interest (EOI) open this week for the state government's \$175 million Growing Regional Economies Fund.

Turbocharging economies and jobs growth are at the heart of the fund through investing in infrastructure and facilities projects that will unlock housing and economic growth in regional communities. Housing must come hand in hand with these investments and the projects supported by the fund could include roads and other utility connections.

The EOI process closes on 23 May with further information such as program guidelines and eligibility criteria, at: www.nsw.gov.au/gref

TEACHING PROFESSION BOLSTERED

The return of students to the classroom for Term One 2023 has coincided with a record number of new graduates receiving approval to teach in NSW public schools this year.

There are 4,500 new graduates who have received their approval to teach which is the highest number since 2011. In another major boost for the workforce, Minister for Education and Early Learning Sarah Mitchell has confirmed more than 15,000 existing temporary teachers and other school-based staff will be offered permanent positions during this year.

In other education news, the Premier's Back to School NSW vouchers have been extended for use on school excursions in Term One and Two. Families have until 30 June to apply for and redeem their vouchers from Service NSW: www.service.nsw.gov.au/back-to-school-vouchers

GOT YOUR ACTIVE KIDS?
Families are being reminded to download their new Active Kids voucher and save \$100 per child on sport and recreational activities.

The Active Kids program has turbocharged sporting participation across the state, with more than 4.85 million vouchers redeemed, saving families \$481 million. The NSW Government has recently extended the Active Kids voucher program to include school holiday sports and recreation activities. Families can access the voucher at a Service NSW Centre, by calling Service NSW on 137788 or via the Service NSW app or website: www.service.nsw.gov.au/active-kids.

For further information on the Active Kids Program, visit: www.sport.nsw.gov.au/active-kids

TESTS STILL AVAILABLE
Vulnerable communities continue to receive free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) with the NSW Government extending the program until the end of April.

Tests are available from Gloucester's Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Group, Dungog Shire Community Centre, Singleton Family Support Scheme, Singleton Neighborhood Centre, Upper Hunter Youth Service, Upper Hunter Community Services Inc, Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre as well as Denman Pharmacy and Merriwa Pharmacy. Service NSW centres and Service NSW agencies at Dungog Shire Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council, Merriwa also have free RATs.

Eligible Commonwealth Concession Card holders in NSW can access 10 tests until 30 April with more information at: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/testing-managing/free-rat-tests

Cheers, Dave

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COVID-19 hospitalisations and deaths in NSW up to 4pm 9 February 2023

- 931 people in hospital 24 people in ICU 62 lives lost in the past 7 days*

COVID-19 cases and deaths reported in NSW

Time	Cases confirmed by PCR	Cases confirmed by RAT	Total
Cases this week	3,279	3,288	6,567
Cases last week	4,155	3,498	7,653
Total cases (since beginning of pandemic)	2,140,023	1,741,789	3,881,812
Total deaths (since beginning of pandemic)			6,304

The use of medicinal cannabis in Australia ~ Health NSW

There has been increasing interest over the last few years in the use of cannabis for medical purposes. Governments at both Commonwealth and State and Territory levels have implemented legislative and



policy change to allow the cultivation, manufacture, prescribing and dispensing of medicinal cannabis products for patients in Australia. This has been driven partly by community and advocacy groups and the media and informed by the development of medicinal cannabis programs in other countries.

Cannabis is a genus of flowering plant in the family *cannabaceae*. It has a long history of medicinal use in several cultures, but has not been rigorously studied. Cannabis contains a variety of compounds (cannabinoids) which are ligands (binding agents) for cannabinoid receptors in the body. A variety of plant-derived and synthetic cannabinoids have been developed for medical use. For the purposes of this document, the terms medicinal cannabis and cannabinoids are used interchangeably.

The Commonwealth Department of Health, with financial support from several state governments, commissioned a team from the Universities of New South Wales, Sydney and Queensland under the coordination of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) to review the available evidence for the use of medicinal cannabis in palliative care, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, chronic pain, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy. Early research into medicinal cannabis involved synthetic cannabinoid products including dronabinol and nabilone, whilst more recent studies have tended to use whole-plant extracts. Botanical marijuana contains many cannabinoids; the best known of which are delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD) and cannabivarin (CBV). It should be noted that use of cannabis products derived from plants may involve exposure to a mixture of cannabinoids, potentially changing from crop to crop.

The Department has developed a series of guidance documents to assist health professionals and patients, especially medical practitioners, who choose to prescribe medicinal cannabis in Australia under current access schemes. Included is an overview addressing the evidence base for medicinal cannabis therapy generally as well as specific documents relating to medicinal cannabis in the treatment of palliative care, epilepsy, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV), multiple sclerosis (MS) and chronic pain.

The guidance documents are based on evidence available at the time of publication and will be regularly updated as new evidence emerges. Working groups have been established for the five different settings and will meet yearly to review evidence and make updates where required. It is hoped that sufficient data on the safety and efficacy will emerge in coming years to enable registration of more medicinal cannabis products on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

Consistent with the Queensland Health recommendations, this guidance advises that medicinal cannabis products containing THC are generally **not appropriate** for patients who:

- have a previous psychotic or concurrent active mood or anxiety disorder;
- are pregnant, planning on becoming pregnant, or breastfeeding; and/or have unstable cardiovascular disease.

Furthermore, **patients should be advised that they are not able to drive while treated with medicinal cannabis**. Patients should be informed that measurable concentrations of THC can be detected in saliva for many hours after administration.

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 SUN : 8 AM - 8 PM**



Here's our modern take on the classic caesar salad – using polenta soldiers instead of croutons.

• 45m prep • 20m cook • 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 garlic clove, halved
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, plus extra, to serve
- 4 slices prosciutto
- 1 small bunch kale, washed, stems removed, torn into bite-sized pieces
- 1 tbsp white vinegar
- 4 eggs
- 1 avocado, quartered
- 30g (1/4 cup) pitted Sicilian olives, halved
- 2 tbsp pepitas, lightly toasted
- Lemon wedges, to serve (optional)

Polenta soldiers

- 310ml (1 1/4 cups) chicken stock
- 90g (1/2 cup) instant polenta
- 20g (1/4 cup) finely grated parmesan, plus shavings, extra, to serve

METHOD

1. Combine juice, garlic and 1 tbs oil in a small screw-top jar. Season. Secure with lid and shake well to combine. Set aside to develop the flavours.
2. For polenta soldiers, grease a 9 x 19cm (base measurement) loaf pan and line with baking paper, allowing the edges to overhang. Place stock in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a simmer. Gradually add polenta in a thin, steady stream, stirring constantly with a wooden

'Kind of' caesar salad with polenta soldiers



spoon until combined. Reduce heat to low. Cook, stirring, for 3 minutes or until thick and creamy. Stir in the parmesan. Spoon into prepared pan and smooth the surface. Place in the fridge for 15 minutes or until set.

3. Turn polenta out onto a clean work surface and use a sharp knife to cut into 12 batons. Heat 1 tsp of the remaining oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook prosciutto for 1-2 minutes each side or until crisp. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel. Wipe the pan clean. Heat remaining 3 tsp oil in the pan over medium-high. Cook polenta batons for 2 minutes each side or until golden. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel.
4. Place the kale in a large bowl. Remove and discard the garlic from the dressing. Drizzle the kale with the dressing. Use your hands to toss and gently massage the kale until just wilted and combined. Divide the massaged kale among serving bowls.
5. Bring a saucepan of water to the boil over high heat. Add the vinegar. Reduce the heat to low. Use a large spoon to stir the water to make a whirlpool. Carefully add the eggs, 2 at a time, to the centre of the whirlpool and poach for 3 minutes for runny yolks. Use a slotted spoon to transfer eggs to a plate lined with paper towel to drain.
6. Top kale with the avocado, olives, pepitas, prosciutto and polenta. Add an egg to each bowl, sprinkle with extra parmesan shavings and season. Drizzle with a little extra oil and serve with lemon wedges, if you like.

A blast from the past

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Wines & Vines

..... enjoying the Hunter wine lifestyle with Andrew Marsh of Marsh Estate Winery, Pokolbin

with Don Bradman while riding Phar Lap if my memory serves me correctly. Sydney University must have enrolled 30 times the average intake of students during the years in which Clive James attended. Presently, Andrew Johns has more "good mates" than anyone I know.

good looking and women absolutely adore him..... oh my, I think I'm going to be sick with envy. Not a day goes by in my life when Len's name is not mentioned. From a very young age, I can recall a million and one Len Evans stories being told in the Marsh Estate cellar door. Len Evans, you see, has amazing appeal to modern mankind and while we attach his famous face to wine, Len is busy attaching wine to his food, his art, his antiques, his architecture and the like. Len Evans' vision for his endeavours is legendary. Len is not famous for throwing or kicking a piece of leather around a ball park and exclaiming that "The boys played good - yous played hard" after the game before shooting an advertisement for a pool company or menswear store. Far, far from it. It is refreshing to know that there is truly someone out there who can venture in from a round of golf, open a bottle of the world's finest wine, cook a five star meal while listening to an appealing array of music in the comfort of a room which resembles a European palace, while casually letting the answering machine take a phone call from the Prime Minister. I am not trying to feed Len's ego, there are enough people doing that already. I'm trying to paint a picture of a figure with whom people want to associate themselves. My point is this - Len Evans makes James Bond look like a red-necked hick from Wilcannia.

So every week in our cellar door or wherever I may be, I will be exposed to someone or other mentioning Len's name or rehashing the first time they met him or some story they yarn every time they open a bottle of wine. I politely nod and smile as if it's one of the all time great stories. The narrator then sits, feeling the importance that he has rubbed shoulders with the best. I understand this mentality and even as a winemaker, I often drop Len's name to lift the Hunter's profile (why would the king of Australian wine live in the Hunter if it wasn't the best?). Occasionally, however, I strike someone who struts into the cellar door with the sole intention of impressing a female accomplice. They do not intend to fork out a cent to buy any wine yet

Mel Gibson isn't far behind. Russell Crowe, Kylie Minogue and Nicole Kidman seem to be related to a surprising number of people and Hugh Jackman attended more schools than are actually registered in Australia. The wine industry, you can appreciate (or perhaps not) attracts all types. Let's just say that the social implications involving anything to do with good bottled wine is extremely appealing to many. From the growing of the grapes through to the appraisal and consequent ingestion of wine, it is an exciting journey for all of us to explore. Again, this need for an attachment to a famous face appears in memories and myths and stories alike. Within the industry, there are a handful of wine identities who certainly command respect for their chosen strengths. One man, however, stands alone when Australian wine drinkers strike a motion to tell the world the stories of their mystic journey with the magical nectar of the vine. The chap I speak of lives in our area. He even reads the Branxton-Greta News as you are doing now. He is without doubt the most celebrated wine identity in Australia and one of the top wine figures in the world. From a male point of view, Len Evans is an easy guy to dislike. He is confident. He is smart. He has an extremely well modulated speaking voice. He is one of Australia's best golfers. He is one of Australia's best fisherman. He is one of Australia's most talented architects and interior designers. He is an expert in antiques and art and music. He is a world class chef. His knowledge and palate with regards to wine is unparalleled. He is

'Let us celebrate the occasion with wine and sweet words' Plautus

they taste everything twice and hammer the Len Evans stories around the room for hours on end. I remain polite until I sense they feel in complete control of the situation at hand - that of impressing - and then I enthusiastically announce that I will be seeing Len a bit later and promise to relay their regards as soon as I see him. It's amazing how many people forget their own name upon this request. They almost stutter as their face turns to beetroot. Odd, very odd. When I was in Singapore last week, I was guest speaker at a wine dinner for about 45 people at an exclusive golf club. The majority of the crowd were younger than 40 or 45 and of Asian background. During my delivery I dropped Len's name and rambled on how good the Hunter was etc. etc. I got the feeling that everything I was talking about was so foreign to them I had to try and say something familiar. I went on..... "This wine here is a classic Hunter Semillon" I preached. They picked up their glasses and smelt and tasted the wine without a facial expression altering throughout the room. "This is one of my best mates Russell Crowe's favourite wines" I added, "he's a big fan of Hunter Semillon". The whole room "ooooohhhed" and "Aaaahhed" at his familiar name and they picked up their glasses smelling and tasting the wine with a renewed zeal."And Russell has always wanted to meet Len Evans" I keenly added. Cutting a long story short, I sold more Semillon in one night than I would in a month and Russell Crowe and Len Evans then became the talking piece for the night. During the closing stages of the night an Australian chap turned up late to the dinner and approached me to apologise as he was stuck in meetings at work. I quickly summed up what the night had entailed when he announced without prompt that he was very familiar with Australian wine and started rehashing a Len Evans story. It went on for a while until his wife (who had been at the dinner the entire night) interrupted us and exclaimed that I was best friends with Russell Crowe. His face lit up and he excitedly told me that he and Russell's wife, Danielle, were great family friends. "What's your name again, I'll tell Russell I met you" he enthused. I went a slight shade of red and curiously couldn't for the life of me remember my own name. "I'll tell you what" I said with a wink "If you don't tell Russell I was here, I won't tell Len you were here".
Cheers, Andrew
Leonard "Len" Paul Evans AO OBE (31 August 1930 - 17 August 2006) was an English-born Australian promoter, maker, judge, taster, teacher and drinker of wine.

