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WEDNESDAY
14 June 2023

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Tragedy Strikes: 10 Lives Lost in Devastating Bus Accident



Premier Minns, centre, at the accident site yesterday with Clayton Barr MP, at left & Dan Repacholi MP on the right

At 11:30 p.m. last Sunday evening (11 June 2023), a 2009 Volvo B7R tourist bus operated by Linq Buslines overturned at a roundabout on Wine Country Drive at near Branxton. The bus was taking guests from a wedding at a winery in Lovedale to a Singleton hotel. Ten passengers were killed and a further twenty-five were taken to a hospital. The injured were treated at John Hunter Hospital, Maitland Hospital

and Calvary Mater in Newcastle, and two were airlifted to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney. As of yesterday there were still 10 in hospital with two in a critical but stable condition. Unfortunately, the bus crash had the highest road death toll since 1994. The 58-year-old bus driver was arrested and taken to Cessnock police station. On Monday he was charged with ten counts of dangerous driving

occasioning death and one count of negligent driving occasioning death. A drug and alcohol test produced a negative result. Reg Barrett, from Maitland, a bus driver for Linq bus services was granted bail in the Cessnock magistrate court yesterday. 10 witnesses claimed that he was driving recklessly and wasn't considering the foggy and damp conditions of the road at the time. There may be more charges to come.

In a packed court house at Cessnock on the yesterday, Magistrate Richardson granted Mr Barrett bail with some very restrictive conditions. Magistrate Richardson took into account the mental condition of the defendant.

That he had a pre existing medical

condition, that he had no criminal record and had been driving buses for 30 years. The matter has been adjourned to the Newcastle Local court on the 9th August. The bride and groom were members of the Singleton Roosters Australian

football club. The groom was previously a member of Warrandyte Cricket Club, as were nine of the injured guests. Premier Chris Minns visited the crash site and said that we need to make sure we mend the injured, we care for someone that has lost a

loved one and also we give a big thanks to emergency service workers. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the deadly bus crash was a "terrible, terrible tragedy". "[Especially] on the June long weekend, which is a time when people are celebrating and having time off."

Mr Albanese said there would be assistance. "We will need to reach out to those people who have been impacted by this tragedy because the thought of travelling to a wedding ... should be a cause of celebration and great memories." In a press conference, Mr Albanese said he was thinking of those hospitalised and their recovery. "People hire a bus for weddings to keep their guests safe, and that just adds to the unimaginable nature of this tragedy." He acknowledged the toll the accident would continue to hold over time. "I also say thank you to those people who will continue to assist in the days, weeks, months and years ahead. The mental scars of this will not go away, they are there forever."

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New regional hanger for "Little Wings" at Cessnock airport opens



Adam Holt, pictured at left, was a volunteer pilot for seven years before becoming head of flying operations at Little Wings. In that time, he's completed over 300 missions transporting families and building bonds with those who regularly require the service. "The families in regional and remote areas need this access to medical treatment," he said. Adam Holt has assisted hundreds of families access specialist medical treatment. Holt said his time with the charity has been incredibly rewarding.

On Wednesday 31 May, Little Wings launched its first hangar outside of Sydney, at its base in Cessnock.

The addition allows the service to increase its capacity by 300 missions annually.

Little Wings is a non-profit organization that provides free, professional, safe flight and ground transport services for seriously ill children

in rural and regional NSW and the ACT. They strive to ease the journey and help sick children access specialised medical services and treatments that are only available in major cities or towns. They do everything they can to support families by easing the financial

burden, emotional strain and travel fatigue that they experience due to the long-distance travel associated with receiving vital medical treatment.

treatment at The Sydney Children's Hospital Network, The John Hunter Children's Hospital in Newcastle and Royal Far West in Manly.

chronic illness have on children and their families. "It is our privilege to help families with regular, ongoing medical appointments to travel with ease, and we offer a welcome break to children during their treatment, by bringing them home for some much-needed quality time with family and friends."

"We believe in keeping families together during some of the most testing times of their lives. Together with our supporters and partners' assistance and generosity, they will persevere with their mission of making a difference in the lives of sick children in regional

New South Wales," said a spokesperson for the charity.

Little Wings is a children's charity operating in New South Wales with one simple yet important mission; to provide support and care to sick children and their families by minimising the physical, emotional and financial strain of receiving lifesaving medical treatment.

The service currently partners with four major health providers,

including John Hunter, Westmead, Randwick Children's Hospitals, and Royal Far West.

In the last two-and-a-half years, the demand in the Hunter region increased by nearly 110 per cent. With 71 volunteers, Little Wings clocks up 2,000 hours flying in and out of 55 regions across New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland. It has completed 3,470 missions since its inception 10 years ago.

It's a 90-per-cent volunteer-led organisation. So 100 per cent of their pilots and drivers donate their time to keep them in the air and on the road everyday

Little Wings started by providing services to children undergoing cancer treatment at The Children's Hospital in Westmead, Sydney. Since then, their team has worked hard to extend their services to assist other seriously ill children receiving

Today, they proudly support children experiencing serious illness across all domains, from the physical to the psychological. Ultimately, working to ensure that they support in meaningful ways, appreciating the complex impact serious and

keeping families together during some of the most testing times of their lives. Together with our supporters and partners' assistance and generosity, they will persevere with their mission of making a difference in the lives of sick children in regional



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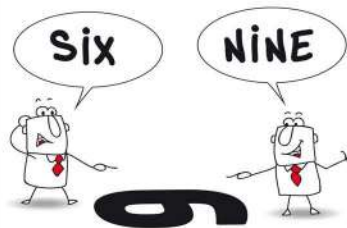
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point of view



with Orson Carter.

Opinions, armpits, arseholes. My take on Stan Grant's performance on the coronation broadcast was that anyone who bothered to tune in (moi) was interested in the CORONATION and probably hadn't signed up for the harangue about invasion, genocide, not-being-indigenous-so-go-home-type hyperbole. I imagine rabid republicans wouldn't have been terribly interested to tune in at all and if they bothered, probably did so just to scan for more ammunition. So nobody viewing was ready for the tongue lashing. That was my reaction when watching and at the time I remember thinking that I wondered who it was that the camera was showing in the background shot rather than hearing about how repulsive the 97% of us that don't identify as aboriginal are. I figured that was just crusty old me and frankly am a bit surprised at the furore.

Maybe it's a bit of "as many as 300,000 people in the country had falsely self-identified as Aboriginal. The staggering figure was first cited by University of Sydney post-graduate and Wiradjuri woman Suzanne Ingram in October 2022." My only other encounter with Stan was on the rare occasions that I felt some self-flagellation was indicated or if my celice was out being cleaned and I tuned into QandA. Even Andrew Neil, a twenty odd year BBC (an organisation that cops a fair bit of bias criticism) veteran couldn't believe how one sided the panel was.

Maybe some members of the silent majority are getting sick of this feeling that we shouldn't be here because we're the wrong colour. Stan may be a victim of his own making. Maybe

That's a massive can of worms. Did

he or didn't he? Now while we shouldn't be emulating the Imperial Japanese Army of WW2 and throwing babies into the air to try to catch them on the point of a bayonet, war is not a black and white affair. All shades of grey in there. Afghan Army troops standing alongside Aussies were known to have turned their weapons on our troops and killed them. It's not cricket, like when armies wore distinctive uniforms which advertised "shoot me". If you want to win a war, you have to at least be as committed as the enemy, which is why innocents died in Dresden, Hamburg, Cologne, Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Who was tried for those dead innocents? Well, the victors get to decide. Since the military has had to deal with imbedded press

and instant replays on TikTok we haven't been playing to win: Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan - no clear objective, no exit strategies-forever wars if we'd persisted. Meanwhile, back at HQ, the brass have conveniently forgotten some lessons too. Lest we forget the fate of General Yamashita of the Imperial Japanese Army of WW2 who was executed for war crimes committed by subordinates even though he denied any knowledge about them. Now, SAS-R patrols are a half dozen or less men, usually commanded by an NCO. So if some malfeasance is committed, no officer may be present. We seem to have

forgotten about old Yamashita. General Campbell, Chief of Defence, who has repeatedly tried to strip honours from the SASR, has not offered up his DSC in solidarity, let alone assumed ultimate responsibility, a la Yamashita. BRS may be an awful person. Don't know him. Never met him. But I bet if the bullets start whizzing around, he's the guy you want between the enemy and your own little self, rather than those of the rear echelon and the halls of parliament. If you don't like the vagaries and nastiness of war, don't send our youth to make snap/calculated/uncertain decisions. What if they'd turned around and aborted the mission to bring prisoners back to base. Was the mission important? Would innocents die if the mission was not completed? Ain't hindsight wonderful?

Republic Movement's idea of having more than 800 federal and state politicians hand down to voters a shortlist of candidates. The politicians' republic model famously failed at the 1999 referendum, and we think it will be rejected again if it is the only choice offered at a future referendum. David Muir AM, Real Republic Australia chair

Letters to the Editor

Last Monday, NSW enjoyed a public holiday for the official birthday of King Charles III, pictured. While not his actual birthday, it acknowledges



the British monarch as our head of state. But most people did not actively celebrate the King's birth and probably gave it little or no thought. Instead, I'd argue we should look forward to when Australia

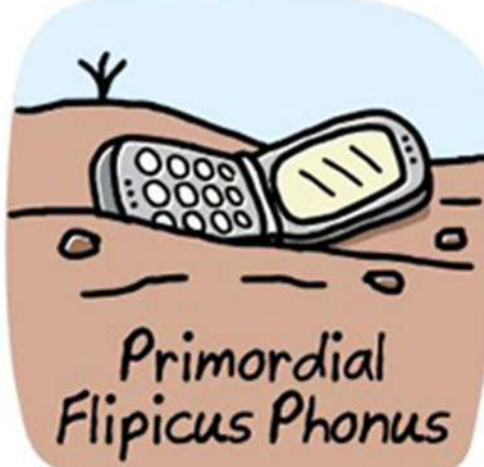
have more meaning than the monarch's birthday it would replace. Celebrating a Republic Day or Constitution Day, however we might term it, could help Australians focus on our future and the

issues that unite us as a nation. There is no contradiction in respecting King Charles as our head of state under the Australian constitution - just as we respected Queen Elizabeth - while using the lawful, peaceful, and democratic processes available to us under that same constitution to change it and become a republic. While the Real Republic Australia does not campaign for the replacement of Australia Day, we suggest that a new day on our calendar marking the change to a republic would

There is plenty to think about last Monday, especially how we might become a republic. The Real Republic Australia wants to see Australians themselves choose our head of state through a genuine direct-election process. We do not want one picked for us by politicians, nor do we support the Australian

fossils from the mid-Technolithic Period

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What's Happening & other

with Mike Lowing

courtesy Murray Mckean).

Apologies to our readers for skipping an issue without prior warning. I like to call it our winter recess.

I am writing this last Sunday and it's 5am and 1°Celsius outside ... very nippy.

According to the BoM La Niña is officially over with an El Niño watch issued ahead of summer and last months unseasonable cold snap questions are swirling, what winter may hold. A May-July forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) paints some of the picture, revealing below-median rainfall is "likely to very likely" & the chance of another winter marked by floods is slim. Also, the chance of exceeding medium rainfall is low. They also said that there will still be some rain, but it will probably just be lower than average.

For those that fear the cold, they also had some good news with much of Australia can expect "above-average temperatures". Time will tell us how correct or incorrect the BoM is. Cheers, Mike

On 8 June 2007 - 16 years ago last week - the Pasha Bulker ran aground at Nobbys Beach, and local Newcastle photographer Murray Mckean took this incredible photo that continues to fascinate worldwide. (photo



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

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Opening of new flyover bridge on the New England Highway upgrade at Belford

On track for completion a year ahead of schedule, the New England Highway upgrade at Belford will mark another major milestone when the new flyover bridge opens to traffic in coming weeks. Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Jenny Aitchison said the NSW Government is investing \$97 million for the upgrade, which will provide around three kilometres of new dual carriageway on the New England Highway and a new flyover bridge for motorists turning right from the Golden Highway.

“The upgrade will improve safety, travel times and reliability for more than 25,000 motorists who travel along the New England Highway each day,” Ms Aitchison said. “So far construction has supported about 225 jobs, which has brought an economic boost to the Upper Hunter community. “Road users will soon be able to travel along the new flyover bridge as well as the new eastbound carriageway, which opened to traffic earlier this year. “This is a major milestone for the project,



which is also on track to be completed a year ahead of schedule which is a huge credit to our contractors and workers.” In 2022, crews installed 12 concrete bridge beams that form the flyover

bridge for motorists turning from the Golden Highway toward Newcastle and Maitland. This included eight beams on either side of the

highway measuring 19 metres long and weighing 40 tonnes each, and four beams spanning the highway measuring 33 metres long and weighing 65 tonnes each. Work is continuing on the old section of highway, the access road for nearby properties on the Golden Highway and the new left-turn lane for motorists travelling towards Singleton that will connect to the new roundabout on the Golden Highway. Work on the project is expected to be completed well ahead of schedule in late 2023, weather permitting. Motorists are advised to follow the directions of the electronic message signs and drive with caution when travelling

through the work zone. Work on the upgrade will continue to be carried out weekdays from 7am to 6pm and on Saturdays from 8am to 1pm. Traffic control and a reduced speed limit of 80km/h will be in place for the safety of workers and motorists. Major work on the project started in late September 2021. The project is being delivered by Acciona Construction Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Transport for NSW. For more information on the New England Highway upgrade between Belford and the Golden Highway, visit nswroads.work/B2G

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Members say ..



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

Councillor Jurd and I had the privilege of attending the 2023 Local Roads Congress on June 5th at NSW Parliament House. This annual event, which was first held in 2005, brings together mayors, councillors, and executives from local councils to address policy issues related to roads and transportation. The congress aims to improve roads and transport outcomes, focusing on policy matters rather than technicalities. This year's discussions focussed on enhancing road infrastructure, improving connectivity, and ensuring the safety and efficiency of transportation systems. Councillor Jackson and myself are also attending the National General Assembly of the Australia Local Government Association, alongside Council General Manager Ken Liddell. The conference provides an important forum to collaborate with Ministers and other local government representatives and to identify opportunities to design federal programs and policies that support local councils to enhance service delivery and build stronger communities. Looking ahead, I am excited to join with local families to celebrate the 60th birthday of the Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre. Established in 1963, this non-profit, community-based organisation has been providing high-quality and affordable childcare to children in our community. With a strong commitment to excellence and assisting each child to reach their full potential, the centre has been an important part of our community for six decades. As someone who attended the centre myself, and whose children now do, I look forward to witnessing the positive impact the Cessnock Multipurpose Children's Centre will have on the next generation. I hope many of you are also able to join me at the upcoming Hunter Valley Wildlife Park Community Day on June 18th. For \$15 per person, visitors can enjoy the park's diverse animal exhibits and expansive grounds. It's a special event to show gratitude to the resilient Cessnock community, offering a day of joy and relaxation amidst the challenges we've faced over the last few years. Come together, connect with the animal family, and

celebrate the exceptional place we call home. Cessnock City Council is giving away two double passes for an exclusive animal encounter, available only to those attending the event, as well as funding entry for 50 people with mobility impairments and their carers. The Hunter Valley Wildlife Park has been a beloved location for a generation of Cessnock residents. Their inaugural Community Day will celebrate all that is great about our community, highlighting the unique attractions and experiences that make Cessnock an exceptional place to live and visit. Join us for an unforgettable day at Hunter Valley Wildlife Park, forging stronger community connections and creating lasting memories. *Cheers, Jay*



Philip Penfold Mayor of Maitland

We're entering a new era at Maitland Council, as we prepare to farewell our current General Manager and welcome a new GM to the team. Following a confidential extraordinary Council meeting on May 22, we unanimously decided to appoint Jeff Smith CPA GAICD to the position. We received nearly 100 applications from across the country for this role and after much consideration, Council determined Jeff to be the ideal candidate. Jeff was born and bred in the Lower Hunter where he still lives with his wife and family and boasts an impressive 29 year career in the public and private sector, including senior roles at Port Stephens and Randwick City Council. He will be joining us from Northern Beaches Council where he has worked as Director Corporate and Legal since 2019. Jeff ticks all the boxes; he has great breadth of experience, a real focus on customer service and is an exceptional financial manager. He is highly regarded within the industry and further afield, and we are very fortunate to have someone of his calibre join us. I am confident he will help lead our organisation into the future as we continue to deliver quality services and infrastructure for the people of Maitland. Jeff will start with us from 3 July 2023 under a five year contract. We look forward to working with him and know he will be a great fit for our community. Welcome Jeff.

