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TUESDAY
3 May 2016

ANZAC DAY 2016 Lest we forget



her in Remembrance of their fellows who had lost their lives at Gallipoli.

The RSL was formed in 1928 and officially founded the Anzac Day Dawn Service and the March, which followed later in the morning.

The Greta Service had a new Padre from the Salvation Army, Helen Watts, who read from the New Testament; 1 John 4. Verses 9 and 11, Christ's instruction to us all, "To Love one another" Following the Dawn Service at Branxton Sub-Branch President Brian Furner OAM invited guests & veterans to breakfast at Miller Park Sports & Recreation Club.

Breakfast in the Greta Court House building followed the Dawn Service and the Catalpha Party from Singleton Army Base, led by a 'bemedaled' Corporal, who told "The News" that he had seen Service in East Timor and Afghanistan with the RAR who were ready for action but hoping for peace. These Soldiers, included a young woman were wonderful examples of young Australians, clean cut and most respectful to everyone.

We look forward to an even greater gathering at Greta & Branxton next Anzac Day!



Photo above: Vietnam veteran, Jim Phyllis of Greta RSL Sub-Branch speaking to the Soldiers from Singleton Lone Pine Barracks.

Photo: Brigid Thomas of Branxton with CPO Cath Harvey. Brigid gave the 'Occasional Address' at the main service at Branxton. Brigid was one of only 19 students from the Hunter Valley who attended 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing at Gallipoli last year.

Dawn Services Overwhelming!

by John S. Bryant OAM

It was just amazing to see hundreds attending the Branxton & Greta Dawn Services, in even greater numbers than ever. There were the elderly, sadly fewer and fewer, being replaced by families, many of whom are new to the

district, some with babes in arms, or strollers. Clr. Graham Smith, from Cessnock, spoke of the origin of the Dawn Service at Greta; where at the Martin Place Cenotaph in 1927, on Anzac Day at dawn, a lady was standing alone with bowed head. Four soldiers who were passing by, decided to join



Photo above: ANZAC DAY march in Branxton

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DRAFT 2016-17 OPERATIONAL PLAN

At its meeting of 20 April 2016 Council resolved to place the Draft 2016-17 Operational Plan on public exhibition from **Wednesday 27 April 2016 to Wednesday 25 May 2016** in accordance with Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The Draft Operational Plan details Council's proposed activities to implement its adopted 2013-17 Delivery Program. It also contains the Draft Budget for 2016-17, as well as Council's proposed Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges for that year.

The draft 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

Written submissions on the Draft 2016-17 Operational Plan should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 5.00 pm Wednesday, 25 May 2016**.

Full copies of submissions (including petitions) may be made available to the public including your name and address, unless Council receives a request for personal details to be suppressed.

The Draft Asset Management Plans provide detailed information about infrastructure assets including defining the services to be provided, outlining how the services are to be provided and what funds are required to provide the services.

Draft Asset Management Plans have been prepared for the following asset classes: Road and Road Infrastructure Network; Bridge and Major Culverts; Stormwater Network; Buildings; and Open Space and Other Structures.

The Draft 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

Written submissions on the Draft Asset Management Plans should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 5.00 pm Wednesday, 25 May 2016**.

Full copies of submissions (including petitions) may be made available to the public including your name and address, unless Council receives a request for personal details to be suppressed.

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
GENERAL MANAGER

DRAFT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS

At its meeting of 20 April 2016 Council resolved to place Five (5) Draft Asset Management Plans on public exhibition from **Wednesday 27 April 2016 to Wednesday 25 May 2016**.



Forever Diamond

18 June 2016

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Relive the magic and the magical hits of superstar Neil Diamond in a two hour concert experience

Swing

21 May 2016

A toe-tapping, heart-warming, Irish gem of a show



Flip back in time to the magical era of Swing dancing and all those quirky bits and pieces that were all the rage. Bad boys in leather, motor bikes, girls in Mary Jane shoes and lots of rock'n'roll – a night of nostalgia to remember!

Melbourne International Comedy Festival

9 June 2016

Roadshow 2016



Our travelling band of intrepid funny-makers is taking over Australia, one town at a time.

Celtic Illusion

14 June 2016

Presented by Eureka Entertainment



The dance and illusion sensation taking Australian audiences by storm.

Council's draft 2016-7 Operational Plan goes on display

The Cessnock City community are encouraged to have their say about Council plans, ranging from earmarked roadworks to the coming budget, with the draft 2016-17 Operational Plan currently on display.

The document provides information to the community about Council's long-term planning and vision as well as details of the ongoing activities to implement its Delivery Program and incorporates the 2016-7 draft budget, a schedule of fees and charges and a capital works program worth over \$13 million. Roads and infrastructure continue to be a major priority for the residents and Council, with funding included for construction and maintenance of roads, timber bridges, footpaths and cycle ways. Efforts will also continue to actively seek external funding for improvements to infrastructure and other Council activities outside the draft budget program.

Council has continued to support a range of community, cultural, environmental and recreational services and facilities which are regarded as essential.

This includes funding for public libraries, swimming pools, Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre, parks, gardens, sporting facilities, community halls, Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre and support of the youth centre and outreach service.

Council's Corporate and Community Services Director Robert Maginnity noted that the draft budget had been developed with an emphasis on cost containment whilst maintaining existing levels of service.

"Demands for additional works, services and capital projects continue to accelerate and, coupled with increasing costs, the ability to maintain existing services levels and potential funding of new projects is impacted," Mr Maginnity said.

"Unfortunately, although we recognise that there is much we and our residents would like to see happen in our local government area, for example the upgrading and replacing of ageing infrastructure. Council has limited resources which must be stretched across a very wide range of delivery programs."

Council staff have also developed an innovative financial sustainability initiative. This comprises a number of projects which, in the long-term, aim to generate sufficient funds to provide the levels of service and infrastructure agreed with the community.

"As an organisation we are building a culture of continuous improvement, in order to position ourselves as best we can for the challenges that lie ahead."

Councillors voted at their 20 April 2016 meeting to call for public comment on the draft plan and associated budget.

The draft 2016-17 Operational Plan will be on public exhibition until 25 May 2016.

The draft documents are available on Council's website at

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition

They can be viewed in person at Council's Administration Building and Cessnock City and Kurri Kurri libraries.

Written submissions on the draft 2016-17 Operational Plan are welcome until 25 May 2016 and should be addressed to the General Manager (at PO Box 152, Cessnock 2325 or email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au).



Bob Pynsent, Cessnock Mayor



Occasional Address by Brigid Thomas at main Service Branxton

“My name is Brigid Thomas and I stand before you today as a year 12 student of St Catherine’s Catholic College Singleton, I have had the opportunity to experience ANZAC day on foreign soils. Last year myself and 19 other students from the Hunter Valley travelled to the Gallipoli peninsula to join in the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing. To be apart of this prestigious event I spent many months researching and preparing a presentation on my Great Great Uncle Hugh McAlary who fought and was killed on the Western Front. Throughout my research, my trip to Canberra and of course my travels to Turkey, the Spirit of the ANZAC and the importance of recognition and honoring all our service men and women was ignited within me. I just wish to thank the Branxton RSL Sub Branch for allowing me the honor to deliver the ‘key note’ address today. Although I cannot go without acknowledging the endless work of the Hunter Valley District Council and second parties, as they have allowed me to be standing before you today as an enlightened and inspired person of the younger generation, a person who has the opportunity to witness first hand and experience the wave of emotion that embowers ones body when standing on the shores of the Gallipoli peninsula. Today we meet not to celebrate nor honour war, as war itself is something that should not be celebrated, but rather to honour and remember those who have served our country during conflict and crisis, in particular the persons who did not return. For me as a young adult the word ANZAC had been a part of my childhood as it is apart of the cultural fabric that makes our great nation. It was a word I was taught had the literal meaning of “Australian and New Zealand Army Corps”. Although as I grew older I became to understand the term ANZAC had also transcended its literal meaning to become a spirit – an inspiration that embodies the qualities of courage, discipline, sacrifice, self-reliance and in Australian terms, that of ‘mateship’ and a ‘fair go’. On the morning of ANZAC day 2015 I sat upon the shores of Hamzakoy Cove watching the sunrise above the ocean with Australian and New Zealand row-boats coming in towards the

shore. Myself alongside my fellow students and chaperones sat upon the damp sand placing us in the front line to observe and listen to the Dawn service. It was at the moment when the Last Post was sounding over the silent crowd that the true meaning of the ANZAC spirit became evident to me. The Spirit reminds us of all the qualities that our soldier’s carried but it has now also evolved to invoke sincere emotions that we as a younger generation experience in remembrance for all suffering and loss of life. Honour, sadness, happiness and most prominently pride are just a few emotions that were flowing through my body at this moment. Pride to be standing in the country that 100 years ago we were at war with and now we stood shoulder to shoulder in peace. This day marks the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. Although the day is certainly not to celebrate a great military victory, because the landing and subsequent battle at Gallipoli was not that. It is a day that we celebrate the courage of the men that stormed upon the beach either oblivious or aware of the dangers they were about to face, for the young men some whom some were no older than myself scarified themselves in order for their country to be free. But of course it is just not Gallipoli we remember on this day, nor is it even the First World War. This is a day set aside for us to collectively give thanks to all those men and women who have put their lives at risk and in many cases paid the supreme price. We also acknowledge the losses and sacrifices of their families. These men and women did not start the wars in which they were involved, that was the responsibility of the government of the day and our government is the agent of the people of Australia. The sailors, soldiers and airmen and women therefore, were fighting on



Photo: President of Branxton RSL Sub Branch Brian Furner OAM with the soldiers from Lone Pine Barracks Singleton at Dawn Service in Branxton.

behalf of all the people of Australia. ANZAC day is therefore a day for all Australians, regardless of religion, racial background or even place of birth. It is a day to commemorate the bravery and self-sacrifice of past and present generations. It is a day to acknowledge the selflessness of all those who have been prepared to lay down their lives for Australia so that it can be a

place of freedom for all. On this ANZAC day we thank and recognise those who served in the first and second world wars, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam and more recently, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda and the Persian Gulf, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Iraq and Afghanistan. As a person of the younger generation it is hard to grasp the true extent of the impacts of war as many of

us have not experienced it, although as like hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens, we gather at memorials in cities and towns across Australia. We have come here to commemorate one of the most significant events in our national calendar, a day that should always be held in high regard as it reminds us to never repeat the atrocities of war. For me

ANZAC day used to be a day were I would march down the main street in my guides or school uniform in respect of all the fallen soldiers, although know I understand now that I was naïve to the depth of the significance of ANZAC day.

In 2015 I travelled with my fellow students, who were to become some of my closest friends, by ship to the Gallipoli peninsula with the same excited spirit for an adventure but this time not in the face of War, but in the embrace of peace. We travelled to sights and memorials such as the NEK, ANZAC Cove and Lone Pine to name a few, that 100 years ago were places of horror and blood shed, and now they have become aesthetically beautiful and emotionally powerful. Whilst walking among the largest Turkish memorial it struck a few of us how welcoming the

Turkish were, as in schools and literature we are still called the enemy, the same as we teach our young generations that the Ottoman Empire was our enemy. Despite the wars our countries had fought ANZAC day was celebrated in honour and remembrance of the fallen soldiers. This day last year I sat on the sands of Hamzakoy Cove listening to the M. Mustafa OZACAR of Gelibolu or as we call it Gallipoli speak to us in the Turkish language addressing the locals and foreigners before him as “my dear friends”. Today I will end my address with his words “ There was never a good war, or a bad peace. Because in peace; sons bury their fathers, and in war; fathers bury their sons. And after the war between the armies, remains an “army of veterans” and “an army or mourners.” ”
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DEFENCE FIELD FIRING RANGES

WARNING NOTICE

Residents of areas adjacent to Singleton Training Area are warned it is an Army Live Firing Range.

Singleton Training Area is described generally as the area bounded to the south by Pokolbin State Forest, to the east by commercial vineyards and to the west by a combination of rural developments and open cut coal mines.

The northern boundary is defined by the Golden Highway which separates the range area from the Singleton Military Area.

Firing practices using live ammunition are conducted continuously on this training area. Low power laser range finders are also used.

Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary.

Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area.

Persons found trespassing on Army Training Areas will be prosecuted.

Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

**The Range Control Officer
Range Control,
Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management
Range Road
Singleton Training Area
Singleton NSW 2331.**

GT20415

What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

You may have noticed in the last edition of *The News* where the Branxton Lions Club gave notice that they have had to discontinue their 15 year run of hosting 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'. Over that 15 years they have raised a considerable amount of money which has gone to the Cancer Council of Australia to help them continue building a cancer-free future for us. It was regrettable but the clubs current circumstances made it near impossible to continue. Last Friday I had a visit from a representative of the Branxton Greta CWA who have stepped up to the plate and will continue the *Morning Teas*. The *Morning Tea* is scheduled for Friday 27th May at The Branxton Community Hall from 11am until 1:30pm. They have given a general

invitation to the local community & business houses to join them. They have organised a 'Lucky Door Prize', a guest speaker and some pleasant surprises.

The entry fee is \$10 so make

a date to attend and enjoy a lovely morning. They ask if you could RSVP by 20th May to Marie Shearer on 0402 015 850 or email to braxtongretacwa@hotmail.com Which is essential for catering.

I was once again amazed by the attendance at the ANZAC Day services this year. I attended Branxton & John Bryant was at Greta. With it being a long weekend I was sure that the numbers would be down but to my pleasant surprise it was the biggest attendance ever at both Branxton & Greta. The Dawn Service at Branxton was estimated at between 500 to 700 with some suggesting over a 1000 (Peter MacFarlane of Branxton being one who suggested that number!). My response was that I'm glad he's not laying my carpet!

Both RSL Sub Branches, once again, did a marvellous job to commemorate the day. Well done to all of you.

I remember thinking after Steve Jobs (Apple) died that the company would eventually have problems as most of the company's success relied on his

innovative genius. I remember going to Betta Electrics in Rutherford, not long after he passed away, looking to buy an iPad. The proprietor, Joe Rezzie, told me that they could not get the rights to sell them from Apple even though they had some 3000 stores in the franchise. I said that in the coming years, because of Jobs death, you will be able to buy them at corner stores. I could be right yet! *Cheers, Mike*

Labor's program to build dental clinics in regional Australia and nursing homes. This is all in addition to the \$125.6 million already cut from the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

These cuts will have devastating impacts in the region.

Families take their children to dentists because they know that getting on top of dental problems early on can make a massive difference to a person's life. This latest attack comes on top of Malcolm Turnbull's \$57 billion cut to our hospitals, the freeze on Medicare rebates for GPs and his \$650 million in cuts to bulk billing incentives for x-rays and blood tests. Now Malcolm Turnbull has the teeth of kids in his sights, confirming yet again that the Liberals only ever see health as a source for Budget cuts.

*Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Member for Hunter*

affected by Malcolm Turnbull's cruel move to axe the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. The scheme provides eligible children with up to \$1,000 in dental treatment every two years. Yet many parents still remain unaware the scheme exists, with the Abbott/Turnbull governments failing to promote it. After deliberately hiding the scheme from parents, the Turnbull Government is now using that lack of promotion as cover to scrap a scheme its own Health Department has described as a "success".

I visited a dental practice in Singleton to hear first-hand the impacts of scrapping a benefit of enormous value to local families. This latest attack will be a real setback for low and middle income families in Hunter. I am very concerned that this out of touch Government wants to take away a scheme that makes going to the dentist as easy as going to the doctor for over 11,000 families in the local area.

This is just the latest in a series of unforgivable decisions when it comes to dental care in Australia. Dental waiting lists are getting longer and longer because they have cut \$390 million from adult public dental services across the nation. On top of that they have axed \$225 million from

iPhone sales drop for first time ever ...



Apple Inc.'s streak of 51 consecutive quarters of uninterrupted sales growth is over -- and its expansion may not resume until late this year. A boom in demand for smartphones, music players and other electronic devices propelled Apple's annual revenue by \$227 billion in the 13 years since the last quarterly drop, resulting in a skyrocketing stock price that made Apple the world's most valuable company. That era of untrammelled expansion hit a wall in the quarter that ended in March as fewer people upgraded to the latest iPhones, and the company is predicting another decline in the current period.

QUIZ

1. How many countries are larger than Australia?
2. In what state/territory was the highest recorded temperature, of 53°C, recorded?
3. Australia has the world's largest sand island. What is its name?
4. In what year was Advance Australia Fair proclaimed as the national anthem by the Governor-General?
5. Do all states/territories have the same blood alcohol limit for non-probationary drivers?
6. What animal is on the Western Australia flag?
7. In what city did the Commonwealth Parliament first sit?
8. What animal featured on the 2 cent coin?
9. Who is the only person to have been awarded both the Australian of the Year and Young Australian of the Year titles?
10. Who is on the front of the current issue \$100 note?