Blast from the Past

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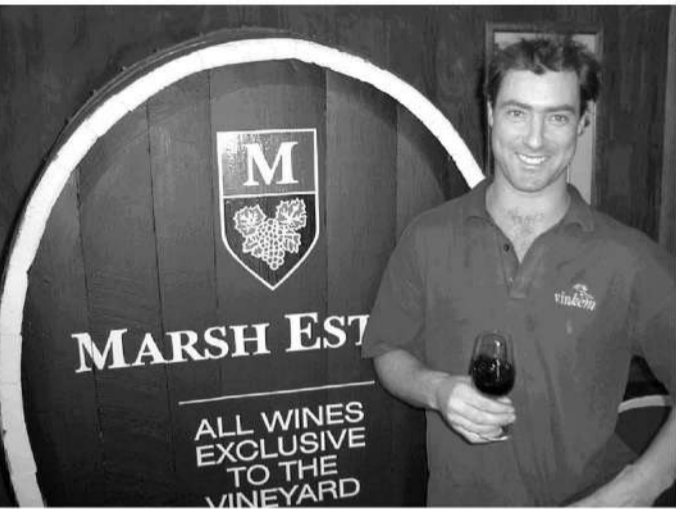
Beckett takes out Xstrata Pro-Am

by Peree Dagg



TAMARA Beckett has shot a 9 under total of 135 to take out the inaugural 2 day ladies Pro-Am at Branxton Golf Club. Beckett doubled her season earnings on the ALPG season tour in one weekend with a convincing 5 shot victory. She had 5 under on day one and maintained her good form to shoot 4 under on day 2. Beckett has had a solid season but was not intimidated by the high profile names in the field. Second place was taken out by Karen Lunn, Joanne Mills and Katherine Hull. Lunn now moves into third place on the season order of Merit table. The two day Branxton tournament saw 15 players shoot aggregates under par and spectators were treated to some fine play by the visiting ladies. The leading amateur was Royal Adelaide's Stephanie Na on 6 over par. The event was also the final tournament in the inaugural ALPG Club Car series. Shani Waugh came to Branxton with a slender lead and shot a one over par aggregate for a tie for 5th place and took out the series. The move by the Branxton Golf Club Pro-Am committee to make the tournament a ladies professional event was rewarded with a competitive competition, great media coverage and players who are keen to return.
Photo Above: Xstrata Pro-Am winner Tamara Beckett

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When I was growing up, one of my father's greatest past-times was reflecting upon his rugby career. Considering he hung up his boots at the age of 41, there were literally thousands of memories and stories to match. We endured these stories so often that in the end we would anticipate the next sentence and finish the story ourselves. You know how it is. Anyway, Dad's favourite stories always centred around a familiar scenario, the fact that he played with a chap by the name of Ken Catchpole. Dad was a star player yet this affiliation with "Catchy" somewhat propelled his own ability into another dimension. As time went on, I began to notice that many people Dad's age played with Ken Catchpole. As time continued, I began to notice that everyone Dad's age who had ever touched a football played with Ken Catchpole. Nowadays, even people who didn't play rugby in those days have miraculously played with Ken Catchpole. Let's be honest, Australians excel in the art of attaching themselves to a famous face. Forget six degrees of separation - let's make it one. If you're into golf, you've met Greg Norman. In fact you've played with Greg Norman. He's actually really a friend. Well, a really good friend. When Greg Norman passes on he was one of your best friends and you can't believe that someone so close to you has gone. My grandfather used to play cricket with Don Bradman. When he was a kid he rode Phar Lap around the stables in Kensington. In fact, he hit a six playing

Belford Rural Fire Brigade clock up 400 years service

At a recent award presentation ceremony at the Singleton Civic Centre, members of the Belford Brigade were recognised for their dedication & years of service to their local volunteer bushfire brigade. Those to receive awards were:- Pictured back - Paul Shearer (15yrs), Judy Elliott (15yrs), John Elliott (25yrs), Robert Bendeich (15yrs), Front - Ray Lambert (25yrs), Les Duggan (15yrs), Ken Dreaper (15yrs), Glen Shearer (35yrs), Edith Shearer (25yrs), Ernie Bendeich (50yrs), Ann Dunn (15yrs), James Bendeich (15yrs) Also receiving long service awards but absent on the day were - Jim Brown (25yrs), Lloyd Standen (25yrs), Kelvin Landers (25yrs), Sam Hobbs (15yrs), Jill Bowman (15yrs), Ray Bowman (15yrs) Craig Nichols (15yrs). Congratulations to all.



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LEGAL

A review of the 'minor injury' definition in the Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017

Minor Injuries

The *Motor Accident Injuries Act 2017* came into effect in 2017 and impacts upon all motor vehicle accidents in NSW occurring on or after 1 December 2017. Under the new scheme, many injured people are deemed to have sustained a 'minor injury'. The question of whether someone has sustained a minor injury is relevant to the determination of the persons' entitlement to claim damages and to income and medical treatment beyond 6 months from the date of injury.

So what is a 'minor injury' under the scheme? The 2017 Act provides that a 'minor injury' is a soft tissue injury or minor psychological or psychiatric injury.

The Act defines a soft tissue injury as follows:

"an injury to tissue that connects, supports or surrounds other structures or organs of the body (such as muscles, tendons, ligaments, menisci, cartilage, fascia, fibrous tissues, fat, blood vessels and synovial membranes), but not an injury to nerves or a complete or partial rupture of tendons, ligaments, menisci or cartilage."

The Act provides that a minor psychological or psychiatric injury is defined as an injury which "is not a recognised psychiatric

illness".

The definition is also instructed by the 2017 Regulations. The test tends to focus on how to objectively diagnose the injury as opposed to considering the impact caused to the individual as a result of the injury.

If an injured person has more than one injury and at least one of injuries is not a minor injury, they will avoid the 'minor injury' category. In other words, if someone has sustained soft tissue injuries and also a broken bone, the injuries as a whole will be considered non-minor.

Ultimately it is the CTP insurer who makes the decision as to whether a person has sustained a 'minor injury' and this decision must be made at 3 months from the date that a claim is made. If a person receives a notice that they have a 'minor injury', they can request an internal review from the insurer but this must be made within 28 days. Requesting a review is a mandatory first step in challenging a 'minor injury' decision.

If the 'minor injury' determination is upheld by the insurer, the injured person can lodge an application the Dispute Resolution Service ("DRS") within 28 days from the

earlier date of either receipt of the insurers internal review decision or the due date of that decision.

The DRS will then refer the matter to a medical assessor. The medical assessor will issue a Certificate as to whether the injury is minor and the findings of this assessor are binding. There are appeal rights however these are limited.

If there is a deterioration in the condition or new evidence becomes available that supports the submission that the injury is not minor, it may be possible for the injured person to undergo a further medical assessment. It should be noted that only one further medical assessment is available.

The new scheme will have been in place a number of years. The State Insurance Regulatory Authority ("SIRA") announced that they will be conducting a review of the 'minor injury' definition against the objectives of the Act. They are seeking feedback from people and organisations who have been directly involved with the CTP scheme since it commenced in December 2017.

Further details on the consulting process can be found at www.sira.nsw.gov.au.
Cheers, Gemma



No easy solution to fix the regional housing shortage

By Katrina Creer



A boom in regional development is adding pressure to the housing crisis in country areas, with some workers forced to sleep in their cars due to lack of accommodation.

Almost three years on from the pandemic, many locals are also struggling to find a home with the influx of city-dwellers to lifestyle destinations, rising immigration and the popularity of short-term holiday letting depleting stock levels. Those looking to relocate to regional areas for work are being squeezed into unsuitable accommodation or turning down jobs due to the housing crisis.

REINSW Chief Executive Officer Tim McKibbin said property managers are often unable to find accommodation for those in need. He is calling on all levels of Government to act and incentivise change. "There are people who are just outright desperate – they have the means to support themselves and pay rent, but they just can't find anywhere," he said. "The solution conceptually is very simple; we need more property. It is economics 101 – we talk about people trying to buy or rent a property but there just isn't enough for the population."

How big is the problem?

Tracie Robertson, Managing Director/Principal from Ray White Parkes said vacancy rates don't show the whole picture, instead, she prefers to look at the number of applicants per rental listing. "We often cap this at 10 per property at peak times, in slower times we receive around three applications per property which sounds like it is improving, but that is still more people than houses," she said. Also adding to the pressure are the 220 flood-affected properties in the region, with some 70 homes rendered uninhabitable. Projects such as the Newell Highway upgrade and Inland Rail are expected to draw more people to regional areas, but lack of accommodation is making it challenging. As a result, fewer families are now coming to the area.

"We need skilled workers such as engineers," said Ms Robertson, who is Chair of the REINSW's Compass Chapter.

"People come out here for an interview, then call into the agency and when they see there is nothing suitable, they tend to decline job offers. It is hard explaining to tenants that while they may want built-in wardrobes and an ensuite, they are lucky to get a house at all.

"Recently, we were working with a fellow earning \$200K a year who had been sleeping in his car."

What is adding to the pressure?

While there is a push for workers to return to the office, many are continuing to work remotely. Adding to the frustration is that many properties – mostly on the NSW Far North Coast – are sitting empty when not being used as holiday homes or as short-term accommodation.

"Areas under pressure are the places that offer the best lifestyle. Landlords can see they can make more money in the holiday and short-term rental market and retain a lot more control over their property than in the residential market," Mr McKibbin said.

"We are seeing residential rental property bleeding off into that area, which is exacerbating the problem even further."

In other areas, Airbnbs are being used to take the overflow of short-term contract workers staying at hotels, motels, caravans and pubs.

What is needed?

Tara Searle, a sales executive with Dubbo Real Estate, said higher rents are putting pressure on local families. Not everyone has access to a vehicle and the

lack of public transport makes it unfeasible for some to move further out of town.

The latest Domain Rent Report released earlier this month shows that the median asking rent for houses across regional NSW increased 10.3 per cent last year – from \$485 to \$535 per week. The biggest jumps were recorded in the Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Maitland, Broken Hill and Forbes LGAs up by 14 per cent or more.

Ms Searle believes medium to high-density development is needed. She argues people are just as time-poor in regional areas as in the city and are no longer moving to town in search of a big backyard.

"A development for 48 townhouses has just been approved here which is great, but of course, we needed this all yesterday," Ms Searle said.

"We can collaboratively work together and keep pushing for more supply and rental properties, but it is not an overnight solution – so, what do we do in the meantime?"

Why investors are key to the solution

Ms Searle, a member of the REINSW Compass Chapter Committee, is concerned that despite high yields, changes to no-grounds evictions and pets in rental properties could see investors turn away from the regional property market. Instead, she wants to see incentives to keep the market attractive.

Mr McKibbin agrees that quick fixes such as the State Government's recent ban on rent bidding will have little impact on the problem. He believes such announcements simply divert the community's attention away from the failure to provide the necessary housing.

Quicker approval for developments and reducing Government taxes/charges on new homes could make a real difference in increasing supply in regional areas.

"The REINSW will continue to lobby the Government and Opposition coming into the election – we want them to be focused on the problem and that is supply," he said.

"We see symptomatic responses to the problem but what is needed is a proactive approach to deal with supply and until the Government does this, the problem will not just remain but is going to get worse."

RBA interest rates: Reserve Bank lifts official rate to 3.35% in record ninth consecutive hike to tame inflation

Mortgage holders likely to feel immediate pain but RBA indicates further increases to come in attempt to bring inflation under control

Australia's central bank has slugged borrowers with another increase in interest rates, extending the record run of hikes to nine meetings in a row as it tries to cut inflation, and indicating there are "further increases" to come.

The Reserve Bank at its first board meeting of 2023 on 7th February raised its cash rate 25 basis points to 3.35%, its highest level in just over a decade. Most economists had predicted such an increase.

"Global inflation remains very high" RBA governor Philip Lowe said in the accompanying statement.

"It is, however, moderating in response to lower energy prices, the resolution of supply-chain problems and the tightening of monetary policy," Lowe said. "It will be some time, though, before inflation is back to target rates" of 2%-3% over time.

In a signal that the RBA sees the cash rate rising by at least another half percentage point, Lowe said "the Board expects that further increases in interest rates will be needed over the months ahead to ensure that inflation returns to target and that this period of high inflation is only temporary".

The RBA began lifting the rates from a record low 0.1% during last May's federal election after a spike in inflation. The increase dented the Morrison government's re-election hopes but further rises at every RBA board meeting since have posed new treasurer Jim Chalmers a monthly challenge to explain why debt repayment costs were rising yet again.

Australia's consumer price inflation was running at an annual pace of 7.8% in the December quarter, the highest in more than 32 years, even with three full percentage points of rate rises by the RBA by then. Additional monthly mortgage repayments could swell to \$1,058 for a typical \$500,000 loan compared with pre-May 2022 levels if the RBA were to lift its cash rate by another 50bp to 3.85%, according to RateCity.

Among the major banks, both ANZ and Westpac were predicting 3.85% as the peak interest rate prior to today's verdict. Financial markets also priced in a higher RBA rate summit before it declines. The benchmark stock index lost about 0.5% and the Australian dollar gained about a quarter of a US cent to nudge 69.5 US cents after the rates decision.

Ahead of Friday's release of the RBA's quarterly monetary policy statement, Lowe also indicated that the consumer price index will take a while to subside to the bank's target range.



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.

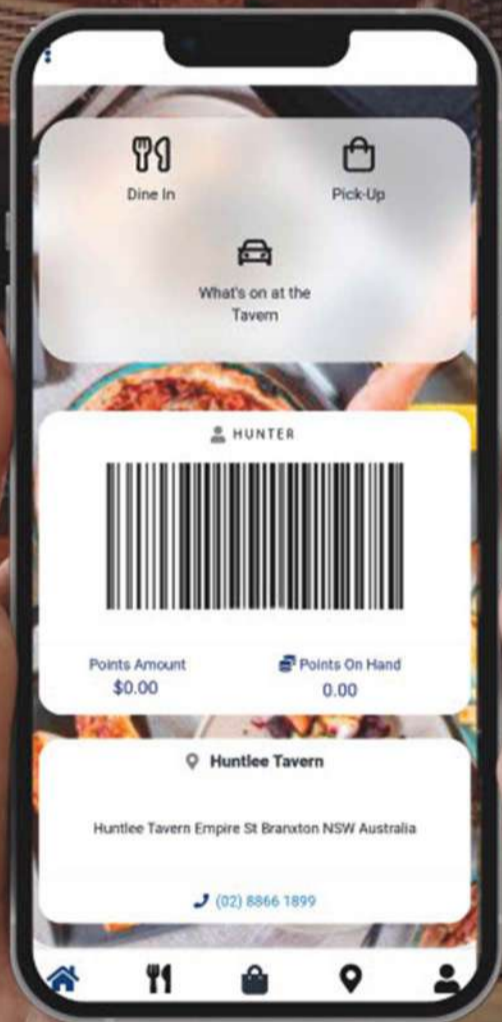
The station broadcasts from Bimbadeen near Cessnock on 96.5M. Programs include a wide variety of musical tastes interspersed with hourly News and Weather. There is also pertinent local information and bulletins, regular community notices and many specialty shows of cultural and social interest.

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 Quarrolong valley.

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Things You May Not Know About



.....GRETA

with Neridah Kentwell

Local Events a Century Ago – January and February 1920

Maitland Weekly Mercury on Tuesday 6 January 1920, page 4

Anniversary Day Sports at Branxton A sports carnival will be held on Branxton park on Anniversary Day (January 26), in aid of a soldiers memorial hall. Bicycle and foot running handicaps will be competed for, liberal prizes being offered. Entries for all handicap events will close on the 15th Instant, with the secretaries of local bicycle clubs or Returned Soldiers Leagues, or with Mr L. Harrigan, hon. sec. of the sports committee at Branxton.

Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate, Wednesday 14th January, page 5– Greta

On the motion of Alderman Ebrill, seconded by Alderman Proudfoot, it was decided to again ask the Railway Commissioners to consider the question of running a passenger train on Sundays. Alderman Lewis, the Mayor, informed Alderman Beswick that the rotunda committee would be called together shortly,

with a view to proceeding with the erection of the rotunda.

Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners Advocate on Saturday 17th January, page 2 – Greta. William Lewis, 15 years old and employed at Whitburn Colliery, became caught in a machine where one arm was almost severed and three fingers of the other hand cut off. He was taken to the Colliery office then went to Maitland Hospital. His father was also in the hospital suffering from a fever. By the 24th January, William's arm amputated but he was reported to be doing as well as could be expected.

