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WEDNESDAY
28 June 2023

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

New Greta Cenotaph lights after 3 years in the making to be officially turned on this Saturday



The new sandstone top and lighting which was put in-situ last week & ready for its official recognition



Just after the official opening in 1916

adjacent to the Cenotaph," said Adrienne Bevan, President Greta RSL Sub-Branch. "A march consisting of the Army Band Newcastle and a contingent of soldiers from Infantry Centre at Singleton will step off from the corner of New England Hwy and Nelson St." "They will proceed to march to the Cenotaph where the main service will commence. "During the service, the Lights will be

turned on officially and dedicated to the memory of the many servicemen and women who have represented Greta over many Years," said Adrienne. Also available for sale will be the first release copies of Kevin Driscoll's book "Greta Memorial Cenotaph and the men it commemorates" which not only describes the Cenotaph but gives a brief biography of all the names

listed thereon. Price of the book is \$50, but is a high quality 310 page publication, which brings those first soldiers back to life ensuring that they will not be forgotten. "This is the culmination of a project that has taken more than three years and many, many man-hours to accomplish. It would be very gratifying to see people still care for Greta's history."

Greta RSL Sub-Branch, Branxton-Greta Mens Shed and Branxton Lions would like to invite all residents of Greta and surrounding areas, any descendants of the men whose names appear on the Cenotaph and any other

interested parties to come along and witness this historic event. "At 10.30am the Rutherford Salvation Army Band will be playing a selection of tunes in the Rotunda



On the 1st July 2023 Greta Cenotaph will be returned to a modern version of how the

original Cenotaph was opened and dedicated exactly 107 years before, in 1916.

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New Light for Greta Memorial Cenotaph

by Kevin Driscoll



Just after the official opening in 1916

How many times have you driven or walked past the Greta Memorial Cenotaph, without the slightest thought about what the memorial represents and what it records?
A couple of questions.

When was it erected and why? Is the memorial complete, or is there something missing? The following aims to address these questions so that when you pass the memorial next time you have a better understanding

of the part the memorial plays in the community. The citizens of Greta at a public meeting held in the Council Chambers on the evening of 11 April 1916, resolved to erect a memorial to recognise the men of the community who

enlisted to fight in the Great War. When the memorial was erected in 1916 there were three distinct elements, the sandstone base and the obelisk mounted above the base, a light mounted atop of the obelisk, and the fence that surrounds the memorial. The obelisk of the memorial was progressively adorned with marble tablets, recording the names of the community men who fought in the Great War and in the case of 28 men, to recognise their supreme sacrifice. Focusing on one element of the memorial, the light. Research strongly suggests the original light assembly was an amalgam of then common components cobbled together for the specific purpose of being mounted on the memorial. The base of the light assembly is believed to be an inverted wooden leg of a billiard table or similar, coupled with portions of a simple three arm domestic light fitting which would likely be found in a public building or possibly in a middle class/upper middle class home of the period. It is known electricity to operate the light was provided gratis by the Whitburn Colliery which was located near today's Greta Worker's Club.



The new sandstone top and lighting which was put in-situ last week & ready for its official recognition

After some months of work by the community, the memorial, light, and fence, were completed and the Premier of NSW, Mr. W.A. Holman was asked to formally unveil the new Greta Memorial Cenotaph. However, Mr. Holman was unavailable and the

memorial was formally unveiled by Mr. D.R. Hall, the Attorney General of NSW, on 1 July 1916, some four years before the New South Wales Department of Local Government provided guidelines for erecting Great War Memorials, and

seven years before the Federal Government provided their guidelines. The Greta Memorial Cenotaph is recognised as the first fully finished Great War Memorial in the Hunter Valley.

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Council Celebrates Outstanding Achievements at Hall of Fame Ceremony

Cessnock City Council is proud to welcome eight highly-deserving individuals into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame, in an induction ceremony held on 20 June at Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC). The event recognised individuals with strong ties to local communities who have achieved prominence in their respective fields of endeavour.

Established in 2006, the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame highlights exceptional contributions and accomplishments by individuals with strong ties to local communities. The Hall of Fame inducts individuals in one of six categories: The Arts, Business, Public Service, Science, Sport, and Meritorious Families.

Following a rigorous review process commencing in December 2022, eight individuals were successful in gaining a place in the Hall of Fame in their respective categories. They are:

Science: Mark Hughes, and Dr Peter Laut

Public Service: Ewen Cameron, Trevor Milgate ESM OAM and Harold Sternbeck AM

Sport: Matthew Johns, and Andrew Johns

Business: Gregory Watson
Cessnock Mayor Jay Suvaal, who presided over the ceremony, expressed his pride at the remarkable achievements of the inductees saying that the City of Cessnock is honoured to recognise the exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions to our community.

"Their remarkable accomplishments have exemplified our community's spirit of excellence and dedication, setting an example for future generations."

"The City of Cessnock Hall of Fame is an important initiative that not only celebrates exceptional individuals, but also fosters community pride and inspires future generations to reach new heights. This celebration of talent, hard work, and dedication creates a legacy that will be remembered for years to come."

Following the induction ceremony, each inductee will be honoured with the placement of a plaque in the town or village with which they are most strongly associated, and have had their names added to the Wall of Fame in the foyer of Performance Arts Culture Cessnock. Council extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the inductees and acknowledges their significant contributions, which continue to shape and enrich our vibrant region," said Mayor Jay Suvaal.

In the Sport category two of Cessnock's favourite sons Matt & Andrew Johns received long overdue due recognition for their sporting achievements.

MATTHEW JOHNS: Matthew was born in July 1971 and is the eldest of three children who were raised in Cessnock. He became a talented rugby league player who learnt his craft over the years starting at St Patrick's Primary school where he was also school vice-captain. Schoolboy football was followed by under 16 and under 18 football for Cessnock as well as grade football for the Cessnock Goannas RLFC. The opportunity to play first grade for the Newcastle Knights came in 1992. During his time with the Knights, Matthew played 197 games and was a member of the 1997 Premiership winning team (alongside his younger brother Andrew, also awarded a place in the Hall of Fame). Matthew represented NSW in four State of Origin games and nine tests for Australia before going on to forge a prominent career as a media personality.

ANDREW JOHNS: Andrew Johns (better known as Joey) was born in May 1974. Joey started his rugby league journey at St Patrick's Primary school in Cessnock. Joey made his NRL first grade debut for the Newcastle Knights in 1994, with his first game yielding him a club record of 23 individual points. Joey went on to debut in State of Origin the following year. Andrew Johns has remained the greatest point scorer in the Newcastle Knights history; and captained the NSW Blues from 2002-2005. He was twice awarded the Golden Boot Award (1999 & 2001) as the world's best rugby league player, leading him on to become the NRL's 8th Immortal. Along with his brother Matthew, he was selected in the Cessnock Rugby League team of the Century. Matthew and Andrew's parents, Gayle & Gary Johns, pictured above, were present at the ceremony to accept their awards on their behalf.



Our Women's Shed Ladies and Uniting Church in Branxton have all been talking about the recent bus crash and are very grateful for our local first responders.



We want to express our sympathies for the families and friends of the ten who lost their lives that day, as well as our best wishes to the others who have been in hospital. Our church was open in Singleton over the two days last weekend and our Branxton church prayed for them all and lit ten candles.

We have had a few events recently with Free Macrame lessons where the ladies made wall

hangings, and Free Knitting lessons where we made small sample squares of knitting and purling. We also had The Newcastle Tech Guy provide free information about how we can protect ourselves from internet fraud.

This week we welcomed the Hunter Royal Life Saving and completed the CPR Course using both adult and baby manikins.

The Women's Shed Branxton is involved in such a variety of activities and we invite anyone to drop in and have a look. We are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am until 11:30 at the Branxton Uniting Church Hall. Cheers, Karen



Photo above: The Newcastle Tech Guy providing free information to our members about how you can protect ourselves from internet fraud.

Charges laid following un-authorised protest

A man has been charged following an unauthorised protest at Branxton Railway Station last Wednesday.

About 3.50am police were called to train tracks near the Branxton Railway Station, after reports a man had suspended himself over the railway tracks.

Officers from Hunter Valley Police District attended, with assistance from Police Rescue, and the 22-year-old man was removed safely from the structure and arrested about 9.35am. He was taken to Cessnock Police Station, where he was charged with cause obstruction to



railway locomotive or rolling stock and enter enclosed non-agricultural lands serious safety risk.

The man was refused bail to appear at Cessnock Local Court the same day, where he was granted conditional bail and is due to appear at Singleton Local Court on Thursday 13 July 2023.



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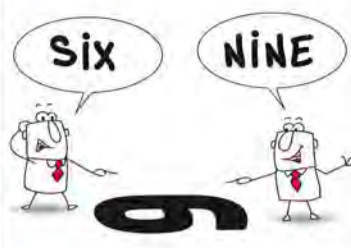
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point of view



with Orson Carter.

of thousands of solar panels are to be placed daily, more turbines, most of which are sourced from China, which, in contrast, is commissioning two new coal fired plants a week. How they must be looking at us and laughing! Billions are to be spent on new grids, but nuclear is apparently too expensive, even though the existing grid could be used with it. Forget how current renewable initiatives are massively over budget and running behind schedule.

There are zealots advocating just stopping oil (and presumably coal and gas), who, if we complied, can't explain how we are going to continue funding the style of living to which we have become accustomed when our GDP massively depends on the fossil fuels we dig up and export to the countries that actually produce finished goods. That includes our QUAD partners, India and Japan. The latter recently enquired how we were going to be able to continue to provide their energy requirements when we are appearing to be closing for business. No exploring for or approving of new fossil fuel deposits. Do we really expect that other developing countries are going to forgo their chances of developing using cheap fossil fuels?

There is this concern about consensus. You know, 97% of scientists etc etc. I'm not going to go into the way this 97% figure was arrived at but if you'd care to check it out you'll see it is spurious to say the least. You don't have to look hard to find serious scientists from institutions like Harvard, Princeton and MIT that don't agree with this "consensus". Consensus is not a valid reason for deconstructing our way of life. Demonstrable facts, sure, but recall the 'chicken little scenario' of the past fifty odd years please. Once upon a time there was consensus about the Sun revolving around the Earth and the Earth being flat and that witches should be burned. It's a little amusing watching the various vested interests in "being greener" collide. Those who are happy to resurface the bush with Chinese built solar panels run up against the advocates for koala habitats and it's wind turbines vs eagles on land and whales at sea. Honestly, you couldn't make this stuff up. Incidentally, NASA observes a greening of the earth observable from space, that is, increasing numbers of plants. It's no secret



An old point of view
I'm at a loss to understand what the media see as being of vital importance to the average punter. It seems that virtue signalling and feel good issues are paramount. I don't think that's what the Joe average type has on his/her mind. Rather, cost of living, almost cost of existing might really be the issue. The big driver of increased costs is electricity. If cost of electricity goes up, everything goes up. Back in antiquity, when we had electricity that was the cheapest in the developed world, because we have energy reserves in abundance, we had an automotive industry, we had a steel industry, more was manufactured in this country, we had petroleum refineries. We had jobs. We made things. I realise wages were also an issue here, but power costs figured as well. Now, I admit to being old. Old enough to remember the late 60's/early 70's when we were told of a Manhattan that was imminently going to be under a mile of ice. They must have realised the charts were upside down because the impending ice age changed to unliveable rises in heat. Remember how 25 years ago there wasn't going to be an Arctic ice presence and mass coastal inundation was imminent. Pacific islands were going to disappear. In 2008 Tim Flannery prophesied there would be never ending drought. Talk about chicken little. Surely the climate catastrophists can understand a little skepticism when repeated projections/prophesies of doom don't materialise. Incidentally, more people die from cold than heat. However, on the promise of the climate catastrophe we're on the verge of destroying what served so well, was dependable and cheap and replacing it with what is not actually available yet. Geothermal energy, wave energy have failed in this country. Snowy 2.0 is stalled. Tens

plants thrive with increased carbon dioxide levels. Those plants are carbon sinks. While I'm having a whinge, If you demur from the concept of the Voice and are drifting towards a NO, vote come the referendum, you're liberally painted as a racist. The very concept of dividing people on the basis of race is a textbook definition of racism. Why aren't we hearing more about that. I suppose because to say so is "racist". It's like Catch 22. I just don't get it. Dividing people by race was bad in South Africa and south of the Mason-Dixon Line in the USA but somehow it is good in The Voice. On that topic, anyone else terrified and appalled by the rhetoric of Thomas Mayo, an outspoken communist anarchist and co-author of a handbook on the Voice? If you haven't had a listen to this guy you really ought to. Well, as I said, I'm just old!

Our Deepest Condolences

What's Happening & other
with Mike Lowing

In the wake of the devastating bus crash our hearts are heavy with grief, sorrow & disbelief. It is during such painful moments that we must come together as a community, offering our support, compassion, and strength to those affected by this tragic event. Grief is a deeply personal and complex emotion that can consume us, leaving us feeling lost and overwhelmed. To the families and friends who have lost loved ones, we extend our deepest condolences and sympathies. Your pain is unimaginable, and we stand by you in this time of profound sorrow. We want you to know that you are not alone. Reach out to one another, lean on each other, and remember that together, we can find solace and healing. For those who have been seriously injured, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We wish you strength and resilience as you navigate the difficult road to recovery. The path ahead may be long and challenging, but know that you have a community rallying behind you, ready to offer support in any way possible. In times like these, it is crucial to remember that grief knows no boundaries. It affects not only those directly impacted but also the wider community. We mourn as one, as a collective, for every life lost and every person forever changed. Let us stand united, lending our shoulders to lean on, our ears to listen, and our hearts to understand. At this time it is also essential to recognize the tireless efforts of the first responders, medical professionals, and support personnel who rushed to the scene, providing aid and comfort in the midst of chaos. Their bravery and dedication in the face of such tragedy deserve our utmost gratitude and respect. To our community, we must actively foster an environment of empathy and understanding. Let us be mindful of the pain and grief that others may be experiencing, offering them a listening ear or a helping hand. Small acts of kindness can make a profound difference in someone's healing journey. In this time of collective mourning, we urge everyone to prioritize self-care. Grief can be emotionally and physically exhausting, and it is crucial to take the time to process our own feelings, seeking support from loved ones or professional counselors if needed. Together, we can create a network of strength and resilience that will help us heal as individuals and as a community. While the weight of this tragedy may feel unbearable, let us find solace in our shared humanity. Let us remember the lives lost, cherishing their memories and holding their spirits close. Let us honour them by coming together, offering our love, and striving for a future built on compassion, understanding, and support. In this dark hour, we extend our hands to those affected, with unwavering solidarity and compassion. Together, we will navigate the journey of grief, healing, and rebuilding. Let us stand as a beacon of hope and strength, demonstrating the power of unity and reminding ourselves that even in our darkest moments, we are never alone.

Letters to the Editor

What constitutes animal cruelty
TO the kindly neighbour who took it upon themselves to shot at, maim & eventually dispose of our family cat of the past 10 years, succumbing to her injuries the next day at Singleton Veterinary Hospital. Singleton Police have been notified & have visited our street to make enquiries. The police are aware of who may be responsible but without proof or witnesses you're safe for now. Feel free to do a little

research on what constitutes animal cruelty in NSW. Oh, almost forgot; to the members of the Greta-Branxton Facebook page. Thank you for providing a wonderful show of support through your very sympathetic and awe-inspiring comments. Much appreciated. May God bless this close-knit community. **Michael Foster, via email**
Get a real job
IN my opinion, some of these coal protesters, whom people risk their lives to get down (I was recently one of those rescuers), need to realise that what they achieve is to irritate the general population, and not delay the loading of ships. That coal is already in the ground and they just added

to the carbon emissions to the atmosphere by holding three diesel locomotives stationary, pumping out more emissions than they would have if they allowed these trains to continue on their delivery. When will these groups realise that it isn't carbon emissions causing climate changes, it's our population? We are over-populated and hence more fuel and food is needed to sustain the multitudes; 40 fish and 40 loaves doesn't cut it with the masses anymore. To curb this problem, it doesn't need a rocket scientist to work it out; stop hanging around, and get a real job. **Graeme Kime, Cameron Park**



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

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Cessnock City Council sees success in Resources for Regions; Local area fares well

Cessnock City Council has been successful in securing funding for multiple projects as part of the Department of Regional NSW Round 9 Resources for Regions Program.

The total funding amount of \$2,936,595 will be distributed across a range of diverse projects throughout the area.

The following projects were successful:

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal said he was looking forward to seeing these exciting projects delivered.

