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# The News

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TUESDAY  
15 March 2016

## Local faces of World War One soldiers at Library

An extraordinary and haunting series of 80 photographic portraits of World War One (WWI) soldiers from NSW is on show in a free State Library display at Cessnock Library until Thursday 17 March 2016.

Produced as part of the State Library's WWI centenary regional program, *Portraits of War: The Crown Studios Project* reveals the fascinating story behind the creation of the portraits and delivers a moving experience that bears witness to the individual faces of Australian soldiers, both young and old, who served their country.

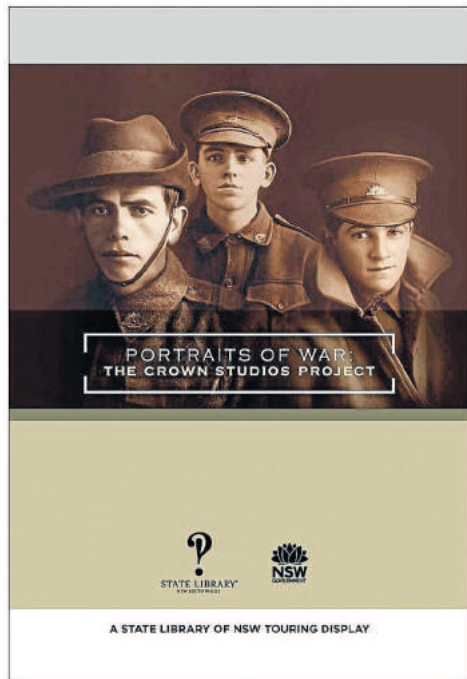
In 1918 soldiers all across NSW were invited to have their portraits taken in Sydney before embarking overseas for what was to be a most deadly conflict far from home.

During this ambitious project, a collection of over 1,600 portraits were either taken of soldiers or copied from existing images provided by family members, and this collection was subsequently donated to the Mitchell Library [now part of the State Library].

Exhibition curator Louise Tegart said "the information on the back of each print is just as moving as the portraits themselves with personal details handwritten, including

whether soldiers made it home or not." Unfortunately, the project was never completed. A damaging fire at the Studio in December 1918 hindered the collection process and while copies of the portraits were protected in a fireproof safe, the Studio did not re-open again until 1 July 1919.

"Thanks to the tenacity and support of William Ifould, the Principal Librarian at the time, the collection of portraits was secured for future generations," said Ms Tegart. The State Library has released a collection of the portraits on Flickr Commons - *New South Wales Servicemen Portraits 1918-1919* - located here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/statelibraryofnsw/sets/72157644355448247/> "The portraits capture the faces of men of all ages set against different backgrounds and sadly, it could be the only



photograph families had of their sons, brothers or uncles," said Ms Tegart. **SPECIAL OFFER FOR CESSNOCK LGA RESIDENTS** If Cessnock LGA residents discover a family member on the State Library's *New South Wales Servicemen Portraits* Flickr set, the Library will provide a digital file of the portrait free of charge.

To secure a digital print simply email [media@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@sl.nsw.gov.au) with your name, contact details and a link to the image.



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### SECTION 101 NOTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979, APPROVED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 February 2016 to 29 February 2016.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
EAST BRANXTON	009/2016/0000010/001	1-Feb-2016	58 Yates ST	Storage Shed
GRETA	008/2016/0000022/001	2-Feb-2016	47 Nelson ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2016/0000023/001	2-Feb-2016	51 Nelson ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
GRETA	008/2015/00000644/001	10-Feb-2016	44 Evans ST	Use of Existing Structure as Detached Dwelling Additions and Internal Alterations
GRETA	008/2015/00000483/001	17-Feb-2016	28 Evans ST	Use of Existing Building as a Dwelling to Create Detached Dual Occupancy
LOVEDALE	008/2015/00000674/001	4-Feb-2016	477 Lovedale RD	Retail Premises - Alterations & Additions to Cafe
LOVEDALE	008/2015/00000445/001	19-Feb-2016	283 Wilderness RD	Change of Use of Dwelling House to Tourist Accommodation Building comprising Two (2) Tourist Accommodation Units, Use of part of Horse Dressage Arena Building for Farm Stay Accommodation and Change of Use of Part of the Stables Building to Farm Stay Accommodation
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2015/00000440/001	5-Feb-2016	1794 Wine Country DR	Five (5) Lot Subdivision and Five (5) Dwellings
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/0000029/001	8-Feb-2016	17 Abberton PWY	Single Storey Dwelling and Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2015/00000669/001	10-Feb-2016	70 Triton BLVD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/0000036/001	10-Feb-2016	1794 Wine Country DR	Single Storey Dwelling on Proposed Lot 407 DP 1197589
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/0000054/001	15-Feb-2016	13 Parnell RD	Exhibition Home
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/0000020/001	16-Feb-2016	6 Abberton PWY	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/0000058/001	16-Feb-2016	10 Kinnavane RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2015/00000535/001	22-Feb-2016	21 Gollan AV	Change of Use from Dwelling to Business Premises
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/0000076/001	25-Feb-2016	15 Kinnavane RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/0000073/001	29-Feb-2016	4 Rampling AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NULKABA	008/2015/00000148/001	3-Feb-2016	68 O'Connors RD	Subdivision
POKOLBIN	008/2015/00000675/001	3-Feb-2016	68 Ekerts RD	Dwelling Additions Including Demolition of Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2016/0000002/001	8-Feb-2016	30 Paperbark DR	Two Storey Dwelling and Attached Garage

Copies of development consents are available at Council's Customer Service Centre for public inspection, free of charge, during the Council's ordinary office hours

PO BOX 152  
CESSNOCK

STEPHEN GLEN  
GENERAL MANAGER

### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

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

DATE	TIME	COMMITTEE MEETING	VENUE
16 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>.

### NOTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY BRIDGE CLOSURE HUNTER STREET BRIDGE, GRETA

Council wishes to advise that Hunter St Bridge, Greta will be temporarily closed to all road and foot traffic from 7.00am, Monday 4 April 2016 until 4.00pm, Friday 22 April 2016 for major bridge repairs.

The repairs require a full bridge closure during this period. Council apologises for any inconvenience this may cause.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Council on telephone 4993 4100.

### 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 at [recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post:

PO BOX 152  
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN  
GENERAL MANAGER

**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.

## Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association oppose wine taxes

The Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association has today reacted strongly to an article that appeared in the Newcastle Herald this morning titled, 'Tax wine as beer and raise \$2.9 billion per year, says lobby group'.

The Association strongly opposes the pre-budget submission put forward by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education. 'Raising the price of wine vs beer would have a serious effect on the Hunter's economy and likewise other producing regions,' said the Hon. George Souris, Chairman of the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association.

'Whilst taxing wine and cider the same as beer may potentially raise \$2.9 billion a year, by implementing such proposed tax measures will cost the Hunter jobs and seriously impact on the tourism industry.'

'Ripping \$2.9 billion a year out of the wine industry would be a major blow to survival'.

The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association strongly opposes such proposed actions but would gladly work alongside both State and Federal Governments on any taxation review.

'Taxing an industry into oblivion might produce the result this lobby group seeks but it could destroy Hunter Valley Wine Country,' Mr Souris continues.

'The lobby group has leapt upon the biggest and bluntest measure possible, raising taxes to the detriment of local industries.'

The local wine & tourism industries in NSW are responsible for the employment of approximately 2450 people.

The Hunter Valley Wine Country, right on the doorstep of Australia's gateway Sydney, has gained recognition as a premier destination.

With growing tourism numbers both from domestic and international sources, the Hunter Valley has a lot to boast about: premium restaurants; a full range of accommodation; spectacular attractions; golf resorts; and the wines and their cellar doors.

Mr Souris said the industry is girding itself for the usual pre-Federal Budget season of one lobby group after another suggesting tax changes in their own interest. There will be many more this pre-Budget season because of the looming Federal election.

'Destroying an industry that is the lifeblood of the Hunter Valley is hardly good policy, lobby group or no lobby group,' Mr Souris concluded.

**PHOTO:** The Hon. George Souris, Chairman of the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association.



## Council announces National Youth Week event

Singleton Council will celebrate our young people when National Youth Week kicks off next month with a free outdoor movie screening at Singleton Youth Venue.



On Friday 8 April, young people aged 11 to 17 can enjoy an outdoor screening of the movie Pixels featuring Adam Sandler and Kevin James in the carpark of the Youth Venue. Doors open for the secured event at 6pm with pre-movie entertainment before the big screen lights up at 7pm.

For \$5 movie-goers can enjoy a sausage sandwich, drink, popcorn, fairy floss and a snow cone. All proceeds will be donated to Upper Hunter Homeless Support that provides a range of support services including helping young people with short term, transitional or supported accommodation.

To get into the gaming spirit ahead of the movie, young people will be able to challenge their friends on gaming stations including Xbox, Nintendo 64 and Playstation.

National Youth Week is an opportunity for young people to share ideas, attend live events, have their voices heard on issues of concern to them, showcase their talents, celebrate their contribution to the community, take part in competitions and have fun.

## Response from Bishop Bill Wright

'This week Cardinal Pell has provided evidence to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse from Rome. This evidence has helped to complete the disturbing picture of how badly the church performed when dealing with reports of child sexual abuse at the time.

I don't intend to provide running commentary on Cardinal Pell's evidence, which is ongoing. Ultimately it is the Royal Commission's role to hear and assess that evidence. Anyone who is a survivor of abuse or has lived their

life in the Catholic Church will be finding it difficult to hear the manifold failings of the church to protect children, and this is especially true for those within our local community with the sad history of abuse in our region.

Zimmerman Services, our Healing and Support Team, was established to assist those affected by abuse. This has included supporting survivors to provide evidence in private sessions to the Royal Commission. I invite anyone needing support at this time to make contact with Zimmerman Services on (02) 4979 1390.

The evidence before the Royal Commission makes clear the need for structured, thorough and

independent oversight for all organisations who provide services to children. It also shows the need for a consistent response to those who have suffered abuse. I express my strongest support for the establishment of national redress scheme and uniform child protection standards as a way forward for the community.

The Catholic and Anglican Bishops of NSW have recently called on the State Government to extend the NSW Ombudsman's oversight of all church and community group activities involving children. I encourage the local Hunter community to join us in advocating this change by talking to their local member.

As Bishop of the Diocese, I remain committed to protecting children and working with survivors to support them on their

individual journeys toward healing.'

- Bishop Bill Wright  
Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

For more information, contact the team at the Singleton Youth Venue on 02 6571 4687 or like them on Facebook.

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- Council's Administration Centre
- Kurri Kurri Library
- Cessnock Library\* (\*mobile phones no longer accepted at this location)

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62-78 Vincent Street CESSNOCK NSW Ph: 02 4993 4300  
Email: environment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

# What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

Had a note from local detective DSC Rob Ayscough who resides in Branxton & works in the Muswellbrook Local Command.

As reported in our last issue on the 1st March 2016 the *Road Rules 2014* were amended to improve the safety of drivers, bicycle riders and pedestrians **New rule: keeping a safe distance when passing bicycle rider:**

From 1st March 2016, drivers who pass a bicycle rider on the road travelling in the same direction must pass at a 'safe distance' **A safe distance' is: in a zone of 60km/hr or less** - a distance of at least 1 metre.

**in a zone of more than 60km/hr** - a distance of at least 1.5 metres. Penalty: \$319 and 2 demerit points Increased penalties for penalty notice offences relating to bicycle riders



### Symbolic

As part of Mardi-gras, the erection of a giant sized human penis in a prominent location in the City of Sydney makes a statement. It informs all passers by, 'that self gratifying anal sexual intercourse is an objective of Gay males. Extremists, naive politicians and certainly some media personnel are campaigning for marriage "equality". But "equality" is a camouflage for the purpose of destroying marriage. In countries, such as the UK, Canada, USA and Ireland where redefining marriage has allowed Gay couples of the same gender to "marry", it is not Marriage laws that are being invoked as the weapon. Discrimination laws, already on the books, are being applied against

"These new rules are now enforceable"



The online petition regarding the lack of a police presence in the local area has gained momentum. If you go to the page website, below, some of the comments are very

Rule 256: Not wearing a helmet - \$71 to \$319  
Rule 56 (1): Running a red light - \$71 to \$425  
Rule 245-1: Riding a bicycle negligently, furiously or recklessly - \$71 to \$471

Rule 254 (2): Holding on to a moving vehicle - \$71 to \$319  
Rules 80 and 81: Not stopping at a children's/ pedestrian crossing - \$71 to \$425.

[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)

interesting, thoughtful & right on target. After making some enquiries as to the manning of different police stations in our Local Command Area I have learnt that Scone has 5 police, Murrurundi 1, Denman 1 & Merriwa 2 (at the time of

going to press I still had not confirmed the numbers but I suspect it is pretty close to the fact). The one that surprised me was Scone which would have a population less than the combined population of Branxton, Greta & North Rothbury!

persons, businesses, reception venues, celebrants, hire car providers, pastry cooks and others for not accommodating the redefining of marriage. But marriage is far bigger than the emotions of two or more individuals. For numerous centuries this institution named marriage has generation after generation populated the earth. It is the formula by nature to constantly renew humankind. Advocates for marriage "equality" are pushing a contradiction simply because the word equal unambiguously means identical. Two persons of a similar gender are not identical to two persons of opposite gender. That's basic logic. To speak about gay couples having children is another error. No two males can provide a womb, and no two Lesbians sperm. A child born is through a third party, either a surrogate or sperm donor.

There never is in a Gay couples union both a mother and a father. That is why the terms 'parent one' and 'parent two' are being promoted to camouflage the reality. All this brings us to the matter of gay rights. Every man and woman entering marriage, within fertility age, have the potential to bear children. All people aspire to have a drivers licence, but in the case of a blind person there is no potential whatsoever to be able "to see the road." Thus such a person is ineligible for consideration for driving because of that person's condition - and that is not discrimination. In a similar way, the Gay couple have no potential whatever to bear a child. Consequently, it is not a matter of denying a right but their condition means there never was a right to marriage, no more than the blind person's condition could overlook the criteria for driving. No government tells you or

Cessnock MP Clayton Barr said he had taken the concerns on board. He said on ABC Radio last Friday that the reality for the New South Wales police force is that with the population growth that is happening right across the Hunter, the police are going to really need to rethink their structure and certainly their staffing levels. He also said that the state government must commit to boosting police resources in

I who to love, nor should they. But all governments legislate true marriage because children, their nurture, education and health are essential for the continuation of generations. No one alive today was in existence 200 years ago, and all of us will be long gone in 200 years time. Only true marriage, as prescribed by nature is able to deliver. As for Gays, they are certainly entitled to live together and share in a variety of benefits as they love, respect and care for each other, and deserve to be afforded a title applicable to their type of union. *Peter J. Young, Greta An Honour* Twenty years ago I was extended the great privilege of representing the wonderful people of

rural areas. "There is a geographical reality that in country and regional areas the police have got further to travel. "That means they're spending less time out of their car working with the community and they're spending more time commuting from job to job." If you would like to sign the petition & make a comment & haven't done

Hunter. I thank them for the honour. The Hunter Region is a better, wealthier place, and has better infrastructure than it did twenty years ago. Its economy is stronger and more diverse. Unemployment - while rising again - is much lower. But to my frustration, some things haven't changed. Chief amongst them is youth and intergenerational unemployment. Amongst the unemployed are those who are effectively born never to work. We can't fully achieve social cohesion, keep crime rates low, or maximise the strength of our economy while ever people are born to be idle. The intervention has to begin in the earliest years and amongst other things,

so yet please do it as every signature & comment counts.

As mentioned in an earlier issue of The News I was going to make some enquiries with LWP, the developers of Huntlee, about the provision of a walkway between North Rothbury & Branxton along the new duel carriageway. It appears there will be good pedestrian access between the two hamlets

that means properly resourcing our schools through the Gonski reforms. We have another big challenge ahead. The money we secure for our coal has fallen dramatically and thousands are losing their jobs. Many are, or will be, fifty years of age or more and having spent most or all of their working lives in the mines don't have skills readily transferable to other occupations. So we need a plan:- First, to establish the case for government intervention. Second to produce a strategy for even greater economic diversity and jobs pathways for those affected by the mining

with walkways either side of the new road corridor ~ good news!

Our next edition will be out on the **5th April 2016** which is a break of 3 weeks instead of the normal 2 weeks between issues. I hope it doesn't inconvenience anyone.

Please enjoy the Easter break & if you are hitting the highway please drive carefully

*Cheers, Mike*

downturn. And third, to develop a robust funding submission for government funding support. Along with my commitment to stronger and better health and education systems, these are my key priorities in this election year when I will ask for the opportunity to continue my work.

*Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Member for Hunter*



### STOP PRESS

#### Police petition

There is also a physical petition at a number business houses in Branxton & Greta and, as at last Friday, there were well over 600 signatures asking for a better police presence in the area.

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**Police**  
Branxton.... 4938 1244  
Lochinvar... 4930 7209  
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**NSW Fire Brigade**  
Branxton.... 4938 3396

**Rural Fire Brigades**  
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Broke..... 6579 1491  
Greta..... 4015 0000

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Singleton.. 6572 2799  
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Letters to the editor can be sent to:

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

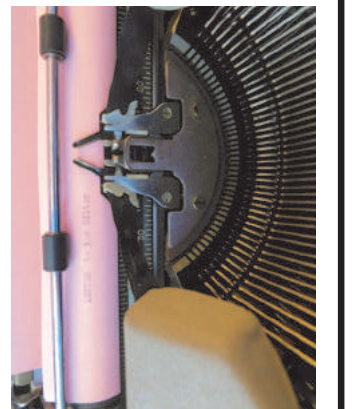
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## 'Life Stills' opened at Art Gallery

Phillip Drummond, Australian & world renowned artist, has opened an exhibition at the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery which will run until the 17 April 2016. Phillip Drummond's exhibition, *Life Stills*, takes audiences on a visual journey that restages the classic tradition of still life painting. Drummond's lushly painted theatrical tableaux depicting Australian flora and fauna, playfully reinvent the visual

magic of seventeenth century Flemish still life painting. The genre of still life painting has been employed by artists throughout history as both a conventional and experimental mode of visual inquiry. What distinguishes this painting tradition from others, such as portraiture and landscape, is the study of inanimate objects. Such paintings are often composed in a way that suggests allegorical mean-

ing. Still life reached its most refined form in Northern Europe during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Drummond's paintings continue this tradition; his still life compositions depict a fecund harvest of flowers cut at their fullest bloom, fruits picked at their ripest and game felled at its plumpest. These sumptuous images, resplendent with a bounty of earthly delights, are staged against ethereal dark backgrounds that act to untether them from a material world where all eventually fades and decays.

