



# The News

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1 March 2016

## Petition for better police presence in our local area draws large response

[www.change.org/p/mr-troy-grant-mp-mr-clayton-barr-more-police-presence-in-branxton-greta-north-rothbury](http://www.change.org/p/mr-troy-grant-mp-mr-clayton-barr-more-police-presence-in-branxton-greta-north-rothbury)

AN online petition, that was started about 2 months ago calling for a better police presence in our local area has gained good momentum with just on 200 locals signing.

Diane MacFarlane of Branxton took the initiative and commenced the online petition when she realised that the only way to make the Minister listen was by pure people force.

"I am very pleased with the current numbers that have signed and the comments being made. It is all very positive to our request," said Diane.

The petition reads: *Branxton-Greta-North Rothbury and surrounding areas are sadly neglected when it comes to safety and police support in this area. We as taxpayers are paying*

*to maintain a Police Station in Branxton, unfortunately the Police Station is rarely manned. This is not the fault of the serving police officers, they are being utilised in other towns away from this area. Currently if you have an "issue" you will generally talk to the staff at Muswellbrook Station. This is not good enough, Branxton is a good 60 minute drive from Muswellbrook. Local residents are urged to sign the petition and ask that the Minister for Justice and Police rethink the way in which our area is policed. With the current building/land developments being approved and on the increase the residents deserve better.* Steve Lawrence from

Branxton & former local policeman has made a very meaningful comment on the petition site: "I was a police officer in charge of Branxton Police Station between 1984 -1991. I lived in the residence at the station. That residence is now unliveable due to lack of updated repairs. I was on 24hour 7 day callouts. The policing area is very large and it's population has almost double. I was under the Cessnock and then Singleton Command, so police help was not far away. During my time we had a great police/public relations with the residents of the area. The

Police Station was mostly open to any enquiries and if not an eagle phone was near the stations main door where you could ask for advise or police attention. Now days one policeman starts his shift at Branxton and then drives to either Singleton or Muswellbrook to do their duties. This leaves the Greta/Branxton/North Rothbury area without police presence except for Highway Patrol attending to traffic duties. They are not compelled to attend to general duties. It leaves me feeling fairly angry that our area is now neglected and that

people now have the feeling of not contacting the local police station due it not being manned or hardly contactable. It doesn't help that the area is a safe ALP seat. Crime and anti-social behaviour mainly goes by without police attention. This has to be fixed by the 'powers to be' or incidents will get worse. Not happy especially feeling like past police that created a police friendly area has been ruined beyond repair.

If you wish to sign the petition please go to:



[www.change.org/p/mr-troy-grant-mp-mr-clayton-barr-more-police-presence-in-branxton-greta-north-rothbury](http://www.change.org/p/mr-troy-grant-mp-mr-clayton-barr-more-police-presence-in-branxton-greta-north-rothbury)

### Cessnock City Council adopts first Reconciliation Action



Cessnock City Council has recently adopted its inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) developed in collaboration with members of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Advisory Committee. Joining only a handful of councils in NSW to adopt a RAP, the plan will provide Council in building cultural ties and opportunities with the community. The 2011 Census recorded 4.8 per cent of the Cessnock City population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander—a number well above the national average.

"Cessnock City Council's vision is to build on the unity and respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the greater community," Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said. "This is the first in a series of plans that will reflect our commitment to create meaningful, effective change within our organisation and we hope to lead by example."

Council currently engages with the Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre, Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal Education Consultative Group to assist with the delivery of a range of programs celebrating NAIDOC Week. Council is committed to deliver the 13 actions of the plan in 2016 including the support of NAIDOC Week, raising internal awareness and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander cultural protocols. Furthermore Council will commence the development of strategies that will help to establish future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic and employment opportunities. The RAP signifies the path on which the community will work with Council to build a better future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

## New road rules for cyclists start today

FROM today cyclists who do not obey the new road laws could be facing fines that have increased, in some cases, by as much as 500%.

As from today the fine for not wearing a helmet has risen from \$71 to \$319, and the penalties for running a red light, riding dangerously and not stopping at pedestrian crossings have increased from \$71 to \$425.

NSW drivers will also be affected by new laws from today; Drivers must leave at least one metre of space when passing a cyclist in speed zones of 60km/h or less, and leave at least 1.5 metres in higher speed zones.

Those caught not allowing the minimum distance when passing a bicycle rider will face a \$319 fine and lose two demerit points.

Under the Road Rules on the NSW legislation website, a bicycle is considered a vehicle and has the same road rules as other vehicles.

Our Go Together campaign has more information to help bicycle riders understand the new laws being introduced. The helmet laws for cyclists of all ages in NSW are there to help prevent head injuries and brain damage from falls and crashes.

The Road Rules state that a bicycle rider on roads and road-related areas must wear an approved bicycle helmet securely fitted and fastened. This applies to all cyclists, regardless of age, including children on bicycles with training wheels and any child being carried as a passenger on a bike or in a bicycle trailer.

Other rules that are enforceable are:-

#### Bicycle lanes

When a bicycle lane is marked on the road and has bicycle lane signs, cyclists must use it unless it is impracticable to do so. Although these lanes are for bicycles, cars may use them for not more than 50 metres to enter or leave the road at a driveway or intersection.

#### Bus lanes

Bus lanes can also be used by bicycles, motorcycles, taxis, hire cars and vehicles operated by, or under the direction of transport authorities.

#### Bus-only lanes

When the words 'Buses Only' appear on a bus-lane sign, only buses are allowed to drive in these lanes.

#### Side by side

You are allowed to ride two abreast, but not more than 1.5 metres apart.

#### Footpaths

Children under 12 years of age can ride on a footpath. An adult rider who is supervising a cyclist under 12 may also ride with the young cyclist on the footpath. Cyclists are allowed to ride on footpaths where indicated by signs.

#### Shared paths

Across NSW shared paths can be used by both pedestrians and bicycle riders but riders must travel at a speed that is safe for them and the pedestrians they encounter.

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Address all communications to:- The General Manager,  
PO Box 152, Cessnock 2325 NSW

### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Council advises of the following Meeting which is open to the public:-

DATE	TIME	COMMITTEE MEETING	VENUE
2 March 2016	6.30 pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers

The agenda for this meeting will be available for viewing at Council's Administration Building and Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries from 3.30 pm on the Friday preceding the meeting.

Also, Council has the Agenda for Council Meetings on the Internet available from 3.30 pm on the Friday, preceding the meeting date at <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au>.

PO BOX 152  
CESSNOCK NSW 2325

STEPHEN GLEN  
GENERAL MANAGER

### LANDFILL FEES & CHARGES CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2016

Council advises, that on Clean up Australia Day, Sunday 6 March 2016, normal fees and charges will be applied to all material received at Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre (Cessnock Landfill) unless from a **registered Clean up Australia Day site**. A waiver from landfill fees will be issued to Registered Site Supervisors and **must be produced** at the Centre to receive exemption from fees.

To register a site for Clean Up Australia Day go to [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au).

### PUBLIC EXHIBITION MASTERPLAN & CYCLING STRATEGY

At its meeting of 17 February 2016, Council resolved to place on public exhibition the Draft Bridges Hill Park, Convent Hill and East End Oval Masterplan and Draft Cessnock Cycling Strategy.

The public exhibition period will be from Monday 22 February 2016 to Friday 25 March 2016. The documents can be viewed at the following locations:

Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section);  
Cessnock Public Library;  
Kurri Kurri Public Library;  
Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until 4.00 pm Friday 25 March 2016 via email [recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post.

PO BOX 152  
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN  
GENERAL MANAGER

### Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP)

Cessnock City Council is committed to providing long term planning for pedestrian access and mobility, to promote cycling and walking as desirable for short trips and to link public transport services and community facilities. Pedestrians form the largest single road user group. Most individual trips, regardless of the type of transport used, begin and / or finish with a walk section, making walking a major element of all travel. Bitzios Consulting, on behalf of Cessnock City Council, is preparing a Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) to improve the safety, convenience, connectivity, and accessibility of pedestrian routes across the wider Cessnock LGA.

A PAMP is a comprehensive strategic and action plan to develop pedestrian policies and plan for the provision of pedestrian facilities.

The PAMP aims to:

- improve pedestrian linkages with major destinations such as public transport, shops, and schools; and
- provide safe and convenient pedestrian facilities that cater for the needs of all pedestrians.

A preliminary inspection of some of the key pedestrian routes in the study area is being conducted in October 2015 to give an indication of some of the existing pedestrian and mobility issues needing to be addressed. These routes were selected based on a prioritisation system, which considered the following criteria:

- proximity to pedestrian trip attractors and generators;
- concerns from community feedback;
- location of pedestrian accidents; and
- road hierarchy;
- routes close to major roads (e.g. Wollombi Road) were prioritised.
- Feedback from stakeholders, including local residents, workers, and business owners in the study area is a valuable resource.

The information from this survey will be used to identify areas of concern and inform recommendations for improvements to pedestrian facilities.

**Have your say**

Your ideas are important. We would like to hear your views on shaping our transport future. You can provide comments and suggestions at any time, or register your details for regular updates by emailing us at: [PAMP@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:PAMP@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) The [Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan \(PAMP\) Community Survey](#) is now open for you to provide your feedback.



## What's On

### Boys In The Band

11 March 2016



Presented by CPAC & SMA Entertainment by Design

Celebrate the world's greatest hits from the most iconic bands of the 20th century!  
Billed as the feel good show of the year, the high energy concert features over 50 years of tunes such as *Walk Like a Man, Sherry, Can't Buy Me Love, Let It Be, Hey Jude, Imagine, Blame it on the Boogie, ABC, Unchained Melody, Bridge Over Troubled Water, Surfin' USA, Good Vibrations, Staying Alive* and medleys of the biggest hits the world has ever known.

### Ian Moss

26 March 2016

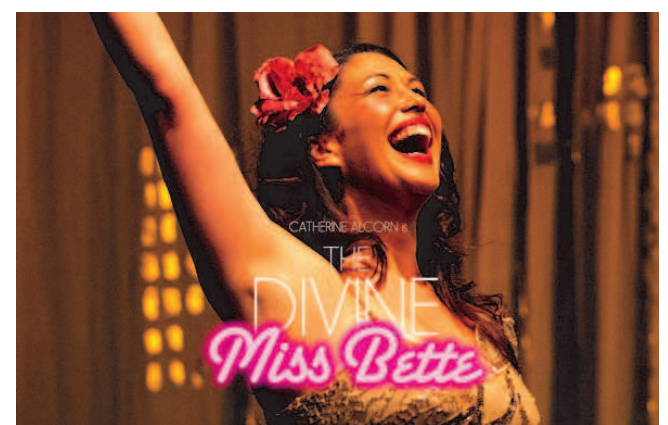


### Six Strings Classic Tour

Experience the powerfully resonating classic songs of Cold Chisel and Ian Moss.  
Only once in a blue moon would I try doing a solo show in the old days, and that was with an electric guitar. I thought it would be easy but it wasn't. You have to reappraise the whole thing, play differently, change your solo style. You have to go back to the song, look at what the lyrics are about, find a new way to express them. It's a real challenge, but a rewarding one.

### The Divine Miss Bette

30 March 2016



### With Catherine Alcorn

With all of Bette Midler's great hits, including *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, The Rose, Friends* and more  
Tired of the big smoke's bright lights and constant applause, *The Divine Miss Bette* is in dire need of a soil change and has decided to go bush. In 2016, she's heading to New South Wales' most vibrant, vital and vivacious town... and she's also heading to Cessnock



## Meet Cessnock's Young Citizen of the Year



Photo: (L-R) Australia Day Ambassador Jon Dee and Hayden Gray receiving his Australia Day award at East Cessnock Bowling Club.

2016 Young Citizen of the Year Hayden Gray has high hopes for the local youth scene in the Cessnock City local government area. Hayden, a modest and outstanding achiever, has been recognised for his numerous contributions to his community and participation in youth initiatives.

After receiving his award from Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent at the Australia Day celebrations, Hayden remarked feeling humbled and never expected to be a recipient. "You hear about really fantastic people who receive an Australia Day Award and I didn't think that I would be among them," Hayden said.

No stranger to a demanding schedule, Hayden has juggled the commitments of school, work and leadership positions across a number of youth committees.

His commitments have included working at Coles, NSW Youth Committee, NSW and National Schools Constitutional Convention, YMCA NSW YP 2014 and 2013 Legislative Council and Committee of Criminal Justice, to mention a few.

"I'm particularly passionate about youth mental health issues in the Cessnock City area. There are limited facilities and services available in the region that young people know about."

"I'd like to see more mental health awareness programs in the region and avoid commuting to places like Maitland and Newcastle."

Currently the closest free community mental health centre that services young people is Headspace Maitland, which Hayden believes too far to be convenient for young people going through difficult times.

After an early acceptance to the University of New England studying a five year degree in Criminology and Law, Hayden has now moved to Armidale but is still very much connected to the issues that face Cessnock City's youth community.

"It is so important that our community has passionate young people such as Hayden proactively seeking change," CI Pynsent said.

"It was an honour to award him with this award, and on behalf of the community we wish Hayden all the best in his future endeavours".

## Fitzgibbon likely to run for new boundary adjusted seat of Hunter



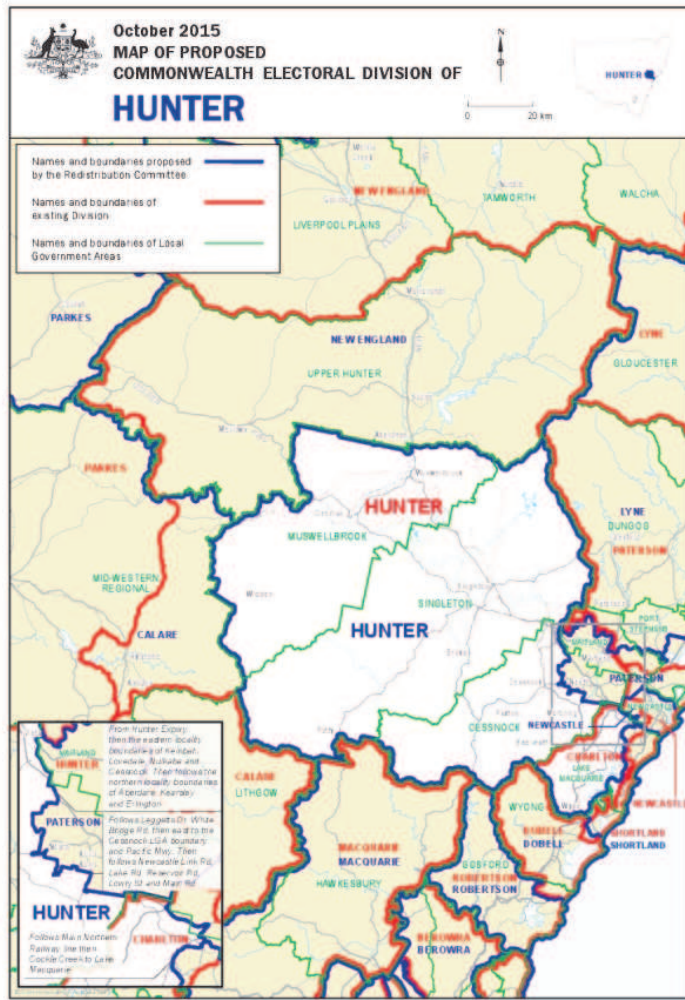
JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Who is currently the Member for Hunter & Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The announced retirement of the ALP member for Shortland, Jill Hall MP, at the next election could see our current member for Hunter, Joel Fitzgibbon MP, stand for the new proposed redistributed seat of Hunter.

Pat Conroy is likely to stand and take Jill Hall's seat of Shortland leaving Fitzgibbon likely unopposed as the ALP candidate for the proposed new seat.

This scenario would then negate a contest between Fitzgibbon & entrenched political heavyweight Bob Baldwin for the seat of Paterson.

At right: the proposed new redistributed seat of Hunter



## New Branxton Markets have successful opening



Volunteer support John & Jenny Partridge

THE new St Brigid's Markets had their inaugural market on the 21st February &, according to organizers, it was up to their expectations. The markets featured locally made arts, crafts, home wares, candles,

jewellery, handbags, ladies and children's clothing, soap and gifts & produce sourced from local suppliers. They are a community based initiative, run by volunteers from our local Catholic Parish



Stallholder Charmaine Fisher with son Callan

community. Stallholders will be charged a minimal site fee

The next market will be on the 20th March ... please do support them.

with 100% of the proceeds being donated back to the Catholic Parish. These funds will be used for the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings within the school grounds.



Above: part of the good crowd that attended the inaugural Branxton Markets. Below: Branxton Lions Club member Allan Humphries collecting donations at the markets. The money collected was divided equally between the Lions Club & Branxton RSL Sub-Branch.



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# What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

THE 'Miller Park User Group' has been very proactive in trying to determine the 'best possible use' outcome for all users of the area. Cessnock Council, some years ago, finalised a 'Masterplan' for the park but that all changed with Councils' acquisition of the strip of land between Maitland Street and Miller Park. After many meetings with the 'user group' and representatives from Cessnock Council there appears to be some order & planning under way. The last meeting, held on the 22nd February 2016, decided on the following: \* Planning advice letter to be provided for outdoor netball court (sent 25 February 2016). \* Fencing and levelling of vacant land to commence late March/early April. \* Funding for the Miller Park Masterplan is being

considered for inclusion in Council's 2016-17 budget. The Masterplan would supersede the current Miller Park Masterplan (see Cessnock Councils website for full details: [http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/resources/file/Recreation/Miller%20Park\\_Masterplan.pdf](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/resources/file/Recreation/Miller%20Park_Masterplan.pdf)). User groups are a key stakeholder and would be consulted during the preparation of the (new) Masterplan. \* In regards to the design for the access road and car parking upgrade that was circulated 6-12 months ago; Council are working to identify appropriate funding sources to undertake the works. \* Installation of bin at tennis/netball amenities will be done by end of March. \* Cricket Club are interested in exploring options for additional storage. Discussion of options to continue. \* Cricket Club to enquire about grass swale to improve drainage between amenities and playing field. Cricket Club will fund

works. \* Recreation Needs Analysis is scheduled for exhibition in April. Comments can be submitted during this time. \* The Samaritans to lodge application with Council to construct outdoor gym adjacent to playground. Construction is scheduled to be completed late May." No doubt there is still a fair



**YANCOAL MUST DO THE RIGHT THING BY WORKFORCE**  
I welcome Yancoal Australia's announcement that it has successfully completed new financing arrangements if it means more certainty for the workforce and an on-going presence in the Hunter region. But it's also an opportunity for the new entities who now appear to control the mining assets to act in good faith and respect the rights of the workforce. New partners Industrial Bank Co. Ltd, Financial Products Ltd, and United NSW Energy are most likely to meet with success if they place an appropriately high value on the Yancoal's workforce and deal with them and their representatives in good faith. A good start would be to

review Yancoal's current attempts to use a new company vehicle to push staff on to new contracts with reduced conditions of employment. The Company and the workforce want the same thing; a sustainably viable mining business. Those who now have a say in the Company's decision making as a result of today's (last week) deal should understand and realise that a skilled and appreciated workforce will be critical to the success we all want. *Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter*  
**WE NOW KNOW WHO WE ARE DEALING WITH**  
Malcolm Turnbull promised an "open and constructive conversation with the people" about tax reform, with all options on the table. His response to Labor's negative gearing and capital gains tax policy was therefore disappointing but revealing. The PM could simply have acknowledged Labor's

suggestions as contributions to the debate and then put them in the bottom drawer with the other 700 submissions it has received to the Tax White Paper. After all Labor's suggestions have been supported and praised by a range of respected commentators. Instead he responded in a manner designed to incite fear and hysteria – the residential property market would be "smashed" and the value of "every single house" would be reduced – without evidence to support this view. Mr Turnbull, the jury is no longer out. Your actions and words are not those of a principled leader inclined to provide fair-minded policy across all constituencies. Rather you are revealed as just another desperate politician saying and doing whatever it takes to score points and protect vested interests. At least it is nice to know finally with whom we are dealing. *Writers details withheld at*



way to go until all is in place & that there will be some 'loggerheads' between some users. To the 'Miller Park User Group' keep up the good work &, at the end of the day, the local area is assured of better sporting facilities.

THE new St Brigid's Markets had their inaugural market on the 21st February & from all reports it was up to the organizers expectations. The markets featured

locally made arts, crafts, home wares, candles, jewellery, handbags, ladies and children's clothing, soap and gifts & produce sourced from local suppliers. I did go and have a look & it did look good. They are a community based initiative, run by volunteers from our local community. Stallholders will be charged a minimal site fee with 100% of the proceeds being donated back to the Catholic Parish.

These funds will be used for the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings within the school grounds. The next market will be on the 20th March ... please do support them.

Unfortunately, the last couple of weeks has seen the passing of two local iconic residents; Doss Bercini of Branxton & Janice Hodges of Greta. I intend to run an article on both these wonderful

women in our next issue. Vale Dos & Janice.

Easter this year falls on the 25 ~ 28 March and would normally see a paper printed on the 28th March. To do that would mean missing my youngest son's wedding which is something I would not contemplate. Without speaking to our printer I would guess the paper will be the following week. I will confirm next issue.

Cheers, Mike

**writers request.**  
**ABOLISH 'ABOVE THE LINE' VOTING**  
Senators David Leyonhjelm, John Madigan, Ricky Muir et al, how can you complain about lack of democracy when, in Ricky Muir's case, 99.61 per cent of the electorate did not vote for him? If the electors did the right thing and voted "below the line", then they would direct their preferences the way they wanted, rather than being determined by a secret back-room deal. A simple fix would be to abolish "above the line" voting. The disadvantage would be an increase in informal votes (probably by those who do not know or care about the electoral process). The advantage would be a true vote by those who know the system and care about the future of the

country. If the "above the line" system remains, then the changes proposed allow voters to direct their preferences. (Isn't that what voting is about?) If the end result is fewer donkey votes, then fewer donkeys will be elected. A win-win, I would have thought. *M. McGregor, Coffs Harbour*

**THEY SAID IT .....**  
"Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has many, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." ~ Charles Dickens  
"Standing still is the fastest way of moving backwards in a rapidly changing world." ~ Lauren Bacall

## 'The News' now on-line

Hopefully by the time this issue is printed we will have our web site up & running. At the time of going to press I was assured that it will be accessible & working correctly. A big thank you to Leigh Bergin of Buzido Website & Application Development who made the job so easy for me.