There's lots coming up in Maitland over the next few weeks, starting with The Slow Food Earth Markets on Thursday 15 June. From 8.30am to 1.00pm, you can head down to The Levee and stock up on local produce with a range of fresh fruit and vegetables, herbs, eggs, honey and much more available. The Earth Markets are held on the first and third Thursday of each month so if you can't make it this time, you'll be able to catch them when they return on Thursday 6 July. The Sunday Muster Artisan Markets are also coming to Thornton on Sunday 25 June. Check out a range of handcrafted products at the grounds of Mortels Sheepskin Factory from 9.00am to 2.00pm and support local businesses. If markets aren't your thing, you can always pay a visit to Maitland Gaol on Friday 30 June for a unique event called 'Blues Brothers Behind Bars.' The event pays homage to the original Blues Brothers Movie, with tribute band 'Blues Brothers Rebooted' set to play iconic rock and soul tunes on the night, with cold beverages provided by Kombi Keg Newcastle. What could be more fun than dancing to Jailhouse Rock while you're in a former maximum security prison? The event runs from 7.00pm to 10.30pm so grab your tickets online and join us for a night of rhythm and blues. Let's keep Maitland moving. *Cheers, Philip*



Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP

EXTRA DONORS REQUIRED
Australian Red Cross Lifeblood and NSW Health are calling for more O negative and A blood donors right now across the state. Unfortunately, winter illnesses will result in around 2,000 blood donors a week cancelling and rescheduling appointments due to cold and flu symptoms, and it is expected to get worse in the coming weeks. Just 6.5 per cent of Australians have type O negative blood but as the only blood type that can be given to everyone in emergencies, it's always in high demand. Make an appointment to donate blood in June at the Lifeblood website: <https://www.lifeblood.com.au/blood/making-your-donation...>

FISHING FUND GRANTS

Aboriginal businesses and communities are being encouraged to make an application to the current round of the Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund. The fund assists Aboriginal commercial fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic tourism-related businesses, as well as fisheries research and cultural education that promotes and protects cultural fishing across the state. A total of \$500,000 is on offer from the new funding round which closes on 25 August. An overview of the trust fund, guidelines and application forms are available on the DPI Aboriginal Fishing Trust Fund webpage: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aboriginal-fishing/AFTF/apply-for-funds

ADVERTISING SIGN BAN

The NSW Government is moving to ban external gambling-related signs from pubs and clubs across the state by 1 September. Names such as VIP Room/VIP Lounge, Golden Room/Lounge, Players' Room/Lounge Prosperity Room/Lounge will be among names banned as well as images of dragons, coins or lightning motifs. Venues will be formally notified that all external signs including fixed unilluminated awning signs, will need to be removed, altered, or concealed before September. Where venues can demonstrate delays in removing their signage that are outside of their control, they will be afforded a further three months to comply. Liquor & Gaming NSW has developed a position paper which outlines its enforcement approach and transition period. *Cheers, Dave*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR THE STATE OF NSW REALLY IS BROKE – THANKS TO THE FORMER GOVERNMENT
Regular readers of this column will know that for many years I have been pointing out that the NSW Budget was in a death spiral, feasting on itself. I pointed out regularly the incredible amount of borrowing that was taking place at the same time as assets were being sold off and at the same time as old incomes (e.g. profits from electricity) were being privatised. With the change of Government in NSW, these Budget truths are now being

told – very publicly. And it is not pretty. NSW debt, our borrowings, will soon be at \$180 billion plus. This cannot be prevented because of contracts that they signed. When the previous Government came to power back in 2011 they inherited just \$22.5B in borrowings. So, over a 160 year period in which NSW Government existed, just \$22.5B had been put on the credit card, while in just the past 12 years an additional \$160B has been added. Not only was \$160B borrowed, but in addition to that, a further \$100B of our states assets were sold off – and all of the money has now been spent. Borrowed money is at the core of our state's terrible Budget that has been completely wrecked by the outgoing Government. The interest payments on borrowings is \$7B per year. That equates to \$134 million dollars per week, and more than \$19M per day – just in interest payments! Between when you read this column and when you read my next column in 2 weeks, the state will have been required to pay \$268M in interest payments. That money could have built a new school or hospital every week, instead of just paying off debt that the previous government racked up. In fact, I want you to personally think about what you would like \$268M to be spent on in our local area, and then share my frustration that it won't be, because it will be spent on interest on debt instead. But the destruction of our State Budget doesn't end there. Because there is also an additional \$7B (completely un-related to our interest charges) in commitments that the previous Government made that are not funded. Examples include the wages of 1,100 nurses and \$700M for kids living under the care of our state. I cannot overstate the incredible damage that has been done to the state's finances. That damage is even more alarming when we know, and we do know, that our health system is in crisis and our education system is in crisis. These are issues that must be addressed, but not only did the previous Government not have a plan to address them, they even made sure that there was no money available to address them. Our state was overdue to take a new direction and voters have made that possible. Unfortunately, we will be trying to plot our new path from a position of being fundamentally broke. * * * * * 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", follow me on Instagram at "[claytonbarrmp](https://www.instagram.com/claytonbarrmp)" or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au

Cheers Clayton



Member for Hunter Daniel Repacholi MP

MRI Machine in Cessnock

Great news for the Hunter electorate. In Focus Radiology have now opened a fully bulk billed MRI machine in Cessnock. This is a game changer for our region. This affordable service, has been made possible by recent changes to Medicare by Health Minister Mark Butler. Health services should be available to everyone, no matter where you live and we have recently made changes to Medicare funding for MRI's located in rural areas which has allowed this service to open. This will now save people travelling to Maitland or the John Hunter Hospital for this service.



Cir Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

We're extremely proud of the lifestyle offered here in the Singleton LGA, where we celebrate city convenience with a rural heartbeat. But we're also always looking to progress and evolve, and there is always more that we can do to make our area better for our residents now and generations to come. Funding opportunities play a critical role in delivering more for our community, and our success in recent years demonstrates the productive relationships we have with all levels of government. As we head into a new financial year, liveability continues to be a key theme as we continue to deliver projects to help people feel good about living, working and investing in Singleton. One key example is the new dump point at Lake St Clair. A stop and stay at our popular recreation and camping spot has become a whole lot more convenient for caravanners with this new infrastructure, which is

a key item in the Lake St Clair Recreation Park improvement program. The Park has undergone some much-needed enhancements over the past 12 months including new onsite caretakers, a new office and caretaker's residence, new online boing system, boom gates and growing online presence on social media. A new playground will also be installed next month, funded by the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program and Council. The dump point and playground have been on Council's Advocacy wishlist for some time now and go a long way to enabling the growth and development of the Lake St Clair Park's offering to maximise tourism potential. Similarly, the development of the Alroy Oval Sports Precinct is also a key item on Council's Advocacy Infrastructure Agenda, and its transformation is slamdunking into the first phase of the Masterplan to deliver the first-full size outdoor basketball court in Singleton as part of the multi-use facility. The \$250,000 project, funded by NSW Regional Housing Fund, also includes a new playground with a soccer theme in keeping with the vision for the site to become a premier soccer precinct. Developed in consultation with Singleton Strikers FC and Singleton Track and Field, the masterplan provides for three full-sized football pitches, upgraded amenities building and car park, shelters and footpaths. This development is going to bring new opportunities for people in our community — we're very excited for this master plan to come to life and this first stage is a good start. The Federal Member for Hunter Dan Repacholi MP made a funding commitment to Alroy Oval during the Federal election, and we're working with him and others to seek further funds to deliver this plan in its entirety sooner rather than later. *Cheers, Sue Moore Singleton mayor*



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Ovid-19 hospitalizations & deaths in NSW up to 4pm 9 June '23

1516 People in Hospital/ 48 people in ICU/ 81 lives lost in the previous 7 days

The impending Flu season ~ Vaccinate early recommended

- * Flu cases in Australia are 100 times higher than they were a year ago, according to federal health data.
- * Australians are being urged to get their annual influenza vaccine as soon as possible to avoid serious illness.
- * The latest advice statement issued by ATAGI states that vaccines will be made available as early as this month.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)



Respiratory syncytial (*sin-city-al*) virus (RSV) is the most common cause of respiratory and breathing infections in children. It is a virus that causes infection of the lungs and breathing passages, and is one of the most frequent causes of the common cold. RSV can affect people of all ages. Most children aged under two years have been infected by RSV at some stage, and it is possible to get RSV over and over again. Good hygiene habits can reduce the chance of your child getting the virus or passing it on to others.

Signs and symptoms of RSV

After exposure to the virus, your child may only develop symptoms around five days later. RSV in children is normally associated with mild to moderate cold-like symptoms, which generally last between eight and 15 days. If your child has RSV they may have some or all of the following symptoms:

- * runny nose
- * coughing
- * wheezing
- * fever.

RSV is a common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children under one year old. If your child has asthma, RSV is likely to trigger their asthma symptoms.

Care at home

Most cases of RSV are mild and can be treated with rest at home. If your child has RSV:

Keep them home if they feel unwell. If they feel well and are not coughing and sneezing, they can continue with their normal activities (kindergarten, school etc.). Encourage your child to drink small amounts of fluids more frequently. If an infant has RSV, give them small amounts of fluid (breastmilk, formula or water) regularly.

See our fact sheet [Fever in](#)

children for advice on managing your child's fever if it is causing them discomfort.

When to see a doctor

Take your child to the GP if: they have a high temperature (fever) and do not look well

their nose is filled with mucus and they are having difficulty feeding

the cough becomes worse, or your child starts coughing up mucus your child is dehydrated they are a baby and refusing to breast or bottle feed and are irritable.

Call an ambulance or go to your nearest hospital emergency department if your child is turning blue, having trouble breathing, or is breathing very quickly.

After seeing your child, the doctor may ask to review your child again the following day. Take them back sooner if your child:

- is having more difficulty breathing or breathing faster

is looking more unwell is not taking at least half of their normal fluids has a cough that is getting worse.

How is RSV spread?

Children with RSV are usually infectious (able to pass the virus onto others) for eight days from the start of their symptoms. RSV is very contagious and can live on surfaces for several hours, and on unwashed hands for 30–60 minutes. RSV spreads quickly and easily among children through coughing and sneezing, and sharing cups and other objects that have been in contact with the infected child's mouth, nose or eyes.

It can be difficult to stop the spread of RSV; however,

practising good hygiene will help avoid passing any virus onto others.

Don't allow children to share drinks, cutlery or toys (whenever possible) and ensure these items are cleaned thoroughly with soap and water between uses.

Encourage your child to cough and sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away.

It is very important that you and/or your child wash their hands once they have blown their nose to stop the germs from spreading.

Wash your hands after having any contact with someone who has symptoms of a cold.

If your child has RSV (or cold-like symptoms), it is important to keep them away from newborn babies or people who are immunocompromised (have a weakened immune system).

Key points to remember

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the most common cause of respiratory and breathing infections in children.

RSV is a common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children under one year old, and may trigger symptoms in children with asthma.

Your child can go to school if they feel OK and are not spreading the virus via coughing or sneezing.

RSV is very infectious, so good hygiene is important to avoid spreading the virus.

Try to keep infected children away from newborn babies and people with weakened immune systems.

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Fish & Chips



Here's a classic recipe for battered fish and chips:
Ingredients:

- 4 large white fish fillets (such as cod or haddock)
- Vegetable oil (for frying)
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup cold sparkling water
- 4 large potatoes (russet or other starchy variety)
- Salt (for seasoning)
- Vinegar (optional, for serving)
- Tartar sauce or ketchup (optional, for serving)
- Lemon wedges (for serving)

Instructions:

1. Peel the potatoes and cut them into thick chips or fries. Rinse them under cold water to remove excess starch. Pat dry with a paper towel.
2. Preheat the oven to 200°C (400°F). Place a wire rack on a baking sheet and set it aside. This will be used to keep the cooked fish warm while you fry the remaining batches.
3. In a deep fryer or a large, deep saucepan, heat enough vegetable oil to submerge the fish and chips. Heat the oil to 180°C (350°F).
4. While the oil is heating, prepare the batter. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder,

der, salt, and black pepper. Slowly pour in the sparkling water while whisking until the batter is smooth and has a thick, pancake-like consistency. Set aside.

5. Once the oil is hot, carefully lower a handful of the potato chips into the oil. Fry them for about 5–7 minutes or until they are golden brown and crispy. Remove them from the oil using a slotted spoon or tongs and transfer them to the wire rack to drain any excess oil. Season with salt while they are still hot. Repeat the process until all the chips are cooked.

6. Pat dry the fish fillets with a paper towel to remove any excess moisture. Dip each fillet into the batter, making sure it is evenly coated.

7. Gently place the battered fish into the hot oil, one or two fillets at a time, depending on the size of your pan. Fry for about 4–6 minutes, flipping halfway through, until the batter is crispy and golden brown. Remove the fish from the oil and place it on the wire rack with the chips to drain.

8. Once all the fish and chips are cooked, place the baking sheet with the wire rack in the preheated oven to keep them warm while you finish frying any remaining batches.

9. Serve the fish and chips with vinegar, tartar sauce or ketchup, and lemon wedges on the side.

Enjoy your delicious homemade fish and chips!



Vigero played in Branxton remembered



When I was informed that Miller Park Hotel was having a framed mounted blazer mounted inside the hotel in memory of the Miller Park Vigero team I was a little lost as to what the game was and Branxton's involvement.

When you have a question about the history of the local area you talk to Melita Watson and in Greta it's Neridah Kentwell and Val Randal.

In this case it was Melita Watson (see article at right). Prior to speaking to her I did some quick research and learnt how the game was played and its general demise. I did learn that Ipswich, Boonah, and Cairns remain the last towns and cities fielding teams of what used to be a sport for schoolgirls from about the 1920s.

Melita did the rest and I am grateful for her assistance and thank her for letting us reproduce it.

Anyway, the blazer was donated by the Bridge family after Peter found the blazer that had been put away for quite some time. It was his mother's, Rita Bridge since deceased, who played for Miller Park.

It now hangs proudly in Miller Park Hotel and as son Peter Bridge said... and rightly so.



Local artist does LiddellWORKS

Award winning artist and Branxton lad Todd Fuller was in Muswellbrook in early June to create portraits of workers from Liddell Power Station as part of a joint project between Arts Upper Hunter and AGL Macquarie. LiddellWORKS was created to mark the historic closure of the Liddell Power Station which occurred in April 2023.

Also funded by the Department of Regional NSW, the Stronger Country Communities Fund, Liddell WORKS is a creative program that marks the complex legacy of Liddell Power Station and its transformation. Sixteen artists were selected to document, record and creatively interpret Liddell Power Station from operation, to shut down and beyond, culminating in several events, including a major exhibition at the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre and Singleton Culture Centre in 2024. Todd Fuller is one of the artists selected for this innovative project. With a practice that integrates sculpture, moving image, performance and painting, underpinning all aspects of his work is a love of drawing. Todd Fuller also originally hails from the Branxton, with family connections to Liddell.

"My father worked at Liddell for 38 years. As such, I have an intimate insight into the experiences of those who worked at Liddell, the local community and the social and political complexities of workforce as the station reached the end of its life. It is rare that the stories of workers of institutions such as Liddell have the opportunity to tell their stories. This is a unique opportunity to archive, document, preserve and celebrate the human side to this significant site.

Todd will be producing portraits of former and current workers from Liddell, documenting a cross section of the workforce, their experiences and memories for audiences. Subjects sat for Todd at the Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre on the 9th, 10th, 12th and 13 June

The resulting works will be exhibited as part of the LiddellWORKS project exhibition at Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre and Singleton Cultural Centre in June 2024.

Todd has been awarded a number of residencies that have informed and developed his practice, including time spent at Bundanon Trust, Hill End, Grafton Regional Art Gallery, as well as international stints at the Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris, the British School of Rome, and recently the NG Creative Residency in Provence.

A graduate of Sydney's National Art School, Fuller has exhibited widely across Australia over the last ten years. He was a finalist in the 2019 Sir John Sulman Prize, won the prestigious Jacaranda Acquisitive Drawing Award in 2018, and his work is present in various public and private Australian collections, including the Parliament House Art Collection, Artbank, Sydney Harbour Trust, and numerous regional art galleries. Alongside his national success, Fuller has gained international attention, with his works in exhibitions in the United States, Italy, France, South Korea, Bangladesh, England, Singapore and Malta.

"This, at right, is Margaret Chammon, one of the first female employees of Liddell. She is one of three generations of Liddell: her father worked there, then she held a few roles including cleaner, labourer and Trades Assistant, and now her son works there too.

I am looking forward to editing her interview and sharing some of her memories, triumphs and challenges, they were very special to hear first hand." said Todd.



Smoother driving along Elderslie Road

The trip along Elderslie Road will soon become a smoother one with road safety improvements set to kick off next week.

Singleton Council has awarded the tender for the almost \$1 million project to complete the upgrade to Elderslie Road between the Cessnock boundary and Singleton at East Branxton.

Damian Morris, Council's Acting Director Infrastructure and Planning Services said the works would not only have a tangible impact on the day-to-day lives of locals but improve road safety outcomes.

The project will see rectification works to a 710m section of the road, including repairing damaged pavement and adding a stabilising material to provide additional strength to the roadway, road widening, line marking and drainage improvements.

"Elderslie Road is an important route between Branxton and Singleton, and is well-used by residents and visitors alike," Mr Morris said.

"These works will ensure there's a smooth transition to the existing pavement and improve safety outcomes for all road users."

Works are due to begin on Monday 5 June and are scheduled to finish by mid-August, weather permitting.

During the works temporary traffic lights, one lane closure and a reduced speed limit of 40km/h will be in place for the safety of workers and motorists.

The \$964,233 two-stage project, being delivered simultaneously, is funded through NSW Government grants.



Photo above: Project Engineer Mohammad Hasan at Elderslie Road.

Information taken from interviews with Mrs. Betty Bridge & Mrs. Rita Bridge

Vigero was an 11 person team game played only by women. It was a little like cricket with a major exception being the fact that if you hit the ball in front of the wicket, you had to run.

Another difference was that the ladies could actually 'chuck' the ball.

Branxton first had a team in the 1920's. Some of the players at that time were Mrs. Yates, Ella Allan & Iris Allan - whom I am told was a very good player.

This wicket was located on the eastern end of Branxton approx. opposite the Branxton Baths.

The game was again to be played in the 1940's when a team representing Branxton was formed and known as 'Miller Park'.

The ladies played on a cement wicket which was laid directly behind Miller Park Bowling Club - where the Soccer fields are now located. The field was maintained by Miller Park Club.

The Branxton ladies registered to play in the 'South Maitland Coalfields District Vigero Association'

As the numbers of players increased another team was formed and this was known as 'Branxton United'. Some of the Miller Park team who lived in the Branxton area transferred to Branxton United.

So then began a fierce rivalry between the two Branxton teams.

Miller Park team members were:

Eileen Kellner; Esme Jackson, Grace Goodwin, Hazel O'Connell; Clare Goodwin, Mrs. Andrews, Dot Hall; Rita Bridge; Daphne Heffernan, Joy Charnock; Madge Smith; Marjorie Ralston; Neva Andrews; Nell Haffey; Daphne Owen; L. Martin; Joyce Edwards, Grace Gurr, B. Dixon, Leonore Heffernan, Clara McDonald, Dorothy Heffernan

The 'home ground' for **Branxton United** was a wicket on land now occupied by Branxton State School. The Council laid down the wicket and maintained the grounds.

Members of this team were:

Nel Benson, May Koller, Hazel O'Connell, Colleen Thomas, Cecilia Thomas, Neta Bendeich, Mary Wilson, Clare Bendeich, Marg Bridge, Noreen Bendeich, Pauleen Thomas, Fay Taylor, Betty Bridge (c), Del Thomas.

Both these teams were part of the South Maitland Coalfields District Competition which had 9 or 10 teams.



In 1953, Rita Bridge was the first Branxton player to score a century when she posted 104 against Pelaw Main.

Many of the ladies excelled outside the local competition.

'All-rounders' Betty Bridge, Del Thomas & Rita Bridge and Wicket-keeper, Neva Andrews made the Cessnock District Representative side to play against the Newcastle District.

Betty Bridge was also selected to represent the State of N.S.W. but sickness prevented her from participating.

Betty's best bowling figures were 8 wickets for 4 runs.

Rita Bridge, Neva Andrews & Daphne Owens were selected to play in the Cessnock Team when it played in Sydney against an interstate side.