In *Greta: The Town and Its People 150 Years*, compiled by Val Randall, first published in 1993, William had become a minor celebrity in that he was featured as an unsung hero, and written about by Jean Kingston (Allan). Bill, or 'Wingy' as many locals had called him, was admired for the way he overcame his disability with 'courage and determination'. He lived his life to the full, was a keen sportsman which included cycling and, as well, had his own coal carting business.

He married and had children but died in 1957, aged just 51 years.

Maitland Weekly Mercury on Saturday 24 January 1920, page 4

The Returned Soldiers Association will conduct a sports carnival on the Branxton Park on Anniversary Day (January

26). Splendid entries have been received, and the first event will start at 10am. There will be a grand procession at 10 o'clock of Diggers in uniform. Friendly Societies, and patriotic bodies, will hold a social at night.

Maitland Weekly Mercury on Saturday 24 January 1920, page 6 – GRETA

The sports (day) and procession organised by The R S & S I League (Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League), for the purpose of raising funds to build a memorial hall, proved a great success. *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* on Tuesday 27 January, 1920, page 5–

Greta and Belford cricket teams played at Greta on Saturday and Belford won by 61 runs. Belford scored 97 (Deakins 20, Jacobs 14, Ivy 13) and Greta 36 (Walton 14 not out). *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* on Friday 30 January, 1920, page 5

The Greta Council met on Tuesday. Alderman John A Lewis was Mayor. (There does not appear to be any connection between the Mayor and Wingy Lewis's family.)

The State Treasurer had paid to the council's credit a sum of £70 (\$140) towards a main roads grant.

Messrs. Morgan and Morgan wrote to council, forwarding plans of the proposed subdivision of Leconfield Estate.

The district superintendent of railways wrote to the council to say that the Commissioners could not agree to the running of a train on Sundays.

Maitland Daily Mercury on Wednesday 4 February, 1920 page 3

& Maitland Weekly Mercury on Saturday 7 February, 1920, page 3

BRANXTON SPORTS: A SUCCESSFUL GATHERING The sports carnival held under the auspices of the local branch of the RSL was a success in every way.

There was a large attendance including visitors from other centres. The sport provided was the best ever seen in Branxton.

It was clean and most of the finishes, close. It is recognised by the sports committee that much of the success of the venture was due to the interest taken by the secretaries of the



different bicycle groups in Maitland, Cessnock and Singleton. The ladies of Branxton and North Rothbury also worked hard to make the sports a grand success. They succeeded in catering in the best of style for all who needed refreshments during the day.

A grand procession of Diggers and Red Cross Workers in uniform and members of the different friendly societies in regalia marched from East Branxton onto the ground. The social held in the evening was most successful. About 100 couples danced to the strain of the Bendeich's orchestra. The ladies again provided a splendid tea. Mr R Cole ably performed the duties of MC. During the evening Mr G Perrett rendered a song and received a hearty round of applause.

Maitland Weekly Mercury on Saturday 6 February 1920, page 7

In connection with a report of the recent sports carnival at Branxton, it should have been stated that H. Slade, of Cessnock, won the slow bicycle race.

Maitland Weekly Mercury

on Saturday 7 February, 1920, page 13 – Central Hall, Greta, was filled to capacity for the semi-finals and final of a £10 boxing tournament promoted by Messrs Brooker and Redgrove. It showcased evenly matched contestants who included Reckenberg of Abermain who 'gained the decision' over Texas Allen of Branxton after six hard fought rounds. In the other semi, Jack Fenton of Branxton gained 'uneasy victory' over Pascoe of Elderslie. The final between Fenton and Reckenberg was regarded as 'well worth staging in any stadium' and consisted of six gruelling rounds for the participants and one of continued excitement for the audience. Jack Skillicorn's (the referee) decision in favour of Fenton, was approved of by all those watching, as were all his other judgements.

Singleton Argus, Thursday 12 February 1920, page 3

DISTRICT NEWS, BRANXTON On Saturday last, the Branxton Amateur Athletic Club continued their usual fortnightly events. The various items were well contested and some exciting finishes were witnessed. Although the club has only been in existence since November last, it has progressed wonderfully and at present has over 40 members. *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate* on Thursday 12 February, 1920, page Greta ~ A special meeting of the council was held for the purpose of electing the Mayor. The Mayor's allowance was fixed at £10 per annum, payable quarterly. Alderman Walton was elected to the position. Alderman Beswick drew attention to the fact that the second (daily) mail delivery was to be done away with, and that there was to be a curtailment of the facilities for the delivery of telegrams. Alderman Harris

drew attention to the state of the bridge in North Street. At the conclusion of business the aldermen and officials and a number of rate payers partook of refreshments at the invitation of the Mayor, Alderman Walton.

Maitland Weekly Mercury on Saturday 21 February, 1920, page 14

At the Veitch parent's residence at Harper's Hill, Greta, a splendid welcome home was put on for Private William and Private Robert. William was accompanied by his English bride. The men had returned from a long period of active service abroad. There were a hundred visitors present and a sumptuous spread was provided. Mr William Leonard presided and toasts were proposed, and duly honoured, to 'The King', 'Guests of the Evening', 'Parents', 'R S & S League' (Returned Sailors and Soldiers League) and 'The Visitors'.

During the evening Private William Veitch was complimented on the step he had taken in choosing and bringing out a wife to Australia.

The hope was expressed that Mrs Veitch would find Australia everything that it was supposed to be, and that she would find and make many true friends out here. Parlour games, interspersed with musical harmony, took up the remainder of a very pleasant evening.

For more information on our area's history, and lots of pictures, call into Greta Museum, situated in the former Greta Council Chambers at 96 High Street, Greta on Wednesday or Saturday between 11am and 3pm.

Photo at top left: William 'Wingy' Lewis



Greta Museum

Continues to open and exhibit Army and Migrant Camp photos and memorabilia, as well as coal mining, sporting and some family histories, and artefacts, from the local area's past.

Open each Wednesday and Saturday 11am – 3pm at 96 High Street, Greta, in the former Greta Council Chambers.

Memorial Service
John Saxon Bryant OAM.
Service will be held on Sunday 19th February at 11.30 am.
Black Hill Uniting Church
Black Hill Road. Black Hill.

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Fifth COVID vaccine jab recommended by ATAGI

All Australian adults will soon be eligible to receive a fifth COVID vaccine after the government implemented the recommendations of its health advisory panel.

Federal health and aged care minister Mark Butler announced today that based on the advice of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), all adults who have not had a COVID booster or a confirmed case of COVID in the past six months can now get another booster – which for most would be their fifth jab.

In particular, ATAGI says people aged 65 and over, as well as anybody at risk of serious illness, should make sure they get another booster in 2023. However, all adults will be eligible.

The advice is specific to the situation in Australian in early 2023, and ATAGI says its ongoing surveillance of COVID-19 infection rates, new variants and vaccine effectiveness will determine any future recommendations concerning boosters.

“From February 20, all adults who haven’t had a booster or an infection in the past six months can go out and get a booster shot, to give them additional protection against severe illness from COVID,” Mr Butler says.

“If you’re 65 or over, or you’re an adult at risk of severe COVID illness, and it’s been six months since your last booster or infection, it’s now time for a booster.”

Any available COVID vaccine will suffice as a booster shot, but ATAGI says Omicron-specific mRNA booster vaccines are the most effective. Currently, there are four million Omicron-specific doses in the country, with another 10 million doses set to arrive before the end of February.

“The government has secured millions of doses of Omicron-specific boosters, with millions more arriving this month, in the largest one-month arrival since late 2021,” Mr Butler says.

“Minister for aged care Anika Wells and I will be writing to aged care providers to encourage them to bring local pharmacists and GPs into their facilities to administer the additional booster doses.”

The move into aged care facilities is particularly important as the number of COVID deaths in the sector jumped sharply last month.

Data from the Department of Health confirmed that there were 597 COVID deaths across care facilities between 22 December and 25 January, compared with just 246 deaths between November and December.

While getting a COVID booster is important, new daily case numbers are at their lowest point for months, at around 3000 cases per day.

This is down from a peak of 110,000 cases per day in January and February 2022.

\$290,000 grant for Greta Central Park to upgrade off leash Dog area

Cessnock City Council has received a grant of \$290,000 to upgrade the ‘off leash dog exercise area’ at Greta Central Park. The project involves fencing an existing ‘off leash area’ as well as providing landscaping and supporting infrastructure, including access to water, seating and bins.

“The existing off leash area is relatively barren, is not fenced and there is no supporting infrastructure. Fencing of the site and associated upgrades will provide high

quality designated off leash area and is identified within Council’s Off Leash Dog Exercise Plan 2021,” said Cessnock Mayor Jay Suvaal. * Above: The area. Circled in red, currently used for off leash dog exercise area.

GRETA CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN



Happy 90th Birthday Pat



Pat Wilson of Branxton celebrated her 90th Birthday with Husband Errol and family at Miller Park Hotel on the 6 January & a good time was had by all who attended. Congratulations



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Read all about it! BRANXTON GRETA Seniors Festival

Senior citizens flocked to the Branxton and Greta Seniors Festival events at the Branxton Women's Shed and the Greta Branxton Men's Shed on Saturday 11 February. The events were coordinated by the Lions Club of Branxton and were partnered with Northern Coalfields Community Care Association (NCCCA) of Cessnock and it was delivered under the auspices of Cessnock City Council. Branxton Lions were present at both locations to provide their world-famous sausage sandwiches which they gave out free courtesy of sponsors, Green Ridge Retirement Village. The entertainment started at the Branxton Women's Shed with an open day and an art gallery which were visited by MP Clayton Barr and prospective Upper Hunter candidate, Peree Watson (NSW Labor). The local well-respected Senior Citizen Ambassador for the 2023 Seniors Festival, Mike Lowing, was present and, in his role as a journalist and newspaper publisher, put some questions about local amenities to the politicians.

Many of the visitors to the event then went on a 'magical mystery tour' firstly stopping at the Miller Park Hotel where Bowling Supremo and Hotel Manager, Glen Cliff explained the joys of playing bowls and the advantages for seniors to aid flexibility, clear thinking, and fitness.

The magical mystery tour then went on to the Greta Branxton Men's Shed where they found a myriad of handicrafts and some were in the mood to buy the chairs, chopping boards and useful kitchen items. There were over 40 visitors to the Greta site, and they were fascinated by the variety of handicrafts and technical projects the men's shed undertakes. Dick Wesserling demonstrated the Greta Memorial lights that were replicated from the originals and are now almost ready for re-fitting with the advantage of solar panels power.

The tour went ever-onward and called in at the Greta Workers Club for a delicious lunch stop while they received further advice about the sport of bowling while viewing the recently renovated and re-furnished premises.

All good things must come to an end, and the weary travellers found their way back to the Branxton Women's Shed and were then taken to their various home addresses. The visitors said they were very happy with their day out and the NCCCA said they would be back to visit on more occasions. Alan Beckley, Marketing & Communications Chairperson of the Lions Club of Branxton said: 'I want to thank all the organisations that participated, particularly Karen Johanson, organiser of Branxton Women's Shed, Kevin Bell, (President) and Dick Wesserling, (Treasurer) of the Greta Branxton Men's Shed and William Crowley, CEO of NCCCA, for making this such a special day. Also thanks to the Team from Branxton Lions who work tirelessly for the community'.



Peree Watson and Clayton Barr visit the Branxton Lions BBQ stall

From the Lions' Den

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

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

Meanwhile, (not for the faint-hearted), across the road in Miller Park Oval, a red-hot 10-over cricket competition will be held between local rival cricket clubs for the title of the 10-Over cricket champions 2023.

Childhood Cancer— Wednesday 15 February was International Childhood Cancer Day

Facts: Globally, childhood cancer looks like this:

400,000 children diagnosed
9 in 10 diagnosed children live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)

<30% of children with cancer in LMICs survive, compared to >80% in high-income countries

YOU can make a donation to research for childhood cancer through your local Lions Club

COMING UP – ACTION PACKED SUNDAY - Clean Up Australia and Lions Awareness Day are back for **2023 Plus: Branxton Greta Cricket Club 10-Over Competition**



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

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



Greta Branxton Men's Shed Dick Wesserling demonstrates handicraft products and the authentic light fitting for the Greta RSL Rotunda which has been in production using many handicraft and computer-aided techniques



Clayton Barr in weighty conversation with Colin (Bus Driver) and William Crowley from NCCCA



Hard working Branxton Lions, Sean MacCormack and President Rod Taylor take a short break from the BBQ at Greta Men's Shed



Inside the Branxton Women's Shed – lots of excellent hand-made items using myriad techniques



Karen Johanson of Branxton Women's Shed is happy to greet some visitors



Glen Cliff, Manager of the Miller Park Hotel explains bowling techniques and mentions fitness to the visitors



The happy team from Branxton Lions Club, from left to right: Cathy Murray, Catherine MacCormack, Sean MacCormack, Colleen Anderson and sampling a sausage sandwich to test for quality control: John Webb. Thanks also to Branxton Lions member Brian Thomas who took the photo.

Glaucoma Australia, 7 sights challenge - Sign up for free and join the 7 Sights Challenge

'Up to 50% of Australians with glaucoma, don't even realise they have it until it's too late' (quote from Glaucoma, Australia). Throughout the month of March, you'll have the opportunity to get active and find, snap, and share seven awesome sights to take glaucoma blindness out of the picture. Keep it local or complete your challenge wherever you happen to be – there are incredible sights all around us!

EAT UP Australia

Did you know that more than 1 in 5 Australian children have experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months? Project 'Eat Up Australia' whose motto is, 'feeding hungry kids so they can grow, learn, and succeed' is being supported by local Lions Clubs by providing 'simple and nutritious' sandwiches for schools where children are suffering food insecurity and have not eaten breakfast or brought lunch to school. The Eat Up project started in February with six schools in Warners Bay, Morrissett, Toronto, and Wangi. The Lions Clubs in those areas are spreading the project to new areas such as Maitland – and will soon be coming your way.



The Team from Branxton Lions busy setting up the BBQ gear for the Touch Football session on Wednesday 8 February

Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:

Branxton Greta Cricket 10-Over Competition. Sunday 5 March
 Clean up Australia Day and Lions Awareness. Sunday 5 March. 10-1pm
 Lions Lunch. Thursday 16 March
 Transport NSW BBQs. Sat 25 & Sun 26 March. 8.30-5.00

Cessnock City Council Invites Residents to Free Mattress Drop-Off Event



FREE MATTRESS DROP-OFF

Saturday 25 February 2023, 8am-12 noon
 Mount View Basin Car Park
 Mount View Road, Cessnock

Conditions apply | www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/MattressDropOff

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce the return of its highly anticipated free mattress drop-off event on Saturday, 25 February 2023 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Mount View Basin Car Park, Mount View Road, Cessnock.