Answers Page 30

This day in history ~ 3rd May

3/5/1469

Niccolo Machiavelli born

On this day in 1469, the Italian philosopher and writer Niccolo Machiavelli is born. A lifelong patriot and diehard proponent of a unified Italy, Machiavelli became one of the fathers of modern political theory. Machiavelli entered the political service of his native Florence by the time he was 29. As defense secretary, he distinguished himself by executing policies that strengthened Florence politically. He soon found himself assigned diplomatic missions for his principality, through which he met such luminaries as Louis XII of France, Pope Julius II, the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, and perhaps most importantly for Machiavelli, a prince of the Papal States named Cesare Borgia. The shrewd and cunning Borgia later inspired the title character in Machiavelli's famous and influential political treatise *The Prince* (1532). Machiavelli's political life took a downward turn after 1512, when he fell out of favor with the powerful Medici family. He was accused of conspiracy, imprisoned, tortured and temporarily exiled. It was an attempt to regain a political post and the Medici family's good favor that Machiavelli penned *The Prince*, which was to become his most well-known work. Though released in book form posthumously in 1532, *The Prince* was first published as a pamphlet in 1513. In it, Machiavelli outlined his vision of an ideal leader: an amoral, calculating tyrant for whom the end justifies the means. *The Prince* not only failed to win the Medici family's favor, it also alienated him from the Florentine people. Machiavelli was never truly welcomed back into politics, and when the Florentine Republic was reestablished in 1527, Machiavelli was an object of great suspicion. He died later that year, embittered and shut out from the Florentine society to which he had devoted his life. Though Machiavelli has long been associated with the practice of diabolical expediency in the realm of politics that was made famous in *The Prince*, his actual views were not so extreme. In fact, in such longer and more detailed writings as *Discourses on the First Ten Books of Livy* (1517) and *History of Florence* (1525), he shows himself to be a more principled political moralist. Still, even today, the term "Machiavellian" is used to describe an action undertaken for gain without regard for right or wrong.

ALSO ON THIS DAY

1980 MADD founder's daughter killed by drunk driver & 1951 USA Congressional hearings on General MacArthur

Crime ~ 1992 Exxon executive is murdered & 2007 British girl goes missing in Portugal

Disaster ~ 1962 Trains collide near Tokyo

General Interest ~ 1946 Japanese war crimes trial begins, 1947 New Japanese constitution goes into effect, 1952 Fletcher lands on the North Pole & 1810 Lord Byron swims the Hellespont

Music ~ 1933 James Brown is born

Sports ~ 1986 'Willie' Shoemaker becomes oldest man to win Kentucky Derby

Vietnam War ~ 1965 173rd US Airborne Brigade deploys to South Vietnam & 1968 Paris is chosen as site for peace talks

World War I ~ 1915 Austro-German forces drive Russians out of the Carpathians

World War II ~ 1942 The Battle of the Coral Sea begins

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Rural Fire Brigades

Belford..... 6574 7149

Broke..... 6579 1491

Greta..... 4015 0000

Bishops Bdg 4015 0000

Nth R'bury...4015 0000

Rothbury.....4015 0000

Pokolbin.....4015 0000

Rothbury.....4991 1733

Scotts

Flat..... 6574 5186

Central

(Cessnock)...4015 0000

Electricity

Energy

Australia..... 131 388

Hospitals

Maitland... 4939 2000

Cessnock.. 4991 0555

Singleton.. 6572 2799

SES132 500

Letters to the Editor

De-Clutter

I have always wondered how people can live in a junk yard both inside and outside their homes. My question to them is: Don't you think you deserve to live somewhere beautiful, calm, and orderly? You do you know, everyone does. That's you 'Blossom' out there with your lovely smile and beautiful child with a messy veranda and car bodies in the yard, I pass your house every day and feel dejected because although I know people are entitled to different lifestyles I know you would be happier if you climbed out of your stuff. So I am sending on information I received from the Council.

De-clutter Your Home – Free Workshop

Four options to choose from:Saturday 14

May: **Kurri Kurri Community Centre** (10am-noon)

· The Place: **Charlestown Community Centre** (2pm-4pm)

Saturday 14 May-**Tomaree Library and Community Centre** (10am-noon)

· Places are limited.

Bookings are essential call 4993 4239.

Name & Address supplied but withheld at request of writer

More Cuts

Over 11,000 families in the Hunter electorate will be



Letters to the editor can be sent to:
**The Editor, The BGV News,
12 Clift Street, Branxton NSW 2335**

or

fax to

4938 3301

or emailed to

thenews@hotmail.net.au



Congratulations to our eight newest Australian citizens!



Eight Cessnock City residents became Australian Citizens in an official citizenship ceremony held at Cessnock City Council chambers last week. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent oversaw official proceedings with General Manager Stephen Glen as MC of the event. "I take a lot of pride in welcoming our newest citizens here in the Cessnock local area government, and like to keep tradition alive by having our Town Crier Stephen Clarke usher in the ceremony," Cr Pynsent said.

The eight new citizens came from various countries including New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Kuwait, Kenya, Thailand, South Africa, China and the United States. Mr Kishor Kanji Kerai from Mombassa, Kenya has been in Australia for seven years. He first visited Australia to study accounting in Sydney and is now a proud business owner in the Cessnock City local area. Kishor first heard of our beaches, surfing and culturally diverse community and said he was joyous to now be an Australian Citizen. It's a very beautiful country

and I like how there are many different cultures here in one community", Kishor said. Unfortunately Kishor's family could not attend the ceremony today but they send their support from abroad. "My parents are very proud of me today, they could not be here as they're back in Kenya, but I just sent them photos from the ceremony." Each new Australian Citizen was presented with a certificate, a native Australian plant and a commemorative gold coin. Other official guests at the ceremony included Federal Member for Hunter Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Town Crier Stephen Clarke, Cessnock City Councillor Rod Doherty and Catherine Parsons, Mayoress Kathy Pynsent and Council Directors Robert Maginnity and Gareth Curtis. You can register your interest in becoming an Australian Citizen at a future ceremony by contacting Council on 02 4993 4210.
 Photo above : Mayor Bob Pynsent, Town Crier Stephen Clarke and new citizen Mr Kishor Kanji Kerai.

Library announces adult literacy sessions

Singleton Library is inviting adults looking to improve their reading by participating in adult literacy sessions. The library recently hosted a course to train a number of community members to volunteer as adult literacy tutors. These volunteers are trained to provide one-on-one adult literacy sessions and are available to assist adults who would like to improve their reading. Adult literacy sessions are free and can be held at the library or at another public venue agreed to by the reading student and their tutor. The National Centre for Vocational Educational Research found in their Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey that almost half of Australia's adult population has literacy and numeracy skills below the minimum level required to adequately function on a day-to-day basis in an advanced economy. Singleton Council Director of Community and Infrastructure Services Group Gary Thomson says constant technological change means adults need to build new skills in order to remain employed, access services and engage in Australian social life. "Having good literacy skills makes this much more achievable," he says. "The sessions are ideal for residents from English and non-English speaking backgrounds."



Successful Stomp!



Thousands of people packed Vincent Street on Sunday to check out the fun and excitement of the first ever Cessnock STOMP Festival. Judging by the sea of happy faces, they weren't disappointed! The rain held out long enough for the Great Cessnock Stomp Champion to be crowned and for festival goers to sample the best food and wine on offer in the Hunter. Bubble Lane and Beer Haven proved very popular with the grownups, and the range of activities on offer for the kids rounded out a fantastic festival program. Perform-Ability put on a cracker of a dance show, while local fashion retailers gave us all some sartorial inspiration with some hot off the catwalk looks. Council's Economic Development Manager Jane Holdsworth said a festival like Stomp had the potential to inject substantial dollars into the local economy. "A weekend like the one just past where we had a massive concert and then a successful festival is excellent for driving economic growth," Ms Holdsworth said. "We are yet to complete the full analysis, but we would expect the value to be in the millions." Click through the slideshow below to see heaps of pictures from the event, or check out our video on the [Advance Cessnock Facebook page](#). If you went to Stomp, let us know in the comments what your highlight was!



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65x35x3 Painted RHS \$38/8m

75x50x3 Painted RHS \$49/8m

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Open Day at Branxton Fire Station



Firefighters are encouraging people to visit Branxton Fire Station for the Fire & Rescue NSW

(FRNSW) annual Open Day on Saturday, 21 May 2016. Branxton Fire Station will

be open from 10am to 2pm and families are encouraged to come along and meet their local firefighters and learn more about fire prevention.

A range of free activities will be on offer, including firefighting demonstrations, station tours and fire safety presentations. Firefighters will also be able to provide advice on installing smoke alarms, changing smoke alarm batteries and preparing a home fire escape plan. Children will be able to see fire engines and firefighting equipment up close, which is always one of the highlights of this much anticipated day. For the first time, FRNSW is this year partnering with LEGO City to spread the fire safety message on Fire Station Open Day. The partnership will see a new Brigade Kids activity booklet and LEGO City minifigures available for

Open Day visitors. Station Commander Scrace said that with May being the 10th anniversary of the introduction of smoke alarm legislation, Open Day is a timely opportunity to talk to the experts about replacing your smoke alarms.

"Given that not all smoke alarms last beyond 10 years, this year we're encouraging residents to replace their outdated alarms with the latest photoelectric smoke alarms, which provide earlier detection and fewer false alarms," said Station Commander Scrace.

"Why not come along to Branxton fire Station on Open Day and come and talk to us about how you can reduce risk of fire destroying your life," Station Commander Scrace said.

Natalie Curr, Brand Manager for LEGO Australia said that LEGO City is based on everyday heroes such as firefighters, allowing children to build and role play. "This partnership with Fire & Rescue NSW is the perfect opportunity for LEGO City to support the real life heroes in our community," she said.

WHEN: Saturday 21 May 2016

WHERE: Branxton Fire Station, cnr Drinan Street and Bridge Street.

TIME: 10am to 2pm

Autumn wild dog baiting campaign

Free training and instruction on effective baiting and trapping techniques will be provided to landholders who take part in wild dog baiting activities being coordinated by Hunter Local Land Services throughout the region in May.

Wild dogs and foxes are an ongoing issue in the Hunter region and cause stock attacks and losses that can negatively affect farm productivity. They can also pose a biosecurity threat to livestock producers through the spread of disease.

Landholders are being supported to participate in the upcoming campaign to maximise its impact. The more landholders that participate in a particular

area the better the results will be. Aerial baiting will be undertaken in areas that are particularly impacted by wild dogs and will be followed up by large-scale ground baiting to achieve the best possible coverage. the participation of all land managers in an area.

The activities are an integral part of the coordinated approach by Hunter Local Land Services to achieve consistent control of wild dogs.

To sign up for the program or find out more on controlling wild dogs, landholders should contact their local Biosecurity Officer on 1300 975 299.

SPIN, THE AUSTRALIAN WAY

No matter what side of the political fence you're on, THIS IS FUNNY and VERY telling! It just all depends on how you look at the same things.

Judy Rudd, an amateur genealogy researcher in south east Queensland, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that ex-Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's great-great uncle, Remus Rudd, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Melbourne in 1889.

Both Judy and Kevin Rudd share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows at the Melbourne Jail.

On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:

'Remus Rudd horse thief, sent to Melbourne Jail 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Melbourne-Geelong train six times.

Caught by Victoria Police Force, convicted and hanged in 1889.'

So Judy recently e-mailed ex-Prime Minister Rudd for information about their great-great uncle, Remus Rudd.

Believe it or not, Kevin Rudd's staff sent back the following for her genealogy research:

"Remus Rudd was famous in Victoria during the mid to late 1800s.

His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Melbourne-Geelong Railroad..

Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad.

In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the Victoria Police Force.

In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

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They said it

"Every man has his own courage and is betrayed because he seeks in himself the courage of other persons." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

"I refuse to spend my life worrying about what I eat. There's no pleasure worth foregoing just for an extra three years in the geriatric ward." ~ John Mortimer

"The best wood in most amateurs' golf bags is the pencil." ~ Chi Chi Rodriguez

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." ~ Winston Churchill

Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK 29 April 2016



It was great to see so many people out across our local government area this Anzac Day. I attended services at Kurri Kurri, Cessnock, Kearsley and Aberdare and was blown away with the amount of people, young and old, paying their respects at each service. Thank you to all of our RSL Sub-Branched for their fantastic organisation and also to the Councillors who gave up their time to attend services.

The Neath Hotel was again a busy spot after dawn services in the morning, where the annual lighting of the lamp was undertaken. For those who might not know the story, Joseph Henry 'Harry' Littlefair left his miner's lamp at the hotel in 1915, asking them to keep it until he returned from war. Sadly, he never returned however his legacy lives on with the annual lighting of his lamp which is proudly displayed behind the bar all year round.

I would like to give special mention to Bert Ferris, a 90-year-old resident of Calvary, and one of only the 13 remaining 'Rats of Tobruk'. The defenders of Tobruk are known for their determination, bravery, and humour and became a source of inspiration during some of the war's darkest days. I was honoured to see Mr Ferris so proudly lay his wreath last week at the Calvary service. These are only two of so many amazing local stories of history and legacy in our area. Lest We Forget.

I encourage all of our local residents to visit Cessnock Regional Art Gallery's current exhibition—I won't be long: a tribute to Les Elvin. The late Uncle Les gave so much to our community, it is very special to see his artistic achievements being displayed in this fitting tribute. The exhibition is on from 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Sunday until Sunday 5 June 2016.

A big Cessnock welcome to our city's newest citizens. Eight people attended our ceremony in the Council Chambers last week along with their families and friends, each taking the step to officially become Australia citizens. We hold four citizenship ceremonies each year. You can register your interest in becoming an Australian Citizen at a future ceremony by contacting my office on 02 4993 4210.

Congratulations to our Heritage Week photography competition winners George Koncz, Shirley Morrison, Makaylah Townley and Brody Ablett who were recognised in a short

ceremony at Kurri Kurri Library recently. This is the first year our Planning and Environment Directorate have run the competition and we look forward to it growing each year with Heritage Week celebrations in April. You can check out the winning pics on our Cessnock City Council Facebook page.

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

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

RAISING THE BAR CESSNOCK STOMP FESTIVAL

Congratulations must go to the Cessnock Business Chamber as well as the many local restaurants, wineries, businesses, gourmet products and food and market stalls that took part and of course, everyone that attended the 2016 STOMP Festival.

By all accounts the Festival was a raging success with in excess of 10,000 people enjoying all that our local area has to offer! This was certainly great for our local economy and would not have been possible without everyone... too many to name here... that made the Festival the success that it was!

NSW GOVERNMENT STATE REPRESENTATIVE AWARD

For a number of years, the NSW Government State Representative Award has been recognising people who have represented the State of NSW in a competitive field.

Nominees of any age, who have represented NSW in a competitive field, whether it is sport, music, the arts or academic, either nationally or internationally, can be nominated for the Award.

The current nomination form can be obtained either by contacting my office or be downloaded from the website of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet at www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/programs_and_services/nsw_government_awards. The nomination form must be filled out and then signed by a referee (e.g. coach or instructor) who is an official representative of the NSW state organisation for which the nominee has been selected to represent NSW. Following the competition, the completed nomination form is then submitted to the nominee's local NSW State Member of Parliament for endorsement and submission to the Protocol and Special Events Branch of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Further information regarding the Award can be obtained from the abovementioned website, by email to awards@dpc.nsw.gov.au or by phoning Protocol and Special Events on 9228 5016.

REQUESTS FOR CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

Quite often my office is contacted about requests for Congratulatory Messages for 50th and 60th Wedding Anniversaries and 80th, 90th and 100th Birthdays for either parents, family members or friends.

For the request to be processed, you

will need to provide supporting documentation such as birth certificates or marriage certificates. The request is submitted by my office to the NSW Premier via the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and if appropriate, it will be then passed on to the NSW Governor, the Prime Minister and the Governor-General, so you only have to make one application if you are entitled to get messages from other parties. Requests for congratulations messages are accepted up to six weeks before the birthday or wedding anniversary; and belated messages up to three months after the event.

LAWACCESS NSW

Quite often, my office is contacted by constituents wanting to know where they can obtain free legal advice. There is a free government telephone service, LawAccess NSW that is able to provide legal information, advice and referrals for people who have a legal problem in NSW.

In particular, LawAccess assists people who:

- live in regional, rural and remote areas of NSW
- are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- have a disability
- are from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background
- are at risk of harm
- have an urgent legal problem

LawAccess NSW Customer Service Officers can provide up-to-date plain language legal information either over the telephone or by sending out written information, as well as referrals to other legal or related services that can assist, if for example you need face to face legal advice.

LawAccess NSW is joint initiative of Department of Justice & Attorney General; Legal Aid NSW; Law Society of New South Wales; NSW Bar Association; and Community Legal Centres NSW.