"I am thrilled to see Cessnock City Council gain support through the program. The funding will greatly benefit the community in our area,

Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre Park	\$602,421
Employment Shuttle Pilot Program - Cessnock to Wine Country Jobs Shuttle	\$150,000
East End Oval Spectator Seating and Improved Access	\$377,797
Floodlighting at Greta Central Oval	\$320,000
Cliffleigh Public Amenities	\$330,000
Miller Park Multipurpose Courts	\$530,000
Branxton Town Centre - Church Street to Anvil Creek Bridge (Northern-side)	\$626,377

and provide new infrastructure and programs that will contribute to both economic and social prosperity," Clr Suvaal said. "The successful projects are all exciting initiatives that will enhance

the quality of life for those living in our Local Government Area." The Resources for Regions program supports communities across regional New South Wales that have been impacted by mining. Round 9 of this program will provide up to \$140 million for new infrastructure and community projects that will support both economic and social prosperity.

The Royal Hotel Branxton has donated \$2000 to the North Rothbury Rural Fire Service



The Royal Hotel Branxton manager Dave Anderson presenting a cheque for \$2000 to North Rothbury Rural Fire Service brigade captain Sonia Ivan. The money will be used to purchase an independent battery operated portable lighting systems that will be carried in their fire tenders.

The Royal Federal Hotel in Branxton has just donated \$2000 to the North Rothbury Rural Fire Service.

The money was raised through their Thursday Night Community Raffle. Manager of the Royal Federal Hotel, Dave Anderson said that The Royal Federal Hotel is very happy to donate this money to the North Rothbury Rural Fire Brigade.

"This volunteer Fire Brigade has always done a remarkable job in our community and is made up entirely of volunteers. Truly the most selfless and inspiring of our local community. This money has been raised through our Thursday Night Community Raffle which has helped raise thousands of dollars for many different local community groups since its inception last year, whilst also giving the chance to win over 20 meat trays.

"We would like to thank everyone who volunteers in their local community groups and also thank the wonderful patrons at the Royal Federal Hotel who help support this raffle. If you know of a local group who could use some fundraising, please call the hotel on 49 381 335," said Dave. Brigade Captain Sonia Ivan said that on behalf of the entire volunteer rural fire service team, she wished to express their deepest gratitude for your incredibly generous donation of \$2000.

"Your contribution to our cause has left us truly humbled and immensely grateful.

"Your support comes at a time when we need it the most. As a volunteer rural fire service, we rely heavily on the generosity and goodwill of individuals and organizations like yours to continue our mission of safeguarding our community and protecting lives and property from the devastating effects of bushfires.

"Your donation will enable us to enhance our firefighting capabilities by procuring much needed essential equipment. "We understand that the decision to donate such a significant amount is not taken lightly, and we assure you that your contribution will be utilized with utmost care and responsibility. With your support, we will be better equipped to respond swiftly and effectively to any fire emergency that may arise in our area.

"Your philanthropic gesture not only provides us with the necessary resources but also serves as a powerful source of motivation for our dedicated team of volunteers. "Knowing that our efforts are recognized and supported by compassionate organizations like yours inspires us to continue our tireless work in protecting and serving our community.

"Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the Royal Federal Hotel for your generous contribution. Your commitment to the welfare of our community is truly commendable, and we are honored to have your support," said Sonia.



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Members say ..



Philip Penfold Mayor of Maitland

The winter school holidays are coming up soon and we've got a jam packed schedule to keep you and the kids entertained over the two week break. Maitland libraries will be hosting a range of fun activities including silent reading parties, Slow Stitching workshops and creepy live storytelling. The Levee will also play host to a series of free music workshops on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Then on Fridays, watch the Pretty Amazing Jono perform some mind boggling magic tricks and circus stunts from 1.00pm to 3.00pm, with bookings now open. If you're looking for more ways to get creative, you can always head to Maitland Regional Art Gallery for some free art workshops, water colour lessons, or clay making.

There's plenty of opportunity to get active as well, with the heated indoor pool at Maitland Aquatics Centre running throughout the holidays so kids can take a dip any time, regardless of the weather. And alongside the usual tours, Maitland Goal will have plenty of activities to keep you entertained including Snitch's Gaol Exploration, which will take you on an adventure through the gaol where you'll learn secrets about the former prisoners. Make sure you get out and enjoy some of the things our city has to offer these school holidays, and let's keep Maitland moving.



Jay Suvaal Mayor of Cessnock

I was pleased to officially open the inaugural Hunter Valley Wildlife Park Community Day on 18 June. The event was well-attended and provided a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and enjoy some much-needed time with our families and friends while celebrating the rich biodiversity and natural environment we enjoy here in the Hunter Valley. Council was delighted to partner with Australian Wildlife Parks to bring this

incredible event to our community for the first time. I am hopeful we can collaborate once again on such an event in the future, and for it to become a regular feature on the jam-packed calendar of tourism and community events that our local government area proudly hosts each year.

In June, we also inducted eight new members into the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame at an induction ceremony held at Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC). The Hall of Fame was established in 2006 and highlights exceptional contributions and accomplishments by individuals with strong ties to local communities. Council has inducted 60 members over this period. The ceremony featured a stirring performance from local artist Anna Weatherup, whose original single, *Shine*, provided an inspirational interlude for the audience to reflect on the achievements that were being celebrated.

The Hall of Fame is an important initiative that not only celebrates exceptional individuals, but also fosters community pride and inspires future generations to reach new heights. This celebration of talent, hard work, and dedication creates a legacy that will be remembered for years to come.

Eight individuals were successful in gaining a place in the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame across four categories. They are:

Science: Mark Hughes, and Dr Peter Laut

Public Service: Ewen Cameron, Trevor Milgate ESM OAM, and Harold Stembeck AM

Sport: Matthew Johns, and Andrew Johns

Business: Gregory Watson
Along with a place in the Hall of Fame, each inductee will be honoured by the placement of a plaque in the town or village of their choice to reflect that our high achieving community members come from all parts of our local government area.

Finally, at the recent meeting on 21 June, Council adopted the 2023/24 Operational Plan that outlines our key priorities for the next 12 months. The Plan prioritises investment in road and infrastructure improvements and includes a \$78.4 million capital works budget to drive critical projects that will provide far reaching social, economic and environmental benefits to our community.

Cheers, Jay

Members Say

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Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR TRAGEDY ON OUR DOORSTEP

On Monday 12th June, we woke to discover that overnight a bus had crashed at Greta and killed 10 people, with a further 25 being sent to hospital for treatment to their injuries, 2 in critical condition.

While many of us were asleep and unaware of this tragic event, our Emergency Service workers were busy doing what they always do – saving lives and keeping our community safe.

Police, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance, Council staff, Emergency Call Centre workers, Doctors, Nurses and Hospital staff were all hands-on-deck for the chaotic hours that followed. All resources from across our region were tasked with responding to this catastrophic moment.

There was an instant sense of despair. Sadness and grief seemed to extend its hand to every household in our Valley, our State and our Country.

Our brains, wired as they are, were trying to gain an understanding of the "what" and "how". Details were released slowly, and gradually a clearer picture started to present itself.

It was revealed that the bus had been taking wedding guests home to Singleton after a joyous and festive celebration of love and commitment. In many ways the celebrations had been continuing as the bus drove along.

The beautiful community of Singleton would be hardest hit by the tragic consequence of this tragic event at Greta.

So many lives forever changed in just one tiny instant.

It is important now that we each take stock and grieve in our own way and according to our own timelines. Today some people will be ready to move on while others won't reach that point for days, weeks, months or years. Immediately standing up crisis centres for people to get the help and support that they need is an incredibly important step in making sure that our community feels valued and important. So too having a site that people can visit, to lay flowers or a note, and simply reflect.

We will be guided by those directly affected as to when we might have a wider memorial service if one is

asked for. We will also be guided as to when, where and what type of memorial might be built near the crash site, if the victims and families tell us that they want one.

I extend my sincere condolences and sympathies to every single person touched by this event. And I imagine that for a little while we might all go a little bit quieter and a little bit softer about our way. 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

Parliament Passes the Voice Referendum

Parliament this week said yes to holding a referendum. Now the Australian people will have a chance to say yes - to make history by recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in our Constitution through the Voice.

It's time to take the conversation into the community. The referendum is about two things: recognition and listening.

Let's bring our nation together by voting yes. Later this year all Australians will have an opportunity to vote on a change to the constitution. The question that will be put at the referendum will be:

A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?

You will have an opportunity to vote YES or NO, that will be up to you. The proposed law that Australians are being asked to approve at the referendum would insert the following lines into the Constitution:

"Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice"

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

i. *there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;*

ii. *the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures."*



Member for Upper Hunter Dave Layzell MP

State Matters COACH CRASH UPDATE

THE PAST WEEK has been one that I, like so many in the Upper Hunter electorate, have found so very confronting as we try to understand and come to terms with the Greta coach crash.

A rollercoaster of emotions from shock and disbelief on learning of the scale of the tragedy to then being humbled by the heartfelt support and care for the Singleton AFL Club, the victims, families and friends of all involved or affected by it.

I urge anyone overwhelmed by recent events, whether it be this week or in the near future, to please make use of the available assistance such as the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511 or by visiting the NSW Health website:

www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/services/Pages/support-contact-list.aspx

Donations can be made in various ways, from the Hunter Valley (NSW) Bus Tragedy Fund (RABS) co-managed by the NSW Government and Rotary Australia: <http://rawcs.org.au>

to donating blood to replenish stocks required for the crash response:

www.lifeblood.com.au
FIRIES WANT WATER
NSW Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue NSW have jointly put the call out for help to identify locations for water supplies they can draw on during the bushfire season.

Firefighters would like to know in advance where there are dams, pools or water tanks that they can easily tap when fighting flames.

Of interest are water sources with more than 3,000 litres where a specially designed Static Water Supply (SWS) sign can be placed to

quickly identify the storage during a fire.

To be part of the program contact your local RFS brigade:

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/static-water-supply-sws2or Fire and Rescue: www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=319

AMBO'S NEW KIT

Eighty new four-wheel drive ambulances have rolled out across the state which will allow paramedics to access patients in challenging terrain.

If paramedics identify that a location cannot be reached due to road conditions or difficult terrain, they can advise the NSW Ambulance Control Centre and a specialist resource such as the 4WDs can be deployed from nearby ambulance stations.

The new Toyota Landcruiser 200 series vehicles replace an aging fleet of Toyota Landcruiser Troop Carriers, which were sturdy work horses but are no longer fit for purpose.

They have upgraded suspension, high visibility emergency lighting, winching capabilities, recovery tracks, Stoke Litters, and 270 degree awnings for protecting patients from the elements. The 4WDs will not be used in place of standard patient transport ambulances but will complement the standard stretched ambulance fleet.

FIREARMS SECURITY CHECK

The NSW Police Rural Crime Prevention Team continues to urge firearm owners to regularly check them and ensure compliance with the Firearms Act 1996.

All people possessing firearms must comply with the safe keeping and storage requirements and take all reasonable precautions to ensure the firearm is kept safely, is not lost or stolen and does not come into the possession of an unauthorised person.

Failure to comply with the requirements is a serious offence and could result in a fine of \$2200 or 12-months imprisonment, or both.

For further information on firearm storage contact your local police station or visit: www.police.nsw.gov.au/online_services/firearms/safe_storage

Cheers, Dave



Clr Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

The area we now know as Singleton has a very long and rich history of people and cultures stretching over thousands of years. The people of the Wanaruah/Wonnarua have belonged to this land since before time was kept, sustained by the ebbs and flows of the

Hunter River and luxurious plains. With national NAIDOC Week kicking off this Sunday 2 July, it's timely to reflect on this year's theme – For Our Elders – and the role they have played in the growth and development of the Singleton area as they laid the foundations that supported the development of our township. They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, survivors, teachers, and leaders. They guide generations and pave the way through their advocacy and activism. NAIDOC Week is always an important occasion in Singleton and we're so fortunate to have a long and proud First Nations history. Everyone is invited to take part in our whole-of-community NAIDOC Week event next Wednesday 5 July from 10am – 2pm at Singleton Showground, with a special welcome ceremony, free BBQ lunch, cultural activities, service and community stalls and an elder's tent. It's a great occasion to strengthen the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Non-Indigenous Australians. In the spirit of reconciliation and learning more about the indigenous culture that is synonymous with our area, I also encourage everyone to visit the Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre this month to experience the 'Spirit of Place' exhibition by local Wonnarua Elder Uncle Warren Taggart in collaboration with Carol Carter and Allan Chawner. Nurtured from a childhood following his father cutting timber in the mountains surrounding Singleton, Uncle Warren grew up amongst the spirits of his ancestors. He has made it his life's purpose to share this knowledge with others, and this exhibition allows people to experience the spiritual sense of connection and timelessness that comes from tracing the steps of the ancestors without having to leave the gallery. Singleton is a special place in so many ways. There's so much to experience here that goes beyond what you'd expect from a country town, not only in the town centre, but in the national parks and the villages that surround it. Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre opened last year to capture and reflect the identity of our community, and for people who want to learn more about indigenous culture and the incredible sacred sites found in the Singleton area, the 'Spirit of Place' exhibition is a great introduction. Cr Sue Moore Singleton Mayor

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Ovid-19 hospitalizations & deaths in NSW up to 4pm 22 June '23

*** 1288 people in hospital * 85 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.

What is the best way to treat a winter common cold?

While there is no cure for the common cold, there are several measures you can take to alleviate symptoms and promote recovery. Here are some ways to treat a winter common cold:

1. **Rest:** Allow your body to rest and recover. Take time off from work or school if needed to give your immune system a chance to fight off the virus.
2. **Stay Hydrated:** Drink plenty of fluids, such as water, herbal tea, and clear broths, to stay hydrated. Fluids help thin mucus and relieve congestion.
3. **Warm Liquids:** Sip on warm liquids like herbal teas, warm water with lemon and honey, or chicken soup. Warm liquids can soothe a sore throat and provide comfort.
4. **Steam Inhalation:** Inhale steam from a bowl of hot water or use a humidifier to help alleviate congestion. You can also add a few drops of essential oils like eucalyptus or peppermint to enhance the steam's decongestant properties.
5. **Saltwater Gargle:** Gargling with warm saltwater can help relieve a sore throat. Mix 1/2 teaspoon of salt in a glass of warm water and gargle several times a day.
6. **Over-the-Counter Medications:** Non-prescription medications can provide temporary relief for symptoms like congestion, cough, and fever. Common options include decongestants, cough suppressants, and pain relievers. Always follow the instructions and consult a healthcare professional if you have any concerns or existing medical conditions.
7. **Nasal Saline Rinse:** Using a saline solution or nasal spray can help clear nasal passages and reduce congestion. It's important to follow the instructions and use sterile equipment to avoid any complications.
8. **Warm Compresses:** Applying a warm compress to your forehead or sinuses can help relieve sinus pain and pressure.
9. **Boost Your Immune System:** Eat a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains to support your immune system. Get plenty of sleep, manage stress, and consider taking immune-boosting supplements like vitamin C or zinc (consult a healthcare professional before starting any supplements).
10. **Practice Good Hygiene:** To prevent the spread of the common cold, wash your hands

frequently, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and avoid close contact with others who are sick. Remember, if your symptoms worsen, persist for an extended period, or you experience severe complications, it's advisable to seek medical advice from a healthcare professional. Shingles (also called Zoster) is caused by the reactivation

What is Shingles?

in the body of the same virus that causes chickenpox, usually in adulthood and many years after the initial chickenpox illness.

The illness is characterised by a painful chickenpox-like rash on a small area of skin, usually on one side of the body.

Pain and tingling associated with the rash may persist for weeks or months after the rash has cleared. This is called post-herpetic neuralgia.

The virus can be spread by direct contact with the skin rash of infected people. This causes chickenpox in people who are not immune. Shingles develops more commonly in people who are immunosuppressed.

How is Shingles prevented? A single dose of zoster vaccine is recommended and funded for adults at 70 years of age. Adults 71-79 years of age where eligible for free vaccine under a catch up program until 31 October 2021.

Adults aged 60-69 years are also recommended to have a single dose of zoster vaccine but this is not funded. The exact duration of vaccine efficacy is not known but protection does wane over time. The need for revaccination is not yet determined.

Adults aged 50-59 years are not routinely recommended to receive zoster vaccine, but they can receive it if they want to protect themselves against Shingles.

How are Shingles and Chickenpox treated? Shingles can be treated with special antiviral drugs such as acyclovir. Your general practitioner can advise on ways to minimise the discomfort associated with the symptoms of infection. Chickenpox infection usually resolves without treatment.

What is the public health response? Chickenpox is not a notifiable

condition in NSW but the incidence is monitored through the number of patients attending emergency departments and the number of patients who are hospitalised with chickenpox or shingles.

Varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox, even if given up to five days after exposure.

Short-term immunisation with varicella-zoster immunoglobulin (VZIG) - which is made from antibodies in donated blood - can prevent illness in people at high risk of complications. This needs to be given within 96 hours of exposure to the virus to be effective.

People at high risk of complications following exposure include pregnant women who have not had chickenpox and who have not been immunised, newborn babies, and some people with immunosuppression due to illness or treatments.