This stunning exhibition includes the artist's broader practice such as landscapes that capture the light and unique geography of the Hunter Valley region, as well as exquisitely observed paintings of animal kind.

*Life Stills*, is on display at Cessnock Regional Art Gallery from Wed 2 March to Sunday 17 April 2016.

This exhibition is in partnership with Tamburlaine Organic Wines, where the artist will



also have works on exhibition. An official opening was held at Cessnock

Regional Art Gallery on Saturday 5 March 2016.

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## Fitzgibbon to nominate for seat of Hunter

Member for Hunter, Joel Fitzgibbon MP, has announced that when preselection's open, he will be nominating to be Labor's candidate in the new electorate of Hunter. "I have been a resident of the Hunter electorate all of

my life and I remain a resident of the new Hunter. For the past twenty years (March 2, 1996) I've actively, energetically and passionately represented the interests of Hunter residents. I'm as



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP

enthusiastic about the Hunter's opportunities and challenges today as I was two decades ago and I'm

hopeful for the chance to continue the work I love so

much," said Joel. "Whatever the preselection outcome, I will no longer have the great privilege of representing the people of Maitland, Kurri Kurri, Weston, Abermain, Neath, the Upper Hunter Shire, Kandos, Rylstone, and so many communities in between. This is a source of great regret for me and I thank them for their support over many years.

"Subject to Party support, I look forward to meeting and building relationships with the people of Edgeworth, Cameron Park, West Wallsend, Killingworth, Barnsley, Toronto, Morisset, and all the townships on the western side of Lake Macquarie.

"With the support of the Party and local residents, I hope to continue my best efforts to make Hunter the very best it can be and a place where every resident has the greatest opportunity to pursue their hopes and aspirations for themselves and their family," said Joel. With the probability of an early July 2016 federal election the preselection will be sooner than later.

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# Members say ....



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

On 17 February 2016, Cessnock City's community lost an outstanding citizen. 2004 Senior Citizen of the Year June Margaret Jean Lockyer passed away and I extend my condolences to her family and friends. June's active involvement in the community was well known as a member of the Cessnock Combined Pensioners Association and the Cessnock Seniors Choir for more than two decades. Her contributions were very important in building a thriving seniors community here in the Cessnock local government area and she will be sorely missed.

\*\*\*

I attended the farewell ceremony of Kurri Kurri High School's Principal David Hunter and Deputy Principal Donna Andrews last week. The school's community acknowledged their great contributions to the education of young people over many years of service. I wish both David and Donna all the very best in the next chapter of their lives.

\*\*\*

Nostalgia Festival is just around the corner for its 13<sup>th</sup> year. It is certainly an important weekend for the community bringing over 30,000 visitors to our local government area. 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. Make sure you grab your retro outfits and enjoy the music and entertainment provided by the hard working events committee who do a fantastic job year after year. To see this year's event calendar visit [www.kurrikurri nostalgifestival.com.au](http://www.kurrikurri nostalgifestival.com.au)

\*\*\*

This year will also see the exciting new STOMP festival's debut on Sunday 17 April 2016. Celebrating our growing wine industry, this festival is expected to become a signature event in our area's growing events calendar. Festival goers can expect pop-up food, wine, beer and market stalls alongside live entertainment set in the heart of Cessnock's CBD. For more details visit [www.cessnockstompfestival.com.au](http://www.cessnockstompfestival.com.au)

\*\*\*

I like to remind residents to drop off their old mattresses and ensembles this 2 April and 16 April 2016. After last year's huge success Council has extended the service to two locations in Kurri Kurri and Cessnock. We hope more residents can use this service to support recycling, as we see too many old mattresses illegally dumped or incorrectly sent to landfill. For more information visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/news/mattress-drop-off](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/news/mattress-drop-off)

\*\*\*

Harmony Day is fast approaching and Samaritans Cessnock have arranged a fantastic day of free and fun activities for the whole family. Join Cessnock's Harmony Day celebrations from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 12 March 2016 outside of the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. There will be live entertainment,

displays, kids' activities, food, fashion and a free screening of short films as part of Colourfest.

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



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR – DATA AGAIN – THIS TIME IN MENTAL HEALTH

In my last column I spoke about the State owned asset of data (information and details) – and when I say "State owned" I mean it is owned by you and me, we, the people. And then, last week, I attended a Science and Research Seminar on mental health and guess what, they are using massive data analysis to tackle mental health. Incredibly, they did not use any private or personal data; they actually used very public data – Facebook and Twitter. Facebook and Twitter are two very popular types of "social media" that have swept the world. So how much data did they analyse? How powerful are the computers that are crunching all of the statistics and facts? Well, the answer to those types of questions is stunning. The research team mashed together and processed 350,000,000 Facebook and Twitter entries from across the world. 350 million!! Across the world!! Can you begin to think about how huge that is? And if you compare it to normal science research where analysis of 1,000 – 2,000 samples would be considered a large and valid study, that huge number of 350 million puts it into perspective.

From the crunching of data they were able to identify male and female subjects, the countries that they come from, the time of day of the Facebook or Twitter comments and a stream of other data. They were able to monitor for words that indicated joy, anger, sadness and anxiety. They were able to see what day of the week and what time of the day that people in various countries were feeling joy or sadness. They could see a massive spike in sadness and surprise when the actor/comedian Robin Williams died and they could see it in Great Britain, the U.S and Australia. They could see enormous anger and anxiety in posts of Australians in the hours and days after the Joe Hockey Budget of 2014. They could see that the depression and sadness in men decreased on Fridays and rose again on Sunday evening. And interestingly, they could see the reverse for women, with increasing sadness and depression on Fridays and these same emotions reducing on Mondays. They could see that across the board, sadness and depression was lower in the morning and higher in the evening, particularly after 9.00pm.

All of this is fascinating from a mental health perspective and I have no doubt that in the near future we will be identifying people "at risk" of depression and suicide by a pattern of language, frequency and socialisation

through Facebook posts or Tweets. This is incredibly powerful stuff! And just think for a moment, this is using public information and data. Imagine these same computers crunching our personal detail and data held by various Government agencies. The potential is enormous and the value of that data is way way way beyond the value of coal, oil, gold, diamonds or rare earth minerals. Data is the most valuable asset that Government owns and we would be fools to sell it off or hand it over in any lump sum or long term way. We should keep it in our own hands and only ever sell it on a single use by use basis.

## HUNTER DEVELOPMENT DRAFT PLAN – PLEASE MAKE A COMMENT

I am calling on us all, to work together, to help each other, by making sure that we have a presence in the current Draft Plan for the Hunter. If we don't, we will face a decade of no growth, no development and no jobs, compounded by no Government investment for transport, education or infrastructure. And it all hinges on a single document that is currently out on display - The Draft Hunter Regional Plan. The Draft plan includes NO PLAN to use the Hunter Expressway for development, expansion, industry or other use. That is to say, that this State's largest single road project outside of the Sydney CBD, a \$1.7B project, will not be used to create opportunity!!!! Can you believe that? It is like the authors of the Draft Plan sat in a time machine, went back to 2009 and wrote the plan not knowing that the HEX would be built.

So everyone, all of us, need to provide feedback to the Plan now, while it is in Draft form. And we only have until March 24 to do so. At the very least, we all need to send a written comment to say that the non-inclusion of the HEX is absurd and ridiculous. People can do that in a single sentence, a paragraph or a page or two of writing. It is up to you. You can do it directly on line through the Planning NSW website or you can use this office to access a copy of the document and/or to drop in a written letter and we will forward it on. Please, everyone, lets band together and unite, otherwise we will be left off the Hunter Planning ideas list for the coming 10 years, and we just cannot allow that.

\* \* \* \* \*

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



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

## State Matters

### MT ARTHUR COAL MINE

Many of you will have heard the very disappointing news that BHP Billiton recently advised its Mount Arthur employees that a series of workforce changes will be implemented in the

coming weeks to secure the economic sustainability of the thermal coal operation. Whilst I understand the company has taken this tough decision to secure ongoing economic sustainability and to protect remaining jobs at the plant, I feel deeply for those who will lose their jobs.

This situation moved me to speak in Parliament last week about the importance of mining to our Upper Hunter Electorate economy, and the wider NSW economy, so as to highlight that these industries and the jobs they provide should never be taken for granted.

My thoughts at this time are with those workers affected, and their families, and I will continue to work hard to encourage business growth in our Upper Hunter electorate, including in the mining industry, and to highlight the benefits that our region has to offer potential investors, and the job opportunities that business growth affords our communities.

### MINISTER ELLIOTT'S VISIT TO DUNGOG

It was a real pleasure to host the Minister for Emergency Services, The Hon. David Elliott MP at Dungog last Friday. During the Minister's visit, Minister Elliott announced a grant for \$5,000 to the Dungog SES unit which will pay for an awning for the unit's training ground.

Also the Minister presented a Certificate of Appreciation to thank the members of the SES unit for their ongoing efforts. This was followed by afternoon tea meeting the volunteers of the Dungog Rural Fire Service. The afternoon was a great success and it was an honour to meet and congratulate the many volunteers of SES & RFS.

### RECONCILIATION CHALLENGE IN UPPER HUNTER SCHOOLS

I remind schools in the electorate of Upper Hunter to register their interest in the Schools' Reconciliation Challenge for 2016.

This year, students will be encouraged to create artworks and short stories that reflect the 2016 theme: *Always was, Always will be*.

The Schools' Reconciliation Challenge is a platform for students to express their creativity and is an opportunity to have their voice heard on issues that are important and challenging to discuss.

This year is the first time that students have the choice between two mediums; artworks and short stories. The Challenge aims to use art and writing as vehicles to engage students in the reconciliation process, assist educators to teach their students about Indigenous issues in an informed, meaningful and culturally sensitive manner and to foster respectful relationships between schools and local Aboriginal communities.

I encourage all our local school students in Upper Hunter that are in years five to nine to submit either an artwork or short story that they feel engages with their thoughts on reconciliation. The competition is open until 10 June 2016.

Competition entry forms and further details can be downloaded from the website: [www.nswreconciliation.org.au/schools-reconciliation-challenge/](http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au/schools-reconciliation-challenge/)

### TIME TO APPLY FOR \$15M PUBLIC RESERVE FUNDING

I encourage public reserve managers to apply for a share of the \$15 million available under the NSW Government's Public Reserves Management Fund Program (PRFM) to improve and develop more public spaces for the Upper Hunter

Electorate community to enjoy. The 2016/17 PRMF program, is part of an annual program of grants and loans from the NSW Government to assist public reserve managers to develop, maintain and protect important public assets including showgrounds and community halls, local parks and reserves and caravan parks.

The program also supports regional economic growth in NSW, strengthens local communities and helps to protect our natural environment, especially in rural and regional areas.

Managers have five weeks to apply with applications closing on 8 April. The 2016/17 funding program comprises a single round of applications open to all activities on Crown reserves, including repairs and maintenance, pest and weed control, recreational infrastructure, environmental initiatives and new facilities on Crown reserves.

The NSW Government is looking for projects that provide a genuine public benefit to the Crown reserves enjoyed by communities across the State.

This program is just one example of the NSW Government's commitment to the cultural, sporting, economic and recreational life of communities across our State, including those in Upper Hunter.

**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



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

BHP announced last week that it will shed another 290 mining jobs in the Hunter.

It is devastating news for the workers and their families and our thoughts are with them.

Coal prices have collapsed in the past three years and it's having a big impact on mining profitability.

That's why at this time we need to be supporting the industry. I reject the calls of those who would impose more constraints on it or worse, would have it closed.

Those same people say we need a more diverse economy and greater diversity is - and should always be - one of our primary goals.

However, our economy is already quite diverse. Our biggest employers after health and social assistance are retail trade, manufacturing, accommodation, food and other tourism services, education and construction.

At 5.7%, mining is critically important but so too are power generation, transport services, wholesale sales, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, viticulture and thoroughbred breeding. But mining has provided the leverage for so much local investment – bringing wealth and strong wages to our region. It has helped to build critical economic infrastructure like the Hunter Expressway which may not have been viable otherwise. We must continue to build a case for government assistance to create new jobs and to help retrenched miners find new employment opportunities.

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Branxton VIEW Club celebrated International Womens' Day by engaging an remarkable guest speaker, Carol Burns, from the East Maitland Womens' Shed. Carol is a member of East Maitland Uniting Church Fellowship and in 2014, in response to the huge needs of women and girls in third world countries, Days For Girls was formed and East Maitland Womens' Shed had a project.

Their aim was to supply personal, reusable hygiene packs to enable women and girls freedom to participate in everyday life. It seems hard to believe in this day and age that approximately 60 days or more each year, when menstruation occurred these women and girls were forced to stay at home, away from school and work because of inadequate sanitary needs.

The supply of the hygiene packs produced by the 'Womens' Shed members has made a significant difference to the lives of these women and girls. Rotary assists by sending containers of these items to

countries like Africa, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji. Carol said that often travellers and friends who were visiting these countries would also take packs and the group would arrange to have them delivered from that destination.

Another initiative of the group was teaching other ladies how to sew, using the sewing machines and overlockers kindly supplied by Rotary. In this way more garments could be made at the shed. There are some ladies who choose to sew at home.

Carol had pattern sheets available for anyone who would like to knit jumpers and hats for little babies in Africa, many of whom are born with AIDS. These little souls are so poor that they are often sent home wrapped in newspaper. This is why, sadly, they are called Fish and Chip babies. Nights can be very cold in Africa and often these little ones have no clothes. Bright

colours rather than pastel wools are recommended for knitted items for these babies because these garments may never be washed.

Carol displayed a range of sewn and knitted items made by her group including wonderful little dresses made from pillowslips. A simple pattern sheet was available for anyone wishing to make these dresses. Anyone who would



like to help this worthwhile cause could contact [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org) and [www.littledressesforafrica.org](http://www.littledressesforafrica.org). Our VIEW club and visitors donations of material, face washers, soap, and pillowcases were given to Carol.

Carol's Uniting Care group, Days For Girls, meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at the East Maitland Uniting Church Hall. They would be delighted to have more ladies join their

group which is an offshoot of their Fellowship group. Over 300 completed packs have been delivered and each one contains instructions in picture form for some who cannot read.

Dear Carol-a wonderful humanitarian effort which makes a big difference in the quality of life for others. Thank you for you reminding us of our good fortune and bringing tears to our eyes with your stories.

We were pleased to also have visitors present to listen to Carol's presentation. One lady became a new member-wonderful!

Our next meeting will be held on 14th April and everyone is most welcome to attend. There will be a guest speaker, yet to be determined but you are assured of a pleasant outing. Please contact our Secretary, Bethany for details 4938 7597. Bethany is hosting a Friendship Day on 28th April which includes a Party Lite Candles display and light lunch.

Members and friends welcome.

Autumn leaves have not fallen yet and Easter is not far away. May the blessed renewal of the season give you peace and joy. Keep well and happy.

Mother Teresa said "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." *Peace and love to everyone.*

*Judy Spillard*

Photo Above: (L-R) Judy Groves presenting Carol Burns with a gift.

**PHARMACY ADVISOR**



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

Sometimes symptoms go unnoticed as the disease develops gradually. Symptoms may include any of those for type 1 diabetes plus blurred vision, skin infections, slow healing, tingling and numbness in the feet. Sometimes no symptoms are noticed at all.

**Management**  
Regular physical activity and healthy eating. Over time treatment may progress from lifestyle modification to requiring blood glucose-lowering tablets and/or insulin injections.

**The Human Burden**  
Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when there is too much glucose in the blood because the body is not producing insulin or not using insulin properly. Insulin is a hormone needed for glucose to enter the cells and be converted to energy.



**What is diabetes?**

Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when there is too much glucose in the blood because the body is not producing insulin or not using insulin properly. Insulin is a hormone needed for glucose to enter the cells and be converted to energy. Type 2 diabetes

- Occurs when the pancreas is not producing enough insulin and the insulin is not working effectively

- Represents 85 to 90% of all cases of diabetes
- Risk factors include family history, ethnic background and being overweight, particularly around the waist
- Lifestyle factors such as unhealthy eating and lack of physical activity can contribute to the development of type 2 diabetes
- Managed with lifestyle and may require diabetes medication as well as insulin therapy

**Diagnosis**  
Usually in adults over the age of 45 but it is increasingly occurring at a younger age.

**Symptoms**

- Diabetes is Australia's fastest-growing chronic disease
- An estimated 2.45 million Australians have pre-diabetes
- One person is diagnosed every 5 minutes
- About 1,160,000 Australians are officially diagnosed with diabetes
- Diabetes prevalence has increased approximately 7.2% per annum since the year 2000. Based on this, by 2018, Diabetes NSW expects the number of people with diagnosable diabetes to total approximately 2.65 million

**The total number of people with diabetes and pre-diabetes at present is**

**3.61 million**  
**High risk categories**  
People are at risk of developing diabetes if they are:

- Over 45 years of age and have high blood pressure or high blood fats (cholesterol and/or triglycerides)
- Over 45 years of age and overweight
- Over 45 years of age and one of more members of the family has/had diabetes (People with a family history of diabetes have 2 to 6 times the risk of developing type 2)
- Over 55 years of age
- Have heart disease or had a heart attack
- Have/had high blood glucose levels during pregnancy (Gestational Diabetes)
- Have pre-diabetes: Impaired Fasting Glucose (IFG) or Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT)

- Have Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome
- Over 35 years of age and of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background. Indigenous Australians have 3-4 times the risk of developing diabetes of non-Indigenous Australians. In 2000-01, death rates from diabetes among Indigenous Australians were almost 15 times as higher than other Australians
- Over 35 years of age and from a Pacific Islands, Indian subcontinent and/or Chinese background (Australians born in certain overseas countries have a higher prevalence of diabetes than people born in Australia)

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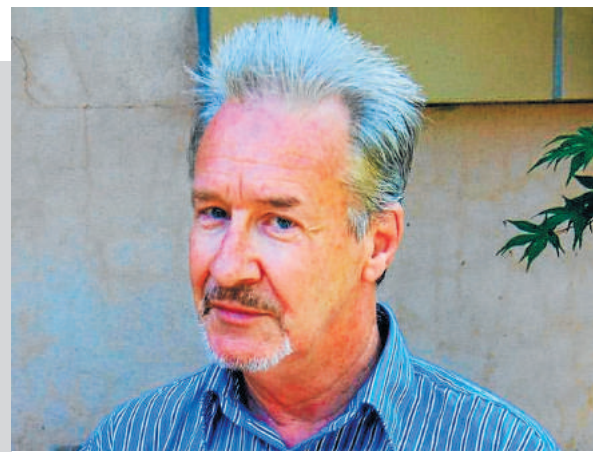
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**Mark Henshaw**  
*'The Snow Kimono'*



the next stages of their lives. But, much more provocatively, this could also be a case of the novelist abandoning linear, objective-driven logic for more open-ended philosophical structures, raising the question of what aesthetic progression we are heading towards, what kind of humanity we are seeking as a society, and what kind of moral constructions we wish to exist.

novel clicks into place like the final move in a himitsu-bako, it's clear that *The Snow Kimono* is not simply a novel about mysteries but a metaphor for the nature of storytelling. "But life, unlike crime, was not something you could solve," thinks Jovert while reminiscing about his career in the French territorial police in Algiers. "What people told you was not always the truth; the truth was what you found out, eventually, by putting all the pieces together."