LawAccess NSW can be contacted by telephoning 1300 888 529.

* * * * *

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 or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au



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

There are so many significant events to reflect on during the Centenary of ANZAC that some are sure to be largely missed. Rightly, the Gallipoli campaign and the battles of the Western Front have and will feature most. Amazing acts of courage, skill, commitment and sacrifice will loom large, not just from the front line but also the acts of our nurses, doctors, tunnel diggers, seamen and many more. There will be little room for political

events despite their significance.

Two such events which occurred 100 years ago this October and December next year are the conscription plebiscites.

When war broke out in August 1914 many, including a few arrogant British Generals, declared it would all be over by Christmas. They were wrong, very wrong.

When the Mother Country turned to Australia for help, we responded with great enthusiasm. Throughout 1915 recruiting committees were formed in nearly every town throughout Australia. Recruitment marches through our regional towns proved successful as, strong and fit young Australian men both responded to the call of duty and grabbed the opportunity for an adventure of a lifetime.

But despite limited press reporting, by 1916 the reality of the "Great War" was well known in Australia.

The carnage, the loss, and the uncertainty of victory all weighed heavily on the minds of the Australian population. Understandably, the enthusiasm for enlistment had waned.

Under pressure from London, Labor Prime Minister Billy Hughes turned to conscription. The Government had the power to conscript for national defence, but not for expeditionary forces. Despite having other legal options, Hughes was conscious of the enormity of the move and decided to take the proposal to the people in a vote held in October 1916.

The debate, rallies, protests, brawls and division which followed ended in a narrow defeat of the question, the expulsion of Hughes from the Labor Party and a devastating split in the Party itself.

Having won the August 1917 federal election as leader of his Nationalists, Hughes had another go in December 1917. The question was defeated again by a slightly wider margin. Once again, the campaign cost Hughes the leadership of his Party.

It's hard to imagine the intensity of the public debates of the time. To contemplate what a tumultuous time it must have been for an almost evenly divided community over matters of such gravity.

Lest We Forget.

On Tuesday 9 August 2016, the ABS will conduct the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing.

The Census is a moment for each and every one of us to pause and help shape the future of Australia. It provides a valuable snapshot of our society on Census night.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will soon be looking for motivated and community-spirited Australians from all types of backgrounds who want to make a contribution to their community.

Up to 38,000 Field Officers will be needed across the country to deliver and collect paper forms as well as follow up households who haven't completed their Census form.

For more information or to apply for a Field Officer position, visit www.abs.gov.au/careers

Applications for Field Officer positions open on 2 May 2016.

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 or you

can even sign up to my E-Newsletter. To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753, visit www.joelfitzgibbon.com or by post 3 Edward Street, (PO Box 526) Cessnock, 2325.



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

State Matters

SENIORS URGED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON AGEING STRATEGY

I would encourage our local seniors communities to have their say on the issues that affect their lives as part of consultation on the NSW Government's second Ageing Strategy. The NSW Government was committed to better understanding the needs of seniors, and developing the right policies to assist them.

We know living longer brings with it so many wonderful opportunities, but it also brings unique challenges. The NSW Government wants to better understand the issues affecting the lives of older people and the NSW Ageing Strategy is aimed at ensuring seniors can experience all the benefits of living longer, and are able to participate fully in social and economic life.

This vital feedback will help the NSW Government shape the second NSW Ageing Strategy, and create the best policies and services for older people possible, and the Strategy is a whole-of-government approach to responding to an ageing population based on community input.

The first NSW Ageing Strategy was released in 2012 and led to the creation of successful initiatives like Tech Savvy Seniors, the Elder Abuse Helpline and the expansion of the NSW Seniors Card.

Since 2012, around 80 per cent of the first NSW Ageing Strategy's initiatives have been completed or are on track for completion. An independent evaluation of the Strategy found it had a "positive impact in promoting awareness of ageing in NSW and in improving the life circumstances of a proportion of older people."

The NSW Ageing Strategy is a 'living' document, and is now being revised from the ground up based on feedback from stakeholders and the community. Following extensive consultation, the second NSW Ageing Strategy will be released later in 2016. To have your say, go to

www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au

Consultation concludes on 15 May 2016.

WALKING AND CYCLING PROJECTS IN THE UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE

I am pleased to inform our community that \$660,385 of funding has been granted to the Upper Hunter Electorate for eight walking and cycling projects as part of a \$39 million boost for cycle ways and walking networks across NSW. Walking and cycling are important components of our wider transport system in NSW, but they also promote a healthy lifestyle. Under the Walking and Cycling Programs, Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime Services works in partnership with councils across the state to deliver funding for these walking and cycling projects.

Cheers, Michael

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Local mattress drop off events an overwhelming success



take advantage of the opportunity but it is even better that these mattresses will be recycled rather than landfilled or, even worse, be illegally dumped on the side of the road or in our bush surrounds.”

Those people that dump mattresses on roadsides or in the bush should be aware that Council is actively involved with the Regional Illegal Dumping Squad who are utilising both physical presence and covert surveillance technology in the war on illegal dumping, and if identified, offenders will face significant penalty.

The result strongly supports Council’s argument that mattress recycling should be covered by a product stewardship arrangement where manufacturers and sellers take a whole of life approach—including the responsibility for correct disposal as part of the sale. The free mattress drop offs are a NSW EPA *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative funded from the Waste Levy.

Photo above: Cessnock mattress drop off event.

Cessnock City Council’s second free mattress drop off has been overwhelmingly successful this April, with just under 1,600 mattresses received from residents at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri collection events. This follows on from the success of last September’s event where 1100 mattresses were received.

The first residents were queued well before the 8am opening time and the flow remained steady for the following four hours. Council’s Environment and Waste Manager Michael Alexander said the initial response on social media indicated a great response rate but the results were outstanding and beyond expectations. “We received great numbers at both events with 667

mattresses received at Kurri Kurri and 904 at Cessnock,” Mr Alexander said. The mattresses are destined to be recycled with the cover material (flock), rubber, steel and timber all recovered and sent off for recycling into new products. Residents were pleased with the free initiative and indicated their support for further events. “It is great to see residents

They said it

“A person who has not done one half his day's work by ten o'clock, runs a chance of leaving the other half undone.” ~ Emily Bronte

“The trouble with learning from experience is that you never graduate.” ~ Doug Larson

“You can easily judge the character of others by how they treat those who can do nothing for them or to them.” ~ Malcolm Forbes



PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

immunised, because the infection can’t spread. This is called herd immunity. Herd immunity works most efficiently if a sufficient number of people (about 90% for most infections) are immunised. So through immunisation, you are not just protecting yourself against disease but also the entire population. Immunisation strengthens the body’s immune system. The immune system fights infection in the body. A way of becoming immune to an infection is to receive a vaccine. Vaccines are dead or weakened versions of

your doctor or pharmacist, or inquire at your local community centre about immunisation programs in your area. It is very important that children receive all the recommended vaccines on the NIP. Sometimes children also need to be given a vaccine that is not on the NIP, such as a newly developed vaccine. Immunity against many infections can last a long time, sometimes up to 30 years. However, some vaccines, such as influenza (known as the flu) are needed every year. This is

because influenza viruses are constantly changing and a new vaccine is developed each year to give protection against the new variety of influenza. Get a yearly influenza vaccine to remain protected. Common side effects of immunisation

High rates of vaccine uptake are necessary to achieve Sustainable immunity across the population

infection-causing germs (bacteria or viruses), parts of bacteria or weakened bacterial toxins. When you receive a vaccine, usually via an injection, your body produces antibodies that will help you fight an infection caused by that bacteria or virus. In Australia, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule lists the recommended vaccines for infants, children, teenagers, older people and those at risk, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, pregnant women and those with certain medical conditions. The recommended vaccines on the NIP are available free to eligible people. Talk to

sation are swelling, redness and pain at the injection site, and mild fever. Most side effects only last a short time and the person recovers without any problems. Ask a doctor, pharmacist or immunisation clinic about side effects of immunisation. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can reduce fever and relieve discomfort after immunisation, if necessary. If you want to know more about immunisation, talk with your local pharmacist or your doctor. Pharmacists & doctors are medicine and health information experts. They can help you understand immunisation and provide you with current information.

Immunisation

It is estimated that immunisation prevents up to 3 million deaths worldwide each year. It also prevents many people being hospitalised and suffering ongoing health problems. Immunisation is very safe and effective. It stops the spread of highly infectious and life-threatening infections such as chicken pox (known as varicella), hepatitis, influenza, measles, mumps, polio, rubella, tetanus, and whooping cough (known as pertussis). The benefits of immunisation far outweigh the risks of serious side effects. Health authorities recognise immunisation as one of the world’s most successful and cost-effective health interventions. Immunisation can offer protection from infections both on a global and community level. Even those who are too young to be immunised or those who cannot be immunised due to medical reasons can be protected by immunisation. They are protected when the people around them are



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Make your vote count this federal election.

At this year's federal election, the way you vote for the Senate has changed and it's important that you understand how to vote correctly.

On the large white Senate ballot paper, you can choose to vote either above or below the line.

If you choose to vote above the line, you now need to number at least 6 boxes. Put the number '1' in the box for the party or group that is your first choice, a '2' for your second choice and so on until you've numbered at least 6 boxes.

If you choose to vote below the line, you must number at least 12 boxes, from 1 to 12, for individual candidates in the order of your choice.

Voting for the House of Representatives has not changed. On the green ballot paper, you must number every box, starting with the number '1' for your first choice, '2' for your second choice and so on until you have numbered every box.

'How to vote' instructions will be clearly displayed on your ballot paper. Don't worry if you make a mistake — just ask for another ballot paper.

This federal election your vote will help shape Australia.

To learn more

www.aec.gov.au 13 23 26



find mature
staff to fit your
needs and get
a wage subsidy
up to \$10,000



If you're an employer looking to hire, it's time to let your local jobactive provider find the right mature age worker for you.

Your business can benefit from their lifetime of experience. Workers aged 50 and older are reliable, flexible and ready to contribute from day one. And thanks to the Restart programme, there's a \$10,000* wage subsidy for employers who hire mature staff.

It's all part of the Australian Government's way of connecting employers to active job seekers.

*Receive up to \$10,000 (GST inc) if you employ and retain a job seeker aged 50 years of age or over who has been registered with their local jobactive provider for six months or more.

 **jobactive**[®]
restart

Find the right fit

Search for jobactive to find your local provider

Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra.

Ranch Sorting at Branxton



Ranch sorting is the number 1 Equine Family Sport, everyone who can sit on a horse can have a go, even grandma on a trail horse! (We had a nanna on a mini mule at our show at Gresford in December!)
 The aim of the game is firstly to have FUN! Two rider's get 60seconds (minimum) to sort 10 head of cattle. Sounds a bit like arena or yard sorting, well yes, but different as the arena is smaller and rounder, one less rider and one less spare cow and only half the time. Rider's are given a rating and the two rider's combined ratings can add up to extra time in the arena. The classes at events are



named for the ratings, i.e. the All Levels #18 class means that it is open to all levels (9 IS THE HIGHEST), so 2 #9 rated riders can ride together and their allowed sorting time is 60seconds. In the same class a #3 rider paired with a #5 rider gives them a combined rating of 8. Take 8 from the maximum of 18 leaves 10. Therefore this team would get +10 seconds and would have 70seconds to sort in the arena. There are #2,#4 and #8 classes for less experienced

riders to compete in without being overshadowed by elite competitors. This structure allows greater rewards being available to ALL participants. The other big difference in the structure of Ranch Sorting that sets it apart from arena/yard sorting is the compulsory auto pick entry that each rider must take in each class they enter. This is a fantastic way to get participants communicating with each other, as they are paired with someone they may have only met as they enter

the arena. Communication is a key to being successful in this sport. This sport is international and the champions in each category will attain automatic entry into the RSNC National finals held in Fort Worth each June. In 2015 the RSNC National finals had over 7500 runs and there was over \$400000 USD in prizemoney and trophies. Ranch Sorting is the fastest growing equine sport. Come along and have a go, or come and watch to see what it's all about. Be a part

of the crowd and cheer on some friends, grab something to eat from the canteen. Ask as many questions as you need answers, we are always happy to help. If you can't make this date save the next, June 25th. The other dates for your calendar are August 27th, October 22nd and December 3rd. Find us on Facebook at "Pioneer Ranch Sorting", contact Bek Norman (secretary) on 0407263249 or Doreen Newton (Treasurer) on 0407721759 for more information.

Ranch Sorting, an exciting new equine sport for the whole family, came to Branxton Showground for the first time on April 23rd! Pioneer Ranch Sorting is the first committee affiliated with the ABCRA to run Ranch Sorting Competitions. We have 5 shows booked at Branxton, running every

second month. You are asking what is Ranch Sorting? Ranch Sorting is a new equine sport brought to Australia by The RSNC (Ranch Sorting National Championships) in conjunction with the ABCRA forming the RSNCA (Ranch Sorting National Championships Australia).

After a professional development break, we're back! Bigger and better than ever!



Where every child shines!

Registrations Open For ...
Junior Drama Senior Drama Musical Theatre
 Names being taken for - **Singing Piano Glee Club!**

Enhance your child's confidence, creative thinking and expression, leadership skills, impromptu thinking, self esteem & public speaking skills!

- * Individual /Group Tuition
- * Tuition for young and young-at-heart!
- * Caring, qualified, experienced teachers
- * Regular Performance Opportunities!

Numbers are limited and filling fast!

To register your child or for further information Contact Catherine on 0416067192

Classes conducted at Greta Workers Club

Council successful in flood mitigation and warning funds
 One year on from the April 2015 floods, Cessnock City Council has been successful in two applications submitted in early 2015 under the Floodplain Management Program from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). The projects are:
 Swamp Creek Flood Mitigation Works (environmental investigations and design)—\$100,000
 Wollombi Flood Warning System (investigations and design)—\$33,333.
 The funding has been welcomed by Council, who were initially placed on a reserve list after missing out on funding in the first round. Council's Strategic Asset Planning Manager Stephen Long said the funding will allow priority projects for Swamp Creek and Wollombi Brook to move forward. "These projects were identified as priorities in our floodplain risk management plans and will further assist with our focus to minimise risk for residents affected by flooding," Mr Long said. "Further investigations are currently underway for the Swamp Creek Project and we will keep applying for grant assistance to support this project." Five other funding applications have been submitted to OEH for consideration in the 2016/17 Floodplain Management Program.

Don't WASTE your Organics



Did you know the average garbage bin contains 54% garden and food waste? To reduce the quantity of organics going to landfill Council is offering **half price worm farms and compost bins!**

Administration Centre
 62-78 Vincent Street CESSNOCK NSW
 Phone: 02 4993 4300
 environment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au



To find out more visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/organics
 Limit of one compost bin or worm farm per residential address in the Cessnock local government area

10 unfortunate truths about DIY renovating and 5 must 'dos' for any renovation



There are generally two sorts of renovators – the ‘move out, call the builders and do it all in one go’ kind, and the ‘live in the mess and DIY’ type. We’re firmly in the latter category and six years after buying our beloved Californian Bungalow in Melbourne’s inner north, we are embarking on our third (or is it fourth?) DIY renovation project. Mostly, thanks to my calm and capable handyman partner, they have been stress-free and rewarding,

but there are some truths we’ve come to accept.

1. Things are going to get dirty
No matter how many extraction fans you use, doors you shut and towels you shove under door spaces, your entire house will be covered in a thin film of white dust. It just will.

2. Cleaning is futile
Don’t try and clean your house. Sweep the floor or vacuum and quite literally the next moment you turn around, that floor will be

covered in aforementioned white dust.

3. You’ll learn something new
You will learn the name of a tool you’ve never heard of before – this time around for me, it was a ‘demolition saw’. Sounds terrifying.

4. It’s an emotional rollercoaster
You will go through several emotions: Shock (when you are first faced with the extreme mess), panic (when you madly try to ‘tidy’ and ‘clean’ in a bid to maintain some semblance of normal-

ity), fear (that your life/house will never be the same again) and finally, acceptance (when you give in to the mess, the dust, the chaos and just roll with it).

5. You can’t trust anything that runs on electricity

You’ll get very good at resetting clocks – the power goes on and off a LOT.

6. The Internet has (most of) the answers

You will consult the ultimate handyman – YouTube. What did we EVER do without it?

7. Sleep... what’s that?

You will actually utter the question “does Masters open at 8am?” or “Is Bunnings open until 9pm tonight?” or, most likely, both.

8. Eating... huh?

You will forget to eat meals. This just happens. Day kind of stretches into night. You will look up, and all of a sudden, it will be dark.

9. You’ll get used to layering

Unless you’re renovating at the height of summer, it will be cold in the house. With the number of doors

that need to be propped open for extension cords and comings-and-goings of stuff being taken in and out of the house, it will get chilly.