Covid Update

Booster doses

All adults can get a booster if it's been 6 months or longer since their last COVID-19 booster or confirmed infection (whichever is most recent) for additional protection against severe illness from COVID. This is particularly recommended for people at higher risk of severe illness, including:

- everyone 65 years and over
 - everyone 18 years and over with medical comorbidities, disability or complex health needs. Children and young people aged 5 to 17 years can get a booster dose if:
 - they have a health condition that put them at risk of severe illness, and
 - if it's been 6 months since their last dose or COVID-19 infection. Your doctor can help you decide if your child should receive a booster.
- Booster doses are not recommended at this time for children and adolescents under 18 years of age who do not have any risk factors for severe COVID-19. All vaccines are approved for use in Australia and continue to provide very strong protection against serious illness from COVID-19, however, Omicron-specific bivalent vaccines are preferred for boosters.

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What's
Cooking?

A classic beef stew



One delicious and comforting winter recipe for the cold is Here's a recipe to get you started:

Ingredients:

2 pounds (900g) beef stew meat, cut into bite-sized cubes
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 1 onion, diced
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 4 carrots, peeled and sliced
 2 celery stalks, sliced
 4 potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
 4 cups beef broth
 1 cup red wine (optional)
 2 tablespoons tomato paste
 1 teaspoon dried thyme
 2 bay leaves
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Chopped fresh parsley for garnish (optional)

Instructions:

Heat the olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the beef cubes and brown them on all sides. Remove the beef from the pot and set it aside.

In the same pot, add the diced onion and minced garlic. Sauté for a few minutes until the onion is translucent and fragrant.

Add the carrots, celery, and potatoes to the pot. Stir everything together and cook for another 5 minutes.

Return the browned beef to the pot. Pour in the beef broth and red wine (if using). Stir in the tomato

paste, dried thyme, bay leaves, salt, and pepper.

Bring the stew to a boil, then reduce the heat to low. Cover the pot and simmer for 2-3 hours, or until the beef is tender and the flavors have melded together. Stir occasionally and add more broth if needed.

Taste the stew and adjust the seasonings according to your preference.

Remove the bay leaves before serving. Ladle the stew into bowls and garnish with chopped fresh parsley if desired.

Serve the beef stew with crusty bread or over mashed potatoes for a heartier meal.

Enjoy your warm and comforting beef stew during the cold winter days!



First Creek, Winmark among Hunter finalists in Halliday wine awards

Several Hunter Valley wineries have been shortlisted in the prestigious annual Halliday Wine Companion Awards for 2024.

Jim Chatto, of Pepper Tree Wines, nominated for Winemaker of the Year;



The winners will be named on August 2 and the 2024 Halliday Wine Companion book is published on August 3. Every year, the Halliday Wine Companion tasting team pinpoint the nation's top wines, winemakers, viticulturists and wineries from a pool of several thousand featured in the annual Halliday Wine Companion guide.

Founder James Halliday, who was one of the founders of Brokenwood Wines in the Hunter Valley, together with Campbell Mattinson, Dave Brookes, Jane Faulkner, Jeni Port, Mike Bennie, Ned Goodwin, Philip Rich and Shanteh Wale, select the high performers from a range of criteria to offer a true representation of Australia's greatest names in wine.

Among the Hunter wineries on the shortlist: **Winmark Wines**, revived by new owner Karin Adcock in recent years, and back to producing award-winning chardonnay, for Best New Winery;

Mount Eyre Vineyards, for Dark Horse Winery (wineries that have received a 5-star rating for the first time this year, meaning at least two wines rated at 95 points or above);

Liz Riley, for Viticulturist of the Year, for Scarborough Wine Co and Mistletoe Wines;

Jim Chatto, of Pepper Tree Wines (he recently returned to the brand), for Winemaker of the Year;

First Creek Wines, owned and operated by Greg and Jenny Silkman, with Liz Silkman as winemaker and Paul Silkman as chief operating officer, for Winery of the Year;

Leogate Wines, owned by Bill and Vicki Widin, for Winery of the Year;

Pepper Tree Wines, for Winery of the Year;

Carillion Wines, for Best Value Winery;

Briar Ridge Vineyard, for Best Value Winery;

Other shortlisted notable wine producers from NSW include **Topper's Mountain Wines** from New England, nominated for Dark Horse Winery of the Year, **Jacob Stein** of Robert Stein Vineyard in Mudgee for Winemaker of the Year, and **Gerald Naef**, of Patina Wines in Orange, for Winemaker of the Year.



Australian Navy BIG Band strikes a chord at Branxton RSL SubBranch's 100th Anniversary concert



The 16-piece Navy Big Band - 16 superb muso's

BRANXTON Community Hall came alive with the sound of wonderful BIG band music that flowed with precision and power, filling the Branxton Community Hall with an infectious energy.

The concert, held last Saturday, was to mark the beginning of celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Branxton RSL SubBranch. About 60 people, mainly local residents, attended the event and for each it was a truly unforgettable experience. It was a fusion of music, history, and patriotism that will leave lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to witness it.

The event served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our veterans and a celebration of their enduring spirit.

The Band showcased their immense talent and musical prowess with a repertoire that spanned various genres and eras. From rousing military marches to soulful tunes the band exhibited versatility and skill in every piece played.

As the final notes of the concert faded away, the audience gave them a well deserved applause, expressing their gratitude and admiration for the Band's outstanding performance.



Clr Karen Jackson with Brian Furner OAM & John Fagg



Branxton RSL SubBranch, vet & member, Brad Cooper getting into the spirit of the day dancing with Joy Bootes

RIP Thea Russell ~ Branxton Matriarch by Melita Watson

Thea Russell, née Pickett, came to Branxton after her marriage to Alex Russell and settled in their home in Fleet Street near their business. My memories of Thea are through her association with the Branxton Golf Club. I am not sure when she joined but was a member of the ladies committee from 1958 where she was treasurer. A position she held until 1964. Then in 1972 she became ladies secretary for two years. In the early days of the Branxton Golf Club it survived and progressed on full voluntary labour and the work was made so much easier with the use of the Les Russell & Son earth moving equipment for which I believe the club never received an invoice. This was their livelihood, but such was their generosity.

I also remember my mother, Flo Bendeich was on committee with Thea in the 1960s and the doors to the ladies room needed replacing badly but having no money in their kitty this was not going to happen. That was until the following week the erected doors suddenly appeared with no fanfare. The Russell name will always be a part of the Branxton Golf Club history. Although Thea retired from golf many years ago, her golfing friendships remained solid with everyone always remembering those days with happiness.

A smile was never far from Thea's face. I was lucky enough to say hello to her earlier this year. At the great age of 99 she answered her front door with a great big smile. This is how I will always remember her.

Our sincere sympathy and condolences to Carole & Wayne, Kerry & Peter, Lindsay & Helen and their families. You have lost your precious matriarch.

May She Rest in Peace



1982 Club Champions

Back: A Grade - Melita Watson; C Grade - Thea Russell; B Grade - Pat Collins
Front: Junior Champion - Kelly Tracey; D Grade (36 Markers) - Dianne Bard

Family and friends are invited to attend the Service at St Peter's Anglican Church, William Street, East Maitland on FRIDAY 30th June, 2023 at 10am.



DAN REPACHOLI MP

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Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) President Mr Hayden Groves said Australian housing rents have soared at record levels over twelve months with the latest Real Estate Market Facts report showing Sydney had the highest increase - a staggering 27.5% over the past year.

The numbers demonstrate the recovery of house prices since the RBA began its rapid rate increases and high-light rental affordability as a looming challenge due to ongoing supply shortages. Policies that artificially limit market rents such as rent freezes would make this challenge significantly worse as landlords and build-to-rent providers would inevitably quit the market.

Mr Groves said this is the highest annual increase since REIA records started in March 1994 with other dwellings in Sydney renting at \$650 per week on par with a house in Canberra.

The snail in a bottle case



In Paisley, Scotland in 1928 a lady named Mrs Donoghue sat down to enjoy a bottle of ginger beer. She didn't know it then but what would unfold that day went on to launch the legal concept of negligence as we know it today.

Mrs Donoghue had gone out with a friend. Her friend purchased her a bottle of ginger beer. The bottle was made from brown glass. The beer contained a decomposing snail which she had not seen due to the colour of the bottle. She did not notice the snail until having consumed most of the bottles contents. Mrs Donoghue fell ill and was diagnosed with gastroenteritis.

The manufacturer of the ginger beer was a Mr Stevenson. Mrs Donoghue lodged a legal claim against Mr Stevenson seeking damages. She could not sue for breach of contract as her friend had purchased the ginger beer, not her. Instead her lawyers argued that Mr Stevenson had breached his duty of

care to his consumers and had caused injury due to his negligence. The arguments ventured into new territory as it was an area of civil law that had largely been untested. At first instance Mrs Donoghues action failed however she took the case to the House of Lords. It was here that the Court found that Mr Stevenson should be responsible for the well-being of individuals who consume his products.

The outcome of Donoghue v Stevenson established three primary legal principles:

Negligence. The House of Lords found that negligence is a tort. A plaintiff can take civil action against a respondent if their negligence caused the plaintiff's injury or loss of property. Prior to this case, the plaintiff had to demonstrate that a contractual agreement, such as the sale of an item or an agreement to obtain a service.

Duty of care. The case established that

manufacturers have a duty of care to their consumers and the users of their products. The case forms the basis upon which modern laws protect consumers from contaminated or faulty goods. These protections exist both at common law but many have been legislated, such as in the Trade Practices Act (Cth) 1974.

Neighbour principle. The case also gave rise to the 'neighbour principle'. Lord Atkin opined: "You must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which you can reasonable foresee would be likely to injure your neighbor. Who, then, in law, is my neighbour? The answer seems to be persons who are so closely and directly affected by my act that I ought to have them in [mind] when I am [considering these] acts or omissions". We are unsure whatever happened to the snail in the end but the House of Lords referred the matter back to the original Court and Mrs Donoghue received a modest award of damages.

How will a recession in Australia impact the housing market

It appears, if you listen to some economists, we are heading into a recession. If the pundits are correct what is likely to happen to the Australian housing market?

A recession is generally defined as a significant decline in economic activity over a sustained period. While there isn't a universally agreed-upon definition, the most commonly used criterion for a recession is two consecutive quarters (six months) of negative economic growth, as measured by a country's gross domestic product (GDP).

In the context of Australia, a recession typically refers to a period when the country experiences a sustained economic contraction. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is responsible for calculating and reporting the country's GDP and determining when a recession has occurred based on the economic data. It's worth noting that other indicators, such as employment rates, consumer spending, business investment, and other economic factors, are also considered when assessing the overall health of the economy and determining if a recession is underway. Governments and central banks often closely monitor economic indicators and take measures to stimulate economic growth and mitigate the impacts of a recession, such as implementing fiscal policies, adjusting interest rates, or introducing stimulus packages to support businesses and households.

A recession in Australia can have significant impacts on the housing market. Here are some ways it could affect the housing market:

Decreased demand: During a recession, consumer confidence tends to decline, leading to a decrease in demand for housing. People may delay purchasing homes due to economic uncertainty, job losses, or a lack of confidence in the market. This can result in a slowdown in property sales and fewer buyers in the market.

Falling property prices: With reduced demand, property prices may decline. Sellers may need to lower their asking prices to attract buyers, leading to a decrease in overall property values. This can be particularly pronounced in regions or sectors that are heavily reliant on industries most affected by the recession, such as tourism or manufacturing.

Increased housing affordability: As property prices drop, housing affordability may improve for some prospective buyers. Lower prices and decreased competition can create opportunities for first-time buyers or those looking to upgrade their homes. However, this can be offset by stricter lending criteria from financial institutions during economic downturns.

Impact on construction and development: During a recession, there is often a slowdown in construction and development activity. Developers may scale back or delay projects due to market uncertainty and limited access to funding. This can result in a decrease in new housing supply, which can have long-term effects on the market.

Rental market dynamics: In times of economic downturn, some individuals may choose to rent rather than buy a property, leading to increased demand for rental housing. This can result in stable or rising rental prices, even if property prices are declining. However, if the recession leads to significant job losses and financial distress, there could be increased pressure on rental affordability as tenants struggle to pay rent. It's important to note that the specific impact of a recession on the housing market can vary depending on various factors, including the severity and duration of the recession, government interventions, and regional market dynamics. Real estate is influenced by a complex set of factors, and economic conditions are just one piece of the puzzle

In the March quarter the median rent for 3 bedroom houses increased in all capital cities throughout Australia. In the 12 months to the March quarter the median rent increased in all capital cities. Brisbane had the largest annual rise at 15.6% in this category. The median rent for 2 bedroom other dwellings increased in all capital cities except Adelaide and Canberra where it remained stable. Melbourne had the largest growth over the quarter at 13.0%. In the 12 months to the March quarter of 2023 the median rent for 2 bedroom other dwellings increased in all capital cities

For house rents in the March quarter the weighted average median rent for 3 bedroom homes in the eight capital cities increased to \$536 per week a quarterly increase of 3.9%. The median rent for 3 bedroom houses increased in all capital cities. Adelaide had the highest quarterly increase of 5.3% and Canberra had the lowest increase of 0.3%.

During the quarter the weighted average median rent for 2 bedroom other dwellings increased to \$543 per week a quarterly increase of 8.2%. The median rent remained stable in Adelaide Canberra and Hobart but increased in all other capital cities.

Mr Groves said house price growth was more moderate with the weighted average capital city median price increasing by 0.1% for houses but decreased 0.2% for other dwellings.

The weighted average median house price for the eight capital cities increased to \$952,648 over the quarter. The median house price increased in Sydney Adelaide and Darwin remained stable in Perth but declined in Melbourne Canberra and Hobart. Increases ranged from 0.4% in Adelaide to 3.7% in Darwin.

At \$1,459,856 Sydney's median house price continues to be the highest amongst the capital cities 53.2% higher than the national median. At \$550,000 Perth has the lowest median house price across Australian capital cities 42.3% lower than the national median.

Over the 12 months to the March quarter the weighted average capital city median house price decreased by 7.8%. For other dwelling sales the weighted average median price for the eight capital cities decreased to \$623,398 a quarterly decrease of 0.2%.

The Reserve Bank's latest forecasts show interest rate rises are working, but there's one key uncertainty

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) expects economic growth to be slower, unemployment to climb higher and inflation to fall faster than it did just three months ago.



That's according to the bank's latest quarterly *Statement on Monetary Policy*, which sets out its assessment of the economy and forecasts what we could expect to see in the months and years ahead. The RBA still thinks inflation will be above the 2 to 3 per cent target range until mid-2025. But it's expected to fall faster this year than previously thought, indicating that aggressive rate rises are having the desired effect.

However, there's a key source of uncertainty in the RBA's predictions, as rising house prices have the potential to counteract the effect of high interest rates in the bank's battle against inflation.


What the RBA has forecast for inflation, economic growth, unemployment and interest rates

Inflation, which peaked at 7.8 per cent in the December quarter of last year, is now expected to reach 4.5 per cent by the end of this year, according to the RBA.

High inflation and interest rates will cause the economy to grow a lot slower throughout 2023 and 2024. The RBA now forecasts economic growth to bottom out by the end of the year at a very sluggish 1.2 per cent, earlier and lower than its forecasts released in February.

As a result, the unemployment rate, currently at a 50-year low of 3.5 per cent, is expected to increase to 4 per cent by the end of this year and 4.5 per cent by mid-2025.

Wage growth is still expected to peak later this year, but at a more modest 4 per cent rather than the 4.2 per cent previously forecast.



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 Quarrobolong valley.

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Local History



This photo was taken on Saturday 30/10/1915 at the foundation-stone laying for the then new Church of England Rectory at Branxton. You will see that some of the surnames are still in the area. From L-R, standing are:- Harry Gibbs, Ray Standen, Frank Hatcher, Walter Taylor, Ed Moore, (?), Dod Ballantyne, John Brown, (?) Wood, Cecil Walker, Ben Faithall, Dan Thrift & Tom Holmes. Seated on the far right is Rev Blake (Hobart) & the far left is Rev H. Hampden.

The occasion was widely reported & the Maitland Mercury ran the following:- "The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Church of England rectory at Branxton took place last Saturday at 2pm in the presence of a large gathering. The procession, headed by the Branxton Band, singing the processional hymn, "Onward Christian Sol-

diars". The visiting clergy were Very Rev H. K. Archdall MA, Dean of Newcastle, Revs. A. Killworth, MA., LL.B., I. Blake Hobart, Th.L., L. J. Wilson (Methodist) & J. Allison (Presbyterian).

On reaching the new rectory, the opening prayers and lesson were read by the rector, who also thanked the people for their presence. In introducing the Dean of Newcastle, he said he regretted the absence of the Bishop of the Diocese on account of illness. He trusted that Dr. Stretch would speedily be restored to health, and very soon again be able to be about. The Dean had graciously consented to come to Branxton in place of the Bishop. In extending a hearty welcome to him from the church people of Branxton, the rector said he felt under a deep debt of gratitude to the Dean for sacrificing the time the trip

entailed just when he was, to the speakers knowledge, very busy and could ill afford to be away from Newcastle.