The cover for *The Snow Kimono*. Photograph: Text Publishing  
In Australian fiction, there has been a recent interest among novelists in the interrogation of storytelling itself. A writer, at the end of the day, is a philosopher. To be questioning the validity of her art as well as the views of her society is part of a writer's job. It would be easy to read Henshaw as using Jovert and *The Snow Kimono* as a metaphor for his own autumn, as both the author and the character move into

Whatever the answer, Henshaw has chosen the perfect vehicle within which to examine these questions. After a career as a crime writer and curator at the National Gallery of Victoria, Henshaw's ability to combine such cultural and aesthetic diversity in his fiction is not only an example of what a period of dedicated study can do, but a marker of his ability as a writer.

Photo above: Mark Henshaw

**Singleton mushroom farm issue calls for further action**

Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon has used a Parliamentary speech last week to call for the reform of temporary work visa schemes following revelations of worker exploitation at a Singleton mushroom farm. Mr Fitzgibbon told the Parliament he'd been tipped off more than two years ago that the farm may have been using illegal workers but the Department of Immigration either didn't have the power or was unprepared to act. "I contacted the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to express concern about the conditions and legitimacy of foreign workers at a mushroom farm just outside the township of Singleton in my electorate", Mr Fitzgibbon told the Parliament.

"My office was told by the Department that it had no concerns about the firm and the foreign workers." "I also raised the issue with an industry leader in the mushroom sector who assured me that Gromor, the firm involved, was one that does the right thing. He was confident that everything that was done there was legitimate and within the rules". "So you can imagine my distress today when I learned, courtesy of *The Newcastle Herald*, that the foreign workers—mainly Asian workers with little or no English—have been collectively underpaid to the tune of some \$90,000". "We in this place have seen this too often. It happened at another facility in the Hunter region, Baiada's Beresfield chicken facility. It is happening too often."

CONT NEXT PAGE

**AWARD WINNING AUTHOR MARK HENSHAW IS COMING TO MAITLAND**

Award winning author Mark Henshaw will discuss his acclaimed novel *The Snow Kimono* for Maitland City Library's Look Who's Talking program on Thursday 17 March at Maddies of Bolwarra. Winner of the NSW Premier's Award Literary Award for Fiction and the ACT Book of the Year Award in 2015, *The Snow Kimono* is a gripping psychological thriller, which skilfully intertwines the stories of three men across continents and generations. In what is described as a beautifully told tale of espionage, desire and deceit, the sense of mystery accumulates as truth and memory are thrown into question. City Librarian Keryl Collard says, '*The Snow Kimono* is a stunning book and we are absolutely honoured to host Mark Henshaw as part of the Library's Look Who's Talking program'.

Mark Henshaw is no stranger to literary success. Twenty seven years ago, his first critically acclaimed novel, *Out of the Line of Fire* (1988) was described as one of the biggest selling Australian literary novels of the decade and won the FAW Barbara Ramsden Award and the NBC New Writers Award. Since writing *Out of the Line of Fire*, Mark Henshaw has been living in France, Germany, Yugoslavia and the USA. For many years he was a curator of International Art at the National Gallery of Australia, only recently returning to writing full time.

Bookings for this event can be made online at [maitlandlibrary.com.au](http://maitlandlibrary.com.au). For further information phone Maitland Library on 4633 6952.

**REVIEW BY NICOLE LEE**

One night in Paris, in 1989, retired inspector Auguste Jovert receives a letter from a woman in Algiers claiming to be his daughter. A chance encounter with a stranger – Tadashi Omura, former professor of law of the Imperial University of Japan – suddenly finds him entwined in the stories of Omura's best friend, the arrogant and brilliant novelist Katsuo Ikeda, and the lives of three Japanese women, Fumiko, Mariko and Sachiko.

Moving the action forward with achingly poetic sentences, the writing in *The Snow Kimono* – Mark Henshaw's first novel in 25 years, since the critically acclaimed *Out of the Line of Fire* – often echoes the fabulist prose of the Italian novelist Italo Calvino, a quote from whose *If on a Winter's Night a Traveler* begins the book. There's also a concentrated quietness in the tone that echoes the philosophical nature of the mystery – at once the realm of the lone east Asian poet, making his way down the narrow road to the interior, as well as the European diarist, wandering aimlessly through a lamp-lit street.

The novel's plot is difficult to summarise without giving anything away but it is this very complexity – as well as the cascading structure, out of the lives of the Japanese women, one of whom owns the snow kimono of the title – that makes it gripping. Like a Japanese puzzle, prized for their infinite solutions and depth of revelation, each chapter builds on the one before, unfolding through levels of story to unpack deeper and deeper truths. And as the

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NSW EPA CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

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show, with new families attending every week and a lot of new plans starting to take shape. We have been discussing the future needs of our local families and how we could play a more supportive role for them. We are exploring the ideas around expanding the use of our hall for child and family support services such as positive parenting programs, counselling and therapies such as OT and speech for examples. This would make accessing such services much more

It is with huge excitement that we look forward to a massive year at Branxton Playgroup. After celebrating 40 years of operation last November, we still remain a very strong part of our community. All of our hard work is finally starting to

convenient for our local families. On the 16th February 2016, the original 16 founding members met at the Royal Federal Hotel for a 40 year reunion. We popped in to say "Hi" and witnessed first hand the lifelong friendship and bonds that these women still have, that was formed all those years ago. On a special note, Branxton Playgroup has been personally asked to host a morning tea for Mr. Joel Fitzgibbon MP on Monday 4th April. This will be held at our hall and we were extremely honoured to be asked. Our annual Easter Raffle is currently running and as one of our major fundraisers for the year we

appreciate all the support that the we receive from the local businesses and individuals. Tickets are available through playgroup members and we will be at the IGA on Saturday 19th March. We are still taking donations for this raffle to make it "egg-stra" special and these can be dropped into the hall next to the pre-school or contact Mrs Rachel Furner on 0407015704. Playgroup operates Monday - Thursday 9:30-11:30. We always love meeting new friends, so come say 'Hello'. *Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter.*

congestion around shopping centres and car parks, creating a more enjoyable experience and encouraging patronage in central business areas. Cessnock City Council's draft Cycling Strategy is on public exhibition until 25 March 2016. If you have any comments on cycling within the region or have a point of view on how it may affect your business, please consider making a submission.

## Free adult literacy tutor training course at Singleton Library

Singleton Library is offering a free two-day course to train people as adult literacy tutors. It's intended that participants will then be able to support a program to provide one on one tutoring for adults who identify as requiring literacy support. This course will be led by three highly experienced adult literacy tutors and will condense the standard eight week training course into two days. The tutors are all members of *Read Write and Spell - Foundation Studies for Adults* and work in collaboration with community organisations to provide voluntary literacy programs for asylum seekers and English speakers with low literacy levels. The training will be held at Singleton Library on Saturday 2 April from 9.30am to 4.30pm and Sunday 3 April from 9.30am to 4pm. Attendance on both days is required for successful completion. Places are limited and bookings are essential. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided but please bring your own lunch. Helen Daly completed the

Volunteer Tutor Program in 1999 and decided to change her career and has been teaching adults literacy and numeracy skills ever since. She is currently involved in the Randwick TAFE Volunteer Tutor Program delivering the training course for new tutors. Pauline Norfolk has been teaching literacy and numeracy to adults for 30 years. She has taught students from non English speaking backgrounds and English speaking backgrounds, refugees and students with a disability. She currently works at TAFE teaching adult literacy and numeracy and learner support in vocational areas. Pauline is currently working on a literacy program for the Wayside Chapel Sydney, working with the Footpath Library. Tess Shannon has worked as an adult literacy and

numeracy teacher at TAFE since 2011. She teaches mixed level adult literacy classes at TAFE including basic computer literacy to people from English speaking backgrounds and non-English speaking backgrounds. To secure your place, contact Singleton Library on 02 6578 7500, email [library@singleton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@singleton.nsw.gov.au) OR visit [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au)

## Taking Cessnock by the handle bars

More cycling opportunities might be on the cards for residents and visitors. Cessnock City Council is inviting public comment on the draft Cycling Strategy recently placed on exhibition. Australia has seen a significant growth in bicycle ownership and use. Australians are enjoying the convenience, enjoyment and widespread health and environmental benefits of cycling for health, recreation and transport. As a result, initiatives to promote and increase this activity have been incorporated into many government agency programs within the portfolios of Health,

Roads and Transport, Education, Environment, Tourism, Sport and Local Government. Cycling is indeed getting serious in NSW, as of last week (1 March 2016) new bike laws have increased penalties for cyclists not wearing a helmet, running red lights, riding dangerously, night riding without lights and bikes without a bell as well as not stopping at pedestrian crossings. With a strong plan directing the future of cycling networks Cessnock City and the Hunter Valley are also well positioned to become a great cycling

destination! 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 more than triple with the construction of Cycleways linking key destinations. New Zealand has paved the way for destinations (including wine regions) to link up and offer cycling as a key mover and experience – and visitation is booming. If cycling can be enhanced here, a whole new segment of visitors can be attracted to Hunter Valley Wine Country. Cycling can also directly benefit local business in town centres. The \$950K grant attracted for the Cessnock CBD Revitalisation project includes bicycle lanes and parking in and around the busy commercial district. Bicycles are seldom affected by traffic

congestion around shopping centres and car parks, creating a more enjoyable experience and encouraging patronage in central business areas. Cessnock City Council's draft Cycling Strategy is on public exhibition until 25 March 2016. If you have any comments on cycling within the region or have a point of view on how it may affect your business, please consider making a submission.

## WILL YOU BE JOINING US THIS YEAR?

The Singleton Volunteer

Support Group for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service is once again be running a bus to the 2016 Upper Hunter Wine & Food Affair. After 12 years, the Upper Hunter Wine & Food Affair continues to deliver outstanding wines, yummy foods and great entertainment, so we're sure you will have a great time we you join us this year. All proceeds raised will benefit the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

### FROM PAGE 7 Members Say....

*Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter*  
My columns regularly feature information about scams. In the last quarter of 2015 there were nearly 10,000 phone scams reported to the ATO with approximately 450 people giving scammers their personal information and around 70 had been tricked into paying money. If you think you have given your information to a scammer make sure you contact your financial institution and read your statements carefully. For more information about how to protect yourself from scammers go to [ato.gov.au/identitycrime](http://ato.gov.au/identitycrime).

Last week Australia celebrated International Women's Day with many events organised across the Hunter region. If you know a woman in the mining sector who deserves recognition for her hard work and achievements NSW Mining is partnering with the NSW Women in Mining Network (WIMnet NSW) to present the 2016 NSW Women in Mining Awards alongside Industry & Suppliers Awards on Thurs 12th & Fri 13th May. For more information go to <http://www.nswmining.com.au/events/industry-suppliers-conference/awards>

Entries close on Friday 1st April.  
The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will roll out across Hunter in June. Last week the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme held a hearing in Newcastle to review the trial site feedback and to hear from anyone who will be captured in the new rollout. Transport was raised as an issue of great concern for those living in regional and rural areas. The Committee was very receptive to submissions and promised to review this important issue.

I am always keen to assist with issues or questions relating to Federal Government departments or put you in contact with someone who can, so please ring, write, visit the website or call in. Why not go the extra step by following me on my Facebook page "Joel Fitzgibbon" or on Twitter and type in the search bar "fitzhunter". Or by regularly checking my website at [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or you can even sign up to my E-Newsletter. To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753, visit [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or by post 3 Edward Street, (PO Box 526) Cessnock, 2325.

### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

## Singleton mushroom farm issue calls for further action

*We need to have a debate beyond the ill-conceived backpacker's tax. We need to look at 417s and 462s to re-assure ourselves that workers are not being exploited and that Australians are not being denied jobs because of the use of foreign workers.*  
"I do not know whether the firm involved knew about the pay arrangements because, like so many, it had engaged a labour provider known as TDS International."  
Temporary workers are critically important to the agriculture sector which often relies on backpackers to undertake work Australians can't be found for. That's why the Government's backpacker's tax is a mistake. But the temporary work visa system is being abused and workers are being exploited. It has to be fixed. It appears that while the Singleton workers were underpaid, they were working legally. But that just gives more power to the case for reform.

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## Greta Community PreSchool; then & now & going strong



The first ever Greta Preschool Committee was led by Jan Wild. The committee had over 50 names of 3-5 year olds in the local areas of Branxton, Greta, Lower Belford and

Lochinvar who were ready to attend the service. It took around two years of getting through all the red tape then the preschool opened in 1983. It operated two mornings a week, three

afternoons and two full days. One morning a week the building was used for the local playgroup also. The preschool operated with a maximum of 15



has been operational ever since.

The preschool is now seeing a new generation of children come through, these are the children of parents who attended themselves and believe that the small family feel is still here today. All though the playground has changed when you walk through the doors, as a former student back in 85 I stepped straight back in time to reminisce about my days spent here. Due to that exact feeling I instantly signed my children up.

Located in the former Greta Police station in Water Street, the preschool runs 5 days a week for 20 children aged 3-5 years old and aims

to include all children from all backgrounds. It is supported by Greta Workers Club in providing one on one speech therapy and networks with local special needs services such as Early Links and Aspect to provide special services to the community's children.

The future looks exciting for Greta Preschool. We have just erected brand new fencing and signage, we have had great new technology donated by Domayne at Rutherford, and a new playground is in the late planning stages. With myself, Director Nicole Standen and Educational Leader Teresa Mexon we are aiming to



children per day. These were the days when a child brought in a pieces of fruit which was cut up and put in a big bowl for all to share. On the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1985 Greta Community preschool signed its first lease with Cessnock Council and

further improve our programing and early learning with the help of our committed educators, Kelly Webb, Linda Pozywio, Shelly Lord, Sarah Samuelson and Freya Burgess. Along with the current committee of Jessica Main, Lauren Lill, Megan Herbert and Ellen Styles, who represent the community we aim to keep our small family feel whilst moving forward into the future. Without community support and involvement our school will cease to exist as we know it. The committee is open for new members from all areas of our community and we would be excited to see new members or we would love for you to just pop in if you feel you can help out in any way.

Our beautiful little preschool has seen over 1700 children pass through its doors and onto primary schools in the local area. Let's work together to see another 1700 children pass through in the years to come. All families are welcome to enquire and enrolments are still available.

Nicole Standen

Photos (Clockwise from top left)  
 ☐ Originally a Police Station  
 ☐ AS it stands today  
 ☐ Some current attendees & staff

.. Back on January 9th, a group of HELLS ANGELS, South Carolina bikers were riding east on 378 when they saw a girl about to jump off the Pee Dee River Bridge. So they stopped. George, their leader, a big burly man of 53, gets off his Harley, walks through a group of gawkers, past the State Trooper who was trying to talk her down off the railing, and says, "Hey Baby . . . whatcha doin' up there on that railin'?" She says tearfully, "I'm going to commit suicide!!" While he didn't want to appear "sensitive," George also didn't want to miss this "be-a-legend" opportunity either so he asked . . . "Well, before you jump, Honey-Babe . . . why don't you give ol' George here your best last kiss?" So, with no hesitation at all, she leaned back over the railing and did just that . . . and it was a long, deep, lingering kiss followed immediately by another even better one. After they breathlessly finished, George gets a big thumbs-up approval from his biker-buddies, the onlookers, and even the State Trooper, and then says, "Wow! That was the best kiss I have ever had! That's a real talent you're wasting there, Sugar Shorts. You could be famous if you rode with me. Why are you committing suicide?" "My parents don't like me dressing up like a girl."

(It's still unclear whether she jumped or was pushed)

## What's Been Happening at Branxton Preschool.....



Play is the answer to how anything new comes about.  
 - Jean Piaget

www.playlearneveryday.com

Working in partnership with our families and the children, we are beginning to plan and implement the children's interests into our everyday curriculum. This week the Educators called on our families to assist us with preparing a PRESCHOOL RODEO. We had donations of bales

of hay, riding boots and costumes, not to mention the sewing involved in getting both chaps and cowgirl shirts together for the big week. The excitement on the children's faces when they walked into preschool was priceless. It is amazing to see how involved parents

are in extending onto their children's interests. Also, the passion of the Educators to inject these into the program to enable all the children an opportunity to explore something they are either very familiar with or something they have never experienced before. That's the beauty of being a Play

Based Learning Centre. Love, Passion, Commitment and an enormous amount of community spirit, has enabled the Preschool families and children to connect in such a positive way. Thank you to all of those who were able to join in and assist with making this Rodeo possible. The feedback has been overwhelming. We have two of our Educators heading off to the National Play Conference in Melbourne. This will be an amazing opportunity and we look forward to sharing this new knowledge with all of our co-workers and injecting new ideas into our Preschool. EXCITING TIMES ahead.

We also have been selected to be a part of a FEEL study group. This is a research project set out by Wollongong University to explore early learning and the play based learning environment. We will be attending some professional training based around early literacy and numeracy and play centred learning experiences. We also cannot wait to share this

knowledge within our preschool environment. We are currently at capacity within our Preschool however if you would like to know more about

Preschool or would like to place your child on our waiting list for next year please contact the office on Ph: 49381990.  
 ☐ Photo above: ready for the Rodeo big day!



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# 5 reasons why renters should also become minimalists



**With Australian property prices soaring in major cities, many Aussies are renting for the long term, or in some cases permanently.** There are many advantages to the renting lifestyle and in some cases renting can be more financially beneficial than

home ownership. Renting presents its fair share of problems though including rental increases, evictions and maintenance disputes. This is why it's important for renters to embrace minimalism so they're able to move around with as little stress and fuss as

possible, whether the move is their choice or not. Here are five reasons why renters should also be minimalists.