Residents of Cessnock City are welcome to dispose of up to four mattresses or bases at no cost. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or rates notice, will be required. Please note that the event is for residents of Cessnock City Council only and that mattress drop-offs must be made using a vehicle, as pedestrian access will not be permitted.

"We are committed to making it easier for our residents to dispose of their household waste in an environmentally responsible way," said Mayor Jay Suvaal.

"The free mattress drop-off event is a perfect opportunity for residents to get rid of their old mattresses and contribute to a cleaner, greener community."

For those unable to attend the drop-off event, mattresses can be taken to the Cessnock Waste Management Centre for disposal for a fee of \$39.

For additional information on the disposal of mattresses or other household waste, visit the Council's website Disposal of other household waste page.

Mark your calendars and take advantage of this convenient and eco-friendly opportunity to dispose of your old mattresses.

When
 Saturday, 25 February 2023 | 08:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location
 Mount View Basin Carpark, Mount View Road, Cessnock, View Map
 For more information visit: www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/MattressDropOff

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL TREE GIVEAWAY

Cessnock City Council's annual tree giveaway is on again. Eligible residents can receive up to six free trees for their property.

People living in the Cessnock Local Government Area who have built a new home during the 2021/22 financial year (1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022) can choose from a range of plants, including ground covers like Star of Jasmine through to shrubs like Coastal Rosemary, bottlebrush and gardenia.

Cessnock City Council Mayor, Jay Suvaal was excited to see the Tree Giveaway happen again.

"We believe in the power of community and nature to create a more beautiful and sustainable future. Our annual tree giveaway provides new homeowners with the opportunity to enhance their properties and contribute to a greener Cessnock," said Mayor Jay Suvaal.

"I encourage all eligible residents to take advantage of this program and join us to make Cessnock a thriving and leafy area."

This program has been running for more than two decades and not only does it beautify Cessnock, it has positive environmental impacts as well.

Applications for the program open on Friday 17 February 2023 and close Friday 3 March 2023, with trees collected on Saturday 18 March 2023. Anyone wanting to sign up for the scheme can do so online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/tree-giveaway or drop in to Council's Customer Relations Centre on Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Cessnock City Council TREE GIVEAWAY

APPLICATIONS OPEN
17 FEBRUARY
 TO **3 MARCH**
2023



www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/tree-giveaway



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.

Cessnock Library presents vibrant heritage program

Cessnock City Library is excited to unveil a dynamic and engaging heritage program for 2023 which will include exhibitions, commemorations, surprise events and the ever-popular history walks.

One key highlight of the program is Cessnock's Hidden Herstories in celebration of International Women's Day, which will include an adult 'Show and Tell' with an opportunity to handle rare items from the Local Studies collection.

In addition, attendees to the event will have the opportunity to experience two exhibitions which showcase significantly different parts of our history. The fun and frivolous 'Frocks at the 'Nock' and 'Kurri Kurri Couture' exhibition will coincide with Australian Fashion Week, while the centenary of the Bellbird Colliery disaster is being commemorated with an exhibition exploring the story behind the tragedy.

Library Services Coordinator, Rose-marie Walters encouraged everyone with a love of local history to come along.

"If you love local history, there's something for everyone," Rose-marie Walters said.

"Our first history chat to kick off in February is about one of our oldest buildings, Cessnock Hotel, and will take place inside the hotel itself."

The full Local Studies program is available at Cessnock Library, and can be accessed on their website or by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/mv9vupf5>. For more information, contact Cessnock City Library on 02 4993 4399.

CESSNOCK

Library News



Singleton and Muswellbrook join forces to call for a continuation of the Resources for Regions program to ensure mining-impacted communities are not left behind



As the NSW Government this week announced a freeze on mining royalty rates, the mayors of Singleton and Muswellbrook say an ongoing commitment to the Resources for Regions program would be more beneficial in providing greater certainty – and a just proportion of funds – for those communities that face the daily impacts of mining.

Singleton and Muswellbrook account for a combined total of 43 per cent of NSW's coal mining output, which in 2021 amounted to more than \$18 billion of the State's mining output total of almost \$40 billion (Remplan Economic Output Estimates 2021 Release 3).

With Deputy Premier Paul Toole revealing mining royalties in this financial year were forecast at between \$5-6 billion, Cr Moore and Cr Reynolds said it stood to reason to expect the Resources for Regions program would continue to benefit mining-impacted communities.

Both Mayors agreed the proportion of funds returned to the people of Singleton and Muswellbrook were minuscule compared to the royalties paid to the Government from their LGAs every year.

They have joined forces in the lead up to the March NSW election to appeal to all candidates for the seat of Upper Hunter, as well as the major parties, to pledge the continuation of the program in recognition of the people who live daily with the realities of coal mining for the benefit of NSW.

Their message is simple: Resources For Regions must continue in the same format, with an increased allocation of funds, to allow both councils to continue to work with the State Government to deliver what the community needs and deserves here and now.

Cr Moore said the inclusion of community programs, as well as the number of community projects that had been supported under the reformed Resources For Regions program, was "absolutely astounding".

"Singleton Council is very proud of the approach we've taken to make Resources For Regions about the community by extending the opportunity for funding for a range of projects, and not only Council infrastructure," she said.

"This is not just a funding program for Council, it is about delivering real outcomes for our community in the here and now. It is about lessening the impact that mining has on our people.

"Seeing the difference this program has made to people has just been so rewarding, and it's a great way Council and the State Government can work together to return a just proportion of the economic value of coal mining to our community.

Cr Reynolds said even with the freeze on the amount of royalties being paid to the State, it is only fair that those communities who face the daily impacts are supported.

"This is not about changing the Royalties for Rejuvenation program or the expert panel. They are very future focused. This program is about our communities where the mining impact is felt daily," he said.

"We need ongoing support right now and it would not pass the fair dinkum test if our communities lost the certainty that the Resources for Regions program provides.

"The continuation of this program, and the changes that have been made since Round Seven, are critical to our communities. Taking it away would be an insult."

Photo above: Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore and Mayor of Muswellbrook, Cr Steven Reynolds.



CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR GRANT SCHEME 2022/2023

SPORTING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES - ROUND 2

Cessnock City Council has \$7,610 available within the Sporting Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme - Round 2 and \$18,359 in the Community Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme - Round 2 to distribute to sporting and community groups.

All applicants must contact Council's Recreation and Community Facilities Liaison Officer Kate Hicks on 4993 4234 prior to lodging an application.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES - TIDY TOWNS

Cessnock City Council has \$11,000 available within the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to not-for-profit community environmental groups.

All applicants must contact Council's Sustainability Officer Daniella Gambotto on 4993 4342 prior to lodging an application.

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENT GRANT SCHEME 2023

Cessnock City Council has \$5,000 available within the Schools Environment Grants program to distribute to schools (\$500 per school) and pre-schools (\$200 per centre).

All applicants must contact Council's Sustainability Officers Daniella Gambotto on 4993 4342 or Dani Lloyd-Pritchard on 4993 4163 prior to lodging an application.

Groups are invited to apply for funds through these grant schemes. Grants will be provided through the Sporting Facilities, Community Facilities and Sustainable Communities grant schemes on a dollar for dollar basis. Council will assess applications in line with a preset selection criteria. It is preferred that all projects are completed within a 12 month period.

Application forms and grant guidelines are available from Council's Administration Building or via Council's website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au). Completed application forms must be returned no later than 5pm Friday, 24 February 2023.

Council Chambers

62-78 Vincent St,
Cessnock NSW 2325

Do you **REMEMBER** when....

THE NEWS Issue No 217 21st December 2006 page 9

Wayne Bennett brings crowd to their feet by Peree Dagg

WAYNE Bennett received a standing ovation at the Branxton Golf Club's Annual Rescue Helicopter Sportsman's Dinner last weekend.

In the night's 16th year Bennett's dry manner and down to earth philosophies were hugely popular with the sell out crowd of over 200. The club's gamble in attracting such a high profile speaker well and truly paid dividends with a fantastic night being enjoyed by all. Over \$8000 was also raised in the sports memorabilia auction for the rescue helicopter.

Gary Harley was once again a magnificent compere for the evening. The night began when Harley interviewed four of the tournaments biggest names: Shani Waugh, Cherie Burns, Dana Lacey and Melanie Holmes-Smith who will all compete on the European Circuit in 2007.

Bennett then took the stage; the six time premiership winning coach was given a wonderful introduction and joked yes I did say joked! ... that after that introduction he couldn't wait to hear himself speak.

Bennett spoke of his belief in being part of a team and said he was not a big fan of talking. He said he was reluctant to leave the sunshine state and had flown in specifically for the night's events.

The Xstrata Pro-Am not only gambled on entertainment this year but also took the bold step of making the event a woman's professional tournament.

Sponsors were quick to support the club's initiative and they included:

Major Sponsor ~ Xstrata Coal.
Pro-Am Premium Sponsor ~ Tesa Group.
Major Associate Sponsor ~ McGuigan Wines.
Associate Sponsors ~ Donaldson Coal, Coal Services, Whitehaven Coal Mining, Toohey's, Aristocrat, Lindbeck Partners, MMG, Eagles Plumbing Plus, Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate, NBN, The Newcastle Herald and 2HD.

Congratulations to the organizing committee on a memorable sportsman's night and for the wonderful support it offers to the area's beloved Rescue Helicopter.

Photo : Wayne Bennett with Westpac Rescue Helicopter board member and manager Tony Butterfield.



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@advancecessnock



Shopping local creates more local jobs



Support Local Competition

#SupportLocalCessnock

Terms and Conditions apply

WIN \$5000 worth of Prizes* T & C's apply



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



Support our local businesses by entering our Support Local competition

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

This weeks Product Champion



Maitland St Collective

Maitland Street Collective

Maitland Street Collective has been operating for 4 months and employs 6 staff. Maitland Street Collective is a cafe providing the community with a locally focused menu, and a space to connect. Our Workshop and Gallery bring other local and small businesses together to share their expertise with the community in a fun and accessible way. An extension of the cafe is our event room, which can be hired for workshops, training days, and celebrations. Our locally focused values continue with this offering with catering and decoration.

Maitland Street Collective provide high quality, locally focused products and services. Doing business in Cessnock is great because we are spoilt by the incredible produce and products available, whilst still having that regional close knit feel of community.

Contact: 0412 997 010 | Email: hello@maitlandstcollective.com | Website: <https://maitlandstcollective.com/>



Australian Government

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government

#supportlocalcessnock



Book Reviews

LESSONS in CHEMISTRY

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



Bonnie Garmus



others somewhat grating. But Garmus understands the importance of a satisfying resolution; if her revenge comedy relies a little too heavily on coincidence, that's all part of the larger-than-life, Technicolor world she has created. It's easy to see how fluently the story will translate to the screen, but the real pleasure of the novel is in the dry wit of Garmus's writing.

ABOUT BONNIE GARMUS.....



Bonnie Garmus is an American author and former copywriter. Garmus is from Seattle. She has worked as a copywriter and creative director in the US, and in Switzerland and Colombia.^[1] In 2022, her debut novel, *Lessons in Chemistry* was published. *The Guardian* noted its "polished, funny, thought-provoking story ... it's hard to believe it's a debut." *The New York Times* commented on its "entertaining subplots and witty dialogue". As of January 2022, *Lessons in Chemistry* had been sold into 35 territories and has a television adaptation under way. Garmus is married, with two daughters, and lives in London. She enjoys open water swimming and has rowed competitively.

Bonnie Garmus interview: 'I had to teach myself chemistry from a 1950s textbook'
Author Bonnie Garmus on the terrible day at work that prompted her to write her debut novel *Lessons in Chemistry* and the inspiration behind *Six-Thirty*, one of the most inspirational dogs in fiction.

there with me and I began to write my first chapter." The result was *Lessons in Chemistry*, a story about 1960s America in which Elizabeth Zott, a talented chemist, is forced out of her research job and becomes the star of a popular cooking show. But instead of teaching housewives how to make dinner, she teaches them how to change their lives.

Another inspiration for the Garmus was re-reading Betty Friedan's 1963 classic *The Feminine Mystique*, which prompted memories of her mother and inspired her novel's setting. "I could remember these housewives having to do so much work and take care of so many kids, and it was never recognised as work," she says. As a mother of two daughters, she wanted to write something that has resonance for women today, too: "It occurred to me that my daughters weren't going to have the same job opportunities or be paid the same as men. And they would always, always have to walk home looking over their shoulder. And that's still true in every corner of the world today."

When did it occur to you that you might want to be an author?

Well, I had wanted to be an author since I was five years old, maybe earlier. My daughter found this little book that I wrote when I was probably four. But I had started another novel, which is where Elizabeth Zott came from. She was a very minor character but I never finished that book. Then I wrote another novel, and that didn't go anywhere. And then I wrote this one – and Elizabeth came back. But you know, it's funny, because I know there are all these people who can work and write novels. But since I was working as a copywriter, coming home and writing more was not what I wanted to do. And then there's having kids, walking the dog, exercise – I don't know how people do it.

Your debut novel is being adapted for Apple TV. How does that feel?
It's over-the-top. It's really wonderful, though. It is like giving the child you've raised over to someone else

to finish, so that's a little frightening. I have had the pleasure of working with Susanna Grant, who wrote the screenplay for *Erin Brockovich*, and Brie Larson will star as Elizabeth. So I think I'm in really good hands.

What was the hardest part about writing your book?

Some of the darker parts are always really hard for me to write. I get really upset when I write them but I think they're necessary. Darkness is part of everyone's life no matter what.

But the hardest part was actually keeping the science confined within the 1950s and early 1960s. I could not use Google to research because you can't mention things that have been discovered in 1970. It's really hard when you're reading something, and it mentions, you know, a reaction and you think, okay, 'when was that reaction discovered?' Would it fit the time-frame? So I had to teach myself chemistry from a textbook from the Fifties.

Elizabeth Zott is a brilliant scientist but does she understand the politics that surround her?

She's clueless. She really doesn't understand why everyone just doesn't read science books and understand how the world actually works at a molecular level, because that is really basic to our human understanding of what we're here for and how we live on this earth and all the animals that are here with us and all the plant life and everything. And we often go against it. And we're paying the price for that now.

I don't recognise the people in our governments as people who are working in everyone's best interests. We're not really thinking of science in a world which operates on science. It does not operate on religion, or misogyny, or racism or anything – the Earth spins because of science. And I wish that we would respect those laws of science – follow them and allow that to shape our society.

There is a very special character in this book called Six-Thirty, can you tell us more about

The New York Times Best Sellers

Combined Print & E-Book Fiction 19 Feb 2023

1. 86 WEEKS ON THE LIST

IT ENDS WITH US by Colleen Hoover

Atria

A battered wife raised in a violent home attempts to halt the cycle of abuse.