MAITLAND MERCURY

15th September, 1953. By "The Old Sideliner"

In a Vigero match in Sydney between the interstate combination and a team representative of the Cessnock Association, the Coalfields twelve gave their city sisters a beating by 26 runs.

Two players from Miller Park (Branxton) were included in the country side, and both Neva Andrews and Rita Bridge justified their inclusion. Neva Andrews gave an almost flawless display behind the stumps, and Rita Bridge, who bowled unchanged in City's first innings, taking four for 24, finished the match with six for 32.

Another member of this team was Daphne Owen.

Unfortunately around 1955 Vigero folded in this area and now is a forgotten sport.



THE RIVALS! Branxton United
Miller Park



Back: Eileen Bendeich (Kellner), Essie Hatcher, Grace Goodwin, Phyllis Hancock (Harris), Clara McDonald, Marie Andrews
Middle: Dot Smith (Hall), Rita Bendeich (Bridge), Daphne Heffernan (Joynt), Joy Charnock, Nell Haffey
Front: Marge Ralston, Neva Andrews, Nell Haffey



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Vacancy rates fluctuate across NSW as rental crisis continues to grip market

The REINSW Vacancy Rate Survey results for April 2023 show that residential vacancies in Sydney remain at their lowest level since April 2011.

“In March 2023, vacancies dropped to just 1.3% – a rate we’ve not experienced for more than a decade,” REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said. “Over the last month, while rates have not suffered a further decline for Sydney overall, they’ve certainly not improved, remaining unchanged at 1.3% in April 2023.”

The drop in the rate for Sydney overall is a result of vacancies decreasing in the Outer Ring of Sydney. “Sydney’s Outer Ring dropped to 1.3%, a decrease of 0.4% for the month,” Mr McKibbin said. “The Inner Ring rose slightly to 1.5% (+0.1%) and the Middle Ring increased to 1.2% (+0.4%).”

“Yes, the survey shows that there has been some slight easing – but there is certainly no cause for celebration. Slight fluctuations are to be expected from month to month, but there’s no doubt that the rental crisis continues to maintain its grip on the market in NSW.”

Outside Sydney, vacancy rates rose slightly for the Hunter region, but dropped across the Illawarra. “In the Hunter region, the vacancy rate increased by 0.3% to be 1.9%,” Mr McKibbin said. “The Illawarra region dropped to 1.5% (-0.3%).”

Vacancies also remain tight across most regional areas of New South Wales, with the Central West, Coffs Harbour, Orana and South Coast areas each recording drops. The Albury, Central Coast, Mid-North Coast, Murrumbidgee, New England, Northern Rivers and South East areas eased slightly.

“Month after month, the story remains the same – rental availability reduces, but rents continue to increase,” Mr McKibbin said. “It’s an extremely tough environment for everyone involved in the market – tenants, landlords and property managers. “The Premier has acknowledged that supply is the problem and increasing it is the only solution – and the NSW Government can’t do it alone. Solving the crisis requires positive action from all three levels of government.”

Rent bidding ban backfires

By Kirsten Craze

Property managers were prohibited from soliciting rent bidding late last year in an effort by NSW Fair Trading to ease the financial and emotional stress on tenants.

On 17 December 2022, NSW Fair Trading made the decision to update the *Property and Stock Agents Regulation 2022* in light of the current climate of rising rents and decreasing vacancy rates. However, in an attempt to protect tenants from runaway rents, industry insiders say the new legislation is silencing well-meaning property managers and ultimately disadvantaging renters.

According to NSW Fair Trading there had been “reports of tenants being urged by real estate agents to offer higher rental amounts to secure a property”. The changes came about to clarify acceptable practices for agents and prevent rent bidding between prospective tenants. The office added that the amendments would “increase transparency as a fixed price will need to be advertised, giving prospective tenants a clear idea of the rent payable and whether they can afford the property”.

The truth around transparency

Chantelle Collin, Head of Property Management at BresicWhitney, said although the intention behind the changes was to create greater transparency, it’s resulted in the opposite.

“What it’s done is remove the ability for us to have transparent conversations with tenants. And it puts us in an awkward position when they start asking us questions. Our only option is to respond by saying, ‘I

can’t discuss that with you,’” she said.

“If a tenant asks a question about what interest there has been in a property, or how many applications are currently in, we can’t answer anymore. It ultimately leaves tenants in the dark.” In addition to the ban on real estate agents, or their assistants, soliciting or inviting higher rent offers, the new changes also prohibit marketing material showing a rent price range or terms such as ‘offers from’ or ‘by negotiation’.

While these rules were put in place for marketing or showing a home, there has been no restriction made around future tenants offering higher rents voluntarily.

“With the introduction of these changes, it initially caused concern among prospective tenants about what they could and couldn’t do. Many thought they couldn’t offer above the asking price and potentially they missed out on securing a property,” Ms Collin added.

Alternatively, due to the lack of transparency some tenants are offering amounts much higher than the asking rent in an attempt to outbid other “hidden” bids from competing applicants. Prior to the recent NSW Fair Trading changes, tenants could simply offer a small increase and ask the property manager to keep them informed if there was a higher offer.

Agents’ hands are tied

Even the most helpful property managers who genuinely want to assist frustrated tenants in a highly competitive marketplace are finding themselves unable to lend a hand.

“If we’ve got an application where someone has offered more, we can’t let anybody know that anymore,” says Ms Collin. NSW Fair Trading has informed property managers that if faced with queries around making higher offers they should “advise that they are not permitted to solicit or invite a person to offer more than the advertised rent” and “advise that the tenant should make their own decision about the rent they wish to offer”. If an agent goes beyond these suggestions, they could incur a penalty infringement notice of \$550 for an individual or \$1,100 for a corporation. The maximum penalty a court can award for non-compliance is \$11,000 for a corporation or \$5,500 in any other case.

Ms Collin says the restrictive nature of the legislation will not alleviate a current rental market where demand is far outweighing supply across the state.

“What we’re saying is that if someone asks us genuine questions, we should be able to answer them.”

Getting to the root of the rental problem

With Sydney’s vacancy rate hitting an all-time low in March this year at just 1.3% according to [REINSW latest vacancy rates report](#) - and many regions across NSW also sitting around the 1% mark or lower - the rental squeeze cannot be fixed by legislation alone, says Ms Collin.

“It’s a really complex issue. While I get the intent behind changing the rules, the real issue driving this demand is the critical lack of supply - that’s really the crux of the problem.” She says in the current environment there is little property managers can do to shift the desperation faced by so many tenants, other than do their best within the law.

“It’s not something we can really solve alone, we have to work within the legislation parameters we’re given. Until under supply is addressed, no legislation changes will ease things. As an industry we can only do the best we can, which is working collaboratively to make sure everyone has the access to the right resources and that agents are educated well enough to price properties correctly - but it is very, very challenging.”

Interest rise, again

The Reserve Bank of Australia has raised the official cash rate to 4.1 per cent in a further hit to borrowers, meaning that since the start of the year monthly repayments on a typical \$500,000 home loan have increased almost \$300.

The 12th interest rate hike in little more than a year was widely expected following evidence that although economic activity is easing, it is not slowing fast enough for the central bank’s liking.

Inflation jumped 6.8 per cent in April while conditions in the jobs market remain tight, labour costs are building and house prices are rebounding.

Against this, consumer is slowing, building activity has plunged and the April inflation reading has been inflated, in part, by changes to the fuel excise a year ago.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, household spending was up 6 per cent in April, its weakest increase since late 2021.

Announcing the increase, Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe warned that further rises might be necessary in order to bring inflation down to the top of the central bank’s 2 to 3 per cent target band by mid-2025.

When the RBA board paused monetary policy in April there were hopes that the peak of the current tightening cycle had been reached.

But since then official figures have been released showing that inflation grew by 7 per cent in the March quarter, the labour market has remained tight and Dr Lowe admitted to significant uncertainty about the outlook for consumer spending.

While many households were under significant financial strain because of high inflation and interest rates, others had “substantial savings buffers” to draw upon to support their consumption.

The Opposition has also claimed that the federal budget has added to inflation.

But Dr Lowe said last week that the budget was “broadly neutral” in its effect on inflation, and his view was echoed by Treasury secretary Steven Kennedy.

What was Meadow's law? by Mike Lowing

With the recent pardon given to Kathleen Folbigg I went back to her trial and had a look at the prosecutions argument which led to her conviction. It appears all evidence was circumstantial and relied on a now discredited Meadow’s law.

Kathleen Folbigg was arrested in April 2001. Folbigg's trial lasted seven weeks in 2003.

The prosecution alleged Folbigg murdered her four children by smothering them during periods of frustration. Their case relied on the improbability of all four children dying of natural causes, citing the now-dubious Meadow's law, a maxim attributed to British paediatrician Roy Meadow: "One sudden infant death is a tragedy, two is suspicious and three is murder, until proven otherwise."

The defense made the case that Folbigg did not kill or harm her children. Although prosecution witnesses were concerned about the lack of prodromal (early-warning) symptoms in any of the children, the defence posed natural explanations for the events such as cot death and, in the case of Laura's death, myocarditis. The defence highlighted that Folbigg was a caring mother, pointing to journal entries that showed the care and concern that she gave her children. Some of her acquaintances gave statements to investigators about her caring nature. The defense pointed out that there were no direct admissions to the killings

in Folbigg's journal entries, and that any entries indirectly suggesting her responsibility could be chalked up to a typical grieving mother's guilt. Folbigg appeared genuinely distraught to ambulance and police responders to the scene. They pointed out that no physical evidence could link Folbigg to murder; it was an entirely circumstantial case with very little consensus among the scientific experts who testified at trial.

On 21 May 2003, Folbigg was found guilty by the Supreme Court of New South Wales jury of the following crimes: three counts of murder, one count of manslaughter and one count of maliciously inflicting grievous bodily harm. On 24 October 2003, Folbigg was sentenced to forty years' imprisonment with a non-parole period of thirty years. On 17 February 2005, after appeal the court reduced her sentence to thirty years' imprisonment with a non-parole period of twenty-five years.

So what is Meadow's law. The "law" has it that because such deaths are a rare phenomenon and difficult to explain by natural causes, we might say that "One is a tragedy, two is suspicious and three is murder unless there is proof to the contrary."

The name is derived from the controversial British paediatrician, Roy Meadow, who until 2003 was seen by many as "Britain's most eminent paediatrician" and leading

expert on child abuse. Meadow's reputation went into decline with a series of legal reverses for his theories, and the damage was confirmed in July 2005 when he was struck off the medical register by the General Medical Council for tendering misleading evidence. Meadow's licence was reinstated in February 2006 by a London court. Meadow attributes many unexplained infant deaths to the disorder or condition in mothers called Munchausen syndrome by proxy. According to this diagnosis some parents, especially mothers, harm or even kill their children as a means of calling attention to themselves. Its existence has been confirmed by cases where parents have been caught on video surveillance actively harming their children, but its frequency is subject to debate as Meadow claimed to have destroyed the original data which he used to substantiate the law.

As a result of the 1993 trial of Beverley Allitt, a paediatric nurse convicted of killing four children under her care and injuring five others, Meadow's ideas gained ascendancy in British child protection circles, and mothers were convicted of murder on the basis of his expert testimony. Thousands of children were removed from their parents and taken into care or fostered out because they were deemed to be 'at risk'. From 2003, however, the tide of opinion turned: a number of high-profile acquittals cast doubt on the validity of 'Meadow's Law'. Several convictions were reversed, and many more came under review.



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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DINNER - KIDS EAT FREE WITH ANY

FULL PRICE MAIN MEAL PURCHASED

FROM 5PM



TUESDAYS -

LUNCH - \$15 LADIES & TRADIES MENU

DINNER - GET A FREE TOPPER ON

ANY STEAK OR SCHNITZEL FROM 5PM



WEDNESDAY -

LUNCH - \$15 LADIES & TRADIES MENU

DINNER - GET 1KG OF WINGS WITH

CHIPS & SALAD \$29 FROM 5PM



THURSDAYS -

LUNCH - \$15 LADIES & TRADIES MENU

DINNER - CHOOSE ANY LOCAL BEER

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Things You May Not Know About



.....GRETA

with Neridah Kentwell



The Migrants' Angel, June Davis

June Davis is still remembered in Greta by the surviving World War II immigrants and their adult children (after they left the Greta Migrant Camp), as their guardian angel in, what was at times, a frightening new world.

They turned to her in moments of indecision and confusion, for friendship and help in their moments of need. She invited them into her home that was once on the corner of Wyndham and High Streets, always giving them cups of tea, which allowed them to relax, so they could meet each other and know things would be alright. She listened, helped to fill out forms and solve problems, was a nurse, letter writer, advisor, social worker, transport helper, had a shopping service and was a disputes officer. She was once named the unofficial 'Queen of Greta', even unofficial 'Mayor of Greta', and was always the Migrant's Friend, because of her inspiring, kind, generous and thoughtful nature, although she was outspoken when it came to injustice.

June was brought up in Rowlands-Gill in Hampshire in England, born in June 1924, and the eldest of three sisters, the others being Heather and Grace. She came from a strong family as her grandfather was killed in a mining accident and her grandmother was left to bring up their many children. At ten, she helped her mother when her next sister was born but had to go into service for rich families in London, at age fourteen, when Grace was born, because the family could not afford to feed four. She noted the inequalities of lives when in service.

When the Second World War arrived, June returned closer to home to work at an ammunition factory. She became a Trades Union shop steward, upholding the rights of eleven hundred workers, and was not afraid to speak at public meetings to fight for inequality and injustice, at just eighteen

years. She worked for the Women's Voluntary Service to help prevent cruelty to children and helped clothe them. In 1944, she became a suffragette, to help fight for the cause of all of woman-kind' social problems at a meeting of the North East Women's 'Parliament'. At only twenty, she was a delegate to the International Women's Day in England, which then emphasised the work being done by women in keeping the home fronts together by their war work, such as employment in necessary industries and with welfare for the men who were fighting.

She married in England, had her daughter Caroline, and left England in 1962 with her little family to come to Australia, bravely leaving the rest of her family behind. They had a shop in Singleton which unfortunately ended up losing money, and then separated from her husband. She came to Greta to live in an old building that Jack Horton used as a place to restore furniture, that she needed to repair first. She was divorced from her first husband but later remarried Kevin Davis, who helped her by chauffeuring her around although she had a driver's licence.

While June had her own initial struggles when she first arrived here, having to adapt to a different culture and climate (and her lost business and separation), it must have helped her imagine what it was like for the other migrants although they also had language difficulties to overcome as well. The immigrants needed to recover from their experiences too, sometimes shocking, suffered in the Second World War, which June may have also suffered something of, in the United Kingdom.

The Ethnic Communities Council (ECC) prefaced their booklet on June's volunteer efforts by saying June was their natural point of reference for community services in Greta as she had wholeheartedly supported

their first Rural Ethnic Neighbour Aid Project, and Multicultural Groups Co-ordination. But she had started her work in Greta ten years before they began in the area. They came into contact when June asked for help, especially needing someone who could interpret other languages, which resulted in Teresa Lidwinski's arrival. Teresa spoke Polish, German, Ukrainian and could understand Russian, so she and June made a strong team.

In June 1997 June was awarded the Premiers Award for thirty years of service as a volunteer in Greta. June was then honoured on 15 May 1998 for her outstanding community work at the first Volunteers' Appreciation Day by the Hunter Region Ethnic Communities Council, held at Greta Workers' Club. She had to withdraw from active volunteering at that stage because of her failing health.

June was one of the first founders of a Home Care service for the Branxton-Greta-Lochinvar area in 1977, vital for struggling locals and the elderlies needs. She helped set up the first Greta Pre-school, was involved with pensioner groups, the Progress Association, was on the Greta Camp Reunion Committee (50th), the Historic Society, as well as the Greta Ethnic Group, as mentioned above. She even once stood as a Labour candidate in the Greta and Branxton electorate, in the hope she could use her influence to improve life for many more.

June also founded and encouraged the local ladies to form an ethnic dance group, even helping to fund their first costumes in the Polish National style. The dance group became the Polish Dancers and then the

Greta Ethnic Dancers. Enthusiastic local lady, Elizabeth Matt, was their coordinator as she had a strong ethnic dance background. The group offered their demonstrations to schools, festivals, play groups, View Clubs, day centres and nursing homes, although they are now retired.

June's dying wish, at age seventy-five, was to

become naturalised after living in Australia for nearly forty years, thirty of them in Greta. June received her wish in early August 1999, two weeks after applying with the help of her friends.

June died on 24 August 1999 with a strong attendance at her funeral in the Uniting Church in Greta's High Street. Daughter Carolyn, and her

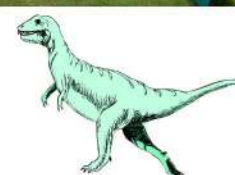
two sons, June's grandsons, gave a moving account of their life with their mother/grandmother. The Greta Ethnic Dancers formed a guard of honour as June's coffin left the church, laying their floral headbands on her coffin as a mark of respect and love. People lined the street as she left, to farewell a close and generous friend. June

Davis certainly left her mark on the town of Greta, and she is still remembered with great appreciation to this day.

To see June's memorabilia, and other special Greta residents' histories, come into Greta Museum on a Wednesday or Saturday, 11am-3pm, 96 High Street (next to Greta Bakery).

Come into Greta Museum,
To warm your memories
And your heart,
We have lots of gripping old stuff
But NO dinosaur parts!