On behalf of the rector, wardens and parishioners, Mr. John Brown then asked the Dean to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, and presented him with a handsome silver trowel as a memento on the occasion.

The Dean then solemnly performed the ceremony in the name of the Trinity, and, declaring the stone well and truly laid, offered prayer for the continual blessing of God in the place where the home of His ordained servants in the parish would henceforth be. He then delivered a forceful and telling address. Basing his remarks on Psalm 127, verse 1, he said that in erecting a dwelling for their clergyman, the people of Branxton were carrying out the idea of the Anglican Church of a pastor for each

parish. He was to take up his abode in the midst of the people that, by visiting them and otherwise administering to them, he might become the known and trusted leader around whom they should all rally. Then he wished them to remember that they were the Church. The priest was only the ordained servant, chosen from the body and ordained to carry out the functions of administering the sacraments and performing other ministerial duties, necessary for the life and worship of the whole body. Then this place was to be the rectory home-the place where the love of God was to be the outstanding characteristic. Only that could bring man and man together and God and man-indeed it was the only power that made homes possible, and social life and

brotherhood a reality. So that "Except the Lord built the house, their labour is but lost that built it." That was one of the great lessons this dreadful European war should teach us. Individuals and nations had tried to build a civilisation, a world, without the binding mortar of the Gospel of God. The result was failure, confusion & chaos. The only remedy for this was to build up a national and world wide character pure, just, holy, loving, God-fearing, and then, but only then, would all be well. In conclusion, he congratulated them on the step they had taken, and wished them every success in the future. The Rev. A. Killworth congratulated the people of Branxton on the forward movement & stated that he was pleased to be present at its inception."

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Branxton Swimmers Number 1

Branxton break 47 year drought to win Inter-town series

by Peree Dagg
The Branxton Amateur Swimming Club has won the Intertown Swimming Series for the first time in the series 47 year history. The series is held annually between the Singleton, Muswellbrook, Scone, Denman, Merriwa and Branxton clubs on a 6 meet format.

Singleton's 'A' team won on the day but Branxton's strong season performance allowed them to take out the crown by 90 points. Merriwa gained the season's handicap honours. The team had the pool adorned with red and black for the big day and partied on into the night to celebrate the historic win.

In the butterfly events Doug Pryde finished 2nd in the 6 years while Abbey Campbell began her stellar day with a first. The seven years saw Joseph Hall place 2nd and Isabelle Moy 1st. The 8 years saw a second to Brendan Bendeich and in the opens Paul Witherdin placed 3rd while Emma O'Brien gained a 1st for the club. Timmy Carter-O'Sullivan and Tara Valaire were awarded matching 3rd's in the 9's while Mitchell Campbell finished 2nd and Helena Moy 1st in the 10's. The 11's saw a 3rd to Jarrod Bendeich and a 2nd to Maddy Connor while matching 2nd's went to Matt Whiting and Elodie Dagg in the 12's. The 13 year events saw Matt Roberts finish 1st and Kirsty O'Brien second. Stephanie Trunk Gained a 2nd in the 14's and Chloe O'Brien a 1st in the junior woman's.

The 10 years and under relay saw both the girls and boys teams come in second to the Singleton team that were closing the season gap. Backstroke saw Mitch Robinson 2nd and Lauren Carter-O'Sullivan 1st in the 6's. Ross Valaire was 3rd and Lili Kellner 1st in the 7's. While Emily Lambert picked up a green ribbon in the open woman's. Pete Loss finished 1st in the 9 years and Courtney Cullity put in a great performance for the club. The 10 years saw Ben Loss score a blue ribbon and Hannah Witherdin a red. Liam Brown and Taylor Dalibozek came in second in the 11's. Matt Roberts continued with another 1st in the 13's while Meg Bagley gained a second. In the 14 years Matt Whiting and Emily Lambert scored seconds.

Breaststroke saw a run of wins with Lauren Carter-O'Sullivan, Reece Martin, Isabelle Moy and Chloe O'Brien while Paul Witherdin could only manage a second. The 8 years saw Darcy Witherdin and Brendon Connor 2nd then Pete Loss came in first and Rebecca Roberts second in the 9's. Elodie Dagg came first in the 10 girls while Jacob Trunk was 3rd in the 11's. Matt Whiting came 2nd in the 12's while the 13's saw matt Roberts continue to dominate and Kirsty O'Brien come 3rd. Stephanie Trunk gained a 3rd and Chloe O'Brien a 1st in the open event.

The boys under 13 relay came in second and the girls third. In the freestyle Mitch Robinson finished 3rd and Abbey Campbell 1st. Ross Valaire won the 7 boys as did Ellie Durrant in the girls. Paul Witherdin came in third and Emma O'Brien 1st in the opens while Timmy Carter-O'Sullivan and Darcy Witherdin scored wins in the 8's. The 9's had Pete Loss win and Tara Valaire in second. 10's Ben Loss came 3rd and Hannah Witherdin came in for a blue ribbon. Jarrod Bendeich was 1st and Kelsey Anderson 1st in the 11's while matt Whiting and Helena Moy were 2nd swimming in the 12's. Matt Roberts completed the set in the 13's and Meg Bagley gained a 2nd. Amber Whiting was 2nd as was Chloe O'Brien, in their events.

The open relays saw some fierce competition between the clubs with Singleton beating out Branxton in both. The locals were however thrilled to have kept the Singleton might in check enough to take out season honours Well done to Coach Jacqueline O'Brien, Paul Witherdin for his leadership, Kate O'Brien for her work on the intertowns and to all the mums and dads who transport and support the swimmers at the carnivals. But big congratulations to all the local swimmers who competed in the series, well done and bring on 2008.



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From the Lions' Den

Upcoming Events in the Branxton Lions Events Diary:

July – various Fund-raising events
Wednesday 5th July, Branxton Lions Management Board meeting 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Thursday 20th July Lions Lunch visit of District Governor Peter Francis 12.00 midday at Greta Workers Club
Saturday 22nd July Bunnings BBQ, Singleton.
Wednesday 2nd August, Branxton Lions Management Board meeting 4pm at Branxton Golf Club

A pride of Lions meet up at Cessnock

Members of Lions Clubs from 56 Lions clubs in District 201 N3 from Gosford to Gloucester met up recently at the Leagues Club in Cessnock. The meeting, chaired by outgoing District Governor Denise Bruce (Gloucester Lions Club) discussed many issues including a report from the Free Trade Day hosted by Lions on the Central Coast which provided free help from local "Tradies" to people in need in the area. In the afternoon, DG Denise handed over, from July 1, to the incoming District Governor Peter Francis (Raymond Terrace Lions Club). In the evening, the Lions had a friendly dinner. See photo below



A Laptop and Accessories for 17-year-old student Cooper, who is undergoing extensive Cancer treatment. This grant was given to the Lions Club of Gorokan Kanwal N3, on behalf of North Lakes Leo Club

Where there is a need – there is a Lion!

Readers have probably read or heard from media sources about the horrendous bus crash just off the Hunter Expressway where tragically 10 people were killed, mostly local people living in the neighbouring town of Singleton who had been attending a wedding event in the wine country area. In the interests of assisting the first responders to this tragedy where possible, members of the Branxton Lions Club contacted the New South Wales PF local police command and were requested to provide food and drink to essential emergency service workers which they did throughout the day, liaising with the police officers in charge of the devastating scene of the incident. Branxton Lions members said they would like to put on record the generosity of the Branxton IGA, whose owner, Lyn Unicomb, donated the entire cost of the edibles in the morning. Also, the local Coles supermarket at Huntlee made a large donation to the cost of the food in the afternoon supplies.

Senior police officers attended the road collision scene up to and including the Police Commissioner, local politicians Chris Mimms, Dan Repacholi, Jay Suvaal, and others gave interviews, also, a statement of condolence was given by the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and supported by Singleton Mayor, Sue Moore. The police officers, fire and ambulance workers were very pleased with the sustenance provided by the Lions Club of Branxton and said that they were unable to contact any other service organisations to help out. Alan Beckley of Branxton Lions said: "Our hearts go out to the injured and bereaved in this terrible incident. We are pleased that our neighbouring Lions Clubs, Singleton, and Singleton Lioness Lions Clubs are helping to raise money for the families of those affected." On 14 June there was a press release from the NSW Government which announced a donation of \$100,000 to the newly established fund to support the families of the Greta bus tragedy. The fund, which is co-managed by the NSW Government and Rotary Australia, can be accessed through the donation website:

<https://rawcs.org.au/explore-projects> and donors should choose the Hunter Valley Bus Crash to donate.



Branxton Lions members busy preparing sandwiches for emergency service first responders.

Lions 'Changeover' 2023

The annual 'Changeover' event happened on 22nd June for the Lions Club of Branxton which was held at Greta Workers Club, officiated by Past District Governor Ken Hallam (Cessnock Lions Club). Every year on 1st July, the management and leadership team in Lions Clubs elects new officers and the Changeover meeting confirms and authorizes the new positions. The idea is that all Lions Club members can participate in leadership positions.



Handover of the official Branxton Lions Gavel and Gong



The whole management team at the Lions Club of Branxton (with a few absentees)

The photograph, at right, shows the full management team of the Lions Club of Branxton for 2023 – 2024 with Ken Hallam reading from the paper in the middle. The executive of the Club from the new Lions year will be: President, Brian Thomas; Vice President, Alan Humphreys; Treasurer, Cathy Murray; Secretary, John Toulmin (not in photo); Communications, Alan Beckley. The photo, above left, depicts another convention of the Lion's Year – the handover of the Club's Gavel and Gong from Vice President Alan Humphreys to incoming President Brian Thomas.

Bunnings Singleton BBQ – June 2023

The members of Lions Club of Branxton were pleased to turn out yet again to provide the 'sausage sizzle' at Bunnings of Singleton. This is a major fund-raising effort for the Lions Club, and they staff the BBQ to prepare the traditional favourite snack of local people attending the Bunnings Warehouse on about 6 occasions during a typical year. Ken Meany, the long-standing Branxton Lions Club event coordinator and contact to Bunnings Singleton Activity Coordinator, said that Bunnings Singleton were very generous to local service clubs and Lions were very happy to work with them throughout the year.

Branxton Lions staffed the BBQ on Saturday 24th June and not only raised some serious cash for deserving causes selling the sausage snags and cold drinks, they also commented that customers were very generous giving separate cash donations to Lions causes and they thanked them for their big-heartedness.



Branxton Lions Member Ken Meany at his usual station at the BBQ



Some of the happy team of Branxton Lions at the Bunnings BBQ – Service with a Smile! From L: Cooking: Sean MacCormack and Ken Meany. Service: Brian Thomas and Catherine MacCormack.

Lions Stories



The Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation helps children suffering from mobility issues. Their priority is providing assistance to individuals rather than looking at community awareness or fundraising for research which other Lions Foundations do. The picture tell the story. The Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation helps children suffering from mobility issues. Their priority is providing assistance to individuals rather than looking at research which other Lions Foundations do. The pictures tell the story.



Caring for our environment and engaging young Australians is a focus for Lions.

LION-HEARTED Aussies

LIONS AUSTRALIA HAS UNDERGONE SIGNIFICANT EVOLUTION IN ITS 75 YEARS, BUT SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES REMAINS AT ITS HEART.

STORY RAY ANDERSEN

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS after forming in Australia, Lions continues to play an important role in supporting communities across the country.

With more than 1,200 clubs, Lions has grown to be Australia's largest service organisation and is much-admired for its charity and community work.

Last year, Lions volunteers were a welcome presence in flood-ravaged Lismore, the birthplace of the organisation in Australia.

In 1946, William R Tresise, the president

of Apex Australia, met with the founder of the Lions Association Melvin Jones, in Chicago, and was granted the power to establish clubs here.

At the age of 40, Tresise was required to step down from his Apex role, and he saw an opportunity to redirect his community spirit with Lions.

In 1947 he formed a club in his home town, Lismore, and Australia became the 18th country to enter the International Association of Lions Clubs.

The following year a second club was formed in nearby Murwillumbah and by

1976 there were 1,000 clubs across the country.

Lions Australia CEO Rob Oerlemans said clubs had responded to the changing needs and values of their communities.

"We are known for building community parks when they were a scarce public amenity and now, we are restoring wetlands, planting trees and engaging in recycling initiatives," Mr Oerlemans said.

"Local clubs reach out to help the needy in their community and nationally and internationally we are responding to

If you have any questions about any of the content above, please contact Alan Beckley, Lions Club of Branxton. Email: Branxton_Lions@outlook.com Mobile: 0426-261948

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Less is More: Clothing Repair Café & Floor Cushion Workshop

Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce it's teaming up with UpCycle Newcastle to host a Clothing Repair Café and Floor Cushion workshop in the July School Holidays for residents looking to reuse or recycle, rather than sending items to landfill. The workshop 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 to promote environmental sustainability options, as well as make financial savings. The session will be facilitated by UpCycle Newcastle and will consist of demonstrations, discussions, and hands-on activities in which participants will be able to fill a pre-made floor cushion with 5kg of provided textiles, as well as a workshop in making t-shirt tug toys. There will also be a skilled seamstress available to make repairs and minor alterations to attendees clothing.

Cessnock City Mayor Jay Suvaal said it was fantastic to see events such as these happening in our local area.

"Being able to take well-loved items of clothing or fabric and turn them into something new is a great skill," Cllr Suvaal said.

"The Less is More program is designed to equip local residents with the tools they need to think more ecologically which not only benefits our LGA, but helps save money. I encourage anyone who is interested to come along and join in."

The workshop will take place on Saturday 8 July from 10:30am – 1pm at Kearsley Community Hall. To book a place at the upcoming event, visit <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au>

Singleton Council joins race to net zero with new emissions targets



Singleton Council has unveiled new emissions reduction targets, with a commitment in line with the NSW Government to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The Singleton Emissions Reduction Action Plan (ERAP) was endorsed by Council at last night's June ordinary meeting, which also pledges to source 100 per cent of Council's electricity from renewables by 2030, as well as a commitment to achieve a 65 per cent in reduction in emissions by 2030 (aspirational interim target).

Council's General Manager Jason Linnane said the Emissions Reduction Action Plan was a roadmap for how Council could reduce its operational greenhouse emissions. The plan was developed over a six-month period, involving employee and community consultation, energy audits of Council's biggest energy-using facilities, data analysis and modelling and provides recommendations for Council to reduce its emissions through energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transport, waste management, sustainable procurement, and behaviour change.

"Council is leading by example to take decisive and responsible action on climate change, and this Emissions Reduction Plan is our commitment to the sustainability of our own organisation, as well as the facilities and services that Council delivers now and over the long term to protect the future prosperity of our people, economy and environment from climate change," Mr Linnane said.

"And we're already well on our way — our organisation's efforts to minimise consumption has seen us reduce our electricity usage by 31 per cent, corresponding to a 29 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2019/20 and 2020/21.

"But it doesn't end there. We're committed as an organisation to put sustainability at the forefront of everything we do, meaning our focus is not only on ensuring the quality of life and creating community for the people of Singleton now, but for generations to come."

The ERAP proposes three evidence-based and achievable targets for Council to reduce its emissions:

1. Council to purchase 100% renewable energy from 2030.
2. Council aims to reduce its emissions by 65% by 2030 (aspirational interim target). Council publicly commits to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 in line with the NSW Government target.

The targets are for Council's operational emissions, not community emissions.

Photo above: Council's Manager Development and Environment Mary-Anne Crawford and Acting Director Infrastructure and Planning Damian Morris

Cultural spirit and connection to place celebrated at new art exhibition in Singleton

A special exhibition at Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre will transport visitors to some of the most remote Aboriginal sites in the Hunter Valley, without having to leave the four walls of the gallery. 'Spirit of Place', based on the book of the same name by Wonnarua elder and former Singleton Citizen of the Year Warren Taggart in collaboration with Carol Carter and Allan Chawner, features photographs of cave shelters, rock engravings and landmarks of significant cultural importance alongside a selection of cultural objects from Uncle Warren's personal collection.



The exhibition will open on Saturday 24 June at 2pm with a special smoking ceremony conducted by Uncle Warren and be displayed in the main gallery until 3 September 2023.

Uncle Warren said his love for the mountains drew from his connection to the ancestors and elders whose stories lived on through the remnants of art, rock engraving and stone arrangements.

"There are sacred sites throughout our landscape and every site is significant because what it shows is that our ancestors were here. Even if there are just tiny lines of charcoal, we know they were here," he said.

"The book was put together to show people what is hidden in the area surrounding Singleton, and now the whole idea of the exhibition is to allow people to experience the spiritual connection of sacred sites without having to physically disturb them."

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the exhibition embodied the purpose for the Arts and Cultural Centre to reflect the identity of the local community and place.

"This is an extraordinary representation of just how important this place has been to people long before we came to know it as Singleton," she said.

"This exhibition is a wonderful demonstration of the culture and heritage that is central to our community, and offers the opportunity to share local cultural stories with visitors—adding a significantly spiritual experience to their itinerary.