## 1. Limiting possessions for ease of movement

One of the major drawbacks of being a long-term or permanent

renter is constantly being at the mercy of landlords. Tenants can be evicted at any time or circumstantially evicted through unaffordable increases in rent, often having to pack up their possessions and shift out with very short notice. By limiting possessions, renters

can make frequent moves manageable and stress free. It's much easier to move a small stack of plates than an overflowing box of seldom used and mismatched crockery. Thinking about where to cut back on unnecessary items can save a lot of time and stress the day before the moving van arrives.

## 2. Purchasing versatile furniture

It's important for renters to avoid buying dwelling-specific furniture.

A giant wicker swinging chair with a \$4k price tag will look outstanding hanging from the rafters of a warehouse conversion, but the next place its owner lives might be a tiny one bedroom urban flat, where there's barely an inch of room to spare.

There's no way to predict the next place you will live but it's always best practice to avoid purchases of large or cumbersome furniture, especially if you have to pay for the disposal of the item if you're unable to sell it or give it away.

Bad furniture decisions can be expensive and time consuming so it's best to stick to simple and versatile items.

## 3. Practicing financial minimalism



Another form of minimalism with great benefits is general financial minimalism. There's no point in signing up to a two year, non-refundable gym membership if you're on a month-to-month lease and may have to move away from the area.

Similarly buying a car or bike to suit the new home might not be the best investment.

Freedom is one of the most valuable benefits of renting and one of the main reasons why some Australian's choose not to buy homes.

The benefit of freedom is diminished if money is wasted on location-specific purchases like memberships to local clubs or expensive forms of personal transport.

## 4. Harnessing a 'make-do' attitude

Just because there's space for a stand mixer, food processor, blender, slow cooker and coffee machine on the current kitchen bench doesn't guarantee there will be that much space in your next place. Multiple gadgets are luxuries

and it's very easy to live without them. It's a waste of time and money lugging boxes of seldom-used equipment from house to house.

Serviced apartments in hotels are designed for semi-long-term residency and the most a serviced apartment kitchen will have is a kettle and a toaster.

To avoid overcrowding a tiny kitchen, stick to the essentials.

## 5. Ditching the storage trap

It's a bad renting habit to drag the same ten boxes of 'storage' from one rental garage, not touching it for a few years, and then dragging it to the next rental garage.

If the items in stored boxes haven't been used, touched or thought about in the past few years there is no point in keeping them.

Old toys can be donated to child care centres, CDs and DVDs can be stored electronically and then donated and excess blankets and bedding can also be given away.

If an item is never used, it's essentially useless.

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11 - 11.30am

3 2 10

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- Formal lounge & separate dining rooms
- Modern kitchen 2 years young
- 2 Hectares (approx. 5 acres)
- 2 Dams; sheds & loading ramp
- Detached DLUG (one auto door)
- Water storage approx. 100,000 litres
- Caravan storage shed; garden Shed
- Stock proof boundary fencing in good condition; sealed road access

Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836

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**Greta**

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The perfect family home within walking distance to schools and shops, and only minutes to the new Hunter Expressway.

This 4 bedroom with study 3 bathroom family home on a 1 acre corner block has it all.

Open plan living with stylish centre piece kitchen containing all the mod cons and ceaser stone benchtops. Floating timber floor boards throughout, combustion fire and ducted air conditioning keeps the home comfortable all year round. Fully fenced 4000m<sup>2</sup> of yard space,



with in ground pool and BBQ area for entertaining. More sheds and storage space than you will ever require, parking space for caravan, boats and all the toys. Plus you have another bathroom in one of the sheds which could be easily turned into a granny flat. If you're looking for space in town with everything look no further. Call Ian now for your private inspection.

**Price:** \$585,000  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ian Barnes**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW

**Branxton**

22 Station Street

**4 Bedrooms/Large Shed on 900m<sup>2</sup>**

4 bedrooms, three with built in robes, large block & great shed. The combined lounge & dining room has RC/AC & polished pine timber floorboards throughout. The colourbond garage also has plenty of storage cupboards and a second shower and toilet. This garage could easily accommodate 2 large vehicles as well as storage space.

**Price:** \$385,000  
**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**

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 8x3m screened area.

**Price: Under Offer**  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ian Barnes**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW

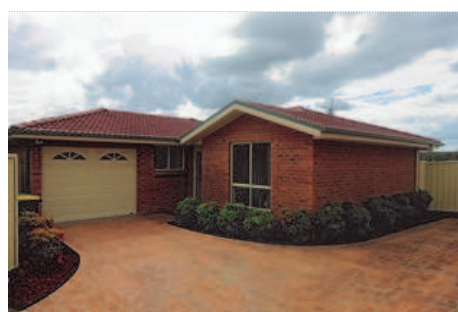
**Greta**

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:** \$170,000  
**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:** \$335,000  
**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



## 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**

### FOR LEASE

**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



## 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**



## 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**



Call Helen or Mike

**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)**



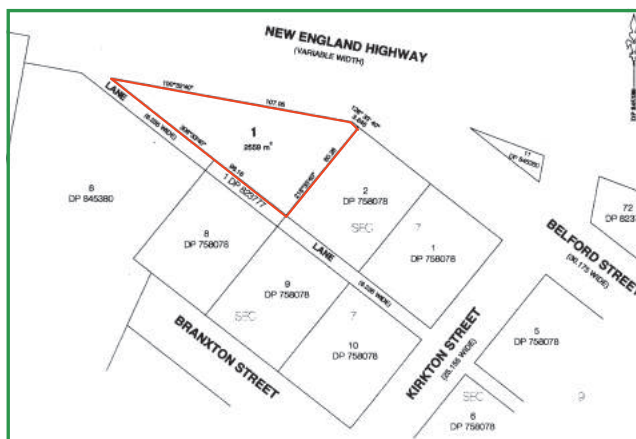
## EAST BRANXTON

**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

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

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**



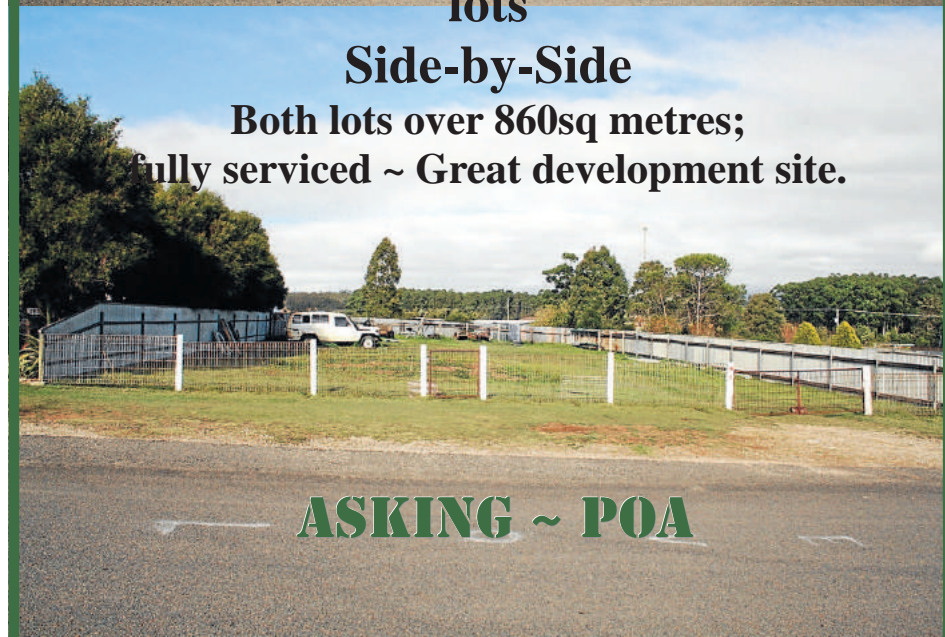
## BRANXTON VACANT LAND ~ 75 YATES STREET

**SOLD**

2 Large level Residential building lots

Side-by-Side

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



**ASKING ~ POA**

Call Helen or Mike

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



## EAST BRANXTON

### Features include:-

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**



NEW ON MARKET

## EAST BRANXTON

Lovely family home  
3 Bedroom family home with good built-ins in two.  
Separate dining & living room with neat kitchen which includes granite bench tops.  
Other features include:-  
Combustion fire & air conditioning, lovely decking at rear, free standing garage.  
All this on a very large fenced block.  
Absolutely nothing to do just move in!

**PRICE \$330,000**

# Thomas

Estate Agents

# PH: 49 382020

**OPEN HOUSE: SAT 10AM-10:15AM**

**64 New England Highway, Lochinvar**

**Price \$449,998**

Listed with Airbnb and currently returning \$180 per night (approx. Weekend rate)

The property is fully furnished and to be included in the sale (optional). Some of the quality furnishings include stainless steel fridge/freezer, TV, washing machine & dining setting etc.

You will fall in love with this beautiful Lochinvar property the moment you walk through the front door. Features include:

- Three double size bedrooms with robes and ceiling fans and all have French doors that open onto the surrounding verandah.
- 2 Separate living rooms + large open plan dining area adjoined to the kitchen.
- The chef of the home will love the Baltic pine kitchen complete with island bench, 2 drawer dishwasher, gas cooking and large pantry.
- Two bathrooms both feature large rain showers plus one bathroom contains a spa bath in which to soak your cares away.
- De-attached granny flat / home office with bathroom
- Double carport plus secure attached workshop
- Land size: 2078sqm

Extra features include: timber floors, gas log fire place, ducted air conditioner, ceiling fans, high quality lead lighting, French doors, high feature ceilings, security system plus much more.



**OPEN HOUSE: SAT 11AM-11:15AM**



**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



**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.



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



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



## 5 Properties leased in 2 weeks

### We need more rentals

We manage properties in:

- Branxton
- Singleton
- Greta
- Maitland
- North Rothbury
- Newcastle

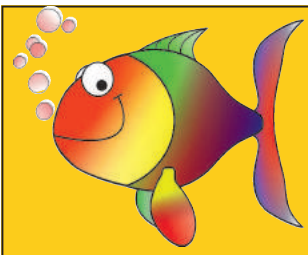
Call us today to discuss the management of your property

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 CLUB MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB**

# GRETA WORKERS



**THURSDAY  
24th MARCH  
SEAFOOD RAFFLE  
OVER \$1,000 IN PRIZES**

## ENTERTAINMENT

**FRIDAY  
18th MARCH  
*SOLID GOLD*  
THURSDAY  
24th MARCH  
*ROCK OZ***

**SUNDAY 20th MARCH  
EASTER EGGS &  
MEAT TRAYS  
OVER \$1,000  
IN PRIZES**

### MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

**WEDNESDAY  
16th MARCH  
\$2,900  
SUNDAY  
20th MARCH  
\$1,100**



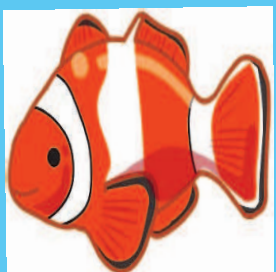
# MILLER PARK

## MEMBERS DRAW

**THURSDAY 17th MARCH  
\$3,300  
SUNDAY 20th MARCH  
\$1,200**

## SAMMY'S AT THE PARK

**FAMILY RESTAURANT  
BRANXTONS FAVOURITE CHEF  
WEDNESDAY— SUNDAY  
LUNCH & DINNER  
GREAT FOOD—CLUB PRICES**



**THURSDAY  
24th MARCH  
SEAFOOD  
& MEAT RAFFLE  
COME ALONG &  
ENJOY YOUR NIGHT OUT**

**SUNDAY  
20th MARCH  
MEAT TRAYS &  
EASTER EGGS  
OVER \$1,000  
IN PRIZES**

## Eulogy of Dorothy Emily Bercini (Partridge)

8/11/1920 ~ 17/2/2016

Apologies from Father George, thank you to Father Des.

Mum was born at the family home on the corner of Queen Street and Cessnock Road Branxton on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1920. She was the third child of Florence Maud and William Charles Partridge. She had two sisters Aunty Joyce (dec) and Aunty Edna and one brother Uncle Harold (dec), his wife Aunty Joan is here with us today.

Mum was educated at Branxton Public School, leaving school after completing 6<sup>th</sup> Class. She helped her mother who had a cake shop near the Post Office. She transported the cakes by push bike from the family home. Mum began working at the Branxton Telephone Exchange before moving to the Maitland Telephone Exchange. She boarded with Mrs Walker known to us all as Aunt, in Bourke Street Maitland not far from the Post Office. Mum was a very neat writer, very good with figures and had a great memory for telephone numbers.

It was during this time she met Jack Bercini and they



were married on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 1947 at the Sacred Heart Church in Hamilton. They settled in with Nanna Bercini in the old house that was next to the shop, soon after moving to the family home at 31 Cessnock Road Branxton. In June 1948 I was born followed by Margaret 1951, Tony 1953 and Lee 1958. We were all taught to be respectful, have good manners and to be honest, this was controlled in the early days with a feather duster. Dad being the soft hearted type would hold the handle and hit us with the fluffy end, but mum was not that soft. (Tony's idea to

shorten the handle)... The house was never locked and everyone who came to the door was made welcome. Mum judged people by how much they ate. The more you ate the better person she thought you were, she loved to see Gary Harley come as he would try everything on the table. Anniversaries were always celebrated with a large crowd and more than enough cakes, tarts and grammar pies were supplied. Mum was always showered, hair done and lipstick on as she prepared the evening meal and the return of dad home from work.

(story – only one hole, John disappointed, short fuse, sent home, abuse). Mum won the associates B Grade Championship in 1966, C Grade 1969, 1978, 1981 and D Grade in 1993 and 1994. She was always involved with other ladies in the Golf Club doing all the catering for Golf and Social Functions. Country Week was an annual trip to Sydney always with Mr Bert Burgess, Col Ernst and Mick Watson. Bert Burgess was a very holy man, drove with a heavy foot and the rosary beads wrapped around his hand. I was about 8 or 9 years old when I was

first invited to go with them to country week. Being the eldest I soon learnt it was a fine line between being the chosen one and the guinea pig. I thought I would be caddying on all the top golf courses in Sydney, but on the first day told I would be accompanying mum shopping. In and out of every dress, hat and shoe shop in Pitt Street, George Street and Castlereagh Street, sometimes back in the same shop twice. By early afternoon it was time to see a movie, Gone with the Wind, Five Penny's with Penny Kay and I swear we saw The Wizard of Oz three times.

Dad spared nothing to try and make life easier for mum (eg the first dishwasher), her favourite saying was I'm spoiled but I like it. Mum was a very good driver, she became a very good friend to the Sisters of Mercy. She would drive the nuns to their holiday house at Toronto as they did not have a car of their own. It was ironic it would be the Mercy Home where she would spend her last few years. Once the grandchildren came along from 1972 – 1996 nothing else mattered. 13 grandchildren then followed 21 great grandchildren. Dad passed away in 1982 and 3 months later precious grandchild Christopher passed

away. Mum enjoyed good health until about 10 years ago when little signs began to appear that things were starting to deteriorate. First the cooking began to slip when scones became rock cakes, cakes became pancakes and then the oven got blamed. People thought Eric Porter the local electrician lived there as every time he walked past she would ask him to fix the oven.

Mum was never keen on the idea of any aged care facility so we decided to call in the Integrated Living People and with their help mum was able to stay at home for a few more years. We had a roster to provide the evening meal, which worked very well until we realised we had our nights mixed up and she would have two meals eaten about 45 minutes apart and also two lots of tablets. It was getting a bit dangerous and we thought that mum needed 24 hour care and surveillance. Maybe we could tell her she was going into a Resort Style Rehabilitation Centre or a Hostel would sound more appealing to her.

Mum was lucky enough to get into the Mercy Nursing Home at Singleton. She settled in much better than

we had expected. She enjoyed the special attention given by the wonderful nursing staff and the love and care of many volunteers who donate their time every week. A special thanks to one of her neighbours Mrs Pam McDonald who regularly painted mums finger nails and brushed her hair. Also to Mr and Mrs Albert Standing and Betty Thomson an old golfing friend for providing music and sing –alongs every Friday (all free).

Christmas was always a high priority from about February – December. She was really happy the last two years when we had our Christmas get together at the Charbonier Motel. This last Christmas we had 56 of the family in attendance. As we loaded her back into the disabled taxi Lee said to Mum "how was that?" Mum replied "how was what?". Mums health started to decline about a month ago, and Father George was called to anoint her, after which she rallied around living another 3 ½ weeks, to prove us wrong again. Her last 3 days were very peaceful.

She was spoilt and she did like it but right to the end she would remind us she'd had a good life.

*May she rest in peace.*

## Vale – Eileen Joyce Hebbe (2<sup>nd</sup> February 1931 – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016)

EILEEN JOYCE HEBBE, was Born EILEEN JOYCE WEBSTER on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1931 at Langley Vale Taree to Harold and Henrietta Webster. She had 4 brothers - Cecil, Ken, Dallas (all now deceased) and Keith.. and a sister Melvie. At the age of 12 she lost her mother, and six weeks after her mother's death she lost her 2-year-old little brother Dallas. Eileen then had to help care for her younger siblings. Her father re-married, and 2 sisters (Jean and Noleen) and a brother (Eugene) became part of the family.

At the age of 15 the family moved onto a dairy farm at Coopernook. Eileen first started work at a Slipper Factory in Wingham, then at 21 she moved to Telarah to live with her aunty and uncle. She started work at Burlington Mills at Ruther-



ford and that is where she met Aileen (Jack's sister) who took her home to meet her brother Jack.

Eileen and Jack were married on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1953 at the Pro Cathedral Maitland and they honeymooned in Newcastle. They have 6 children – Suzanne,

paddock from the family home in William St East Branxton. Eileen used to follow them around with a wet chaff bag putting the fires out every weekend.

It was fairly well documented old Jack didn't mind a drink back in the day, and it was fairly common that he'd

Dianne, Roslyn, Robert, David and Tim, and then in turn came 14 Grandchildren and 15 ½ Great Grandchildren.

Robert was a little bit wild as a kid, as were all the boys, and Robert and his mate Dick Eslick had this obsession with lighting fires out in the lane way and across the road in the

come home well lubricated after a healthy session at the Golf Club of a Saturday night. Upon Eileen's demand Jack spent many a night camping out in the shed.

Eileen had this infectious laugh and always seemed to see the funnier side of things even though Jack mightn't have. Grand daughters Natasha and Danielle Burley or who Eileen referred to as the "Whirly Burleys" once totally ring barked the Melaleuca trees out the front of the house. They blamed their 2-year-old cousin Luke, and although Jack was going off his nana Eileen was in the background having a good old little chuckle to herself. This happened on many occasions that the Whirley Burleys got into mischief when they came to visit Nan and Pa.