<http://thebranxtonnews.com.au/>

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Letters to the editor can be sent to:  
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## Seeking community views on cycling strategy

Cessnock City Council is calling on the community to provide feedback on the draft Cycling Strategy, currently on exhibition until 25 March 2016.

With a significant population growth projected by 2031, Council saw a need to undertake planning for the future of cycling opportunities and facilities within the Cessnock local government area. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent hopes that Cessnock and

surrounds can be known as a bicycle friendly environment in the future.

“Cycling is not only a great way to keep fit and healthy, it is one of the most efficient modes of transport with growing popularity,” Cr Pynsent said.

An estimated one per cent of the current 1.15 million visitors to the Hunter Valley Wine Country each year are cyclists, directly contributing around \$5.92 million into the local economy—a figure which could



@ Photo: Taken at the opening of the Hunter Expressway.



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 (opposite ALDI)

more than triple with the construction of cycle ways linking key destinations. “Solid cycling infrastructure will complement the magnificent surrounds of Hunter Valley Wine Country and will not only serve our local community

but will be a great asset to the tourism industry.”

The recommendations in the draft strategy are based on a comprehensive cycling facilities audit, community and stakeholder consultation, industry trend analysis and consideration of local

environmental, economic and social influences. Cr Pynsent says input from residents is crucial and urges the community to get involved during the exhibition period.

Visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition) to

view the draft strategy document.

Hard copies are also available at the Council’s Administration Building and Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries.

For more information please call Customer Service on 4993 4300.

## Closing date for Singleton Mayoral Scholarship minor categories extended

Are you thinking of becoming a barista or a cake decorator but don’t have the cash to do a course?

The Singleton Mayoral Scholarship program has extended applications for one week in its minor

categories so it is not too late to apply for one of 12 x \$500 scholarships on offer. The minor categories include Hospitality, Retail, Agriculture and Community Service that incorpo-

rates people pursuing careers in nursing, childcare or aged care.

Applicants must reside in Singleton and the aim of the scholarships is to assist local residents to achieve

qualifications to further their career opportunities. There has been a strong uptake in the major categories for the 2016 scholarship opportunities with more than 50 applications received ahead of the closing date on Sunday.

However, the minor categories will remain open for a further week, until Sunday 6 March, in a bid to attract more applications.

Examples of short courses eligible for consideration in these categories include RSA, RCG, youth work, customer service, retail, agriculture, aged care, child care and nursing.

The Singleton Mayoral Scholarship was established in 2009 and celebrates community contribution and academic achievements of people in the Singleton Community.

Since 2009, the program has awarded more than \$120,000 in scholarships to deserving recipients.

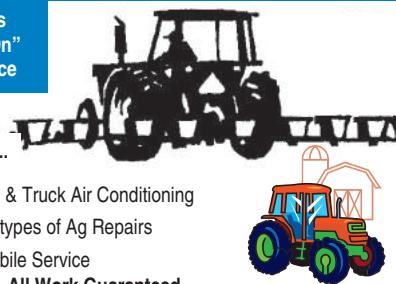
To apply for the Singleton Mayoral Scholarship Program visit [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/scholarships](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/scholarships)

### Daily Thoughts ....

"Nobody believes the official spokesman, but everybody trusts an unidentified source." - Ron Nesen

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# Members say ....



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Congratulations to Vicki and the team and the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre for a magnificent season launch event last Tuesday evening. The venue was alive with colour and movement for the showing of *4000 Miles*. This captivating production had the audience mesmerised and it was great to see so many supportive members attend the night. The CPAC is such a great asset to our local arts community. I look forward to what will no doubt be another full, exciting season ahead. Be sure to visit [www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au](http://www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au) to book tickets for your next special occasion or a great night out.

\*\*\*

The 2016 Mayoral Academic Scholarships closed last Friday 26 February 2016. I cannot stress the importance these scholarships play in the lives of our local students. They may give you or someone you know that extra helping hand toward achieving a personal goal or set you on the path of the career of your dreams. For full eligibility and application details visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships) If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office on 4993 4210 to discuss.

\*\*\*

We have some amazing local events coming up throughout the early part of the year that I am looking forward to. The annual Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Fest will run from 18 to 20 March. If you have not been to a Nostalgia Fest you are truly missing out. The family friendly weekend is all about fifties and sixties rock n roll, classic cars, fashion and much more. The festival is free to enter and tickets to indoor shows may be purchased through the Kurri Kurri Information Centre of at the event door. Visit [www.kurrikurri nostalgiefestival.com.au](http://www.kurrikurri nostalgiefestival.com.au) for full details.

This year will also see the exciting new STOMP festival on Sunday 17 April 2016. Stay tuned for more details or visit [www.cessnockstompfestival.com.au](http://www.cessnockstompfestival.com.au)

\*\*\*

I was so pleased to see Cessnock City Council's Environmental Health team to continue working with the NSW Heart Foundation on the Healthier Oils initiative. The initiative encourages local food businesses to permanently switch to a healthier frying oil in the interest of heart health and in response to customer demand for healthier food choices. Our Environmental Health Officers are actively working with local food businesses to make the oil change by providing information, education and incentives. Check out the new launch video on our website for more information [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/inspections/healthyoils](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/inspections/healthyoils)

\*\*\*

'Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm' ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR –

### DATA - IN TODAY'S WORLD IT'S OUR STATES MOST VALUABLE ASSET

During the 1800's we started to vigorously mine coal. At the time Governments had little idea about its value and essentially "gave away" leases and licences and freeholds. This continued into the 1900s and in some sense continues today, although they are not "given away" quite so cheaply these days. Having made these types of mistakes in the past one wonders what mistakes may lay ahead of us. What will the State "give away" next?

I have one word for you – data! Not sexy, not riveting, not jaw gaping and not even remotely interesting to most. But please, read on and hear me out. My starting point is this: I am not a technology, IT, financial accountant or data analytic expert of any nature. In fact most readers would know more about a computer or smartphone than I do. But one of the great privileges that have been afforded me by the voters of our community is the opportunity to have access to knowledge and wisdom in others. And after each of these events I spend countless hours reflecting and trying to put the bigger picture together. The State of NSW, and any other State and/or our Federal body for that matter, is sitting on masses of data. People's names and address, date of birth, marital status, education level, income, likes, dislikes, health status, hobbies, aspirations, possessions and all other manner of detail are just the type of thing that is held on a computer somewhere by a Government department of some description. With the growing ability of technology to process, mine and decipher information, that data is incredibly valuable to corporate and multinational giants that have the ability to analyse it all. As an example, consider this thought: your supermarket gives you a "rewards" card and then when you make supermarket purchases it registers and then all of a sudden the supermarket knows what biscuit you eat, the fact that you buy nappies and your preference for seafood; suddenly they are sending to you vouchers for "your" favourite biscuits, "your" newborn baby and "your" various seafood flavours. You have been profiled! Imagine if they also knew how much money you earned, your age, your debt, your health and your occupation? Data is an incredibly valuable asset and my single greatest fear in the very short and soon coming years is that we "give it away" just as we gave away coal. Please let us learn from history.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR HARMONY DAY** Cessnock Harmony Day Festival is being held on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016**. It will be outside in the courtyard of Cessnock Performing Arts Centre from 10.00am to 2.00pm (earlier in the day this year). It is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity with family and friends – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. Unfortunately, we all live in a time when successive Governments have sought to divide and disband us.

There will be free entertainment, food, market stalls and free kids activities. The theme this year is 'diversity is our strength' and promotes inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. The history of Harmony Day is held to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which is held worldwide on 21 March – this was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1966. Please attend this year's local festival to make it a great community event – if we can turn out as elves or for Christmas Carols or for Nostalgia, surely we can roll out for harmony and peace and acceptance.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter & Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Recently the Labor Opposition released a plan to restrict future negative gearing opportunities. The policy would not affect any existing investments. It would apply only to new investments after July 1, 2017. So no one with existing investments would be affected.

The policy has two objectives. First, it is a savings measure which will free up money for health, education, roads and telecommunications. Remember, seventy percent of the benefits of negative gearing goes to the highest ten percent of earners. Second, it is designed to stimulate the construction of new housing which adds to the housing stock and gives young people a better chance of buying their first home.

\*\*\*\*\*

No one can imagine how horrific it must be for someone to see their child, partner or parent in immense pain, knowing relief is available but illegal. There are thousands of Australians who are suffering from unbearable pain, muscle spasticity from conditions like epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and nausea resulting from chemotherapy that may benefit from medicinal cannabis. There are too many stories of people suffering – and this is unacceptable in a modern society.

I'm pleased that legalising medicinal cannabis now has bi-partisan support. With the governments of New South Wales and Victoria pushing ahead with state-based schemes and Queensland joining those states in taking part in clinical trials, Labor will continue to encourage the Government to take action to implement a national scheme which ensures equity of access and a safe and reliable supply for the states and territories which chose to participate.

For some Labor's decision will be controversial but we are driven by science and compassion – we firmly believe the time has come for a national scheme.

Labor is not considering allowing legal access to a drug for recreational use. It is about ensuring there is a legal and regulated market so that family members and carers aren't forced to rely on the black market to relieve the pain of their loved ones.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cyberbullying is an important concern for all schools and as a community we all have a role to play in helping children have safe and enjoyable experiences online.

The 2016 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence will be held on Friday 18 March. This is a key anti-bullying event for schools and communities to help deliver the powerful message that violence and bullying will not be tolerated.

In support of the National Day of Action, the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner ([www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)) will be hosting free Virtual Classrooms—a series of interactive presentations to help students understand and manage cyberbullying and communicating online.

For more information about National Day of Action please visit

[www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Victoria Racing Club (VRC) is providing communities across Australia and New Zealand with a chance to host the \$175,000 18-carat gold Emirates Melbourne Cup trophy and racing identities in their towns and cities.

Tenders have opened for the 14th annual Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour, which will see the coveted trophy travel across Australia and New Zealand, bringing communities together in celebration of the 'People's Cup'.

Through this year's Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour the VRC will enable many more communities the opportunity to be part of the Cup's rich cultural narrative in a very special way. The Cup truly uplifts communities wherever it goes.

To nominate a town or city visit [www.melbournecuptour.com.au](http://www.melbournecuptour.com.au). All tender forms need to be completed online and before 5pm AEST Monday 11 April 2016.

Since 2003, the Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour has travelled more than 456,000 kilometres to 333 towns and cities, providing communities with a once-in-a-life opportunity to experience firsthand the magic of one of the world's greatest sporting events.

\*\*\*\*\*

The CommBank Staff Community Fund is awarding \$2 million in grants of up to \$10,000 each to youth-focused organisations nationwide. If your organisation has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, you may be eligible to apply at [commbank.com.au/grants](http://commbank.com.au/grants) before 28 March 2016.

\*\*\*\*\*

Nominations are now open for the 2016 Telstra Business Awards. For 24 years the national Awards program has recognised the best of Australia's entrepreneurial spirit and the courage of small and medium business, helping them reach new levels of success.

Our local businesses, and the incredible people who run them, are central to the strength of our local economy. It's important for us to celebrate them and continue to encourage their growth.

I encourage everyone to get behind these unsung heroes by nominating a local business to show the rest of

NSW the excellent operations we have her in the Hunter electorate.

To nominate visit [www.telstrabusinessawards.com](http://www.telstrabusinessawards.com) or call the Telstra Australian Business Awards on 1800AWARDS for further information.

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

## FREE TICKETS TO PREMIER'S GALA CONCERTS

I wish to advise seniors that free tickets to the 2016 Premier's Gala Concerts are available.

The Premier's Gala Concerts are a showcase of Australia's best and upcoming musical theatre and recording artists and are the highlight of the 2016 NSW Seniors Festival which will be celebrated throughout NSW from 1 to 10 April.

The theme for this year's NSW Seniors Festival is *Grow Young*. It is a reminder that no matter what your age, it's never too late to learn, try new things and be inspired.

The Premier's Gala Concerts are not to be missed, so get your tickets today. Now in its 59<sup>th</sup> year, NSW Seniors Festival (formerly NSW Seniors Week) is the largest festival for seniors in the Southern Hemisphere, with over 300,000 people taking part in more than 1,000 free and discounted events.

Key events for this year's Seniors Festival include the Premier's Gala Concerts, the Young at Heart Film Festival, the NSW Seniors Festival Expo and the 2016 Comedy Debate. The NSW Government has also sponsored more than 200 organisations to host local events right across NSW. For more information about the 2016 NSW Seniors Festival, go to <http://www.nswseniorsweek.com.au/>

## FIRST PARLIAMENTARY WEEK OF THE YEAR

Last week saw the first sitting of the NSW Parliamentary year. As I have written previously, my job when I am in the House is all about speaking up on behalf of our community, and making sure your concerns are heard.

My time in the House last week included presenting committee reports and asking questions to Ministers, however I did have the sad honour of informing the House of passing of well-known Upper Hunter identity, Maurice 'Maurie' Gray. Maurie was probably the last commercial market gardener in the Upper Hunter and he was also closely associated with the greyhound club in Muswellbrook for more than 50 years. Maurie will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

If you have any issues or information that you believe should be considered to be raised in Parliament, then please contact my office using the details provided at the bottom of this State Matters.

**Contact:** My Email address; [upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au), phone numbers; 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook 2333.

Cheers, Michael



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**Overweight and Obesity**

Overweight and obesity is a National Health Priority Area, currently affecting almost 63% of Australian adults and 25% of Australian children. The latest statistics show 37% men and women aged 25-50 years are overweight, and 27% are obese. It has been predicted that by 2025, based on current figures, nearly 80% of Australians will be overweight or obese.

The causes of overweight and obesity are not easy to define. Although diet and physical activity are central to maintaining a healthy weight, social, environmental, behavioural, genetic and physiological factors all play their part in contributing to weight gain. For many, weight gain is hard to avoid and very difficult to reverse. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines overweight and obesity as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation (build-up) that may impair health. We gain weight when we eat more energy (kilojoules) than we use up through exercise or activity. Energy is

measured in kilojoules (kJ) and different foods provide different amounts of energy. Gaining weight can increase your risk of health problems, like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. People with most of their body fat around their waist, which surrounds our vital organs, are at an increased risk. Risk factors for weight gain include living in inner regional, outer regional and remote areas of Australia, and living in a lower



socioeconomic area. Only one in 10 Australians who are trying to lose weight seek advice from a dietitian. Other allied health professionals such as doctors and pharmacists can also provide advice and materials to help people want to lose weight or manage their weight. Weight management is an important part of pharmacy practice, and measuring body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference (WC) is a way of identifying if a person is overweight or obese and may benefit from advice about weight management. People also often have unrealistic expectations of how much weight loss is possible. Weight loss goals should be realistic (e.g. 1-2

kg per month), and even small amounts of weight loss improve health and wellbeing. Weight management must focus on health improvement and behavioural change rather than only on weight loss. Weight management is a long-term strategy. It must be initiated by the individual and then maintained with the help of healthcare professionals, family, friends and carers. It involves setting realistic goals, self-monitoring behaviour and progress, understanding stimulus control (recognising and avoiding triggers that prompt unplanned eating), modifying thinking and problem solving. Lifestyle interventions are the first approach in weight management, with an aim to reduce energy intake, increase physical activity and encourage behavioural change. Interventions that manage all three of these areas have been shown to be more effective than those that address only one or two. More intensive interventions of very low-energy diets (e.g. meal replacement products), weight loss medicines and even surgery may be required if no weight loss or reduction in waist circumference is seen after three months. Weight loss medicines and products should be used with a healthy diet and increased physical activity for consumers who are overweight and obese in order to highlight the need for a healthy diet, regular physical activity and lifestyle change to achieve and maintain a healthy weight.



After a relaxing Christmas and New Year with family and friends, Branxton/Greta CWA members held their first meeting for the year on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, followed by a catch up chat and lovely morning tea. The first fundraiser for the year will be the annual International (Mongolia)/Cultural Day which is being held this year at the Branxton Community Hall on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00am for 10.30am. All will be welcomed by hot soup or tea/coffee, then discover Mongolia, followed by a delicious hot lunch prepared by members. All for \$15. Very good value. Anyone wishing to attend please phone Denise 49383372 before 31/03/16.

The CWA Hunter River Group came to Branxton on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February to hold its Annual Handicraft/Cookery Day where all the handicraft and cookery from all the branches of the Hunter River Group (26

Branches) try to win and go on to State level where they will compete against other Groups at the State Conference. This year the State Conference is being held at Cowra in early May. Whilst the judging was being done in the Community Hall,

CWA members from as far away as Merriwa and Belmont congregated at the McCauley Hall for Morning Tea and enjoying catching up with old friends. At 10.30am all were ushered into the Catholic Church for a lovely church service lead by Father Des Harrigan and Readings by Sarah Lukeman (Vice President) and Jennifer Carr (Group Cultural officer) with Marie Shearer leading the



congregation in the singing of a hymn. After the Church Service, Sarah Lukeman of Singleton, was very happy to share her holiday pictures and experience of her trip to Italy (our

country of study last year) which was very interesting and informative. Thank you Sarah. Jennifer Carr thanked Father Des and Jennifer Partridge (organist) for the lovely Church Service and they were asked to join them for lunch, which they did. Thank you Father Des and Jennifer. All other members enjoyed their own lunches that they had brought. After lunch, members progressed



to the Branxton Community Hall to see the results of the handicraft/cookery after judging. Meredith Hunter, Group Cookery Officer, presented the certificates. Katie Shearer received 1<sup>st</sup> for her Marble Cake and Zac Shearer received 1<sup>st</sup> for his Speedway Cake.

Congratulations to you both and good luck for State Level in May. The handicraft judging has not finished as yet, so do not know the results but have a picture of some that had been judged and am attaching it to this article. Four of the items belong to our Branch members Noeleen Bendeich and Roslyn Shearer. Congratulations Noeleen and Roslyn and good luck for State level also. Thanks to all the Branches who attended on the day. Hope they enjoyed the day. Branxton/Greta CWA would like to thank Jennifer Carr for doing such a great job organising the day, ably assisted by Sharyn Buck, Sarah Lukeman and Helen Rothnie. Thank you to all. Denise McGoldrick Publicity Officer.

@ Photo above top: Some items going to State in May. Photo above left: (L-R) Marie Shearer, Jennifer Carr and Jennifer Partridge (organist)

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## BOOK REVIEW: Talking books: Gather round for excellent free stuff

BY [STELLA BABIRZ](#)

Getting through Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Tolstoy's *War and Peace* or Joyce's *Ulysses* is a long-held dream of many. Deep in our hearts we know it will always be just a dream because such works tend to be long and demanding of concentration and time. And meanwhile, the latest *Game of Thrones* or funny cat videos series calls.

For the indolent, would-be scholar talking books are a luxuriously easy way to catch up on a weighty classic on a long drive or while doing housework or exercise, whether it's Aristotle or something lighter; perhaps a Raffles or Sherlock mystery or Sam Spade radio play or a witty short story by Saki. Local libraries are an excellent source of free talking books, in CD or downloadable form. A surprising number are available on YouTube — a good way to start searching is to type the name of a favourite author or book and the word "audio" into the search field. Though there's a lot of material on YouTube the sound quality, volume and copyright status vary and the works come and go.

**BBC Radio** has a wide range of spoken material, in the form of plays, documentaries, history, music, comedy and book readings. Most expire after a few weeks, leaving behind only tantalising descriptions on the BBC website. But keep an eye out as many will be available again.

**Librivox** offers a breathtaking choice of literature from the public domain, mostly classics for which the copyright has expired. It's on the US-based talking book Librivox website and all of it is free. As with the BBC, you don't have to sign up and books are easy to download, either instantly, a chapter at a time, at the press of a play button, or in their entirety as a zip file, which takes a few minutes, depending on the work's length.

Librivox readers are volunteers and while works such as *Pride and Prejudice* are so popular that each reader is allotted only a chapter or two, which can be distracting, most have a single narrator. Humour, poetry, plays, history, westerns, crime, children's fiction, gardening, performing arts, mathematics, self-help and biography

are a few of the categories. Many languages are represented but, Librivox being American, it's no surprise that most works are in English, read by Americans — usually very well though it can be a bit strange to hear an aristocratic English lady's 'mama and papa' pronounced 'momma and poppa'.

Australian classics are well represented and include works by Henry Handel Richardson, Henry Lawson, Aenas Gunn, Fergus Hume and Miles Franklin. As well as the crowd of famous names from George Eliot, Kafka, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thomas Hardy and Mark Twain to Chekhov and Frank L. Baum, the vast Librivox collection has an excellent collection of lesser-known authors and works, most of them bestsellers in their time.

### Open Culture

There's lots of good stuff on the Open Culture website, run by a group of American academic and journalistic types who look for quality free material that is "scattered across the web, and not easy to find. Our whole mission is to centralize this content, curate it, and give you access," according to the website. Some of Open Culture's audiobooks duplicate Librivox's collection of out-of-copyright classics but there's also newer material by authors such as Isaac Asimov, JG Ballard, Zadie Smith, Ray Bradbury and George Orwell; readings by poets including T.S. Eliot, Sylvia Plath and Allan Ginsberg as well as Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and C.S. Lewis's *Narnia Chronicles*.