Ranked 1 last week

2. 16 WEEKS ON THE LIST

IT STARTS WITH US by Colleen Hoover

In the sequel to "It Ends With Us," Lily deals with her jealous ex-husband as she reconnects with her first boyfriend.

3. 13 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.

4. 61 WEEKS ON THE LIST

VERITY by Colleen Hoover

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

5. NEW THIS WEEK

HEART BONES by Colleen Hoover

After an unexpected death prevents her from going to Penn State and forces her to move in with her absent father, Bayah Grim has a summer fling with the rich guy next door.

6. 83 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.

7. 8 WEEKS ON THE LIST

TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW, AND TOMORROW by Gabrielle Zevin

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

8. 56 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.

9. 13 WEEKS ON THE LIST

DEMON COPPERHEAD by Barbara Kingsolver

A reimagining of Charles Dickens's "David Copperfield" set in the mountains of southern Appalachia.

10. NEW THIS WEEK

EXILES by Jane Harper

Questions surrounding the case of a missing woman, which have weighed on Aaron Falk for the past year, emerge at a gathering in the southern Australian wine country.

him?

Okay, well, *Six-Thirty* is the only character in the book who actually is based on somebody. He is based on a dog I had named Friday who was a really intelligent dog. She had been badly abused but she could learn and she knew a lot of words.

But what I really wanted to do with *Six-Thirty* was have a voice from the other side of the animal kingdom commenting on us, loving us, but being kind of fed up with us. Commenting on how ridiculous we can be and how much we lie. You know, animals don't really lie. So I really wanted to bring that out in him and also stand back a little and comment on the choices we make.

Which writer do you most admire and why?

Oh, I have a huge list. As a kid the authors I admired the most were Roald Dahl and Louise Fitzhugh, who wrote *Harriet the Spy*. But then I read Dickens and Tolstoy. I love people who write big stories: Donna Tartt; and oh, gosh, Hanya Yanagihara. I think these people are not only tremendous storytellers, their craft is impeccable. And the craft in a novel is what attracts me to a book.

And I love looking at their sentences on the page – if I feel the rhythm, I know I'm going to stick with it.

Tell us about a book you've reread many times

Oh, I've re-read *The Secret History* three times. And I re-read it three times because I cannot believe her sentences. I think she writes so well and it was her debut novel. I think writing like that is really hard. It is a craft.

And I remember it was Maya Angelou who said she was always infuriated when people said, 'Oh, you're just so good at it' and she said, 'No, I'm not good at it. I rewrite every single thing I do.' It is so hard to just stick with writing and make it work.

What's your most surprising hobby?

Well, I like cold water swimming a lot. You know, actually, it's the UK's fault as I picked up that habit in the UK. I think you guys like to 'do' cold – cold water swimming, wild swimming, just in skins. So now unbelievably, I swim just in a swimsuit in the ponds in the winter, but then in the summer, I use a wetsuit for longer swims. I'm a rower too, but I haven't been rowing at all since being in London.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus review – the right comic formula

A tale of female disempowerment in the 50s and 60s gets a culinary tweak in this sweet revenge comedy very now and again, a first novel appears in a flurry of hype and big-name TV deals, and before the end of the first chapter you do a little air-punch because for once it's all completely justified. *Lessons in Chemistry*, by former copywriter Bonnie Garmus, is that rare beast; a polished, funny, thought-provoking story, wearing its research lightly but confidently, and with sentences so stylishly turned it's hard to believe it's a debut.

Since the success of *The Queen's Gambit* and *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel*, there's been a renewed interest in stories of pioneering women fighting to prove themselves in traditionally male arenas in the years – late 50s and early 60s – before second-wave feminism took off. Elizabeth Zott, the heroine of *Lessons in Chemistry*, follows firmly in their footsteps; the book also nods to the rediscovery of TV chef Julia Child as a trailblazer, and even echoes *Breaking Bad*'s Walter White in Elizabeth's mantra: "Chemistry is change."

As the novel opens in 1961, Elizabeth is a 30-year-old single mother and the reluctant, "permanently depressed" star of a cooking show for housewives called *Supper at Six*. By training she is a research chemist, though her academic career has foundered despite her obvious talent, and as the

narrative jumps back 10 years we understand why. Female scientists are viewed with suspicion by their male colleagues; from her earliest undergraduate days, Elizabeth has been subject to attacks on her reputation and her person, from the major – sexual assault and theft of her work – to the casual everyday misogyny meted out by people, including other women, who see her independence and single-mindedness as a threat. Even when she finds her soulmate, Nobel-nominated chemist Calvin Evans, their happiness is a further spur to jealous rivals and doomed not to last. Though she takes the TV gig to pay the bills after being fired from her research institute, Elizabeth initiates a quiet revolution, using her platform to speak directly to millions of housewives about their own capacity for change. Garmus's great skill here is to create a richly comic novel around a character who is entirely deadpan, and to whom some pretty dreadful things happen: "She'd been defined not by what she did, but by what others had done." The comedy exists in the gap between Elizabeth's calm but dogged refusal to be anything less than herself, and the determination of those around her to squeeze her into an acceptable mould.

There are, inevitably, a few first-novel flaws: the narrative perspective hops around too often, dallying with minor characters when its strength is in Elizabeth's inner life. There's a semi-magic-realist strand from the viewpoint of Elizabeth's unnaturally perceptive dog, which some readers may find charming and quirky and



CONGRATULATIONS TO HUNTER LOCAL LAND SERVICES REAPPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Local Land Services is this month welcoming the reappointment of Allison Mudford and Robyn Parker to the Hunter board.

Regional boards are an important part of strategic commitment to growing Local Land Services and play a key role in connecting communities to services. "Local Land Services boards support our on-ground work focused on securing the long-term sustainability of our natural resources and agricultural industries in NSW," said Tony Hegarty, Hunter Chair.

"Board members bring local views and a range of experience to the table to help improve land management strategies for our customers and the environment. "We're pleased that Allison and Robyn will be able to continue to provide invaluable input to shape our board decisions and strategic support to our frontline staff and customers into the future."

Local Land Services boards are made up of a mix of ministerially appointed and elected members, with staggered terms to ensure consistent ongoing leadership is provided to the organisation.

Allison Mudford

Allison works on her family's 2,500 acre farm. She performs rigorous physical work on the farm, as well as managing the accounting and marketing of the business. Allison sits on the board of the Hunter Land Services and the National Parks and Wildlife Services' regional advisory panel, northern inland. On top of this, the mother of three manages to work part-time for the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal. Here, she works on projects with rural communities to help them combat burnout.

Allison studied Agricultural Science at Melbourne University. By the age of 21, she had bought her own farm, after having worked at Landcare. After eventually meeting husband Daniel, who also had a farm, they purchased their own farm in the Macedon Ranges, Victoria. While they continued to work their corporate jobs while farming, they eventually took on farming full time.

Robyn Mary Parker (born 3 August 1958), is a former Australian politician, and was a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly representing Maitland for the Liberal Party from 2011 to 2015 and was previously a member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales between 2003 and 2011. Parker was the New South Wales Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Heritage in the O'Farrell government from 2011 until April 2014. She was succeeded by Rob Stokes in the Baird cabinet.

Racing Review & Breeding News

Birdsville jigger scandal: Pair found guilty by stewards

By courtesy Ben Dorries



Champion bush trainer Todd Austin has been found guilty by Queensland stewards of three of the four charges which they issued over the Birdsville jigger scandal. However stewards will not pursue a charge relating to Austin possessing a jigger. Austin's wife Toni, the foreperson for his Barcaldine stable, has been found guilty of providing false or misleading evidence to stewards at the inquiry. Jockey Ric McMahon had

already pleaded guilty to possessing a jigger and providing false and misleading evidence in the Birdsville jigger inquiry. The trio have all been given one week to make submissions about penalty before stewards determine their fate in racing. The charges stem from an incident at the famous Queensland bush meeting last August where McMahon was photographed holding what was alleged to be a jigger on a Todd Austin-trained horse

at trackwork. A jigger is a handheld device, usually used in conjunction with a whip, designed to deliver an electric shock to a horse to try and spark a better performance on the track. The photograph was posted online by renowned racing photographer Sharon Chapman but later deleted. A statement issued by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission late on Wednesday afternoon

stated: "Queensland thoroughbred trainer Todd Austin has been found guilty of three of the four charges issued by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission stewards in the Birdsville jigger inquiry. "Mr Austin is guilty of commissioning an act of cruelty to a horse and two charges of providing false or misleading evidence to stewards at the inquiry.

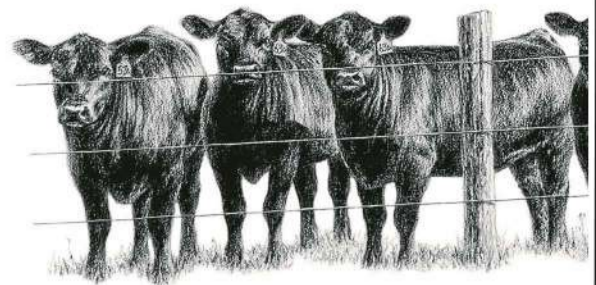
"Mr Austin's wife Toni Austin is also guilty of providing false or misleading evidence to stewards at the inquiry. "Stewards found Mr Austin guilty of an act of cruelty to registered thoroughbred Hemmerle when he engaged jockey Ric McMahon to ride the horse at trackwork during the Birdsville Cup race meeting in August last year. "An alternative charge issued to Mr Austin relating to the possession of the electronic device is not being pursued."



Trainer Todd Austin Picture: Liam Kidston



Jockey Ric McMahon. Picture: Liam Kidston.



Gunnedah

Report Date: 7/02/2023

Total Yarding: 1800 (+365)

Overall numbers increased to 1800 head. There was a good supply of young cattle with yearlings well represented. Grown cattle and cows were also in good supply. Then quality of the offering was fair to good in all categories while condition varied enough to suit all programs. The usual buyers were in attendance. Demand was strong through the young cattle with weaner steers to restockers remaining firm. Lightweight yearling steers also sold on a firm market trend for the most part. Medium weights also showing little change. The heavy weights to feed remained firm while those returning to the paddock saw an odd sale a little cheaper. Light weight yearling heifers posted strong gains with an improvement in quality. Medium weights saw those to feed sell to dearer trends while those to restockers were cheaper in places. Heavy grown steers to feed saw an odd sale show a dearer trend. The well finished lines to process saw a firm trend for the most part with an odd age related dearer sale. Well finished grown heifers sold to a cheaper trend under weaker processor demand. There was little change in the cow market.

HRLX Singleton

Report Date: 8/02/2023

Total Yarding: 718 (+123)

Singleton numbers increased by 123 head to offer 718 very mixed quality cattle. Included in the penning were very well finished grain fed weaners to suit the metropolitan and local butchers. Backgrounders and feeder operators attended to a cheaper market along with limited export demand. Light steer weaners sold to strong demand but a reduction in quality and subdued demand saw averages reduce substantially. Heifers sold to similar trends with the light weaners 380c to 402c/kg. The top of the butcher veal made 430c to 450c/kg. Light yearling steers were considerably cheaper as were the feeder steers selling to 330c/kg and significantly cheaper. Heifers sold to a similar trend with the light categories making to 412c/kg and the medium weights 320c to 370c/kg. No numbers for grown steers or heifers for a proper quote. Restockers stepped into the medium weight cows 179c to 290c/kg. Heavy cows cheaper to top at 250c/kg. Market Operator Stephen Adams

Scone

Report Date: 7/02/2023

Total Yarding: 1028 (+550)

Scone numbers spiked to 1028 very mixed cattle which was an increase of 550 head. It was a penning of young cattle suited to restockers and feeders. There were limited drafts of butcher veal with only two exporters operating and restocker competition subdued. Weaner steers sold to cheaper trends although a slip in quality was a factor for this. There was the odd pen of butcher veal through the steer offering and these sold to marginally dearer trends. Heifer weaners saw considerably cheaper trends with all weaners going to restocker interests. Most of the yearling steer offering sold to cheaper trends with both backgrounders and feeders competing but with limited resources. The better bred restocker steers sold 320c to 430c/kg with the heavy feeders 298c to 390c/kg. Heifers of most categories followed suit selling to cheaper trends. Not many heavy grown cattle to quote but the overlying trends on both steers and heifers was cheaper. Limited cow numbers saw cheaper trends. There was outside interest in yearling bulls to go onto feed. Market Operator Stephen Adams

TRLX Tamworth

Report Date: 6/02/2023

Total Yarding: 1465 (+953)

Following 1st weeks rain reduced penning there was a sharp increase to 1465 head. Cows and yearlings were well supplied with most other categories having some representation. Quality was generally good while condition was quite varied. The usual buyers were in attendance with odd ones armed with extra restocker and feeder orders. Strong restocker demand saw medium weight weaners sell to dearer trends. The few heavier weights were a little cheaper. Light weight yearling steers sold to cheaper trends with buyers showing a preference for similar weight weaners. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers to restock and feed saw little but breed and quality related price change. Medium weight yearling heifers sold to a slightly cheaper trend while reduced demand saw the heavy weights much cheaper. Heavy weight grown steers to feed sold to a slightly dearer trend while those well finished lines to process saw a slightly cheaper trend. Well finished grown heifers followed a similar trend. The cow market remained firm for the most part with quality related price change.

click's



Here's my theory about Passwords....



I have over 100 different passwords and there's NO chance that I can remember them all. So, I have them written down. Ooooooh that's risky I hear you say but not so. Because all my passwords are different, if someone is smart enough to hack any of my gear, they'll only ever access that device and they'll never find any of my other passwords, because they are written down. The Tech Gurus say that's a bad concept but think about it for a minute. If someone hacks one of your devices and all of your passwords are located in Notes, or in a password manager program or in a message or somewhere else on that device, you'd better be quick to tell the bank before your accounts are emptied. However, if your passwords are written down in a book and stored somewhere safe, there is NO chance in hell that a hacker will then come to

your house and go looking for a book that may or may not exist. Makes sense right? Plus, if you do have your passwords stored on your phone and say you lose it, or it's damaged or simply failed, what then? Many of my clients have that problem of not being able to access their passwords to 'get their life' back to normal because they're not written down anywhere. So, you have to start resetting everything because you can't remember them. I know this could NEVER happen to you but I get a dozen requests for help EVERY DAY to reset passwords, setup a new device with email, Facebook, play store, Google etc because it's all become so complicated. Do yourself (and me) a favour, write down ALL of your passwords so you don't have to go from memory. Everyday someone will come into Macdroid's for a repair and give me the wrong passcode for their phone.