When the children were old enough to fend for themselves Jack and Eileen decided to do a little travelling. They Cruised to Fiji, went to Tasmania, New Zealand and then they

travelled the majority of Australia with Dianne and Michael.

Then there was the many years of Christmas's and Easter's spent at Tuncurry and then onto Pacific Palms where Jack and Eileen purchased an onsite caravan at Elizabeth Beach for all the family to share. Many a tale over many a drink was told over these memorable years.

Eileen wasn't a big drinker but on one occasion her and Julie went through a 4-litre cask of wine in pretty quick time as they weren't going to be left behind Robert and Jack who had already had a fair session.

Eileen's granddaughter Jackie remembers being scared by the sound of the wind blowing in the palm trees outside the van of a night, and how Eileen used to look after her.

And who could forget the time Jack and Eileen agreed to let Harry and his teenage mates use the van for a weekend away. Without going into further detail, let's

just say Harry got the message when Eileen said that this would be the first and last time.

Sue recalls one of the trips to Perth with the Golf Club where they stayed at the Ambassador Hotel. In the middle of the night the fire alarm went off. Jack being Jack had to get up and have a sticky beak. The only problem was the door closed behind him and left him standing out in the hallway. He was banging on the door and Eileen not knowing he wasn't in the room kept saying "For god's sake Jack will you get up and answer that door".

Eileen enjoyed her Tennis and it was a bit of time out for her.

After all the travelling, once again she settled down and raised two more girls – her granddaughters Madeline and Brittany up until the present, a period of 17 years.

Jack, her children and grandchildren were Eileen's life. She was born to raise children, she connected with them one by one like she

knew them just by holding their hands.

She was a strong, hard woman. She was no pushover.

Eileen's health started to deteriorate over the last 3 years with Dementia and Depression and Jack became her primary carer. Jack being no spring chicken, nothing was a problem to him, he did everything for her. He was absolutely wonderful, no-one could do anymore. Even up until a week ago he was adamant he was not going to put her into an aged care facility. Even though he is 91 he was still going to look after her.

Jack always said she got him on the straight and narrow and that she was his saviour.

She was his Soulmate and she was his best friend.

She was a wonderful mother to us all.

Special thanks from the family to Maitland Hospital Surgical Unit for the loving care they gave Eileen and the family in their time of need.

*May she rest in peace.*



# Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

In 2016 we're excited to launch our new School Education Program. Council's Ranger Lyndall will visit schools in the area to teach our local kids the importance of caring for companion animals. Holy Spirit Primary School will be the first to host Ranger Lyndall on Friday 18 March 2016. Caring for a pet is the responsibility of the whole family and we're taking an active role in the community to teach kids all the facts on raising a happy and healthy pet.

The program will also educate kids on how to identify a potentially dangerous situation and what to do if and when they are confronted with a not-so-friendly dog. According to the NSW Office of Local Government between 1 July to

30 September 2015, 1,347 dog attacks were reported in NSW. Our aim is to make sure school aged kids know how to be safe and how to raise a well-socialised pet.

\*\*\*

Are you a pensioner living in the Cessnock City area? Do you have a pet who hasn't been desexed? Thanks to the help of the RSPCA and Office of Local Government, Council Rangers are offering 100 free desexing procedures for pet owners who hold a pension card. The benefits of caring for a companion animal are many and Council Rangers want to make the costs of being a responsible pet owner easier for those in need.

Availability is limited so secure your booking by visiting Customer Service or calling 4993 4300 for more information.

\*\*\*

Easter is just around the corner. Have you planned an Easter egg hunt or an Easter Sunday picnic? Chocolate is very harmful for dogs and can cause serious heart complications. Avoid a visit to the vet by keeping your Easter eggs out of paws reach. Remember: Easter eggs are yummy treats for humans but are harmful for dogs.

AW1952384



You can contact Council on **02 4993 4300**  
or **www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au**

# HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



**With Phil Hele OAM, Marketing Chairman Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Assc.**  
Announced late last week at the 2015 New South Wales State MEA Industry Awards Gala Dinner, Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, collected the award for Best Meeting Venue – 500 Delegates or more. This is the first win for the Resort in this category due to the Opening of the Hunter Valley Conference & Events Centre in January 2015 growing its maximum delegate capacity from 450 to 1600. Last year the Resort won the 2014 State and National Industry Award for Best Meeting Venue – Under 500 Delegates.  
Robert Coates, General Manager, said the award re-affirmed the position of the Hunter Valley as a leading conference and events destination in regional New South Wales and is thrilled to be recognised in this category given the amount of effort that was put into the planning of, launch and subsequent operation of the largest Conference and Events Centre in Northern NSW.

We are very excited to announce that the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Hunter Valley magazine will be with us this week. It is a beautiful showcase of the best food, wine and other experiences in Australia's oldest wine region. Stay tuned to the winecountry website and Hunter Valley Wine Country Facebook page for its release where you can view the magazine digitally.

The digital campaign for Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival has also started and we are receiving some wonderful traction online via our digital channels. Please be sure, as always, to like, follow and share our posts to ensure maximum reach and engagement. This year is the strongest line up of events and we cannot wait for the festival to kick off. It is now live on the wine country website and we are receiving some great traction on both this and the Hunter Valley Wine Country Facebook page. To view the great line up of events please go onto our digital platforms to view. Be sure to like, comment and share all content!

Following on from the success of our "Come Play" Campaign, we are delighted to announce the "Come Play and Stay Another Day" Campaign. This Campaign was launched on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016 for bookings between the 31<sup>st</sup> March and the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016.  
We have some fabulous events happening in our Region during this Campaign; including the Around Hermitage Film Festival, A Little Bit of Italy in Broke, Gumball, Singleton Coal Festival and lots more. This is a great opportunity to leverage on the events and encourage visitors to 'stay another day'.  
The Campaign is being coordinated by Singleton Council in partnership with Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association. All accommodation packages will be bookable through [www.winecountry.com.au](http://www.winecountry.com.au)

## Vineyard road improvements to include cycleway

Work is progressing on the Hermitage and Broke Road Upgrade project, which will provide a crucial road upgrade in the heart of wine country region, with construction now well underway. The project received \$16.7 million in funding under the NSW Government's Restart NSW Resources for Regions program, which aims to support regional and rural NSW communities affected by mining by addressing infrastructure constraints, and will be jointly delivered by Cessnock City Council and Singleton Council.



Member for the Upper Hunter, Michael Johnsen MP, said he was impressed with the progress of the first stage of the project.  
"These cycle ways, which have been funded by the Resources for Region program, are an important link for our tourism industry," Mr Johnsen said.  
"This work forms part of the Cessnock and Singleton Council's masterplan for the further development of Australia's premier wine region."  
Cessnock City Council's Design Delivery Manager Katrina Kerr said the current works involved the reconstruction of the western end of Broke Road, extending to and including the upgrade of its intersection with Hermitage Road.  
"The intersection upgrade will improve road user safety and visibility, allowing for protected right turns into Hermitage Road," Ms Kerr said.  
"This current stage of works involves widening the road with a new pavement, as well as construction of the new cycleway."  
Economic Development Manager at Cessnock City Council, Jane Holdsworth, said the introduction of a cycleway will provide positive new offerings for visitors to the region.  
"Over recent years, Australia has seen a significant growth in bicycle ownership and use, with many people becoming increasingly aware of the convenience, enjoyment and widespread health and environmental benefits of cycling," Ms Holdsworth said.  
"The upgrades will not only focus on providing improved access for motorists but will ensure all road users can share the road safely."  
"Council would like to thank road users for their patience and we particularly appreciate the cooperation of adjacent businesses and properties along Broke Road."  
"We expect minimal disruption to occur, but ask road users to obey any change in traffic conditions and reduced speed limits," Ms Kerr said.  
The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

For more information visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'vineyard roads'.  
Photo above: Inspecting works on Broke Road (L-R) Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane, Cessnock Mayor Cr Bob Pynsent, Cessnock City Council General Manager Stephen Glen and Singleton Mayor Cr John Martin.

# BRANXTON GOLF CLUB



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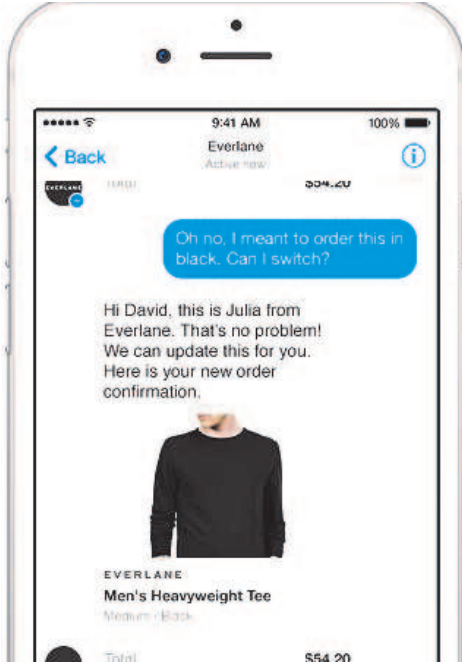
# click's



## In The NEWS

### Are Ads Coming To Facebook Messenger?

According to published reports, you could find ads in your Facebook Messenger inbox very soon. The extremely popular app boasts nearly 1 billion users.



There would be limits on who can send you ads. Ads would only come from businesses which you initiated previous contact with via Messenger. Not a surprising move since Facebook is encouraging businesses to make Messenger a primary means of contact for customer support and shopping.

### Don't Respond To This Text Message

Android users are warned not to open this text message if it turns up on their phone. The message reads:

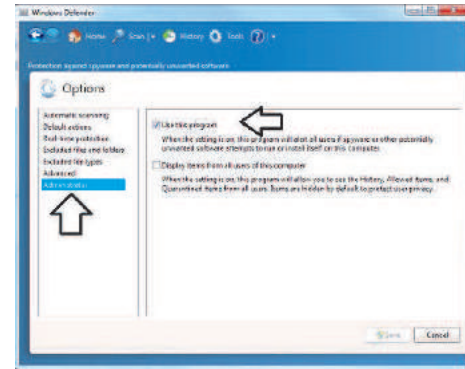
*You have received a multimedia message from + [country code] [sender number] Follow the link <http://www.mmsforyou> [...] Net /mms.apk to view the message*

Clicking on the link will install an application that can allow hackers to get into your phone and steal your information. It was first discovered by the security firm Heimdal.

If you have clicked on this message. It's time to reset your phone, change all of the passwords on your accounts and check with your bank and credit card companies to make sure your account hasn't been accessed.

### Security In Windows 10

Security is a top priority for PCs and this reader wanted to know about his options in Windows 10. "I have a question concerning Windows 10. With Win-, XP, 7, 8, 8.1 Windows had Microsoft Security Essentials. I have not found what is available for Windows 10 from Microsoft. Also what are the suggested other Malware, Trojan etc software should we be running to protect our systems. Microsoft has been buying up Security Companies was that to add to their Security Software protection for consumers of their products?" The default, built-in security for Windows 10 is Windows Defender. It replaced Microsoft Security Essentials starting in Windows 8. It is built-in to both operating systems.



While in the past, Windows' security offerings haven't performed so well, Defender doesn't do a bad job when compared to other virus protection like Norton, AVG, AVAST or McAfee. It performs better in some instances, worse in others. If you choose to go with Windows Defender, (or even if you choose a third-party security software) I suggest getting a Malware program like Malware Bytes to complement it.

### Galaxy S7 Brings Back Storage



When Samsung took away the microSD slot and removable battery on the Galaxy S6, a log of users cried foul. Expandable storage and a removable battery were the features that made Samsung's Galaxy phones stand out from the iPhone. Samsung listened to their customers, because removable storage is back in a big way in the new Galaxy S7. Users can add up to a 200 GB microSD card to this model.

However, Samsung did not bring back the removable battery. The company did increase the size of the battery to 3000mAh, giving about 20% more battery life than the GS6. The phone is also capable of wireless charging.

One of neatest features of this phone is that it is water-resistant. So spills or even an accidental quick dunk in the sink shouldn't destroy your phone. Still, I wouldn't take your new phone deep-sea diving. The camera goes back to 12 mega-pixels from the 16 offered in the GS5, but adds an improved sensor for low-light photos and a faster-autofocus. There's also a new "always on" mode that displays notifications and calendar events on your lock screen. But don't worry about it eating up your battery power. It only consumes about 1% of the power.

If you're not a fan of being always on, there's also a do-not-disturb mode to block notifications. Samsung also aims to please die-hard mobile gamers with features like Game Hub. The phone comes in two models, The Galaxy S7 with a 5.1" display and the Galaxy S7 Edge that features a 5.5" display that curves around and offers notifications in that side view area. The GS7 runs on the Android 6.0 Marshmallow operating system. The phone retails for around \$675, but your price may vary depending on your phone carrier.

## The Law Report



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

### "Originalism"

And now for something rather different. The United States will elect a new president in November and the primaries - by which the candidates for the two main political parties are chosen- are upon us as the media keeps reminding us.

But in what seems a rare show of unity all the Republican candidates are calling on President Obama not to appoint a Supreme Court judge to replace Antonin Scalia who died earlier this month. They want the Supreme Court of the United States to function with one less judge than usual until after the presidential election. So, for example Mr Rubio said ... "The president can nominate whoever he wants, but the Senate is not going to act, and that's pretty clear, So, we can keep debating it but we're not moving forward on it, period." And Mr Cruz said ... "Let the election decide it. If the Democrats want to replace this nominee, they need to win the election."

In Australia Commonwealth Judges (judges of the High, the Federal, the Family and the Federal Circuit Court) are appointed by the Governor General in Council - effectively by the government of the day.

But in America it's different. The President can nominate a judge but the Senate has to confirm a judge. Usually the Senate does so, but not always. The last time the Senate rejected a nominee was when President Reagan nominated Robert Bork who had been the US Solicitor General under President Nixon and who dismissed the Watergate special investigator after the then US Attorney General and his deputy had refused Nixon's order to dismiss the investigator. Both the Attorney and his deputy resigned in protest at Nixon's order. Groups opposing Mr Bork's appointment to the Supreme Court ran TV ads (some of them narrated by Gregory Peck who donated his time to do so). The Senate Judiciary committee (the then chairman of which was Joe Biden now the Vice President) ruled against Bork's nomination, followed by the whole Senate which split along party lines- almost every democrat voting against the nomination and almost every republican voting for. In 1988 there was a democratic majority and their vote told.

What Messrs. Rubio and Cruz are saying is that the Senate won't confirm the President's nominee to replace Scalia (who was nominated by Ronald Regan) at least till after the election still more than 300 days away. This would be almost unheard of the longest confirmation hearing is 3 months when President Wilson nominated Louis Brandis almost a century ago. The Republicans though point to the 2 year delay in appointing Robert Grier in 1846.

The Democrats say that any longer would be further evidence that the Republican majority in the Senate is just being obstructionist - blocking all the President's initiatives. They would then try to make that an election issue. That may make President Obama nominate a 'moderate' - a

current judge in a lower court whose nomination was unopposed in the Senate. There are several possibilities.

All this is very different to Australia where judges and their appointment is less obviously political. Grier, Bork and Scalia all held to a theory of interpreting the US Constitution known as "Originalism". This theory is that the constitution must be interpreted as the originators would have interpreted. In the case of initial constitution and the first 10 amendments - the so called bill of rights - which were adopted at the same time - that means how the founding fathers would have interpreted the constitution at that time. In the case of each successive amendment an originalist looks at what the people at the time would have meant that amendment to mean.

Now that creates a practical problem - the originalist has to delve through books and articles and newspapers to find out what people thought at that time.

But there's another and more basic problem with originalism which I can best illustrate by one perennial theme in US constitutional cases - race relations.

Grier who came from Pennsylvania was one of two Northerners to side with the majority in the Dred Scott decision. Dred Scott, a Negro slave from Missouri, claimed his freedom based on the premise that he had resided in what is now Minnesota where slavery was prohibited with his master, army surgeon Dr. John Emerson. Upon Dr. Emerson's death in 1843, his wife Irene Emerson inherited ownership of Dred Scott. Four years later, and back in Missouri Scott sued Mrs. Emerson for his freedom, and a local court ruled in his favor. The Missouri Supreme Court, however, repealed the lower court's decision, reversing over two decades of precedent. After this decision, Scott's ownership transferred to Irene Emerson's brother, John Sanford. Scott then sued Sanford for his freedom. By suing Sanford, a citizen of New York, Scott enabled the Supreme Court to become involved as this - Scott assumed - constituted a suit between people of different states.

Grier agreed with the majority opinion delivered by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney. This was, based on the language of the Constitution and the founders' feelings toward African Americans, (that is applying originalist theory) Dred Scott was a chattel - he could not be an American citizen, so he had no right to sue in federal court. Taney and Grier went further - saying that the Missouri compromise of 1820 (which provided that federal territories north of the 'Mason Dixon Line' were to be Free states in which slavery was illegal) was unconstitutional as well.

This decision was one of the triggers of the US Civil War; it's important to remember that the Republican Party and its presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln's platform for the 1860 election was against the expansion of slavery not its abolition. That only came later - slavery was not fully abolished in the USA until the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed in 1868.

One of the most important cases on the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment was Brown v Board of Education - which prohibited segregation - at least in schools and even then in principle more than fact. The decision was in 1954, it was not till years later that Martin Luther King and others made the decision a reality.

But Scalia has refused to answer how he - as an originalist - would have voted in that case. And the reason is simple. . The weight of the historical evidence is that the people who drafted, proposed and ratified the 14th Amendment from 1866 to

1868 did not believe themselves to be doing away with segregated schools and in fact probably supported them.

Scalia has said that Brown v Board of Education might be the right result but suggested that the judges were wrong in saying desegregation in public schools is compelled by the constitution. I grew up in the 1960s when people like George Wallace the governor of Alabama stood on the steps of the State Legislature in Alabama proclaiming "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever." George Wallace later repented, he became a Christian and supported rights of minorities. But it seems that those who like Scalia—and he is not alone - say that the constitution has to be interpreted in accordance with how people thought when it was enacted defend segregation. It wouldn't happen in Australia.

Cheers, Peter

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## Under the new strata laws, can a “dissenting owner” recover GST on a forced sale?

By Leisha de Aboitz – Partner at William James Law, and Ole Mitrevski – Solicitor at William James Law

If GST is payable on the sale of a strata lot, can a dissenting owner recover GST in respect of the sale of its lot having

regard to Part 10 of the Strata Schemes Development Bill 2015?

The short answer is yes, GST will most likely be recoverable as part of the “compensation value” received by a dissenting owner.