### Archive.org

Many successful Hollywood movies were made into one-hour radio plays between 1936 and 1952 with the biggest stars, from Clark Gable and Katherine Hepburn to Shirley Temple, reprising their screen roles and master movie director Cecil B DeMille as host. Film noir is well represented here, reflecting the time in which the plays were broadcast.

The dizzying array of Lux Radio Shows in the public domain at the Internet Archive spans drama, comedy, thrillers, soap opera and more. [archive.org/details/oldtimeradio](http://archive.org/details/oldtimeradio)

## Grant promotes responsible pet ownership

Cessnock City Council has received funding from the Office of Local Government for its desexing program to promote responsible pet ownership in the local government area. Council will partner with the RSPCA to assist the community with free desexing for their cat or dog. This free service is available to pensioner and senior citizen cardholders and is not open to breeders or welfare groups. To be eligible for this free service you must:

- \* reside in the Cessnock city local government area
- \* be able to travel to Rutherford RSPCA—6-10 Burlington Place, Rutherford,

- NSW, 2320
  - \* be available from 24 February on Tuesdays or Thursdays for an appointment
  - \* have your pet micro-chipped and vaccinated, and
  - \* hold a pension or seniors card.
- Council's Health and Building Manager Colin



Davis said the Ranger Team is excited to roll out this program. "This free initiative is a fantastic opportunity aimed to reduce the high number of

puppies and kittens needing to be rehomed," Mr Davis said. "We encourage all residents to participate in responsible pet ownership and desexing

your companion animal is vital." Residents are limited to one pet per application as a limited number of bookings are available. To fill out your registration form visit Cessnock City Council's administration building, 62-78 Vincent Street Cessnock. For more information contact Customer Service on 02 4993 4300 or email [council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)



**APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION CRITERIA ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE**

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Applications are open to students who are enrolled in TAFE or University in 2016 and are residents of the Cessnock local government area.

Scholarships are for one year and are valued at \$2,500.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, there are 13 scholarships on offer this year.

Visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships) or call 4993 4210



# Mattress Drop-Off

**Drop off your old mattresses and ensembles FREE of charge for re-use and recycling from 8 am to 12 noon**

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**Saturday 2 April 2016**  
Business Enterprise Centre Car Park, Corner Merthyr & Barton St Kurri Kurri - Entry via Barton Street


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**Saturday 16 April 2016**  
Hunter TAFE Cessnock Campus Car Park, Darwin St Cessnock

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**Conditions apply:**

- Cessnock City Council residents only - proof required
- Five mattresses or bases accepted per household
- No pedestrian access - vehicles only





For more information call 4993 4300 or visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/mattress](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/mattress)

This project is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy



## Register to help us clean up Australia!

This year's Clean Up Australia Day will be held on Sunday 6 March 2016 and registrations are now open for clean-up sites in the Cessnock local government area. According to Cessnock City Council Sustainability Officer Tricia Donnelly, litter remains a problem in our local environment. "Supporting Clean Up Australia Day is just one of the ways we increase awareness within the community about littering and its negative impact on our environment," Ms Donnelly said. "In 2015 more than 5.68 tonnes of rubbish was col-



lected over 14 sites across our local government area on Clean Up Australia Day and we hope to surpass that effort this year." Cessnock City Council will

support registered sites on the day through waste collection and waiving of landfill fees. Normal fees will still apply for all material received at the Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre (Cessnock Landfill) on Clean Up Australia Day unless from a registered site. If your school, business or organisation is interested in

registering a Clean Up Australia Day site, registration can be made at [www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au), or by contacting Carly Thompson on 02 4993 4167 or email [Carly.Thompson@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Carly.Thompson@cessnock.nsw.gov.au). Individuals and groups can also register a clean-up site or volunteer to join an existing site. Cessnock City Council asks that all rubbish at registered sites be bagged and not exceed 20 kilograms per bag. A full list of sites will be available at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) Now.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

State Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr has encouraged local Indigenous artists to apply for grant funding under the New South Wales Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund. The Fund provides grants of \$5,000 to individual professional artists and \$15,000 for organisations. To be eligible you or your group must be based in Regional New South Wales and must have an arts project which is focused on Aboriginal people as either the subject or the creators. Mr Barr said the Fund was

a great opportunity for local artists to get some support. "Cessnock has a proud tradition of producing excellent Aboriginal art. It is not a coincidence that we've had a NAIDOC Artist of the Year from this region. Our Aboriginal people are proud of their culture and express it with

real artistic flair," Mr Barr said. Possible activities could include art workshops, performances, exhibitions or arts activities as part of a broader festival or event. Applications close on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March at 4pm. To apply go to: <https://artsnsw.smartygrants.com.au/>

## Happy 90th Birthday Valda

Valda Crothers of Lower Belford recently celebrated her 90 birthday. The day was celebrated amongst lady friends at 'Amandas on the Edge' in Rothbury. A special guest was a woman who attended kindergarten with her. The day was full of well wishes, flowers & good food. A separate luncheon was held the previous day at her sons home at Lower Belford where family enjoyed the occasion; 50 attended, 6 could not make it. Valda Crothers, nee Lambert, has 5 children, 20 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and all are at Lower Belford. Husband Ken died in January 1999. Valda's great aunt had the post office at Lower Belford followed by her grandmother & then her Mother. Prior to Valda taking over the Post office was in the name of their husbands but Valda had the post office in her name. At the time it was the telephone exchange; Singleton, Branxton, Belford and Lower Belford was one party line (only one call could be made at any time!). Valda had 14 numbers. Valda also worked on the dairy to help out at the same time. She also spent time as a nursing assistant at Fairholm Private Hospital in Singleton. Valda joined Country Woman's association in 1950 & up until now has been a very active member all those years. She has been President at least 3 times & Handicraft, International and Cultural officer on several occasions. In the earlier days all the ladies brought their children to the CWA meetings as that was a big thing in those days. The Lower Belford Branch of the CWA wish Valda & very 'Happy 90th Birthday'.



Photo: Valda at her birthday luncheon at "Amandas on the Edge"

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<p style="text-align: center; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">5 YEARS PARTS &amp; LABOUR WARRANTY!</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">FULLY INSTALLED</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">\$2499</p>		<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">BETTA HOME LIVING</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">MAITLAND</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">Shop 2 123 Newcastle St EAST MAITLAND</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">Phone: 4933 3366 • <a href="http://beta.com.au">beta.com.au</a></p>	



## Hunter Valley shocked by Senate report into wine industry



The Hunter Valley, NSW's premier wine and tourism district, has been ignored by

### Lonnie Lee returns to Maitland for 2016 Seniors Week

Back by popular demand and to celebrate the 2016 Seniors Week, Lonnie Lee and the Leemen will be performing at Maitland Town Hall on Thursday 7 April from 12.00pm to 3.00pm. Tickets for this free event are available from Monday 29 February and are expected to disappear quickly. Council's Community Planning Coordinator Mary Dallow says, 'It is wonderful that Lonnie Lee and the Leemen are coming back to Maitland this year. It is always a hugely popular event, and has continued to grow since it was first staged in 2012. We hope to see as many people as possible joining in the celebrations for Seniors Week'.

This year Seniors Week runs from Friday 1 April until Sunday 10 April. The 2016 theme is *Grow Young*. Every year during Seniors Week Council, along with local organisations, agencies and community groups, put on events to celebrate the role older people play in the Maitland community. 'The goal of this event is to recognise the contribution of older people within the local community and provide an inclusive and accessible event for older people to network, interact and have fun', said Ms Dallow.

To add to the Rock 'n' Roll atmosphere, All Shook Up Dance Studio will be performing Rock 'n' Roll dancing and encouraging people to get involved, and the Museum of Clothing will be presenting clothes of the time. Free light refreshments will also be provided to participants. Council is working in partnership with Maitland Neighbourhood Centre and the Seniors Week Reference Group to build on the success of Rock 'n' Roll events held in the past.

Bookings are essential and tickets are available from Maitland City Council's Customer Service, Maitland Visitor Information Centre and online at [maitlandticketing.com.au](http://maitlandticketing.com.au). For more information about Seniors Week contact Council via email [info@maitland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@maitland.nsw.gov.au) or by calling 4934 9700.

the Senate's Inquiry into the wine industry; an Inquiry which makes recommendations to the benefit of interstate large wine companies to the detriment of medium/small wine producers in the Hunter.

Chairman of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association, the Hon George Souris, called on the Federal Government to reject the Inquiry and start again after the Election with a balanced government Committee

which would consider the interests of the whole industry instead of those privileged few who have the ear of certain Senators. The Committee comprised three ALP Senators, one Greens, one Liberal and one Nationals. No hearings or visits were scheduled for the Hunter Valley. The HVW&TA's position during the Inquiry was to support the position of the Winemakers' Federation of Australia. The principal recommendation of the Committee, to phase out the WET (Wine Equalisation Tax) rebate and replace it with a

hairly annual grants scheme limited to cellar door operators is completely rejected by the WFA and the HVW&TA.

Mr Souris said the position of the Hunter is to retain the scheme and reform it to ensure it delivers for legitimate wine businesses and their regional communities. The Greens Senator supported the three ALP Senators in this movement.

Mr Souris said the HVW&TA position is that reform is necessary to remove the rebate from bulk and unbranded wine; the point being to advance strong brands that command consumer demand.

A further HVW&TA reform would be to remove the separate exemption for New Zealand wine makers from the WET and thereby establish a level playing field for Australian producers in their own domestic market. "How often does one see a long list of NZ wines on restaurant wine lists compared to a paltry representation of Australian wines?" "Often."

Another reform supported by the HVW&TA would be to amend labelling requirements so that wine

labels declare whether the wine is produced by an entity owned or controlled by a major retailer. This labelling issue enters the murky area of retailers and their "own" labels masking the severe pricing pressure imposed by these retailers upon wine producers' viability. Mr Souris said, in the end its about the survival of medium to small and family wine producers in areas such as the Hunter Valley, an area that is also regional NSW's prime tourism destination.

In order, international wine tourism visitation of

883,200 visitors, staying 47.1 million nights, is:-

Hunter Valley 18.1%  
Yarra Valley 17.1%  
Margaret River 13.4%  
Swan River 12%  
Barossa 9.4%

Uniquely, the Hunter Valley is located 1½ hours from Australia's gateway Sydney and within immediate reach of some 5 million residents.

"The Senate Inquiry's outcomes are biased towards the big interstate producers, ignore the Hunter Valley and would lead to large scale contraction of our industry, much lower employment

levels and tourism outcomes," Mr Souris said. "Essentially a COAG approach is needed as matters not only concern free trade agreements, Federal WET policy etc. but also the need to undertake greater efforts in the development of wine export markets."

There are of course a number of other issues and the HVW&TA acknowledges the need to increase the uptake of the industry voluntary code of conduct from the current 40% to at least 50% in the immediate period.

However this is achievable and is certainly no excuse

for the Senate Inquiry to hang its hat on to justify what would only become a wholesale slaughter of an industry generating environmental sustainability, the tourism economy, regional development and jobs enhancement.

Q Photo: Chairman of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association, the Hon. George Souris.



# PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DRAFT

## BRANXTON SUBREGIONAL LAND USE STRATEGY



Singleton Council resolved on 21 December 2015 to place the Draft Branxton Subregional Land Use Strategy on Public Exhibition for a period of six weeks.

The Draft Branxton Subregional Land Use Strategy is a joint project between Cessnock and Singleton councils funded by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Cessnock City Council resolved to place the draft strategy on exhibition at its meeting held on 9 December 2015.

It aims to respond to impacts and opportunities within the Branxton subregion (including the township of Greta) that arise due to the opening of the Hunter Expressway and development of Huntlee New Town. The Draft Branxton Subregional Land Use Strategy provides a framework to coordinate cross-boundary land use planning decisions within both the Singleton and Cessnock local government areas.

Further information concerning the project can be found on the project page on either Cessnock or Singleton Council's website.

The Draft Branxton Subregional Land Use Strategy will be publicly exhibited from **Wednesday 27 January 2016** to **Wednesday 9 March 2016**, and can be viewed at the following locations during this period:

Cessnock City Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section)

Singleton Council's Customer Service Centre

Singleton Library

Cessnock Public Library

Kurri Kurri Library

Cessnock City Council's website [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Singleton Council's website [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au)

Any person may make a written submission, during the exhibition period, in relation to the Draft Branxton Subregional Land Use Strategy. Any views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a final decision is made.

In order to be considered by Council, submissions must be received by the close of the exhibition period (4.30pm on 9 March, 2016) and should quote "Draft Branxton Subregional Land Use Strategy".

Any enquiries relating to Singleton Council should be directed to Council's Coordinator Sustainable Development, Ken Horner on 02 6578 7331 or via email [khorne@singleton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:khorne@singleton.nsw.gov.au). Any enquiries relating to Cessnock City Council should be directed to Council's Strategic Land Use Planner Scott Christie on 02 4993 4168 or via email [scott.christie@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:scott.christie@cessnock.nsw.gov.au).



# First home buyers using house sitting to save deposits

by Christina Zhou ~ Domain Reporter



Katrina Parker and Rick Wilson have been living rent-free for about eight months. They have moved house

seven times, packing and transporting their belongings in storage containers. The reason: they are saving for their

first home. The couple, both in their late 20s, have tried out a range of properties across Melbourne, from a one-

bedroom apartment in Northcote to a three-bedroom house in Belgrave. While the owners are on

holidays, Ms Parker and Mr Wilson care for the pets, maintain the house and garden and collect the mail. Ms Parker, a psychologist, estimates they are saving about 80 per cent of their incomes and will have enough for a deposit after house sitting for two years. "As well as saving money [we are] able to try out and explore different suburbs to get an idea of where we'd like to have our own home," she says. Although they quickly secured six months of bookings after they created their profile, Ms Parker admits there are times where there hasn't been a perfect overlap. In between time, they have stayed with family or friends, and have stored their belongings.

Ms Parker says one of the biggest challenges of house sitting is the flexibility to move between areas and adapting to different lifestyles. Of about 800 Australian house and pet sitters surveyed by house sitting website Mindahome, over 20 per cent were saving for a home deposit or trying different suburbs before buying a home. About 40 per cent of their house-sitter members are aged between 18 and 35. With house prices rising and banks imposing tougher borrowing rules, first home buyers increasingly need to compromise or think outside the box to save a larger deposit. Mindahome co-founder Sue Coombs says house and pet sits range anywhere from a

few days to several months, including one that spanned a year. "Many of [our] house sitters are young Australians who can't quite afford to move out on their own, but want their own independence and space," she says. "Some house sitters also house and pet sit to save for other life goals such as paying off debts, or to save up for the holiday they have always wanted." First Home Buyers Australia co-founder Daniel Cohen, says many young Australians who moved out in their early 20s were finding it expensive to rent in their desired locations, and deciding to move back home to live with their parents to save a deposit.

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401 Camp Road, GRETA <span style="float: right;">\$399,000</span>	30 Budgeree Drive, ABERGLASSLYN <span style="float: right;">\$359,000</span>
<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-30deg); display: inline-block;">NEW PRICE</div>  <div style="position: absolute; top: 10px; right: 10px; font-size: 0.8em;">                 3 Beds 2 Baths 4 Car Spaces             </div> <p><b>'Country Living'</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brick and Iron home</li> <li>3 Bedrooms with built in robes</li> <li>Main bedroom with ensuite</li> <li>Open plan living</li> <li>Separate dining</li> <li>Functional kitchen</li> <li>Entertainment patio area</li> <li>4 Bay Shed with drive through access, concrete floor and power</li> <li>4 Dog kennel runs</li> <li>Chook pen; garden Shed</li> <li>Fully fenced; 2 street frontages</li> <li>Land size: 1.25 Acres (5060sqm)</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836</p>	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-30deg); display: inline-block;">NEW PRICE</div>  <div style="position: absolute; top: 10px; right: 10px; font-size: 0.8em;">                 4 Beds 2 Baths 2 Car Spaces             </div> <p><b>'Great Family Home'</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Bedrooms</li> <li>Main with ensuite and built-in robes</li> <li>3 Good sized bedrooms all with BIRs</li> <li>Modern bathroom with separate WC</li> <li>Open plan air conditioned kitchen and living rooms</li> <li>DLUG with internal access and auto doors</li> <li>Private entertainment area</li> <li>Corner block</li> <li>Potential Rent: \$365 per week</li> <li>Land size: 603sqm</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836</p>
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Spacious 4 bedroom home with 2 bathrooms and 3 living spaces offers plenty of room to raise your family or retire in luxury.

Main bedroom is positioned to take in the views of the golf course and comes with walk thru robe and ensuite.

A beautifully presented kitchen with Caesar stone bench top, glass splash back and Blanco appliances.



Resort style gardens

surround the home making it feel like you are on holidays.

2 private entertaining areas at the rear of the property also overlook the golf course.

Storage is not a problem as the home has double garage with internal access plus at the rear of the property is a shed for all the toys and maybe that golf buggy. Ducted air throughout and presented to take in the views.

**Price:** \$599,000

**View:** by appointment

**Contact Ian Barnes**

0404 564 725

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



### North Rothbury

11 Scott Street

#### Shed/Workshop & Street Appeal

Brick and Tile family home on corner block in the quiet tranquil town of North Rothbury.

3 Bedrooms all with built-ins and fans. The home has ducted air conditioning throughout to make it comfortable all year round.

Formal dining adjoins the sunken lounge space as well as living space off the kitchen.

A large undercover entertaining area at the rear of the house gives plenty of room for BBQ's etc, with an 8x3 mts screened area to keep the bugs at bay.



A large fully fenced yard

with plenty of room for kids to play.

Both front and rear yards are landscaped and look magnificent all year round.

At the rear of the property is a 9x6 mt double garage, fully powered and heaps of room for 2 cars and workshop areas.

If you are looking for Street appeal and a mans shed look no further.

Call now for your private inspection.

**Price:** \$349,000

**View:** by appointment

**Contact Ian Barnes**

0404 564 725

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



### Greta

28 York Street

#### First Time on the Market

Family home in a pleasant area awaits. Brick & tile with beautifully presented gardens ready for the picking. Air conditioned living & kitchen area makes the house comfortable all year round. Covered timber deck overlooks the large backyard. This home is ideal for the young family or a couple looking to downsize.

**Price:** \$310,000

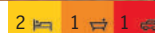
**View:** by appointment

**Contact Ian Barnes**

0404 564 725

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



### Branxton

2/7 Redgrove Court

#### Branxton Unit

Neat and tidy 2 bedroom unit.

Open plan living with split system air conditioning.

Automatic garage door with internal access to the home.

Pergola at the rear of the property and small grassed courtyard area for entertaining.

Currently returning \$270/wk.

**Price:** \$285,000

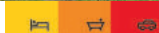
**View:** by appointment

**Contact Ian Barnes**

0404 564 725

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



### East Branxton

2 Church Street

#### Is this the Best Block in Branxton

Rare opportunity to purchase a large 1011sqm corner block. All town services are available on this parcel of land ready to build your dream home, with plenty of room for shedding and maybe that awesome pool. Subdivision Opportunity STCA to subdivide and build yourself a portfolio of 2 properties.

**Price:** \$179,000

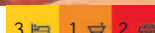
**View:** by appointment

**Contact Allan Cruickshanks**

0407 724 930

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



### Branxton

32 Fleet Street

#### Town Gem

3 bedroom home with multiple living spaces, large shedding & magnificent swimming pool. Decorative press metal walling, French doors leading out onto screened, verandah, high ceilings, renovated kitchen, ducted air conditioning, combustion fire & freshly painted throughout are just a few of the home features.

**Price:** \$430,000

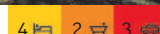
**View:** by appointment

**Contact Ian Barnes**

0404 564 725

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



### Branxton

10 Sutton Grove

#### View with Huge Shed!

7 year old family home on 2 acres with beautiful views over the township of Branxton, only minutes to new Hunter expressway. 4 large bedrooms, main walk in robe & ensuite, large lounge & rumpus. Attached triple garage with internal access & massive 18x13m shed with power & water.

**Price: Under Offer**

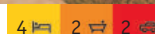
**View:** by appointment

**Contact Ian Barnes**

0404 564 725

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



### Greta

5a Hunter Street

#### Modern Family Home

Set on a large 822sqm block - 4 large bedrooms main with ensuite and walk in robe. Formal lounge with open plan living, dinner and kitchen area. Double garage with internal and drive thru access to the backyard with covered pergola. Only minutes to the new Hunter Expressway.

**Price:** \$415,000

**View:** by appointment

**Contact Ian Barnes**

0404 564 725

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



### East Branxton

5 Grape Street

#### Street Appeal

Modernised 4 bedroom family home on corner block. Renovated throughout with great kitchen in sort after area awaits your inspection.

Single garage with plenty of storage space.

Timber deck and pergola for entertaining guests and fully fenced yard to keep kids and animals safe.

**Price:** \$350,000

**View:** by appointment

**Contact Ian Barnes**

0404 564 725

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



### Rothbury

Lot 9,2 Blackburn Close

#### 10 Acres Nestled in Wine Country

Corner of Wine Country Drive & Blackburn Close sits this 2 year old 4 bedroom brick and colourbond home on 10 acres. Main having walk thru robe to an ensuite. Fully ducted throughout, formal lounge with open plan living/dining. Double garage & enormous 14 x 11m American style barn.

**Price: Under Offer**

**View:** by appointment

**Contact Ian Barnes**

0404 564 725

**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Call Helen or Mike

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

NEW ON MARKET



## NORTH ROTHBURY

### Lovely modern family home

3 minutes to Hunter Valley Pokolbin Vineyards with its wine cellars, shops & entertainment. Not a thing to do! Three bedrooms with built-in robes in all bedrooms. Spectacular modern bathroom & separate lounge. Other features include modern kitchen, split system aircon, slow combustion fire, beautiful BBQ area with alfresco dining area & large shed The property also has a lock up garage, landscapped yard & is fully fenced.