It's because they changed it 3 days ago and they can't remember what they changed it to...3 days ago! Also please pay attention when installing the Service NSW App. At least 1 client a day is coming in saying that after installing the App, a password appears on the front screen (passcode lock) that they NEVER had before. You know, the 4 or 6 digit numbers to get into the phone...they never had one, but they do now. So somewhere along the process of setting up the Service NSW App it installed a passcode. You must pay careful attention to the entire process when installing Apps. In most cases, we've had to reset the device which means that ALL the data on the phone is deleted...all of it! If they didn't have a backup, they've lost their photos, contacts, call history and anything else important to them. So here's a summary: Write down all of your passwords in a book and

keep it at home. **When your device is locked with a passcode** – sometimes we can remove it, most of the time it's a device reset and you'll lose everything. **Backup Backup Backup** – you can back up to Cloud accounts, to a computer and depending on your device, to an SD Card. Macdroid's can help set that up for you. **When installing an App**, keep an eye on it to make sure it doesn't install any problems too. **NEVER** click on something that you don't know where it came from. **NEVER** reply to an SMS or Email if you don't know who it's from. Just DELETE them. If it's important, they'll send you a letter. **NEVER** let anyone have access to your device remotely...NEVER! Once you invite them in, your nightmare begins! Any questions? info@macdroids.com.au or drop into the store at Greenhills Cheers, Frank

MOVIE REVIEW

Magic Mike's Last Dance



CONSENSUS

Magic Mike's Last Dance is loose and limber enough to entertain, although it's hard to escape the feeling that this franchise has lost a step or two along the way.

Movie Info

"Magic" Mike Lane (Channing Tatum) takes to the stage again after a lengthy hiatus, following a business deal that went bust, leaving him broke and taking bartender gigs in Florida. For what he hopes will be one last hurrah, Mike heads to London with a wealthy socialite (Salma Hayek Pinault) who lures him with an offer he can't refuse... and an agenda all her own. With everything on the line, once Mike discovers what she truly has in mind, will he--and the roster of hot new dancers he'll have to whip into shape--be able to pull it off?



Tempting match-ups in Magic Mike's Last Dance, What's Love Got To Do With It?

Courtesy Whang Yee Ling 3 stars

The story: Channing Tatum's abs return for the third and final Magic Mike comedy-drama which sees former stripper Mike Lane (Tatum) in Florida, left bankrupt by a failed business. A socialite (Salma Hayek Pinault) lures him away to London with an offer he cannot resist. *Magic Mike* (2012) was a sleeper hit based on Tatum's experiences as a teen stripper. Ten years

and a *Magic Mike XXL* (2015) sequel later, franchise creator Steven Soderbergh is ending the trilogy by replacing Mike's ageing Kings of Tampa sidekicks with a female co-star, and Hayek Pinault is a fireball in *Magic Mike's Last Dance*. She plays bored, mercurial and wealthy Maxandra Mendoza, who is inspired by an ecstatic private lap dance session with Mike – such are the perks of the rich – to revive her stuffy West End theatre as a male striptease burlesque. Mike is designated the artistic director, and she, the producer. With just a week until the opening, she installs a fish-out-of-water Mike in her grand Hyde Park home as they wrangle a troupe. A crabby butler (Ayub Khan Din), her precocious teen daughter (Jemelia George)

and the husband (Gavin Spokes) she wants to spite are the others in residence. This threequel with its numerous audition montages is a rambling, barely scripted lark no one seems to take seriously, least of all Soderbergh, who is back cheerfully directing with his original writers and choreographers. They are a team of men making good-natured entertainment for the delectation of women. Shirtless beefcakes – the largest ensemble in the series, with a special "water dance" appearance from Mike – will again thrust and gyrate outrageously on stage while Maxandra has the time of her life, finding romance with an endearingly lovestruck Mike.



MacDroid's

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

1300 622 376

The unrepentant ghost still haunts the house



John Hanscombe

THE ECHIDNA

As always, the homework is left to the last minute. The assignment: to read *Bulldozed*, Niki Savva's excoriating inside story of the fall of the Morrison government. Its publication was awaited with keen anticipation - Savva's commentary during the election campaign was riveting - but it arrived along with summer, whose carefree temptations won out. Far more appealing to be travelling, swimming and tending to the garden than raking over the still-smouldering ashes of the Coalition bonfire. The resumption of Parliament this week, however, meant it could be put off no longer. And what a wild read it's been. Plank by plank, nail by nail, the book dismantles its main character Scott Morrison to reveal the character rot that wrought his own destruction and that of the Liberal Party. Savva's bias is unapologetic. The former adviser to John Howard and Peter Costello has long railed against the Liberal Party's lurches to the right and its infiltration by religious zealots. But it's the reminders of the fatal missteps and destructive self-belief of the former PM which resonate the loudest - the trip to Hawaii during the bushfires, his abusive takedown of Christine Holgate under privilege in Question Time, his constant and complex gymnastics with the truth and the mishandling of the vaccine rollout. All that and the secret ministerial power grab, which bubbled to the surface with the stench of swamp methane after the election.



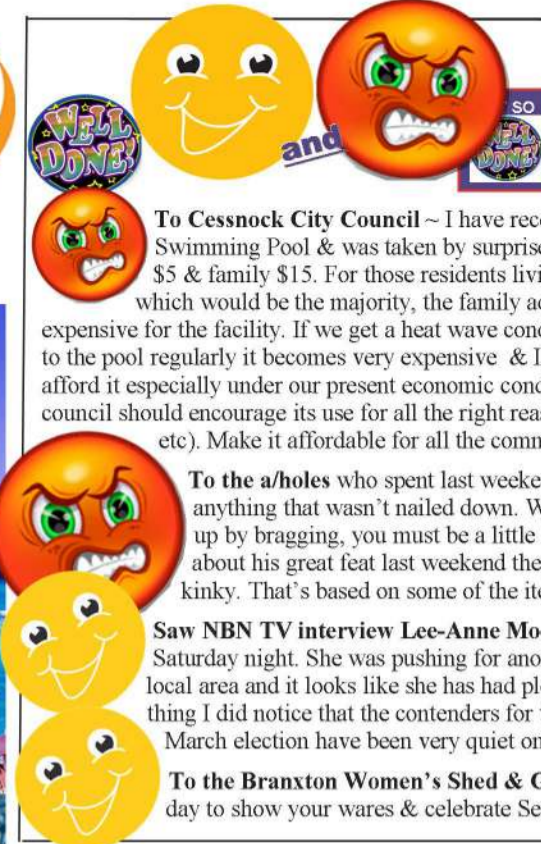
Let's move on, I hear you say, this is all in the past. Except it's not. He's still there, up the back, a House of Reps seat warmer for the husk that remains of the Liberal Party. Curiously, apart from Karen Andrews whose fury at learning of those secret self-appointments led her to call for Morrison to leave Parliament, his colleagues prefer to tolerate him in their midst rather than risk losing a by-election. As long as he remains and the parliamentary cameras occasionally settle on him smirking, scowling and tinkering with his phone, Australians will be reminded of his four years at the helm and their visceral loathing of the man. A loathing so deep it overshadows Morrison's occasional but important successes, including the early response to COVID which no doubt reduced the death toll and kept the economy afloat.

The unrepentant ghost still haunts the house

It rears up impatiently with a growl. Chrome and steel fill the rearview mirror as it gets menacingly close before pulling out into the right-hand lane and overtaking. It's a relief to see it gone but only a couple of minutes elapse before another takes its place. No matter I'm doing the speed limit; these monsters are in a hurry and in no mood to let a small sedan slow their progress. The routine continues for 100 kilometres or so before I take the exit off the Hume Highway. Almost instantly, the heartbeat slows, along with the heartbeat. When it comes to highways and byways, I'll take the slow road any day, especially if it means getting off the Hume, the artery that connects Sydney with Melbourne. What are a few extra hours if it means avoiding semi-trailers breathing down my neck? How times have changed. Before the Hume was duplicated, it was cars being held up by trucks, sometimes tempting motorists to take terrible risks and overtake when it was not safe. Now, with the dual carriageway the trucks seem to do most of the overtaking - except, of course, when long, steep hills slow them down. And there are more of them. Many more.

The proportion of non-bulk freight carried by rail between Sydney and Melbourne has dropped from 40 per cent in the 1970s to just 2 per cent. These days, an estimated 700,000 B-doubles make return trips between Sydney and Melbourne each year. That's almost 2000 a day. That's a lot of freight, diesel and emissions - a point not missed by the Grattan Institute policy think tank. It's called for a halving of the fuel tax credit scheme for heavy vehicles, a move it says will save the budget some \$4 billion a year and help Australia meet its emissions targets. Immediately, at least three juggernauts appeared in the institute's rearview. You could almost hear the compression braking as the Transport Workers Union, National Farmers Federation and Australian Trucking Association formed up in convoy to run the suggestion off the road. The union fears drivers would be put at risk as operators sought to cut costs. Farmers fear the effect of such a move on regional and rural Australia. And the truckers fear their industry would be decimated. But that subsidy does warrant a closer look. Unless we operate vehicles entirely off-road - on

the farm or at the mine - we all pay a fuel tax of 47.7c a litre. It's meant to fund our roads and their upkeep. Here's the rub, though. Vehicles over 4.5 tonnes pay a reduced rate and get a 20.5c per litre credit. Meanwhile, you and I in our little sedans, utes, hatchbacks and on motorcycles pay the full quid, even though our vehicles don't carve up the roads like B-doubles. There's no easy fix, however. While there might be scope to encourage freight back on to the rail corridor between Melbourne and Sydney, rural and regional areas that don't have the benefit of established rail networks would end up paying higher transport costs. The inland rail between Brisbane and Melbourne through regional NSW and Victoria might help when it's completed, as long it offers connections to other regional centres not on the route and as long as it's actually used by freight companies. The under-used Sydney-Melbourne route - and the outcry over the mere suggestion of cutting heavy vehicle fuel subsidies - indicates there's a fight ahead before we see fewer trucks on our highways. So, for me, the byways will be the preferred option for the foreseeable.



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

To Cessnock City Council ~ I have recently commenced going to the Branxton Swimming Pool & was taken by surprise at the admission fee. A single admission is \$5 & family \$15. For those residents living in the area and don't have a pool at home, which would be the majority, the family admission fee is, in my mind, far too expensive for the facility. If we get a heat wave condition and families wish to take their children to the pool regularly it becomes very expensive & I would suggest that a great number cannot afford it especially under our present economic conditions. The pool is a community facility and council should encourage its use for all the right reasons (health, recreation, fitness, enjoyment etc). Make it affordable for all the community.

To the a/holes who spent last weekend running around Branxton & STEALING anything that wasn't nailed down. Whoever you are, and you will give yourselves up by bragging, you must be a little kinky ~ if your mate has bragged to you about his great feat last weekend then let him know that you know he is a little kinky. That's based on some of the items she/he/they stole. Weirdo's!!

Saw NBN TV interview Lee-Anne Moore from Elderslie a couple of weeks ago; a Saturday night. She was pushing for another infants/primary & high school for the local area and it looks like she has had plenty of support. And why wouldn't she. One thing I did notice that the contenders for the State seat of Upper Hunter at the coming March election have been very quiet on the subject; not a good sign!

To the Branxton Women's Shed & Greta Men's Shed for your effort last Saturday to show your wares & celebrate Senior's Festival. Well done!

FREE Classifieds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Classified's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dates for your diary >

The "For your Diary" section of The News is a FREE community service. It will be returning with our second 2023 issue on 25/1/23

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

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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.

Memorial Service
John Saxon Bryant OAM.
Service will be held on Sunday 19th February at 11.30 am.
*Black Hill Uniting Church
Black Hill Road, Black Hill.*

FRY BROS

The News **SPORT**

SPORTS RESULTS



with Mark Bercini

Senior Cricket Week 12

Cessnock District Cricket got back into the full swing of things last weekend, with Greta-Branxton going down in first grade, second and fourth grade had good wins, meanwhile third grade enjoyed the week off with the bye.

Needing to win to lock in second spot on the Coalfields Cup ladder, first grade went down to Bellbird by 27 runs at Carmichael Park. In pursuit of Bellbird's total of 9-203, Greta-Branxton were dismissed in the 34th over for 176. Down on troops, Greg Andrews returned to the side for a cameo, as he did before the Christmas break, and like a duck to water he blasted the ball to all parts of the small arena for an entertaining 43. Opener Mark Bercini was a bit edgy early on for 31, with Chris Murray (22), Jace Lawson (22) and Connor Thomson (16) all contributing. Earlier on in the day Alex Walkling continued his great Coalfields Cup form this season with 3-52 off 8, with veteran Darren Thomson taking 2-42 off 8. Greta-Branxton must now win their remaining two games to be assured of a semi-final berth.

Second grade recorded a good win when they defeated Wine Country by three wickets at Miller 1. In pursuit of a modest 114 for victory, the Blues achieved the target in the 25th over after losing seven wickets. Skipper Sean Wright returned to form with a stylish 65 from 60 deliveries against the new ball. Sporting the new look Tony Greig style crash helmet, he pounded eight boundaries and two maximums in a fine knock. Wayne Chandler cut the ribbon at the end with an unbeaten 15. Wine Country were dismissed earlier in the day for 113, with Fazel Khan (4-20 off 3.2) and co-skipper James Halpin (3-19 off 5) keeping the batsmen guessing, as did Jason



Greta-Branxton celebrate a wicket with a picturesque sunset in the distance in the final of the Coalfields Cup T20 tournament.

Varley with 2-26 off 5. The win promoted the Blues into second spot as they are aspiring for a home semi final in four weeks time.

After having to forfeit the final game before Christmas, fourth grade jumped back to the top of the ladder with a great win over Wine Country at Miller 2. The Blues posted 6-188 batting first, with co-skipper Zac Watkins (92) stumped just eight runs shy of his maiden ton. Nigel Charnock (28) continued his great season form at the top of the order, with Zach MacBeth (22) and Blake Campbell (22no) productive at the crease. Wine Country were skittled for a neat 100 in reply, with MacBeth capping a fine all-round match with 4-16 off 8. He was well supported by Logan Rutter who took 3-20 off 7.

Points Tables

First Grade (Coalfields Cup) Valley/JPC 54, PCH 45, Bellbird 42, Greta/Branxton 39, Wine Country 39, Creeks 34, Piranhas 21, Glendon 16.

Second Grade Bellbird 70, Greta/Branxton 58, Wine Country 55, Chelmsford Hotel 47.

Third Grade Wine Country 56, Piranhas 51, Bellbird 47, Greta/Branxton 43, Hotel Cessnock 39.

Fourth Grade Greta/Branxton 70, Wine Country 68, Supporters 53, Piranhas 44.

Club Championship Wine Country 455.60, Bellbird 446.25, Greta/Branxton 442.65, Piranhas 204.05.

Greta-Branxton Defeated in T20 Final

The inaugural Coalfields Cup T20 cricket competition concluded on Saturday 4th February, with Greta-Branxton going down to Singleton club Valley/JPC in the decider played under lights at Singleton's Howe Park.