### Who is a “dissenting owner”?

A dissenting owner is an owner of a lot which does not support a strata renewal plan prepared in accordance with Part 10 of the *Strata Schemes Development Bill 2015*.

What is the “compensation value”?

The “compensation value” is the value of a lot determined:

- pursuant to s55 of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 (NSW) (Acquisition Act)* subject to any modifications prescribed by the regulations; or by any different valuation method prescribed by the regulations.

The regulations are yet to be published, so it is unclear whether the regulations will specifically regulate (or modify) the manner in which the “compensation value” is calculated, and in particular whether or not GST will be recoverable by a dissenting owner as part of the market value of the dissenting lot.

However, if the “compensation value” is to be determined solely pursuant to the *Acquisition Act*, then it is most likely that any GST paid (or payable) on the sale of the dissenting lot would form part of the market value of that lot, meaning that a dissenting lot owner would then recover GST as part of the overall value it receives.

Is a dissenting owner entitled to “compensation value” for its lot?

Yes, at a minimum.

When making an order to effect to a strata renewal plan, a court must be satisfied in relation to the compensation being received by lot owners that:

- in the event of the sale of the entire strata scheme (a “collective sale”), each lot owner must receive not less than the “compensation value”; and
- in the event of a “redevelopment”, the amount to be paid to a dissenting owner must be the greater of the “compensation value” of the dissenting owner’s lot and the amount which the dissenting owner would have been entitled to had they supported the strata renewal plan.

## Strata management case study: serving notice of owners corporation meetings

By Jane Crittenden – Sole practitioner at Jane Crittenden Lawyer

In *The Owners – Strata Plan No. 62022 v Sahade [2013] NSWSC 2002*, Rothman J of the Supreme Court of New South Wales considered an appeal from a decision of the local court in which an owners corporation’s claim against a lot owner for unpaid levies, interest and expenses was dismissed. Background A notice of annual general meeting was sent to all owners on 17 January 2012, including the defendant lot owner. At the annual general meeting held on 30

January 2012, certain contributions were levied, including a special levy of \$16,000. The defendant failed to pay the special levy.

In proceedings brought against the defendant to recover the special levy, the defendant contended that the annual general meeting was not validly convened because she was not served with the notice of the annual general meeting at least seven days prior to the date of the meeting, as required by clause 32 of Schedule 2 of the *Strata Schemes Management Act 1996* (“the Act”).

### The decision

The Court was required to determine whether a resolution to raise a levy was invalid if insufficient notice was given of the meeting at which it was raised.

Rothman J noted that giving notice of a meeting, whether it be a meeting of an Owners Corporation or otherwise, is intended to give those entitled to attend an opportunity to attend. Giving notice is also necessary to allow those who are entitled to attend, an opportunity to consider their attitude towards matters to be discussed at the meeting. His Honour made a number of significant points about the giving of notice and its effect on the validity of resolutions passed at a meeting. Firstly, his Honour held that if all members of an organisation or body are present at a meeting for which inadequate notice has been given, and all the persons present consent to the business being brought forward and discussed at the meeting despite inadequate notice of the meeting being given, any business may be transacted within the power of the meeting at the meeting. Secondly, it is not permissible to determine whether a meeting is validly convened by looking at whether the presence of a person to whom inadequate notice of the meeting would have altered the outcome of any motion considered at the meeting. “The principles underpinning the common law approach include the concept that a person participating in the meeting may be able to persuade others.”

The owners corporation contended that Sections 153 and 154 of the *Act* empowered an adjudicator to exercise flexibility so as to find resolutions were validly passed despite non-compliance with requirements of the *Act*. Rothman J considered that being “improperly denied a vote” was intended to apply to a person present at the meeting, and did not extend to those who did not attend the meeting because they were given no notice of the meeting or inadequate notice. The words “not given due notice of an item of business” were said to be inappropriate to describe a person not given any notice of the meeting at all. His Honour concluded that Sections 153 and 154 apply to irregularities at a duly convened meeting, and do not detract from the need for strict compliance with notice requirements contained in clause 32 of Schedule 2.

The words “must” and “at least” in clause 32, are clear in their meaning and impose a mandatory pre-condition for the meeting to be validly convened.

His Honour said that the service by post provisions in Section 76 of the *Interpretation Act 1987* operated to render service of the notice of meeting to have occurred on the fourth working day after posting. As the notice of meeting was posted on Tuesday, 17 January, it was deemed to have been served on Monday, 23 January. The day of receipt is excluded from the calculation of the notice period by operation of Section 36 of the *Interpretation Act*. Accordingly, 7 days’ notice was calculated to commence on 24 January, with the seven day period expiring on 30 January. The first day on which the meeting could be validly held was 31 January. As the meeting took place on 30 January, insufficient notice was given of the meeting. It was not validly convened and any resolution passed at the meeting was invalid.

### Conclusion

If meeting notices are to be served by post, the notice will be deemed to have been served on an owner on the fourth business day after it is posted. The earliest date the meeting can be held validly is seven clear days after the fourth business day from posting the notice. If I posted a notice to owners on Friday, 15 January 2016, it is deemed to have been served on owners on Thursday, 21 January 2016. The earliest date on which the meeting can be held validly, is Friday, 29 January 2016.

Where an owners corporation has given insufficient notice of a general meeting to owners, the most efficient way to resolve any dispute about invalid motions passed at the meeting is to call the meeting again, but with at least seven days prior notice being given to owners.



Helen Lowing, Proprietor, Licence-in-Charge

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# MOVIE REVIEW

## SPOTLIGHT



Director Tom McCarthy’s riveting, slow-burning, scalpel-precise procedural drama about a crack team of gumshoe journos from *The Boston Globe* who broke local, interstate and ultimately international stories about systemic child sex abuse in the Catholic Church contains the kinds of scenes one would expect in a Hollywood film exploring this sort of subject matter. There are moments when characters desperately hail cabs, run up flights of stairs clutching wads of paper and meet surreptitiously with informants in cloak-and-dagger situations. At one point Mark Ruffalo literally hollers to his boss “it could have been any one of us!” The problem, if one ought to phrase it that way, in this awfully good and awfully powerful film is that these moments resonate not with tinsel town style stereotypes but deeply unsettling authenticity. *Spotlight* has been nominated for six Academy Awards. Like fellow Best Picture nominee *The Big Short* the story doesn’t have a protagonist: it is very much a team-oriented affair, with overarching perspective rather than a single person-driven narrative. Like a lot of procedural dramas it is told in a largely formalist way, with lots of mid-shots and a resistance to switch tone or mood. Consistency is apparent in virtually all production elements, from measured plot and performances to editing and cinematography executed with an underpinning ethos that (at least for this story) the best kinds are those that go largely unnoticed. You could call *Spotlight* a

slow burn but it is engrossing from the start. The title refers to the name of a team who sink their teeth into long form investigations. As Walter ‘Robby’ Robinson (Michael Keaton) explains, they take a couple of months to decide on a story then up to a year to investigate and write it. The film is set around the turn of the century, with references to 9/11 looming in public consciousness. The journalists – who include Michael Rezendes (Ruffalo), Sacha Pfeiffer (Rachel McAdams) and Matt Carroll (Brian d’Arcy James) – are not depicted with haloes over heads, and there is a recurring criticism they should have covered the story earlier. They are developed as results-driven workaholics who lock-jawed onto a case that, like the proverbial onion, stinks the more they peel it. *The Globe*’s new editor, Marty Baron (Liev Schreiber) reads a small column in the paper about a paedophile priest and asks the team to investigate, aware that 53% of his subscriber base are Catholic. Looking into an ongoing cover-up by the Boston Archdiocese, the *Spotlight* crew are shocked to discover their search needs to widen to over a dozen offenders. Jaws drop to the floor when they realise that number is probably closer to 90. An early moment comprising three interviews with victims conducted by three different reporters demonstrates how good the screenplay (by McCarthy and Josh Singer, who contributed to episodes of *Law & Order* and *The West Wing*) is at painting even small, virtually single scene characters with true-to-life strokes. The first is angry but his anger does not define him; the second is gay but his sexuality does not define him; the third is a junkie but

his drug use does not define him. All will linger in your memory. Cinematographer Masanobu Takayanagi, whose work shooting 2011’s *The Grey* was exemplary, regularly transitions focus in single shots from foreground to background, which is about as flashy as the palette gets. McCarthy pushes story, character and dialogue to the fore, extracting fine performances (Keaton especially is irresistible as a journalist with a bad cop twist) and cautiously integrating composer Howard Shore’s score. There are two kinds of sound in cinema: diegetic (what the audience and the characters hear) and non-diegetic (what only the audience hears). *Spotlight* is largely comprised of the former; Shore’s work is so light-on you barely notice it. The film is immaculately controlled: a work of restraint that nevertheless has a real kick to it. I’ll eat my hat if there’s been a better newspaper film since 1976’s *All the President’s Men*. If that crew are shocked to discover the powers of a free press carried a cautionary message about politics, this one perhaps reminds us that politics comes in many forms and stems from many places. When the drama occasionally spills over into moments that are conventionally escalatory – like characters bolting to get to places before they close, or shaking down malefactors – they feel almost as genuine as the moments they spend bunkered behind desks. That’s no small achievement.





# Wines & Vines

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

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



nutritious and tasty delicacies three or four times a year if I'm lucky. The first thing I do is take the meal from its packaging and discard the box. After staring at the contents in amazement that I will actually be ingesting this lump of frozen garbage, I automatically realise that the cooking time would be printed on the box. Instead of just recovering it from the bin and setting the correct cooking time on the microwave, I notoriously just throw it in and pick a number between one and ten and assess the situation upon the final beeps. Most of the time when I open the door the food is either still frozen solid or bubbling away like a raging volcano. Either way, it often ends up in the rubbish and I end up cooking two-minute noodles... which again I stuff up due to not reading the packet and settle for cheese and biscuits, which shouldn't get me into too much trouble.....but often does. My mother-in-law bought a new whiz-bang coffee machine recently and brought it up last weekend to use whilst she was staying with us for a few days. So she had me take the large box from the boot of the car and hinted that I'd be the best person to assemble the new coffee-making machine, worth a small fortune. The first thing I did was to take it upstairs where I could be by myself so any innocent parties were out of earshot of my colourful descriptions of the job at hand. The second thing I did was to shake the box... 'Ah Ha! This is not going to be pretty', I thought. The direction booklet was so thick it made Robert Hughes' The Fatal Shore, look like a sonnet from a children's book of poetry. When the booklet prompted me to attach reciprocal column 431B to shelving top plate marked 18A and guide stainless steel Y-clamp over the lower section of what looked to be a place I had as 'template cover 2' but which they now informed me was 'rotator cap-lock 7Z11', I threw the booklet out the window and yelled out two words indicating someone to procreate with it. This wasn't helped by an impatient lot waiting downstairs for me to have the thing up and running in record time. In a moment of sheer relief, in no time at all... actually, about two and a half hours... I proudly produced the finished product to an excited mob of thirsty patrons. They feverishly filled it up with water and coffee beans and looked awestruck at the bevy of different gauges and thermometers, all puffing away madly as the machine worked to a harmonious tune. I brushed my hands together and went back upstairs to collect the packaging and dispose of it, thinking of how stupid and unnecessary over-zealous direction booklets are, when I noticed that I had left a part in its casing in one of the smaller compartments. Mind you, only one part, not six. I had creamed it. I picked the part up and studied it carefully and matched it to the picture on the box. No, can't see it, so it couldn't be too important. I threw it back and dismantled the boxes to form one big pile of rubbish and took it down to the recycling bin. On my way, I stumbled upon the direction booklet and picked it up and threw it in. In a moment of sheer curiosity, yet with no real intent, I picked up the extra piece I had left off the machine and grabbed the booklet and quickly scoured through it, just in case. It turned out to be a safety switch and straight away I sighed with relief and cheerfully discarded them. The following morning, I came in from a couple of holes of golf and there is a loud hissing noise and yelling.....and coffee is spraying all over the kitchen.....it was horrific!!! I turned and crept outside before anyone could see me, grabbed the small piece from the bin and sheepishly walked back in, holding it up..... 'You guys might be looking for this!'

Cheers, Andrew

One of my many pitfalls in life is that I'm notoriously bad at reading directions for things. It began as a child when I would point blank refuse to read instructions on board games. I remember playing Monopoly at a friend's house one day when the 'Chance' and 'Community Chest' cards were placed on the board. I carefully studied this action and as soon as one of the players landed on the appropriate square, they endeavoured to pick up one of the cards and read it. 'So that's what those bloody cards do,' I thought. A short while later I realised what those little green and red houses were used for. As for Trivial Pursuit, I picked up the rule booklet and threw it in the bin, followed by the dice and the board and all the pieces and kept the question cards and kept score with a pen and paper.

I guess you won't be surprised to hear that model aeroplanes didn't feature in my youth, nor did any other gadgets which required pre-assumed knowledge of its composition. Actually, that's not exactly true. Some of them did feature, albeit they rarely resembled the picture on the packaging. It doesn't really matter what I'm attempting, when I hold up the final item there is always a handful of nuts and bolts and other bits and pieces scattered across the floor, which I blankly stare at for several minutes before discarding in the bin.

Most appliances and household utilities are generally sold by the larger conglomerates such as Big W. I therefore avoid Big W like the plague, not because I'm raging against the machine but because everything you buy from there seems to be accompanied by a list of rules or directions that are inconsequential to my direction-free life. If you buy a CD, it has instructions on it to 'place it in a CD player and follow prompts'. Thanks!! If you buy any clothes it will list at least six or seven things you can't do with them. Do not cold machine wash; do not tumble dry; do not bleach; do not wear!! As for any office or kitchen goods, they simply come in large white boxes which, when shaken, sound like the harmonic orchestra on acid and is a good notification that you will spend the rest of the week assembling its contents. I know this because I always shake them. I opened one of my children's birthday presents not long ago and spent an enjoyable afternoon debating whether to finish reading the instruction manual or pour myself a nice big glass of cyanide. On page 343 it instructs me to 'locate distributor valve near bottom ventricle. Place silicon plug B in silicon plug D and insert into opening E between F and G. Now take the two small (not large) cylinders marked H3 and H4 and collate with appendages 5, 6 and 9 and place on the eastern side of area 4. Do not connect appendage 7 until appendage 4 is placed between silicon plug A and silicon plug F'. After several agonising hours I patted myself on the back for a job well done. The only items placed in the rubbish were silicon plug C, appendage 2, some connections of some sort which were still in their small unopened package and a rather large plastic thingy with the name of the toy written along the side.

In a remarkable twist, I am most anally retentive when it comes to the use of anything in the wine industry. Any products I use in winemaking, I go to extraordinary lengths to make sure every direction is followed (and mind you, most are written in French) and performed in a correct and precise manner. It's not that hard for me to read a direction booklet when making up wine processing aids (of which there are hundreds) but 10 minutes later I will put some clothes in the tumble dryer and wonder why they come out looking like they've been bought from Smurf's Warehouse. My real trouble comes when microwaving TV dinners. I would probably only have the pleasure of eating these

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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](mailto:thenews@hotmail.net.au)  
All contributions welcome

**WEL DONE!** and **NOT SO**

**To the local fellow from North Rothbury who likes to dispose of his grass clippings at the back of his neighbours properties, mostly when they are not home, could you please resist the temptation to continue this disgusting habit.**

**To Mark Bercini for his continual reporting of our local cricket; well written & well read. Thank you from our club.**

**To Cessnock City Council for NOT making parts of Wine Country Drive in North Rothbury accessible for pedestrians after many requests to their Customer Service Department. The last request was met with ... "Oh I not sure if it is our responsibility. It could be the RMS (which used to be the RTA which used to be the DMR!)."** Walkers have to walk onto Wine Country Drive in parts which is not conducive to a healthy lifestyle with the heavy traffic particularly B-Doubles & buses!

**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

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**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

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**Wanted:** all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70 Contact Drew 0435814841

**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

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

Dates for your diary >

- Tues 15 March** - Branxton Public School P&C Annual General Meeting 7pm in the Library, 6:30pm for BBQ.
- Tue March 15** - 7:30pm **Icebreakers** Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium
- Sun 20 Mar** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Mon 21 March** - Harmony Day - Greta Public School
- March 21 Monday** - Greta/ Branxton Health & Mental Wellbeing Support Group 11 - 12.30 Support Group Meeting followed by lunch.
- Thur 24 March** - Greta Public School Easter Hat Parade - (students are making hats in classes)
- Thurs 24 March** - Branxton Public School Easter Hat Parade and Book Fair
- Thur 24 March** - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Groups meeting at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm to 4:30pm. Guest speaker Sinead Sperrin from Rathmines Physiotherapy Centre. Main topic is about the physiotherapy experience of assessing and treating Breast Cancer in both men and women, what Breast Cancer is, including a general outline of possible treatments and what you could expect to get out of Physiotherapy treatment, also information about Lymphoedema. Our meetings are open to all members of the public. Cost: Free. Tea and Coffee provided. More Information. Barry or Rose 00439404554.
- Fri 25 March** - Good Friday - (Public Holiday) Greta Public School
- Mon 28 March** - Easter Monday - (Public Holiday) Greta Public School
- Tue 29 March** - School Assembly - Greta Public School
- Thurs 31 March** - Branxton Public School Photos
- Tue 5 April** - Special Sports Awards Assembly - Greta Public School
- Fri 8 April** - Last day term 1 - (\* All vouchers from 2015 Presentation must be redeemed) Greta Public School
- Wed 13 Apl** - Branxton Greta Business Chamber networking breakfast 8:30am The Royal Federal Hotel
- Sun 17 Apl** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- April 18<sup>th</sup> Monday** - Greta/ Branxton Health & Mental Wellbeing Support Group 11- 12:30 **Grief and Loss** training followed by lunch.
- Tue April 19** - 7:30 - 8:30pm **Icebreakers Public Forum** followed by Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium
- Wed 27 April** - First day term 2 - Greta Public School
- Fri 29 April** - School Cross Country - Greta Public School
- Fri 13 May** - Zone Cross Country at Tocal Agricultural College Greta Public School
- Sun 15 May** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Tue May 17** - 7:30pm **Icebreakers** Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium
- Sat 28 May** - Bridal Parade @ St John's Anglican Church
- Sun 19 Jun** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Tue June 21** - 7:30 - 8:30pm **Icebreakers Public Forum** followed by Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium
- Wed 6 July** - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00pm
- Sun 17 Jly** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Tue July 19** - 7:30pm **Icebreakers** Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium
- Tue August 16** - 7:30 - 8:30pm **Icebreakers Public Forum** followed by Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium
- 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
- Tue September 20** - 7:30pm **Icebreakers** Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium
- 20-22 Sept** - New South Wales Wine Industry Awards at Cessnock Leagues Club
- Wed 5 Oct** - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00
- 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
- Tue October 18** - 7:30 - 8:30pm **Icebreakers Public Forum** followed by Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium
- Tue November 15** - 7:30pm **Icebreakers** Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium
- Sun 20 Nov** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Sun 2 Dec** - Twilight Market (4.00pm to 8.00pm) - Proceeds to Prostate Cancer & Beyond Blue
- Sun 18 Dec** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds
- Tue December 20** - 7:30 - 8:30pm **Icebreakers Public Forum** followed by Carers Support Group Meeting. Greta Workers Sports & Recreation Club Auditorium



## Kirkton Public School News



### Regional Swimming

Congratulations to our Relay Swimming Team who came third in the Regional PP5 (School population between 25-51) Relay event today! They are now off to represent us at State level!