"I hope people will take this opportunity to experience thousands of years of settlement and reflect on everything that makes our area unique."

In addition to the exhibition, Spirit of Place will also feature a series of school visits and professional learning sessions throughout July and August, and a dedicated SACC Chat with Uncle Warren, Ms Carter and Mr Chawner in the main gallery on Thursday 20 July 2023. For more information, visit <https://singletonartsandculturalcentre.com.au/>

Spirit of Place Exhibition

Warren Taggart, Carol Carter and Allan Chawner

Opening: 2pm Saturday 24 June

24 June – 3 September 2023

#Photo above: Uncle Warren Taggart, Carol Carter and Allan Chawner

Mattress drop-off event returns in July

Cessnock City Council is reminding residents that the popular and free mattress drop-off event to be held on Saturday 22 July is fast approaching.

The event will be held between 8am and 12pm at 79 Barton Street, Kurri Kurri (located behind Anytime Fitness).

Cessnock City residents will be able to dispose of up to four mattresses or bases per household, completely free of charge.

Cessnock City Council Mayor Jay Suvaal is encouraging residents to add the date to their calendars and take advantage of the mattress drop-off event.

"This popular community event is an excellent opportunity for residents to responsibly dispose of their unwanted mattresses while also ensuring the materials collected can be recycled. And best of all, it's free," Cllr Suvaal said.

This event is for Cessnock City Council residents only. Proof of address via a driver's licence or rates notice is required. Mattress drop-offs must also be made using a vehicle as there will be no pedestrian access.

Residents unable to attend the drop-off event can bring their mattresses to the Cessnock Waste Management Centre for a disposal fee of \$38.

The next mattress drop-off event will take place on Saturday 14 October (location to be advised).

For more information about the disposal of mattresses or other household waste, please visit: <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Waste/Disposal-of-other-household-waste>



NAIDOC Week 2023

The Cessnock Local Government Area will host a range of NAIDOC Week celebrations from 2 - 9 July 2023.

The 2023 National NAIDOC Week theme is **For Our Elders**.

Across every generation, Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families.

They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and loved ones.



Support Local & Product Champion Campaign

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\$5000
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Six million Australian's are employed by small businesses across local communities



Shopping local creates more local jobs



Support Local Competition
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This weeks Product Champions



MOVEMENT & YOU
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.huntermountainbicyclerentals.com.au



This project received grant funding from the Australian Government

#supportlocalcessnock



Henry's latest novel delivers the kind of satisfying love story her readers have come to expect

Review by Annie Berke

If you are a reader of romance, you've likely had your own "meet cute" with the books of Emily Henry, from "Beach Read" (2020) to "Book Lovers" (2022), which respectively follow conventional rivals-to-lovers and enemies-to-lovers romance plot trajectories. Through the lens of these books, Henry's literary worldview is very clear: Romance is neither fluff nor tragedy, it's just life.

With her latest, "Happy Place," Henry covers new territory. It is, in many ways, the least "happy" of her works, less swooning and more longing, with a sense of melancholy permeating throughout. The story follows a week in the life of three friends — Harriet, Sabrina and Cleo — who, on meeting in college, became their own cozy, chosen family. With their three partners in tow, the gang descends on Sabrina's father's summer home in Maine. Sabrina has insisted on this reunion: She has a surprise in store, but she is not the only one. Everyone on this trip has a secret to keep.

Most of Henry's books focus on two characters, but this ensemble piece presents female friendship in all its warmth and woundedness, blessedly absent of misogynist tropes of jealousy and pettiness. Admittedly, Sabrina, Cleo and their counterparts don't come through as sharply as the two leads, their motives mostly a mystery until the final chapters.

The core of the novel is, without question, the ballad of Harriet and her ex-fiancé, Wyn. The novel is structured in flashbacks that detail their initial attraction, their mutual devotion and the sudden, shattering breakup that devastates them both. Because they don't want to ruin the festive reunion atmosphere, the former golden couple agrees to fake it, just for the few days they are all together. Despite their breakup, the love, of course, is still quite real — it's the faking-it that's fake. Let the hardcore yearning commence. "We," Harriet muses, as she listens to Wyn talk. "Hearing him say it is like biting into a Maine blueberry, the way you taste the salt water and the cold sky and the damp earth and the sun all at once."

Henry's work shines among her best-selling romance compatriots, a group that includes Helen Hoang, Colleen Hoover, Beth O'Leary and Ali Hazelwood. They all blur the lines between women's and literary-leaning commercial fiction, departing from the fantasy spaces of bodice rippers and misty moors to depict a world that looks a lot more like, well, our own. The characters do not struggle with postfeminist problems like adorable clumsiness or excessive shopping, reflecting instead on how race, class, trauma, and (dis)ability shape their desires and their lives. These days, a romance reading habit is not to be hidden under the mattress or whispered in a private

book club. It is to be crowed, proudly, on social media, BookTok and Instagram, in particular. Henry operates at the top of her — and her readers' — intelligence, telling sophisticated, heartfelt stories that are conscious of the romantic comedy conventions without being overly meta about them. Best of all, her characters are funny in the way real people are, her romantic moments thrilling. Genre devotees can attest that not all romantic comedies are both romantic and comedic. Some, in fact, are neither. "Happy Place" is funny at points, but it is also the closest that Henry has come to writing an old-school melodrama, a heart-rending plot that struggles to express the inexpressible. All romances, be they comedies or dramas, demand that their leads get vulnerable and confess their feelings before it is too late. What differentiates "Happy Place" from a standard love story is how much it's a love-in-the-time-of-covid story, though inexplicably, neither covid nor the pandemic is referenced explicitly. The protagonist, Harriet, is a burned-out medical professional considering a career change. Meanwhile, Sabrina and Cleo, in the book's B-plot, suffer the pangs of estrangement — one hesitates to schedule a visit, the other feels stressed and isolated and less intimate than before. There's also the sudden death of a loved one in the book's second act, complete with psychological fallout, as well as plenty of picturesque outdoor dining and leisure activities. It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. The subtlest of time capsules, "Happy Place" resonates with our shared losses from the past few years. The only Happy Place

ABOUT...



Emily Henry is a *New York Times* bestselling American author who is best known for her romance novels *Beach Read*, *People We Meet on Vacation* and *Book Lovers*. Henry lives and writes in Cincinnati and Kentucky's Northern Ohio River region. She studied creative writing at Hope College and the now-defunct New York Center for Art & Media Studies. She is a full-time writer and proofreader. Her debut young adult novel, *The Love That Split the World*, was published in January 2016. After writing several young adult novels, Henry's first adult fiction romance *Beach Read* was published in 2020 to widespread success. Her books have been featured in *BuzzFeed*, *O, The Oprah Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The New York Times*, *The Skimm*, *Shondaland*, and more. She has continued to write adult romance novels with the publication of *People We Meet on Vacation* in 2021 and *Book Lovers* in 2022. A film adaptation of *Book Lovers* is set to be produced by Tango Entertainment. Her most recent novel, *Happy Place*, hit bookstores on April 25, 2023. As of March 2023, Henry had sold over 2.4 million books collectively.

Awards

2021 Winner Goodreads Choice Awards - Best Romance for *People We Meet on Vacation*
2022 Winner Goodreads Choice Awards - Best Romance for *Book Lovers*

on, Henry seems to argue, is one another. And if your *other* has a "smoky velvet voice" and a "cut-glass profile," well, so much the better.

any of us can count 

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.



"Please hold while we bring you the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach."

Incredible ascent has Neasham on verge of \$20m mark



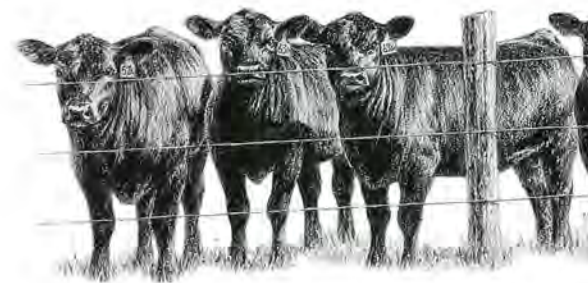
Trainer Annabel Neasham can bring up 150 winners for the season

By Ray Thomas courtesy Racenet.com.au
Has any trainer risen through the ranks as quickly as Annabel Neasham?
In just her third season of training, she has prepared the winners of 148 races with 19 stakes wins including three at Group 1 level for stable earnings of \$19.9m – and there are still six weeks of the 2022-23 season remaining.
Neasham has more than doubled her total career wins in one season and is sixth on the national premierships rankings.
The Warwick Farm-based trainer can smash both the 150-win and \$20m prizemoney barriers with her stable represented by the favourite in both feature race chances at Rosehill Gardens and Ipswich on Saturday.
Neasham has Bois D'Argent (5th) as her stable's main hope in the Listed \$160,000 WJ McKell Cup (2000m) at the Sydney meeting and Numerian (6th) for the Listed \$200,000 Ipswich Cup (2150m).
The rise and rise of Neasham has been fascinating to watch after the trainer prepared 30 winners in 2020-21, her debut season.
"I've been fortunate to get the support of some wonderful owners and we have a great team around us," Neasham said.
"The stable has probably grown faster than I expected. At the start of the season we had the aim of trying to get 120 winners but we have revised that to 150.
"We had a lean weekend but that is the way it goes sometimes. On a whole, the horses are racing very consistently and hopefully we can get to 150 wins on Saturday."
Neasham has a successful secondary stable base at Eagle Farm and hasn't ruled out further expansion into Melbourne.
"I am considering a small satellite stable in Melbourne for the carnivals but Sydney is very much our main focus and where I spend most of my time.

"The way we are setting up our (training) business Sydney is our main base and we want to consolidate here."
Neasham has her biggest-ever Sydney Saturday entry with 16 nominated for the Rosehill meeting although the trainer indicated McKell Cup hopeful Regal Lion (Won) is likely to contest the Ipswich Cup.
"I'm running Bois D'Argent (5th) and Bartholomeu Dias (10th) in the McKell Cup," Neasham said.
"Both horses are doing well and have pleased me at trackwork but Bois D'Argent is our number one seed.
"After he won the Lord Mayor's Cup (Rosehill over 2000m) we thought about going to the Stayer's Cup (2600m, June 22) but we resisted the temptation and decided to keep him fresh for the 2000.
"He's certainly not racing on tired legs. We have raced him sparingly and he looks amazing, his work has been very good and I would rate him our best chance over the weekend."
This is some statement from Neasham as she has a very strong team at Rosehill including stablemates Fawkner Park, (Won), Naval College (3rd) and Claim The Crown (Unplaced) clashing in the TAB Handicap (2000m).
Imported duo Fawkner Park and Naval College are both in top form and each stayer is chasing a hat-trick of wins.
"I hate running Fawkner Park and Naval College against each other as they are horses I would love to see winning this race," Neasham said.
"Naval College is a straightforward, lovely horse to have in the stable and Jett Stanley's claim (3kg) help. He knows the horse having won on him a couple of times.
"Fawkner Park is more an unknown in Sydney Saturday class but he made very light work of the field at Doomben last

Ed., Please note that this was written prior to last Saturday's race meetings. I have endeavoured to show placings where applicable

start.
"This is a stronger race but there is something about him I like and he is a horse that is continuing to improve."
Neasham also has two former European gallopers Manbehindthemoney (2nd) and Asgoodassobergets (scratched) contesting the Racing For Good Handicap (1800m).
"Manbehindthemoney is a really promising horse and I think he will go through his grades very quickly," Neasham said.
"Asgoodassobergets probably surprised me a little when he won so well first time out at Canterbury then he loomed up to win at Flemington but wandered around a bit.
"We have brought him back in distance but he has a 'sticky' draw so we will think about whether we wait for another day with him."
Another of the Neasham imports, Space Tracker (2nd) is the \$3.60 favourite for the Furphy Handicap (1500m).
Neasham also has a strong presence at the Ipswich meeting with Numerian the dominant favourite in the Ipswich Cup.
Although Numerian is winless this season, he has raced consistently at the top level with Group 1 second placings in the Australian Cup and Doomben Cup, he was runner-up in the Hill Stakes and Chelmsford Stakes, and ran fifth in the Caulfield Cup.
Neasham is prepared to back-up with Numerian (6th) in the Ipswich Cup after he ran fifth behind Without A Fight in the Q22 last week.
"I felt Numerian just got too far back last start," Neasham said.
"He came out of that race bucking and squealing, he didn't have too hard a run and at this stage he will back up in the Ipswich Cup."
Neasham Eyes Everest, Golden Eagle with exciting mare
Learning To Fly is unlikely to race again this year, Sunshine In Paris could be set for The Everest and



Cattle projections

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

Key points

- National cattle herd will grow to its highest level since 2014 at 28.8m head
- Prices are forecast to operate at longer term averages in 2023
- Issues surrounding labour remain the key determinant of cattle slaughter performance in 2023.

The Australian Beef industry and cattle herd are well positioned to capitalise on changing global supply dynamics in 2023. This year will be a year of transition and maturity for Australia's cattle herd, with any increases in numbers now beyond rebuild status, with all key production metrics forecast to improve this year, according to the latest Cattle Industry Projections update from Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).
Continued rainfall and favourable seasonal conditions seen last year will ensure that there will be solid supply of both young

and slaughter weight cattle over the next two years, regardless of seasonal outcomes.
Southern Australia will 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.



Imported gelding Fawkner Park steps up to Sydney Saturday class after two impressive wins. Picture: Bradley Photos

Golden Eagle, Zaaki and Mo'unga will be back for the Sydney spring carnival.
Trainer Annabel Neasham gave an update on her stable's "fab four" who were such an integral part of her stable's sensational 2022-23 season.
Neasham's brilliant filly Learning To Fly won her first three starts in the Widden Stakes, Inglis Millennium and Reisling Stakes, then started close to favourite in Shinzo's Golden Slipper only to be badly injured when she suffered severe interference mid-race and lost her rider.
"I think Learning To Fly is unfortunately going to miss the best part of the spring," Neasham said.
"We are being conservative with her, we have such a high opinion of this filly we want

to give her all the time in the world.
"She looks amazing but I'd say it's probably looking more likely she will race in autumn. Hopefully, it won't be too long before she is back because I miss her."
Neasham was concerned she might lose Group 1 Surround Stakes winner Sunshine In Paris from her stable after the filly was sold to James Harron for \$3.9 million at the Magic Millions National Broodmare Sales last month.
But Harron confirmed Sunshine In Paris will stay in Neasham's care and race on as a four-year-old with the trainer considering an ambitious spring campaign for the talented sprinter.
"Sunshine In Paris in back

in pre-training," Neasham said. "She might be our The Everest horse and is also at the age to race in the Golden Eagle as well."
Neasham's \$10 million earner Zaaki and proven Group 1 competitor Mo'unga will return next season.
Zaaki ran unplaced in the Doomben Cup last start which has given the trainer reason to reassess her big-race plans for the multiple Group 1 winner.
"Back in the day, Zaaki was getting it all is own way in front but they have figured out how to beat him now," Neasham said.
"So, we might have to ride him a bit differently in the spring or I may just keep him fresher.
"It's not all doom and

gloom as he won the Hollindale Stakes two starts back and ran a second (behind Giga Kick) in the All-Aged Stakes before that.
"We haven't seen him race that often in Sydney before because of the targets we have had for him but I think he goes really well in Sydney so that's where we will concentrate in spring with him."
Mo'unga didn't win a race during the season but was placed five times at Group 1 level including his second to Dubai Honour in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes during The Championships in April.
"We are planning to have Mo'unga ready to resume in the Winx Stakes in August," the trainer said.

clicks



Bank impersonation scams robbing Australians of their life savings

Consumers are being warned to be wary of phone calls and texts that appear to be from their bank, following alarming reports of Australians losing their life savings to a highly sophisticated impersonation scam. Reports to the ACCC's Scamwatch indicate scammers are using new technology to trick their victims, by making the call appear to come from the bank's legitimate phone number or by sending a text that appears in the same conversation thread as genuine bank messages. Scamwatch received 14,603 reports about bank impersonation scams in 2022, resulting in more than \$20 million in losses. Total losses to phone and text scams increased significantly last year, with over \$169 million lost. "We are incredibly concerned about bank impersonation scams because they can be so convincing, they are very hard to detect," ACCC Deputy Chair Catriona Lowe said. "What's equally worrying about this particular scam, is that it is emptying every last cent out of victims' savings accounts, with losses averaging \$22,000 and more than 90 reports of losses between \$40,000 and \$800,000. This causes both financial and emotional devastation." "We know of a man who lost over \$500,000 after receiving a call from someone claiming to be from a major bank's security department, wanting to know if a payment had been authorised." "In another case, a man lost \$38,000 after receiving a scam text message about a suspicious transaction. The scam text appeared in the same conversation thread

as legitimate messages from his bank. He called the number in the text and was put through to a member of the banks' fraud team. Unfortunately, it was an elaborate scam and he lost everything," Ms Lowe said. Bank impersonation scams impersonate the big four banks as well as other financial institutions. Communications often have a sense of urgency to them, such as fraudulent activity raising red flags, or a frozen account. "It is critical to remember that no matter how legitimate the call or message seems, a bank won't ask you to urgently transfer funds," Ms Lowe said. "If you receive an SMS with a telephone number to call, do not use it. Instead, call your bank direct on a number you have sourced yourself. Likewise, hang up if you receive a call from someone claiming to be from your bank requesting you to transfer money to 'keep it safe'. Ask for a reference number and call your bank back using contact details you have found independently." Never provide online banking passwords, one-time security codes, pins or tokens to anyone over the phone. Contact your bank or financial institution immediately if you think you have been scammed. "Following recent mass data breaches, many Australians were encouraged to monitor their accounts for suspicious activity. Sadly, this has led to consumers acting on these scam calls and text messages out of fear that their accounts have been compromised," Ms Lowe said. **Top tips for avoiding**

scams
Stop – take your time before giving money or personal information.
Think – ask yourself if the message or call could be fake?
Protect – act quickly if something feels wrong. Contact your bank and report scams to Scamwatch.
Signs of a bank impersonation scam:

- There is a sense of urgency or threat to the message – "your bank account has been accessed", "your bank account has been locked" "a payment has been made from your account. If this was not you, please call (phone number)".
- The message looks different to other messages in the SMS thread, such as different wording or phrases used.
- The message may contain a suspicious looking link. Never click on links.
- The SMS has a telephone number to call – always find your bank's phone number independently.