10. Your timeline is a mere wishful guide

It will take about twice as long as you think it will. Seriously. Just accept this, be calm and keep going. In fact, they should put that on a tea towel...

5 must dos for any renovation

Before you start swinging a hammer at your walls there are some things to consider, whether you’re renovating to sell or renovating your dream house.

It’s important to remember renovation is a long term investment; your decisions will have important consequences down the line. If you don’t plan on selling your property straight away you are making a lifestyle investment rather than an investment for a profit. This means that instead of buying the cheapest bathroom taps or painting in neutral colours that potential buyers like, you

are able to splurge on what you really love and what you know you will continue to love in 20 or 40 years!

Here are five things you should always remember whether you’re renovating for profit or love.

Have a clear strategy

Plan ahead and set yourself targets. A timeline that you review at least every few days is a great way to stay on track.

Don’t forget about the Council

Getting council approval can take some time so it’s best to get a start on it early. Requirements differ from council to council but you will have to complete a formal development application for the property and you will also have to put forward proposals and building plans.

After you’ve presented this to the council you have to wait for approval, so don’t spend too much money and get ahead of yourself before being sure you can proceed as planned.

Be realistic about your budget

Overspending is a real concern for renovators and I’m not going to lie, it’s easy to do, that’s why a budget is vital in your renovation planning. Make a list of all your needs & wants this should include everything from your door knobs to how much you are going to pay for your trades. It’s always

a good idea to have a buffer in your budget and it should be at least 10% of the total budget from my experience.

Take the lead and save

If you want to save a little bit of money you can be your own project manager, or have a go at completing some of the tasks yourself.

Project managing means you will be organising and co-ordinate all the tradies and make sure everything goes as planned. However, it’s essential to be realistic about your skill level and the time you will be able to dedicate to the project, otherwise those savings will go out the unfinished window.

Compare

Whether you’re just giving the lounge room a face lift with some paint, or kicking off a grand scale renovation, you should always compare quotes. Shop around and make sure you get the best and fairest deal. Don’t forget you are the boss so if you want to make sure you are hiring the best people for the job you can ask for referrals from previous clients or to have a look through the contractor’s portfolio. Good planning can be the difference between a positive renovation experience and a negative one. If you do it right, you’ll be rewarded with an amazing home you love coming home to every day or a handsome profit on sale day!

TAYLOR

PROPERTY MARKETING

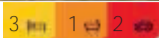
1300 803 300

taylorrealestate.com.au

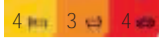
<p>99 Long Point Road, SINGLETON \$450,000 - \$470,000</p>  <p>'Renovated Rural Living'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Bedrooms with ceiling fans & TV points Main bedroom with WTR & ensuite Large open plan living & dining room Modern kitchen Undercover entertainment area Front veranda Detached 4 bay shed with power Dog pen and pig or horse yard Stock proof fencing Frontage to the Hunter River Water storage: 30,000L (approx) Land Size: 1.59 ha (3.9 acres) <p>Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836</p>	<p>30 Budgeree Drive, ABERGLASSLYN \$339,000 - \$359,000</p>  <p>'Great Family Home'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Bedrooms Main with ensuite and built-in robes 3 Good sized bedrooms all with BIRs Modern bathroom with separate WC Open plan air conditioned kitchen and living rooms DLUG with internal access and auto doors Private entertainment area Corner block Potential Rent: \$365 per week Land size: 603sqm <p>Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836</p>
<p>24 D'Arbon Avenue, SINGLETON \$329,000 - \$349,000</p>  <p>'Family Home With Swimming Pool'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main bedroom with BIRs, ensuite, ceiling fan & air conditioning 2nd & 3rd Bedrooms with BIRs & ceiling fans 4th bedroom/study with ceiling fan Large lounge room with wood burning fire place, ceiling fans and air conditioning Separate dining area Timber kitchen; family room off kitchen Undercover entertainment area that runs the full length of the rear of the house In ground pool with spa Land Size: 904sqm <p>Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836</p>	<p>21 Kent Street, GRETA \$290,000 - \$310,000</p>  <p>'A Great Start'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Bedrooms Large open plan living and dining Modern kitchen with new splash back Good sized bathroom with separate WC Large internal laundry Split system air conditioning Covered rear wrap around verandah SLUG with drive through access Separate 2 car garage Garden shed Established gardens Fully fenced yard Land Size: 1,024sqm <p>Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836</p>

hunter@taylorrealestate.com.au

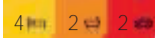
2/72A Maitland Street, Banxton NSW 2335



Broke
29 Cochrane Street
Tranquil Village Living
This 3 bedroom property is situated on a large corner block. Includes air conditioning in the living room, double garage, a spacious enclosed outdoor entertaining area. Placed closely to everything the village has to offer, the opportunity for quiet rural living is presented with this property. Call now to arrange a private inspection.
Price: \$300,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



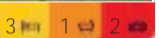
Greta
4 Nelson Street
Storage/Sheds on 1 Acre
This 4 bedroom with study 3 bathroom home has it all. Open plan living with stylish centre piece kitchen containing all the mod cons and ceaser stone benchtops. Floating timber floor boards, combustion fire & ducted air conditioning. Fully fenced 4000m² of yard space, with in ground pool and BBQ area for entertaining.
Price: \$569,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



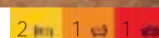
Branxton
22 Station Street
4 Bedrooms/Large Shed on 900m²
4 bedrooms, three with built in robes, large block & great shed. The combined lounge & dining room has RC/AC & polished pine timber floorboards throughout. The colourbond garage also has plenty of storage cupboards and a second shower and toilet. This garage could easily accommodate 2 large vehicles as well as storage space.
Price: \$385,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



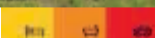
North Rothbury
37 Rothbury Street
AUCTION
This approximately 810m² block of land presents a great opportunity to be built upon, providing access to all the Hunter Valley has to offer. Located 2 minutes from the Hunter expressway, Newcastle is also easily accessible from this location, ensuring an easy commute.
Vendor must sell.
Auction: ON SITE Sat 7 May at 10am
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



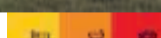
Greta
28 York Street
First Time on the Market
Family home in a pleasant area awaits. Brick & tile with beautifully presented gardens ready for the picking. Air conditioned living & kitchen area makes the house comfortable all year round. Covered timber deck overlooks the large backyard. This home is ideal for the young family or a couple looking to downsize.
Price: \$310,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



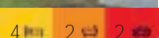
Branxton
2/7 Redgrove Court
Branxton Unit
Neat and tidy 2 bedroom unit. Open plan living with split system air conditioning. Automatic garage door with internal access to the home. Pergola at the rear of the property and small grassed courtyard area for entertaining.
Currently returning \$270/wk.
Price: \$279,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



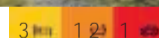
East Branxton
2 Church Street
Is this the Best Block in Branxton
Rare opportunity to purchase a large 1011sqm corner block. All town services are available on this parcel of land ready to build your dream home, with plenty of room for shedding and maybe that awesome pool. Subdivision Opportunity STCA 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



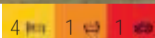
Branxton
42 Rosehill Place
Rural Living With Views Dalwood Acres
Opportunity to purchase 2 acres in the fast moving estate Dalwood Acres, located closely to the Hunter Expressway. This block has access to town water and electricity. Fully fenced and ready to be built upon.
Price: \$305,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



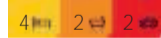
Greta
6 York Street
Near New with a View
New inside and out, still has new home insurance. Bedrooms have ceiling fans & built ins, main with walk in robe & ensuite. The kitchen is a highlight with ceaser stone benchtop, dishwasher, 900mm gas cooktop and 900mm oven plus large walk in pantry. 2 large living areas. Ducted air conditioning. Plenty of room for shedding or pool.
Price: \$392,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Greta
25 Kent Street
Tidy 3 Bedroom Home
Bedrooms with built in robes & ceiling fans. Split system air conditioning in living room. Insulated shed has been converted into the perfect "man-cave" set up for the ultimate comfort, making it ideal for entertaining guests or simply yourself. Plenty of room for a pool or more shedding, accessible through a drive through garage
Price: \$349,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
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 Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Whittingham
472 Mitchell Line of Road
Rural Property with Town Water
Set on 10.13 hectares offering a 4 bedroom home with ensuite, formal lounge & dining, large dining/family off the kitchen, rumpus plus screened Queensland room. Outside there is a timber pergola with BBQ area & double shed. The property carries 8 cows & calves, has its own cattle yards, a large dam.
Price: \$740,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
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, landscaped yard & is fully fenced.



ASKING \$400,000



BRANXTON

**An
opportunity
not to be
missed!**



An opportunity not to be missed! Well maintained family home in premier street.

This is a well maintained 3 bedroom weatherboard family home on a 1320 square metre block.

A combined living lounge room & dining room + large family room will add to your living pleasure.

Modern kitchen & bathroom give some olden day charm with modern living. Fully fenced with a huge back yard which includes a non intrusive 6-bay garage + another free standing garage & fernery.



ASKING \$399,000

Call Helen or Mike

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

ELDERSLIE



Lifestyle 100acres

100 acres of beautiful rolling countryside.

Views to die for!

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



PRICE \$830,000



East Branxton

Everything is BRAND NEW!!!!

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

Leafy & peaceful backyard

A must to inspect

Great investment or first home!

PRICE \$340,000



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

Offers over \$305,000



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 Branxton ~ 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 Branxton 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 Branxton 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



- 2023m2 block
- 3 bedrooms
- Large rear deck

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



LOWER BELFORD

Features Include:-
4 Bedrooms, Balcony / Deck, Bath, Built in wardrobe, Dishwasher, Floorboards, Fully fenced, Internal Laundry, Pets allowed.
Enjoy the rural peace & quiet!

\$420 per week



GRETA

This self contained studio apartment has uninterrupted panoramic & peaceful views over the Hunter river. Sleeps up to 8. If you want peace & quiet with the best views the Hunter Valley has to offer then this is for you. The decor is immaculate & the position just perfect!

\$350 per week

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



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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.
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PRICE \$330,000

What you need to know about asbestos in the home



scraped) it can release dangerous fine particles and if you breathe in those asbestos fibres, it can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma, a disease of the lungs which has no cure. These fibres, which are not visible to the naked eye, do not break down over time, and given how light they are, can remain airborne for a long time and travel large distances. Since December 2003, the manufacture, use, reuse, import, transport, storage or sale of all forms of asbestos has been banned in Australia.

Would my home

contain some?

Use was so widespread the Australian government's Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency estimates that one-third of all homes built in Australia contain asbestos products. It's found not only in fibro homes, but can also be

present in brick, weatherboard and clad homes.

As a general rule, the chances of your home containing asbestos is: Highly likely – if your house was built or renovated before the mid-1980s. Likely – If your house was built or renovated between the mid-1980s and 1990. Unlikely – if your house was built after 1990. It was banned totally in 2003.

Where is it likely to be found inside the home?

"Inside the home, by far the most common form of asbestos used was internal wall sheeting, because of its great insulating properties," expert renovator Cherie Barber says. "If it's left alone, it's rarely a problem, as the asbestos fibres are tightly compacted in the hard sheeting."

However, the deadly fibres can become airborne when renovating and you start cutting or drilling "or even worse, breaking it up with a sledgehammer", she says. "This is particularly

problematic in bathroom renovations, because the sheeting will often be hidden behind wall tiles or under floor tiles, so you may not detect it until the renovations begin. Other areas inside a home where you might find asbestos is as backing for old vinyl floor tiles or as carpet underlay," Barber, who is an official ambassador for the Asbestos Awareness campaign, says.

And outside the home?

"Outside, you'll commonly see it under eaves (the dead giveaway is the battens that were used to cover the joins between the sheets), as roof guttering, corrugated sheeting for roofs or fencing, and as flat sheeting used on exteriors of old sheds, car ports and other outbuildings," Barber says.

How can I tell if my home contains some?

You can't. It is not possible to determine whether a material contains asbestos by simply looking at it. The only way to be sure is to get a sample tested by a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory. "My advice, when in doubt, is to always assume it's asbestos and take every precaution possible," Barber says. "Although legally you are allowed to remove small

amounts of bonded asbestos yourself (the legal minimum differs between states) I always advise engaging professional asbestos removalists. It isn't cheap to have asbestos safely disposed of, but what price to you put on your life?" she says. "Always get three quotes, as my experience is that prices can differ enormously among asbestos removalists."

Should I panic?

"As long as asbestos is left alone, it rarely poses a risk in the home. It's only when it's disturbed, and the deadly asbestos fibres are released into the air, that asbestos becomes hazardous," Barber says. If asbestos materials are in good condition, you can paint them and leave them be. However, don't play "renovation roulette".

Standard dust masks, for instance, are not sufficient protection against asbestos fibres so do your research, follow regulations and safety precautions and seek expert help.

Who can help me?

Regulations differ between the states and territories (i.e. any building renovation work involving removal of asbestos from your home may require a building or demolition licence) so find out what your state's requirements are.

Yay for asbestos

Asbestos was a gift to the construction industry. This versatile material was able to withstand heat, erosion and decay and, as a bonus, also had fire and water-resistant properties, giving it more than 3000 applications worldwide. In

fact, so enamoured was our building industry that Australia was one of the highest users per head of population in the world up until the mid-1980s. Asbestos-containing building products are classified as either "friable" (soft, crumbly) or

"bonded" (solid, rigid, non-friable).

Boo for asbestos

Although naturally occurring (it's a fibrous silicate mineral) it is also a deadly carcinogen. There is no "safe level" of exposure to asbestos. If disturbed (i.e. broken, cut, drilled,

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Price \$169,000

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- 798sqm approx - land size
- 5.5 meter approx. heavy duty driveway
- Sewage, town water and power
- Massive (13m3) OSD (on-site storm detention) tank
- Building entitlement

Lot 772 - 21 Wyndham St, East Branxton
Price \$169,000

- Civil work to commence construction and works to be complete by approx. August 2016
- New vacant land positioned in East Branxton
- 727sqm approx - land size
- 5.5 meter approx. heavy duty driveway
- Sewage, town water and power
- Massive (13m3) OSD (on-site storm detention) tank
- Building entitlement

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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.

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FRIDAY 7.00pm

SUNDAY 6.00pm



FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

6th MAY

ROB WILSON

13th MAY

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MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

4th MAY

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SUNDAY

8th MAY

\$1,800



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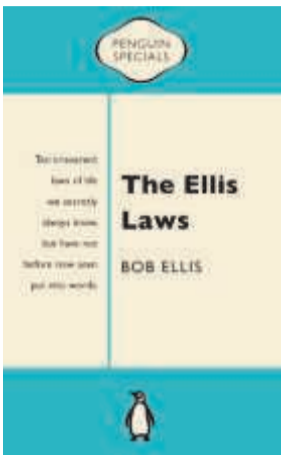
\$3.30 SCHOONERS





The Ellis Laws

BY DAVID HOLLOWAY



There's no shortage of stereotypes surrounding older people. A key one revolves around the idea that those over say, fifty, get very set in their ways and that this worsens with the passing of the remaining decades. Add to that the related claim that most old blokes turn into crusty old grumps who see little good about the future, and you have a pretty potent image of what Bob Ellis and *The Ellis Laws* might be about.

The trouble is, and perhaps this is because I'm the wrong side of forty myself, *The Ellis Laws* is probably one of the most cogent, incisive looks at modern society that I've read. Whether it's the role of CEOs or the lack of sleep most of us suffer from there's some very well argued positions that are very difficult to refute – at least from my male, over-40 viewpoint anyway. Ellis relishes the role of observer and it stands him in good stead throughout – there's less overstatement than I expected and also an avoidance of glorifying the past too overtly. I wouldn't go as far as to say that Ellis puts forward an upbeat view, but he at least provides some building blocks on which he believes some positive changes

could happen. As the cover blurb puts so well, this is a small book that puts forward the "laws of life we always knew, but have not before now seen put in words". Yes it's meant to be irreverent, but that is only one aspect. There are some concepts discussed that force some pretty deep introspection, and that for me was the biggest reward this work generated.

You can buy the book for yourself here for the princely sum of \$9.99. It's ten dollars extremely well spent, and one of the few books this year that I'll be handing on to others recommending they have a read also.

For transparency: I'm a big fan of Bob Ellis' published works and I have previously written a review of his stage adaptation of Bob Carr's *Diary of a Foreign Minister* (which I've also reviewed). After that review Mr Ellis kindly organised a lunch with myself and Bob Carr as a thank you. It was one of the most illuminating lunches of my sheltered life, but I don't feel indebted to either Bob in any way and hope it hasn't influenced this review in any way.

About the author ...