ASKING \$400,000





Call Helen or Mike

**BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE**

**P: 4938 3300**

## ELDERSLIE

# Lifestyle 100acres

100 acres of beautiful rolling countryside.

Views to die for!

4 bedroom family home featuring open plan living, verandah, large new shed & free standing double garage

**PRICE \$830,000**



## East Branxton

**Everything is BRAND NEW!!!!**

Large 3 bedroom cottage with built-ins ... a kitchen to die for! Large living area including a glorious Queensland Room. Lock up garage.

Leafy & peaceful backyard

A must to inspect .....

Great investment or first home!

**PRICE \$340,000**

### FOR LEASE

GRETA ~ 3 bedroom older type home on large block ~ \$270 per week

BRANXTON ~ Renovated 3 bedroom cottage/family home on extra large block ~ \$350 per week

BRANXTON ~ Renovated 3 bedroom cottage/family home on extra large block ~ \$320 per week



## North Rothbury

**Sophisticated!!!!**

**Jewel Box Bush Cottage**

**“Airy” & “Open”**

This wonderfully fully renovated weatherboard cottage is set on a very large fenced block in the small hamlet of North Rothbury. Features include:- new bathroom, renovated kitchen, new decking front & back (both covered from summer evenings westerly sun), very large block, original floor boards renovated to near perfection, 2 bedrooms, 4 minutes to Hunter wineries & restaurants & 2 minutes to Huntlee New Town proposed commercial centre & other facilities.

The home has a number of decor/design features that make this cottage a unique experience.

A must to inspect .....

**PRICE \$320,000 NEG**



## Branxton

**Family home well loved and cared for**

Spacious living areas plus a large Queenslander at rear.

A good sized carport.

3 bedrooms which includes built-ins in two. Ensuite plus sunroom in main bedroom.

All this on a large fenced block & lovely gardens

A must to inspect .....

**ASKING \$390,000**



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**BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE**

**P: 4938 3300**



## NORTH ROTHBURY

**Just move in ~ no work to be done!!!!**

Perfect family home in the popular village of North Rothbury.

Features include:-

Open plan lounge/dining with 4 large bedrooms all with built-ins. Ensuite to main bedroom & walk-in robe. Air conditioning. Double garage plus large rumpus room or entertainment room.

Dishwasher. Large fenced block with house facing north.

**PRICE \$420,000**



## GRETA

**For the astute investor  
Approx. 2000sm  
(half an acre)  
58 High Street,  
Greta**

An older style 3 bedroom cottage is situated on this large, approx half acre, block. This is one for the savvy investor/developer or renovator.

**ASKING \$472,000 (open to Offers)**



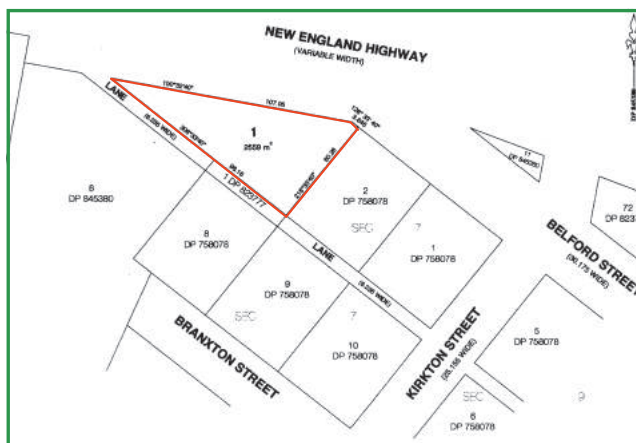
## EAST BRANXTON

**Modern Villa ~ first home buyer or investor**

In a sought after area n Branxtion ~ two bedroom villa

Quality inclusions Features Include ~ Internal Laundry, Modern Bathroom, Modern Kitchen, Quiet Location, Balcony / Patio / Terrace, Built in Wardrobes, Close to School, Close to Shops & Close to Transport

**PRICE \$320,000**



## BELFORD

**Vacant Land with building approved**

**Lot 1 DP 1205549**

**Well over half an acre  
of good level block.**

**PRICE \$160,000 ONO**



## BRANXTON Senior Living

This heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit has an ensuite to the main bedroom, a lock-up garage & your own private courtyard. It is totally landscaped & also feature security gating. The site surrounds Branxtion Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just 5 minutes drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.

**PRICE \$265,000**



## BRANXTON Senior Living

This heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit has an ensuite to the main bedroom, a lock-up garage & your own private courtyard. It is totally landscaped & also feature security gating. The site surrounds Branxtion Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just 5 minutes drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.

**PRICE POA**



## WINGEN

**Village living at its best**

Located in the hamlet of Wingen which is 10 minutes from Scone in the Upper Hunter Valley "Rose Cottage" offers great access to the show-ground to exercise or have fun with your horse or dog. The house is situated on a generous block & includes freshly painted bedrooms, modern bathroom, timber kitchen, open plan living, front verandah & large rear deck. New reverse cycle air conditioner installed & room for extensions, school bus to primary & high schools.

The property is fully fenced with a separately fenced yard ideal for the kids pony or menagerie of other small farm animals.

**PRICE \$220,000**



## BRANXTON

**A must to inspect!!!**

Unique older character with tasteful modern touches. Large fenced block, massive garage & carport, spacious living area, new kitchen, new bathroom, three (3) large bedrooms with built-ins, airconditioned & slow combustion fire.

**Just move in!!!**

**PRICE \$380,000**



Call Helen or Mike

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P: 4938 3300



## BRANXTON

A couple of minutes to town  
**BUY OFF THE PLAN**

### LOT 1

4 Hectares ~

Picturesque block of land on the edge of town. Why not enjoy the peaceful rural lifestyle with all the conveniences of town living.

**PRICE \$520,000**



### LOT 3

5.337 Hectares

Large 3 bedroom homestead with 3 large living areas with plenty of outdoor living & entertainment areas & great verandahs. Also double free standing garage.

**PRICE \$830,000**



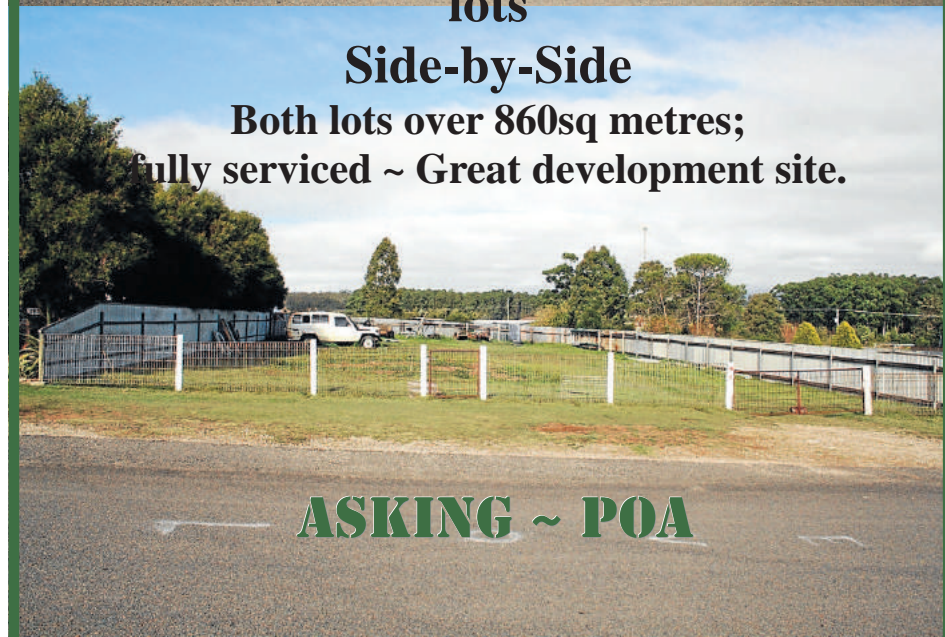
## BRANXTON VACANT LAND ~ 75 YATES STREET

**SOLD**

2 Large level Residential building lots

Side-by-Side

Both lots over 860sq metres;  
fully serviced ~ Great development site.



**ASKING ~ POA**

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#### Features

- Balcony / Patio / Terrace
- Bath
- Block 1145sm
- Built in Wardrobes
- Close to Schools
- Close to Shops
- Close to Transport
- Fireplace(s)
- Formal Dining
- Formal Lounge
- Garden
- Internal Laundry
- Large Fenced Block
- Lovely Queensland Room
- Modern Bathroom
- Modern Kitchen
- Quiet Location
- Views

Formal lounge & dining with split system air conditioning & slow combustion fire. Modern kitchen, expansive Queensland room with spa. Three good sized bedrooms. All this on a 1145sm fenced block!

**PRICE \$370,000**



# Thomas

Estate Agents

## PH: 49 382020



### 5 Scott Street, North Rothbury Price: \$373,000

This property sits on a large corner 871m2 block & offers 3 spacious bedrooms plus multiple living areas including good size lounge room & separate rumpus, dining/ meals area located just off the kitchen plus a large outside entertaining area which has been fully enclosed. Other features include double lock up garage with internal access, garden shed, fully fenced yard plus air conditioning.



### 17 Russell Street, Branxton Price: \$370,000

**Accommodation** – 3 bedrooms, all with wardrobes, bathroom, kitchen, separate external laundry, open plan design - offering formal and informal living areas.

**Features** – double carport with single lock up garage with attached workshop plus study, covered entertaining area with built in bar, split air conditioning, land size 1011sqm.



### 4 Tulloch Street, East Branxton Price: \$259,000

Set in a quite location within short distance to local parks, pool, golf course & sporting fields this property offers huge potential. Features include; 4 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/dining combined, bathroom, single carport, covered patio plus land size of 538sqm.



### 11 Tulloch Street, Branxton Price: \$298,000

- 3 bedrooms - 2 bedrooms have built-ins
- Open plan design - living & dining area
- Modern kitchen
- Split system air conditioner
- Single enclosed/ secure carport
- 9x6 meter approx. Shed with rear street access
- Land Size 539sqm



### 64 New England Highway, Lochinvar Price: \$479,000

- 3 Double size bedrooms
- Open plan design – separate living, dining and sunroom
- Spacious timber kitchen
- De-attached Granny flat/ home office
- Double bay carport with lock up workshop
- Land Size 2078sqm



### 4 Dalwood Road, Branxton Rent: \$420 per week

4 2 2



### 1 Franks Close, Branxton Rent: \$370 per week

3 2 2



### 3 Vineyard Haven, Branxton Rent: \$360 per week

3 1 2

Disclaimer: Thomas Estate Agents believes that this information is correct but it does not warrant or guarantee the accuracy of the information. You should make your own enquiries and check the information. Certain information has been obtained from external sources and has not been independently verified.

*servicing the local community  
for over 50 years*



# GRETA WORKERS

**THE OAKS**  
**FAMILY RESTAURANT**  
**CHINESE & AUSTRALIAN**  
**MEALS**  
**TUESDAY—SUNDAY**  
**LUNCH & DINNER**

**FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT**

**4th MARCH**  
***SECRET SOCIETY***  
**11th MARCH**  
***TALK OF THE TOWN***



**HAPPY HOUR**

**THURSDAY 4—6.00pm**  
**SCHOONERS \$3.30**



**COURTESY BUS**  
**WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS &**  
**SATURDAYS**  
**Ring the Club for more details**

**MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**2nd MARCH**  
**\$2,600**  
**SUNDAY**  
**6th MARCH**  
**\$900**



**MEAT & HAM**  
**RAFFLES**  
**FRIDAY 7.00pm**  
**SUNDAY 12.00Noon**

# MILLER PARK

**MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**

**THURSDAY 3th MARCH**  
**\$3,100**  
**SUNDAY 6th MARCH**  
**\$1,000**



**SAMMY'S AT THE PARK**  
**FAMILY RESTAURANT**  
**BRANXTON'S FAVOURITE**  
**CHEF**  
**WEDNESDAY— SUNDAY**  
**LUNCH & DINNER**

**HAPPY HOUR**

**THURSDAY 4—6.00pm**  
**\$3.30 SCHOONERS**



**MEAT & HAM**  
**RAFFLES**  
**FRIDAY 7.00pm**  
**SUNDAY 6.00pm**



# Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

## .....GRETA

Following on from the Rothbury Riot, in the previous issue of this paper, is the reason behind the riot, the livelihoods that were made from coal. This story also involves vanishing villages and disputes over who did what first.

As far as Greta was concerned, mining underground coal was a major income earner for the area, despite the usual ups and downs that this industry has to bear. Greta region's coal mining industry spans 97 years, starting in 1862 and finishing in 1959.

Anvil Colliery was the first coal mine in the area and started by immigrant, William Armstrong Farthing who was the first to discover coal in the bed of Anvil Creek, near Greta. Anvil Creek is a small tributary of Black Creek. This area was close to the new railway, on the far side of the present station 400m north, soon after the railway was extended towards Singleton in 1862- 1863. He is then said to have relocated 400m south of where Greta Station was

later built, still on the station's far side from Greta Township and this was said to have formed part of a village called Ilalong (Aboriginal for Swampy Plains). Although these mines were only working an OUTCROP of the Greta Coal Seams Measures, which came later, it was an important first step. It was around this mine, on his property, that a small town developed first known as Farthings, which became Anvil Creek. There was at least one hotel, probably more, and a School of Arts, with a number of poor and scattered houses, according to the Newcastle Directory 1880-81. Both the Village of Anvil Creek and the Village of Ilalong have since vanished into oblivion. William Farthing's coal was to become a major source of coal used for gas in Australia; an average of 10,000 tons (approx. 9071 tonnes) a year. They had steam power to pump the coal up and out, to keep the mine clear of water. The coal was of such good quality it could yield twice



@Anvil Creek mine pit top today

as much gas as the other colonial coals. By 1872, however, the Anvil Colliery was producing only half the amount of 1870 and in 1873 Farthing formed a public company in October 1872 said to offer 30,000 shares, known as the Anvil Creek Coal Mining Company. It became the Anvil Creek Colliery Co. Ltd when he sold it and retired, acting as local magistrate in his retirement. He is buried at East Maitland. Petroleum coal was said to have been discovered on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1868 by Thomas Frost. Frost's mine was on land opposite what is now the Greta Workers Club, where a pit office once stood. This mine is on the plan and report created in 1869 by William Keene, the Examiner of Coal Fields at the time. He attributed Thomas Frost with opening up the Anvil Creek seam which was obviously wrong. Professor TW Edgeworth

David, Assistant Geological Surveyor to the NSW Government at the time, discovered the substantial main seam in 1886, around the Lochinvar dome. He probably wouldn't have looked if it wasn't for people like Farthing finding the outcrops of this major seam and this fact is sometimes forgotten. Edgeworth David also prepared the detailed plans and geological maps of the seam, on a scale of an inch to a mile, which were sent to his superiors. He later wrote *The Geology of the Hunter River Coal Measures* and became renowned for his mastery of geology and other feats. The New Anvil Creek Coal Company was offered for sale by tender on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1892 and held 555 acres (224 ha) freehold land. It stopped work indefinitely in October 1901 and was leased by James Burn and Andrew Sneddon on November 1901. The lease was terminated in September 1902 and was shut down and a caretaker appointed. The Little Greta Colliery, a small pit situated in part of the original Anvil Creek Colliery lease, had a short life. It opened in 1931 and was closed for good by November 1937. In this time it had three owners – the first was WH Burdon from (the original) Hunter Street, Greta, who represented a group which included himself, JJ Rowley (and brothers), H. Tilden and A Miller. W L Smith was the next owner, who lived at Braxton Street, Greta and the third was JJ Slater from the corner of Wyndham and Braxton Streets, Greta. Broxburn Pit had screening and/or washery plants that coal skips from New Greta and Broxburn Tunnels used. Greta Colliery began in 1873-1874 as the Greta Coal and Shale Company but amalgamated in July 1888 to become its new name. It had its usual share of fires, and fall-ins which stopped work for sometimes long periods. The Greta Coal Company worked leases adjacent to the Anvil Creek Coal Mining Company. It owned 5000 acres (2025ha) of land and at its height in 1889 had 476 men in work there. However on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1900 a fire and explosion took five men's lives and the mine was sealed. They knew the five men

to seal the mine because they couldn't be found due to the smoke. It entombed Edwin Buck, Walter Fuller, James Hyssop, John Crowell and Frederick Crowell. (See photo of the Crowell men) The last three are still down there. A burial service was held at the tunnel mouth. The tunnel was still smoking in April 1901 but on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1902 Walter Fuller's and Edwin Buck's bodies were removed for an appropriate funeral, 14 months after their deaths. The colliery was finally sealed in January 1903, after more attempts had been made to re-open it. Many of the 1800 residents left the town then, to find work elsewhere.

Rothbury Colliery first started working in 1910 and by 1912 above ground facilities and the dam were ready to be used. It was opened by two brothers Edward AM Merewether and Henry AM Merewether on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 1910. Although not on flat land like some mines, they still used the Bord and Pillar method, a more modern method than the Room and Pillar, and the main way the medium thick seams in Australia were worked then.

Whitburn Colliery, renamed on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 1907, was originally the North Greta mine that was started in 1902 under the ownership of Mark North and Mr Rylatt. From 1903-1906 only four men were employed. Bought by the Newcastle Coal Mining Company in 1907 the new owners drove a new tunnel into another outcrop of the main Greta seam, and by 1908 eighty four men worked there. It was situated between the original Greta Colliery and the township of Greta, with the Whitburn Colliery washery able to be seen from the Greta Colliery Pit top, showing how close they were. The remains of Whitburn Colliery can still be seen in Anvil Street. (See the photo of the brick shell of the C shaft airway still standing). Electric power and lighting was used at the mine from its own electrical generating plant. In later years it supplied electricity to Greta, Braxton and Lochinvar. At its peak in 1913 this mine employed 293 men and produced 129,195 tons of coal (117203.732 tonnes), but by 1926 it was down to 176 men with one fatality recorded. A heating in the mine, when it gets too hot for a human to bear, meant it was sealed until 15<sup>th</sup> December 1938 but closed again due to lack of trade. On January 1940 the mine was re-opened to be working on tribute. This is when a proportion of the takings,

is paid to the miner for his work (or to the owner of the mine). There were ten men working then. It was closed for the last time in 1945 and sealed due to heating in 1948.

The Whitburn pit-top and the railway that took the coal to the main line were no longer in use by 1959. The Department of Mines had to deal with many complaints about the disused buildings, as well as the colliery dam in which children were said to have drowned, especially during 1962-1963. The late 1960s saw the buildings finally removed, as well as the railway line, with only the surface brickwork remaining, some of which can still be seen as mentioned previously.

Whitburn Colliery No.2 was a new ventilation shaft, apparently on Sale Street, created in January 1938 and named in March. In December 1938 the Chief inspector of Mines was informed it had not worked for several weeks and was deserted in July 1940. The Whitburn No. 1 & No. 2 Colliery Holdings' underground operations discontinued in 1948 due to self-heating and fire. Even though they went into voluntary liquidation in March 1949, three men were still employed by Newcastle Coal Mining Company to

Commerce Limited, as mortgagees in possession, then became Broxburn-Leconfield Colliery. In January 1918 it was finally renamed New Greta Colliery after Excelsior Collieries and Coke Works took over.

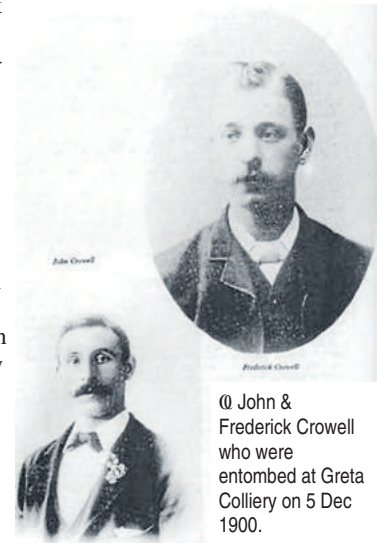
Other mines included the Central Greta Colliery which is said to actually be the old Anvil Creek Colliery renamed, again. Leased in 1908-1930, by William Harper, it closed in July 1930 due to the Great Depression. A fire and explosion destroyed the pit-top in 1932 and the buildings were sold at auction, with some of the building materials earmarked for bridge building, in 1936.

The East Greta Colliery sounds like it is in the area but is in fact where the present village of Gillieston Heights now is, near Maitland, so won't be covered here.

Coal seams were also proved at Leconfield and on the Wyndham Estate in 1884 by the then Government Geologist CS Wilkinson. Leconfield Colliery was opened in 1889. The Greta seam splits into five seams at Leconfield. A 2' 8" (81cm) gauge railway was under construction to link this Colliery with the branch line at Greta Colliery. It was to be widened within three years to the NSW standard gauge but no-one seems to know if this ever happened. The colliery was closed by 1959.

At the outset of some mine's working life, pit horses were said to be used to cart the coal, who were brought in on slings and left in stables permanently underground. It seems merciless to leave them in the dark, and somehow worse than taking a canary down a coal mine to test the air quality, but cruelty to animals was barely considered then, with humane treatment as their right. In fact the first public meeting was called in 1871 as a reaction to the harsh treatment of horses in Victoria which led to the formation of the RSPCA in that state which later spread to the other states.

I would like to thank John A Harris for much of this information, taken from the Greta book compiled by Val Randall, and available for sale at the museum. Come into Greta Museum to see how dense a sample of coal really is, for anyone that hasn't seen it closely. Appreciate the wall that commemorates Greta's coal mining industry and some of the lives lost. Enjoy a complimentary humbug sweet or piece of liquorice while you remember the miners who gave their all. Greta Museum is in the former Council Chambers, High Street, Greta, open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month, between 11am and 3pm. Or ring to make a time to come in by phoning Peter on 0478896722 or Neridah on 0427657150.



@ John & Frederick Crowell who were entombed at Greta Colliery on 5 Dec 1900.



## Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

You can contact Council on 02 4993 4300 or [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)



Keeping a rooster in a residential area is a sure fire way to annoy your neighbours, keeping a rooster doesn't give you any more eggs but will result in a noise nuisance which will wake up your neighbours. If your neighbour has a rooster please talk to them about the issue before you call Cessnock City Council. \*\*\*

Needing to shed a few of those Christmas calories? Walking your dog is a perfect way to do just that. All dogs, young and old, need regular exercise. Taking your dog for a walk improves its fitness, prevents anxiety and increases its overall wellbeing. A big long walk and play not only makes your dog's day; it keeps you fit as well! Why not head down to one of the six off-leash areas in our LGA so that your dog can learn how to play nicely with others. \*\*\*

If you are walking your dog there are a few important things to remember when in a public space. Dogs must be leashed and if your pet is antisocial it must be muzzled. Keep your dog under control at all times, even in off-leash areas. Before you leave for a walk make sure you have a poop pouch to take care of any mess your dog leaves behind. Let's work together to keep our parks and walkways poop free. \*\*\*

Don't have a poop pouch! Drop in and pick up your free poop pouch from Cessnock City Council. No one wants to step in dog mess. Council Rangers are in the business of making life with your companion animal as easy as possible. If you have any questions about animal ownership, contact the Ranger Services team for more information.

You can contact Council on 02 4993 4300 or [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

load trains for Newfield Open Cut Mine and Leconfield Colliery. The New Greta Colliery was another colliery that had numerous name changes, which helps to explain why it is so confusing when trying to sort the coal mines out. In 1866, William Keene, the government Examiner of Coalfields, had emphasised developments at Anvil Creek and Rix's Creek and outlined new workings at Dalwood creek, adjacent to Reginald Wyndham's Leconfield property, to London's Geological Society. The New Greta Colliery began as Reginald Wyndham Workings in 1900-1906, then operated as EBBW Main Colliery when it was owned by Alexander Sheddon, and in 1911 it became Broxburn-Maitland Colliery. In November that year it was worked by Kethal and Company on behalf of the Australian Bank of



# HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Phil Hele, Marketing Chairman Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association.

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Hunter Valley magazine is now in its final stages of production and we look forward to sharing this with you mid-March. It beautifully showcases the best food, wine and other experiences in Australia's oldest wine region. In this issue we reveal why some people say the 2014 Shiraz is the best for decades and where you can test your culinary skills with our round-up of cooking schools. You can also discover where to enjoy an outdoor concert among the vines and which spa resort has the pamper treatment you're looking for and uncover the charms of Singleton. Plus, there's a focus on Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival, which this year takes place across May and June, and is shaping up to be bigger and better than previous years. The line-up is now finalised and we will be launching our digital campaign in the coming weeks – stay tuned to WineCountry.com.au and our Hunter Valley Wine Country Facebook page.

Did you know 30,000 people come along to the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival? On again 19 & 20 March, there will be 500 classic cars, 100 stalls, live music both days, dancing, and lots more to do.... Make sure you put the date in your diary... And it is free - more details? KurriKurriNostalgiaFestival.com.au

Our region attended the annual Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo (AIME) trade show event in Melbourne last week. It is part of our continued collaboration of working with our Greater Hunter region partners under the 'Altogether Perfect' campaign. AIME is significant from a business tourism perspective as this allows us to meet face-to-face with the key decision makers from around the world to showcase our destination for conferences, events and incentives. This year we had an amazing response with over 65 pre-scheduled appointments to discuss potential business opportunities and met with many more during the networking functions.

For the past 4 years I have had the privilege of working alongside Singleton Council's General Manager, Lindy Hyam on many projects for our Visitor Economy. Lindy this week, announced her retirement effective from Monday 7 March 2016. At her last council meeting this week, Singleton Mayor Cr John Martin OAM thanked Lindy for her tenure as General Manager. "We have collectively achieved many great things over the past four years Lindy has been the General Manager," he says. "We have brought in more than \$32 million in grant funding to tick off some of our major projects like the Town Centre Revitalisation, the Gym & Swim, the redevelopment of the saleyards, the upgrade of Ryan Ave, Hermitage Rd, Dunolly Rd and the Bridgman Rd-New England highway intersection, and construction of new bridges at Broke and Bourkes Crossing."

Never one to blow her own trumpet, Lindy has overseen these projects from concept to completion, while others will be under construction or ready to begin when she retires. Lindy was also central in the recent formation of the new alliance with Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association and Cessnock City Council to increase overnight visitation to the region. The timing of her retirement took into account several reasons, first and foremost being to spend time with her family and a grandchild expected in February, but also to ensure Singleton Council had a new General Manager for a full six months prior to the Local Government Elections in September 2016.

The list of achievements under Lindy's leadership goes on and I for one will sorely miss her energy and input at our HVWTA meetings. The Around Hermitage group hosted a farewell thank you dinner on 22 February at The Mill Restaurant.



## Discovering your Family's Past

with Neridah Kentwell



Why delve into past history when you would rather enjoy the present or look towards the future; those times, after all, were so different for previous generations, and sometimes so depressing? One very good reason is to help discover aspects of yourself, or your life, you didn't know or understand. By getting to know your roots, where you came from, you are finding the curious mixture of people that has helped you to become YOU.

Family research can also help you discover why people in your family behave or behaved in a certain way. Because you are different and you don't understand why they do what they do, proves that the siblings in a family don't inherit exactly the same genes, even if you have exactly the same parents. Because of this you may sometimes be more inclined to share a certain aspect of your personality, for example, with a first or even a second cousin, than a sibling. Like the fact there is usually only one family historian in each immediate family because no one else is interested enough, but cousins or second cousins could share that interest with you.

Now, returning to why others in the family can often be so different to ourselves, it can simply mean that when we inherit half our DNA from each parent, the particular chromosomes coming from each can be different for each child, although there are usually some similarities. But it is why you can get that extremely rare, though still possible, black skinned newborn from two white skinned parents arriving as a throwback from the dark skinned ancestor everyone had forgotten about, or hadn't even known about. While this is an extreme example, imagine the potential for you to have inherited a gift for music, perhaps, from your 2x great grandmother. Or the possibility of you having a rare genetic condition, coming from your 3x great grandfather, which makes you wonder why you were the only unlucky one in the family to get it, until you learn about him; how much worse it would have been when he had it, because medical science knew so little in previous eras. It's all really a matter of your own peculiar set of genes, and there's more to it than eye colour.

My own experience came from the many, then unknown, convicts I had on my fathers' side, including a convict hangman who was forced to do the job or lose his own life. (See the BBC series Banished for his partly fictionalised story or go to www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au, go to SHIPS, click on Alexander, go to convicts section and click on James Freeman for the more correct story).

The shame that this initially caused the early generations of one side of my family in Australia created a monster in its own right, as it meant this secret had to be hidden at all costs. I didn't happen to inherit the gene that meant everything always had to appear respectable, but other family members did. It created a genetic memory when it was combined with the narrow thinking of the time. I could not understand the judgemental hypocrisy of this behaviour. When I discovered my convict blood, suddenly all became clear. The hiding in the cloak of respectability made sense; at last. It was a personal breakthrough which makes me want everyone to have the same insight into their family troubles that I have been given.

Doing your family history is great fun but not nearly as easy as some family history website's advertising claim. For every person on your tree who you find there needs to be supporting evidence and knowledgeable deduction that shows that the particular John, or Joan, Smith is your John or Joan. Which is easier said than done with the name Smith. Even if your family name is unusual, you cannot jump to the conclusion that any early settler or convict with the same name is your ancestor, although it certainly helps to narrow the search. But some people just didn't want to be found, hence the occasional use of aliases. My ancestor, John Best is another tricky one as Best is a common English name and so, of course, is John, and I am yet to find him.

Ancestry.com, and other sites like it, are certainly useful with regard to linking to other people looking for the same ancestors, but so many put up their family trees without the appropriate records or evidence they are claiming. Or put up information on ancestors that is wrong, even apparently knowing this, from knowledge they have copied from other people's trees. Just because there are so many on line that have done these trees that could potentially contain your early ancestors, does not mean you can presume they are right, you need the correct proof.

So please be aware of the traps of doing a family tree. Certainly give it a go, but do it properly if you can, with evidence that will substantiate what you've found is yours. Certificates, such as births and marriages, need to be ordered for the appropriate candidates to substantiate the initial suspicion that they may be the correct person you are looking for. This is why researchers and genealogists need to charge a RETAINER to cover these costs. It is also time consuming as you wait for them to arrive, usually weeks at a time.

For help researching your kins' records, or attempting to solve the family mystery, call Neridah on 0427657150 or email [neridah.kentwell@gmail.com](mailto:neridah.kentwell@gmail.com). Or come to Greta Museum on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, between 11am and 3pm, for a chat.

# BRANXTON GOLF CLUB

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**welcome**

**Lucky Badge Draw**

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**4.00pm**

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**Restaurant**

**Open Wednesday to Sunday**  
**Lunch and Dinner**

**Trivia**  
**Every Thursday Night**



# click



## Do I Need To Upgrade?

If you're happy with what you have, do you need to upgrade?

A reader asks: "My wife uses a laptop with Windows 7 home edition. She only uses Google. She only goes to Facebook and plays their games there. She doesn't do anything else with the laptop. My question is: Does she need to upgrade to Windows 10? She is not very good with computers."

She may not need to upgrade, but she might want to. If she only goes online with the laptop, she's not really very likely to notice much of a change as long as she keeps using her current browser. I'll assume you mean Google Chrome, but even if it's Internet Explorer or Firefox, she won't notice any change there unless she were to switch to the Microsoft Edge browser.

The advantage of upgrading is that she'll get an extra five years of security and bug support for her PC. Windows 7 is supported through 2020 and Windows 10 will be supported until 2025.

In fact, I'd say that your wife is one of those people who really doesn't need a laptop at all. When it comes time to replace it, consider getting her a tablet

## Clean Install Vs. Upgrade

A reader had a question about the term "clean install." She wrote: "What do you mean by a clean upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 10. I had Vista on my computer when I bought it. Microsoft mailed Windows 7 to me to install. Does this make a difference? One day a note popped up on my computer on right lower corner that, stated my computer was not compatible for Windows 10, it keeps offering an upgrade on my computer to upgrade to Windows 10 now."



I believe the term you want is "clean install." A clean install means that you are completely overwriting all of the files and programs on a PC with the new operating system.

Users of Windows 7, 8, and 8.1 have the option to do a free upgrade to Windows 10. This upgrade will leave your folders, programs and settings intact, but upgrade your OS to Windows 10 and install some new apps only found in Windows 10.

If you upgraded your PC from Vista to Windows 7, you should be eligible for the upgrade. I'm wondering if there's a typo in your question. Did a note pop up saying your PC was "not" eligible for upgrade or that it is "now" eligible for upgrade? If it says "now", then you should be able to upgrade. If it says "not" eligible, there may be some type of hardware issue

## Solid State Drives & Overheating Laptops

An overheating PC can be a huge problem. Ron is having trouble with laptops, and thinks that he may have a solution. He writes "Hi, I have had laptops for sometime now. Three to be exact. My current a HP Pavilion dv7. Like most laptops it has overheating issues. My question is can I replace this drive with a solid state one. They would offer less of a heat problem and no moving parts. Help me out."

There are a couple of things that I'd like to address here.

First off, solid state drives vs. traditional hard drives.



The advantages of a solid state drive are that, yes, there are no moving parts to heat up or fail, and it tends to be faster than a traditional drive. It's basically a big flash drive built in to your computer. It's also lighter and thinner, which means that your laptop can also be lighter and thinner. The downside is the cost. A 500 GB solid-state drive will cost you over \$170, whereas you can have a hybrid drive (traditional disc drive with a solid-state component built in for faster boot time) with double the storage for about 1/3 the cost. But, I'll also tell you that an overheating hard drive is

rarely the cause of heat problems with a laptop. If a hard drive overheats, the drive itself tends to fail rather than causing the laptop to overheat.

I will tell you that I am typing this on an HP DV15 that I've had for about a year and a half with no heat problems whatsoever. My previous laptop, also an HP, was with me for more than two years with no heat problems. As a matter of fact, the only computer that I've ever had that had overheating problems was a desktop, and that was because the fan on the heat sink failed.

There are a number of factors that can contribute to heat problems with a laptop. One is that, as they get smaller and lighter, laptops have less options for dispersing heat from the CPU. Yes, CPU's are getting more efficient, which has enabled tablets that are as powerful as laptops were a year ago with essentially no heat sink, but CPU's still get hot.

However, the two main causes of a laptop overheating, both related to CPU heat, are both related to how people use them.

The first is laptop "cooling" systems. A laptop's fans, located on the bottom of the machine, pull heat away from the CPU and the internal workings of the machine and disperse it. Most fan bases that you get for laptops, though, actually pull air INTO the machine, thereby effectively negating any heat dispersal properties of the fan. My advice is to buy a lap desk with a hard surface (mine is wooden) which allows the fans to remain clear, thereby allowing them to disperse heat like they were designed to. Yes, they are larger and less portable, but they will extend the life of your laptop.

The other problem is that people tend to take the term "laptop" literally, and set the machine directly on their lap. Or on their bed. Or somewhere else that blocks the fans. You really want to use your laptop only when it's set on a hard surface whenever possible to allow the heat to be dispersed properly.

I hope that this helps!

## Upgrading To Windows 10 From 7

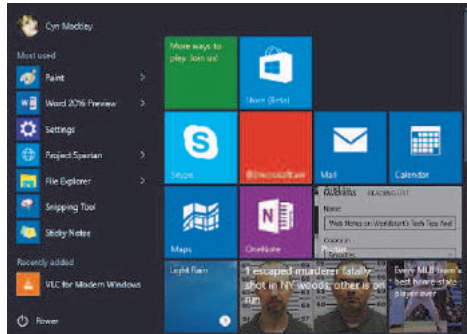
Alice has a question about upgrading to Windows 10. She writes: "I would like to know if I am currently running windows 7 do I have to upgrade to 8 before upgrade to 10 or can I just upgrade to 10?"



Alice, you can upgrade directly to Windows 10. By the way, upgrading from Windows 7 to Windows 8.1 is not free. It's also a clean install that overwrites your whole system, so there's absolutely no reason to pay \$100 for something you're going to overwrite. You can upgrade directly to Windows 10 for free if you're running a Windows 7 or Windows 8.1 PC capable of handling the upgrade. If you're running Windows 8, you will need to take the free upgrade to Windows 8.1 first before moving on to Windows 10. But as for you, Alice, you should be good to go.

## Windows 10 - Can I Change My Mind?

I've had this question a few times, and I've answered it as part of other tips, but I thought I'd respond to it as a stand-alone quick tip. "If I uninstall W10 to revert back to W7/8, can I upgrade to W10 again for free before 7/16?"



The short answer is yes. I actually had to do that myself once. Within the first 30 days of upgrading to Windows 10, you can choose to go back to our previous operating system. You can then later choose to upgrade to Windows 10 again. However, if you decide to do a clean install of another OS over Windows 10, you will lose all of those files.

## The Law Report



Peter KIRSOP B.A., LL.B, Acc Spec (Prop) of MRM Thompson Norrie Lawyers, Maitland NSW

### Exceptions to the Torrens system – leases

Since 1930 a lease for less than three years does not need to be registered. So a purchaser from the original owner who granted a short term lease cannot evict a tenant who is paying the rent, maintaining the rented property and complying with the other terms of the lease even though that lease is not registered.

I gave the example of a purchaser deliberately. Almost all disputes arise between the purchasers and the existing lessee. In fact the "the inspiration" for this exception to the Torrens system was a dispute with a purchaser – *Munro v Stuart*

James A Munro Ltd owned a building in Elizabeth St Sydney which it leased to several tenants for shops and offices. Each of the leases was for a term of less than three years and each was not registered. In June 1923 it sold the building to Stuart under a contract which was expressed to be "subject to existing tenancies or occupancies" It did not set out each of the particular leases. Munro gave a copy of all of the leases to Stuart before Stuart signed the contract. On becoming registered proprietor, the purchaser proceeded to evict the unregistered lessees.

The various lessees then brought an action against Munro. Their leases from Munro were a contract under which they were entitled to occupy the building without interference so long as they complied with the terms of the leases which they were all doing (lawyers call this entitlement a "right of quiet enjoyment.")

Munro then sought an injunction to restrain Stuart from proceeding with the evictions (Stuart needed a court order to do so) and to make Stuart 'recognise' the leases. Firstly Munro argued that the contract between him and Stuart meant that Stuart bought the property "subject to existing tenancies and occupancies" That was what the contract said. And Munro argued that those words meant there was an agreement between Munro and Stuart to recognise all the leases. But the judge said that those words did not bind the purchaser to recognise any specific tenancy.

Munro also argued that Stuart had notice of the leases (Munro had given him a copy) so Stuart knew the lessees had rights under the leases (which was true enough) and that to evict the lessees when he knew of their rights was fraud.

However such 'notice' was one of the things Sir Robert Torrens tried to avoid when he created the Torrens system because the idea of notice had been taken to extremes. The Torrens system was meant to ensure that one could rely on the register, so you could ignore what was not there. And these leases were not registered and Stuart could ignore them.

Generally speaking judges follow the decisions of previous judges unless those previous decisions are overruled by an appeal. So those cases are a guide to lawyers showing what the courts will do. But before the internet the most common way for lawyers (and indeed judges) to know about these cases was for them to be "reported" in books containing a series of cases. Each state contracted with a publisher and issued their own series, the Commonwealth issued one covering the High Court. There were also less official series often covering particular areas of law. This particular case was not "reported" till 1942- 18 years after it was decided. Lawyers knew about it because a summary was written up in a text book.

In any case the Real Property Act was changed to prevent short term lessees from being evicted. Longer term lessees were expected to take more care- their leases were generally drawn by lawyers who made sure the leases were registered. A business can't exist without premises from which to trade so a long term lease is the



most valuable part of the business. Sometimes though a longer term lease is not registered. A purchaser can still be "saddled" with the lease if he agreed to honour the obligations. Something like this happened in a West Australian case I've mentioned before in another context *Bahr v Nicolay*.

Mr. and Mrs. Bahr wanted to develop their land but couldn't raise the money. They sold it to Nicolay, subject to an option to buy it back within two years. Within that time Nicolay sold the land to Mr Thompson., who in the contract acknowledged the option – it was attached to the contract. There was a specific clause in the contract in which he agreed to be bound by the option That acknowledgement and agreement was probably designed to overcome *Munro v Stuart*- the agreement was specifically referred to and attached to the contract (which got over the first problem in *Munro v Stuart*- a general reference to "leases" and there was a specific agreement to be bound by the option to make it more than "notice"

Mr and Mrs. Bahr won. One of the High Court judges summarised the whole argument saying "The Torrens system is designed to protect a transferee from defects in the title of the transferor, not to free him from interests with which he has burdened his own title. Most states have similar provisions protecting short term leases each is a bit different. So in Western Australia leases with terms of up to 5 years need not be registered. And it's to Western Australia I head for a new twist about unregistered leases.

Some years ago a West Australian judge decided that a lease that should be registered but is not is "destroyed" when the freehold land which is leased is sold and the transfer recording that sale is registered. Or at least that is so where the lease is not protected by some sort of agreement between the buyer and seller such as in *Bahr v Nicolay*.

That decision is a little controversial. No judge in any other state has adopted the decision. But logically it makes sense. The purchaser is only bound by what is registered so he can ignore the unregistered lease. He can evict the lessee (as Stuart did in *Munro v Stuart*) So the lease has no effect against him (He can of course continue the lease if he wants to- but he legally need not). He is the only person whose legal interest in the land is affected by the lease. If it has no effect against him it has no effect against anyone else. So you might as well say the lease is destroyed.

But if a lease is "destroyed" on registration of a transfer of the leased land then logically it no longer exists. So that what is good for the purchaser is good for the lessee as well it is no longer bound by the lease and can pack up and go away. And it is this that led to a case in the Western Australian Court of Appeal *Primewest (Mandurah) Pty Ltd v Ryom Pty Ltd* Primewest owned a shopping centre with six leases. One of the leases was unregistered. The other had been registered but the original lessee had sold the lease to another shopping chain. The new lessee was trading but the transfer of the lease to it had not been registered

It had agreed to sell the shopping centre to Ryom.

Ryom was concerned that "destruction" logically works both ways. If an incoming registered purchaser can invoke it, so can an unregistered tenant, or an unregistered assignee of a registered tenant. In that way, these unregistered holders could free themselves of their leases.

Ryom was –like most people buying a commercial building – concerned that it would get the rents from the leases. It was particularly concerned that one of the lessees had suggested it may want to surrender the lease upon payment of three month's rent (which the lease allowed it to do). Ryom was concerned that that lessee might use the 'destruction' of the lease to simply walk away. .

So in the Contract for sale it insisted on a clause requiring Primewest to provide " deeds of affirmation" that would bind the two lessees to comply with the leases. Primewest said it would do that but that it did not have to do that before settlement. Ryom wanted the deeds before settlement.

Settlement did not occur and Ryom gave a notice terminating the contract because (it said) Primewest had to provide the deeds before settlement, it had not done so , the time for settlement had gone, Primewest had still not provided the deeds and so it was in breach of the contract.

Primewest sued Ryom saying that Ryom had breached the contract by terminating it. The court found that Primewest was not willing to perform the contract which required it to provide the deeds before settlement. This was partly because the sale contract's commercial objective was in part to secure the "income stream" from the leases- that is to make sure the various lessees could not walk away from the leases because the unregistered leases had been 'destroyed' by the sale of the freehold land.

So registration –or lack of registration works both ways. At least if the West Australian idea of unregistered leases being "destroyed" on the sale of the freehold registration protects both the landlord and the tenant. This would probably be a surprise to those who changed the Real Property Act in 1930 to provide that short term leases did not have to be registered to be enforceable against purchasers. But then like life itself law is full of surprises.