Open Wed. & Sat. 11am- 3pm.
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<p>A Advertising material Aerosol cans Aluminium cans, trays and foil</p> <p>B Berry punnets Biscuit trays (plastic) Books Bottles Bottle tops Boxes (cardboard) Butchers paper</p> <p>C Cake trays (plastic or foil) Cans Cardboard Cartons Cereal boxes Cat food tins Cereal boxes (remove plastic liner) Compact disc case (no disks) Cooking Oil tins Cosmetic jars Cutlery (plastic)</p> <p>D Deli/ butchers papers Deodorant cans and roll-ons Detergent bottles Dog food tins</p> <p>E Egg cartons Envelopes (including with plastic windows)</p> <p>F Foil (clean) Foil lined cartons Food cans Food trays (plastic) Formula tins</p> <p>G Gift wrapping paper Glass bottles and jars Greeting cards</p>	<p>H Home brew cans</p> <p>I Ice cream containers Ice cream wrappers (paper) Insect spray bottles and cans</p> <p>J Jars Juice cartons Junk mail</p> <p>L Long life cartons (milk, juice, stocks and sauces)</p> <p>M Magazines Margarine containers Meat trays (plastic) Medicine bottles Milk cartons, glass and containers</p> <p>N Newspapers</p> <p>O Office paper</p> <p>P Paint spray cans (empty) Paint tins (dry) Paper Paper bags Paper plates and cups Paper towel roll Pet food cans Phone books Pizza boxes Plant pots (small) Plastic bottles, containers and lids Plastic cutlery Plastic plates and cups Pool chemical containers Pots and pans (steel and aluminium)</p> <p>R Rigid plastic containers</p>	<p>S Saucepans (handles removed) Serviettes (paper) Shampoo and conditioner bottles Spray cans (empty) Steel cans</p> <p>T Table napkins Takeaway containers (plastic & cardboard) Telephone books Tin cans Tissue boxes Toilet paper rolls Tomato punnets Tuna cans Tupperware</p> <p>V Vitamin bottles</p> <p>W Washing powder boxes & bottles Wrapping paper</p> <p>Y Yoghurt container</p>
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BRANXTON WOMEN'S SHED



Kaye and Annette at this years Tocal Field days



From the book *Guide to Western Stuff*

with Karen Johanson

Our Women's Shed is now open both Tuesdays and Thursdays as we've had such a great response in attendance and interest out in the community. Both days are from 9:30am to 11:30am in the Branxton Uniting Church hall. Recently we've had a free Macrame Workshop and a free Cybersafety Talk. Thank you to Kay and Luke from The Newcastle Tech Guy. We've also had a free Knitting Workshop, with thanks to Ruth. In May, we were very busy, as we were fortunate enough to be involved in the Tocal Field Days, selling our handmade items, promoting our group and offering macrame workshops. You can see the macrame cow especially made for the weekend event. The ladies who volunteered over the three thoroughly enjoyed the experience. There was such a great atmosphere at this event and we are very keen to do it again in 2024.

We will be hosting the Hunter Royal Life Saving on Wednesday 21st June providing a CPR Update course. The cost is \$40 per person and it includes some morning tea and a qualification certificate. This course is open to anyone who is interested. Please email us for enrolment instructions. womenshedbranxton@aol.com
Cheers, Karen
womenshedbranxton@aol.com

Time to renew
CPR UPDATE
First aid saves lives.

Wednesday 21.6.23
Branxton Uniting Church Hall
9:30am - 11:30am



Tocal



Karenat this years Tocal Field days

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From the Lions' Den

A Challenge for all local people
Push Ups for mental health!



Between 1st and 23 June, Lifeline that runs the national Crisis Phone Line (13 11 14) is holding a major fundraising and awareness raising challenge: **The Push Up Challenge**. The objective is to raise mental health awareness and reduce the stigma around mental illness. Lions Clubs are joining in the activities by participating in completing 3,144 pushups during June. The relevance of that number is that it is the total of lives lost to suicide in Australia in 2021.

Not everyone can do push-ups, so this challenge has become a lot more inclusive now since it began a few years ago. The goal is **3,144 push-ups** from 1 to 23 June. Anyone who joins can opt to do half that amount or the full push-up target. You can spread them out across the day. Alternatives such as Arm raises, leg raises, wall pushes, sit-ups, squats, or tailored exercises are able to be done in lieu of push ups.

If you would like to, you can get yourself sponsored for the Challenge and donate that cash to Lifeline so they can provide ongoing support to members of the community. Get started by registering using the QR code above or contacting the websites below in your local area.

To find out more and register to participate you can either access the QR code at the start of this report or go to the Lifeline Hunter website below:-

https://www.thepushupchallenge.com.au/home?lightbox=/register-select&utm_campaign=lifeline-10



THE "SENIOR & PREMIER CLUB" OF OUR DISTRICT CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

Over 70 Lions members from throughout the Lions District and guests gathered at East Cessnock Bowling Club on Saturday 20 May to celebrate the achievements and friendships of over 70 years of the Lions Club of Cessnock. Our Lions Clubs International was toasted by the new national Leo of the Year, Georgia Bailey of our Cessnock Community Leo Club, responded to by our District Governor Denise Bruce, then Jay Suvaal - Mayor of Cessnock saluted the Cessnock Lions recognising the club's value to the community. These thoughts were emphasised by Dan Repacholi MP. After remembering those past Lions who gave us this club's proud legacy, our current longest serving Lions David Chalker and Past District Governor (PDG) Alan McKim with current President David

Harrington cut the celebration cake.

Following the luncheon, a pictorial presentation depicted many aspects of the club's history before roving microphone interviews of club members.

Cessnock Lions Club can legitimately claim to be the 'senior and premier' Lions Club as it was one of the first Lions Clubs to be established in the District and it mentored other local Clubs such as the Lions Club of Branxton which was chartered in 1957.



Lions David Chalker, David Harrington and Alan McKim cutting the cake

Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal addressing the meeting with Lion Ken Hallam

Branxton Lions lunching AGAIN!

Part of the ethos of being a member of the Lions Club of Branxton is having fun! Although some members are looking serious, the latest Lions lunch at the 'Feddie' was a fun affair and lunch was enjoyed by all.



BBQ at Bunnings – back for more!

Members of the Lions Club of Branxton were recently back at Bunnings, Singleton for their regular visit to make sure that customers could smell the onions cooking and get sustenance and refreshment before investing in their do-it-yourself projects.

Hard-working Lions members assembling the tasty treats



Manly Lions win award for their 'Sunsquirt Station'

The Lions Club of Manly has been awarded the Top Club Service Project for their innovative idea that's protecting members of the community from harmful UV exposure. The Club came up with a plan to produce a free sunscreen dispenser that's proved to be a big hit with beach-goers, especially the kids and their parents. Click [here](#) to see the Northern Beaches community putting the Lions 'Sunsquirt Station' to good use.



Whyichoose – community health promotion

Youth Solutions' annual health promotion campaign, **#whyichoose**, aims to provide evidence on the effects of tobacco smoking and vaping and to ensure young people are equipped with support information. The campaign is led by our youth volunteers, who are featured in many of the campaign's videos and photos. This gives an opportunity for the campaign to have a youth flavour and voice, hoping to target the community in an effective way. The **#whyichoose** campaign involves educating young people via our social media platforms, attending outreach events within the community and the creation of some health literacy guides! We are looking forward to connecting with the young people and wider community to deliver our health promotion messages.

Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:

- Various fund-raising events – 4th June to 2nd July.
- Lions Club of Branxton – Changeover Dinner** – 22nd June Greta Workers Club.
- Bunnings, Singleton** – Branxton Lions BBQ – Saturday 24th June

More info on VAPING from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation

Recently, Australian Health Minister, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announced a raft of reforms, including prohibiting imports of non-prescription vaping products and a ban on single-use disposable vapes. This has led to national news coverage and lots of questions. To help you get the story straight, we've collated a range of recent vaping information and resources, including the ADF's recently updated position on vaping and our brand-new guide to help young people quit.

As these reforms come into effect over the coming months, young people who are currently dependent on vaping will need help to quit. Repeated use of nicotine causes changes in the brain's reward pathways and alters parts of the brain involved in learning, stress, and self-control. This can make it very difficult to stop using it. Parents, carers, and teachers should be aware of the challenges young people may face when they can no longer easily access vapes, so that they can support them. If you know a young person who is vaping, having an open conversation with them about the risks and future impacts is a good idea. Our new article outlines some tips that can help you help them quit.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Less is More: Together We Grow Movie Night

What does it take to build resilience into a local community?

Cessnock City Council is inviting members of the community to attend a free screening of the award-winning documentary, *Together We Grow*, at Performing Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) on Thursday 22 June.

Together We Grow is a documentary that tells the inspiring story of a thriving hub helping to build resilience into its local community by growing, sewing, repairing, sharing – you name it, Common Unity is doing it!

The screening is part of Council's Less is More campaign, which seeks to change our relationship with products and encourage us all to reuse, repair, rent, borrow and share rather than always buying new.

Cessnock Council's Sustainability Officer, Karinda Stone, is encouraging the community to come along and take part in these important discussions and local opportunities.

"*Together We Grow* is an inspiring and thought-provoking documentary that everyone can learn from. If you're passionate about the future and keen learn more about how we can create strong, connected, resilient communities so we are better able to withstand the challenges of the future, I strongly encourage you to come along," Ms Stone said.

Finger food will be served from 5pm, with the documentary screening to begin at 5:45pm and run for approximately 40 minutes. Stay for a Q+A discussion directly following the screening.

This project is a NSW Environment Protection Authority Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded by the Waste Levy. For more information and to book your ticket, please visit: <https://cpac.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/109520>

Award-winning local gift card program injects almost \$1million into economy

A hugely successful Singleton Council and Business Singleton program that has injected almost \$1million into the local economy has taken out a top gong in the 2023 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards.

The Spend in Singleton gift card program, which has seen over \$998,000 flow into the local economy through 16,000 loaded gift cards, won the Support Local Enterprise category of the Awards held in Sydney last night.

Spend in Singleton is a unique and convenient gifting solution that supports the local economy. The program ensures local dollars remain local by enabling the gift of boutique shopping or dining experiences to friends, family members or colleagues to over 140 local retailers.

Alison Bodiam, Council's Acting Director Organisation and Community Capacity said in just three years, the program has been firmly established within the community and has delivered significant benefits to Singleton businesses.

"Spend in Singleton is a fantastic program worthy of recognition, but the real achievement is how our community have taken up this initiative and have chosen to spend their dollars locally. More than a shop local program, Spend in Singleton has been a catalyst to activate local expenditure, develop resilience against multiple economic impacts, provide community support and educate Singleton's community to re-connect with local business," she said.

Initially driven in response to feedback from businesses for a shop local initiative to build resilience and recover from the 2019-2020 bushfire impacts, the Spend in Singleton gift card program was developed through COVID-19 and five flood events during 2020-2022.

Part of the Why Leave Town program, Spend in Singleton has a significant redemption rate of 75% and is the fifth most successful program from 80 operational in NSW.

President of Business Singleton, Danny Eather said Spend in Singleton was an overwhelming success, achieving objectives to increase local expenditure, build business resilience and create connections within the Singleton community and local businesses.

"Business Singleton's partnership with Council has enabled a local support program that has exceeded expectations and has brought benefits to over 140 local business," he said.

"We're extremely proud of what the partnership has achieved and humbled by requests from other business chambers on the partnership model and program."

Council's award-winning Shark Tank initiative, a proactive approach to eliminate or minimise risk across Council's many business activities, was also a finalist in the Risk Management category of the Awards. The *NSW Local Government Excellence Awards* celebrate outstanding achievements and promote innovation and continuous improvement within NSW local government.

Maitland City Council Appoints New General Manager

Maitland City Council is delighted to announce the appointment of Jeff Smith CPA GAICD to the position of General Manager, following a unanimous resolution of Council at an extraordinary meeting held on Monday evening.

Maitland Mayor Philip Penfold said Mr Smith boasted an impressive 29 year career in the private and public sector. Following other senior local government roles including at Port Stephens Council and Randwick City Council, Jeff is the current Director Corporate and Legal of Northern Beaches Council, where he has been since 2019. 'We conducted an extensive and thorough recruitment process to find the right person to lead the management of our great Council operation into the future,' Mayor Penfold said. 'Jeff ticks all the boxes. He has great breadth of experience, a real focus on customer service and is an exceptional financial manager. 'He is highly regarded and well respected within the industry and further afield, and we are very fortunate to have someone of his calibre join us. 'Importantly, Jeff is very down to earth, genuine and people focused and will be a great fit for our community and Council. 'I am confident Jeff will help lead our organisation to the next level as we continue to deliver quality services and infrastructure for the people of Maitland. 'A father of three, and newly minted grandfather, Jeff was born and bred in the Lower Hunter where he still lives with his wife and family. Council received nearly 100 applications from across the country for this highly sought after role. Mr Smith will join Maitland City Council as General Manager, under a five year contract, from 3 July 2023.



Photo above: Maitland Mayor Philip Penfold, at right, welcoming the newly appointed GM Jeff Smith

Heritage grants to sustain proud history

Funding under the Singleton Council and Mount Thorley Warkworth Historic Heritage Conservation Fund will allow locals to apply for thousands of dollars to protect and enhance unique local heritage in Singleton.

Applications are open for Singleton Mount Thorley Warkworth Historic Heritage Conservation Fund, which is designed for owners or managers of local heritage items – from buildings, to parks and monuments, to special natural or cultural places – to apply for funding to enable major works, conduct urgent repairs or implement education programs and 21st century technology.

The broad categories for funding include:

- Community Heritage Projects
- Major Works
- Heritage Reports
- Heritage Emergency Works
- Education Technology

The grant fund, which has been active since 2018, has supported eight projects totalling almost \$80,000 to restore, repair and maintain heritage buildings in the Singleton area.

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager, David Bennett encouraged Singleton locals to apply for a grant.

"We are proud to continue to work closely with Singleton Council on the Historic Heritage Conservation Fund," he said.

"The grants are designed to assist all residents and community groups in Singleton with access to resources for local heritage conservation and historical research projects.

"We look forward to seeing the community heritage projects come to life, helping restore, maintain and celebrate Singleton's history."

Damian Morris, Singleton Council's Acting Director Infrastructure and Planning Services Group said the grant program recognised the importance of conserving local heritage assets, and celebrated the stories, places and values of our local community.

"Heritage is integral to understanding Singleton's story – its history, its identity and its people," he said.

"The retention of our heritage places in Singleton has an important role to play in protecting environment, supporting our vibrant community and sustaining our local economy.

"As a community, we share a responsibility to identify and respect the importance of these building so that they can be enjoyed by future generations.

"Council appreciates our role in ensuring that heritage is recognised, respected and promoted – not only does the Singleton Mount Thorley Warkworth Heritage Fund mean we can invest in protecting and conserving these valuable assets, but it also means we're giving more people the opportunity to appreciate our local history. I encourage all owners and managers of heritage places across the Singleton LGA to submit an application and apply for funding."

Applications for the Mount Thorley Warkworth Historic Heritage Conservation Fund are open year-round. For more information and to submit an application, visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/heritagegrants



Council's Manager Planning and Environment Mary-Anne Crawford, Acting Director Infrastructure and Planning Services Group Damian Morris, and Chair of the Singleton Heritage Advisory Committee Lyn MacBain

Mayoral Scholarship Program supports local students

Cessnock City Council is delighted to announce the recipients of the 2023 Mayoral Scholarship Program. The program has awarded \$585,500 to 245 Cessnock Local Government Area students since 2002.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said the scholarship program offered meaningful financial support to people undertaking studies who live within the local government area.

"It is wonderful to be able to provide this support to our community. These scholarships will assist students who are undertaking studies in an array of fields that will, in turn, benefit our community in a multitude of ways," Cr Suvaal said.

"I would like to congratulate all of the recipients and wish them well in their studies and continue on their educational journey."

Each scholarship provides \$2500 in direct financial support to assist local students with the cost of their studies and are made possible by the program's sponsors.

The 2023 scholarship recipients are:

- Andrea Pinchen, sponsored by Austar Coal Mine
- Lennox Vasilis, sponsored by Belford Land Corporation
- Nathan Riley, sponsored by Advance Greater Cessnock and Cessnock City Council
- Ethan Elliott, sponsored Cessnock Hospitality Group
- Emily Gordon, sponsored Cessnock Rotary Club
- Hollie Winter, sponsored by East Cessnock Bowling Club
- Mariah George, sponsored by Hunter Resource Recovery
- Jesse Knight, sponsored by Lioncrest Education
- Kellie Drummond, sponsored by Nu Smile
- Benjamin Archer, Roche Group
- Rebecca Nies, sponsored by Rover Coaches

A huge congratulations to all of this year's scholarship recipients and a big thank you to the sponsors of the 2023 Mayoral Scholarship Program.

Mayor Jay Suvaal with scholarship recipients and sponsors



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FITNESS COACHING

www.myfitnesscoaching.com.au



Movement and you Fitness Coaching

Movement and You Fitness Coaching has been operating for three months and is ran by owner Melinda. Services include mobile fitness, wellbeing coaching, group and personal training.

Melinda has ten years' experience working with clients who have chronic ailments and 18 years' experience in health and fitness. This allows her to specialise in functional training modalities for beginners, those returning to exercise and those who require modifications for chronic conditions or land standing ailments.

Your health does not need to be a chore. Movement and You Fitness Coaching will take the time and care to show you how to enjoy the experience and plan to incorporate your health into your everyday routine.

Contact: 0431 440 359

Email: moveufitnesscoaching@outlook.com

Website: myfitnesscoaching.com.au

Hunter Valley Bicycle Tours and Rentals

Hunter Valley Bicycle Tours and Rentals have been operating for three years and currently employ three staff.

What sets Hunter Valley Bicycle Tours apart is that they are the only company to provide guided mountain bike tours within Wine Country. A delivery service is also provided, delivering their premium quality bikes to customers at their accommodation.

Ever evolving to ensure the customer experience is memorable, Hunter Valley Bicycle Tours constantly explore our local area to find new places of historical interest to improve each tour.

Hunter Valley Bicycle Tours and Rentals love doing business in the Cessnock LGA working with wineries and other local businesses to create a premium experience for every customer.

Contact: 0431 511 651

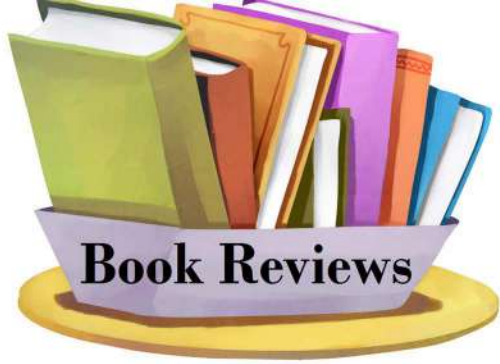
Email: steve@cessnockbicyclecompany.com.au

Website: www.huntermvalleybicyclerentals.com.au



This project received grant funding from the Australian Government

#supportlocalcessnock



like there's nothing spectacular about the tiny township of Greta - a blink-and-you'll-miss-it blip between Maitland and Singleton in the NSW Hunter Valley. But the good people of Greta possess the biggest hearts in NSW, with a higher proportion of residents here donating to charity than anywhere else in the state.



were making for those at home." In all 186 Greta men enlisted with 28 making the ultimate sacrifice. The individual stories of these war veterans showed "that death, wounding and sickness were indiscriminate. All of them irrespective of age, fitness, physical build, rank or social status was susceptible to these outcomes." "Men demonstrated courage they never knew they possessed, some failed under pressure, which they believed would never happen to them. Each individual story is a look into the soul of each veteran soldier," said Brian Boughton.