Robert James "Bob" Ellis (10 May 1942 – 3 April 2016) was an Australian writer, journalist, filmmaker and political commentator. He was a student at the University of Sydney at the same time as other notable Australians including Clive James, Germaine Greer, Les Murray, John Bell, Ken Horler and Mungo McCallum. He lived in Sydney with the author and screenwriter Anne Brooksbank; they had three children.



Early years

Ellis was raised a Seventh-day Adventist. He says the "seminal moment" of his life happened when he was ten and his 22-year-old sister was killed while crossing the road.¹ He attended Lismore High and then Sydney University on a Sir Robert Menzies scholarship. After graduating he had a variety of jobs before being employed by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Writing career

Ellis was a regular contributor to the *Nation Review* in the 1970s and subsequently contributed to Fairfax Media newspapers and the *National Times*. Ellis became a popular playwright, usually working in collaboration. In 1970 he and Michael Boddy (1934–2014) became known for co-writing *The Legend of King O'Malley*, a musical play based on the life of King O'Malley. From 1975 to 1986 he and his wife also owned the Stables Theatre in Kings Cross, Sydney, during which time it became home to the Griffin Theatre Company. They sold it in 1986 for \$200,000.

Ellis wrote several film scripts, notably *The Nostradamus Kid* (1992), *Cactus* (1986, with Paul Cox), *My First Wife* (1984, with Paul Cox), *Where the Green Ants Dream (Wo die grünen Ameisen träumen)* (1984, with Werner Herzog), *Man of Flowers* (1983, with Paul Cox), *Goodbye Paradise* (1983), ... *Maybe This Time* (1981, with Anne Brooksbank), *Fatty Finn* (1980)

and *Newsfront* (1978). Most of his film scripts, as with his plays, were written in collaboration with other writers.

In 1980 Ellis signed a contract with the New South Wales Film Corporation to write ten feature film scripts over two years for \$7,000 for each script, with a payment of \$12,000 for the second draft if they wanted to make the movie. Ellis says he presented them with 33 ideas, they chose five and he chose five.

Ellis also directed several films, including *The Nostradamus Kid* (1992), *Warm Nights*

on a *Slow Moving Train* (1988), *Unfinished Business* (1985) and *Run Rabbit, Run* (2007).

Ellis's writing for television included the miniseries *True Believers* (with co-author Matt Carroll) and *Infamous Victory: Ben Chifley's Battle for Coal* (2008), with co-author Geoff Burton, made for Film Australia.

Awards

Ellis won the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Screenplay for *Newsfront* (1978, with Anne Brooksbank and Phillip Noyce) and for *My First Wife* (1984, with Paul Cox).

Politics

Ellis, a supporter of the Australian Labor Party, wrote speeches for a number of Labor leaders (such as Bob Carr, Paul Keating and Kim Beazley) and wrote extensively on Labor history. Regarding Ellis's speech writing, Beazley said on the *7.30 Report* that if he had used any of Ellis's speeches he would have been out of politics. Ellis's involvement in politics became more direct when he unsuccessfully contested the Federal seat of Mackellar as an independent candidate

against the Liberal Party's Bronwyn Bishop in a by-election in 1994 as the ALP did not field a candidate in that by-election. Ellis's 2011 book *Suddenly, Last Winter – An Election Diary* created headlines for its criticism of the Labor Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and praise for the Liberal Opposition Leader, Tony Abbott. He described Gillard as "not well informed" and "sudden, firm and wrong" in everything she does. He also said "She has no power, no influence, no friends, no learning. There's not much there" whilst describing Abbott as having "good manners", being "formidable" and possessing a "first-class mind".

Ellis wrote speeches for South Australian premier Mike Rann for a number of years.

Death

On 18 July 2015, Ellis reported on his blog that he would be attending hospital for what he called "ominous" tests on his liver. The next day he announced "The news is very bad", and that the tests had revealed he had advanced liver cancer with a prognosis that he had weeks, if not months, to live.

Ellis died on 3 April 2016, at his home in Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Writings

Ellis wrote two

books, *Goodbye Jerusalem* and *Goodbye Babylon*, on his experiences of the Labor Party. The first edition of *Goodbye Jerusalem* was pulped following a successful defamation case brought by two Liberal cabinet ministers, Tony Abbott and Peter Costello, and their wives. At issue was the single sentence where Ellis quoted politician Rodney Cavalier. The publisher, Random House, accepted that the disputed content was a falsehood and the book was removed from sale. ACT Supreme Court Justice Higgins awarded the two politicians and their wives a total of \$277,000 damages. A new edition of the book was published three months later which omitted the defamatory passage.

In 1998 Penguin Books Australia published Ellis's *First Abolish the Customer – 202 Arguments Against Economic Rationalism*. Penguin published Ellis's *The Capitalism Delusion – How Global Economics Wrecked Everything and What To Do About It* in 2009 and *One Hundred Days of Summer* in 2010. In 2014 Penguin Books published "The Ellis Laws" by Bob Ellis.

Photo above: Bob Ellis in later years

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Would you like a more organised home but don't know where to start?

In this FREE two-hour workshop, learn from professional organiser Susanne Thiebe of Less Mess how to get your home sorted, so you can enjoy your living space while freeing up time for more important things.

Susanne's philosophy is that organising is a skill everyone can learn. She is passionate about helping you to find personalised solutions to conquer the clutter in your life, once and for all.

Four options to choose from:

Saturday 14 May

📍 Kurri-Kurri Community Centre (10am-noon)

📍 The Place: Community Centre, Charlestown Square (2-4pm)

Saturday 28 May

📍 Tomaree Library and Community Centre (10am-noon)

📍 The Place: Community Centre, Charlestown Square (2-4pm)

This workshop is open to residents in the Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens and Singleton council areas. Places are limited. Bookings essential at www.surveymonkey.com/t/De-cluttering or on 4993 4239.





Police Report

Break, Enter and Steal/Belford:

Between 10:00 on Wednesday 27 April 2016 and 16:30 on Thursday 28 April 2016 Unknown persons using unknown means have gained entry to the house at location being Old North Rd, Belford by removing the flyscreen and then opening the closed but unlocked ground floor front window. The offenders have entered 3 bedrooms stealing 2x tv's, xbox and games and guitar.

Break, Enter and Steal/Greta:

At 05:00 on Friday 29 April 2016 Unknown person/s have gained entry to the stated location a residence in High St, Greta by jemmying the ground floor rear door lock by unknown means. Offender/s entered the stated location and at time of report it appears nothing stolen. Offender/s have also attempted to break in to a second shop in the stated location by attempting to jemmy the door lock and have also attempted to break in to a container at the rear of the stated location by attempting to jemmy the door lock.

There are 3 suspects. Suspect one and two are described as male, early 20s old, short, wearing a grey hooded jacket, long shorts and short socks with shoes. Suspect three is described as male, early 20s old, tall, large build, wearing a grey hooded jacket, long shorts and short socks with shoes.

Steal from MV/Greta:

Between 09:05 and 09:30 on Thursday 28 April 2016 1996 white Ford Falcon Utility was parked on the street at location being Wyndham st, Greta. Unknown person/s have removed and stolen the victim's wallet and contents from off the bonnet of the vehicle. The victim states that they accidentally left the wallet on top of the bonnet. Upon their return to the vehicle, the victim discovered that unknown person/s had stolen there wallet during this time.

MVA/Jerry's Plains:

About 10.30am on Tuesday 26th April 2016, the driver male, was the driver of a B -Double containing Ammonium Nitrate as it travelled west on the Golden Highway Jerrys Plains. He was travelling at a stated speed of 80kph in a 80kph zone. The Golden highway at this location is single lane in each direction. At a point about one kilometre east of Jerrys Plains, the driver felt the trailer shift to the left and as a result attempted to correct it by steering right. In doing so the driver has appeared to have over steered in which the B trailer has left the road way, rolling and separating from the A trailer. A large amount of the ammonium nitrate has spilled into the embankment beside the road. Police, ambulance, fire brigade and HAZMAT were called to the location with a two kilometre exclusion zone put in place due to it's explosive nature. After consultation with the product expert the incident commander determined the ammonium nitrate not to be explosive in its current form. A recover team attended the location and the highway remained closed while the trailer was recovered and the ammonium nitrate cleaned up. At the time the highway was expected to be closed for about five hours.

In it's current form the Ammonium Nitrate is at most a skin irritant and does not pose any respiratory harm whilst in the open. Only protection required was gloves and goggles in the clean up process. Nil Injuries. Driver breath tested with a negative result.

Accident meets the criteria for a minor collision, no formal police action will be made. Trailer was towed at 5.00pm and the Highway re-opened.

Malicious Damage/Branxton:

Between 19:00 on Friday 22 April 2016 and 04:45 on Saturday 23 April 2016 Person/s unknown have used a golf club to dig up patches of grass on the putting green at holes 8 and 9 at the stated location being Branxton Gold Club. A golf club found on the green.

3 unknown males were on the course last night. Further enq being conducted.



HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



May is here, which means that Mother's Day is just around the corner. There are a number of venues hosting Mother's Day functions on Sunday 8th May, so why not spoil your mum this year with an unmissable culinary experience.

May in the Hunter Valley also means that Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival is officially upon us. Foodies can experience a Chef's Plate special at a number of top class locations around the Hunter Valley, where one can enjoy a wonderful meal and glass of wine starting from as little as \$39.

The two month festival will kick off with some great signature events including Margan's White Label Lunch on the 7th and 14th of May, Lovedale Long Lunch on the 14th & 15th of May, the Wedding Reception Interactive Theatre at Hunter Resort on 17th May, Behind the Barrels Winemaker Dinner at Bimbadgen on the 21st of May, the Epicurean Club dinner at the Vintage on the 26th of May and a series of intimate fireside dinners at Hunter Resort each Friday during May and continuing on in June.

For more information on what you can experience in the Hunter Valley over Mother's Day and during May & June as part of Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival, visit winecountry.com.au

We hope you all had a wonderful long weekend and enjoyed the remainder of the school holidays in the Hunter Valley.

The weather is starting to cool down and winter is just around the corner. With only one week to go until Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival kicks off in the Hunter Valley, we are excited by the wonderful line up of culinary events on show.

For more information on what you can experience in the Hunter Valley during May & June, visit winecountry.com.au

Following on from the successes of the Come Play campaign over summer, Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism are also in the planning stages of the winter campaign which will launch in June. Stay tuned!

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Mothers Day Sunday 8th May

Mothers accompanied by a paying adult receives a 50% discount off their meal. Conditions apply.

Entertainment: Patrick Bartlett
4.00pm - 7.00pm





They even have movies that haven't been released to theatres yet. Seriously not legitimate. Watch at your own risk. Pirated video can get you in trouble not only with the authorities but is also the fastest way to populate your PC or tablet with malware. Someone who doesn't mind stealing other people's work, isn't going to mind messing up your device!



Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga

Welcome the Smithsonian National Museum of History's exhibit on vikings! I

can't wait to share this site with you! My dad instilled a love of Vikings (the actual historical kind rather than the stereotypes), so I'm extra-enthused to be able to share a lovely exhibit on their exploration to North America over 1000 years ago.

When you arrive at the site, you'll have the option to Skip the Intro or to watch the Flash Intro. I'd skip the intro. It didn't really add anything and was very small and hard to read.

After you've made your choice you'll be on the main page for the exhibit. You have three navigation options: View the Exhibit, Viking Voyage, and Tour Calendar. I recommend starting with the Viking Voyage option.

Once you're there you'll choose between the enhanced site and a regular site. The only difference I immediately noticed was the image of the boat in the right corner was animated and that there is audio. If you want that experience go for it. You can also just navigate around the site yourself with the standard option. This section will take you through the journey from Homelands to their arrival in North America. View the Exhibit gives you the details you need to go see the artifacts in person. As it is a travelling exhibit you'll want to check the tour calendar to find out where it is right now.

Can't get to the exhibit? No worries, if you click the red link Tour the Exhibit Highlights you can check out some of the artifacts that are on display. I really loved the information on the Jonsbok Manuscript.

This is a really cool exhibit, I hope you'll get check it out today!

<http://naturalhistory.si.edu/vikings/index.html>

ZooBorns

Some days you just need a dose of cute to cheer up! After finishing a grueling semester, cuteness was exactly what I needed. Enter ZooBorns where you'll find the cutest newborn exotic animals from zoos all around the world!

The site is setup blog style, so it is very easy to navigate. The newest addition to the site is at the top, and then you scroll down to look at the past ZooBorns. If you want to see specific baby animals, you can use the navigational menu on the left side of the page to select by animal. Or you can use the handy search field just above the animal listing to search directly for the adorable ZooBorn of your choice.

Accompanying each ZooBorn are photos, text descriptions, and sometimes even videos! Now let me tell you about a few of my favourites. You have to check out the Tapir babies! I've loved Tapirs ever since I was a little girl, and saw them at the Cleveland Zoo - but their babies are freaking adorable! Their coats are very similar looking to those of fawns, with spots and stripes for camouflage. Next check out the baby Dik-Dik (the world's smallest antelope), not only will you find photos but there is also a video.

I'll stop there because I could go on and on about these adorable baby animals. Check them out today!

<http://www.zooborns.com/>

Powerpuff Yourself

This site has been all the rage among my friends and family on Facebook. A lot of them have changed their profile pictures to the avatars they create with this site. You'll start your transformation into a Powerpuff style avatar by clicking the pink Power Me Up button.

When the page loads, you'll be on a blank avatar with customization buttons at the bottom of the page. You can customize the skin tone, eyes, mouth, glasses, hair, facial hair, full outfits, bottoms, tops, accessories, and backgrounds.

You also have the options to select to randomize your avatar with the Randomize button. You can reset your avatar with the Clear All button and start customizing from scratch. I'll say no more ... just go to the site!

<https://www.powerpuffyourself.com/#/en>

The Law Report



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



I concluded my article on the Privy Council decision in Paterson v Sagicor with the comment that this decision might seem irrelevant to Australia.

After all there have been no appeals from Australian courts to the Privy Council since 1968 when the Australia Act abolished the last opportunities- appeals from State Courts. Until then an appeal from the New South Wales Court of Appeal could go to either the High Court or to the Privy Council. Since then they go- if at all- only to the High Court. (I say if at all because the High Court has a filter- all appeals require 'leave' and to get leave there is a kind of mini hearing usually before only a couple of high court judges. Leave is generally refused, the High Court selects the cases it hears- only ones it considers are important.) Appeals from federal courts including the High Court to the Privy Council were first severely restricted in 1967 and finally abolished in 1975. It's still theoretically possible that the High Court can in effect referred a case it has already decided to the Privy Council for a sort of "second opinion" in cases that concern the limits of State and Commonwealth powers where they seem to clash but none has been referred for over a century.

Also decisions of the Privy Council aren't 'binding' in England in the way that decisions of what is now the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom -and was formerly the House of Lords- is; judges must 'follow' or apply the decisions of higher courts, they cannot prefer their own reasoning even if -as sometimes happens- they may think -or a barrister may argue- that the higher court's decision is wrong or outmoded.

That depends on the court being 'higher' in the ladder. Decisions of other jurisdictions do not bind judges. So for example decisions of the Queensland Court of Appeal do not 'bind' New South Wales courts. This leads to some difficulties where almost identical sections in acts dealing with the same matter - e.g. land laws- have been interpreted differently in Queensland and in New South Wales.

That difficulty is made worse because judges usually follow decisions of their own tier in the hierarchy - so the NSW Court of Appeal usually follows its previous decisions, single judges in the Supreme Court follow the decisions of other single judges. They don't - as a rule - say in effect the prior judge was wrong and I am going to make my own mind up. So you can predict what will happen in any given case. Sometimes they do and if they do then that case or the next case on the same issue is usually appealed.

A few years ago there was a very notable disagreement between judges over powers of attorney. This involved the same family. Mrs Spina was by the time the first case got to court was 91. She was living in a nursing home and had lost most of her memory- not even remembering that her son Michael had died. Even before she lost her memory she had limited English, she'd come to Australia with her husband -who had long since died in 1950 and their children. They were market gardeners and prospered, eventually

buying a home in Cherrybrook which was worth \$720,000 in 2003 (and probably twice that in today's inflated market). After her husband died her sons managed her affairs - she gave Michael a power of attorney in a government approved form. In 2003 after she broke her hip she moved into a nursing home. The Cherrybrook property was rented out and the rent used to pay the nursing home fees.

Meanwhile Michael became a fruit and vegetable wholesaler at the Sydney markets. He had a home in

Dundas which was mortgaged for over \$1,300,000 to support the business. But that wasn't enough, Michael used the power of attorney to sign three mortgages over his mother's house and all the proceeds were used to support the business. It may have been able to trade out but Michael died suddenly in 2006. His operating company was liquidated; the liquidators sold the business for over \$1,700,000 and the money used to pay the company's trading debts and the mortgage on the Dundas home, but not the mortgages over his mother's house.