The competition was split into two pools, with the preliminary rounds played over three weeks during the summer holiday period. Greta-Branxton breezed through Pool B with three wins to finish top of the table, and they took on Pool A runner-up Bellbird in the semi-final. The Blues batted first and posted a healthy 140 on the new-look Howe Park, and with

the outfield still a fraction slow with the newly laid turf, they were pretty confident of defending this total. Mark Bercini led the way with a scratchy 43 at the top of the order, while Brent Watson (36no) and Mitch Casey (16no) did the job at the death of the innings. Bellbird were dismissed on the final ball of the match for 123, with Watson (3-21 off 4), Patrick Andrews (3-20 off 4) and Alex

Walkling (3-29 off 4) taking a treble of wickets.

The final commenced at 7:30pm, with Greta-Branxton taking on Valley/JPC, who also breezed through their pool stage and

over fellow Singleton compatriots Creeks. They won the toss and elected to bat, with Greta-Branxton restricting them to 111 with the setting sun providing a beautiful backdrop in front of a health and vocal Singleton crowd. Casey (3-17 off 4), Patrick Andrews (3-20 off 4) and Connor Thomson (2-11 off 4) bowled beautifully for the Blues.

Batting under lights for

Branxton struggled in reply, and were eventually all out in the penultimate over of the match for 82. Watson completed a fine all-round tournament with 20, and Josh Dagg was the other one to make an impression with 15.

The tournament was a great success, and Greta-Branxton will be looking to go one better next year around.

FMD: Know the Facts

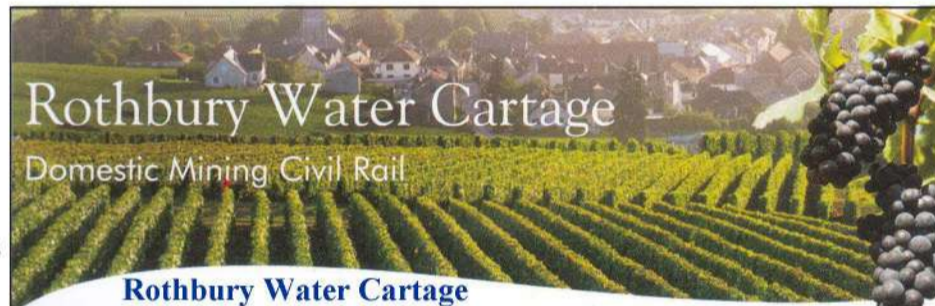


Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) affects pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, deer, alpacas, camels and buffalo



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also their semi-final win the first time, Greta-

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Tips For Your Dogs

& Cats



RSPCA
New South Wales

These are the four red flags to watch for when looking for a pet online

First Published by: *RSPCA Australia*

So, you've decided to get a new pet, and you want to do your research. Naturally, you turn to the internet, our go-to place for browsing before we shop.

But buying a pet is nothing like other online shopping – we have a responsibility to make sure that animals bought and sold online are protected from cruelty, by giving the health care, socialisation, and the environments they need to grow up happy and healthy.

So how can you make sure that the pets you see advertised online are coming from responsible breeders? Well, if you aren't going to visit your local shelter or animal rescue in the first instance to find a wonderful pet looking for a second chance, it's important to know what the warning signs are for pet ads online. We've put together the four red flags that you absolutely should look out for when searching for a pet online.

The most important thing to remember, though, is that you should never buy an animal online without meeting them in person first. Meeting your new pet before you bring them home is important for so many reasons: you need to see them in real life so you can assess their health and behaviour, check their home environment to be sure they don't come from a puppy farm and even just to see that the spark is there between you!

If you buy a pet over the internet without meeting them first, you could inadvertently be supporting puppy farms or poor breeding practices. Not to mention the fact that you could fall victim to a scam, leading to emotional (and financial!) heartbreak. To help you screen through the thousands of ads posted daily, keep an eye out for some of these 'red flags' in ads which might indicate something amiss:

'Six-week-old puppy' or 'six-week-old kitten': no trustworthy seller will re-home a puppy or kitten before 8 weeks of age. At this age, they won't be fully weaned and will have poor immune systems. Transporting very young animals long distances is dangerous and can lead to dehydration and susceptibility to disease, and sellers that care about their animal's welfare won't offer this. Always wait until puppies and kittens are at least 8 weeks old before considering bringing them home.

'Delivery can be arranged': no reputable breeder should be willing to part with their animals without meeting the new owners first. Good

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PER YEAR ON THEIR DOG

breeders will want to meet new owners and ask lots of questions to ensure their puppies or kittens are going to suitable homes; and likewise, you should want to meet the breeder and see the animal in person first, along with its mother and – if possible – father.

'Parents DNA tested': on surface value, this looks like a positive move. But unless proof of DNA testing is provided, and the diseases tested for are known to be associated with that breed, it doesn't mean much. Additionally breeders should be able to tell you what they plan to do about those test results (e.g. not breed from dogs that carry those diseases or conditions). Many breeds have specific health issues, so researching the breed you're looking for thoroughly (including talking to a vet) will help you identify what type of test to look for.

Limited information: be concerned if the advertisement doesn't tell you, for example, whether the animal is microchipped or not; whether it is desexed or not; and how it has been bred or sourced. Lack of information can indicate a dodgy seller who's hoping you don't notice the absence of important facts. Before you do anything think about it before you make your decision:

- * Do I want a puppy or an adult dog?
- * Can I cover all the financial costs of owning a dog, beyond just the purchase price, including food, bedding, toys and veterinary check-ups and treatment including emergencies?
- * Is my home safe, secure and suitable for a dog?
- * Do I have time to train and socialise a dog?
- * Will I be able to provide them with enough company so they don't get lonely or bored? A dog that doesn't receive enough attention is unlikely to become a social and well

-behaved pet.

- * Do I have time to walk and play with a dog every day?
- Am I ready to make a 15-year commitment?

Importance of dental health

Just like humans, our companion animals (pets) need regular and consistent dental care – not just to protect from disease but also to make sure their teeth stay healthy and functional for as long as possible. Dental disease is the most common health condition affecting pets, with 70% of cats and 80% of dogs experiencing some level of dental disease by the time they are three years of age.

It's important to take care of your pet's teeth at home, but they also need regular check-ups with a veterinarian to stay on top of their dental health.

Why it's important to take care of your pet's teeth

Dental disease can cause significant pain to your pet and, if it advances, can cause tooth and gum infection, inflammation and bone and tooth loss. Cats and dogs can suffer from dental conditions that many of us would be familiar with in humans – such as dental plaque (a soft, sticky deposit of bacteria that can damage the tooth), dental tartar or calculus (a layer of minerals that have hardened and bonded to the tooth enamel, which if left long enough, can only be removed by professional cleaning), and gingivitis (inflammation and swelling of the gums).

And also just like in humans, preventative dental care is very important for companion animals, to stop these problems from developing, getting worse, and causing issues in other parts of your pet's body.

What can I do from home?

There are several things you can do at home to help ensure your pet's teeth and gums are healthy.

The most effective thing you can do – which may seem a bit surprising! – is to brush their teeth. This may seem a little daunting but most animals will get used to their teeth being brushed. To clean their teeth, squeeze some pet toothpaste onto a microfibre cloth (cleaned and replaced as necessary, and used only for this purpose) and gently rub it over every tooth. Don't use human toothpaste as this can cause stomach issues for your pet. Generally, the younger your pet is when you start training them to have their teeth brushed, the easier it is.



How to grow and care for frangipani

What you need to know about frangipani

Name: frangipani (*Plumeria* sp. and cvs).

Height: 5–8m with age, canopy often as wide.

Foliage: deciduous. Large (20–30cm long × 10cm wide), deep green, distinct veins and mid-rib.

Climate: tropics, sub-tropics, sheltered location in warm temperate, and microclimates in cold temperate.

Soil: free-draining to sandy soil. Will perform best with extra organic matter in the soil.

Position: full sun, protected from winds

Flowering: varies by region, from December through until April.

Feeding: not essential, although a spring/summer feed is beneficial.

Watering: during warmer months if needed. Avoid winter watering.

Appearance and characteristics of frangipani

The frangipani is a small tree with a distinctly tropical appearance. The richly fragrant flowers appear across the warmer

months, and range from white with a yellow centre to vibrant pinks, yellows, pink-yellow-orange mixes (often called "fruit salad") and dark shades of mahogany-red. Some reds are so dark they're sometimes described as "black".

With age, the plant develops a broad, spreading crown, with the branching often starting just above ground level.

The most commonly grown species are deciduous. There are evergreen species, but they are generally only suitable for tropical and sub-tropical regions.

Uses of frangipani
Whether grown in the ground or in big pots, no tropical-look, resort style, Balinese or modern Aussie coastal garden is complete without a frangipani or two. You can even plant a perfumed rainbow! The choice of flower colours is enormous, and the perfume is divine.

Frangipani is excellent grown against sunny walls, providing cooling summer shade while letting winter sun flow through. It can also be a real problem solver, as it will thrive in sandy soil that many plants can't handle.

And if you only have a balcony, you can still have a frangipani! They can do very well in large pots and planters too.

How to plant and grow frangipani
As frangipani hails originally from tropical regions, its best performance will be in the tropics and sub-tropics. However, if protected from cold winds and frost, it can also grow well, albeit more slowly, in cooler zones.

In cooler areas, select a north-facing spot that will create a suitable warm microclimate. Frangipani will tolerate a wide range of soil types, provided drainage is excellent. Avoid locations where soil may remain wet, especially across the cooler months, and avoid windy spots, as frangipani branches are brittle.

Frangipani planting tips
Follow these planting tips to ensure your frangipani will thrive:

- Frangipani will benefit from some extra organic matter, such as a quality compost or composted manure, blended in with the planting soil.
- Don't be surprised if the plant only has a very loose root ball when you remove its pot.
- Try not to disturb the roots too much, as they can be easily damaged. Larger plants will require

staking, as they will be top-heavy until they establish.

Frangipani care tips
Frangipani is a very easy-care plant. If conditions are dry in the warmer months, water the plant as the leaves and flowers are developing. Avoid watering your frangipani while it is dormant (leafless).

Fertilising isn't necessary, but will improve performance. Apply a controlled-release fertiliser around the edge of the canopy line in late spring or early summer.

How to prune frangipani
Occasionally, you may need to prune your frangipani to restrict size, tidy a broken branch or to remove an inconvenient branch. On older trees, look for any branches that have started rubbing or crossing over, or have stopping producing foliage or flowers, and remove them.

Diseases and pests
Frangipani rust generally appears shortly before leaf fall, and shows up as discolouring of leaves above, and orange spots on their under-surface. Thoroughly spray all leaf surfaces with a suitable fungicide such as Yates Rose Shield and repeat weekly. Any fallen leaves should be promptly removed, sealed in a plastic bag and disposed of in the regular bin (not the compost).

Scale insects are found on stems or leaves. They look like small white or brown lumps. These can easily be treated with a suitable horticultural spray oil.

Growing frangipani from cuttings
Frangipani grows very easily from cuttings. Your cutting should be a growth tip at least 10–15cm long. Ensure the cutting is cleanly cut, not crushed, and put it somewhere warm and shady until the sap seals.

Once dry, fill a suitable-sized pot with a free-draining potting mix or propagating mix. Put the cutting in, and support it if required. Put it in a warm spot and only water when dry.

You can grow a new plant from even very large cuttings – just ensure they have adequate support as they grow.

If you like this then try Magnolia: the tree with possibly the biggest, boldest and most breathtakingly flowering display.

Crepe myrtle: another flowering tree that can be a beautiful addition to any garden.

Hibiscus: add a tropical touch with this Hawaiian flowering beauty.



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The News SPORT

SPORTS RESULTS RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Vets

Thursday, 2nd Feb 2023

Division 1: Winner:

Graham Sheldon 33 pts (SOD) Runner Up: Mike Ryan 31 pts 3rd: Jimmy Sheedy 29 pts 4th: Criag Howe 28 pts 5th: Daryl Sheppard 27 pts

Ball Winners: Lee Hunt 26 pts; George Anderson 26 pts; Eddie Barrett 25 pts

Division 2: Winner: Geoff Geason 33 pts **Runner Up:** Murray Kingston 31 pts 3rd: Graham Scobie 31 pts 4th: Barry Turner 28 pts 5th: Steve Condran 26 pts

Ball Winners: Gary Train 26 pts; Barney Ward 25 pts; Ray Showman 25 pts; John Atton 25 pts; Errol Munzenberger 25 pts

Ladies: Winner: Ruth McCarthy 28 pts **Runner Up:** Leanne Daniels 25 pts **Ball Winners:** Jan Davidson 25 pts; Jane Johansen 24 pts

NTPins: Men: Mike Ryan **Ladies:** Dianne Goodare

A good field of 44 players enjoyed sunny, warm conditions, with some excellent scores recorded in today's stableford competition. Graham Sheldon had the score of the day in winning Division 1 with his impressive 33 pts (21,12). Mike Ryan finished runner up with his 31 pts (20,11)—finishing his round with a Nearest the Pin on the last. Jim Sheedy, playing from his low handicap of 7, played beautifully to finish 3rd with 29 pts (17, 12) with Craig Howe 4th on 28 pts (18,10) and Daryl Sheppard 5th on 27 pts (17,10). 25 pts was needed to win a ball in Division 1. Geoff Geason won Division 2 with the day's equal best stableford score of 33 pts (22,11), with Murray Kingston runner up with his 31 pts (19,12). Graham Scobie was third with 31 pts (19,12) with Barry Turner 28 pts (17,11) and Steve Condran 26 pts (18,8) filling the minor placings. 25 pts was also needed to win a ball in Division 2. Ruth McCarthy won the Ladies competition with her 28 pts (16,12), just ahead of Leanne Daniel's 25 pts (17,8). 24 pts was needed to win a ball in the Ladies Comp. The sharp shooters for the day were Mike Ryan and Dianne Goodare. I received some good information on the day that it is very prudent to hang onto your buggy near the 17th green, as one player nearly lost all his golfing gear in the dam as it careered down the slope—luckily, a small mound near the bottom

ensured the buggy fell over with no loss or damage.

Branxton Lady Golfers

Golf held the first round of their 2023 18 Hole

Competition on Wednesday 8th February.