The book, which runs to 310 pages, is not what you would call a best seller as it is very insular and would only appeal to the local populace and particularly those that have family included. The history surrounding the Memorial Cenotaph is fascinating for its amount of detail and photos. It is a credit to Kevin.

Below is an abstract of just one of the 180 odd captured in Kevin's work. **James Patrick BRODERICK**
Regimental number: 827
Occupation: Bridge carpenter
Place of Birth: Maitland
Place of Enlistment: Sydney
Date of Enlistment: 31st August 1914
Occupation: Bridge Carpenter
Unit: 4th Battalion
James Patrick Broderick is described in his initial medical examination as being 23 years and nine months of age, standing 5 ft. 7 in. (1.72 m) tall weighing 140 lb. (63.5 kg) with a fresh complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. It is further

ABOUT...

Kevin Driscoll served in the RAAF for 21½ years as an Armament Fitter employed within Australia, Malaysia, USA and Canada on types including Mirage, F/A-18 and P3 Orion aircraft. (P3 Orion being the favourite by far!) Very ably supported by his wife Margaret and family, Kevin left the RAAF and entered industry holding management positions in the hydraulic industry in Adelaide, Sydney and spent nine odd years in Singapore. After Singapore, there was a change of direction and Kevin worked as a Technical Writer researching and authoring technical documentation and publications for Defence and industry.



After retiring from the workforce, Kevin continues applying his research and writing skills by contributing to 'The Armourer' magazine in the UK and 'Sabretache', the Journal and Proceedings of the Military Historical Society of Australia. Kevin & Margaret recently relocated from Greta to Goulburn to permit easier access to the research resources in Canberra. From Kevin's perspective, Greta Memorial Cenotaph and the Men it Commemorates started as a 'keep you brain busy in retirement' research and writing project. Eventually, 300 pages later, the finished publication tells the, as yet, untold story of the memorial, and the military history of the identified 181 of the 186 Great War soldiers commemorated by the Memorial.

Kevin and Margaret express their desire that the new memorial light assembly and the supporting publication will serve the community well into the future. They have also expressed the hope that lessons learnt from this project will not be lost; but developed to assist other community groups to unfetter the applied bureaucracy, until recently, associated with this project.

The book is available from Greta RSL Sub-Branch.

recorded James had a scar on his right ear and a small mole in the centre of his forehead and another on his left bicep.

The 4th Battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914. The Battalion departed Sydney on the 20th October 1914 on HMAT A14 Euripides and after a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia sailed to Egypt as AIF Convoy Number One arriving on the 2nd December 1914.

The 4th Battalion trained in Egypt and the battalion participated in the second and third waves of the Gallipoli landings on the 25th April 1915. The 4th Battalion dug in after landing and defended the beach head. In unrecorded circumstances, James Patrick Broderick suffered a fractured skull and was evacuated to the Egyptian Government Hospital, Alexandria, where he died of wounds (fractured skull) on the 4th May 1915. James is buried at the Chatby War

Memorial Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt. James Patrick Broderick was awarded the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The Name Broderick, J. P. appears on a memorial panel of the Branxton Memorial Rotunda and the Greta ANZAC Memorial.

James' sister and next of kin, Miss N. Broderick, then living in South Kensington, NSW, received his Memorial Scroll during August 1921 and the Memorial Plaque (Dead Man's Penny) during November 1921.

Kevin's work is a must for historians and those whose family members are included.

Greta Memorial Cenotaph and The Men it Commemorates

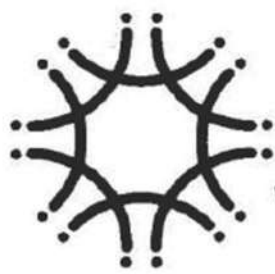
Kevin Driscoll

by Mike Lowing

I must confess that I am only three-quarters of the way through reading Kevin Driscoll's book "Greta Memorial Cenotaph and The Men it Commemorates" but I think I can give a fair review on what I have read so far. In essence the heart of the book is a much deserved lesson about the soul of Greta; how giving the community has always been. The pot pourri community make-up was of returned soldiers, refugees (after WW1) & long term Greta generational families (mainly Anglo Saxons)

goes, I think, a long way as to why this community was & is so giving. The Memorial Cenotaph was conceived in 1916 as a tribute to those Greta men who were serving in the Great War & was financed by the local community, no grants then. I always remember two things about Greta now with Kevin's book its three. The first goes back to 2014 when this publication was just 17 years in the making. This statistic was reported in the Daily Telegraph which originally came from a report released by the ATO and it read, inter alia: - On first glance it may seem

"It was built on coalmining, where you're always thinking about someone else and looking after your mates," he said. "It's about helping out people who are doing it tough." The third is now Kevin's history of Greta men giving their service for King and Country. In its forward written by Brian Boughton, CSC, OAM, he said that the light on the memorial shone down on the names of the men, away defending the Crown. "The illuminated names were a poignant reminder to the community of the sacrifice these men



BRANXTON
view
voice, interests and education of women

The ladies of Branxton VIEW Club were very happy to welcome our May Guest Speaker, Mr. Joel Briggs, who is a financial Advisor with Lambourne Partners in Hamilton.

Joel spoke to the ladies about Centrelink, about how the system works, how pension rates are calculated and what additional benefits and services are available to seniors. He was very helpful, answering a number of questions and telling us about options many of us did not know were available to us. He also spoke briefly about the May Federal Budget and the proposed changes aimed at reducing living costs relief, superannuation reform and social security. The talk was informative and interesting and very much enjoyed by all in attendance.

Branxton VIEW Club is urging the local community to give generously to the Smith Family Winter Appeal. Funds raised goes to support thousands of children and young people with their education by giving them access to extra learning tools, so they can get the most out of their education and create a better future for themselves.

For those who are interested to find out more about VIEW and its role in

supporting students in the Learning for Life Program or who would like to join visit view.org.au or come along to one of our meetings - 10.30am for 11.00 am start at the Greta Workers Club the second Thursday of every month.

Σ Photo below: Liz Johnson, Assistant Secretary and Mr. Joel Briggs.



The New York Times Best Sellers Combined Print & E-Book Fiction 18 June 2023

1. 6 WEEKS ON THE LIST

HAPPY PLACE

by Emily Henry

A former couple pretend to be together for the sake of their friends during their annual getaway in Maine.

2. Ranked 2 last week

103 WEEKS ON THE LIST

IT ENDS WITH US

by Colleen Hoover

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

3. 33 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.

4. 5 WEEKS ON THE LIST

THE COVENANT OF WATER

by Abraham Verghese

Three generations of a family living on South India's Malabar Coast suffer the loss of a family member by drowning.

5. 2 WEEKS ON THE LIST

IDENTITY

by Nora Roberts

After her roommate is killed by a con artist, a former Army brat builds a new life at her mother's home in Vermont.

6. 30 WEEKS ON THE LIST

LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY

by Bonnie Garmus

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

7. 78 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.

8. 5 WEEKS ON THE LIST

MEET ME AT THE LAKE

by Carley Fortune

A decade after a one-day adventure, Will appears again in Fern's life at her mother's lakeside resort.

9. 5 WEEKS ON THE LIST

FOURTH WING

by Rebecca Yarros

Violet Sorrengail is urged by the commanding general, who also is her mother, to become a candidate for the elite dragon riders.

10. 3 WEEKS ON THE LIST

ICEBREAKER

by Hannah Grace

Anastasia might need the help of the captain of a college hockey team to get on the Olympic figure skating team.

Racing Review & Breeding News

Secretariat's legend still growing 50 years on from Belmont annihilation



Secretariat's win in the Belmont Stakes 50 years ago is still described as the greatest performance by an equine athlete ever seen on a racetrack. Picture: Bettmann Archive/Getty Images



Secretariat and jockey Ron Turcotte in full flight as they claim the Triple Crown with victory in the Belmont Stakes on June 9, 1973. Picture: Focus On Sport/Getty Images

By courtesy **Ray Thomas & Racenet.com.au**

On the eve of the 50th anniversary of Secretariat's incredible win in the Belmont Stakes, the champion's legend only grows with the passing of time.

Secretariat ran race record times in each of the three legs of his famous 1973 US Triple Crown clean sweep that remarkably remain unmatched to this day. But it is Secretariat's win in the Belmont Stakes that has been described as the greatest performance by an equine athlete ever seen on a racetrack.

Secretariat's 31 length winning margin remains a world record for a Group 1 race, his winning time for the mile and a half (a2400m) on dirt is 2m 24s has never been equaled, let alone broken. Replays of the race have been viewed countless times over the years but it still fills one with a sense of awe.

Acclaimed American racing writer Steve Dennis' article for Thoroughbred Racing Commentary this week declared that to "write about the 1973 Belmont Stakes is never quite to be able to do it justice, to fall perpetually just short of distilling the sheer poetry of it into prose."

"That's not to be critical of the best turf writers ever to sit down before a blank page and fill it with brilliance, rather a tacit

admission that no-one can be as perfect as Secretariat was on that hot June afternoon in suburban New York," Dennis wrote. "Secretariat's performance defies encapsulation, refuses to be made small enough to fit on the page, remains as bright and beautiful as it was 50 years ago, having lost no lustre to the passage of time. It is as important, as vital, as definitive now as it was then.

"It is – almost inarguably, allowing for the propensity of heated debate around these things – the greatest performance ever seen on a racetrack, any time, any place." Racecaller Chic Anderson captured the moment so superbly, so unforgettably. "They're on the turn, Secretariat is blazing along. Secretariat is widening now, he is moving like a tremendous machine! Secretariat by 12, Secretariat by 14 lengths. Secretariat is all alone!"

Dennis wrote in his article that golfing great Jack Nicklaus was moved to tears as he watched the Belmont in his Florida home.

Nicklaus later asked CBS broadcaster Heywood Hale Brone why he might have been so affected by the race.

"It's because you've been looking for perfection your whole life, Jack. In

the Belmont, you finally saw it," Broun said. This writer began thinking about those moments when I was moved by a racehorse's performance. The following is by no means a definitive list, racing enthusiasts will have their own personal favourites, but these are the wins that will stay with me forever.

Kingston Town – 1980 Tancred Stakes

I was a teenager and had read and idolised Kingston Town from afar but this was the first time I saw "The King" live. The Tancred was full of Group 1 winners but Kingston Town won with contemptuous ease, the majestic black horse's breathtaking acceleration unforgettable.

Might And Power – 1997 Caulfield Cup

I remember watching Might And Power's Caulfield Cup next to the late Les Carlyon, one of the nation's greatest authors and journalists. Might And Power, under Jim Cassidy, led most of the way and streaked clear from the turn to win by a widening seven-and-a-half lengths. Carlyon turned to me and said: "Ray, you will never see a Caulfield Cup win like that again."

Media Puzzle – 2002 Melbourne Cup

Media Puzzle isn't the greatest Melbourne Cup winner by any stretch but I've never experienced a more emotional moment

on the racetrack. Damien Oliver decided to ride in the race despite the death of his brother, Jason, in a Perth barrier trial incident a week earlier. The Hall of Fame jockey gave Media Puzzle the run of the race, the Irish stayer did his part and won by three lengths. This was a race that transcended sport.

Lonhro – 2004 George Ryder

Lonhro, the sleek, near-black champion was a fan favourite for his electrifying acceleration. He was nearing the end of his race career in the 2004 George Ryder but this was perhaps his most dominant win. Lonhro was almost arrogant as he unleashed a brilliant burst of speed to sprint clear of another outstanding racehorse, Grand Armeé, and win his second successive George Ryder.

Makybe Diva – 2005 Tancred Stakes

Makybe Diva was a rarity as the champion mare seemed to get better as she got older and in 2005, her final year of racing, she was in supreme form culminating with her unprecedented third Melbourne Cup. But her win in the Tancred Stakes earlier that year was a phenomenal effort as she gave Grand Armeé (again) a big start on the turn but sailed by him to win by two lengths.

Black Caviar – 2011 TJ Smith

Black Caviar was rarely tested in her unbeaten 25-start career but in the 2011 TJ Smith, the mighty mare knew

continue to drive increases in cattle numbers, particularly New South Wales, with supply improvements also expected from southern Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria to different extents. In the north, 2022 saw favourable seasonal conditions for large parts of Queensland, driving the beginning of the state's herd rebuild and an improvement in female numbers. Northern Australia's rebuild is expected to gain significant pace this year. Overall, the cattle herd in 2023 will grow to its highest level since 2014, reaching 28.8m head, an increase of 1.1m or 4.5% year-on-year. According to MLA's Senior Market Information Analyst Ripley Atkinson, this growth is underpinned by a few key factors.

"The record retention of females for 15 consecutive months, coupled with above-average marking rates has delivered larger calf drops. This bodes well for supply to

increase substantially in 2023 for both young and slaughter-weight cattle," Mr Atkinson said.

"Both of these metrics suggest that the lowest or most significant retention of stock on record occurred for the year. This underpins the positive growth in numbers forecast for the next three years. By 2025, the national herd is expected to reach its highest level since the 1970s at 29.6m head, before a steady decline. This continued growth is due to strong female reproductive performance, genetic improvements across the herd and sound on farm management.

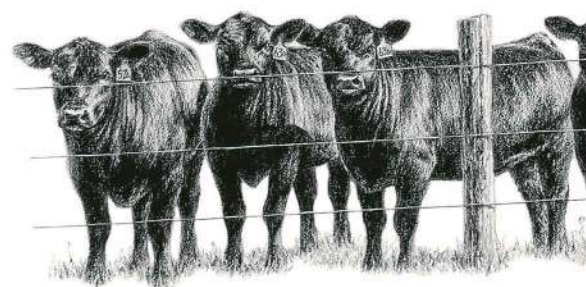
Input prices and cost of production will be major factors affecting the ability of the sector to remain productive and efficient. In addition, the availability of skilled and unskilled workers to manage the increased supply of cattle in 2023 will be the major issue affecting the red meat industry. The processing

sector's ability to process cattle will determine production levels and therefore exports in 2023. MLA's Market Information team have recognised this with a two-scenario forecast for 2023.

"If labour concerns are not addressed within the processing sector, slaughter is forecast to reach 6m head," according to Mr Atkinson.

"Based on actual supply of cattle this year, the forecasts indicate an uptick in numbers to 6.625m head."

2023 will be a year of transition for the cattle industry according to Mr Atkinson. "Positive outcomes along the entire supply chain seem likely as the exceptional operating conditions on-farm continue." "The overall outlook for Australia's beef industry both domestically and internationally is one of optimism and positivity, whilst it continues to deliver high quality beef in larger volumes, this is expected to be a major feature in 2023," Mr Atkinson said



Australia's cattle herd to reach largest size in nearly a decade



WINX won 37 of 43 career starts, including, between May 2015 and her retirement in April 2019, her last 33 races in succession, including 25 Group 1s

she was in a contest. Hay List, a champion in any other era, had raced clear over the rise and Black Caviar was standing the leader a big start. Suddenly, Black Caviar lengthened stride, her acceleration so extraordinary she swept by Hay List, who was still full of running, to win by nearly three lengths.

Winx – 2017 George Ryder

Winx's entire career was a highlight reel but the one win that always stands out in my mind was the 2017 George Ryder Stakes. Winx put a margin of more than seven lengths between herself and her nearest rivals, two genuine Group 1 horses who were in great form at that time, Le Romain and Chautauqua. It

was close to a complete performance by this exceptional mare.

Chautauqua – 2017 TJ Smith

Chautauqua was renowned for his incredible finishing bursts but his third successive TJ Smith triumph in 2017 was something else again. The grey champion was in a seemingly hopeless position back last into the straight and only got into the clear at the 200m. It doesn't matter how many times you watch a replay, how he ran down English near the line still beggars belief.

Yes Yes Yes – 2019 The Everest

Yes Yes Yes became the first three-year-old to win The Everest with an elite

sprinting effort. The acceleration he demonstrated from the 400m to give speedsters of the calibre of Nature Strip and Redzel a start before reeling them and racing clear was sensational. No horse has ever run faster over the Randwick 1200m than Yes Yes Yes who stopped the clock at an amazing 1m 7.32s.

Nature Strip – 2022

King's Stand Stakes Nature Strip's reputation as the world's best sprinter was on the line at Royal Ascot. But this was the chestnut champion's finest performance as he made a mess of Europe's best sprinters and won by more than four lengths. It was a proud day for Australian racing.

click's

MOVIE REVIEW

INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY

CTC

Is a 5g Phone that Much Better than the rest?

I can answer that in the same way as when I get asked, "do I really need the latest and faster computer on the market?" The answer is mostly NO, you don't need all that speed for general use. Let's face it, how fast do you want Microsoft Word to open? For hard-core users that require fast processing speed for photos, large document processing or even gaming, well that's different. For most of us, we'll never have a need to use the super duper speedy Gonzalez version of Phone or Computer so stay with an affordable one that you can get your hands on. **Even the base models are fast these days.** I've had the latest Samsung Note 20 Ultra 5g for a while now and have found

that most of Newcastle doesn't support 5g. And even when I am in a 5g area, yeah it's been a bit quicker but generally speaking a lot of it comes down to the other end that you're wanting to download stuff from. **If their system is slow, so will the response be when you click on their link.** Maitland area does have 5g. It's been up here for a while now (you haven't noticed a surge of Corona virus infections have you?) and I'm not that impressed by any significant speed increase. It's a bit like the NBN...BIG DEAL! However, I think once the 5g rollout throughout the country has been completed, then we will see the true benefits of 5g.

Another thing is that if you can't get NBN or any form of wired internet connection to your property, then the 5g system (or 4g in your area) may be better than nothing. **You can use a portable Wi-Fi device** that has a Sim card in it. They're cheap and do a very good job. Our shop struggles with the high demand on download speed from time to time and to tell you the truth, I'm not at all impressed that I have to pay \$100 a month for the rubbish speeds provided. All the services by the providers are the same....get up to 100mb download speeds bla bla bla. It never happens! To download a 5gb update file from Apple takes around 15 minutes! Sorry,

but that's pathetic! Especially when I have 50 devices to update in a day. Recently you may have seen the ads on TV telling us about a **NEW Super Duper Business NBN package.** I got excited! Until they told me it would cost up to \$900 per month for the top tier package. Seriously? I even have the Optic Fibre coming into the shop so the cable is already run, they just have to connect it to the Super Duper System. Nuh, they won't do it. So nothing much has changed folks, **it's either their way or bugga off!** By the way. For a Data Sim card into one of those portable devices, Optus has some very well priced options.

Screen Protectors Don't Work!