Mrs Spina's family then contested the mortgages. They said that what Michael had done - giving himself a benefit (the cash to run the business he got from the mortgages) was not in his mother's interests (and it pretty clearly wasn't). They then said that that was a breach of the power of attorney (and it was- the power of attorney form said that it couldn't be used to give a benefit to the person acting as attorney). So far both the judges who heard the two cases agreed. These cases arose when the mortgagees tried to enforce their respective mortgages over Mrs Spina's home and sell it. The question that the judges disagreed on was what was the effect of Michael's breach of the power of attorney in benefitting himself on the mortgagees who didn't know that he was breaching the power of attorney. Neither bank knew that the money it lent under the mortgage was going to be used by Michael to prop up his company

The first judge looked inward - at the internal relations between Michael and his mother - what was actually authorised by the power of attorney to say that the power of attorney didn't authorise Michael to do what he had done. He had no power to do so. And so his actions didn't legally bind his mother. And so the mortgage was removed from her title - she didn't have to repay it.

The second judge looked outward at the relations between the third party - in this case the bank which had advanced the mortgage -and the attorney. That judge said that one of the purposes of the approved form of power of attorney was to avoid third parties - such as banks - from looking into the way the power of attorney was used and for whose benefit it was used. So with the same set of facts one bank won, one bank lost.

For a few years these two conflicting decisions were applied by different judges some following one view, some the other. No one knew what would happen. Two years ago the Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the second view. So everyone now knows what is going to happen.

That certainty is a main reason why judges usually follow previous decisions. People need to know what the law is.

But as I wrote earlier judges only have to follow decisions of courts higher up the ladder in their own system.

And the Privy Council is no longer within our system- nor for that matter within the English system. It never was. It was the court at the top of the ladder for what was the British Empire - but not for Great Britain itself.

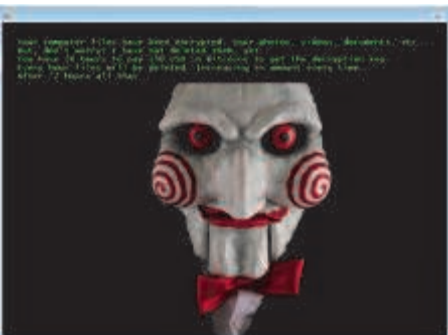
However, while judges do not have to follow the decisions of courts outside their own system, they often do - those decisions are said to be 'persuasive' so often New South Wales courts will apply decisions of Victorian courts on similar issues, less often but still often enough they will apply decisions of New Zealand or British courts - sometimes they will even apply American decisions.

And it's this 'persuasive' authority that the Privy Council still has in Australia and, as I shall write next time, in Britain.

Cheers Peter

Jigsaw Malware Gives Victims A Countdown

A particularly nasty new form of ransomware not only encrypts your files, but gives you a countdown to pay the hackers. If you don't pay up, they begin to delete files hour by hour. After the first few hours, it starts deleting files by the thousands if you attempt to turn the computer off or on.



What's worse is that this malware is being sold for only \$139 to hackers online. As with any malware, prevention is by far the best cure. Keep your security up-to-date and always be extremely cautious about clicking links and opening files in e-mails.

China Ready To Shut Down eBooks & iTunes Movies

Well, that didn't last long. Just half-a-year after the launch of Apples eBooks & iTunes Movies stores in China, the Chinese government is reportedly going to tell apple to shut down both services in the country.

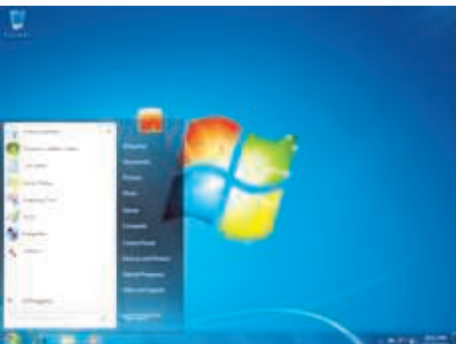


The available materials do not pass muster with China's censorship rules. China is Apple's biggest market behind the U.S., and of course, the place where most Apple devices are manufactured.

On a personal note, there's something fundamentally wrong with manufacturing your Internet appliances in a place where the people who make them are prevented from using them to freely access the Internet.

Windows 7 Is Still The Top Operating System

Windows 7 is still the most popular operating system out there. According to stats from NetMarketShare, the OS can be found on nearly 52% of computers in use. Windows 10 is coming on strong, though. The new OS is currently found on 14% of PCs and will probably see a surge in numbers as we get closer to the end of Microsoft's free upgrade offer for Windows 7 and 8.1 users.



Windows 8 and 8.1 can be found on 12% of PCs and XP is still on nearly 11% of PCs, despite the fact that security support ended two years ago. Vista runs on close to 1.5% of PCs.

Mac OS X 10.11 can be found on 4% of computers and 10.10 runs on 2%. While Linux users are extremely loyal, less than 2% of home users are running a Linux-based system.

Is This Video Site Legit?

A reader has a question about a video streaming site. "Do you know if Rainerland is legit and pays to broadcast movies and TV shows?" One quick look at Rainerland and I can tell you they are definitely not legit. My first clue is that they have movies currently in theatres and not available for streaming or DVD legally displayed on the home screen.

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Strata management case study: Man's best friend, or a scheme's worst nightmare?

By Leisha de Aboitiz, Partner at William James Law

It's a common theme, and one you will have seen time and time again. How can an owners corporation say "no to pets" without getting into hot water.

The back story

The owner in lot three owns a scruffy little ball of love, which wouldn't hurt a fly (so says the owner). Let's call him "Muffin" (the dog, not the owner). It is an older scheme, so the Schedule 1 model by-laws apply.

This means that Muffin's owner needs prior approval from the owners corporation in order to keep Muffin at the scheme. Unfortunately for Muffin, the owners corporation has a pretty strict "no pets" policy. Muffin's owner is not taking this lying down. Mediation is unsuccessful, so he seeks an order from the Adjudicator pursuant to s150(4) of the *Strata Schemes Management Act 1996*.

Can the owners corporation simply say we have a "no pets" policy?

No. The Schedule 1 by-laws say that an owner cannot keep an animal on the lot or the common property without obtaining the prior written approval of the owners corporation, but the owners corporation **must not unreasonably withhold** its approval. So the issue is this - can the owners corporation prove that it has acted reasonably?

NCAT case study suggests evidence is the key

The NCAT case study on "animals" (published on the NCAT website) gives some helpful insight into the approach likely to be taken by an Adjudicator on this kind of issue.

In the case study, various residents made submissions insisting the animal (a toy poodle), would cause disruption to them, reduce the property's value and set a precedent for keeping animals. However, they provided no information to support or legitimise these claims.

The pet owner on the other hand, made submissions that her dog would not cause a disturbance and provided evidence that her dog was used to apartment living.

When assessing the "reasonableness" of the owners' corporation decision, the Adjudicator weighed up the evidence of both sides (of which the owners corporation had none). The Adjudicator disagreed that a precedent would be set given that all such requests should be considered separately and on their merits, and therefore found in favour of the lot owner.

What does this tell us?

If you're representing an owners corporation, you should consider whether the owners corporation will be perceived as acting "reasonably" if it refuses to approve a pet at the scheme. For example, consider whether there are any known:

- specific incidents involving the animal in question, including evidence of disturbances (e.g. noise, barking), aggressive or intimidating behaviour (e.g. dog off leash in common area), mess or smell etc
- historical incidents which have adversely impacted on the scheme involving pets of a similar kind or breed (and which can be evidenced)
- negative outcomes at other schemes where similar kinds of pets have been allowed to remain.

Importantly, make sure that each request is considered separately and on its particular merits.

Will the position be the same under the new strata laws?

The new model by-laws will be published in the Regulations which are still a "work in progress". However, where a strata scheme adopts by-laws which deal with pets in the same manner as the existing

Schedule 1 by-laws, then pursuant to s157 of the new *Strata Schemes Management Act 2015* (NSW) an owner (and occupier) will retain the right to seek an order to allow their pet to remain if it can be established that the owners corporation has acted unreasonably.

The key change is that an order will be made by the Tribunal (i.e. NCAT) rather than an adjudicator. Despite this distinction, it seems likely that the approach will remain similar to what has been outlined in this case study.

Accordingly, if an owners corporation is required to act reasonably when considering a request to keep an animal, it should be prepared to justify the reasons for making that decision (i.e. with supporting evidence) irrespective of whether or not the new strata laws are in force.

REINSW: proposed changes are dangerous



REINSW has spoken out against proposed changes which permit tenants to occupy properties that have loose-fill asbestos provided the tenant is made aware.

REINSW believes these properties are dangerous and should not be leased under any circumstances, and has made a submission in response.

It is the understanding of REINSW that the NSW Government has recommended a number of amendments to the Residential Tenancies Regulation 2010 (NSW) ("the Regulation") including:

a) Causing a rental property that is registered on the loose-fill asbestos register (LFAI) as constituting a 'material' fact for the purposes of section 26 of the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 and clause 7 of the Regulation

This new clause requires a landlord to notify the tenant if, at the time of entering into the residential tenancy agreement, their property is on the LFAI Register. If a premises is subsequently listed on the LFAI Register during a tenancy, a landlord must notify a tenant within 14 days.

REINSW strongly believes that any properties listed on the LFAI Register are 'patently dangerous' and 'uninhabitable' and therefore 'should not be leased under any circumstances'.

REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said: "This new regulation is positioning real estate professionals as the fall-guy by making us deal with the inherent dangers of asbestos. While everyone in society must unfortunately contribute to dealing with the issue, agents are being asked to shoulder a disproportionate amount of the burden.

"It also troubles me that there is no professional indemnity insurer who will cover agents for asbestos related claims, and I believe that's because they know the risk is too great. "While an agent can notify people of the existence of asbestos, I am concerned injured parties will seek to hold agents responsible when something goes wrong."

The amendments are set to come into effect on 30 May 2016. REINSW believes 31 October 2016 would be a better date as it would allow the NSW Government time to consider the issue further.

REINSW also supports the 2010 Ombudsman's report on asbestos which made recommendations on how to respond to the problem.

As a result of important recommendations in the report not being actioned, REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin wrote to the NSW Premier in March 2016 requesting that the recommendations be reviewed and implemented.

This included the establishment of a dedicated authority to deal with asbestos, and making reports a condition of a residential sale or lease. These reports would then be filed on a central register which would allow consumers to make informed decisions.



Helen Lowing, Proprietor, Licence-in-Charge

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MOVIE REVIEW

CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Civil War shows how it should be done

By TIM MARTAIN



THE simplest way to sum up *Captain America: Civil War* would be this: THAT is how it should be done!

Following hot on the heels of that other hero versus hero smackdown movie, *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Civil War* does everything right that *Dawn of Justice* did wrong.

Seriously, DC Comics and Warner Bros. need to consider just outsourcing their movie production to Marvel/Disney from now on so they can do it properly. *Civil War* is just magnificent. Huge, bright, loud, long, funny, intriguing, thoughtful and fast, it gets everything right.

Following a blood-soaked assignment in Africa that goes pear-shaped, the world decides it is time to clamp down on the Avengers, the United Nations taking over control of the group. Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr) is fine with this idea, his conscience already strained.

But Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) sees it as a dangerous bureaucratisation of their lifesaving work. And as Ironman and Captain America start to back into their respective corners, the Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan) resurfaces in relation to a shocking terror attack and a disagreement over how to deal with him finally splits the team in two. Each faction leader gathers his allies and when the inevitable face-off finally happens, it is as epic and satisfying as it could possibly be. Now, I really cannot avoid making further comparisons to *Dawn of Justice*. Some things have

to be said.

To begin with, *Civil War* manages to efficiently juggle no fewer than a dozen battling superheroes with more agility than *Dawn of Justice* could carry three. Each hero in *Civil War* is fully fleshed out, allowed to develop their character through smaller incidental moments right there on the screen, creating a swarm of really interesting, really engaging characters with real depth and clear, believable motivation.

In *Dawn of Justice*, we were mostly left to make assumptions because many of the character traits really just did not make sense in the context of what we were seeing.

We just got an hour-and-a-half of Batman and Superman telling us how much they hated each other while a largely incoherent plot crashed around in the background.

And yes, Zack Snyder and all the hardcore fans can try to justify the weirdly homicidal Batman and barely-plotted storyline by saying things like "it makes sense if you've read Frank Miller's *Dark Knight* comics", but a movie should make sense in its own right.

Simply failing to write a coherent screenplay and blaming the majority of the audience for not having read the right source material beforehand is just lazy. Now, there was a danger that *Civil War* might have done a similar thing.

As the Marvel Cinematic Universe gets bigger and broader with every movie and TV series, it is starting to get a bit ungainly, and each new chapter increasingly relies on a near-encyclopaedic knowledge of everything that came before it.

Fortunately *Civil War* stands firmly on its own two feet. Yes, it builds on the events

of several other movies and makes references to TV spin-offs, but it does not rely so heavily on you having re-watched 12 hours of film (or have read one particular graphic novel series from 30 years ago) in the preceding days in order to make sense of it all.

And the story itself deals with some interesting themes, most prominently that always lingering issue of "what about all that collateral damage caused by that latest epic fight with the bad guy?"

In *Civil War*, all those demolished buildings, exploded cars and civilian injuries have not gone unnoticed, and the dialogue between the two factions about the best way to fight evil and weighing up those "greater good" calculations, is rather fascinating.

Then there is the highly anticipated appearance of the newly rebooted Spider-Man, now played by Tom Holland, and he is excellent. As Peter Parker, he is perfectly unassuming, but as the web-slinger his voice is the perfect vehicle for Spidey's trademark wisecracking chatter. I cannot wait to see him in his own movie.

The acting performances are spot-on throughout, with appearances from a great pantheon of superheroes, and the script and direction keep a perfect balance of sharp humour and grit.

The fight sequences are beautifully choreographed and while there might be just a little too much shaky cam at times, it is still used effectively. *Captain America: Civil War* is a bit of a bladder-buster at two-and-a-half hours long, but it makes full use of every single minute.

Brilliant

4/5





Primary Cross Country runners

Rosary Park Catholic School

ANZAC DAY

**"They Shall Not Grow Old
As We That Are Left Grow Old
Age Shall Not Weary Them
Nor the Years Condemn
At The Going Down Of The Sun
And In The morning,
We Will Remember Them,
Lest We Forget."**



What a wonderful attendance at the ANZAC Day march on Monday, 25 April. The huge numbers represented the school so proudly at the march and a big thanks to all the parents who made the effort to get your children to the march. Thanks to Miss Ward and Miss Ryan who were there to organise the children.

Religious Education

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope that you all enjoyed a restful break.

A big thank you to all who donated money for **Project Compassion** last term, we managed to raise just over **\$600!** All money raised will be sent to Caritas Australia to help those in need, making a big difference to the lives of others!

We continue to pray for those students in our school who are continuing their journey towards their First Eucharist and Confirmation. Students will receive these Sacraments on Saturday, 28 May, 2016 at 6.00pm at St Brigid's, Branxton.

Mother's Day Mass and Morning Tea

Thursday, 5 May, 2016 in the Church, followed by morning tea in the school hall - all are welcome to come along.

Cross Country

Last term Years 2 to 6 ran in the school Cross Country. All classes supported each other through the 2km and 3km races with excellent sportsmanship. Congratulations to the students that placed in their race. The Diocesan Cross Country will be held on Wednesday, 18 May at Tarro.

Athletics Carnival

Rosary Park Catholic School's Annual Athletics Carnival will be held at Miller Park on Friday, 6 May, commencing at 9.15am. The school will arrange for the buses to drop the students off at Miller Park at the normal time (teachers will be on duty from 8:30am). If your child is usually brought to school by car, could he/she please be dropped at Miller Park instead of school. At the conclusion of the carnival, children still at Miller Park, will be walked back to school to catch their regular buses or be collected. Full school sports uniform is to be worn including, joggers and hats. Students may wear something extra to show support for their sporting team (Green, Red or Gold).

There was an error on the Athletics carnival note that went home last term. It asked you to indicate what age your child was turning next year but the information needed was the age your child was turning this year. This error was corrected by all teachers when the notes were handed in. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused. Students turning 5 to 7 years old this year can participate in their age race (70m) if indicated and the novelty events as well. The junior events are only for students turning **8, 9 and 10 this year.**

Thank you to the parents that volunteered to help out at the athletics carnival. A note will go out at the end of the week indicating what jobs have been allocated.

Football

Last term Rosary Park's Under 10's football team represented our school in the Catholic Independent Cup. The boys are a strong side and play very well together. The boys won the first game against St Catherine's, Singleton but were defeated by St Paul's, Rutherford. Thank you to Jayden Miller and Trent Wagstaff for coaching the boys. Next term the team will be entered into the Knights Knockout which will be played in Newcastle on Thursday, 16 June. More information regarding the Knights Knockout will be given out soon.