The caller will tell you to transfer money to a different account to 'keep it safe' or for 'further investigation'. This is not standard procedures for a bank. It is a scam.
Background
 Scamwatch is aware of scammers impersonating banks using "spoofed" phone numbers and sender IDs (also known as alpha tags). Spoofing is where software is used by scammers to copy the phone number or sender ID of a business. These scams are a sophisticated form of phishing and are designed to trick victims into contacting the scammers.

Both outgoing and incoming phone numbers can be spoofed. Scamwatch has seen examples where scammers send an SMS with the sender ID spoofed and tell the person to expect a phone call from their bank's customer service. The scammer will then call the person on the spoofed bank telephone number. The ACCC's Scamwatch continues to work with other government agencies, law enforcement and the private sector to share intelligence, disrupt scams, advocate for consumers and raise awareness in the community. In the October budget, the ACCC received seed funding from the government to scope and plan for a new National Anti-Scams Centre to support the community in the fight against scams. If you have experienced cybercrime and lost money online, contact your bank immediately. You can also report to police via ReportCyber. If you have given personal information to a scammer contact IDCARE. Australians, regardless of whether they have lost money, are encouraged to report scams to Scamwatch. Reports can be made anonymously. Learn more about how to get help on the Scamwatch website scamwatch.gov.au. Follow Scamwatch on Twitter or subscribe to radar alerts. For crisis support to help with emotional distress about scams contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or access support via the online chat between 7pm and midnight www.lifeline.org.au. Beyond Blue also provides support for anxiety and depression 1300 22 4636 or chat online www.beyondblue.org.au

MOVIE REVIEW



NO HARD FEELINGS

Bringing Sexy Back to the Movies, With a 2023 Twist

This winter, raunchy comedies with a feminist perspective are trying to reinvent an R-rated genre that often can't withstand much scrutiny.
 By Leah Greenblatt
 Critics and audiences have long despaired: Where have all the romantic comedies gone? The free-wheeling effervescence of bygone Harrys and Sallys and Bridget Joneses; the bright aspirational gloss of a Nancy Meyers production (her latest was dropped by Netflix in March when its price tag reportedly sailed past the \$130 million mark). Instead, what modern viewers mostly get are pale, labored imitations — the frenetic Jennifer Lopez-Josh Duhamel caper "Shotgun Wedding," the hollow-core Ana de Armas-Chris Evans vehicle "Ghosted." In projects like these, romance is an empty gesture; chemistry, a distant dream. ("Your Place or Mine," a dry kiss of long-distance courtship released earlier this year, literally couldn't stand to keep Reese Witherspoon and Ashton Kutcher in the same frame physically for more than three scenes.) Moviegoers starved for something unabashedly adult and, the film gods willing, actually *fun*, will probably have better luck finding it this summer in the revival of another languishing genre: the rom-com's hornier cousin, the sex comedy. Though what hard-R shenanigans look like in 2023 — post-#MeToo, post-pandemic, mid-online culture wars — may necessarily be a very different thing than in 1993, or even 2013. In a landscape so dominated by bloated blockbusters and soul-deadening sequels, it's slightly depressing to acknowledge that fresh perspective can be signaled by something as simple, and as radical, as letting the lens be female. Still, there's novelty in seeing the Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence sign on to a libidinous goof like "No Hard Feelings," due June 23. She stars as a financially strapped Uber driver who agrees, for a fee, to seduce the awkward teenage son of a wealthy New York couple. The red-band trailer surpassed 45 million views in its first 24 hours online — a testament, perhaps, to moviegoers' too-long-untapped appetite for cheerfully slapstick set pieces and "Can I touch your wiener?" jokes. The similarly debauched "Joy Ride," a sort of sunny "Hangover" redux starring and created by Asian American women, earned near-universal raves when it premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival in March. (It's scheduled for wide release July 7.) Over 95 flamboyantly unhinged minutes, Ashley Park of "Emily in Paris" and the "Everything Everywhere All

at Once" star Stephanie Hsu lead a loose foursome to China on a journey of friendship and self-discovery, breaking several dozen statutes for class-A drugs and public indecency along the way. Introduced that same week at SXSW, the scrappy lower-budget "Bottoms" (in theaters Aug. 25) was hailed as a queer Gen-Z twist on the classic high school virginity tale. Directed by Emma Seligman ("Shiva Baby"), the movie features "Shiva" star Rachel Sennott and Ayo Edebiri from "The Bear" as teenage lesbians who start a fight club to woo the cheerleaders of their dreams. Hickeys and hematomas ensue. The sex they're all putting onscreen is screwball and messy and sometimes medically unsound. It also unapologetically centers female desire and pleasure of all kinks and stripes — "I'll have what she's having" to the nth degree. If these films succeed, they'll join a short list of equal-opportunity raunch at the multiplex: Women-behaving-badly touchstones like 2011's scatological lodestar "Bridesmaids," the 2015 Amy Schumer hit "Trainwreck," and the raucous 2017 ensemble "Girls Trip," which turned Tiffany Haddish into a grapefruit-fellating meme overnight. (Think of "Easy A" (2010), starring a scarlet-lettered Emma Stone, as the PG-13 starter kit.) Those all had male and often middle-aged directors, though; far less common still are ones actually overseen by women, like Kay Cannon's "Blockers" and Olivia Wilde's "Booksmart." So some of the demographic shifts here seem worth singling out: "Joy Ride" is the directing debut of the Malaysian American screenwriter Adele Lim, who co-wrote "Crazy Rich Asians," and the screenplay is by "Family Guy" alumnae Cherry Chevapravatdumrong and Teresa Hsiao. Most of the players on both sides of the camera in "Bottoms" — which toggles breezily between references to bell hooks and mid-aughts Avril Lavigne — were born after the Clinton administration. But audiences, of course, hardly measure their leisure time in diversity bona fides. Battered by Covid, spooked by a teetering economy, and finally cooling, perhaps, on endless Marvel tentpoles, their one directive seems to be: Entertain me. Given the option of heady but esoteric award bait like "Tár" and "Women Talking," in which, respectively, a classical-music conductor spirals into self-imposed ignominy and Mennonite women debate rape in a barn, they've flocked instead to blithely ludicrous undercards like "M3gan" and "Cocaine Bear." (The latter shares two of its three producers with

"Bottoms.") Even wiener jokes, though, are freighted with the weight of history. Seth Rogen, whose career took root in the animal house that Judd Apatow built and who is credited as a producer on "Joy Ride," has acknowledged in numerous interviews that much of his catalog doesn't hold up to scrutiny today. A cursory rewatch of canon classics like "Porky's," "American Pie" and most films in the Apatow extended universe ("Knocked Up," "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," "Superbad") calls back moments of winky misogyny, casual racism and not-so-latent homophobia that seem like obvious third rails now. How Hollywood can adapt in an era so strenuously aware of identity and isms — and a generation of young people reportedly having significantly less sex than their predecessors — feels like a continuing social experiment, as murky as the future of movies themselves. The gift of the most outrageous comedies, after all, is that they allow us, for an hour or two in a darkened room, to leave best behavior and safe spaces at the door. At a press preview in April, the co-stars Sydney Sweeney and Glenn Powell proudly sold their forthcoming "Anyone but You," a modern riff on Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" due in December from the "Easy A" director Will Gluck, as a combative romance between "a real nightmare" and an ass, with no small amount of nudity. The internet swooned. Those who fit a certain archetype, though, like Powell and Sweeney, will naturally be given more latitude than others to nudge the boundaries of mainstream taste. Projects that showcase more traditionally underrepresented groups — or anyone, really, who falls within the confines of not straight, not skinny, not white — are still often made to carry the full weight of representation. See the performative hand-wringing over the box office failure last year of "Bros," a well-reviewed gay rom-com with an R rating and an out cast, after it was breathlessly touted as the first film of its kind to receive wide theatrical release. Maybe for all those reasons, there are no teachable moments explicitly embedded in the delirious, rampaging teendom of "Bottoms," even as certain life lessons sneak in sideways from the margins. Or in "Joy Ride," which nevertheless features one major character in search of her Chinese birth parents, another who is nonbinary, and two more who treat sex like a kind of globe-trotting all-you-can-eat buffet. Here, the medium is the message; the rest is as nasty — and ultimately chaotic, tenderhearted, and yes, joyful — as it wants to be.

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To Jail or Not to Jail

By Maureen Dowd

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Studying “Hamlet,” the revenge play about a rotten kingdom, I tried for years to fathom Hamlet’s motives, state of mind, family web, obsessions. His consciousness was so complex, Harold Bloom wrote, it seemed bigger than the play itself. Now I’m mired in another revenge play about a rotten kingdom, “Trump.” I’ve tried for years to fathom Donald Trump’s motives, state of mind, family web, obsessions. The man who dumbed down the office of the presidency is a less gratifying subject than the smarty-pants doomed prince. Hamlet is transcendent, while Trump is merely transgressive. But we can’t shuffle off the mortal coil of Trump. He has burrowed, tick-like, into the national bloodstream, causing all kinds of septic responses.

Trump is feral, focused on his own survival, with no sense of shame or boundaries or restraint. “In that sense,” David Axelrod told me, “being a sociopath really works for him.”

As Axelrod wrote in The Atlantic, “Over time, Trump has worked to discredit and demean any institution that raises inconvenient truths or seeks to hold him accountable for his actions — not just media, but law enforcement and the election system itself.”

It remains to be seen, as Axelrod has noted, whether indictments will serve as kryptonite against Trump or energy packs fueling his return to the Oval Office.

After believing time and time again that Trump had self-destructed — after he denigrated John McCain, after we found out he had pretended to be his own spokesman, after the “Access Hollywood” tape, and after he shared classified material with Russian diplomats — I have learned to wait and see whether Trump will preposterously get away with things. He has spent his entire life cutting corners and dancing on the edge of legal. But Jack Smith, the special counsel, is teaching him that you can’t conduct a presidency that way.

So we must contemplate Trump’s weird preoccupation with his boxes full of state secrets.

“He held onto them. Why?” Mitt Romney asked reporters on Capitol Hill. “That’s the question. Why is the country going to have to go through all this angst and tumult? Why didn’t he just turn the documents in?”

The papers spilling out of boxes are a snapshot of Trump’s id. He raised his personality to a management style. His disordered mind has caused public disorder. During his presidency, The Times reported, “his aides began to refer to the boxes full of papers and odds and ends he carted around with him almost



everywhere as the “beautiful mind” material. It was a reference to the title of a book and movie depicting the life of John F. Nash Jr., the mathematician with schizophrenia played in the film by Russell Crowe, who covered his office with newspaper clippings, believing they held a Russian code he needed to crack.”

The aides used the phrase — which turned up in the indictment — as shorthand for Trump’s organized chaos, how he somehow kept track of what was in the boxes, which he held close as a security blanket. During the 2016 campaign, some reporters said, he traveled with cardboard boxes full of real estate contracts, newspaper clippings and schedules, as though he were carrying his world around with him.

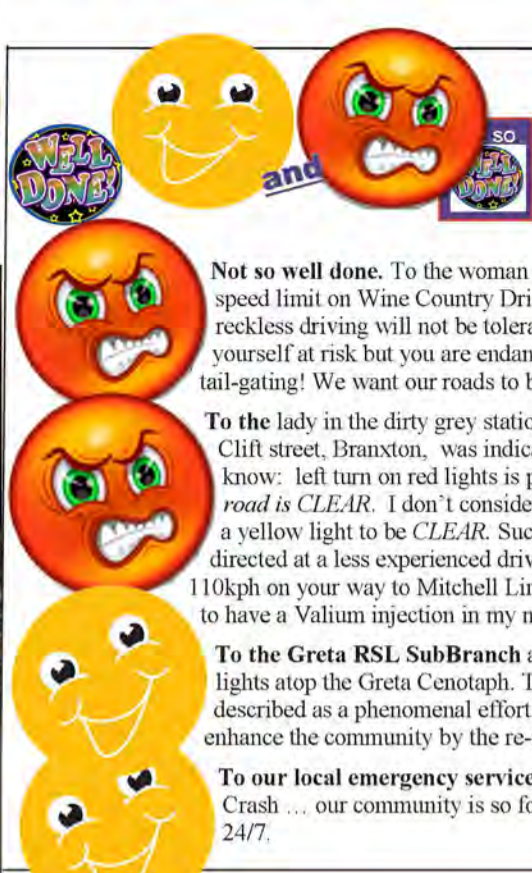
The guy likes paper. And, like Louis XIV, he believes “L’État, c’est moi.” His favorite words are personal pronouns and possessive adjectives. Kevin McCarthy is “my Kevin.” Army officers were “my generals.” Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was “my favorite dictator.” In the indictment, a Trump lawyer quotes Trump as warning, “I don’t want anybody looking through my boxes.”

Is he so addicted by narcissism that he sees no distinction between highly sensitive documents belonging to the government and papers he wants to keep? He treats classified maps and nuclear secrets and a Pentagon war plan for Iran like pelts, hunting trophies, or family scrapbook items.

He’s like a child, dragging around the things that are important to him. Chris Christie joked about Trump taking some of the boxes on his jet to his

club in Bedminster: “He flew the boxes up to New Jersey for summer vacation. What is this? Like, they’re a family member?” It bespeaks a frailty, a need to be bolstered by talismanic items. When he was a real estate dealer and reality star, his office in Trump Tower was papered in framed magazine covers, so that his face stared back at him from every angle, like an infinity mirror.

He must worry: Without pieces of paper to prove I am important, am I important? Trump has said one of his favorite movies is “Citizen Kane.” Perhaps the boxes at Xanadu he’s obsessed with, the papers that could make him the locked-up loser he dreads being, have been revealed as his Rosebud.



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

Not so well done. To the woman who drives the white 4WD well over the speed limit on Wine Country Drive North Rothbury. Your tail-gating and reckless driving will not be tolerated anymore. Not only are you putting yourself at risk but you are endangering others as well. Slow down! Stop tail-gating! We want our roads to be safe for all users.

To the lady in the dirty grey station wagon whose impatience at the lights in Clift street, Branxton, was indicated to me by blowing her horn, should know: left turn on red lights is permitted after stopping, and ensuring the road is CLEAR. I don’t consider a two story B-Double full of cattle running a yellow light to be CLEAR. Such impatience can cause an accident when directed at a less experienced driver. Further honking as you sped pass me at 110kph on your way to Mitchell Line necessitated my having to attend hospital to have a Valium injection in my middle finger.

To the Greta RSL SubBranch and their many, many helpers in restoring the lights atop the Greta Cenotaph. They have culminated what can only be described as a phenomenal effort by individuals and community groups to enhance the community by the re-installation of the monument light.

To our local emergency service personal who responded to the Greta Bus Crash ... our community is so fortunate to have these people who are on-call 24/7.

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- 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
- Snow Time in the Gardens** for children of all ages. runs from **June 25 to July 24.**
- Cessnock City Council Mattress drop-off event returns on 22 July**
The event will be held between 8am and 12pm at 79 Barton Street, Kurri Kurri (located behind Anytime Fitness). This event is for Cessnock City Council residents only. Proof of address via a driver’s licence or rates notice is required. Mattress drop-offs must also be made using a vehicle as there will be no pedestrian access. Residents unable to attend the drop-off event can bring their mattresses to the Cessnock Waste Management Centre for a disposal fee of \$38.
- 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.