Well, not as most people think they should. Screen protectors should be renamed to **'Scratch Protectors'** because that is what they are actually designed to do. You see, screen protectors are mostly made of glass and vary in thickness from .1mm to .3mm. There are the types that have glue only around the edges (good for nothing), then there's the Full Glue types (much better), the UV

Light Glue Types (better again) and then there's the new generation of vinyl matt finish protectors (really good). Only the last one of the above protectors is NOT glass. Most people fit the glass type because until recently, that's all there was available and that's ok, as long as you don't expect your screen to remain undamaged after a fall. Remember, most screen

protectors are glass AND THEY ARE VERY THIN. If you drop your device and ONLY the screen protector cracks, **lucky you!** 30 bucks for a new one and you're good to go. Screen protectors are designed to prevent scratches, scrapes and absorb light pressure from hitting the screen. A combination of case and screen protector is about all you can do to protect your investment.

Even then there's no guarantee that you won't crack your screen and/or rear glass. Every week we have tradies come in with smashed devices and they were in Lifeproof cases. Remember, your device is made of GLASS and only GLASS. Go easy on it, protect it as best as you can and you won't have to come and visit me in the near future.

Protect Your Data.

Do you remember what it felt like to lose your wallet or phone and the impact it had on you? OMG!!! Every phone has Apps and links built in to help you protect your data. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to do it, you just need 10 minutes of quiet time. In the settings of your phone or tablet, look for **Accounts and Backup.** From there you will have a variety of options to

backup your photos, contacts and anything YOU CHOOSE to back up. Remember, the big players are 'herding us like sheep' and your phone will soon be your NEW Wallet so protect it. It's easy to set up but if you need help, for just \$49 we'll be happy to set it up for you. **On virtually any phone you'll have these features:**

Find Your Phone (if you've lost it) Backup Your Phone to a Cloud Service (someone else's computer like Google or Apple etc) Erase your phone remotely (in case you've lost it and can't find it) Passcode or Swipe to get into your phone. (Keep these simple, they're easy to forget) Facial Recognition is an easy way to use your phone.

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Daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. Accompanied by his goddaughter, he soon finds himself squaring off against Jürgen Voller, a former Nazi who works for NASA

Harrison Ford is back as adventurer Indiana Jones – now with sidekick Phoebe Waller-Bridge – and he's playing all the old hits

This latest, fifth *Indiana Jones* movie plays it safe by returning to familiar territory and achieving an energetic momentum that it mostly manages to maintain for its lengthy runtime, partly by keeping its quieter human moments to a strict minimum. *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* finds Indy (Harrison Ford) as a cranky and grieving academic in late 1960s New York – allowing the ageing archeologist-adventurer briefly to rub up against the modernity of the space race and youthful hippies. But the core team behind this last hurrah (surely the last?) for 80-year-old Ford (director James Mangold and writers including Britain's Butterworth brothers) know what really makes old Indy tick: Nazis, speeding trains, spooky caves, scary snakes, Ancient World mumbo-jumbo and a sojourn to North Africa. And so we get them all – starting with a prologue set in Europe in the dying days of World War II and continuing with a bespectacled Nazi villain (Mads Mikkelsen) who follows Indy from one period to the next. Oh, and Archimedes himself has a cameo – but you'll need to see the movie to unpick that one.



Jones, reliably fun) in the film's opening wartime

“The film never lets up: it's set piece after set piece”

There are echoes of past stories and familiar faces – catnip to nostalgic fans – but new to the scene is Helena (Phoebe Waller-Bridge), Indy's goddaughter and daughter of Indy's academic sidekick (Toby

scenes. Helena knows her stuff when it comes to the film's mission – to recover a time-bending machine, the Antikythera, built by bearded Archimedes himself. But Helena takes a mercenary approach to antiquity. 'The only thing worth believing in ever is cash.' Considering she speaks fluent Ancient Greek, we might be forgiven for not believing her. It opens the old box of tricks and performs them one-by-one with care and respect. The film never lets up: it's set piece after set piece as we hop all over the Med

and the Aegean, by plane, by boat, above ground, underground and underwater. Ford is mostly morose and grimacing, while Waller-Bridge is a bit of disappointment as Indy's latest partner. Oddly, the comedy of this partnership is dialled down, and the film's few wise-cracks don't really land. It's an adventure, though, that everyone really wants from an Indiana Jones movie, and on that front it delivers and then some by prising open the old box of tricks and performing them one-by-one with care and respect. Add to that the rousing familiarity of John Williams's score, and it all amounts to a comforting if not especially challenging reboot. Written by Dave Calhoun **3.5/5** In Cinemas 28 June

MacDroid's For Sales, Service & Advice...



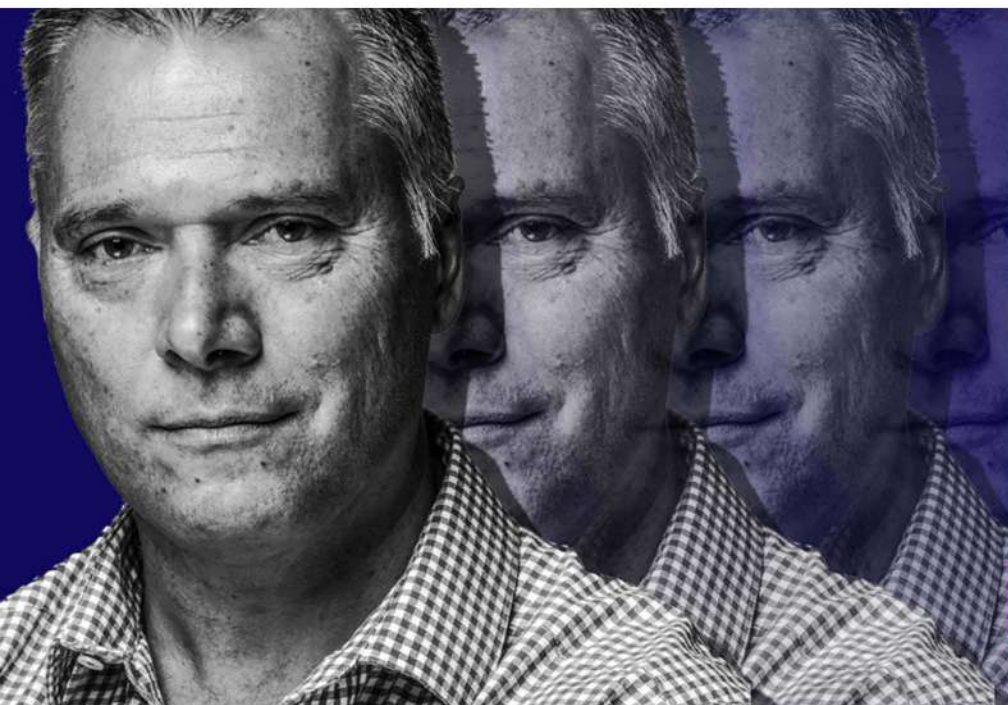
Macbooks	Desktop Pcs	Laptops	iPads	Tablets	Phones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cracked Screens Water Damage Refurbishment Recycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battery Replacement Software Issues Network Unlocks Screen Issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passcode Removal Fan Problems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

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OPINION

Did the ABC throw Stan Grant under the bus? It's a matter of opinion

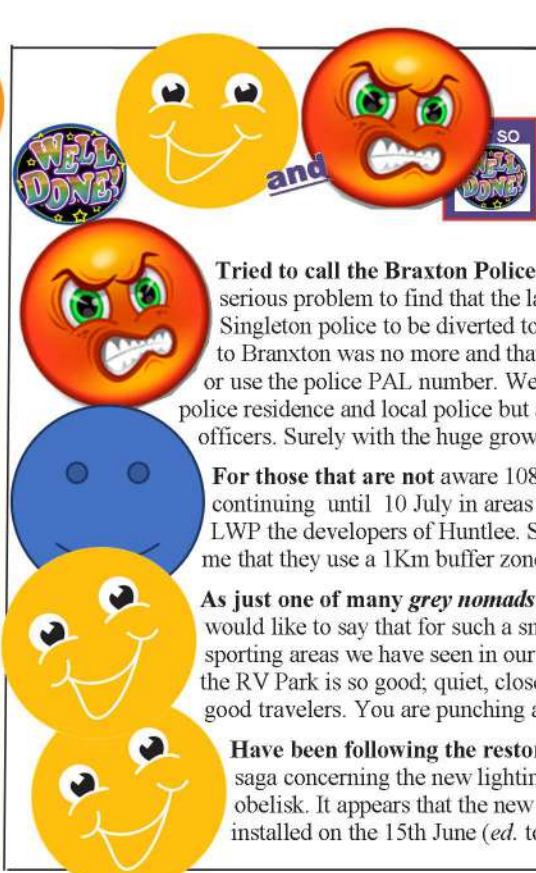
Stuart Littlemore KC and David Salter



What a shemozzle. Stan Grant, who writes a weekly opinion column for the ABC website, steps down from his Q&A hosting role on ABC-TV because he believes ABC management aren't defending him from the online abuse directed at him after comments he made on another ABC program. Do we think there's a problem here? Yes, we do. The problem is the immediate – and immediately obvious – consequence of journalists and their opinions. The ABC has catastrophically undermined its authority and independence by permitting journalists to post personal commentary on the corporation's digital outlets, and to parade their egos on social media. Thus, we get defamatory stupidities on Twitter that cause huge reputational (and financial) damage to the ABC. Thus, we get the Stan Grant debacle. By failing to draw clear contractual guidelines for ABC staff, whether on-air or not, the corporation has abandoned a longstanding policy that ensured impartiality. The sour snipers such as Gerard Henderson, bleating that the ABC has no "conservative" presenters, miss the point entirely. The personal politics of a presenter are irrelevant, and should never be evident. Meanwhile, the corporation promises to undertake yet another grand organisational restructure, this time dividing its raison d'être into two mega-divisions – News and Content. (What a horrid term: "content".) The news division will be responsible for all forms of journalism – everything even vaguely factual – assuming immense size and power within the corporation. This is an appropriate time to assess its performance. The ABC's complainants have a long history of making the same criticisms. For more than a generation they've railed against pinko political bias, inner-city latte-sipping and a Sydney-centred perspective. These paid objectors – particularly those in the employ of Rupert Murdoch – raise little else, barking up the wrong transmission tower.

The ABC's real problem is competence, or the lack of it, and a failure to recognise that staff cannot have a foot in both the fact and opinion camps. What strikes us as most destructive of the reputation and value of ABC journalism to its audience is its confusion as to where it fits into the mass media landscape. The ABC's charter, spelt out in the legislation, now includes the duty of taking into account the commercial (and SBS) services alongside which it broadcasts. That is a stipulation that the news and current affairs leadership has plainly misunderstood: to "take account" does not mean to ape or conform, least of all by adopting the low standards of the commercial networks, their anti-intellectual news values and tiresome cliches of superficiality. There is a too-general level of acceptable incompetence in the ABC's output. Why is that reporter on camera at all, repeating what the newsreader has just told us and adding nothing visual or aural? Why are we so repeatedly dismayed by inaccuracy, stunted vocabulary and lack of clarity? Why must we tolerate such nonsense as "have a listen" before a radio sound bite is replayed? We attribute this decline in journalistic standards to two main factors: lack of training, and low-level editorial oversight. For decades, ABC News selected its cadets for their competence in the English language, and trained them in radio and television technique. Cadets, and the quaintly titled "specialist trainees", were attached to rounds people to gain experience in covering specialisations and developing sources. Higher-graded reporters became experts in their own fields and were familiar to the audience, relied upon and respected for balance and insight. Now, it's largely an everybody-gets-a-go culture, where valued journalism is too often sacrificed to the self-congratulation of inclusivity and diversity.

Prefacing every radio program with a sententious announcement that it is "coming to you from Gadigal country" smacks of token righteousness. Classic FM recently broadcast a whole week of music by gay composers. Should we await a similar week devoted to Jewish composers? Left-handed composers? Decomposers? Command of spoken English is the craft of broadcast journalism, but it is lost every day in ABC scripts that betray educational failure and ignorance of grammar and vocabulary. Pronunciation can be approximate at best. Those standards only force the inference that there are few, if any, skilled producers or sub-editors shaping the raw copy and its on-air delivery. On the ABC News website, too few of the stories are authentic hard news. Instead, we get clumsily written commentary and "analysis", clickbait puffs, crime stories of minimal news value and folksy features contributed by staff in the regional outposts keen for a national byline. Clearly, a significant segment of the traditional ABC audience is unhappy with much of its current output. Metro radio audiences have slipped, while support for the free-to-air TV network is eroded by the multiplicity of alternative digital sources. The solution is not some lofty executive (usually the managing director) deeming that the corporation needs to restructure and pursue a younger audience. That defies the nation's demographics. It's the older segment that is growing fastest, and it is a segment that is far from easy to please. Attempts to make the ABC flashier – and trashier – only alienate its loyal and mature audience. In 1945, the chairman of the then Commission, Richard Boyer, gave a speech in which he said the public broadcaster should "stand solid and serene in the middle of our national life, running no campaign, seeking to persuade to no opinion, but presenting the issues fairly and fearlessly for the calm judgment of the people". *Could the current ABC chair and board read those words without squirming?*



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

Tried to call the Braxton Police Station to make a report of a *mediumly* serious problem to find that the landline is no longer in place. I contacted the Singleton police to be diverted to Muswellbrook. They explained that the line to Branxton was no more and that apart from 000 you can call Muswellbrook or use the police PAL number. We have a police station, a courthouse and police residence and local police but all are inoperative apart from our local police officers. Surely with the huge growth in the area we can sustain a police station.

For those that are not aware 1080 Wild Dog & Fox Ground baiting, is continuing until 10 July in areas within the boundaries of land owned by LWP the developers of Huntlee. Spoke to the Manager/Director who informs me that they use a 1Km buffer zone.

As just one of many grey nomads who frequent the RV Park in Branxton I would like to say that for such a small community you have one of the best sporting areas we have seen in our travels. Miller Park is just amazing. Also, the RV Park is so good; quiet, close to everything and always full of friendly good travelers. You are punching above your weight!

Have been following the restoration of the Greta War Memorial and the saga concerning the new lighting that is to go on top of the memorial obelisk. It appears that the new sandstone top and lighting will be finally installed on the 15th June (*ed.* tomorrow). Well done to all concerned!

FREE Classified's Classified's

- Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908 repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
- Drum lessons:** Young Musician studying Bachelor of Music will conduct lessons (drum) your home or mine. (\$25.00 at mine \$30 for away for 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
- For Sale:** 2 ton chainblock \$100, Hardwood Timber beam 4800 x 290 x 75, \$50. 2470 x 140 x 100, \$20, Humes prime coat solid exterior door, 2040 x 820 x 35, New \$120, sell \$50, Painted solid door 1985 x 920 x 40, \$20, trailer axle with Holden hubs and stub axles, \$20, 4 White roll down security shutters 1800, 1860, 1760, 1650 wide with 2000 drop, Free Ph.0437312905
- For Sale:** Collectable rabbit traps from \$10 P: 0421 102 711
- For Sale:** Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
- Riding Lessons:** agistment, horses trained. 0407 453 494
- Wanted:** all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50jl z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
- Wanted:** Clean Fill Required North Branxton area. No builders rubble or materials P: 0413161296 Fred
- Work Wanted:** Need a house cleaner \$25/hr P: 0488 588 333
- Work Wanted:** Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
- Work Wanted:** Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
- Work Wanted:** HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
- Work Wanted:** 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.



THE BEATLES 50 YEARS ON. BEATLEMANIA
 Next date: Friday, 30 June 2023 | 07:30 PM to 10:00 PM
 Come and relive all the Beatles classic hits in one sensational two hour concert experience, presented by the world's premier 'Beatles' band, THE Sensational BEATLE BOYS. Direct from sold out concerts in Canada & North America, South Africa and Asia, THE BEATLE BOYS will transport audiences back to those incredible days when the Beatles dominated the music charts with as many as 7 songs in the Top 10 starting at No 1. Hear every classic Beatles song that ever made it to No 1, and relive the magic and unique sound that made the Beatles the greatest rock 'n' roll band the world has ever known. No less than 35 chart toppers that made the four 'mop tops' so much a part of our lives back in those heady days of the 60's together with the timeless hits of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison & Ringo Starr. You'll hear and sing along to *Help, A Hard Day's Night, Can't Buy Me Love, Yesterday, Love Me Do, She Loves You, Eleanor Rigby, Hey Jude, Let It Be* and many more; brought to Australian audiences with love from us to you.

Friday, 16 June 2023 | 07:00 PM to 09:30 PM. Also 17, 18, 21 & 22 June
EQUUS ~ Experience the gripping psychological drama of EQUUS brought to life in a thrilling new production from the acclaimed Wollombi Valley Artists. This Tony Award-winning play by Peter Shaffer explores the complex and disturbing relationship between a young man and his psychiatrist as they delve into the depths of a horrific crime. With its haunting themes and intense character study, EQUUS is a theatrical masterpiece that will leave you breathless. The event venue at Laguna Hall is licensed and adjacent to the Trading Post where meals are available to patrons. Laguna Community Hall, 3734 Great North Road, Laguna, 2325, **Smoke Off | Returns in 2022 2 July** In partnership with Smokin Hot & Saucy The Royal Federal Hotel is excited to invite you to the 2nd annual Smoke Off! Enjoy a day full of meat, music and entertainment, kid friendly activities, live music from Outlaw Ave & Matt Scullion, cold beer and of course smoked meat. (Yes you get to eat the meat). Watch 2 teams battle it out over 5 smoked heats for the coveted Smoke Off trophy. Both of the teams are from the Hunter area so come and cheer on your LOCALS - or brew up some healthy rivalry. Time: 11am - 3pm **Sun, 27 Aug**, Hunter Valley Highland Games 2023 2:30 - 9:00 am Saltire Estate, 113 Wilderness Rd, Rothbury NSW 2320. See mass Pipe & Drum bands, Highland and Country dancing displays and the pure strength of athletes taking on the National Highlander Championships. **22 to 24 September** - Singleton Show, Singleton. **A Day On The Green presents The Chicks ~ Saturday 21st October 2023** Chugg Entertainment and Frontier Touring are thrilled to announce the return of global superstars THE CHICKS to Australia and New Zealand this October. 2022 They return to Australia as part of their world tour 2023 featuring special guest Elle King. The captivating trio will play nine dates down under, including THE CHICKS' a day on the green debut, with a very special outdoor shows - Bimbagen, Hunter Valley, NSW on Saturday 21 October.