☰ Asha, Connor, Jago & Codey - our relay swimming team

### Assembly Awards 26th February

The recipients of awards are:

Kinder/Year 1: Matilda	)	
Aiden	)	
Jaxson	)	Settling into Kinder
Lochlan	)	
Imogen	*	<i>Excellent effort in spelling</i>
Wyatt	*	<i>Becoming a new valued member of K/1</i>
Year 1/2/3:	*	<i>Interesting new presentations</i>
Will	*	<i>Wonderful role model in all areas</i>
Alyssa	*	<i>Working well in number</i>
Zeb	*	<i>Neat handwriting</i>
Drew	*	<i>Working well first two weeks</i>
Jasper	*	

## Branxton Public School



We had our first PBL Assembly in Week 6 with over fifty students receiving their Bronze Merit. After lunch these students participated in the reward activities of sport and crafty fun.

Our SRC Ministers for 2016 have been elected and performing in their jobs for a few weeks now. Congratulations to these responsible students. They help to keep our school running smoothly.



☰ SRC Ministers 2016

Gymnastics is proving to be a hit with students and we have all been balancing, leaping and making shapes with our bodies. It is fantastic to have all the great equipment and qualified instructors to help our students improve their skills.

Congratulations to Matthew Wenham for his amazing swimming at the Regional Swimming Carnival. Definitely a Personal Best!

We had Brainstorm Production's 'The H Team' visit us in Week 7. The entertaining show was all about keeping a positive mindset. We learnt about health, harmony, using kind words and keeping on track to achieve our goals. A great performance to complement our school programs.

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



☰ Matthew Wenham



☰ Stage 1 PBL Awards



in the library. Come along and get to know some new parents as well as finding out what is going on in our school.

Our annual Easter Hat Parade will take place in Week 9. Parents and community members are invited to come along to enjoy the parade and have a look at the book fair in the library. Cakes will be available from the Year 6 Cake Stall.

☰ The H Team



☰ Stage 3 Gymnastics

### Dates for the Calendar

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Hat Parade and Book Fair  
 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.**

'School News' is proudly sponsored by  
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**Planned Maintenance Works**

Contractors will commence work to remove the uneven pavers and concrete between the canteen and the original school building this week to ensure these areas are safe for all to use. These areas will be fenced off for student and community safety and we thank everyone for their support whilst this remediation is taking place.

**Develop the Savings Habit!**

Employees from the Commonwealth Bank will be visiting children in Year 1 to Year 6 on Monday 14 March about their "StartSmart" program.

**National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence**

On Friday 18 March all classes will also be participating in activities in support of the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence with Stage 3 students joining Virtual Classrooms. The Virtual Classrooms are interactive presentations to help students understand and manage cyberbullying and communicating respectfully online.

**Personalised Learning Plans** – Meeting with parents and carers of Aboriginal students to develop Personalised Learning Plans for students to address the issue of 'Closing The Gap', in line with the Department's Aboriginal Education Policy are now being conducted on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 March with students very much involved in the process. We have delayed the meetings for a week as we would like to introduce MGoals to the Personalised Learning Plans. MGoals send parents a text message when your child achieves a goal – great feedback!

**School Cross Country Rescheduled** - The new date for the school cross country will be Friday 29th April this will be the first week back at school after the April Holidays. **Zone Cross Country** will be held at Tocal on Friday 13th May.

**Special Sports Awards Assembly** - We will be holding a special assembly in the last week of term on Tuesday 5th April to present all of our sports certificates/awards for Term 1.

**Anzac Day Ceremony** - Our School Anzac Ceremony will be held on the first day back at School Term 2, Wednesday 27th April. The ceremony will commence at 10.30am.

**Free Flu Injection** - Early in Term 2 the "Dial a Home Doctor" Service will be visiting our school giving you and your children the opportunity to have this years flu injection. All you require to be eligible for this service is a current Medicare Card. In the coming weeks we will send home a note with dates and times for your information.

**Greta Play2Learn**

A reminder to families with children aged 0-6 years, Greta Public host "Greta Play2Learn" every Thursday in the school hall from 9:30-11:30am. Come along and share morning tea, meet other families whilst enjoying art and craft activities, educational toys, books and games with your children. A wonderful networking and educational morning every week!

**Cookie Dough Fundraiser**

Reminder that cookie dough forms and money are due back on Friday 18th March. If your family still requires an order form please come to the canteen and collect one.

**Student Success!**

**Congratulations again to Farisha Khan** in Year 6 who succeeded in qualifying for the PSSA Regional Tennis competition! Farisha produced quality tennis but narrowly missed out on progressing to State and displayed our core school values of respect, responsibility and personal best whilst demonstrating wonderful sportsmanship! Well done Farisha and good luck with your next competitions!

**Congratulations also to Tahlia Morrison**, who was successful at audition for the musical "Hairspray". Tahlia is in Year 5 at Greta Public and is one of our very talented dancers. We are all looking forward to Tahlia performing at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre this July! Wonderful ambassadors of our values of personal best!!

**Dates to Remember**

- Harmony Day – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March
- Easter Hat Parade – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March (students are making hats in classes)
- Good Friday – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March (Public Holiday)
- Easter Monday – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March (Public Holiday)
- School Assembly – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March
- Special Sports Awards Assembly – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April
- Last day term 1 – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April (\* All vouchers from 2015 Presentation must be redeemed)
- First day term 2 – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April
- ANZAC Day Ceremony – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April
- School Cross Country – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April
- Zone Cross Country – 13<sup>th</sup> May at Tocal Agricultural College

*At Greta Public School, we develop **RESPECTFUL** and **RESPONSIBLE** citizens who give their **PERSONAL BEST**.*



■ Our Kindy's enjoying learning!



■ Making mathematics real!

# Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

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12



F:



Lower Belford

## All Smiles for C.W.A. Ladies

Lower Belford C.W.A. held their branch Cookery Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb was a great success with members and

non members participating. This year our judge Pam Wright was able to give us good advise and helpful cooking tips. All first place contenders on the day would then be cooking the following week at Branxton Community Hall. The Hunter River Group C.W.A. The Land Cookery Contest held on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at Branxton Community Hall even though it was a very hot day all went off without a hitch. All first place contenders going on to the C.W.A. State Conference to be held in Cowra 2<sup>nd</sup> May. What a surprise result, Seven first for



MereditH Hunter (Cooking Officer Lower Belford) facing the camera & Cooking Judge Pam Wright from Tamworth CWA

Lower Belford it was a great effort, plenty of

cooking happening from the branch has made for a marvellous and happy result all round for everyone. It would be great

to bring home a First from State Conference as it has not been done before at our branch, good luck to everyone.

Winners for each Category are as follows:  
Meredith Hunter (3) Firsts  
Mint & Apple Jelly  
Moroccan Tomato Relish

Gluten Free Carrot Cake  
Jill Bowman (2) Firsts  
Light Fruit Cake  
One Cup Slice (Mini Show)  
Barbra Steel (1)  
Lemon Sour Cream Cake  
Janette Casey (1) Microwave  
Kiwi Fruit Jam.  
All entrants for Handicraft are still waiting on results, Edith Shearer the Lower Belford Handicraft Officer bought the items in for judging. Congratulations to all the winners on the day, with a mention a job well done from the newly appointed Group Cookery Officer Meredith Hunter.



Photo above: (L-R) Barbara Steel, Jill Bowman, Meredith Hunter & Janette Casey

## Blood On The Track

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

### Choicest performer from western NSW since Emancipation

THE pool of horses bred in Wellington and Dubbo districts and further west in NSW who have had the opportunity to compete at a high level has been only small, but two great Australian gallopers produced in the region have been Russia (won 1946 Melbourne Cup) and 1983-84 Australian Horse of the Year Emancipation. The latter was bred at Dubbo by Mark Hough and Russia, a son of the Hurry On sire Excitement (GB), was produced on a grazing property at Trangie west of Dubbo.

Their deeds are recalled by another runner bred in the western districts, the Not a Single Doubt 2-year-old colt Extreme Choice, showing the hallmarks of becoming a great Australian galloper. Now one of the most favoured runners for the \$3.5 million Golden Slipper at Rosehill on March 19, this powerhouse galloping tyro stamped his excellence with an authoritative win in the Blue Diamond Stakes at Caulfield on Saturday. In doing so, he remained unbeaten in three starts, earlier efforts being a two lengths debut win in the Inglis Nursery at Randwick in December and a sparkling 4.5 lengths victory at Caulfield on February 6 in the Group 3 Chairman's Stakes.

A \$100,000 buy at the Inglis Classic Sale for his trainer Mick Price (Caulfield) and racing for a swag of owners, the September 6 foaled Extreme Choice was bred by Ferguson family's Bell River Thoroughbreds, a breeding operation at Wellington, a prominent centre at the junction of the Macquarie and Bell rivers. Wellington is also home for the Macquarie Stud, one now conducted by David Baxter and a noted breeding farm in the first half of last century in the ownership of the Taylor family.

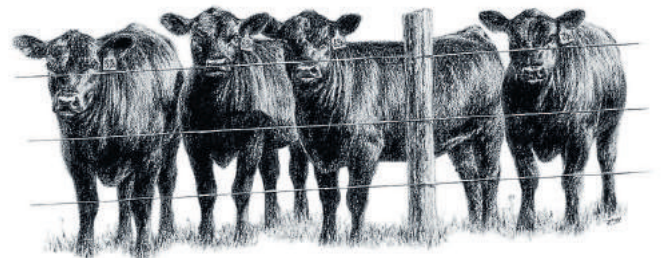
Coincidentally, both Extreme Choice and Russia were inside their dams when they were sold at sales. Russia's mother secured at a clearance sale at Dubbo and Extremely, producer of Extreme Choice, was acquired for \$30,000 by Bell River Thoroughbreds at the 2013 Inglis Easter Broodmare sale.

Extreme Choice is the first stakes winner among four named foals, all winners, from Extremely, an unraced daughter of Hussonet (USA) (Mr. Prospector) and Going to Extremes (USA), a winner of 11 races to Group 2 in Canada. Extreme Choice's older brother Raise No Doubt, a \$25,000 Classic Sale buy, has won five races in Singapore, but has not earned black type.

Going to Extremes is by Nasty and Bold, a winner of one major, the Brooklyn at New York's Belmont Park in new mile and a half record time. Her mother, Ole Bow Wower, a winner of 12 races and Listed placed twice, was by Ole Bob Bowers, a horse once sold for \$900 and who had a son sold as a yearling for \$1,100 who, under the name of John Henry, rose up to be ranked in the top hundred best ever American racehorses. He won 39 of 83 starts.

The first Group 1 winner in the family since his fifth dam Sweet Talk's half-sister Bed O'Roses (1947 - died at six) included three in 18 wins, Extreme Choice's only inbreeding in five generations is a 5x5 of Northern Dancer. He looks well served by the Danehill (grandson Not a Single Doubt) and Mr. Prospector (Hussonet) get together.

## DETAILED SALEYARD REPORT



### Saleyard report - cattle

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

#### Singleton report date 24 March 2016

Yarding 760 ~ Change - 200 (Comparison Date 2/3/16)

Numbers were lower, with breed and quality on average also slipping compared to the last market. The younger cattle made up the bulk, with the greater numbers entering the yearling categories, as grown steers were reduced, while greater numbers of the older heifer portion were in the penning. There were around 60 cows in the offering and the market averaged cheaper, however breed and quality contributed in places. The 200kg plus vealer steers to the restockers remained firm, making from 280c to 365c/kg, depending on breed. The heavier drafts also to restocker orders lost 10c to average 321c after topping at 332c/kg. The lighter end of the vealer heifers to the back grounders also maintained firm prices, as the heavier weights eased 5c/kg. Yearling steers lost 10c, as the lighter end ranged from 290c to 332c, with the heavier pens reaching 316c/kg. The yearling heifers to the restockers were 6c cheaper, making from 270c to 300c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers eased 5c, as the best reached 318c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter slipped 10c, with age affecting prices in places, these made from 268c to 275c/kg. Grown heifers improved in quality and yield, with the better muscled and finished lot reaching 289c, with the majority selling around the 260c/kg range. Cows sold firm to 5c dearer, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 214c/kg. The better finished 3 and 4 score heavy weights ranged from 212c to 225c/kg. The B muscled heavy weight bulls reached 240c/kg.



### Saleyard report - cattle

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

#### Scone report date 8 March 2016

Yarding 1517 ~ Change 100 (Comparison Date 1/3/16)

The dryer seasonal conditions continue to cause numbers to increase for a fair to good quality offering of mainly younger cattle. There were large percentages showing good finish, with the majority sold to lot feeder and restocker competition. Vealer steers were reduced in number, as good runs of the yearlings were penned. There was around 170 cows sold and the market trend overall was cheaper. The vealers suitable for the restockers were represented by greater numbers of the mixed breeds and prices slipped accordingly, as the steers ranged from 306c to 339c, with the heifer portion making from 270c to 321c/kg. Yearling steers to lot feeder and restocker orders lost 4c to 6c, as the medium weights sold from 295c to 319c/kg. The yearling heifers also to the lot feeders and restocker trended 4c to 9c cheaper, with the medium weights ranging from 290c to 314c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 331c/kg, with muscle score and yield improving week-on-week. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter made from 255c to 285c/kg, with only age and quality contributing to any weekly price variations. Cows sold close to firm, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 207c, while the better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights sold from 210c to 230c/kg.



### Saleyard report - cattle

Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service

#### TRLX Tamworth report date 7 March 2016

Yarding 2650 ~ Change 550 (Comparison Date 29/2/16)

Deteriorating seasonal condition and the inclusion of a lot more vealers saw overall numbers increase. The quality of the offering was generally good and was especially noticeable in the vealers and the yearling heifers. There was a little less processor competition and a little more from feedlots. Restockers were not as active. Market trends through the young cattle were generally cheaper, with some remaining firm. Heavy vealer steers suitable to feed sold to a cheaper trend of 3c to 7c/kg with the lighter weights to restock showing a greater average price fall. The heifer vealers to restock saw the trend 5c to 19c/kg cheaper with the heavy weights again least affected. Medium and heavy yearling steers to feed sold to a cheaper trend, averaging 2c to 8c/kg. The quality of the heifer yearlings to feed contributed to the market remaining firm on the good quality lines while the balance sold to a cheaper trend. Quality and increased competition saw heavy grown steers to feed sell to a dearer trend. Quality was also a contributing factor in higher prices for steers to process. Grown heifers sold to a cheaper trend with age related discounts observed for 4 and 6 tooth lots. Medium weight cows sold to a cheaper trend of up to 5c/kg, while the good heavy weight cows remained firm.



## New emergency relief centre to open

The Samaritans has provided emergency relief in Newcastle, the Hunter Valley, Central Coast and Mid North Coast regions of NSW for over thirty years, and soon will launch a new centre in Rutherford. Each month Samaritans provides more than 1,000 families with emergency assistance and relief throughout the Hunter Valley and Central Coast regions, supporting people to pay their bills or feed their families. The new centre in Rutherford will provide much needed support to people who are struggling in the area, by assisting those in financial crisis to deal with their immediate situation in a way that maintains dignity and encourages self-reliance. The service offers short-term emergency, financial or material

assistance to those in need and, where possible, aims to establish links with other appropriate services and support to prevent ongoing hardship. "Samaritans Emergency Relief and Assistance Centre's rely greatly on the generosity and time of volunteers to staff and run these services. We are now looking for new volunteers to run the new service at Rutherford,"



Emergency Relief coordinator, Tracy Jackson, said.

Samaritans held an Information Morning at St Christopher's Church in Rutherford on Tuesday 8th March, for potential new volunteers to come and hear about the service, to ask questions and to find out about what opportunities might exist to give back to the community. "Without the commitment, hard work and enthusiasm of our volunteers, we would not be able to continue this vital community work. I would encourage anyone who is interested to come along to our Information Morning to find out more," Ms. Jackson said.

## Free mattress drop-off back by popular demand



Due to the huge success of the event in September 2015, Cessnock City Council is again offering a free drop-off service for old mattresses and ensembles at two locations this April. To better serve residents across the local government area, you can drop off your old mattresses and ensembles at the following locations:

- Kurri Kurri—Saturday 2 April 8am to 12 noon Business Enterprise Centre Car Park, Corner Merthyr and Barton streets (entry via Barton Street)
- Cessnock—Saturday 16 April Hunter TAFE Cessnock Campus Carpark Darwin Street

Depending on the quality of the mattresses, they will either be sanitised and donated to charity or recycled for materials. Currently mattresses received at the landfill site

attract a charge to cover recycling. The charge represents the cost to Council for recycling the mattress off site rather than landfilling. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent was overwhelmed with the sheer amount of mattresses dropped off at the last event.

"Many residents participated in our first free event and over 1,100 mattresses were received," Cr Pynsent said. "We are proud to extend the event to both Kurri Kurri and Cessnock and hope more residents can use the service to support recycling, as we see too many old mattresses illegally dumped or incorrectly sent to landfill."

96 per cent of mattresses and ensembles contain valuable materials like steel, timber and foam which can be re-used or recycled. Some important points for residents to remember on

drop-off day:

- the drop off is for Cessnock City Council residents only—proof of address, such as driver's license will be required
- a limit of five mattresses or bases per household will be accepted
- mattresses should not be dropped off at the site outside of the event for safety reasons all mattress must be dropped off by vehicle only—there will be no pedestrian access to the sites residents are asked to remain in their vehicles at all times during the drop off event.

This project is a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the Waste Levy.

Photo above: Council's Sustainability Officer Michelle Lindsay and Environment and Waste Manager Michael Alexander.