Tips For Your Dogs

& Cats



Looking after your dog/cat in cold weather

Yes, dogs and cats can feel the cold. While they have their own natural fur coats, it doesn't necessarily mean they are impervious to cold temperatures. The ability of dogs and cats to tolerate cold weather varies based on factors such as their breed, size, age, overall health, and acclimatization. Here are a few considerations regarding dogs and cats in cold weather:

- * **Fur coat:** Dogs and cats with thick, long fur are generally better equipped to handle colder temperatures. Breeds with short or thin coats may be more susceptible to the cold and may require additional protection.
- * **Size:** Smaller dogs and cats tend to lose body heat more quickly than larger ones. They may feel the cold more intensely and may need extra care in cold weather.
- * **Age and health:** Puppies, kittens, senior pets, or those with underlying health conditions may have a harder time regulating their body temperature in cold weather. They may be more vulnerable to the cold and require extra attention and warmth.
- * **Acclimatization:** Pets that are accustomed to cold weather conditions may have better tolerance compared to those that are not. If a pet has been living primarily in a warm environment and is suddenly exposed to colder temperatures, they may be more sensitive to the cold. It's important to monitor your pets during cold weather and take necessary precautions to ensure their comfort and well-being. Provide them with a warm and sheltered environment, limit their time outdoors in extreme cold, use appropriate clothing or pet coats if needed, and provide extra bedding or blankets to keep them warm. Additionally, be mindful of ice, frozen surfaces, and the use of certain chemicals (such as antifreeze) that can be harmful to pets. If you have concerns about your specific pet's ability to tolerate the cold or if you notice any signs of discomfort or distress, it's always best to consult with a veterinarian for guidance and advice. To ensure the well-being of your cat and dog during cold weather, here are some essential tips to consider:
- * **Provide shelter:** Ensure that your pets have a warm and dry shelter to retreat to. This can be a cozy indoor space, but if they spend time outdoors, provide a well-insulated and weather-proof shelter with bedding, blankets, or straw to keep them comfortable. The shelter should protect them from

wind, rain, and snow.

- * **Limit outdoor time:** Minimize your pet's time spent outdoors, especially during extreme cold conditions. Allow them to go outside for bathroom breaks and exercise, but bring them back indoors promptly. Shorter walks or play sessions in a protected area may be more suitable during cold weather.
- * **Clothing and accessories:** Consider using pet coats or sweaters, especially for animals with short fur or those that are more



- sensitive to the cold. These clothing items can provide extra warmth and insulation. Additionally, protect their paws with booties to prevent exposure to icy surfaces and chemicals like salt or de-icers.
- * **Bedding and warmth:** Provide extra bedding in their sleeping area, such as blankets or heated pet beds, to keep them cozy and insulated. Ensure that their bed is away from drafts and off cold floors. A warm and comfortable resting place is essential for their comfort during cold weather.
- * **Hydration and nutrition:** Ensure that your pets have access to fresh water at all times. During cold weather, water can freeze quickly, so use insulated bowls or frequently check and refill their water. Additionally, maintain their regular feeding schedule and provide a well-balanced diet to support their overall health and energy levels.
- * **Grooming and paw care:** Regularly brush your pets to keep their fur clean and mat-free. This helps maintain their natural insulation. Wipe their paws with a damp cloth after outdoor walks to prevent ingestion of harmful substances during self-grooming.
- * **Safety precautions:** Keep an eye out for antifreeze or other chemicals used during the winter season, as they can be toxic if ingested by pets. Clean up any spills immediately, and store these substances in a secure location. Also, be cautious around bodies of water, as frozen ponds or lakes may not be safe for

- pets to walk on. Remember, every pet is unique, so it's important to consider their individual needs and sensitivities when caring for them in cold weather. Consulting with a veterinarian can provide personalized advice based on your pet's specific requirements. When choosing rugs for dogs, there are a few factors to consider such as durability, ease of cleaning, and comfort. Here are some types of rugs that are generally suitable for homes with dogs:
- * **Stain-resistant rugs:** Look for rugs that are specifically designed to resist stains, spills, and pet accidents. These rugs are often made of synthetic materials like nylon or polyester, which are easier to clean and more resistant to absorbing liquids.

- * **Low-pile or flatweave rugs:** Rugs with a low pile or flatweave construction are generally more durable and resistant to damage from claws or chewing. They also make it easier for dogs to move around without getting their nails caught in the fibers.
- * **Indoor-outdoor rugs:** Indoor-outdoor rugs are designed to withstand high traffic and are often made of durable materials like polypropylene. They are easy to clean and can handle muddy paws or spills. They are also resistant to fading and can be used in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

- * **Natural fiber rugs:** Rugs made from natural fibers like jute or sisal can be a good option for dogs. These materials are generally more resistant to scratching and are less likely to attract pet hair. However, keep in mind that they may be less stain-resistant and more difficult to clean than synthetic rugs.
- * **Machine-washable rugs:** Consider rugs that can be easily machine-washed or cleaned in case of accidents or spills. Having a rug that is conveniently washable can help maintain cleanliness and freshness in your home.
- * **Non-slip backing:** Look for rugs with a non-slip backing or consider using rug pads to prevent the rug from sliding around when your dog runs or plays on it. This helps ensure safety and stability for both your dog and your home. It's important to note that every dog is different, and their behavior and interaction with rugs may vary. If your dog has a tendency to chew or scratch rugs, it's a good idea to monitor their behavior and provide appropriate training or diversion to protect the rugs. Ultimately, the best rug for your dog will depend on your specific needs and preferences. Consider the factors mentioned above, assess your dog's behavior, and choose a rug that strikes a balance between durability, comfort, and practicality for your household.



Caring for your garden & lawn in winter

Watering: Adjust your watering schedule as needed. While the weather is cooler, plants typically require less water. Monitor the soil moisture levels and water only when necessary to prevent overwatering or waterlogging.

Mulching: Apply a layer of organic mulch around the base of your plants and shrubs. Mulch helps insulate the soil, retain moisture, and regulate soil temperature during winter. It also prevents weed growth.

Pruning: Prune any dead, damaged, or diseased branches from shrubs and trees. This helps promote healthy growth and prevents the spread of diseases. Avoid heavy pruning during winter, as it may stimulate new growth that is vulnerable to cold temperatures.

Protecting Frost-Sensitive Plants: If your area experiences frost, cover sensitive plants with frost cloths or hessian to protect them from freezing temperatures. Remove the covers during the day to allow sunlight and airflow.

Fertilizing: Apply a slow-release or low-nitrogen fertilizer to your plants and shrubs in early winter. This will provide them with essential nutrients throughout the season. Avoid excessive nitrogen fertilizers, as they can promote tender growth susceptible to frost damage.

Lawn Maintenance: Reduce the frequency of lawn mowing during winter as the grass growth slows down. Keep the lawn at a slightly longer height to provide insulation and protect the roots. Remove fallen leaves from the lawn to prevent suffocation and maintain good airflow.

Weed Control: Take advantage of the slower growth to tackle weed issues. Hand-pull or use appropriate herbicides to remove weeds from your lawn and garden beds.

Disease and Pest Management: Inspect your plants for signs of pests or diseases. Treat any issues promptly to prevent their spread. Clean up fallen leaves and debris to minimize pest habitats.

Cold Protection: For potted plants or delicate shrubs, consider moving them to sheltered areas or providing additional insulation using plant covers or hessian. Ensure good air circulation to prevent fungal diseases.

Planning and Planting: Winter is a great time for planning and preparing your garden for the upcoming seasons. Research and select suitable plant varieties for the Hunter Valley climate and start planning any landscaping projects.

Remember to consider the specific needs of different plants and shrubs, as some may require specialized care. Consulting with local gardening experts or nurseries can provide valuable advice tailored to the local area.

By following these tips, you can ensure the health and vitality of your shrubs, plants, and lawn during the winter months.

What plants, shrubs and lawn are best for our local climate

Our local area has a temperate climate with hot summers and mild winters. Here are some plants, shrubs, and lawn options that are well-suited to the local climate:

Lawn Grasses:

Kikuyu Grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*): A popular warm-season grass that thrives in hot summers and tolerates the mild winter conditions of the Hunter Valley.

Couch Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*): Another warm-season grass that is well-adapted to the region's climate and can handle both heat and moderate cold.

Shrubs:

Bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp.): Drought-tolerant shrubs with vibrant, brush-like flowers that attract native birds. They are well-suited to the hot and dry conditions of the Hunter Valley.

Grevillea: Hardy shrubs that produce beautiful flowers and are known for their ability to tolerate a range of climatic conditions, including heat and occasional frost.

Westringia (Coastal Rosemary): Evergreen shrubs with small, aromatic leaves and delicate flowers. They are well-adapted to the coastal regions of the Hunter Valley.

Plants:

Lomandra (Mat Rush): Hardy and versatile grass-like plants that are drought-tolerant and suitable for various soil types.

Agapanthus (Lily of the Nile): These perennials produce clusters of colorful flowers and are well-adapted to the Hunter Valley's climate.

Dianella (Flax Lily): Strappy-leaved plants with attractive foliage and small flowers. They are hardy and can tolerate both heat and cold.

It's important to consider factors such as sunlight exposure, soil type, and water requirements when selecting plants. Additionally, consider native Australian plants as they are well-adapted to the local conditions and often require less maintenance.

Consulting with local nurseries, gardening experts, or using resources provided by the Hunter Valley Gardens or the Hunter Local Land Services can provide more specific recommendations tailored to your needs and the microclimate of your area.

Remember to provide regular care and maintenance for your plants, shrubs, and lawn, including proper watering, mulching, and occasional fertilization, to ensure their health and vitality during winter.

LAWN PESTS IN WINTER

Regular Lawn Maintenance: Keep your lawn healthy by practicing proper lawn care techniques, such as regular mowing, proper watering, and adequate fertilization. Healthy lawns are more resistant to pest infestations.

Monitor and Inspect: Regularly inspect your lawn for signs of pest activity, such as brown patches, wilting grass, or evidence of feeding. Act promptly if you notice any problems.

Natural Predators: Encourage natural predators of lawn pests, such as birds and beneficial insects like ladybugs and ground beetles, by providing habitat and minimizing pesticide use.

Biological Control: Consider using biological control methods, such as nematodes or microbial insecticides, which target specific pests without harming beneficial organisms.

Chemical Control: If pest populations become severe, you may consider using targeted insecticides. Follow label instructions carefully and choose products that are appropriate for the specific pests you are targeting.

The NEWS SPORT



Branxton-Greta Darts Association
Round 8
Old Farts defeated Bullshooters 5
 High Score – Keith Thomas/ Dave Ison 140 High Peg Brian



Thomas 74 (Other Notables 100(+)) Terry Roulston x 2, Pete McLennan x 2, Sam Eveleigh, Dave Ison, Keith Thomas, Chris Thomas, Neil Bridge)
Bottom Feeders 10 defeated MP Misfits 3
 High Score – (M) Mitch Casey 125 (F) Julieanne Humphreys/ Glenda Reid 92 High Peg (M) Mitch Casey 92 (Other Notables 100(+)) Mitch Casey)
We Are Groot 7 defeated Stingers 6
 High Score – (M) Mark McTaggart 125 (F) Beth McCreadie 80 High Peg (M) Jaye Hodges 41 (F) Beth McCreadie 32 (Other Notables 100(+)) Austen Maher x 2, Jayden Zanardi x 2, Rob Standing, Pedro McKenzie, Jaye Hodges)
MP Maulers 8 defeated GWC 5
Round 09
Stingers 8 defeated GWC 5
 High Score – (M) Beau Neumann 140 High Peg (M) Mark Moylan 91 (Other Notables 100(+)) Keith Thomas x 2, Beau Neumann, Chris Thomas, Jaye Hodges)
We Are Groot 13 defeated Bottom Feeders 0
 High Score – (M) Jayden Zanardi/Tony Zanardi 140 (F) Sandra Zanardi 113 High Peg (M) Austen Maher 99 (F) Sandra Zanardi 38 (Other Notables 100(+)) Jayden Zanardi x 3, Austen Maher, Craig Greenaway x 2, Jim Mordue)
Old Farts 9 defeated MP Misfits 4
MP Maulers 7 defeated Bullshooters 6
 High Score – (M) Sam Eveleigh 117 (F) Kathy Ison 117 (Other Notables 100(+)) Sam Eveleigh x 3, Terry Roulston x 2, Darren Drayton x 2, Michael Whitmore x 2, Blake Goodyer)
Round 10
Old Farts 8 defeated We Are Groot 5
 High Score – (M) Jayden Zanardi 156 (F) Beth McCreadie 86 High Peg (M)

Mark Thomas 98 (Other Notables 100(+)) Austin Maher x 4, Jayden Zanardi, Mark McTaggart x 2, Rob Standing x 2, Norm Redgrove)
GWC 7 defeated Bottom Feeders 6
 High Score – (M) James Bondin 124 (F) Sam O'Sullivan 94 High Peg (M) Steve Ready 58 (F) Sam O'Sullivan 12 (Other Notables 100(+)) Beau Neumann, James Bondin, Jai Jansen)
Stingers forfeited to MP Maulers
Bullshooters 9 defeated MP Misfits 4
 High Score – (M) Dave Ison

150 High Peg (M) Pete McLennan 61 (F) Maree Souter 60 (Other Notables 100(+)) Dave Ison x 3, Will Towns, Sam Eveleigh, Pete McLennan, Grant Redfern)
Standings after Rd 10 – We Are Groot 16, Old Farts 14, MP Maulers 14, Bullshooters 12, Stingers 12, Bottom Feeders 6, MP Misfits 4, GWC 2.
Singles Championships
 On Tuesday 30th May the GBDA held their first Singles Darts Championships. There was an excellent turn-out with 35 current members competing – 27 in the males draw and 8 in the females.
 The winners on the night were Austin Maher in the men's and Lynn Towns in the ladies.
 Runners-up were Sam Eveleigh and Skye Norris.
 There were, as expected from our top players, a large amount of high scores (35 x 100(+)) and large peg-outs as indicated below:
 Austin Maher – 8 x 100(+) including peg-outs of 154 and 108 (in the final).
 Sam Eveleigh – 4 x 100(+) and a 94 peg-out.
 Lynn Towns – 1 x 100(+)



Chris Redmond wins this year's Branxton Open with a 1 over par 71

Branxton Open Sunday, 18th June
 Branxton Open Scratch Winner: Chris Redmond 71
A Grade Scratch Runner Up: Justin Ely 73
B Grade Scratch Winner:

Fraser Wilson 84
B Grade Scratch Runner Up: Paul Johansen 91 c/b
C Grade Scratch Winner: Lee Jackson 92
C Grade Scratch Runner Up: Pip Lancaster 97
A Grade Nett Winner: Victor Matt 70
A Grade Nett Runner Up: Riley Maytom 71 c/b
B Grade Nett Winner: Eddie Garland 71
B Grade Nett Runner Up: Tim Lane 75
C Grade Nett Winner: Luke Matt 72
C Grade Nett Runner Up: Matthew Schnell 74
Phil Shivren Memorial Trophy: Scott Duncan 94
Ted Meyn Memorial Trophy: Riley Maytom 71 c/b
Nearest The Pins:
 2nd/11th: A Grade: Lee Heuston 82 cms B Grade: D.Landers 143 cms C Grade: Johua Hare 11.5 m
 4th/13th: A Grade: N.Carey B Grade: - C Grade: D.Clack 850 cms
 9th/18th: A Grade: C. Redmond 340 cms B Grade: Ben Porter 650 cms C Grade: Lennie Porter 14 m
Pro's NTPin 18th Hole:
 M.Dawson 306 cms
Ball Competition: All players who didn't win a major prize
 Chris Redmond won this year's Branxton Open with a 1 over par, 71, to defeat last year's winner, Justin Ely by 2 strokes.
 As Captain Steve was quoted, "The course was set up well with a good test of golf under the conditions--very cold in the morning and windy for the later starters. Fraser Wilson followed his solid game from Saturday, to win the B Grade Scratch with an excellent 84, well clear of Paul Johnsen with a 91. Lee Jackson's 92 was good enough to defeat Pip Lancaster to win the C Grade Scratch. Victor Matt (70) won the A Grade Nett; Eddie Garland (71) won the B Grade Nett and Luke Matt (72) the C Grade Nett. Victor and his son Luke finished off a good day being the nett winners in their prospective grades.
 We would like to sincerely

thank the Major Sponsors, once again, that being JPG Engineering (Saturday) and Ingal Civil Products (Sunday), as well as our Pro Shop, for without these generous sponsors, such days as the Barnxton Open would not be such a success.
 We would also like to sincerely thank Bobby Hale, Trish McMillan and Cassie Harvey for volunteering to be spotters on Sunday and helping to run the half-way house. Bobby Hale once again displayed his great commitment to the club as he was there, with Captain Steve, from 6.30 before teeing off in the last group with the Captain--an effort much appreciated by Captain Steve and all members of the club. Well done Bob!
 We would also like to thank everyone else who helped over the weekend - an effort which make small clubs, like Branxton, stand out from the rest!