Winner: Leanne Daniels - 34 points
Runner Up: Neridah Busch - 32 points on a countback
Third: Ruth McCarthy - 32 points
Nearest the Pin: Leanne Daniels

Thursday, 9th February, 2023

Division 1: Winner: Murray Kingston 32 pts (SOD) **Runner Up:** Eddie Barrett 31 pts

3rd: Daryl Sheppard 29 pts 4th: Tony Seamer 29 pts

Ball Winners: Gary Wilton 29 pts; George Anderson 28 pts

Division 2: Winner: Peter Sekulich 28 pts (c/b) **Runner Up:** Steve Condran 28 pts

3rd: Gary Bailey 27 pts 4th: Barney Ward 26 pts 5th: Ray Showman 26 pts

Ball Winners: Errol Munzenberger 26 pts; Gary Train 25 pts c/b

Ladies: Winner: Jan Davidson 29 pts **Runner Up:** Marg Hunt 25 pts

Ball Winners: Robyn McCarthy 22 pts; Nerida Busch 22 pts

NTPins: Ladies: Nerida Busch **Men:** C. Thomas

37 players enjoyed the cooler yet wet conditions around the Branxton Course with few outstanding scores recorded across all grades. Murray Kingston had the Score of the Day in winning Division 1 with his 32 pts, just ahead of former Seniors Champion, Eddie Barrett, a point behind, with Daryl Sheppard third on 29 pts. Tony Seamer (29 pts), Gary Wilton (29 pts) and George Anderson (28 pts) filled the minor placings. Peter Sekulich picked up another prize in winning Division 2 with his 28 pts, just ahead of Steve Condran on a countback, with Gary Bailey, fresh from some recent lessons from our Club Pro, Marcus, third with his 27 pts. 25 pts sealed a ball for Gary Train on a countback. Murray and Peter, the day's two winners, played together and marked each other's cards so they must have truly inspired each other—it is amazing how good form in a group can drag others along—well done boys! Jan Davidson won the Ladies with a very pleasing 29 pts, just ahead of Margaret Hunt, with Robyn McCarthy and Nerida Busch in the placings. Nerida won the Ladies NTPin whilst Chris Thomas won the Mens. The Par Three Championships will be held on Thursday, 23rd February. Our Club's next away game is planned for the following day at Hawks Nest, Friday 24th February so names are needed as soon as possible for final planning.

Branxton Golf Club Sat Comp

Saturday, 4 Feb 2023 STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL - STROKE MORTGAGE CHOICE- HUNTER VALLEY

Field: 42
Winners B Joe Bereza 68
Grades A Mick Barrett 69
Grades A Michael Tracey 72
Grades B Andrew McGovern 70
Grades B Geoff Geason 70
Grades C Robert Miller 69
Grades C Glenn Fletcher 70
NTP 2/11 Michael Tracey 602cm
NTP 4 Garry Taylor 514cm
NTP 9/18 Geoff Geason 128cm
NTP 13 Robert Hale 775cm
Balls 12 Distributed down to score: 76

Pro's NTP 18th - BRENDON CLARK - \$60 Proshop Voucher

Excellent warm conditions greeted all players in Saturday's Monthly Medal where all tees were put back to their maximum distance, ensuring good scoring was achieved by playing good golf. Joe Bereza did the best of all in winning the overall Monthly Medal with his excellent 68 nett score, one of only 3 players to break their handicap. Mick Barrett won A Grade with his nett 69, just ahead of the very consistent Mick Tracey with his 72 nett. Andrew McGovern won B Grade with his nett 70, which was an excellent tune up to Sunday's B Grade Pennants game at Aberdeen against Paterson. Geoff Geason finished runner up on a countback, a score which included the "shot of the day" on the 9th which finished only 128 cms from the pin. Robert "Shirl" Miller continued his run of good form to win C Grade with his 69 nett, just ahead of Glenn Fletcher's nett 70. Brendon Clark picked up an extra \$60 in the Pro Shop whilst a nett 76 was needed to win a ball. Captain Steve wants to remind everyone that the 4th and final round of the Summer Cup will be played next weekend and the Par 3 Championships is planned for the 25th February. He also wants to remind everyone to help look after the course by putting sand in the divots on the tees, particularly on the Par threes, and repairing pitch marks on all greens—pieces of advice that all golfers should always adhere to. On Sunday the Vets played their 2nd Pennants game at Hunter Valley, against Cypress Lakes, after last week's win against Hunter Valley at Scone. They had an exciting 1.5 draw with the team of Bob Biles and Barney Walsh getting the bacon in their match, 3-2, whilst Captain Lee Hunt and his partner Dave Hodges had

their first ever loss, with Greg Noble and Richard Caldwell fighting out a draw. Captain Lee reports that a variety of golf was on display, with the draw a fair result for the match. B Grade ventured to Aberdeen to play Paterson, finally losing a very close contest 3-2. As Captain Murray reported, Paterson's No. 5 had a lower handicap than Branxton's No. 1, making the task very difficult. Paul Bush (1 up) and Lee Jackson 1 up, were the winners with all other matches closely fought to the end. A great effort from a very inexperienced team.

Saturday, 11 February 2023

SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 39
Grades A Steve Eccles 40
Grade A Robert Biles 39
Grades A Peter Conroy 37
Grades B Andrew McGovern 38
Grades B Neil Jordan 36
Grades B Robert Hale 35
Grades C Darrell Fleming 49
Grades C Ted Zawirski 37
Grades C Robert Miller 37
NTP 2/11 Robert Biles 103cm
NTP Robert Miller 250cm
NTP 9/18 Gregory Tearle 259cm
NTP 13 Pip Lancaster 320cm
12 Distributed down to score: 32

Pro's NTP 18th - Tim Lane 358cm = \$62 Proshop Voucher

Steve Eccles continued his recent run of great form in winning Saturday's A Grade Stableford with an excellent 40 pts, beating his playing partner, Bob Biles, a point behind. The ever consistent Peter Conroy finished third with his 37 pts. Steve also won the Summer Cup with a total of 121 pts (42, 39,40) to beat Shirl Miller by 4 pts. However, amazingly, Shirl and Barney Walsh again won the keno from Bob and Steve, 3&2, much to Steve's disgust—as he said to me, "What do we have to do to beat those two?". Once again, Team Shirl defeated Team Irish. I think the answer to their defeat is a pumpkin! Andrew McGovern won B Grade with a solid 38 pts, two points clear of Neil Jordan's 36 pts. Undoubtedly, the score of the day was Darrell Fleming winning C Grade with an unbelievable 49 pts, a score which included 29 pts on the front nine—what do you say about such a round! He did comment to Captain Steve before he started his round that he was feeling like he was beginning to hit it a little better—well, as his score indicates, not a truer word was ever said! The shot of the day belonged to Bob Biles on the 2nd/11th, finishing only 103 cms from the pin—he did tell me his new irons are working well! Tim Lane picked

up the Pro's Pin on the last whilst 32 pts was needed to win a ball. On Sunday the Vets ventured to Murrurundi to play Denman (they went up the night before to have a hit on the course which has sand greens). B Grade played Kurri at Paterson. I will add these results to next week's report.

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Saturday 4th February

Ideal playing condition has seen a large field turn out for the Monthly Stroke rounds with A Grade and the Mug going to James Schofield with 63 net from Caleb Porter with 68 on countback, B Grade to Adam Pratten With 66 from Gary Arnold 71 & C Grade to Evan Powell with 69 from Glenn Williams with 70 net. Ball winners are: Craig Sharp 68, Dave Hollis, 69, Peter Wilton 69, Rod Wilton 69, Damien Porter 70, Beepa 70, Phil Small 70, Matt Killick 71. Andrew Zok 71, Scrum 71, Mike Carter 71, Wayne Barber 72, Brandon Lidbury 72, Tony Butler 72, Darrell Porter 72, Robert Meers 73, Hugh Le 73, George Copas 73, Steve Jurd 73, Peter Huckfeldt 73, Jason Mould 73, Bruce Chambers 74, Graham Morris 74, aaron Dries 74, Jai Kumar 74, Peter Perkins 74, Don Bradley 75, Graeme Smith 75, Luke Johnston 75, Stacey Brennan 75, Andrea Connor 75, Victor Matt 75, Jeff Morton 75, Mark Noble 75, David Agnew 75, Patrick Wand 75, Ty Cowley 75, Paul Richardson 75, Dez Bailey 75, Peter McIntyre 75, Matt Tomlinson 76, Teresa Taylor 76, David Peel 76, Craig Mould 76, David Irwin 76, Jarrod Gorsuch 76, Greg Burke 77, Ron Findley 77, Joshua Mitchell 77 & Greg Snaddon 77 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to James Schofield (3rd) Steve Jurd (4th) Darrell Porter (8th) Jeff Morton (10th) & Damien Porter (17th) Next week event will be a Medley Stablefordp

NOTE: Current HVGC Board Treasurer Pam Snaddon has been awarded Cessnock 'Senior Citizen of the Year' t the recent Australia Day awards. Not only at Golf, Pam is very active with local Hockey & Kearsley Rugby League clubs. Congratulations on the award from all at HVGC

Sunday 5th February

The Weekly Challenge has been won by Justin Woodbine with 41 points from Steve Piggott 39 and Craig Smith 3rd with 37 on countback. Ball winners are: Daniel Payton 37, Phil Small 35, Brad Murray 35, Nathan Toll 34, Jay Bolton 34, Brodie Thackeray 34 & Luke Johnston 33 c/b

Tuesday 7th February
The Tuesday Stableford has been won by Brandon Cole with 41 points with Wayne Oliver getting the better of Jack Roberts for 2nd spot after both had 40 point returns. Ball winners are: Wally 38, Luke Meyers 38, Lindsay Self 38, Don Bradley 37, John Carmody 36, David Micheal Menzies 36, Phil Darcy 36, Brandon

Lee 35, Paul Smith 35, Barry Maher 35, Jerry Bowden 35, David Peel 34, Dean Morison 33, Beepa 33, Brendan Bourke 33, Bindii 33, Joe Olsen 33 & Terry Webb 32 c/b.

Nearest-the-Pins to Young Curly (3rd) Rex Talbot (4th) Juice Thomson (10th) & Dean Morison (17th)

Wednesday 8th February

Stacey Brennan has continued her run of form with a great 43 point round and clear win in this weeks round of the Ladies Summer Stableford with Dale Hamilton 2nd with 35 & Teresa Taylor 3rd with 34 c/b. Isabel Skeates is this weeks sole ball winner with 34 points.

Thursday 9th February

Once again plenty of sub Par rounds were handed in at this weeks Vets Medley Stableford with Chris Norman leading the way in Division 1 with 38 points from Peter Huckfeldt with 37, Division 2 to Noel Ellenor with 41 points from Rex Talbot 40 & Division 3 to Phil Wetzler with 41 from Tracy Morison 40. Ball winners are: Kevin Gibson 39, Chris Taggart 39, Dazza 38, Joek 38, Paul Campbell 37, Wayne Cowan 37, Doug Harley 37, Michael O'Brien 36, Graham Walker 36, Ryan Wilson 36, Don Bradley 36, Wayne Berry 36, Pam Snaddon 36, Bruce Hughes 36, Trevor Collins 36, Maureen Donaldson 36, Col Somerville 35, Gary Arnold 35, Bruce Chambers 35, Tony Neale 35, Rox 35, Spot 34, David Peel 34, Beepa 34, Bill Freeman 33, Michael Tsakissiris 34, Tom Bell 33, Silver 33, Toot 33, Alan Bishop 33, John

Stewart 33, John Grayson 33, Kevin Dick 33, John Martin 33, Joe Olsen 33, Peter Threadgold 33, Ray Newton 33, Ben Carmody 32 & Bindii 32 c/b.

Nearest-the-Pins to Garry Clarke (3rd) Kevin Gibson (4th) Kerry Bartlett (8th) Graham Walker (10th) & Dean Morison (17th) Next week the Vets will play a Medley American Stableford

Saturday 11th February

The Saturday Medley Stableford has featured scoring to match the heat with Adam Jackson claiming A Grade with 39 points from James Schofield 38, B Grade to Brendan Connor with 'the round of the day' returning 42 points for the win from Paul Campbell 40 & C Grade to James Berry with 38 from Tracy Morison 37. Ball winners are: Tom Bell 38, Liam Waish 37, Joshua Tracey 36, Peter McIntyre 36, Scott Conti 35, David Peel 35, Angelo Wood 35, Mark Noble 35, John Martin 35, James Marsh 35, Isaiah Wolfenstan 35, Damien Porter 34, Joshua Wade 34, Danny Schofield 34, Terry Roughan 34, Rob Wilton 34, Aaron Dries 34, Juice Thomson 34, Dave Hollis 34, Col Somerville 33, Luke Matt 33, Paul Richardson 33, Nathan Sweeney 33, Bruce Chambers 33, Victor Matt 33, Peter Puerta 33, Evan Powell 33, Darrell Porter 33, Mick Goldman 33, Luke Sillay 33, Tony Butler 33, Craig Mould 33, Mitchell Ingle 33, Ryan Wilson 32, Peter Huckfeldt 32 & Ron Findley 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Angelo Wood with a Hole-in-One (3rd) Dean Morison (4th) Wade Attewell (8th) Lindsay Meyn (10th) & John Martin (17th).

Hunter Valley Communication Open Gender Fours Tournament

Miller Park Hosted the Hunter Valley Communication Open Gender Fours tournament on Sunday 5th February. The green was full with fourteen teams from around the district competing in great spirit in very hot conditions. The winners were a team from Singleton RSL club consisting of Peter Fuller, Bill Prosser, Ryley Young and Dan Kramer. Second Place went to team Ty Turnbull from Kurri and Third went to Team Brody Turner. Miller Park Bowling Club thanks Craig Wenham for his sponsorship and is looking to hosting our next tournament.



Craig Wenham (centre) sponsor of the tournament with the Miller Park winning team. Craig and is looking to host the next tournament

The BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

Fishing Club Jumps Into January to Start 2023



The January fishing club open outing held on the last weekend in January was a roaring success with many members out trying to make the most of the remainder of the school holidays. It was exciting for the club to gain 11 new members, and they welcome a brand new sponsor Platts Surfwear.

There were 13 weigh-ins on the weekend which was taken out by Joel Platt with a massive 252.8 points which consisted of Skip Jack, Trag, Bream, Nannygai, Tailor, Flathead, Morwong, and Snapper. His fishing side kicks Daniel Johnson (177.8 points) and Anthony "Sleepy" Field (135.6) also scored highly as they fished offshore Port Stephens and Hawks Nest Beaches. Steve Nevin solo fished Tuncurry offshore and scored 173.9 and 2022 champion Keza Duncan scored 122 by slaying 20 Tailor.

It was also pleasing to see the return of Glenn "Brooksey" Beckett and two time winner Scott Beckett who put in the hard yards in the heat fishing fresh and salt water. They weighed in a good mixed bag. A special mention to the Langlands family who have the fishing bug now that they have a new vessel. Leah Lily and Jamie all weighed in. Joel Platt won the \$50 monthly prize with a 0.29kg Whiting. The February target species will be Australian Bass

and the outing will be 24/25/26th. The weigh in will be 4pm Sunday 26th at



The Greta Workers Club. All new members are encouraged and if anyone needs any information on how to join or need the rules etc explained you can message the Facebook page or contact The Club Secretary Steve Nevin 0457547478. The Wednesday Fishing Club raffles recommence on Wednesday 1st Feb and there are always a

number of fishing club members there to have a beer with or ask questions.

Pictured at left the President awards Joel Platt the \$50 for his Whiting and a picture of Joel, Daniel and Anthonys catch over the weekend.



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