Cheers, Peter

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## Negative gearing explained: will Labor's policy make it cheaper for first home buyers?

By Kaitlyn Sawrey

**It's pitched as the battle between young and old; the rich and poor; the investors who can buy housing that loses money, versus renters watching 'the dream' slip from their grasp.**

If you know a tiny bit about housing policy, you know that negative gearing is contentious. It's an issue both sides of politics have studiously avoided for years. But then, a bit over a week ago, Labor announced they would do away with negative gearing on existing housing to make it easier for first home owners to enter the market. Turnbull hit back; Labor's policy would "smash" the value of house prices.

So, here's what you need to know to understand the negative gearing debate and whether it will actually make it cheaper for you to buy your first house. Former ANZ Chief Economist Saul Eslake reckons "there's never been a more exciting time to be an advocate for winding back negative gearing".

**What is negative gearing?** If you buy a house that makes more money (in rent) than it costs (in repayments), then you can say it's 'positively geared'. Nice work, savvy investor, your mortgage is paying itself off.

But if the rent doesn't cover the costs, then you can claim that loss on tax (negative gearing). In the 2012-13 tax year, the average loss on an investment property for negatively geared investors was about \$10,000.

You can then say to the taxman 'hey, can you knock that off my taxable income?' and reduce the amount you can be taxed by \$10,000. So if you're earning \$90,000 per year, the amount you pay tax on is \$80,000.

**Blah blah blah, why should I care?** Because investors are subsidised to buy housing they're losing money on, it makes housing a really attractive investment option which pushes up prices. Which makes it harder and harder for younger people to get into the market and you end up renting for longer.

CEO of Youth Action, Katie Acheson says originally negative gearing was pitched as a way to increase the number of houses being built, which would push down rent prices and make it easier for people to save for their deposit. But then, Katie says "negative gearing became a tax rebate for investors and for wealthier older people. So we started having housing prices being driven up by investors rather than actual home buyers."

Katie says younger Australians should be jumping up and down about negative gearing.

**Would removing negative gearing on existing housing make it easier for first home buyers?**

Independent economist Saul Eslake says "it's hard to think of any single measure that a federal government could take that would do more to help first home buyers than what Labor is proposing".

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 93 per cent of home-loans in Australia go towards existing properties. Labor says by restricting negative gearing to brand new properties, it will drive investors to build more housing stock and reduce competition amongst existing housing. Because if you're an investor trying to reduce the amount of tax you pay, then investing in new housing will be your only option to access negative gearing.

Labor aren't proposing to reverse negative gearing arrangements already in place. If you're already taking advantage of negative gearing, then keep doing what you're doing.

"I don't like that very much, but I accept that's probably a compromise you have to make because there are almost 1.5 million people who've got them [negative gearing deductions]. And no opposition who hopes to be in government can afford to annoy that many people," says Saul Eslake.

**Will Labor's policy drive housing prices up or down?**

Malcolm Turnbull says all homeowners should be concerned; "Bill Shorten's policy is calculated to reduce the value of your home". Because Labor have given a

timeline for when they would introduce the policy (June 30, 2017), it gives investors time to snap up properties before the changes kick in. That competition will likely see an increase in prices up to the cut off.

"There's obviously nine months where there will be a bit of a rush," says Saul Eslake. "You can imagine real estate agents and investment agents will be saying 'you've got nine months to gear up to the gills'. So that is a risk with what the Labor party is proposing."

Eliza Owen, housing market analyst at 'onthehouse.com.au' agrees prices for existing housing could surge and then drop off. But she says if people are a little more forward-thinking about it, that might not happen.

"If you rush in to buy a house over a million dollars, if after the negative gearing policies are implemented it's only worth half that much, then really you've lost out. Because essentially, once you take away the negative gearing benefits there will be a real dramatic fall in demand in that market which will affect prices."

And then Eliza says there's the problem of house prices surging for new properties (which you could still negatively gear). "Once you buy a new property you can negatively gear it, but if you try and sell it on, you can't negatively gear it because it's not a new property anymore. So the prices might fall dramatically there as well."

"I think it would have a really interesting effect on prices over time, but short answer is yes when you take away financial incentives from property it'll make prices go down, it'll be good for affordability."

**Why retain negative gearing on building new houses?**

"The argument for exempting new housing, is that investors might be encouraged to invest in building new houses which would add to housing supply, of which there is currently a shortage," says Saul Eslake.

But Eliza Owen says keeping negative gearing for new houses will make it really hard for first home buyers to get into new property. "But it'll be easier for them to get into the established market."

**Will removing negative gearing on existing housing drive up rental prices?**

This is a question ABC's Fact Check examined in detail recently. Negative gearing was removed temporarily between 1985-1987, and rental prices went up in Melbourne and Sydney (but dropped everywhere else). But there were other factors at play (interest rates and boom in the share market), so the conclusion both Saul Eslake and Fact Check came to was no, removing negative gearing won't drive up rental prices.

Will removing negative gearing hurt 'Mum and Dad investors'?

This is one of the government's main arguments. They say two thirds of people who use negative gearing have a taxable income of \$80,000 or less. But that's after they've knocked the costs of their investment off their taxable income. Addressing the Press Club last week, Treasurer Scott Morrison said "70 per cent [of people using negative gearing] own just one property, and 70 per cent have a net rental loss of less than \$10,000. It is one of the few opportunities that people on modest incomes have to try to get ahead. They have taken advantage of that, and I say to them good luck, and good on you."

Shadow Treasurer Chris Bowen says using the same set of statistics, 64,000 people are claiming negative gearing interest deductions who have no income at all.

"The more relevant figure in my view is that according to the ABS [Australian Bureau of Statistics] in 2013/14, 72 per cent of the total value of investment property was owned by households in the top 20 per cent of the wealth distribution," says Saul Eslake. "And 51 per cent of the property investment debt was owed by the top 20 per cent of households."

"To put it another way, someone in the top tax bracket - that is with a taxable income of over \$180,000 - is more than three times as likely to be using negative gearing than someone earning less than 80,000."

**Why is housing so expensive in Australia in the first place?**

Eliza Owen says there's a combination of factors that make Australian housing so unaffordable. She thinks the generation of baby boomers coming up to retirement have looked to property to reliably make money, because housing is considered a safe investment. "And then you have the benefits of negative gearing! It's virtually impossible to make a loss on property whereas shares can be a bit more risky." Saul Eslake agrees first home buyers are being out-gunned by older investors. "Especially in the last three or four years when investors have accounted for more than half the amount lent to home purchasers, compared with about 30 per cent 12 years ago."

What about foreign investment? Eliza says there's no data to support the idea Chinese foreign investors are pushing up prices, citing a 2014 University of Sydney study that found they only made up 2 per cent of all residential property transactions in Australia.

**What happens when you sell the property?** Capital gains is how much money you make (let's keep the focus on property) on a house when you sell it, compared with how much you paid for it. So if your parents bought an investment property for \$200,000 when you were little, and now they want to sell that to fund their retirement, but the house is now worth \$700,000 - well, they need to pay tax on the extra half a million they just made. That's called capital gains tax (and it doesn't apply to the house you live in).

Investors are given a 50 per cent concession on the capital gains tax on properties - so they only pay tax on \$250,000 rather than the \$500,000. Labor are proposing reducing capital gains discounts available to investors down to 25 per cent, so in the same example they would pay capital gains tax for \$375,000 of the \$500,000

# MOVIE REVIEW

## HAIL, CAESAR!



**SYNOPSIS: A look at the daily life of Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin), a Hollywood fixer for Capitol Pictures in the 1950s, who cleans up and solves problems for big names and stars in the industry. But when in the middle of filming the big budget biblical epic, Hail, Caesar!, studio star Baird Whitlock (George Clooney) disappears, Mannix has to deal with more than just the fix. Review by Louise Keller:**

A burnt out Hollywood Executive, a kidnapped movie star, a tenacious gossip columnist and a study group with communist tendencies are some of the scrumptious characters in this latest Coen Brothers jewel. It may not be their sparkling best, but the 50s Hollywood studio construct with its insider's view of the movie industry works a treat, while there are enough highlights to make the journey ludicrous and entertaining enough to grab our attention. It's a delectable, refreshing cocktail of noir mystery thriller shaken with a liberal double nip of humour, satire, song and dance.

Ethan and Joel Coen have structured their tale around Josh Brolin's hard-working studio executive Eddie Mannix, who fixes all the problems from misbehaving starlets, exasperated directors, production issues and potential scandals big and small. Brolin is excellent. Of course it helps to have such a wonderful cast to inhabit the characters,

with George Clooney delightfully goofy as Baird Whitlock, the popular star of the biggest film of the year, a swords and sandals religious epic named Hail Caesar. The Coen brothers delight in teasing their audience, none better than the scene when Baird is about to drink from the drugged goblet onset before delaying and stalling - much to the angst of the lute-playing extra and his grape-holding accomplice, who are executing his kidnapping. The fact that the action takes place at Capitol Studios is not accidental: capitalism is the issue at the heart of the disgruntled screenwriters. Scarlett Johansson's synchronised swimming scene (a la Esther Williams) is glorious, mermaid fish-tail and all; Johansson is divine as DeeAnna Moran, a precocious starlet whose Mary Poppins image is at odds with her precocious lifestyle. Alden Ehrenreich has a key role as Hobie Doyle, a cowboy actor heartthrob with horseback acrobatic skills but zero clue about acting or delivering lines. I love the sequence when Ralph Fiennes' restrained director Laurence Laurentz tries patiently to direct the inept Hobie - Fiennes is ultra good. To top it off, there's a kicker: watch carefully for the scene in which Frances McDormand as an eccentric film editor, plays some rushes for Eddie. I mustn't forget Channing Tatum in a Gene Kelly-esque song and dance sequence, dressed as a sailor who tap dances on tables in a show-stopping routine. And the scene-stealing Tilda Swinton as the identical twin gossip and news columnist, whose noses sniff out every potential scandal. There are plenty of surprises

and between the action, we become involved in the endless trials and tribulations of Eddie, who is contemplating his future and regularly visits the confessional. The joke is that his stated 'sins' are incidental, and I enjoyed the scene in which Eddie asks for a Jewish rabbi, a clergyman, a pastor and Catholic Priest to offer their opinions on the depiction of Hail Caesar's religious elements. It's all a lot of fun and Michael Gambon's narration brings all the elements together succinctly with a juicy delivery. This is a connoisseur piece that can be enjoyed even more in hindsight.

**Review by Andrew L. Urban:**

The wry tone, the dry wit and the sometimes not so dry moment (eg synchronised water dancing led by the irritable (and pregnant) DeeAnna Moran (Scarlett Johansson), serve as flavouring to this Coen brothers movie meal. To begin with, the half serious treatment of the movie within the movie, Hail, Caesar! spends a considerable time on Christianity as well as communism, without losing its focus on Hollywood of the 50s - but with nuance. It is a richly textured, meal, where we guests are never quite sure what surprise is coming next. There is no label for this film.





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



I will endeavour to leave that in your capable hands, however three failed marriages, forty-six thousand jobs and a financial burden which would sink a country by the ripe old age of forty, could possibly suggest that to be the case.

Of course, that is a dramatic example, but relevant nonetheless. In stark contrast, my Scrabble partner exhibited an almost mystical and seamless patience between turns, smiling periodically from which I gained the impression she was either lost in her own little world of alphabetical fairyland or she was simply enjoying the moment. Surely that is the key to even attempting a board game, right? To smile! To laugh! To have fun! If board games have you huffing and puffing and becoming frustrated and anxious, you need to address an internal struggle of some kind, or simply follow your natural instincts and wipe all the pieces and cards from the board, tip it upside down, yell a few expletives and tell everyone to go and get stuffed!!! Either way.....it's your choice!

Another interesting observation which I may delicately bring to the table is the difference between playing a board game with a complete stranger as opposed to playing a board game with your husband or wife. Yes, I know! From the overly polite pleasantries shared between the former to the calculated, presumptuous, scathing territory of the latter, one may correctly assume that there is no grey area between these two.....

'F...L...I...R...T...I...N...G'  
"Oh, Wow...good one!! Great word... well done!!"  
Or 'F...L...I...R...T...I...N...G'  
"HHHhmmmm!! Trust you to come up with that one!! Exactly what you were doing the other night at ....."  
"What ! Bulls\*\*!\* I was just talking!"  
"You were flirting!"  
"Wasn't!"  
"Was!"  
"That's 13 points anyway."  
"Stuff your points up your....."

.....And as we meander into another dimension of Scrabble, there exists a point within the game where you are resigned to believing you are a complete moron, the same point at which you literally cannot successfully construct a word. The honest and diligent among us resolutely wave the white flag and miss a turn, whilst the rest of us, in a highly sophisticated (suspect) and controversial (dodgy) manner, attempt to defraud both the English language and our opponent's intellect by masterfully 'designing' a word, brilliantly covering a triple letter and triple word score and once doing so, obnoxiously sitting back as if everything is in complete control. If any player has never heard or understood the word at hand, they are possibly best to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt. But they just have to speak out, don't they!

"Here we go.....truzzled...T..R..U..Z..Z..L..E..D.....truzzled. That'll be two, three, five, fifteen, twenty-five... thirty!! With a triple letter on that Z and a triple word score for ....Wow...91!!  
"Truzzled??"  
"Yeah, truzzled!"  
"Use it in a sentence!"  
"Uumm...Uuummm...I became truzzled when I deunjuncted manamatically from the distingualled, polypashed mountain.....lucky to survive that, actually!!"  
"What?? Truzzled is not a word....I'm going to look it up!"  
"Go ahead."  
"The Oxford Dictionary doesn't recognise it!"  
"Well, of course that silly old thing doesn't.....it was written a billion years ago!"  
"Yes, that may be so but it doesn't recognise deunjuncted, manamatically, distingualled or polypashed either!"  
"You know what.....BANG!...BANG!...CRASH!.....@^\$%#.....I'm not playing anymore.....you can all go and get stuffed!!!!!!!"

Cheers  
Andrew

When gifted American architect, Alfred Mosher Butts ( his parents clearly encountering a certain 'je ne sais quoi' when naming their offspring) invented a game he called Lexiko (after a Japanese lady-boy bar in New Mexico.....not really.....maybe?), he had no idea that it would evolve into one of the most popular board games in the world – Scrabble! The word scrabble means to 'scratch frantically'. To me, scratching frantically sounds like fun, which is why you will find me sitting in front of a Scrabble board, looking dumbfounded, wondering what all those small plastic letter pieces are and curiously scouring the board in confusion.

A few weeks ago, I was fortunate enough to be floating on a boat in the middle of the Indian Ocean somewhere (don't ask – it's better that way), when a beautiful and delightful member of the opposite sex (again – ssshhh!) suggests a quiet game of Scrabble.

"Uuuuummm.....I don't know about that.....how long are your fingernails?"  
"What?"  
"Nothing!"

Having not played Scrabble for close on twenty years, I was up for the challenge....."Oh goody, Scrabble!" What my Scrabbling partner was not acutely aware of however, was my incessant ability and carefully nurtured and constructively attuned flair for the English language. In fact, not just the English language – but the Queen's English! Years of tutoring and grammatical lecturing has afforded me a rather grand and enchanted relationship within our literary world. This privileged background was none more evident than upon the construction of my first word....."F\*\*\*!" "Let me see....four, plus one, plus one, plus four is ten, with a double word bonus.....20!" I excitedly shout. As I am not intimately familiar with all of Scrabble's painstakingly rigid etiquette, my playing partner shoots me a withering look of contempt, as if to suggest that my lack of taste for a more appropriate adjective precluded further fraternisation. She responds, "C..O..N..T..R..O..L". Nice one. Back to me. "TO.....T..O.....TO". No comment.

Board games are a rather inane use of one's time and energy, yet there exists a wonderful, meditative and comfortable blanket of familiarity surrounding this ceremony. It is as if an unwritten union between you and your past is allowed to meld within that timeframe and exist without judgement or regret. The moment a board game is placed in front of me, an instant feeling of child-like gratitude fills the air. In fact, you could probably place a rotting pumpkin in front of me and detect the same response, so please forgive me for misguiding you there. The thing about playing a board game is that there is no looking after employees, no BAS statements, no meetings with accountants, no tax evasion officers.....ok.....we might leave it there.....you get my point. It is simply you in your primal element, which brings us to a fine point. Playing board games gives us an hourglass peek at one another's lives. How you approach a board game is in many instances a reflection of how you approach life. For example, a dear friend of mine and I used to play a lot of chess whilst at school. Before a result had been attained, he would wipe the entire board of all its pieces in a frustrated flurry and either tell me to go to hell or declare a new game, as there was no way he could win. What the ??? Did he approach his life in the same manner?

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

IN response to comment made in 'The News' 16 Feb 2016 in the WD/NSWD. CLEARLY, you are not a qualified ARBORIST or a MEMBER of ARBORICULTURE AUSTRALIA LTD. Therefore you have NO IDEA ! If you were you would not have written your rubbish COMMENT !!

THANKS to Josh Day from Gold Cobra health and fitness for making such a difference in our community by promoting health and wellbeing. Josh continues to go out of his way to support our community and in some circumstances is not appreciated enough! We are very lucky to have someone so generous, thoughtful and accepting to all walks of life. Well done Josh!

SADLY, I was a witness to embarrassing behaviour by a local person last week. If your behaviour is how you think you should behave I feel sorry for you; I think you have missed the point completely. You where on private property, at a meeting and your foul language was appalling. You didn't seem to care that women and children witnessed your outburst. I hope this event reaches the ears of those who matter & care & then take some responsibility for your behaviour. Shame on you! Maybe for Lent you can give up a few words from your vocabulary?

**FREE!** Classified's Classified's

Cost:- For one-off domestic advertising The News will not charge you. Otherwise it is \$2/line.

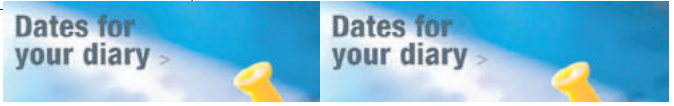
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**Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908  
**Computer Services:** Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128  
**For Rent:** Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460  
**FREE TO A GOOD HOME** – Balinese style bamboo DAY BED with foam mattress – Ph 0414 963 678  
**For Sale:** 2002 Rover 75. Unregistered. Needs some TLC which I am not prepared to do. Full leather, GPS. Beautiful vehicle. P: 0414 757 826  
**FOR SALE** – George Foreman's lean mean fat GRILLING MACHINE - like new \$10 – Ph 0414 963 678  
**FOR SALE** – 15 inch electric DIGITAL PHOTO FRAME - like new \$20 – Ph 0414 963 678  
**For Sale:** Aust stock saddle. Good condition, tree as new, reblocked. Specially used \$350ono P: Val 0411 386 595  
**For Sale:** Toyota Hilux 1995; twin cab, 2.4l, auto, air con. This vehicle unregistered but could be a sturdy workhorse with some registration & TLC. P: 0467 099 159 MAKE AN OFFER; it needs a new owner who can use it.  
**Garage Sale:** Sat 5 March at 9am start. 617 Dalwood Road, Branxton. Lots of bric-a-brac, furniture and heaps more.  
**Guitar Lessons:** Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.  
**Microchipping:** Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.  
**Riding Lessons:** agistment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494  
**Share accommodation:** Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton; off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067  
**Share House:** Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866  
**Wanted:** high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826  
**Wanted:** all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70 Contact Drew 0435814841  
**Wanted:** Quality drycleaner/presser. Must be available 7 days a week. Also 2 x senior laundry workers + 2 x juniors.

Apply Hunter Laundry & Dry Cleaners P: 4938 1188  
**Work Wanted:** Lawn Mowing; best rates – large or small area. P: 0459 123 397  
**Work Wanted:** Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601  
**Work Wanted:** D & N Maintenance – yards, decks, retaining walls + much more P: 0412 208 143  
**Work Wanted:** HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701  
**Work Wanted:** Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567  
**Work Wanted:** Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081  
**Work Wanted:** Seamstress – alterations for school uniforms, work clothing, casual & formal wear. Prompt & reliable service. P: 4938 7236  
**Work Wanted:** Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.  
**Work Wanted:** experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804  
**Work Wanted:** Lawn and Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153  
**Work Wanted:** Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989  
**Work Wanted:** Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936

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The "For your Diary" section of The News is a FREE community service.



Please get your coming event for 2016 noted in this section. No charge!! Call Mike on 4938 1773

- Wed 2 March - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00pm
- Fri 4 Mar - Branxton Uniting Church 'World Day of Prayer'
- Sun 20 Mar - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Sun 17 Apl - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Sun 15 May - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Sat 28 May - Bridal Parade @ St John's Anglican Church
- Sun 19 Jun - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Wed 6 July - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00pm
- Sun 17 Jly - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Sun 21 Aug - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Sat 27 Aug - Annual Op Shop Fashion Parade @ Branxton Community Hall from 2.00pm
- Sun 18 Sept - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- 20-22 Sept - New South Wales Wine Industry Awards at Cessnock Leagues Club
- Wed 5 Oct - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00pm
- Wed 12 Oct - Rags to Riches High Tea for Women's Cancer @ Branxton Community Hall from 11.30am
- Sun 16 Oct - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Sun 20 Nov - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Sun 2 Dec - Twilight Market (4.00pm to 8.00pm) - Proceeds to Prostrate Cancer & Beyond Blue
- Sun18 Dec - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds





**Newspaper Item 1**  
**Swimming News**

This week Rosary Park Catholic School held its annual Swimming Assembly. At the assembly students received ribbons for placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in their age races from the swimming carnival that was held late December 2015. Congratulations to our junior swimming champions Jack Barattini and Allannah Thomas and our 11 years champions Connor Armstrong and Lucy MacIndoe as well as our senior champions Alex Martin and Evie Baldwin. On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February thirty students represented Rosary Park Catholic School at the All Saints Regional Swimming Carnival. Thank you to all students who attended the swimming carnival for your beautiful manners as well as your sportsmanship on the day. You are all a credit to our school.