Here are some unusual and surprising facts about dogs:

Nose Prints: Just like humans have unique fingerprints, dogs have unique nose prints. The patterns and ridges on a dog's nose are distinct to each individual, making them identifiable.

Sniffing Superpowers: Dogs have an incredible sense of smell. They possess up to 300 million olfactory receptors in their noses, compared to humans who have only around 6 million. This exceptional sense of smell enables them to detect various scents, such as diseases, explosives, and even cancer.

Ear Magic: Dogs have the ability to move their ears independently. They can rotate, tilt, and raise each ear separately, allowing them to focus on different sounds from different directions.

Tummy Listening: Dogs have a unique way of communicating and bonding called "bowing." When a dog stretches its front paws forward and lowers its head while keeping its hind end up, it's an invitation to play and a way of saying, "I'm friendly."

Counting Canines: Border Collies, known for their intelligence, have been tested and shown to understand over 1,000 words and commands. They are considered one of the most intelligent dog breeds.

Paw Preference: Dogs, like humans, can be left- or right-pawed. You can observe their paw preference when they reach out to grab toys or perform certain tasks.

Yawning is Contagious: If you yawn in front of your dog, there's a good chance they'll yawn too. Dogs are susceptible to contagious yawning, which is believed to be a sign of empathy and social bonding.

Ancient Companions: Dogs have been human companions for a remarkably long time. The earliest evidence of domesticated dogs dates back over 15,000 years. They have been our faithful friends and working partners for centuries.

Sense of Time: Dogs have a sense of time and can perceive the passing of time based on routine activities. They can anticipate feeding times, walks, and other regular events.

Dreaming Dogs: Dogs experience REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep, just like humans. During this stage, they may twitch, bark, or make movements as if they are chasing something in their dreams.

These are just a few intriguing facts

about our furry friends. Dogs are fascinating creatures with unique behaviors and abilities that continue to captivate us.

Here are some unusual and surprising facts about domestic cats

Whisker Magic: A cat's whiskers are highly sensitive and serve as a valuable sensory tool. The whiskers are roughly as wide as the cat's body, helping them gauge whether they can fit through tight spaces without getting stuck.

Purr-fect Healing: It is believed that a cat's purring can have healing properties. The frequency of a cat's purr (between 25 and 150 Hertz) has been shown to promote healing, reduce stress, and even strengthen bones and muscles.

Elasticity Experts: Cats are incredibly flexible due to their unique skeletal structure. They have no collarbone, allowing them to fit through narrow openings and twist their bodies in astonishing ways.

Whisker Prints: Similar to nose prints in dogs, cats also have unique whisker pad patterns. The arrangement of their whiskers is distinct, and no two cats have the same pattern.

Ancient Companions: Cats have a long history of association with humans. They were first domesticated in ancient Egypt around 4,000 years ago and were highly revered. They were even worshipped as deities and considered sacred.

Night Vision Ninjas: Cats are crepuscular animals, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk. They have exceptional night vision due to a specialized structure in their eyes called the tapetum lucidum, which reflects light and enhances their ability to see in low-light conditions.

Whisker Navigation: Whiskers not only serve as sensory organs but also aid in navigation. Cats use their whiskers to detect changes in their environment, determine if they can fit through tight spaces, and even gauge the distance of a jump.

Water Wary: Unlike most other animals, many domestic cats have an aversion to water. This dislike is thought to stem from their ancestors' evolutionary history, as wild cats typically inhabit dry environments and are not natural swimmers.

Communication Masters: Cats communicate using a variety of vocalizations, body language, and purring. They have a broad range of vocalizations, including meowing, purring, hissing, growling, and even chirping.

Cat Napping Pros: Cats are known

for their love of napping. On average, cats sleep for around 12 to 16 hours a day. However, they are also capable of having short bursts of intense activity, often referred to as "cat zoomies."

Cats are captivating creatures with unique characteristics and behaviors. Their independence, agility, and enigmatic nature have made them beloved companions throughout history.

What are the best ways of making your dog and cat live together in harmony

Slow and Controlled Introduction: Start by keeping the dog and cat separated initially. Allow them to become familiar with each other's scents by swapping bedding or using a gate or door to separate them physically.

Controlled Visual Introduction: After the initial separation, allow the dog and cat to see each other through a baby gate or a partially opened door. This allows them to observe and get used to each other's presence without direct contact.

Scent Exchange: Rub a cloth or towel on the cat and then introduce it to the dog, and vice versa. This helps them associate each other's scent with positive experiences.

Positive Reinforcement: Reward both the dog and cat with treats, praise, and affection for calm behavior and positive interactions. This helps create positive associations with each other's presence.

Gradual Face-to-Face Meetings: Once both the dog and cat appear comfortable with each other's presence, you can start introducing them in a controlled and supervised manner. Use a leash on the dog and have a calming method, like treats or toys, available. Allow them to sniff and investigate each other while closely monitoring their reactions. If any signs of tension or aggression occur, separate them and try again later.

Safety Zones and Retreat Spaces: Ensure both the dog and cat have separate areas where they can retreat to when they need some time alone; high perches/hiding spots for cat and a designated safe space for the dog.

Training and Obedience: Train your dog to follow basic commands such as "sit," "stay," and "leave it." This helps establish control and create a safe environment for both pets.

Gradual Increase in Interaction Time: Gradually increase the duration and frequency of supervised interactions between the dog and cat as they become more comfortable with each other.

Separate Resources: Ensure each pet has their own food, water bowls, litter box, and sleeping areas. This helps prevent resource guarding and reduces potential conflicts.

Patience and Time: Remember that each pet is an individual with their own personality and needs.



WINTER LAWN PESTS

In our local area the winter season generally experiences cooler temperatures, which can affect the activity of certain lawn pests. While the overall pest activity tends to decrease during winter, some pests may still be active. Here are a few common lawn pests that can be active during the winter months in Sydney:

Lawn Grubs: Several species of lawn grubs, such as the African Black Beetle (*Heteronychia arator*) and the Argentine Stem Weevil (*Listronotus bonariensis*), can remain active in winter. These grubs feed on the roots of grass, resulting in brown patches and wilting.

Armyworms: Armyworms (*Spodoptera* spp.) are another potential winter pest in Sydney. They are moth larvae that can cause damage to lawns by chewing through grass blades, leaving behind ragged and brown areas.

Cutworms: Cutworms (*Noctuidae* family) are nocturnal pests that can feed on the stems of young grass plants, often causing severe damage. Some species, like the black cutworm (*Agrotis ipsilon*), can remain active during winter.

Sod Webworms: Sod webworms (*Crambidae* family) are small caterpillars that create silk-lined burrows in lawns. They feed on grass blades, causing irregular patches of dead or thinning turf. While their activity might decrease in winter, they can still be present.

Lawn Beetles: Some species of lawn beetles, such as the Billbug (*Sphenophorus* spp.), can remain active during the cooler months. These pests primarily target the roots of grass, leading to patches of dying or dead turf.

It's important to note that the severity of pest activity can vary from year to year depending on factors like weather conditions and lawn maintenance practices. If you suspect a pest infestation, it's best to consult with a local lawn care professional or entomologist who can provide accurate and up-to-date information specific to your area.

WINTER LAWN MAINTENANCE AND CARE TIPS

Here are some tips for lawn maintenance and care during the winter months in our local area:-

Mowing: Adjust your mower height to a slightly higher setting during winter. Longer grass blades can help protect the roots and provide insulation against the cooler temperatures. Aim to keep the grass around 5-6 centimeters in height.

Watering: Reduce the frequency of watering during winter, as the grass growth slows down. Water deeply but less frequently to encourage the roots to grow deeper. Water in the morning to allow the grass to dry before nightfall and minimize the risk of fungal diseases.

Aeration: Consider aerating your lawn to alleviate soil compaction and improve water and nutrient penetration. Use a garden fork or

rent an aerator machine to create small holes in the soil.

Fertilizing: Apply a slow-release, winter-specific fertilizer to provide essential nutrients to the grass. Choose a formula with a higher ratio of potassium and phosphorus to promote root development and overall plant health. Follow the product instructions for application rates.

Weed Control: Winter is a good time to tackle weeds in your lawn. Use selective herbicides or manual removal to target and eliminate winter weeds such as bindii, clover, and broadleaf weeds. Be cautious not to apply herbicides if the temperature is below the recommended range.

Pest Control: Monitor for pests like lawn grubs, armyworms, and lawn beetles. If you notice signs of an infestation, consult with a professional to determine the appropriate treatment options.

Avoid Excessive Traffic: During wet periods, try to minimize foot traffic on the lawn to prevent compaction and damage to the grass.

Leaf Removal: Regularly remove fallen leaves from the lawn to prevent suffocation and the development of fungal diseases. Use a rake or a leaf blower to clear the debris.

Overseeding (if necessary): If your lawn has bare patches or thin areas, consider overseeding with a cool-season grass variety suitable for the local climate. Follow the recommended seeding rates and provide adequate watering until the new grass establishes.

General Maintenance: Keep the lawn clean and tidy by trimming the edges, removing debris, and maintaining proper drainage.

DO LAWN ROOTS GROW DURING WINTER MONTHS

In general, grass roots can continue to grow during the winter months, albeit at a slower pace compared to the warmer seasons. While the above-ground growth of grass may slow down or become dormant, the roots can still actively grow, taking advantage of available moisture and nutrients in the soil.

The growth rate of grass roots during winter can vary depending on factors such as the grass species, temperature, moisture levels, and overall lawn health. Cool-season grasses, such as Tall Fescue or Ryegrass, are more adapted to winter conditions and may exhibit more active root growth during this time. Warm-season grasses, like Couch or Buffalo grass, tend to have slower growth in winter and may have minimal root development.

Even though the growth rate is reduced, the development and maintenance of a healthy root system remain crucial for overall lawn health. Deep and well-established roots help the grass withstand environmental stresses, improve nutrient uptake, and enhance drought tolerance.

To promote root growth during winter, consider implementing the following practices:
Adequate watering: Water deeply but less frequently to encourage deeper root growth. Watering in the morning allows the grass blades to dry before evening, reducing the risk of fungal diseases.

Proper fertilization: Apply a slow-release, winter-specific fertilizer with higher potassium and phosphorus content to support root development and overall plant health.

Aeration: Perform aeration to alleviate soil compaction and improve water and nutrient penetration, which can benefit root growth.

Minimize foot traffic: Avoid excessive thatch buildup: Keep thatch accumulation under control, as excessive thatch can hinder root growth. Consider dethatching if the layer becomes too thick.

The News SPORT

SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

Branxton Vets Results Thursday, 18th May Stableford

Division 1: Winner: Neil Bridge 30 pts (19,11) **Runner Up:** Jimmy Sheedy 28 pts (16,12) **3rd:** Mike Ford 28 pts (20,8) **4th:** Reece Caldwell 27 pts (19,8) **Ball Winners:** George Anderson 25 pts; Keith Anderson 25 pts; Craig Howe 24 pts;

Division 2: Winner: Barry Turner 29 pts (19,10) **Runner Up:** Barney Ward: 29 pts (19,10) **3rd:** Steve Condran 26 pts (15,11) **4th:** Ray Showman 25 pts (16,9) **Ball Winners:** Chris Thomas 25 pts; Billy Smith 24 pts; Peter Sekulich 23 pts; Graham Scobie 23 pts

Ladies: Winner: Nerida Busch 27 pts (16,11) **Runner Up:** Robyn Friis 26 pts (16,10) **3rd:** Jane Johansen 25 pts (17,8) **4th:** Leanne Daniels 24 pts (17,7)

NTPins: Men: Billy Smith
Ladies: Robyn Friis

Neil Bridge kept his form in winning Thursday's Division 1 with an excellent 30 pts, after winning last week with 28 pts and finishing runner up on Saturday. Jimmy Sheedy finished runner up 2 pts back whilst Mike Ford was third on the same score, after having 20 pts on the front nine. Reece Caldwell, now becoming a regular Vets player, finished 4th a further point back. Barry Turner won B Grade with 29 pts, on a countback from Barney Ward, with Steve Condran and Ray Showman filling the minor placings. Nerida Busch's 27 pts won her the Ladies event with Robyn Friis, Jane Johansen and Leanne Daniels also playing well. The sharpshooters for the day were Billy Smith and Robyn Friis on the last. With the greens recently rolled and closely mown, the course is looking a lot better.

Thursday, 1st June Stableford

Division 1: Winner: Neil Bridge 31 pts (21,10) **Runner Up:** Keith Anderson 30 pts (21,9) **3rd:** Eddie Barrett 29 pts (22,7) **4th:** Jimmy Sheedy 28 pts (17,11) **Ball Winners:** Greg Noble 27 pts; Mick Barrett 26 pts; George Anderson 26 pts; Mike Ford 26 pts; Roger Yandle 25 pts

Division 2: Winner: Paul Johansen 34 pts (23,11) **Runner Up:** Peter Sekulich 31 pts (17,14) **3rd:** Errol Munzenberger 28 pts (15,13) **4th:** Steve Condran 28 pts (16,12) **Ball Winners:** Peter Dunn 28 pts; Barry Turner 26 pts; Ray Showman 25 pts; John Atton 25pts; Glenn Fletcher 25 pts; Jeff Scott 25 pts;

Ladies: Winner: Ruth McCarthy 29 pts (16,13) **Runner Up:** Nerida Busch 27 pts (15,12) **3rd:** Jan Scobie 24

pts (16,8) **Ball Winners:** Leanne Daniels 23 pts; Jan Davidson 23 pts;

NTPins: Ladies: Marg Hunt
Men: Gary Musilak

45 players enjoyed the improving Branxton Golf Course on quite a balmy day for the first day of Winter. Neil Bridge continued his recent good form to win Division 1 once again with an excellent 31 pts, a round which included 21 pts on the front nine. He was pipped for the overall Score of the Day by Paul Johansen, who won Division 2 with a wonderful 34 pts--his round included an amazing 23 pts on the front nine. Keith Anderson finished runner up in Division 1 with 30 pts, with Eddie Barrett's 29 pts good enough for third place. Jimmy Sheedy finished 4th a shot further back. Peter Sekulich finished runner up in Division 2 with 31 pts with the minor placings going to Steve Condran and Errol Munzenberger, both with 28 pts. They both finished the last 5 holes in a flurry with Errol having 13 pts and Steve 12 pts--apparently that is the way to play on a Thursday so your handicap doesn't get affected--well played boys! Ruth McCarthy won the Ladies with a very pleasing 29 pts, just ahead of Nerida Busch's 27 pts with Jan Scobie's 24 pts good enough for third. Marg Hunt and Gary Musilak were the sharp shooters for the day on the last. The members draw wasn't won once again, so next week's draw is worth \$340. Audrey Brown's farewell was held on the 8/6/23. We all wish her well with her move and the next stage of her life, and sincerely thank her (and her late husband Norm) for all the work and support they have given over many years with the Branxton Vets Golf.

Branxton Lady Results

The Branxton Ladies Golf held the second round of the Pauline Thomas Memorial as a stableford round on **17th May 2023.**

The Results were:
Winner: Trish McMillan - 42 points
Runner Up: Jan Davidson - 40 points
Third: Leanne Daniels - 37 points
Nearest the Pin: Trish McMillan

The Branxton Ladies Golf held a stableford round on **24th May 2023.**

The Results were:
Winner: Ruth McCarthy - 35 points on a count-back
Runner Up: Jan Davidson - 35 points
Third: Jan Scobie - 34 points
Nearest the Pin: Neridah Busch

Branxton Saturday Comp

2 Man Ambrose Championships Saturday, 20th May

Members Overall Scratch Winners:
Cameron Johanson and Michael Simpson 62
Members Overall Nett Winners:
Graham Bull and James Elphick 63.750 c/b

Open Nett Runners Up Norm and Nick Redgrove 64.25
Open Nett 3rd Ben Porter and Jeff Haywood 64.75 c/b
Open Nett 4th Paul and Keith Anderson 64.75
Open Nett 5th Robert Biles and Greg Chesson 65.25
NTPins: 2nd: Greg Chesson 492 cms **4th:** Richard Crooks 290 cms **13th:** Norm Redgrove 69 cms **9th/18th:** W.Davies

18th Pro Pin: Cameron Johanson 250 cms

Saturday's 2 Man Ambrose Championships was won very convincingly by Cameron Johanson and Michael Simpson

with the impressive score of 62, 8 under par. According to our Club Captain, Cameron once again put on another show, ably supported by Mick, following on from his incredible 3 under par score last week. This included a personal eagle to Cameron on the 6th with a driver, 4 iron to 2 metres and then making the putt. A great effort from these two talented golfers. Graham Bull and James Elphick combined well once again to win the Nett Competition with their 63.750, just ahead of the father/son combination of Norm and Nick Redgrove. Their score included the shot of the day, by Norm, on the difficult 13th, finishing only 69 cms from the pin. Benny Porter and Jeff haywood finished third a half shot further back. Their game included an interesting 5th/14th hole where it is reported that the cows in the paddock were in great danger

from Benny's slightly inaccurate drives. Mark Moylan and Mark Bercini played well to finish runners up in the scratch competition after their two under 68. The course was set up well for this championship with some wind challenging all players (except the winners) with back tee placements and tricky pin positions. The Branxton Open is planned for the weekend of golf on the 17th-18th June.

Saturday, 27 May 2023 SATURDAY COMP - STABLEFORD

Field: 41
Grades A Robert Biles 39
Grades A Mark Moylan 38
Grades A Stephen Ross 34
Grades B Kerrie Fry 39
Grades B Ken Radunz 35
Grades B Murray Kingston 34
Grades C Luke Rooney 41
Grades C Sam Bridge 40
Grades C Glenn Fletcher 34
NTP 2/11 Stephen Ross 81cm
NTP 4 Robert Hale 150cm

NTP 9/18 Reece Caldwell 170cm
NTP 13 Mark Moylan 373cm
Balls 12 Distributed down to score: 30
Pro's NTP 18th - Gregory Tearle 283cm = \$72 Proshop Voucher

Some good scores were needed to win in each grade with most tees forward and the pin positions in the middle of most greens. Bob Biles played extremely well to win A Grade with an excellent 39 pts, just ahead of the rejuvenated Mark Moylan with 38 pts, with Club Captain, Steve Ross third on 34 pts--a score which included the shot of the day on the 2nd/11th, finishing only 81 cms from the pin. Kerrie Fry won B Grade with a very pleasing 39 pts, well clear of runner up Ken Radunz's 35 pts, with Murray Kingston picking up another prize with his 34 pts. C Grade recorded the day's best stableford scores. Luke Rooney won with 41 pts, a point ahead of Sam Bridge's 40 pts, with Glenn Fletcher third on 34 pts. 30 pts was all that was needed to win a ball, indicating the rest of the field struggled with these good conditions. Greg Tearle once again

CONT NEXT PAGE

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Return to Colts after Knights season

2 THE NEWS No. 354 26 February 2013



Photo above: (L-R) Hudson Young, Nick Lawrence, Brandon Bendeich, Tom Burgess and Connor Kirkwood

Five Greta Branxton Colts will return to their local 'Colts' training after a successful Newcastle Knights summer season.