Saturday, 17th June
2BBB Medley Stableford and Singles in Conjunction
2BBB Winners: Garry Taylor and Geoff Geason 45 pts
Runners Up: Steve Ross and Dean Clack 44 pts
3rd Place: Adrian Chomiszak and Joshua Hare 43 pts c/b
4th Place: Kerrie Fry and John Gray 43 pts c/b
5th Place: Tim Lane and Fraser Wilson 43 pts
Singles Winner: Garry Taylor 41 pts
Runner Up: Dean Clack 39 pts
Third: Gary Walsh 36 pts
4th: Kerrie Fry 35 pts c/b
5th: Josh Hare 35 pts
Nearest the Pins:
 2nd/11th: A Grade: T.Grant 203 cms B Grade: Mick Carling 12 m C Grade: -
 4th/13th: A Grade: Mark Moylan 480 cms B Grade: Murray Kingston 291 cms C Grade: Joshua Hare 616cms
 9th/18th: A Grade: W.Davies 274 cms B Grade: Gary Wilton 275 cms C Grade: J.Elphick 408 cms

Blast from the Past

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Winners are Grinner!



Above: Our local champions, at back L-R, Tegan Bard, Kristy Harris, Nocolle Smith, Rebecca Thrift, Leah Thomas, Kerri-Ann Clark, Annie Bolton & front, Elisa Nevin & Haley Folpp. The photo was taken just after their 'back-to-back' win.

Our local netball team has won their grandfinal for the second year running. The girls went into the semis with only one loss for the season. Most of the team have been together since they played in the under tens with only a few changes along the way.
 Under the guidance of their coach, Sue McGregor, the team has shown some great skills, but, as Sue said the most important thing is, they are great friends.
 The team has two representative players, Kristy Harris (Goal Keeper) & Haylie Folpp (Goal Defence).
 The team was adamant that their success is because of their coach Sue & they would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her time & the effort she put into their team throughout the season.
CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!!!

The Branxton Ladies Golf Stableford round on Wednesday 14th June 2023.
 The results were;
 Winner: Jane Johansen - 36 points on a countback
 Runner Up: Jan Davidson - 36 points
 Third: Trish McMillan - 32 points
 Nearest the Pin: Jane Johansen
 Pro's NTPin 18th Hole: Gary Wilton 27.5 cms (\$102 Proshop Voucher)
 Ball Competition: All players who didn't win a major prize Garry Taylor and Geoff Geason combined well to win Saturday's 2BBB with an excellent 45 pts, just ahead of Club Captain Steve Ross and Dean Clack. Garry also won the individual event with his 41 pts, finishing off an excellent day. Local Club legenday member, Gary Wilton won the Pro's NTPin with a wonderful shot to the last, showing he has "still got it!"



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The News SPORT

SPORTS RESULTS

RESULTS GOLF

has been won by Teresa Taylor with 74 nett on countback to Marlene Rooney with Christine Tancred 3rd with 75 nett. No ball comp details available at this time

Thursday 15th June

The Vets 2 Person Ambrose has been won by the experienced pairing of James Hogg & Reddis with 62 net from Peter Huckfeldt & Higgy with 64.5 on countback to Morto & Rox in 3rd spot. Ball winners are: Gerry Irwin & Bernard Avery 64.75, Ruff & Kerry Bartlett 65, Bindii & Bill Freeman 65, Wayne Drayton & Wayne Irwin 65.5, Tom Bell & Rob Hannah 65.75, Ben Carmody & Mick Cunningham 66, Graham Morris & Gilly 66, Beepa & Larry Forbes 66.25, Ryan Wilson & Toot 67, Bill Harden & Scott Mitchell 67, Michael Tsakissiris & Greg Burke 67.25, Darrell Porter & Kevin Coleman 67.25, Terry Webb & Kevin Dick 67.25 and Graeme Smith & Noel Ellenor 67.25. Nearest-the-Pins to Graham Donaldson (3rd) Mick Cunninham (4th) Fluff (10th) & Phil Small (17th)

Saturday 17th June

The Members 2023 2 Person Ambrose Champions are Lee Heuston & Joshua Tracey with an 11 under round of 60, the handicap section of the Championship has been won by James Adamson & John Robertson with 60.75 Net, congratulations to our winners and all who turned out.

The Daily 2 Person Ambrose played in conjunction are Lee & Joshua with 59.75 from James & John 60.75 with Gary Arnold & Adrian Kent 3rd with 62 net. Ball winners are: Justin Ely & Nathan Pearson 62.75, Thomas Ryan & Tim Beasley 62.75, Larry Forbes & Phil Small 63.25, Zac Kronholm & Ty Cowley 63.5, Bryan & Clayton Babic 63.5, Craig Sharp & Mike Carter 63.75, Russ Lightfoot & Rex Talbot 64.5, Brandon Harris & Dusty Callaghan 64.5, Peter Puerta & John Chaenery 64.5, Jarrad

Hofnan & London McPaul 64.75, John Parish & Hugh Le 65, Max Hindmarsh & Dean Freebairn 65.25, Peter Huckfeldt & Higgy 65.5 and Bruce Miller & Terry Roughan 65.75 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Thomas Cunningham (3rd) Russ Lightfoot (4th) Peter Huckfeldt (10th) & Col Somerville (17th).

Sunday 18th June

Troy Scott has won the Weekly Challenge with a 41 point round from Kayden Webber 40 & Patrick Jakubowski 3rd with 39. Ball winners are: Michael Jordan 37, Jack Sylvester 37, Jackson Forsyth 37, Bryan Worms 35, Jai Kumar 35, Jeff Shanahan 35, Greg Morgan 35, Tim Beasley 34, Jake Saunders 34, Nathan Pearson 34, Justin Ely 34 Phousang Sihapanya 34, Neil Els 34, Craig Smith 34, Scott Priestley 34, Nathan Mason 33, Nathan Toll 33, David Kerr 32, John Brownlee 32, Adam Webber 31, Luke Silay 31, Dan Crush 31, Greg Cheeson 31 Justin Woodbine 31, Ryan Thomas 31, Dan Olsen 31, Steve Rawlings 31, Andrew Lucas 31, Tony Brusnsden 30, Stephen Warham 29, Frank Lucas 29, Blake Tamburrini 29, Sean Bartlett 29, Pete Roderick 29 & Chris Goward 29 c/b

Tuesday 20th June

The Tuesday Stableford has been won by Rex Talbot with 36 points on countback to Phousang Sihapanya with Kevin Gibson 3rd place also with 36 points. Ball winners are: Rox 35, Cam Day 34, David Peel 33, Peter Franks 33, Grant Day 33, John Carmody 32, Larry Forbes 32, Ryan Wilson 31, Garry Marsden 31, Phil Darcy 31, Dennis Donn 31, Bernard Avery 29, John Stewart 29, David Michael Menzies 28, Paul Smith 27 & Rod Payne 27 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Garry Marsden (3rd & 8th) & Phil Darcy (10th)

Wednesday 21st June

The Ladies 2 Person Ambrose has been won on countback by Dale Hamilton & Christine Tancred with 67.5 net from Jenny Chambers & Sue Wilson with Ann Grace-Smith & Wendy Wong 3rd with 70 net.

Thursday 22nd June

Another solid turnout in the Vets Medley Stableford has seen some great scores

returned in the chilly conditions with Division 1 to Peter Huckfeldt with 38 points from John McLoughney 37, Division 2 to Garry Clarke with 40 from Wazza 39 & Division 3 to Glenn Williams with 37 from Geoff Sweetman with 36. Ball winners are: John Stewart 38, Steve Jurd 37, Peter Payne 36, Spot 35, Ruff 35, Joe Olsen 35, Springy 35, Beepa 34, Silver 34, Gilly 34, Larry Forbes 34, Dave Blackburn 33, Dazza 33, Kerry Bartlett 33, Trevor Collins 33, Bruce Chambers 32, Gary Arnold 32, Fluff 32, Eric Smith 32, Norm Barry 32, Chris Taggart 32, James Hogg 32, Don Bradley 32, Kevin Gibson 31, Dennis Donn 31, David Peel 31, Gerry Irwin 31, Kerry Porter 31 & Bill Harden 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Beepa (3rd) John Stewart (4th) Lindsay Meyn (8th) John Grayson (10th) & Kevin Coleman (17th). Next week the Vets will play 2 Person Stabrose with a 7:45 Shotgun start.

Saturday 24th June

The 2023 Playoffs for the Mug of Mugs & Girls Goblet have been won by Mark Noble & Peree Watson, congratulations to our winners and to all who turned out. The Daily Competition winners played in conjunction are: A Grade Jackson Redman 67 net from Mark Noble 69, B Grade to Geoff Jarrett with 69 from Brendan Connor 72 on countback and C Grade to Aaron Marks with 67 from Max Hindmarsh with 73 on countback. Ball winners are: Dave Hollis 70, Luke Silay 72, Bruce Chambers 73, Victor Matt 73, Brendan Smith 73, Peter Wilton 74, Mick Goldman 74, Mike Carter 75, Spot 75, Tom Foster 75, Tony Butler 75, Larry Forbes 75, Evan Powell 76, Aaron Dries 76, Andrew Zok 76, Col Mitchell 77, Hopper 77, Muz 77, Nick Hain 77 & David Matt 77 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins to Nick Evans (3rd) (Trevor Collins (8th) & Fluff (10th).

The Branxton Ladies Golf

A Par round Wednesday 21st June 2023. The results were: Winner: Trish McMillan on -1 Runner Up: Di Goodare on -3, countback Third: Jan Davidson on -3

DO YOU REMEMBER?

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Colts Strong in Representative Opener

The Greta/Branxton Colts had a record seven senior players participate in the Group 21 representative team that played against Group 4 and Group 19 at Tamworth's Scully Park last Saturday.

Roy Bell played fullback, Aaron Clack started in the centres, Joey Griffiths played five-eighth, Ben Murray prop, Sam Russell second row, with Mark Bercini and Ben Russell starting from the bench. Geoff Pyne was also selected in the side but had to withdraw due to work commitments. Colts reserve grade coach John Hunter was coach of the side, with Luke Thomas his assistant. Also representing the Colts in the U/18's were Beau Thomas and Chris MacKay, who both started from the bench.

The first game saw Group 21 take on the Northern Tablelands' Group 19, with Group 21 coming away with a comfortable 36-6 victory. Bell and Ben Russell both scored tries in the victory,

with Griffiths playing a pivotal roll in setting up a number of tries.

The second game was much tougher against North-Western's Group 4, with Group 21 coming away with the Northern Division cup on the back of a 22-14 win.

Group 21 led 20-0 at half time and looked to be doing it comfortably, however the Group 4 "razzle-dazzle" type of football should never be written off, and midway through the second half all of a sudden it was 20-14. A late penalty goal sealed it for Group 21, with all Colts players performing creditably in the win.

The U/18's defeated Group 19 but were beaten in a close one by Group 4 after leading for most of the match. Beau Thomas and Chris MacKay played well in both games.

Both sides now take on the Central Coast at Gosford this Saturday, where the newly formed "Central Hunter

Power" divisional side will be selected. They have drawn Newcastle in the first round of the country championships.



Colts 2009 Group 21 representatives
From left to right:- Luke Thomas (assistant coach), Joey Griffiths, Aaron Clack, Ben Murray, Ben Russell, Roy Bell, Sam Russell, John Hunter (coach).
Front:- Mark Bercini

Branxton Vets

Thursday, 22nd June ~ individual Stableford

Division 1: Winner: Paul Johansen 30 pts (21.9) **Runner Up:** Greg Noble 29 pts (17.12) **Third:** Paul Anderson 28 pts (16.12) **4th:** Murray Kingston 28 pts (16.12) **Ball Winners:** Mike Ryan 27 pts; Reece Caldwell 27 pts; Wayne Oliver 26 pts; Eddie Barrett 25 pts; George Anderson 24 pts
Division 2: Winner: Graham Scobie 27 pts c/b (15.12) **Runner Up:** Glenn Fletcher 27 pts (15.12) **Third:** Billy Smith 27 pts (19.8) **4th:** Ray Showman 26 pts (17.9) **Ball Winners:** Robert Brooks 26 pts; Dennis Wright 25 pts; Gelf Geason 25 pts; Alan Cannon 24pts; Peter Tracey 24 pts
Ladies: Winner: Jan Scobie 30 pts (20.10) **SOD Runner Up:** Di Goodare 29 pts (18.11) (c/b) **Third:** Jane Davidson 27 pts (15.12) **4th:** Robyn Friis 27 pts (16.11) **NTPins: Ladies:** Greg Noble **Men:** Robyn Friis
47 players enjoyed a beautiful winter's day with fast greens making it more challenging. Jan Scobie recorded the Score of the Day with an excellent 30 pts to win the Ladies event as well as the extra kitty for the best score of the day. Paul Johansen is in a rich vein of form, winning Division 1 with his 30 pts (losing the Score of the Day on a countback). Greg Noble, another man in great form, finished runner up with a superb 29 pts from his 6 handicap. Paul Anderson was third a point further back with Murray Kingston 4th with the same score. Graham Scobie won a very competitive Division 2 with his 27 pts, on a countback from Glenn Fletcher and Billy Smith, with Ray Showman (the Wombats Competition leader) in the prizes again, finishing 4th with 26 pts. The sharp shooters for the day were Greg Noble and Robyn Friis. Next week's event is the Fun Day--3 clubs and a putter day--it will probably prove we don't really need the other clubs!

Branxton Golf Club Saturday, 24th June—Canadian Foursomes

Overall Scratch Winners: Robert Biles and Steve Eccles 74
Runners Up: Geoff Jones and Mark Moylan 78
Nett Winners: Dave Kinch and Kel Mather 65
Nett Runners Up: Eddie Garland and Pip Lancaster 67.125
Nett Third Place: Luke Rooney and Matthew Bain 67.125
***Everyone who didn't win a voucher won a ball**

NTPins:
2nd/11th-Greg Tearle 313 cms
4th-Mark Moylan 495 cms
13th- Geoff Geason 75 cms
9th/18th- Murray Kingston 140 cms Pro Pin

42 players enjoyed the Branxton's version of the Canadian Foursomes, with Captain Steve receiving a lot of positive feedback and requests to put it back on the calendar again. As he said, there were many good scores, showing that playing 2 shots before going to the foursomes format was a winner as there were enough chances to put the ball in a good scoring position. Robert Biles and Steve Eccles combined well to win the Scratch competition, quite clearly, with their 74 off the stick—very impressive. Geoff Jones and Mark Moylan finished runner up 4 shots back. Dave Kinch and Kel Mather won the Nett Competition with an excellent 65, with Eddie Garland, Pip Lancaster, Luke Rooney and Matthew Bain filling the minor placings just over 2 shots back. Undoubtedly the shot of the day belonged to Geoff Geason on the long 13th, with his tee shot finishing only 75 cms away—a great shot on this difficult Par 3. Murray Kingston won the Pro's Pin to the last with all players at least winning a ball. Next week's event is the Monthly Medal sponsored by Mortgage Choice Hunter Valley.

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The BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News **SPORT**



June Open Fishing Club Results

On the weekend of the 16th/17th/18th June, The Greta Fishing Club members rugged up and fished hard. The target species over the weekend was Salmon and the \$100 cash was won by Keza Duncan with a 0.99kg specimen just pipping the President Andrew Jacobs 0.65kg. Andrew fished well and finished second on points for the weekend with Trag, Salmon, Nannygai, Tailor and Snapper (129.2 points). Steve Nevin slightly extended his lead on the Competition at the halfway mark with Trag, Morwong, Squire, Trevally, Flathead and Tailor (145.9 points). Third for the weekend went to the young wipper snapper Lewis Jacobs who placed one hand again on the junior title with 87.1 points. Lily Langlands sits in second and Dominic Platt third but still within reach with 6

months to go. Keza Duncan looks to have the Womens title wrapped up on 425 points but the ever improved Summer Spliet-Miller sits in second ahead of Leah Langlands in third.

In the Overall Points Nevo leads over Keza, Joel Platt sits in third, Jakey is Fourth and Boony is fifth. The fish of the weekend was Leah Langlands 69.5cm Flathead which weighed in at 1.98kg. Well done Leah that is a fish of a lifetime!! Special mentions this month to Ethen Spliet-Miller weighing in for the first time this year with Squire and Flathead (47.8 points) and Mathew Jackson logged his first ever fish with the club a nice 0.62kg Tailor.

Coming up The Fishing Club are having their midyear party with

everyone welcome at The Greta Workers Club Friday 23rd June. Entertainment will be Popular Band The Avenue. Following that on the 7th/8th/9th July is the Seal Rocks/Sandbar weekend which is becoming the most popular trip on the calendar. Most members stay at Sandbar and The Club will put on a cook up on the Saturday night. The target species is Drummer for \$50. Robert Barnes has talked a big game claiming that Sandbar is his home ground but time will tell who will come on top.

Pictured above Leah with her trophy Flathead and Lewis Jacobs with the biggest Morwong weighed in for 2023 (With Ethen enjoying a beverage behind him)



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