**Rosary Park Catholic School**



Congratulations to the students who placed in the top three in their races and will represent the All Saints Region at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival in March at Lambton Pool.

Ryan Bolam	2 <sup>nd</sup> in boys 11 yrs 50m Breastroke
Allannah Thomas	3 <sup>rd</sup> in girls 10 yrs 50m Freestyle
Lucy MacIndoe	1 <sup>st</sup> in girls 11 yrs 50m Butterfly
Ben Ison	3 <sup>rd</sup> in boys 50m Junior Backstroke
Alex Martin	2 <sup>nd</sup> in 100m Senior Freestyle 1 <sup>st</sup> in 50m Senior Breastroke 2 <sup>nd</sup> in 50m Senior Backstroke 1 <sup>st</sup> in 50m Senior Butterfly 1 <sup>st</sup> in Senior Medley

**Basketball**

Congratulations to Alex Martin on his selection in the Polding Boys' Basketball team. Alex travelled to Lismore to trial and was successful. He will contest the State Championships later in the year.

**Parish News**

On Saturday, 5 March, 2016 at 6.00pm at St Brigid's Branxton will be our first 'Children's Mass' with the students, family and staff at Rosary Park School being involved in various ministries. It would be lovely to see as many faces as possible at this mass.



We have had a busy start to 2016 at Branxton Public School. Our Kinder Comets and Kinder Rockets are quickly learning our school routines and expectations and are settling in well, with lots of support from their Buddies and many other helpers. We hope that our new families will get involved in the school and contribute to all the great things we do.

We have also welcomed some other 'newbies' to Branxton PS. Mrs Michelle Maier is relieving Principal for Semester 1 and is quickly getting to know the staff, students and families. She is enthusiastic about continuing the excellent programs that are in the school, but is also keen to introduce some new and exciting initiatives. We also welcome Miss Sophie Cowan who is teaching a Stage 1 class and has already contributed a great deal to our school.

We are very lucky to have the Sport for Life coaches back again to teach our students Gymnastics. It is a great program with students developing many skills to improve strength and co-ordination and will continue over the term. It is also lots of fun!

Primary students and teachers enjoyed a fabulous day at Branxton Pool for our annual Swimming Carnival. Well done to the students who participated in events on the day, doing their Personal Best. Thanks also to the parents for helping out with various jobs.

The Branxton Public School P&C is holding their AGM on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Parents and interested community members are invited to a welcome BBQ at 6:30pm followed by the meeting at 7pm in the library. Come along and get to know some new parents as well as finding out what is going on in our school.

**Dates for the Calendar**

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March – School Photos  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March - P&C Annual General Meeting 7pm in the Library, 6:30pm for BBQ.

**We do great things at Branxton Public School.**



**Branxton Public School**



≡ Mrs Maier



≡ Miss Cowan



'School News' is proudly sponsored by Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate  
**4938 3300**



# Katharina's Story (1920-2015)

A wonderful & full life



Katharina Emilie Woltschenko was a resident of Greta from 1960-2014. She passed away on December 14th, 2015 aged 95 and a half years. Below is a very short bio of her 95 years.

## Europe

Katharina was born in an upstairs bedroom of her grandmother's house on June 29th 1920. She grew up in the small town of Portschach which was located on the shores of picturesque Lake Worthersee in southern Austria. She loved geography and nature and always wondered what the world was like on the other side of the alps which she could see from her favourite lookout above the forest. At the age of 16 she would find out. She left home and went to Fiesole on the outskirts of Florence in Italy to work as a nanny for a prominent Italian eye surgeon. It was one of the most enjoyable and carefree times of her life. She recalled seeing the Mediterranean Ocean for the first time and being mesmerized by the huge expanse of water. She stayed in Fiesole for 15 months until home-sickness got the better of her and she returned home. At the age of 19 she was off again, this time to Cologne Germany where she was a house keeper for the

director of a wool company. She stayed in Cologne for 3 years. It was the beginning of the war. She recalls swimming in a reservoir with her friend in the evenings and watching the German bomber planes fly overhead. She could identify the type of plane by its sound. Warning sirens and rushes to the underground shelters became the order of the day as the war intensified. Cologne became an increasingly more dangerous place to live so Katharina went back home to Austria.

## Australia

Katharina's biggest adventure however came in 1950. With her husband Boris, an ex-Russian soldier, and daughter Helga, she immigrated to Australia to seek a better life. She said she chose Australia because it was English speaking (she learned to speak English from the English occupation soldiers after the war) and because Australia was far enough away not to be able to easily return home when she got homesick! After an arduous 5 week boat trip from Germany to Australia on the Irish ship 'Dundulk Bay', Katharina and family finally arrived at No.1 Lee wharf in Newcastle on October 28th, 1950. They arrived in Newcastle on a stormy

night, were quickly placed onto trucks (men and women/children in separate trucks) and taken on what seemed to be a never-ending road trip to the Greta Migrant Camp. The family settled in quickly to camp life. Boris helped out in the kitchen and Katharina was placed in charge of the pre-school. After 3 months at Greta Camp, the family moved to Brisbane where Boris was posted to work (an immigration requirement) at the Brisbane Water-Board. Katharina gained employment as a wards-maid at the Brisbane Women's Hospital and daughter Helga, aged 7, went to Primary school. They rented a flat in Stanley Street, Woolloongabba (now part of the cultural Southbank precinct).

The family found living in Brisbane unbearable during the excessively humid summers and moved back to Newcastle in 1953. They purchased a block of land in Charlestown and Boris built a house. Boris found work at BHP shovelling coal into the coke ovens. This was a strenuous and exhausting job undertaken by many migrant men at the time. Katharina began working as a nurse at Stockton Psychiatric Hospital.

## Greta

In 1960 the family left Newcastle and moved to Greta where Boris wanted to start a poultry farm. Katharina recalls riding her Vespa scooter with Helga on the back from Charlestown to Greta to inspect a 2 and a half acre block of land at 41 Nelson St Greta. Katharina liked the block and purchased it for 200 pounds. Boris followed and built a house and a chicken shed. Katharina continued her work at Stockton Hospital leaving Greta on her Vespa at 5.00am in the morning to commence her 12 hour nursing shift and returning at 7.00pm. She recalls often

riding all the way to Lochinvar before she saw another vehicle – how times have changed (Although the road hasn't!) The chicken farm developed with the chickens being raised from chicks, processed and frozen. Katharina would make deliveries on her Vespa to work and also to the Country Comfort Motel and Albion Hotel in Singleton. It was not unusual for her to be riding to Singleton with 5 dozen frozen chooks on her Vespa – 2 dozen hanging off the back on either side, 2 dozen around her feet, and 1 dozen hanging in bags over the front handle-bars! Fortunately, that did not last too long as she acquired a driver's licence and bought a VW stationwagon from RH Taylor's in Maitland. The chicken farm business also created the necessity for a telephone. In the early 1960's not many people in Greta had telephones and the numbers were listed in

the phone book under the towns and villages. It meant that everybody knew who had a telephone in town and what their number was! Because Katharina's home was one of the few telephone locations at river end of Nelson Street it was not uncommon to get neighbours wanting to use the phone for medical emergencies or deaths. In the early 1970's companies such as Steggles changed the chicken industry from small private farms to large company sheds and mass production. The family chicken farm became unprofitable. Boris continued the farm on a small scale and began working at the Bradford Cotton Mills in Rutherford and Standen's Engineering in Branxton. Boris built a second larger home on the block which the family moved into in 1977. The old house was sold and taken away on a truck.

Katharina continued working at Stockton Hospital where she retired in 1976 after 25 years. Sadly Boris passed away in 1983 aged 73 years. In her retirement she travelled many times to Europe to see her sister and relatives. She also travelled back to Fiesole and visited the villa where she was a nanny 45 years previously. The family still owned the villa, however the young children she once looked after were now in the 50's and 60's. They still remembered her! Katharina's son Michael played the cornet in Maitland City Brass Band in the late 1960's and 1970's and Katharina became Vice-President of the Band Committee. She would spend many hours during band play-outs selling raffle tickets for you guessed it - frozen chooks! She was the first person to be awarded a Life

Member of the Maitland City Brass Band for her dedication and commitment. In 2013, at the age of 90, Katharina had the honour of cutting the cake at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Band. Katharina was very stoic, adventurous and gregarious. She had a positive outlook on life. At the age of 95 she was one of the oldest and last of her generation of European migrants from the 1950's who made Greta their home. She liked the country life and fresh air. Katharina was a very caring person. She enjoyed the company of her friends and also loved her pet dogs and cockatoos. Above all, she loved being involved in the lives of the 4 generations of her family. She will be sadly missed.

## ~ The Missing Peace ~

A silent retreat for busy men & women

11th – 13th March 2016  
"The Monastery" at Stroud

With the emphasis on simplicity, this short weekend retreat is offered to give people an opportunity to relax, reflect, recharge and simply 'slow down'.

Cost \$225 per person - All meals included.

Retreat begins 4.30pm Friday 11th March and finishes 3.30pm Sunday 13th March.  
- Numbers are strictly limited -

For more information or a registration form, please contact:  
Julie Maguire on [mag.juju@hotmail.com](mailto:mag.juju@hotmail.com) or phone 0403 246163.

### I've never been on a retreat before, what do you do and how is it structured?

This retreat has been designed to give participants some space and quietness to be able to relax and be at peace with themselves and their lives. There will be no structured program offered, no activities to participate in – just absolutely free personal time and space to devote to oneself. (Warning: this can feel very foreign to begin with but by the end of the weekend participants don't want it to end!!!) All the meals and the accommodation are provided with simplicity in mind.

### Is the retreat religious?

In spite of the venue having once been a real monastery, there is no formal religious framework or emphasis to this retreat. There is however, a sincere hope that the experience will speak to each participant's personal spirituality and core of peace.

### Why silent?

Silence is a powerful and rare commodity in our busy noise-filled lives. It is not easily found and enjoyed these days.

### Why the need for a retreat?

Because we need opportunities like this for balance and care of our soul.

### "The Monastery"

"The Monastery" at Stroud is a truly unique refuge in our bustling modern world. Hand built in timber and mud-brick with extraordinary vision and commitment, the monastery supported and enhanced the spiritual calling of the Sisters of St Clare for more than 20 years. In March 2000 the decision was made by the Sisters to make the monastery complex available to the wider community as a retreat/conference centre. To this day, it still retains the peace, humility and earthiness of its original purpose. Accommodation at "The Monastery" is comfortable but basic, with individual as well as shared rooms. Bathroom facilities are shared. All meals are provided on this retreat. Wheelchair or disabled access is not easy so please ask if this is required.

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## Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding **Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service**

### Country Championship a showcase for bush racing

RACING in New South Wales, both city and the bush, is on a high, stimulated by the establishment of The Championships, "The Grand Final of Australian Racing." Its main purport has been the boosting of Sydney racing in the autumn into an international racing mecca, highlighted by \$20million of racing at Royal Randwick on the Saturdays of April 2 and 9. Eight of the races each carry \$1million or more.

One of the opening day events is the \$400,000 The Country Championship Final (1400m), an event only open to country trained horses who have qualified through a series of regional Championships each carrying \$100,000. They are restricted to horses who have had no more than 20 starts and who are trained in the region holding the Championship qualifier.

In addition the quality country horses and the proficiency of their trainers is now on show each Saturday in Sydney by the Highway series, \$40,000 events open only to runners trained in NSW country or the ACT. The Country Championship series lifted off at the weekend with Goulburn leading the way on Saturday, catering for South Eastern Racing Association horses, and Scone providing for the Hunter & North Western Racing Association region on Sunday. Both meetings attracted enthusiastic Cup Day crowds and had carnival atmospheres.

Both were won convincingly by gelded Redoute's Choice grandsons raced by their breeders and trained on the tracks hosting the Qualifiers who rocketed home from the rear, 5-year-old Lofty's Menu scoring by 2.3 lengths at Goulburn and Clearly Innocent taking the Scone race by 1.3 lengths and in new track record time.

Raced by K.A. Randell (breeder), Mrs S.M. Randell, T.J. Randell and Mrs M.A. Randell and trained by very experienced horseman John Bateman, Lofty's Menu was recording his sixth win, and third in succession from ten starts. He has been second twice in Sydney.

Lofty's Menu is by Supreme Class, a Redoute's Choice Hong Kong winner standing at Dingwell's Caithness Stud at Crowther in central western NSW (2015 fee \$3,300) and from Eldenta, an Ideal Planet (Planet Kingdom - Ideal Image, by Vain) half-sister to the dam of the good Choisir filly I've Got The Looks.

Up at Scone on Sunday the big crowd at the Country Championship meeting was awed by the huge finish of Tommy

Berry ridden 4-year-old Clearly Innocent. It was a performance that suggested this son of Arrowfield Stud's Not a Single Doubt, a sire who is at Street Cry's neck in second place in the race for the 2015-16 Champion Australian Sire title, and No Penalty, a handy Zabeel Sydney performer up to 1800m, is black type material.

So far he has raced six times for four country wins by clear margins and a close second when favourite in a Highway at Rosehill Gardens. He races for breeders Cressfield, one of the top broodmare farms in the Scone region, and is trained at the magnificent Scone complex by Greg Bennett. Greg won much respect as the breaker in and pre-trainer of Makybe Diva, but also as a trainer is up there with the best of them.

Represented by 29 winners to date in 2015-16, Bennett had four runners in the Scone Championship final, Clearly Innocent 1, All Summer Long (by Snippetson; won Highway Randwick February 6) 2, Invienna (I Am Invincible; won a Highway in October) 4 and Chivadahl 11

(Nothin' Leica Dane, four wins from 12 starts) 9.

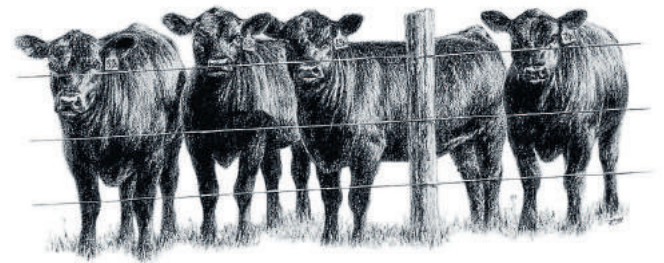
He was one of two Scone trainers with four starters in the event, sharing this with Rodney Northam. His runners including third placed Sargent Doakes (I Am Invincible; four wins from 10 outings). Earlier in the afternoon his 3-year-old filly Not For Magie ran for the second time and romped home by four lengths. Rodney is also trainer of Big Money (Choisir; winner of \$150,000 Group 2 Southern Cross Stakes at Randwick on February 12). He has been nominated for the \$3million Doncaster and \$2.5million T.J. Smith on the opening day of the Championships at Randwick. Both Greg Bennett and Rodney Northam may have runners in the Country Championship Wild Card, a race to be run at Muswellbrook on Sunday March 27 for horses who have not qualified for the final by finishing first or second in a Regional Qualifier.

There are seven \$100,000 Regional Qualifiers in the Country Championships, the others being at Wagga Wagga last Saturday Feb 27, Taree last Sunday Feb 28, Grafton Sunday March 6, Wellington Sun March 13 and Dubbo Sun March 27.

Photo above: Leading country trainer Greg Bennett



## DETAILED SALEYARD REPORT



### Saleyard report - cattle

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

#### Singleton report date 24 February 2016

Yarding 1070 ~ **Change - 200** (Comparison Date 17/2/16)

Quality throughout most weights and grades was very good to excellent, with the majority in the penning well-finished and wellbred. The younger cattle made up the bulk offered, with good runs of vealers from the same property presented at the market. Greater numbers of heavy grown steers suitable for slaughter were in the penning, as around 80 cows, with the majority selling to processor orders also offered. Quality and breed lifted prices for the vealer steers, with the lightweights returning to the paddock topping at 421c, as the over 200kg pens reached 406c before averaging 391c/kg. The heavier drafts also to restocker orders ranged from 312c to 365c/kg. Vealer heifers also showed quality and breed related price rises, as the medium weights to the restockers and backgrounders averaged 325c after reaching 349c/kg. The better finished yearling steers sold at firm prices to the restocker and lot feeder orders, however the unfinished pens struggled in the competition and slipped 9c/kg. The yearling heifers slipped 8c, with the bulk to the restockers ranging from 281c to 310c/kg. The prime younger cattle to the butchers reached 336c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter sold from 260c to 275c/kg, with lot feeders competing strongly for the lighter end. The plainer 2 score cows lifted 4c to average 220c, with the better covered heavy weights selling at similar prices, week-on-week to range from 218c to 230c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 245c/kg.



### Saleyard report - cattle

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

#### Scone report date 23 February 2016

Yarding 1419 ~ **Change 229** (Comparison Date 16/2/16)

The predicted hotter weather caused consignments to lift and quality remained fair to good. Vealer steers were reduced in number, as the heifer portion was well supplied. There was a greater presentation of yearling heifers compared to the steer portion, with around 240 cows in the penning. The usual buyers competed, with competition reduced for the younger cattle, as the cows sold to a dearer trend. The vealer steers suitable for the restockers sold to a mixed trend, with the medium weights slipping 6c, making from 305c to 369c, as the heavier weights maintained solid prices to reach 357c/kg. The medium weight vealer heifers lifted 6c to sell from 300c to 360c, as the heavier weights struggled to maintain firm prices, ranging from 296c to 325c/kg. Yearling steers slipped 4c to 8c, with breed and quality contributing in places. The lighter end ranged from 290c to 336c, while the heavier drafts remained firm at 310c to 329c/kg. Yearling heifers lost from 6c to 10c throughout most weight ranges, with the medium weights to the feeders and restockers selling from 270c to 313c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 330c/kg. The limited supply of grown steers were older compared to the last market and sold from 255c to 270c/kg. Grown heifers mainly sold to restocker orders at 265c to 280c/kg. The plainer lighter cows lifted 10c, with the 2 scores averaging 221c, with the better finished 3 and 4 score heavy weights remaining close to firm and ranged from 218c to 234c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 238c/kg.



### Saleyard report - cattle

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

#### TRLX Tamworth report date 22 February 2016

Yarding 2250 ~ **Change 343** (Comparison Date 15/2/16)

There was a further increase in numbers with the offering comprising large supplies of yearlings. Cows were also well supplied with all other categories represented. The quality of the penning was mostly good with limited numbers of secondary quality cattle penned. Condition varied with all sectors catered for. A full field of buyers were in attendance and operating. Market trends varied through the young cattle and quality impacted some average prices. Vealer steers to restocker sold to a slightly cheaper trend as did the heifer portion. There was weaker demand for yearling steers to restock and feed resulting in a slightly cheaper trend for medium and heavyweights to feed of 2c to 4c/kg. Lightweight yearling steers to restock saw trends cheaper as buyers opt for similar weight younger cattle. Heifer yearlings to feed in the medium and heavyweight classes followed a similar trend to that of the steers. There was less demand for well finished trade heifers with that market up to 15c/kg cheaper. Heavy grown steers to process sold to a cheaper trend with less domestic competition on the younger lines. The trend was down 5c to 6c/kg and more in places. There was little but quality related change in the cow market with the trend close to firm. Heavy bulls were up to 3c/kg dearer.

change. Demand for heifer yearlings to restock and feed was high, with the market trend dearer, up 5c to 6c/kg. Demand for export cattle was high, resulting in heavy grown steers selling to a dearer trend of 8c to 10c/kg. This trend carried into heavy cows with the market up to 6c/kg dearer. There was some quality related price change in the medium and heavy cows. Heavy bulls sold to a dearer trend for an improved quality penning.



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## Best of the 1950s and 60s return for Nostalgia Festival

THE NEWS 425 1 March 2016 29

Pop your blue suede shoes on and hold on to your hats—the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival is back! The 2016 festival will run from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 March and feature music, markets, dancing, cars and fashion inspired by the 1950s and 60s. The three day festival is now in its second decade, with the festivities attracting crowds of 35,000 to Kurri Kurri. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent is looking forward to opening the festival on the Saturday morning at Rotary Park. “Kurri Kurri is now synonymous with Nostalgia Festival,” Cr Pynsent said. “Every year the weekend attracts swarms of people and is one of the largest festivals of its kind in Australia and a great tourist attraction for the region.” Kurri Kurri will play host to



Shannon’s Show and Shine with two days of classic cars and hot rod displays lining the streets in the town centre. There will also be a retro high tea and fashion parade featuring high school students as models at Kurri Kurri High School gym on Friday March 18 at 1pm. The festival is free to enter and tickets to indoor shows may be purchased through the Kurri Kurri Visitor Information Centre or at the event door. For the full program visit [www.kurrikurnostalgiafestival.com.au](http://www.kurrikurnostalgiafestival.com.au)

@ Photo above: Cessnock City Mayor Bob Pynsent with last year’s Miss Cessnock Cassandra Battle at the 2015 Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival.

a number of music acts, dancing demonstrations, markets and best dressed

competitions across the weekend. Car enthusiasts will enjoy

## Free junior creative writing workshops series kick off

# Junior Creative Writing

MONTHLY:

Mondays at Cessnock Library 4-5 pm

Tuesdays at Kurri Library 4-5 pm



Cessnock City Library will kick off their free Junior Creative Writing Workshop program next week. The series will run once a month from Monday 22 February, Mondays at Cessnock Library and Tuesdays at Kurri Kurri Library from 4pm to 5pm. This year’s Junior Creative Writing Workshops series is run by local author and poet Pip Sheehan.

Pip brings more than 25 years of experience to the workshop as an active member of the writing and poetry community in both Australia and New Zealand.

Covering a range of techniques, these free workshops are designed to develop children’s writing skills in a fun and informal environment.

The first session for the year will cover ‘What Do Good Writers Do?—Story-mapping and Sentence Stretching’.