## Cessnock City Flood Risk Management Study and Plan adopted

There has been a major step forward for the Black Creek catchment, with Council adopting the Black Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan at its last meeting.

Council's adoption of the Plan triggers the final step in a six-step process, as set out by the NSW Government, allowing Council to apply for funding to undertake mitigation works and activities in the catchment.

Council's Strategic Asset Planning Manager Stephen Long said recommended risk management options from the Plan include a levee bank upstream of South Cessnock, house raising and voluntary purchase for houses located in floodways with high hazard and associated risk to life.

"Our main focus is on minimising risk for those residents who are affected by flooding, especially in more frequent storm events, however there is no one, simple solution to address the problem," Mr Long said.

"There are a range of options to reduce the impact on properties throughout the Cessnock City section of the Black Creek catchment area. We will be investigating these over the next 12 months and will be approaching land owners once we have sufficient information."

The Plan now gives a sound basis for applying for funding assistance through the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

As a result, Council will be submitting applications for OEH grant programs before the end of March and writing to Cessnock State Member Clayton Barr for his support.

Hunter Water will also be contacted in the process, as the owners of Cessnock's open drain system.

The study area comprises Black Creek and other main creeks including Bellbird, Lavender, Kearsley and Aberdare.

While the Plan involves looking at the entire catchment, the initial focus will be on the South Cessnock area.

You can view the full Plan at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) For more information on OEH's grant opportunities visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

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# SPORTS RESULTS



## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 3-3-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Noble 32 pts R/u G Anderson 31 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> T Seamer 31 pts  
 Div 2 Winner P Hocking 35 pts (SOD) R/u J Flynn 32 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Showman 30 pts  
 Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form a division.  
 NTPs Ladies C Oakes Gents E Munzenberger  
 Members draw - Not won  
 Initially full cloud cover, which developed into bright sunshine and a pleasant temperature for the 43 players, including some new members, who gathered for a round of golf at the "Ultimate 9" golf course at Branxton, situated close to wine country. Congratulations to Phil Hocking on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day", with a well done to all winners and placegetters.

## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 10-3-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner R Williams 33 pts (c/b) (SOD) R/u M Ryan 33 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> G Cornwell 30 pts  
 Div 2 Winner R Showman 32 pts R/u G Gazzard 30 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> S Dunker 30 pts  
 Ladies Winner T Martin 30 pts R/u P Threlfo 28 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> T Armstrong 26 pts  
 NTPs Ladies P Threlfo Gents E Barret  
 Members draw - Not won  
 41 Players lined up for a round of golf on a warm, humid day, that had members consuming something wet and cold. It seems summer is lingering a little. Congratulations to Rod Williams on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec

## Branxton Mens Open Overall Winner: Joshua Tracey 74

## Ted Meyne Memorial Trophy: David Matt 88 starters

**A Grade Scratch Runner Up:** Kyle Mounser 75 c/b  
**B Grade Scratch winner:** Tony Seamer 81  
**B Grade Scratch Runner Up:** Troy McCaw 84 c/b  
**C Grade Scratch Winner:** Alan Burns 88  
**C Grade Scratch Runner Up:** John Martin 90 c/b  
**A Grade Stableford Winner:** David Matt 42 pts  
**A Grade Stableford Runner Up:** Brendan Bendeich

40 pts  
**B Grade Stableford Winner:** Greg Gillard 40 pts

**B Grade Stableford Runner Up:** Murray Johanson 39 pts

**C Grade Stableford Winner:** Troy Hunt 40 pts

**C Grade Stableford Runner Up:** Peter Mathews 38 pts c/b

**Longest Drives:** A Grade: Phil Baker B Grade: Stuart Robinson C Grade: Doug Elphick

**NTPins:** 4<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Steve Kearney 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Graham Bull 9<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Gary Walsh

Joshua Tracey won the Branxton Open on Saturday with an excellent 74 off the stick, just ahead of the ever consistent Kyle Mounser with a 75. David Matt played his best round for some time to win the Ted Meyne Memorial Trophy with a wonderful 42 pts. Tony Seamer's 81 off the stick was good enough to easily win B Grade with Troy McCaw runner up with his 84, whilst Alan Burns' 88 won him C Grade ahead of John Martin's 90. David Matt's 42 pts won his the A Grade stableford, with Brendan Bendeich making a welcome return to golf, playing beautifully for his 40 pts to finish second. Greg Gillard won B Grade with 40 pts, just ahead of Club Captain, Murray Johanson with 39 pts. Troy Hunt won C Grade with 40 pts as well, with Peter Mathews runner up with 38 pts. Some other notable efforts came from Phil Baker who once again won the A Grade longest drive and the Senior Pennants Captain, Steve Kearney winning another nearest the pin, indicating his continuing prowess with the short irons. 88 starters competed on Saturday with some excellent prizes on offer including buggies, putters, wedges, golf shoes and caps. It's always an excellent day well supported by local golfers who enjoy the extra challenge that good prizes create.

On Sunday, the B Grade Pennants team qualified for the semi-finals with a 2.5-0.5 win over Stonebridge at Branxton, whilst the Seniors team kept up their chances for a finals berth with a 2-1 win over Singleton at Aberdeen. The C Grade team recorded a good win at Maitland, defeating Kurri 2-1

**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB - SAT 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH STABLEFORD**

**A GRADE STABLEFORD WINNER** Tom Foster 40

**Runner Up** Michael Tracey 38 pts

**A GRADE STABLEFORD THIRD** Josh Tracey 37 pts

**B GRADE STABLEFORD WINNER** Troy McCaw 41 pts

**Runner Up** Robert Miller 39 pts c/b

**B GRADE STABLEFORD THIRD** Mark Williamson 39 pts

**C GRADE STABLEFORD WINNER** Richard Alley 44 pts

**C GRADE STABLEFORD RUNNER UP** Peter Mathews 41 pts

**C GRADE STABLEFORD THIRD** Darren Mathers 40 pts

**BALL COMP** 34 pts c/b

**NTP'S**  
 R Wilton 206 cm  
 V Matt 190 cm  
 E Garland 76 cm  
 J Varley 278 cm

Local Branxton schoolteacher, Tom Foster won the A Grade stableford competition on Saturday with an excellent 40 pts. His recent good form with the B Grade Pennants team, held him in good stead for such a fine round. Mick Tracey continued his ever consistent form to finish runner up with 38 pts with his son Joshua just behind him with 37 pts—both players are low single figure handicappers so their efforts were certainly fine examples of their play. Troy McCaw won B Grade with an excellent 41 pts, another ound from him over the last 6 months that is well below his handicap. Robert Miller returned to form finishing runner up with 39 pts with Mark Williamson's 39 pts good enough for third place. Richard Alley's 44 pts was the round of the day, finishing well clear of runner up Peter Mathews with a fine 41 pts with

Darren Mathers only third despite scoring 40 stableford points. The shot of the day undoubtedly belonged to Eddie Garland on the very difficult 13<sup>th</sup>, finishing only 76 cms away—a hole that hitting the green is an achievement. It is good to see another quality golfer in Victor Matt back playing, and judging by his nearest the pin on the 4<sup>th</sup>, he has lost none of his ability over the last 12 months. On Sunday, the B Grade Pennants team defeated Kurri 2-1 at Dungog to move to the final against Stonebridge at Muswellbrook next Sunday. They tee off at 8.00 am if any player would like to urge them on. The Seniors Pennants team defeated Hunter Valley 3-0 at Stonebridge but missed the semi-finals by one point, just behind The Vintage and Denman. The team had an excellent year, winning 4 matches, drawing one and losing only one. The Vintage won their match on Sunday against Aberdeen 2-1 with the last match going to the last—an Aberdeen win would have put Branxton into the finals—close but no cigar! C Grade has a 1.5 -1.5 draw on Sunday against Stonebridge at Singleton. They still have 2 matches to play and can still mathematically make the finals. The singles match play has now started so all players are asked to check the draw for their matches.

**HVGC 6/3/16 Continuing Heat Produces Hot Scoring**

Saturday's Medley Stableford played at Hunter Valley Golf Club in very warm conditions which led to great scoring by the large field. A Grade went to Graeme Flynn with 39

points on a countback to Neil Day from Kurri GC, B Grade to Brian Doherty with a massive 45 points from Adrian Kent with 42 and C Grade to new dad Dean Davies with 45 points to match 'round of the day', with Jeff Shanahan runner up with 40 points. Ball winners were: Gerry McLaughlin 41, Brad Pringle 41, Jeff Morton 40, Grahame Sheldon 39, John Stewart 38, Angello Korlevic 38, Lindsay Clarke 37, Matt Killick 37, Tom Relf 37, John Barbour 36, Andrew Davy 36, Andrew Nichols 36, Mark Hollis 36, Wayne Thompson 35, Ken Springbett 35, Craig Sharp 35, Mick Armstrong 35, Russell Calderwood 35 and Troy Wallis 35. Nearest-the-Pins went to Lynette Russell (3rd) Simon Nicholson (4th) Ben Bradley (8th) Don Bradley (10th) and Brendan Connor (17th). Next weeks event will be the Monthly Stroke rounds. The Weekly Challenge went to Grahame Mankelov with Adam Holmes of Kurri GC runner up. The Tuesday Stableford was won by Ken Aird on a countback to Chris Taggart after both had 40 point returns, 3rd place to Gary Arnold with 38 points. Ball winners were: Benn Corbett 37, Ken Harris 37, Michael Watson 37, Phouang Sippanya v37, Scott Conti v36, Hieu Le 36, Grahame Sheldon 36, Jeff Richardson 36, Ken Scott Mackenzie 35, John Carmody 35 and Brad Ingram 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (4th,8th and 17th) and Ken Scott-Mackenzie (10th). The Ladies 2 Person Ambrose went to Rhonda Miles and Dale Hamilton with 66.75 from Brenda Mannix and Jenny Chambers on 69.5. The Ladies will resume play on the 16th March with a

Stroke round which will be round one of the Golf NSW Medal. The Vets Stableford has gone to Keith Dunlop with 39 points with Darrell Preston runner up with 38

points on a countback to David Peel in 3rd after also surviving a countback. Ball winners have not been posted at this time. Next week the Vets will play Par.



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## Well done Noel



≡ Noel Goodyer with publican Dave Axsentieff at a recent Branxton Bears dinner.

As reported in our last issue, the doyen & just retired secretary of our local Colts Junior Rugby League Club, Noel Goodyer, & his family are moving to North Haven to manage Brigadoon Caravan Resort. They commence their management on 14th July '03.

Noel & a handful of local people, some three years ago, decided to resurrect the junior rugby league club & from day one have had outstanding success. The success did come at some price as Noel & his willing team spent hundreds of hours putting the club back together.

This season the club can boast of having 170 registered players representing 12 teams from under 6's to the under 18's ~ this from a standing start 3 years ago!

The club, the players, the parents, the committee & the community wish you well in your new endeavour & will always remember your legacy to junior sport in our community. As you would say, "Kids Sport, its not just a game its an education".

A club send-off is to be held this Saturday.

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with Mark Bercini

## Cricket Report Final Round Greta/Branxton Wrap Up Club Championship

Greta/Branxton United Cricket Club wrapped up its second consecutive club championship title in the final round of the Cessnock District Cricket competition on Saturday 5th March. Having led the club championship for the entire season up until the final round, the Blues had to do it the hard way as they trailed Bellbird by six points heading into the final round. However wins in first grade, second grade, third grade and fourth grade white ensured the prestigious trophy returned to Greta/Branxton for the third time in four years. Barry Richards notched his first ever first grade ton to set up a massive 126-run victory against Bellbird at Carmichael 1. Batting first Greta/Branxton amassed

3-259, with Richards blasting nine boundaries and four maximums in a superb innings of 101no. Skipper Josh Dagg also played a fine innings with 85, with Mark Bercini (29), Greg Andrews (27) and Andrew Bercini (14no) all cashing in on the pristine batting conditions. Bellbird were all out for 133 in reply, with wickets for Greta/Branxton fairly evenly distributed between Brock Charnock (2-28 off 7), Nathan Holz (2-18 off 4) and Marco Turkalj (2-0 off 0.5) to set up a showdown with the same opposition at the same ground in the following week's semi-final. Second grade's topsy turvey season finished on a good note when they trounced Mulbring by 90 runs at Mulbring Oval. Batting first the Blues saved their best performance of the season with the timber to last, notching 7-187 from their forty overs. Veteran Darren Holz played a fine hand with 85, with Trent Fuller (32) and Bryce Element (22) supporting well. Mulbring were all out for 97 in reply, with Bryce Element ripping through their line up to return the very impressive figures of 6-19 off 8. Adam Holmberg (2-39 off 5.1) and Mick Regan (2-28 off 5) were the other wicket-takers. Greta/Branxton missed the semi-finals by a mere point. Third grade also completed

an up-and-down season on a good note by disposing of Bellbird by five wickets at Carmichael 2. Bellbird batted first and posted 109, with Ayden Wilkinson leading the way with the ball for Greta/Branxton with 5-21 off 6, and he was supported well by club stalwart Paul Walkling who took 2-16 off 4. Greta/Branxton reached the target after losing five wickets in reply, with Walkling completing a fine all-round game with 35. Jarrad Wilkinson made 19, with skipper Sean Wright (30no) and Stewart Ison (23no) at the crease for the winning runs. Fourth grade white finished with a 7-wicket victory over minor premiers Denman Hotel at Miller 1. Denman Hotel batted first and some excellent bowling from Jesse Minchin saw him bag 7-21 off his 6 overs to see them skittled for just 58. Skipper James Shoulders snr supported with 2-27 off 9. Greta/Branxton reached the target after losing just the three wickets, with Jesse Minchin completing a memorable all-round game with 34no. James Shoulders jnr was next best with 13. Fourth grade blue were defeated by five wickets at the hands of Peden's Hotel at Turner Park, but still managed to finish third on the competition ladder. Greta/Branxton managed 104 batting first, with Cory Stephenson timing the ball nicely for 36. Peden's

reached the target after losing five wickets, with Cory Stephenson capping a fine all-round match with 3-26 off 9.

### Final Standings

**First Grade** Mulbring 82\*, Bellbird 82\*, Greta/Branxton 80, Wine Country 68, Supporters 64.  
\* Mulbring quotient 1.52, Bellbird 1.45.  
**Second Grade** Peden's Hotel 99, Wine Country 93, Bellbird 87, Supporters 84, Greta/Branxton 83, Mulbring 77, Paxton 75.  
**Third Grade** Laguna 109, Peden's Hotel 107, Bellbird 96, Wine Country 94, Greta/Branxton 89, Supporters 69.  
**Fourth Grade** Denman Hotel 120, Paxton 107, Greta/Branxton Blue 104, Mulbring 100, Peden's Hotel 98, Greta/Branxton White 97, Wine Country 96, Supporters 66.  
**Club Championship** Greta/Branxton 615.34, Wine Country 601.39, Bellbird 590.51, Supporters 525.17, Mulbring 516.41, Peden's Hotel 392.02, Paxton 228.25, Laguna 114.45, Denman Hotel 60.00.

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# As Time Goes By

THE NEWS Issue No 188 25th August 2005 Page 48

## Shield win for Junior Soccer

by Peree Dagg



Photo Above: Mark Robinson being presented the trophy for the Wildcats

THE Greta-Branxton Wildcats Junior Soccer Club recently celebrated a historic win. It was way back in 1999 that the club last got to hold high the Greta-Branxton Rutherford Inter-Club shield. On Sunday August 7th the 16 local teams took on the might of the Rutherford Club. As is typical of these inter-club days the cold winter winds blew across Miller Park as the teams battled it out. An early forfeit to the Wildcats Branxton put them out in front in the points tally. A great performance by the 13 Gold team went against their season form and put the locals out in front. 9 Browns came up with a draw and 7 Gold, even when they lent players to the opposition, managed a win for the club. The Golds from the 6, 8 and 9 age groups worked hard for the club too. 10 Gold continued the form that has seen them into the finals race in regular competition, and the Brown teams from 6's, 7's and 8's all fought hard for the club. A draw by 10 Brown and a win by 6 white was enough to secure Branxton the win. The 15 Gold and 7 white teams played to continue the clubs good form and the 8 White received a forfeit and had lots of fun playing a team made up of their club mates.

"The club is very proud of their success today, the inter-club rivalry is alive and well and it is nice to keep the silverware in Branxton for a change," said club president Mark Robinson. The club hopes to continue this trend and challenge Rutherford for their five years in a row record. Well done to all the players of the Wildcats.

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# The NEWS **SPORT**



with Mark Bercini

## Local Cricket Report – Semi Finals

Greta/Branxton United Cricket Club contested the Cessnock District Cricket semi-finals in first grade and fourth grade last Saturday, however unfortunately both sides

were soundly beaten in their respective matches. After trouncing Bellbird by 126 runs on their home turf in the first grade final round the previous week, roles were pretty much reversed,

with Bellbird winning through to the grand final with a 123-run victory at Carmichael 1. Bellbird batted first and were bowled out in the final over for a massive 281. The Blues bowlers toiled hard in the perfect batting conditions, however a century to Bellbird opener Jason Orr (120) provided the highlight of the semi-final. Brock Charnock (3-60 off 7.4) and Craig Brook (3-54 off 10) took a treble of wickets each, with Cliff Newling (2-33 off 5),

Martin Shearer (1-65 off 10) and Andrew Bercini (1-52 off 6) picking up the remaining wickets. With a mammoth task in front of them in the run-chase, Greta/Branxton were in trouble early at 2-1, but some ticker from the middle order got the Blues temporarily back in the contest, however loss of wickets at regular intervals saw Greta/Branxton all bowled out in the 32nd over for 158. Nathan Holz was not going to die wondering with a crisp 38, with Barry

Richards (25), Greg Andrews (23), Damien Frize (21), Charnock (18) and Newling (14) all making starts. Fourth grade blue contested their semi-final against Paxton at Millfield, but they too were beaten soundly by 80 runs. Paxton batted first and compiled 195, with Jamie McNamara taking 6-36 off 9.3 very good overs. Mitch Bird (2-32 off 3), Aaron Stephenson (1-40 off 10) and Will Young (1-5 off 2) took the other wickets.

Greta/Branxton were all out for 115 in reply, with Aaron Stephenson remaining unbeaten on 53. Cade Bradley (16), Dion Charnock (12) and Cory Stephenson (11) were the other batsmen to reach double figures. The annual presentation will be held at the Royal Federal Hotel on the night of Saturday 2nd April. For tickets and further information contact club President Josh Dagg 0402675882 or secretary Melanie Dagg 0407006907.



Photo: Barry Richards after scoring a century in week 21

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