5-6M students sharing their books with 1-2Q



School leaders leading the march

school leaders from RTHS (former students Liam, Ephream and Grace) who attended on Friday. Save the date! BPS students and staff will be presenting "The Boscars" concert on Thursday 15th September.

Dates for the Calendar

Monday 2nd May - P&C Meeting 6pm in library
Thursday 5th May - Mother's Day Stall
Friday 13th May - Zone Cross Country

Branxton Public School

Congratulations to our Cross Country participants who ran with great enthusiasm. Once again we are raising funds for the UNICEF School in a Box program that provides opportunities for children to learn in times of crisis and conflict. So far we have raised over \$1100 and hope to be able to purchase 5 boxes.

Mrs Mungoven and 5-6M shared their awesome books about the solar system with Stage 1 students late in Term 1. The students had been asked to create a text suitable and engaging for younger children and they did just that. Well done!

The last day of Term 1 included our PBL Assembly and PBL reward day. How lovely to see so many students receiving their Bronze and Silver Merits and then enjoying an afternoon of fun activities. Thank you to the many families and friends who came along to support the students.

We had about 60 students march in the town march on ANZAC Day. The students can be commended on their respectful behaviour during the service and enthusiastic marching. Our School Captains, Grace and Will, were involved in the ANZAC Service at Rutherford Technology High School with Miss Towns. Then on Friday of Week 1 we held our own ANZAC Service at school. Once again our students showed great respect throughout. Thank you to the RSL representatives and the



BPS Students at ANZAC Day service



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Greta Public School

Welcome Back for Term 2! – I hope that all of our students and families had a wonderful break over the holidays and are ready and refreshed for what will surely be very exciting and jam-packed Term 2. Staff returned on Tuesday 26 April for professional development on Quality Teaching practices, developing a 3-year plan for Information and Communication Technology and on Code of Conduct updates.

Anzac Day Ceremony – Thankyou and well done to the many students who attended the Greta Anzac Day march and service during the holidays. Our students proudly marched in the parade down to the cenotaph where the school leaders and Year 6 students were given the opportunity to participate in the service, reciting prayers and sharing their thoughts on what Anzac Day means to them. Following this, our leaders laid a wreath on behalf of all students. Once again the students conducted themselves with respect and good manners throughout the morning. Our School Anzac Service was supported by Grace and Jack, SRC representatives from Rutherford Technology High who gave a very thorough and interesting address about Anzac Day. All students and community members showed due reverence and respect during the service. Well done to our student leaders who chaired the ceremony.



≡ Paying our respects at the school Anzac service

'Sports In Schools' Program – This term, our school will be implementing a fundamental motors skills and social skills program. Instructors from Sports in Schools will be conducting the activities, using a range of unique and specialised equipment, on Monday afternoons. The cost of this program has been reduced due to our successful funding application and the full program is just \$14 per child. Information will be distributed this week.

Enrolments for 2017 – Although we have just commenced Term 2 it is timely that we start looking at Kindergarten enrolments for 2017. We would appreciate it if you or anyone you know that has a child that will be seeking enrolment with us next year could contact our office on 49387331 as soon as possible.

ICAS Exams 2016 – Once again Greta Public School will be giving our students the opportunity to sit the ICAS English and Maths Exams. The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, quality skills-based assessment program which rewards and recognises achievement. The beauty of these exams is that they give parents and students a chance to see how they compare to other students across Australia and Asia. The cost of each exam is \$8.00. An entry forms are available at the school and the closing date for entries is 15th June. If you would like more information please come in and see Ms Rummery.

Cross Country – After weeks of training, congratulations to all students for their participation in our school cross country last Friday at Greta Oval. The first 3 to qualify in each age group (including running the whole course) will represent our school at Zone, which is held at Tocal Agricultural College. Quite an achievement to run 3km when you're in primary school – without stopping to catch your breath! Results will be tallied over the weekend and students who qualify for zone will be notified next week.

Swimming Champions - Congratulations to the follow children who were medal winners from our Swimming Carnival:- Junior Girl Champion – Katie-Rose; Junior Boy Champion – Tristan & Lewis (tied); 11yrs Girl Champion – Dasharna; 11yrs Boy Champion – Lachlan; Senior Girl Champion – Olivia; Senior Boy Champion – Cain. The winning house for 2016 – Hunter.

FUNDRAISING

5 CENT CHALLENGE:

The P&C will be holding a 5 cent challenge commencing on Monday 2nd May. The guidelines are pretty easy to follow, just get collecting your 5c pieces from now and throughout term 2, place the coins in the tins provided in the classroom. There will be a final count held on Friday 24th June. The class that has raised the most money will be treated to a create-your-own pizza afternoon on the 30th June. We would greatly appreciate any donations of Formula tins, Coffee tins or Milo tins, if you have any please bring them to the canteen. So let's get collecting.

MOTHERS DAY STALL:

The P&C Mothers' day stall will be held on Friday 6th May. We will have gifts priced from \$1.00 - \$8.00. Siblings and blended families will start us off at 9:30 followed by classes in ascending order from K-6. Volunteers will be required on the day for set up, sales and pack up. If you can spare any time to help at this event please contact Sasha Styles in the canteen.

Dates to Remember

Greta Play2Learn (weekly Playgroup) in the school hall – Thursdays 9:30-11:30am
 Zone Cross Country – 13th May at Tocal Agricultural College
 School Assembly Dates: 3 May, 17 May, 31 May, 14 June, 28 June
 NAPLAN – 10th, 11th and 12th May
 Mothers' Day Stall – 6th May



≡ Congratulations to the Hunter team who won at the swimming carnival!



≡ Paying our respects at the school Anzac service



≡ Swimming Awards Ceremony

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

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Sunday 15th

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Blood On The Track

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Tamworth Cup win an epitaph for deceased racing leader

SADLY, both the breeder owner of Chrysolous, John Clift, and the syndicate principal, Russ Lazarus, who provided him with the service to the sire Youthful Legs that resulted in this winner on Sunday of the \$80,000 Carlton Mid Tamworth Cup (1400m), died earlier this year.

Each of them had made big contributions to breeding and racing, John Clift famous as the breeder of Gunsynd, a racehorse revered as The Goondiwindi Grey, and a longtime president of the Tamworth Jockey Club, and Russ Lazarus as one of the owners of the 1987 Melbourne Cup winner Kensei.

After the Cup, Lazarus became an important player in breeding and racing over the next quarter century, enjoying success as a breeder, in particular through use of imported sires Youthful Legs, a Nearctic male line sire related to Danehill and Northern Dancer, and Beautiful Crown. One of his bred and owned Youthful Leg progeny, Sutton Review, won the Listed Gainsborough Stakes at Tamworth and another, Sutton Friend, was winner of 11 races and third in the Tamworth Cup.

Used at three different studs, the last of them Erin Park, the Tamworth based complex at which Chrysolous was conceived, the now deceased 1991 America born Youthful Legs left about 500 live foals from 18 seasons. He has had 220 winners, including Sutton Friend, Youthful Jack (18 wins), Get Up (11), Malta (14), Hexy Legs (13), Sir Redford (10), Gold Buckle (10), Youthful King (14), I Love Legs (13), Adhemar (12) and Youthful Edition (12).

Two have won the Tamworth Cup, Gold Buckle (2008) and Chrysolous (2016). Like Gunsynd a grey, the latter is a 4-year-old gelding who has raced 22 times for six wins, three seconds and four thirds. Blocked for a run in the straight, he was a luckless sixth of 16 in the Country Championship Final at Randwick.

Nicknamed the Bendy Grey, a nom de plume derived from being trained by Jane Clement at Bendemeer, a centre 42 kms north of Tamworth, and the owner's Gunsynd association, Chrysolous ran for the Estate of J.A. Clift.

He bred him from Canadian Bullet, a non earner in four starts. Like her sire Canadian Silver (Can), a grey, she is from The Renfrew Bullet, a Bite the Bullet winner of two bush races.

Chrysolous was foaled and raised on Hereford, an agistment farm John Clift established in his twilight years on a property ten minutes drive south of Tamworth. It continues to provide agistment for client's horses under the care of Clift's daughter Kim Powell. She is a vice president of the Tamworth Jockey Club.

Earlier Chrysolous a brilliant galloper

HISTORIC: The 2016 Tamworth Cup winner, Chrysolous, carries the same name as a horse by The Tetrarch's sire Roi Heroide born in England in 1915 who, after being a good 2-year-old at home, ran so well in Australia he was acclaimed as 'undoubtedly one of the most brilliant gallopers of recent years.'

In four of his Australian races he was associated with records. He set a new Australasian mark for nine furlongs (1800m) in winning the Chelmsford at Randwick under 9 stone 11 lbs (62.0kgs), new race record time in taking the All Aged Stakes (1600m), finished an unlucky second in the Doncaster won in race record time and was a half-length runner up at Flemington in the Bourke Handicap won in new Australasian record time.

Put to stud, Chrysolous included among

his offspring Sir Christopher (won Doncaster, All Aged Stakes), Credence (won Stradbroke, Brisbane Handicap) and Chryso (won Queensland Guineas, third Queensland Derby).

Black Caviar's sire a Phil Gunter legacy

BACK in 1999, Phil Gunter, a construction engineer who had moved just up the road to Jerrys Plains, followed an interest in breeding and racing by investing \$47,500 at the Inglis Easter Broodmare sale in Bespoken, a Vain mare who failed to earn her three starts.

She was carrying a foal by the prestigious Coolmore Nijinsky sire Royal Academy who, when it was born on August 29 of that year, had bad front legs and went very close to being put down. If that had happened, it would have deprived the world of one the greatest race mares of all time, Black Caviar.

Deceased on Anzac Day, Phil Gunter persevered, however, and a year later had the foal, a colt, accepted into the Sydney Classic sale, one at which he sold to Victoria for a modest \$9,000.

Trained by John Symons under the name of Bel Esprit, this colt became a top 2-year-old and sprinter and then a very successful sire for the Eliza Park stud in Victoria. Earner of over \$2million, he won eight races, including the Doomben 10,000, Blue Diamond Stakes, Blue Diamond Prelude, Blue Diamond Preview and Maribyrnong Plate, finished second in the Newmarket, Caulfield Guineas Manikato Stakes Caulfield Invitation Stakes and, as favourite, fifth in the Golden Slipper.

The only black type earner among the 12 runners, eight of them winners, produced by Bespoken, Bel Esprit, has gone on to be represented to date as a sire by about 540 winners, including the awesome unbeaten Black Caviar.

Besides Bel Esprit, Phil Gunter bred a number of other winners from a small band of broodmares he had on two Hunter Valley farms he owned, Llanillo Park near Jerrys Plains and Parsons Creek, Milbrodale. A current performer Big Money, a Choisir gelding competing out of the Rod Northam stables at Scone for Phil, his wife Leonie, C.G. Wallace, Mrs T.L. Wallace and R and R Racing (R.P. Northam) has won ten of 23 starts, five stakes including three Group 3s. He finished third in the Expressway at Rosehill Gardens, fourth in the Caulfield Sprint and a 2.6 lengths fifth in the Group 1 BTC Cup at Doomben.

Okane, a Gunter bred and sold Fusaichi Pegasus half-brother to Big Money has won eight races, including several in Brisbane, the Inglis Scone 2YO Challenge and Grafton Guineas.

Phil was one of the owners of Hips Don't Lie, a daughter of Stravinsky bought as a yearling in New Zealand for \$200,000 and later sold at Gold Coast broodmare sales for \$770,000. She earned \$526,450 at the races, five wins including the Group 2 Reising and places a second in the Silver Slipper.

Now owned by Coolmore associated Katom, she has had Fastnet Rock yearlings sell for \$1.1million, \$1million – twice and \$900,000.

Phil Gunter's funeral was held at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle yesterday, May 2.

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 27 April 2016

Yarding 750 ~ **Change 20** (Comparison Date 20/4/16)

The bulk of the yarding consisted of vealers suitable for both the trade buyers and restockers. There was a small selection of grown steers in the yarding along with a few pens of cows. Young cattle to the trade were 5c to 8c dearer, with the prime steer vealers selling from 284c to 331c, with the heavier weights averaging 317c/kg. The prime heifer vealers sold from 282c to 322c, averaging around 311c/kg. The few prime steer yearlings sold to 300c, while the prime heifer yearlings sold from 281c to 315c/kg. Young cattle to the restockers were 7c dearer, with the steers selling from 241c to 346c, while the young heifers going back to the paddock sold to 285c/kg. Grown steers were firm selling from 240c to 270c to slaughter and 280c/kg to feed. Plain conditioned cows were 2c to 4c cheaper, while the properly finished cows were 3c dearer. 2 score cows sold from 100c to 155c, while the better 3 and 4 scores sold from 165c to 198c, with C muscle cows selling to 210c/kg.



Scone report date 26 April 2016

Yarding 965 ~ **Change 15** (Comparison Date 19/4/16)

The bulk of the yarding was made up of young steers and heifers mostly suitable for the restockers and feeders with only odd pens suitable for the trade buyers. There was a reasonable selection of cows and very few grown steers and heifers. Young cattle to the trade were firm to 2c cheaper with steer vealers selling from 294c to 316c, while the heifer vealers also sold to 316c/kg. Steer yearlings to the trade sold from 273c to 315c, while the heifer yearlings sold to 313c/kg. Young cattle to the feeders were 3c to 7c cheaper, with the feeder steers selling from 264c to 313c, while the feeder heifers sold to 303c/kg. Young steers to the restockers were 6c to 12c cheaper, and more in places selling from 259c to 330c/kg. The few grown steers were 6c cheaper, selling to 245c/kg. The properly finished cows were 2c dearer, while the plainer cows were 6c/kg cheaper. 2 score cows sold from 140c to 165c, while the better cows sold from 169c to 201c, with the 4 score heavy weights averaging 195c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date 18 April 2016

Yarding 2160 ~ **Change -252** (Comparison Date 11/4/16)

The overall numbers fell by just over 200 head. There was a good selection of both vealers and yearlings along with few heavy grown steers and a fair supply of cows. It was a fairly mixed up offering from both a quality and condition perspective, with limited numbers of straight lines. Most of the usual buyers participated. Restocker demand was weaker through the young cattle, resulting in vealer steers selling on a firm to 4c/kg cheaper market trend. The heifer vealers to restock followed a similar trend. The limited supply of well finished trade vealers contributed to a dearer trend of up to 8c/kg. Light weight yearling steers to restock and feed sold to a cheaper trend with demand weaker, there was some price variation in some weight classes due to the inclusion of some recently weaned steers. Increased demand and competition saw heavy feeder steers sell to a slightly dearer trend. Heifer yearlings to restock and feed were generally cheaper with medium weight feeders up to 13c/kg cheaper. Again demand for domestic feeder cattle was weaker. Heavy grown steers sold to a dearer trend with an improvement in quality a contributing factor. Heavy milk and 2 tooth cattle were included. There was a small improvement in the cow market of 2c to 4c/kg as processors compete to secure the better condition lots.



At the close of last Thursdays's Markets

- The **Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI)** averaged 545.75¢, back 0.75¢/kg cwt on where it finished the previous day
- **Trade steers** held steady, on 306¢/kg lwt
- **Medium steers** were up 2¢, on 273¢/kg lwt
- **Heavy steers** were up 4¢, at 285¢/kg lwt
- **Medium cows** were back 1¢, on 196¢/kg lwt
- **Feeder steers** were back 1¢, on 296¢/kg lwt

Japan

Japan is a critically important market for the Australian beef industry, taking range of products from manufacturing to chilled grainfed beef. It is also one of valuable markets for Australian lamb and mutton exports.

Australian red meat exports to Japan

In 2015, Australian beef exports to Japan totalled 285,224 tonnes swt, down 3% from the previous year, and the second highest volume after the US.

Japan also took 7,977 tonnes swt of lamb (down 21% YOY) and 3,733 tonnes swt of mutton (down 27%) during 2015.

Market access

Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) entered into force on 15 January 2015. As a result of the seven year-long challenging negotiations, the JAEPA will eventually deliver tariff reductions on frozen Australian beef entering Japan, from 38.5% to 19.5% over an 18 year period, and for chilled beef from 38.5% to 23.5% over 15 years.

There is no import tariff imposed on sheepmeat to Japan.



Overseas markets ~ BEEF

The Australian beef export record has now been broken for three consecutive years. Beef shipments for 2014 totalled 1.29 million tonnes swt – a staggering 17% above the previous high recorded just 12 months ago.