Cessnock City Library Childrens and Young Adult Officer Sandra Ryan is excited to be running this program again in 2016.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for our local young people to have a head start with their writing skills while encouraging

creative expression,” Sandra Ryan said. “We are extraordinarily fortunate to have access to local authors such as Pip Sheehan to the benefit of our young people”. The 10 free workshops are aimed at unlocking the imagination and releasing the inner storyteller. A full program is available at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or for more information phone Kurri Kurri Library on 02 4937 1638 or Cessnock Library on 4993 4384.

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## REFLECTIONS

6th March 2016 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent

Gospel ~ Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Summary of the Content of Luke: The above Bible passage (The Prodigal Son) comes from the Gospel according to Luke, which is the third book in the New Testament. The Gospel according to Luke offers an account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth in sum. Luke presents the story of Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s promises; Jesus is Christ, the Lord, the Redeemer sent by God to the people of Israel, the one who declares God’s salvation to all people. Jesus proclaims God’s reign, heals the sick, raises the dead, casts out oppressive spirits, restores people to full participation in society, and teaches his followers through many vivid parables, including “The Prodigal Son.” Because Jesus speaks many parables in Luke, this Gospel becomes a source for deep reflection about the nature of God’s reign and the ways of living faithfully in this world, as well as mainly a focus of the nature of the salvation that Jesus Christ provides. Who Wrote it? The Gospel according to Luke is anonymous, yet the author reveals in the opening verses that he was not an eyewitness of the events he describes. Christian writings from the latter half of the second century identify Luke, an associate of the Apostle Paul, as the Gospel’s author, but nothing in the Gospel itself can confirm this claim. The Passage: Part of its meaning comes from its position in Luke (which is the only Gospel that includes it). It is the third of three parables (see also Luke 15:1-10) that describe the recovery of something that was lost and conclude in celebration. Jesus tells these parables immediately after certain Pharisees and scribes complain about his practice of sharing meals with notorious people, with “tax collectors and sinners.” One of the points of the parable, then, is that generous celebration is the appropriate response when a “lost” person becomes “found.” What Does this Mean? This parable expresses that it is cause for rejoice any time something is lost and then found; particularly when a person loses themselves in the throes of sin and then finds themselves again when they seek retribution for those sins and become pure again. It is always wonderful when someone’s righteousness is restored and they can once again join those who were never lost. What does it say about God and or Jesus—who is He and how he interacts with His people? In verse 7 of this passage, Jesus clarifies this cause for celebration, and says “Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” This shows that Jesus, and likewise God, always receive and celebrate anyone who wishes to correct for their sin, for their wrongs. It shows just how unconditionally forgiving the Lord is. What does it say about human beings and our relationship to God and others? The passage shows that when people open their hearts to God, He will manifest Himself in those people who seek forgiveness and those who forgive. God manifests himself in forgiveness between people. What is the “lesson” or “message” for us? The lesson the parable teaches is that when someone sincerely wishes to be born again before the Lord, they will be answered. What is the Good News for us? The Good News for us is that we will be always be forgiven, and celebrated when we renew ourselves. Why does this matter to YOU personally? “The Prodigal Son” sheds new light on what it means to be renewed as a person, to find yourself or be found, and to be forgiven for mistakes. The story shows that we can learn to celebrate when something lost has been found, and that when it is ourselves or another who has strayed from God’s will, God’s grace will always forgive and rejoice in the homecoming. We should open our hearts to this grace so that we may forgive easily and rejoice more in finding what is lost. How does what you’ve learned encourage, inspire, challenge, comfort, and or influence you? It’s comforting to know that no matter how many times we do wrong, we will always be forgiven. It’s inspiring that starting over, or beginning again, is a cause for celebration.



# SPORTS RESULTS



## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 18-2-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Gazzard 35 pts (SOD) R/u P Hocking 31 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Williams 30 pts  
 Div 2 Winner I Harris 32 pts R/u J Atton 28 pts 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 A Hackett 27 pts  
 Ladies Winner T Armstrong 28 pts R/u M Hunt 25 pts 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 T Martin 24 pts  
 NTPs Ladies M Hunt  
 Gents G Anderson  
 Members draw - Not won  
 Taking advantage of the last throes of Summer were 40 players, who gathered for a round of golf. Oh! My, where has Summer gone?? It was somewhat wet, but never mind, we have Autumn to look forward to. Congratulations to Gary Gazzard on winning his division and achieving to "Score of the Day". It would seem Gary has hit a purple patch at this time. Well done to all winners and placegetters.

## Results 25-2-16 Stableford

"Millennium Shield"  
 Div 1 Winner M Ryan 32 pts (c/b) R/u M Ford 32 pts 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 E Munzenberger 30 pts  
 Div 2 Winner R Hain 33 pts R/u R Chalmers 31 pts 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 G Gazzard 30 pts  
 Ladies Winner J Scobie 26 pts R/u S Williams 24 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> Nil  
 NTPs Ladies S Williams  
 Gents E Munzenberger  
 Members draw - Not won  
 33 players took advantage of another top Summers day to gather and compete for a top trophy, with some good scores attained. Congratulations to Robert Hain on winning his division and the "Millennium Shield". And well done to all winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec

## BRANXTON GOLF CLUB - SAT 20<sup>th</sup> FEB

### VBC SPONSORS DAY- 6x6x6 STABLEFORD WINNERS

G Wiese / J Parr / C Hughes / N Hughes 89 pts

### RUNNERS UP

G Walsh / R Miller / T Zawirski / C Zawirski 87 pts

### THIRD PLACE

R Yandle / L Bootes / C Wood / S Wood 85 pts c/b

### FOURTH PLACE

P Wilton / G Wilton / M Simpson / G Bull 85 pts

### SINGLE WINNER

C Hughes 39 pts

### SINGLE RUNNER UP

C Johanson 38 pts c/b

### SINGLE THIRD PLACE

J Martin 38 pts

Saturday's event, the 6x6x6 Stableford event proved to be very interesting and entertaining for golfers with the best (of 4) stableford score, per hole, taken for the first 6 holes, then the best two scores for the next 6 holes, before the teams

having to combine very well with the best three scores for the final 6 holes. The team of Geoff Weise, John Parr, Col and Noel Hughes handled it the best, winning with a score of 89 pts. Two point behind them was the team of Gary Walsh,

Robert Miller, Ted and Chris Zawirski with 87 pts, whilst Roger Yandle, Lester Bootes, Col and Sandra Wood came third with 85 pts. Col Hughes' individual score of 39 pts won him the single stableford event, just ahead of Cameron Johanson's 38 pts (74 off the stick) with John Martin third on a countback with 38 pts.

On Sunday, the Pennants were played with the Seniors team venturing to Denman. They played the very strong Vintage team, before finally defeating them 2-1. This result has put the defending champions back into the mix, as mentioned last week, and are only one point behind the leaders with an upcoming bye next week ensuring another two points. The B Grade finally stated off their campaign, playing at Paterson, and were very impressive defeating Paterson on their home track, 3-0. The C Grade team had the bye. The Branxton Open is scheduled for Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March and there are still some tee slots available. This is always an excellent event, with many prizes on offer. The Summer Cup has just concluded with Gary Walsh prevailing to win this annual event, where the best 4 of 5 rounds are played in the early months of the year.

## BRANXTON GOLF CLUB - SAT 27<sup>th</sup> FEB

### 2BBB STABLEFORD + SINGLE

2BBB WINNERS  
 Lester BOOTES  
 Kevin WALTON 51 PTS

2BBB RUNNERS UP  
 Col HUGHES D MATHERS 49 PTS C/B

2BBB THIRD PLACE  
 David MATT  
 Mark MOYLAN 49 PTS

SINGLE WINNER  
 Eddie GARLAND 41 PTS

SINGLE RUNNER UP  
 Steve KEARNEY 40 PTS C/B

SINGLE THIRD PLACE-  
 Geoff WIESE 40 PTS C/B

NTP  
 G WILTON 70 CM  
 G WALSH 105 CM  
 D MATT 239 CM  
 B BENDIECH 148 CM  
 Local super veteran, Lester Bootes, teamed up with Kevin Walton to impressively win Saturday's 2BBB event with 51 pts, on a day when there was plenty of good scores. They finished just ahead of Col Hughes and D.Mathers with 49 pts, with the A grade team of David Matt and Mark Moylan recording an excellent 49 pts from their limited handicaps. The single stableford run in conjunction with the 2BBB was won by Eddie Garland with a very pleasing 41 pts, just ahead of Seniors Captain and 7 marker, Steve Kearney, whose 40 pts equated to only 3 over par. The 2015 C Grade Club Champion, Geoff Weise, finished third with 40 pts as well. The shot of the day belonged to another long-time veteran, Gary Wilton, whose shot to the 2<sup>nd</sup> finished only 70 cms away.  
 On Sunday, B Grade had a 1.5 draw with Muswellbrook at Stonebridge, which out them in an excellent position to qualify for the semi-finals in this rather short competition. The Seniors had a bye and are also in a strong position to

qualify, as they are only 1 point behind the equal leaders The Vintage and Denman. They venture to Aberdeen next week to pursue their efforts next week. C Grade unfortunately lost 2-1 to Paterson at the Vintage.

### HVGC

#### Morgan Shoots Low in Par Event ~ 20/2/6

Greg Morgan performed best in Saturday's Par event at Hunter Valley Golf Club to easily win C Grade with +7, Jodie Lynch was runner up with +4, A Grade went to Peter Callingham with a fantastic +6 from his 2 handicap, Justin Preece was runner up with +5 on a countback, B Grade went to Neville Smith with +4 from Grahame Sheldon on +2. Ball winners were: David Peel +5, Hieu Le +3, Thoe Vandepitte +3 Dianne Oakes +2, Colin Mills +1. Phil Jenkins +1, Tony Lamb +1. Jeff Shanahan +1, Jill Slatter sq, Gerry McLaughlin sq, Corey Lamb sq, David Kennedy sq, Robert Hodge sq, Brad Borham sq, Simon Nicholson -1, Brendan Connor -1 and Troy Wallis -1 c/b.

Nearest-the-Pins went to Kevin Smith (3rd) Robert Hodge (4th) Tony Lamb (10th) and Peter Callingham (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford. The Weekly Challenge went to Kane Goodchild with 43 points from Steven Kane on 42 and Matt Murphy from Stonebridge on 41 points. Ball winners were: Josh Knott v38, Steve Warham 37, Harold Pursehouse 37, Chris Edwards 36, Wayne Kearney 35, Gary Lackenby v35, Tim Lonegan 34, Peter Prewett v34 and Joel Anderson 34. The Tuesday Stableford was won by Steven Kane with 44 points from Theo Vandepitte on 42 and John Milligan v39 c/b. Ball winners were: Lindsay Self 39, Andrew Fensom 39, Harold Pursehouse 38, John Carmody 38, Gary Arnold 38, Chris Taggart 37, Gerry McLaughlin 37, David Irwin 37, David Peel 36, Steve Rawlings 36, Jeff Richardson 36 and Bob Prentice 36. Nearest-the-Pins went to Michael Watson (3rd) Steve Piggot (4th) Bob Prentice (8th) and Marc McGee (17th) The Ladies Stableford went to Suzanne Williams with 39 points from Jill Ramsden 38 and Dianne Oakes 3rd with 37 points. Ball winners were: Dianne Atton 34, Sue Peel 33,

Chris Tancred 32, Jill Slatter 32 and Kerrie Anne Skinner 31. Nearest-the-Pin went to Sue Peel. The Ladies have a 4 BBB Medley Stableford next week The Vets Stroke event went to Ken Springbett with 65 net from Paul Monaghan 67 and Brian Doherty 68 net. Ball winners were: Eric Smith 69, Wayne Berry 69, Michael Thompson v70, Doug Wand v70, Ray Newton v70, Keith Dunlop 70, Dave Fury 70, Steve Rawlings 70Darrell Preston 70, Ian Newell v71, John Stewart 71 and Rex Talbot 72 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Stewart, David Peel, Kevin Smith and Ken Harris.

### HVGC

#### Cooler Day Welcomed by Golfers ~ 27/2/16

Saturday's cooler conditions were well received by the Medley Stableford field at Hunter Valley Golf Club with Angello Korlevic taking A Grade with 38 points from Dan McLeod with 37 on a countback, B Grade to consistent Troy Wallis with a solid 42 points from evergreen Grahame Sheldon with 39 and C Grade to Greg Morgan with another great round of 42 points from Jaye Stevens returning 41 points. Balls went to Colin Ede v40, Steven Balks 39, Simon Nicholson 39, Colin Mills 37, Ken Aird 37, Ben Bradley 37, Scott O'Donohue v36, Matt Delforce 36, David Kennedy 35, Brian Doherty 35, Nathan Nancarrow 35, Sue-Ellen Borham 35, Scott Jones 35, Damien Mascord v34, Peter Tierney 34, Jill Slatter 33, Peter Milas 33, Grahame Baker v33 and Ken Springbett 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Matt Delforce (3rd) Grahame Baker (4th) Robin Woodward (10th) and Nathan Sweeney (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford. The Weekly Challenge was won by Brad Pringle with a sizzling 43 points from Robert Meers from the Vintage on 39 on a countback to Chris Attwood. Ball winners were: Wayne Kearney 36, Tim Dunn 35, Scott Goldman v35, Chris Bull 34 and Michael Ervin 34. The Tuesday Stableford went to Gary Johns from Stonebridge with a solid 39 points from Mick Young on 38 points on a countback to John Pascoe in 3rd. Ball winners were Scott Goldman v37, Michael Webb 36,

Phil Durie 36, David Peel 36, Aaron Hodge v35, Gary Arnold 35, Rick Turmchini 34, Gary Thomas 34, John Carmody 34, Greg Amlloh 34, Scott Bourke 34, Glen Tarrant v33 and Tim Dunn 33 c/b. Neraest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd & 8th) Mick Young (4th & 17th) and Gary Johns (10th) The Ladies held a 4BBB Medley Stableford on Wednesday with the team of Kerrie Anne Skinner and Jill Slatter taken the win with 47 points from Carol Horton and Sue Ellen Borham on 43 points and Sue Williams and Leesa Robinson 3rd with 42 points. Ball winners were Jeanette and Gerry Irwin 40, Chris Tancred and Robyn Dunlop 39 on a countback to Melita and Michael Watson in 3rd place. Next week the Ladies will play a Two Person Ambrose. The Vets Bisque Par has been won by Rex Talbot with +9 on a countback to John Harrison with Jack Parkes 3rd with +7 on a countback. Ball winners are not known at this time. Next week the Vets will play Individual Stableford with Tee Off prior to 8am



### Greta Workers juniors win district and zone junior pairs

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February saw Greta Workers Lauren Gardner and Jake Basista take on the combination of Daniel Eyeington and Tailor Appleby from Kurri Kurri in the Hunter District and Zone 6 Junior Pairs Final at East Maitland. With showers and a S/E wind to contend with the Greta team jumped out of the blocks and lead 11-3 after 7 ends things were looking good, but not long after they dropped a four and a five to still lead by 3 at the halfway mark, then another five was dropped leaving Greta trailing by 4 after 17 ends, after regrouping Greta fought back to be locked at 22 all going into the last end with Lauren holding shot Kurri drove a bowl onto the shot bowl and with the jack ending up in the ditch, Greta where two down and

Jake had his last bowl to play, he had to draw to the ditch for shot and as cool as cucumber he drew the shot. This is Greta Workers first ever District and Zone Junior Pairs winners. Lauren is also the first female to ever win a District and Zone 6 Junior Pairs. Now both head off to Warilla

in July to contest the State Junior Championships and Lauren will also represent the Zone in the Fours in the same week. All players should be commended in the way the game was played. **Fantastic result for the Greta Juniors.**



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## Olivia off to Nationals in Melbourne

by Peree Dagg  
 Local runner Olivia Leonard has continued her great achievements and will head to Melbourne in late August. Olivia has had a busy couple of months to achieve this dream of qualifying for Nationals. Olivia gained a 1st placing in the 13 Year girls 3klm event at the Diocesan carnival held on 9th May at Glenbawn Dam. She then again placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 13 Year girls 3klm Combined Catholic Colleges event on 13th June at Eastern Creek. Olivia won her place on the NSW team for nationals with a 4th placing in the 13 Year girls 3klm at NSW All Schools carnival on 25th July at Eastern Creek. At Secondary school level the top 6 times in 12 & 13 age group become the U14 team. Olivia now heads to Geelong for the carnival which will be held on 23rd August. Olivia started running 4 years ago with the Maitland Little Athletics Club and also trains with Beven Ernst of Trihard Personalised Coaching at Singleton. In preparation for this event Olivia trains 3-4 times per week. She is also a keen Netballer. Good luck to Olivia and congratulations. *Photo: Olivia Leonard*

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# “Pink Stumps” day raises \$1200 for the McGrath Foundation



☰ Photos from top clockwise:  
First Grade opening bowler Craig Brook all decked out in pink, Greta/Branxton and Wine Country Second Grade Teams, Greta/Branxton U/10 Blue Team, Greta/Branxton Third Grade Team & Greta/Branxton First Grade Team



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# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The NEWS SPORT

## Cricket Report ~ Week Nineteen

### “Pink Stumps” day raises \$1200 for the McGrath Foundation

With Mark Bercini

Week nineteen of district cricket saw Greta/Branxton host its “Pink Stumps” day, unfortunately it was the worst day results wise for the year, going down in four of the five grades. First grade were outclassed by Mulbring by 80 runs at Miller 1. Mulbring batted first and posted 8-172 with Craig Brook (3-35 off 10), Brent Watson (2-28 off 7), Martin Shearer (2-42 off 10) and Cliff Newling (1-16 off 5) taking the wickets. The match was evenly poised with the Blues 2-60 in reply at drinks, but they crumbled to be all out inside 30 overs for 92. Mark Bercini made a scratchy 42 at the top of the order, with opening partner



Josh Dagg the only other batsman in double figures with 15. Second grade were beaten by 41 runs by Wine Country at Miller 2. Wine Country batted first and posted 147, with Bryce Element (4-22 off 6.4), Phil Aughey (3-43 off 9), Andrew Partridge (1-40 off

10) and Mick Regan (1-5 off 5) taking the wickets. Greta/Branxton were all out for 106 in reply, with Wes Hickey leading the way with 31. Skipper Peter “Pancho” MacKenzie was next best with an unusually patient 29 in what was otherwise else a fairly disappointed batting card. Third grade were convincingly beaten by Peden’s Hotel by 80 runs at Carmichael 2. Peden’s Hotel made 8-161 from their forty overs, with Stewart Ison (3-27 off 6), Ayden Wilkinson (2-31 off 9), Alex Walkling (1-25 off 10) and Steve Peel (1-40 off 9) sharing the wickets. Greta/Branxton were all out for 82 in reply, with Peel (14), Zac Watkins (13) and Ayden Wilkinson (12) the only batsman to reach double figures. In fourth grade Greta/Branxton Blue continued their strong season with a 46-run victory over Supporters Club at

Baddeley 2. Batting first Greta/Branxton compiled 212, with Neil Bird timing the ball nicely with 84. He received great support from Cory Stephenson who made 65, with brother Aaron Stephenson (24) and Jamie McNamara (13) also making starts. Supporters

were all out for 166 in reply, with Shaun Daunt (3-11 off 5), Aaron Stephenson (2-15 off 4) and Mitch Bird (2-26 off 4) sharing the wickets. Fourth grade white went down by just 6 runs at the hands of Mulbring in a low-scoring affair at

Baddeley 3. Mulbring made 77 batting first, with Greta/Branxton skipper James Shoulders snr bagging 5-28 off 9. Jesse Minchin was next best with 2-23 off 8. Greta/Branxton were all out for 71 in reply, with Dan Minchin (19), Pat Nugent (18no) and James

Shoulders jnr (13) making starts. Despite a disappointing day results wise, the club managed to raise over \$1,200 for the McGrath Foundation. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this great cause.

© Photo: Roslyn Shearer and Eliza Dagg

### ECBC Comets Claim Ten Over Title



The Greta/Branxton Ten Over Competition was held on Sunday 28th February, with the East Cessnock Bowling Club Comets taking out the honours on the day. With 17 teams from far and abroad entering the competition played at Miller Park and Greta Oval, the business end of the day saw the Greg “Shorty” Andrews led “Kox XI” dispose of “Pink Balls on Sticky Wickets” in the semi-final played at Miller 1, while in the other semi on Miller 2 “ECBC Comets” accounted for the Shane Nevin led “Shoon’s Angels.” With a small but vocal crowd on hand to witness the final at Miller 1, the Comets batted first and posted 102, with Daniel Foster leading the way at the top of the order with 66 that included six maximums. He received good support from opening partner Pete Brennan (20no) and Tim Goldman (13no). Kox XI made looked on target in reply, but a tight last couple of overs saw them fall 12 runs short of the target. Jason Orr blasted 54 at the top of the order, with Matt Tomlinson (17) and Matt Fairlie (15) the other batsman to make an impression.

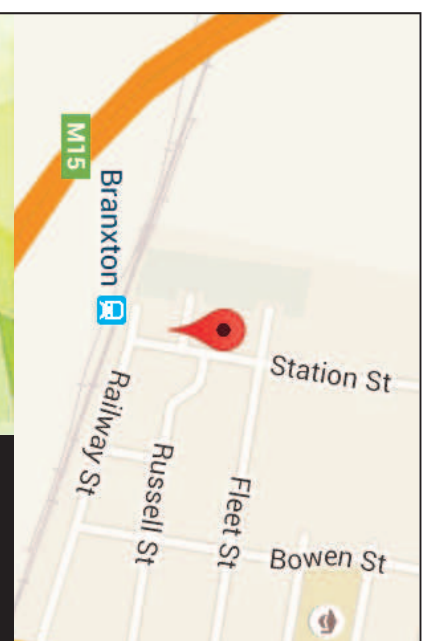


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