Hudson Young, Nick Lawrence, Brandon Bendeich, Tom Burgess and Connor Kirkwood will return to their 2012 premierships winning team after being selected as part of the Newcastle Knights Chargers U/15's Team. The five players were part of a representative team made up of players selected from Port Macquarie to The Central Coast and Upper Hunter. Training began in early November with games played throughout the Hunter Valley against teams from around the state in the early part of this year. All five players agreed that it was great for them to have the opportunity to be part of the Knights squad. "The team and training staff were thoroughly professional and the experience that we gained by playing with and against so many great players is something we will always remember. Our aim this year is to get back to back premierships. We know that this will be a tough job, but we will be out there doing our best," said Brandon Bendeich. "A big thank you to all of our families, friends and Colts team-mates that came and watched our games and supported us during the season." Colts training resumes in late February.

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The News SPORT

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won the Pro's Pin to the last. The Monthly Medal is scheduled for next week with all the singles and pairs knockouts all booked in for their next round. The Branxton Open is now only getting closer, planned for Sunday 18th June, so players are reminded to book in as soon as possible.

Saturday, 3 June 2023 MONTHLY MEDAL - STROKE MORTGAGE CHOICE HUNTER VALLEY

Field: 40
 Winners A Nick Wheeler 66
 Grades A Stephen Ross 67
 Grades A Lee Hunt 73
 Grades B Robert Miller 69
 Grades B Joe Bereza 72
 Grades C Geoff Geason 68
 Grades C Steven Primmer 72
 NTP 2/11 Lee Hunt 340cm
 NTP 4 Toby Grant 89cm
 NTP 9/18 John Burgess 235cm
 NTP 13 Gregory Tearle 152cm
 Balls 2 Distributed down to score: 76
 Pro's NTP 18th - John Burgess 235cm = \$64 Proshop Voucher
 The "Mortgage Choice Hunter Valley" Monthly Medal was won very impressively by Nick Wheeler, who had his best ever score around "Royal Branxton" with an excellent 66 nett. Club Captain, Steve Ross, played just as well to win A Grade with his nett 67, with Branxton Vets Captain, Lee Hunt, third with his nett 73. Robert "Shirl" Miller had a very enjoyable day out in winning B Grade with his nett 69 and winning his Singles Knockout match against Bob Biles. He now progresses to the semi-finals. Joe Bereza finished runner up in B Grade with his solid 72 nett

score. Local Vet, Geoff Geason, won C Grade with a very pleasing 68 nett, well clear of runner up Steve Primmer's 72 nett. The shot of the day belonged to Toby Grant on the 4th, finishing only 89cms from the pin whilst John Burgess won the Pro Pin on the last--a shot which went straight over the pin. A nett 76 was needed to win a ball, showing stroke rounds are always a difficult challenge.

Branxton Vets Thursday, 8th June Individual Stableford

Division 1: *Winner:* Reece Caldwell 22 pts (SOD)
Runner Up: Paul Johansen 21 pts
Third: Lee Hunt 20 pts
4th: John Burgess 19 pts
Ball Winners: Tony Seamer 19 pts; Greg Noble 19 pts; Roger Yandle 18 pts; Eddie Barrett 17 pts
 Division 2: *Winner:* Ray Showman 20 pts
Runner Up: Errol Munzenberger 19 pts
Third: Jeff Flynn 18 pts
4th: Robert Brooks 18 pts
Ball Winners: Glenn Fletcher 17 pts; Graham Scobie 16 pts; Gary Train 16 pts; B. Trezise 16 pts; Jeff Scott 16 pts; M.Lipscombe 16 pts
Ladies: Winner: Robyn Friis 21 pts
Runner Up: Di Goodare 19 pts (c/b)
Third: Jane Johansen 19pts
4th: Jan Scobie 18 pts
NTPins: Ladies: Jan Davidson
Men: Roger Yandle
 Thursday's Individual Stableford event was a precursor to the farewell to our much loved Audrey Brown, who has been a wonderful support to the Branxton Vets for many years. She, and her late husband Norm, have been heavily involved in ensuring the Thursday Vets Competition is as strong as it is, so a farewell luncheon was thoroughly deserved as Audrey starts a new phase in her life in Warners Bay. We all wish her well as she leaves Royal Branxton. Reece Caldwell won the day (a 9 hole event due to the luncheon) with an excellent 22 pts. Paul Johansen, fresh from his strong win last week, finished runner up in Division 1 with 21 pts, with

Vets Captain, Lee Hunt, third a point back. John Burgess finished 4th with his 19 pts. Ray Showman continued his very consistent form to win Division 2 with his 20 pts, just ahead of Errol Munzenberger's 19 pts, with Jeff Flynn and Robert Brooks filling the minor placings a point further back. Errol finished a great day by winning the Club's Member's draw worth \$340--I'm sure his wife Carmel would have been very impressed. 16 pts was needed to win a ball in Division 2. Robyn Friis won the Ladies with a very pleasing 21 pts, with Di Goodare, Jane Johansen and Jan Scobie filling the placings. Jan Davidson and Roger Yandle were the sharp shooters for the day.

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Wednesday 31st May
 The Ladies 4BBB has been won on countback by Jenny Chambers & Sue Wilson from Glenda Williams & Dinki Di Oakes after the teams returned 44 points each. Next week the Ladies will play an individual Stableford

Thursday 1st June
 Ideal condition have led to some excellent scores returned by the Vets in this weeks Irish Stableford event with Steve Piggott doing best in Div. 1 with 74 points from Graeme Smoith 71 on countback, Div 2 to Alan 'Jock' Kendall who shot 6 strokes under his age to return at staggering 89 points from John Stewart 77, with another impressive round Muz Flannigan has won Div 3 with 82 points from Wayne Cowen 79. Ball winners are: Tony Neale 76, Ron Findley 75, Tracy Morison 74, Peter Attewell 74, Greg Amlöh 72, Kevin Smith 72, Springy 72, Banjo 71, Wayne Berry 71, Burgo 70, John McLoughney 70, Rob Hannah 69, Garry Clarke 69, John Martin 69, Wazza 69, Ian Newell 68, Gerry Irwin 68, Steve Morgan 68, Ryan Wilson 67, David Peel 67, Graham Donaldson 67, Joe Olsen 67, Terry Webb 67, Bomber 67, Dean Morison 66, Ruff 65, Mick O'Brien 65, Graham Morris 65, Alan McKenzie 65 & Bruce Hughes 64 c/b
 Nearest-the-Pins to Wazza (3rd) Wayne Berry (4th) Graham Morris (8th) Banjo (10th) & Paul Smith (17th). Next

week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford

Saturday 3rd June
 The Monthly Stroke round has seen Mark Noble win A Grade on countback from Nick Looby after both had 68 net returns, B Grade has seen Ryan Wilson claim the win with 70 net from Fluff with 71 on countback and C Grade to Josh Noble on countback to Geoff Saunders after both had even Par 71 net returns. Ball winners are: Steve Jurd 69, Peter Payne 70, Danny Schofiels 71, Wayne Barber 71, Jake Saunders 71, Jack Fisher 72, Dan McLeod 72, Peter McIntyre 72, Reece Green 73, Peter Tierney 73, Nick Hum 73, Steve Piggott 73, Ron Findley 73, Scrum 73, Denis Corke 73, Tony Butler 73, Steve Morgan 74, Joshua Tracey 74, Rod Wilton 75, Terry Roughan 75, Dean Freebairn 75, Joe Gleeson 75, Nick Jain 76, Peter Wilton 76, Graham Morris 76, Darren Mathers 76, Bruce Chambers 76, Dave Agnew 76, Garry Clarke 77, Luke Johnston 77, Caleb Porter 77, Mick Tracey 77, Max Hindmarsh 77, Darren Crear 77, Paul McCuddles 77, Andrew Schofield 77, Glenn Williams 78, Jeremy Holden 78, David Matt 78, Damien Porter 78 & Tony Krishna 78 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Bomber (3rd) Peter Payne (4th) Mick Gilbert (8th) Caleb Porter (10th) & Ryan Wilson (17th).

Sunday 4th June
 The Weekly Challenge has been won by Phil Small with a solid 41 point round from Jordan Hartigan 39 with Steve Piggott in 3rd place with 38 points. Ball winners are: Todd Jolly 37, Ray Sleiman 36, Brenden Gray 35, Jeff Shanahan 35, Phil Douglas 34, Tania Hutchins 34, Jo Karam 33, Joshua Tracey 33, Aaron Bashford 33, Greg Morgan 33, Ken Alley 32, John Rafferty 32, Troy Scott 32, Anthony Saab 31, Aaron Marks 31, Jordan Wilkinson 31, Paul Monahan 30, Ray Beaini 30, Ryan McGregor 30 & Blake Medway 29 c/b

Tuesday 6th June
 Phoussang Sihapanya has won the Tuesday Stableford on countback from Blake Dickson after both had even Par returns of 36 points, Larry Forbes took 3rd place also on countback with 35. Ball winners are: Andrew

Causey 35, Ian Newell 34, Tracy Morison 34, David Peel 34, Wally 34, Rox Jnr 34, Rex Talbot 33, Bob Prentice 32, Dean Morison 32, Greg Ireland 32, Michael Cunningham 32, Jackson Forsyth 32, Burgo 31, Peter Franks 31, Ryan Wilson 31, Wayne Cowan 31 & John Stewart 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Dez Bailey (3rd) Blake Dickson (4th) Blake Iddles (8th) Rob Hannah (10th) & Bob Prentice (17th)

Wednesday 7th June
 The Ladies Stableford event has been won by Leesa Robinson with 36 points from Jenny Chambers 34 on countback to Teresa Taylor in 3rd. Ball winners are: Melita Watson 33, Sue Wilson 33, Stacey Brennan 32, Jill Ramsden 31, Dinki Di 31, Christine Tancred 30 & Dale Hamilton 29 c/b.

Thursday 8th June
 The Vets Medley Stableford has seen some mixed results with Larry Forbes claiming Div 1 with 38 points from Steve Piggott with 34 on countback, Ryan Wilson has won Div 2 with 37 points from Kevin Dick with 36 and 87 year old Alick Bender has won Div 3 with 38 points from Kevin Gibson with 36 on countback. Ball winners are: Ian Newell 36, Bill Harden 35, Bill Freeman 35, Higgy 35, Wayne Cowen 34, Ron Findley 34, Bruce Chambers 34, John Barbour 34, Peter Payne 34, Phil Small 34, Kevin Smith 34, Kerry Bartlett 34, Wazza 34, Spot 34, Paul Smith 34, Chris Stebbing 33, Greg Amlöh 33, Graham Morris 33, Don Bradley 33 & Peter McIntyre 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Kevin Dick (3rd) Bill Freeman (4th) Wayne Drayton (8th) Jeff Taylor (10th) & Reddis (17th).

Saturday 10th June
 A cool start greeted the early field in the Medley Stableford with the players teeing later in the day doing best. A Grade to Danny Schofield with 37 points from Wayne Barber with 35 on countback, B Grade to Matt Tomlinson with 39 on countback to Noah Chaplain & C Grade to Peter Davies with 42 points from Logan Woods with 36 on countback. Ball winners are: Alan Bishop 38, Ryan Wilson 37, Morto 37, Fluff 36, Tony Butler 36, Don Bradley 35, Caleb Porter 35, Andrew Zok 35, Kade Hardy 34, Nick Hain 34, Jeremy Holden 33, Dave Hollis 33, Craig Sharp 33, Banjo 33, Alan Brown 33, Dan McLeod 33, Dave Agnew 33, Jarrad Hofman 33, Seth Adams 32, Graham Morris 32, Alan Provenzano 32, Russ Lightfoot 32, Peter Huckfeldt 32, Liam Hardy 31, Jo Gleeson 31, Jack Fisher 31, Beau Willett 31, Matt Matherson 31 & Adrian Kent 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Damien Porter (3rd) Dan McLeod (4th) Dave Agnew (8th) Adrian Kent (10th) & Craig Sharp (17th).



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Information and Support



Greta Workers Fishing Club

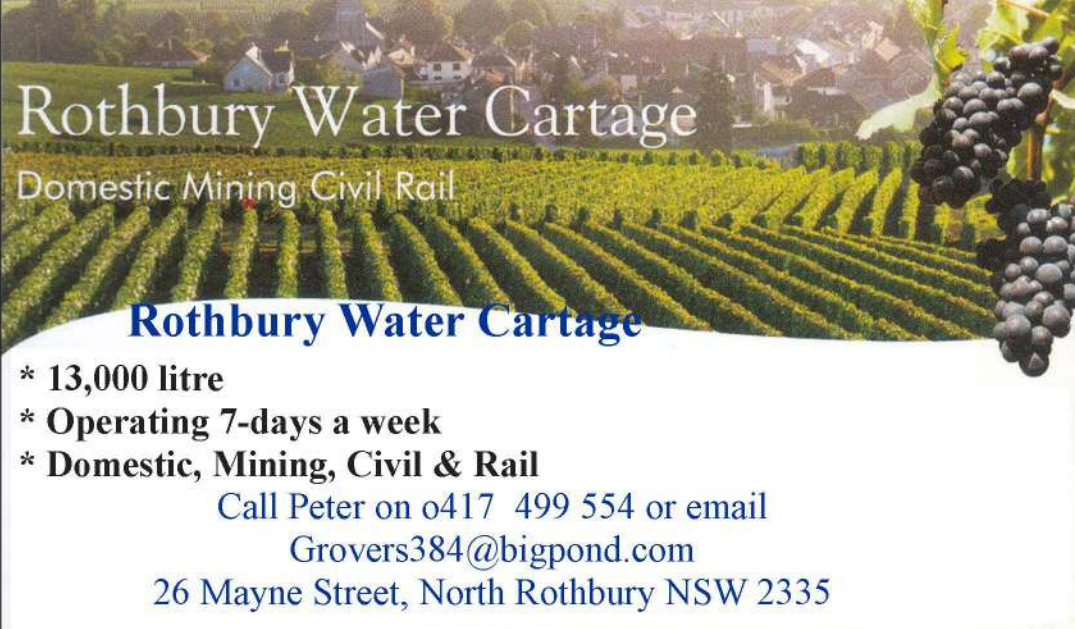
Shivery Stockton Weekend

The 19th, 20th and 21st May was a cold windy weekend for the Greta Workers Social Fishing Club members at Stockton. Bodge Nevin was lucky enough to jag a gap in the

weather on the Saturday afternoon and bagged out on Flathead including a 68cm Dusky fishing the harbour on a live Yakka. He top scored with 95 points followed by Keza Duncan the social butterfly who managed to get a feed of Bream and Flathead fishing from the shore before she left swiftly on another social gathering back in Cessnock. Club veteran Terry Roulston fished long and hard and finished third for the weekend on 47.6 points with Bream, Tailor and Flathead. Summer Spliet-Miller continued her consistent form in 2023 with Flathead and a good Flounder. Box Miller, Fee and Andrew Jacobs also chipped away with Flathead, Flounder and Bream. Special mentions this month to the two little troopers Zack and Archie Mason who weighed in for the first time this year with a feed of Bream. The \$50 Monthly prize will jackpot to June as nobody weighed in a Jewy. June will be an open weekend on the 16th to the 18th with the weigh in to be at the Greta Workers Club 4pm on the Sunday. The target fish will be a \$100 Salmon.

Friday 23rd June will be the Fishing Clubs midyear party and exciting band The Avenue will be playing from 8pm until late, everyone is welcome to come and join for a great night!
 On Anzac day The Fishing Club ran the Two-Up at the Workers Club and it was a success as a healthy crowd was in attendance for a fun filled day. The day started with big runs of heads but a few tail betters who had a bit of money left managed to save face late as the tide turned a little. The punters and patrons on the day raised \$613.40 for the RSL Sub Branch with some generous donations. Anzac day 2024 will be bigger and better, and can't come quick enough. The Greta Workers Club, The Harvest Bistro, The Sea Shanty, The Bottlo Greta and Platts Surfwear are all wonderful sponsors and offer to the community great services. A big shout out to Tony from the Harvest Bistro who is battling some ill health. The Fishing Club and the general community of Greta, Branxton and surrounds wishes him a speedy recovery. Get well soon Tony!

Pictured below Zack and Archie Mason weighing in for the first time this year as Mum watches on. Holly Nevin also getting a front row seat for the weigh in.
Pictured below Anzac day Two-Up celebrations at GWC

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The BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

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Greta junior lawn bowls champion going from strength to strength

Koby Kattau from Greta has taken Junior lawn Bowls by storm with some remarkable results in little over 4 years. Koby started playing bowls in 2018 through the *Lets Play Bowls Program* at Greta Public School and Greta Workers Club they were runners up in their first year. The *Lets Play Bowls Program* is designed to promote the sport to primary and high school students throughout the state. As well as being a fun and highly-skilled game, lawn bowls also helps to promote self-discipline and concentration, and especially for parents, is extremely inexpensive in comparison to other sports. In April last year The junior's from Greta (Jace Edwards, James Allerton, Jeremy Bourke and Koby)

represented zone 6 at the state championships and were placed second in the fours. He has represented his school, Rutherford High, at the statewide gala days and the Combined High Schools (CHS) singles and pairs competition at Warilla Bowling Club and has been a part of the Hunter team for 3 years. Last year the Hunter team played at Penrith and were placed second, losing by one to Sydney North. From this he was selected in the NSW CHS team that travelled to Sunbury in Victoria to play last September. NSW won the tournament and Koby was chosen in the Australian Merit Team. Koby received the Sportsman-of-

the-Year award from his school and also received a Hunter Blues Award from the Hunter School Sports Association. In April this year he won all three disciplines at zone level, singles, pairs and fours and will go to the state championships at Warilla in July and onto Dubbo as a part of the 7 a-side team for the junior inter-zone competition. At club level this year he has won the minor Singles and Men's fours. Also Koby was selected as a part of the NSW Junior Blues that will play at Cabramatta in early July. Photo: 2022 NSW CHS 18 years and under team. Koby is pictured front row third from left



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