Beef shipment to the US finished the year at 397,890 tonnes swt, up 87% from the previous year, with exporters capitalising on the high beef prices over the course of the year. Japan finished the year strongly, with monthly exports gradually creeping higher as the year progressed, to take the final figure for 2014 to 293,779 tonnes swt, up 2% year-on-year – encouraging, despite Japan falling back into recession towards the end of the year. Shipments to Korea were up 5%, to become the highest on record for Australia, at 150,918 tonnes swt, with demand upheld by the limited US competition.

Exports to the EU continued to build momentum through the grainfed beef quota, with shipments for 2014 at 24,619 tonnes swt, up 24% from the previous year. Indonesia completed the year with beef exports 35% higher than the previous year, at 53,139 tonnes swt.

Shipments to China reduced 20% year-on-year, at 124,586 tonnes swt, with trade interrupted throughout the year due to changes in import protocols and regulations. Exports to the Middle East also slowed somewhat, albeit to finish the year just 2% below the 2013 level, at 59,803 tonnes swt.

Incredibly, 74% of Australian beef production was exported in 2014. Indeed, the proportion exported has been gradually creeping higher over the past decade i.e. from 62% in 2003, to 69% in 2013, however, given the strong international fundamentals, it is anticipated this trend will at least hover around 70% for the coming years.

**The Returned and Services League of Australia
Greta Sub-Branch
ANZAC DAY RAFFLE PRIZE LIST**

1st Prize 2 nights accommodation at Hyde Park Inn Sydney includes a room with a balcony overlooking Hyde Park, a light continental breakfast both days and secure car parking
Winner: Harwood (Phone number supplied)
2nd Prize Household Pest Treatment up to the value of \$200
Donated by General Pest Services of Greta
prize to be taken within 12 months of raffle draw
Winner: Jeffrey Bevan
3rd Prize \$150 Wishcard donated by Bunnings Warehouse Maitland
Winner: C Cook
4th Prize A Personal Income Tax Return donated by Dianne Preston Accounting and Taxation Services
Winner: Kylie Banister
5th and 6th Prizes - Vouchers to the Value of \$75
Donated by Mortel's Sheepskin Products
\$50 for Sheepskin Products and \$25 towards meals in Mortel's Cafe
Winners: Mary Shaw and Stevo (phone number supplied)
7th Prize \$50 Voucher donated by Greta Guardian Chemist
Winner: Dawn Quinn
8th Prize \$50 Voucher donated by Hair at Greta (Wendy's)

Winner: Bee (phone number supplied)
9th Prize \$50 Wishcard donated by Woolworths Supermarket Singleton
Winner: Carol (phone number supplied)
10th Prize \$50 Voucher donated by Tattersalls Hotel of Greta
for 2 meals in Bistro
Winner: Kylie Symonds
11th Prize \$30 Voucher donated by Murrell's Greta Butchery
Winner: Gail Jacobs
12th Prize \$25 Gift Voucher from Bailey's of Greta
Winner: Tracy Miller
13th Prize \$20 Gift Voucher donated by Grant's Barber Shop Greta
Winner: Pauline Tull

Woman: "Do you drink beer?" Man: "Yes."
Woman: "How many beers a day do you have?" Man: "Usually about 3."
Woman: "How much do you pay per beer?" Man: "\$5 which includes a tip."
Woman: "And how long have you been drinking beer?" Man: "Probably about 20 years, I guess."
Woman: "So each beer costs \$5 and you have 3 beers a day which puts your spending each month at \$450. In one year, it would come to \$5400, correct?"
Man: "Sounds right."
Woman: "If in one year you spend \$5400, not accounting for inflation the past 20 years puts your spending at \$108,000, correct?" Man: "Sounds about right."
Woman: "Do you know that if you didn't drink so much beer, that money could have been put in a compound interest savings account and, after adding interest for the past 20 years, you could have now bought yourself a new Ferrari?" Man: "Do you drink beer?" Woman: "No."
Man: "Where's your Ferrari?"



**Branxton Golf Club –
Sat 30th April
Stableford**

A grade winner	Gary Wilton	39 pts
A grade runner up	Brendon Bendeich	38 pts c/b
A grade third	David Hollis	38 pts
B grade winner	Roger Yandle	41 pts
B grade runner up	Errol Munzenberger	38 pts
B grade third	Terry Partridge	37 pts
C grade winner	Troy Hunt	40 pts
C grade runner up	Michael Carling	37 pts c/b
C grade third	Ronald Hebbe	37 pts
Ball comp		
33 pts		
NTP'S		
2 ND /11 TH	K Walton	246 cm
4 TH	G Wilton	76 cm
13 TH	T Partridge	640 cm
9 TH /18 TH	K Mounser	140 cm

Opening hours

dinner @ 5.30pm

» FROM «
MONDAY 9TH MAY

Beat the cold & dine early.

The cream always rises to the top! Gary Wilton, one of our long serving veterans won Saturday's A Grade stableford event with an excellent 39 pts, an amazing effort in A Grade when you are 70+. His iron play was strongly displayed with the shot of the day, only 76 cms from the pin on the tricky second. Brendan Bendeich continued his recent great form finishing second with 38 pts with Dave Hollis again playing well to also have 38 pts. The veterans were on fire on Saturday with Roger Yandle winning B Grade with the day's best stableford score of 41 pts, with Errol Munzenberger runner up with 38 pts and Terry Partridge third with 37 pts. Troy Hunt's 40 pts was good enough to win C Grade, well clear of the ever consistent Michael Carling with 37 pts and Ronnie Hebbe's 37 pts. 33 pts was needed to figure in the ball competition. Next week's event is the monthly medal, a stroke competition. All members are reminded to organise their singles knockout games as soon as they can so this knockout competition can continue smoothly. Mick and Joshua Tracey had a memorable day out on Saturday, laying a "friendly" match against the incomparable pair of Eddie Garland and Neil Jordan, losing 8 and 7—a score that certainly allows some serious bragging rights to the winners for some time!

Letter to Editor

Maitland District Hospital
Very recently our late mother was a patient in Maitland Hospital for several weeks due to her frailness & being elderly (90 years of age). During her life she had been admitted to several hospitals in the area, some private & some public. We had no hesitations and she was admitted to Maitland Hospital. From the outset the doctors were marvellous & daily gave us their time to discuss her condition & treated her accordingly. The nurses were always gentle, kind & attentive. We are very blessed to have these special people working in our hospital. These nurses are there monitoring ill people 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We salute you all! This experience has opened our eyes with a major bolt & we wish to publically thank these wonderful people who cared for our mother as if she was theirs. A special 'thankyou' to all our family & friends for their thoughts & cards since mum passed away.
Denise Way & Peter Bridge, East Maitland & Branxton NSW



The late Rita Bridge

Sat 7th
Adrianna Mac Trio

Sat 14th
2 Good Reasons

Fri 20th
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SPORTS RESULTS



RESULTS

Langer's Match Report - Pokolbin Reds vs Griffins, 16th April

Pokolbin V Griffins - In my eyes as coach, was without a doubt the best game so far! As the season marches on, the Pokolbin team with just 17 players against Griffins' 23 players showed true grit, up against overwhelming opposition, to register the clubs first win of 2016. The team has 5 players out with injuries and 7 unavailable and yet our teams' defence stayed strong to hold out rampaging Griffins attack in the second half to come away with a 10-7 win. As far as the most outstanding players go I couldn't separate them as they played like a team, playing for each other. As a coach I was proud of their effort. I would like to make a special mention of young Mackenzie Doody who I believe has come of age as a player in senior football. MARK LANGLEY (Langers) COACH

Langer's Match Report - Pokolbin Reds vs Cooks Hill 2 23rd April

After our great win last week Pokolbin Reds first home game in the new team strip, started poorly due to missed tackles and pushing passes that were not on with a strong wind coming down the ground and the team running up hill in the first half. Kickers from both teams were having difficulty kicking goals and try conversions with the strong wind swirling around. However the team hung in there showing true grit and were just down 10 nil at half time. In the second half our boys lifted their game, cut down the mistake rate and pulled up their sleeves pushing Cooks Hill scrums around and starting to dominate play in the forwards. Our backs followed their lead producing a great team try by Aaron Webb. If we had played like we did in the second half at the start of the game the Reds would have come away with their second win. Unfortunately the team fell short with a loss and the final score of 15 to 5. This is a good result in my opinion at this stage of the team's rebuilding and as Cooks Hill was much stronger

than our opposition was last week. Importantly the REDS are improving their play week by week with great numbers at training. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK GUYS. See you at training! MARK LANGLEY (Langers) COACH



Branxton Tennis Club

Branxton Tennis club invites new or old players to the club. If you are interested in filling in for any of the following competitions or would like a full time position please contact us.

The club currently runs a mixed Monday and Tuesday night comp starting at 6.30pm. This comp caters for all standards of players with each player playing 3 sets of tennis each week.

Every Tuesday starting at 9am we have a ladies comp. This comp is run in a team format with 3 sets of tennis also played each week.

Wednesday is social tennis starting at 9am. Anyone looking for a social hit feel free to turn up any Wednesday. We currently have approximately 10 ladies turning up each week; new players are always made welcome.

If you have never played but would like to learn please feel free to contact us. For all inquiries call Ian Searles on 0428383640 or contact the club via email at braxtontennis@gmail.com



Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 21-4-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner R Crooks 38 pts (SOD) R/u M Ford 37 pts 3rd B Benton 36 pts Div 2 Winner L Bootes 37 pts R/u P Hocking 35 pts 3rd A Hackett 34 pts Ladies Winner R McCarthy 37 pts R/u T Martin 34 pts 3rd R Friis 33 pts NTPs - Not contested Members draw Not won

Another great day for a rounf of golf with 43 players eager to take part in the Singles Stableford Par 3 Competition, played over 14 holes. A slight variation to the normal play. Quite a competitive field, with a tight finish. Congratulations to Richard Crooks on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day", and a well done to all winners and placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 28-4-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner R Crooks 35 pts (SOD) R/u G Beeton 31 Pts 3rd K Anderson 29 pts Div 2 Winner W Smith 33 pts R/u L Bootes 32 pts 3rd P Hocking 30 pts Ladies Winner M Hunt 27 pts R/u R McCarthy 23 pts 3rd F Oakes 19 pts NTPs Ladies R McCarthy Gents M Ryan

Members draw - Not won A foggy day in Branxton, but that didn't deter 45 veteran golfers who wanted their day in the sun, so to speak, hitting off into the gloom to enjoy a round of golf followed by the convivial glass/mug/bottle and fellowship. Looking at the results, it would seem the fog had little interference with the high scoring. Congratulations to Richard Crooks in winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day: Two in a row!!

Maybe a hat trick next time out.?????. A well done to all winners and placegetters. **A REMINDER -- THIS WEEK (5/5-16) - PAIRS TROPHY - So get together with a partner for a great event in golf.**

Hunter Valley Golf Club

April 19th Ash Mundie handled the post coring greens with ease in the Tuesday Stableford to record a huge win with 44 points from 2nd placed Anthony Kerr with 39 and Rex Talbot in 3rd after surviving a 5 way countback with 38 points. Ball winners were: Greg Noble v38, Grahame Sheldon 38, Gerry Irwin 38, Greg White 38, Michael Chapman 37, Col Bradley 36, Michael Watson 35, Jonathon Russell 35, Chris Taggart 34 and Graeme Flynn 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jason Brewer (3rd) David Peel (4th) Graeme Flynn (10th) and Dean Morison (17th) **April 20th** The Ladies played the first round of the singles knockout with winners to advance being: Christine Tancred, Sue Peel, Robyn Dunlop, Kerrie Anne Skinner, Lorraine Clack and Sue Ellen Borham along with Pam Snaddon and Leesa Robinson who both had byes. The rest of the Ladies played an Individual Stableford with Dale Hamilton having a clear victory with 37 points from Zelma Powell over Lynette Russell on a countback. Ball winners were Brenda Mannix and

Sue Ellen Borham. Next week the Ladies event will be Stableford. Melita Watson qualified to play in the Golf NSW Medal State Final played at Stonecutter's Ridge GC on Wednesday and did very well in the Country Gold Medal event with a 3rd placing, congratulations on the fine result Melita.

April 21st The Vets 4BBB was won by Greg Ireland and Doug Wand on a countback to Rex Talbot and Greg White after both teams had amassed 49 points, Michael Watson and David Irwind took the minor placing with 48. Ball winners were: Jenny Macklinshaw and Sue Thornton 45, Dave Fury and Geoff Sweetman 45, Dale Maclinshaw and Ray Hodson 45, Keith Dunlop and Peter Wilson 45 and Dave Fury and Eric Smith 44. Nearets-the-Pins went to Ray Hodson (3rd) David Peel (10th) and Michael Watson (17th). Next week will be round 1 of the Vets 2016 Championship with scoring to be Scratch and Handicap Stableford.

April 24th Winter like conditions greeted the Saturday field for the Medley Stableford with Michael Armstrong showing a liking for them with an outstanding 45 point round to claim 'round of the week' and C Grade. A Grade went to Rod Nyman with a solid 41 points from Steven Piggot with even Par round of 36, B Grade to John Parrish with a very good 43 points from Dean Morison with 40 on a countback, the C Grade runner up was Victor Sikwila with 41. Ball winners were: Graeme Valentine v40, Peree Watson 39, Ken Smith 38, Tom Relf 37, Nick Hain 36, Mick Price v35, Jaye Stevens 35, Bruce Chambers 34, Terry Woodham v34, Brian Doherty 34, Brad Borham 34, Phil Jenkin 33, Brian Rooney 33, Noel Ehsman v33, Patrick Statham 33, Roy Hurn 32, Craig Hutchinson v32, John Stewart 32 and Graeme Flynn 32. Nearest-the-Pins went to Kerrie Anne Skinner (3rd) Kane Goodchild (4th) Jeff Shanahan (8th) and Nathan Nancarrow (10th).

April 24th Michael Armstrong has recorded 42 points to win the Weekly Challenge from Regan Powell on a countback with Mathew Delforce 3rd with 40 points also on a countback. Balls were won by Dan McLeod 40, Steve Rawlings 38, Gavin Knipe 36, Jack Bennett 35, Greg Amloh 35 and Tim Lonergan 35.

April 26th The Tuesday Stableford was a tight affair with both Bob Prentice and Jeff Richardson carding 37 points to finish top of the field, Bob got the nod for the win by countback, 3rd went to Scott Archibald with 36 also on countback.

Ball winners were: Gerry Irwin 36, Col Bradley 35, Dusty Lawless 34, Hieu Le 33, Shaun Hefferman v32, Angello Korlevic 32, Peter Wilson 32 and Rick Turchini 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Wilson (3rd) Greg White (4th) Rex Talbot (10th) and Michael Watson (17th)

April 27th The Ladies Stableford event has been won by Kerry Choromanski on a countback to Jill Ramsden after both had 33 point returns with Lynette Russell 3rd with 32 on a countback. Ball winners were; Dale Hamilton, Kerrie Anne Skinner, Sue Peel and Merrilee Campbell. This week the Ladies will play the 3rd Stroke round of the Golf NSW Medal.

April 28th The Vets began their 2016 Championship on Thursday with a tight duel for the Scratch honours between 2015 Champ Graeme Flynn and Ray Hodson with both locked together on 28 points, Michael Watson is handily placed in 3rd on 26

points. The daily winners and Handicap leaders are Wayne Drayton with a staggering individual total of 46 points from John Pascoe, whose great round of 45 points included an Eagle 2 on the Par 4 11th and John Carmody in 3rd place with 41 points. Ball winners were Greg White 37, Peter Wilson 37, Gerry Irwin 37, Wayne Cowen 37, Keith Dunlop 36, Doug Wand 36, Geoff Sweetman 36, Michael Watson 35, Ray Hodson 35, Graeme Flynn 34, Brian Doherty 34 and Eric Smith 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Newton (3rd) Ray Hodson (4th and 17th) Wayne Drayton (8th) and Mick O'Rourke (10th). Next week's event will be the final round of the Championship playing Individual Stableford. **April 30th** The Keno 4BBB Par event was won by Grahame Sheldon and Lynette Russell with +10, Grahame also partnered Lorraine Clack to be runners up with +9 on a countback. Nearest-the-

Pins went to Robin Woodward (3rd) and David Peel (10th & 17th). The club will be represented at the district playoff by Grahame and Lorraine along with Sue and David Peel. The rest of the Saturday field played an Individual Stableford with Tim Lonergan winning A Grade with 37 points from Hieu Le on 36, B Grade went to Adrian Kent with 39 points from Jeff Morton 36 and C Grade to Michael Armstrong with 42 points and 'round of the day' from Brian Rooney with 39 points. Ball winners were: Michael Hanly 36, Bruce Chambers 36, Russ Lightfoot 36, Jeff Shanahan 35, Scott Jones 35, Nick Hain 35, Ken Smith 35, Darren Rockley 34, John Brown 34, David Kennedy 34, Tom Relf 33 and Colin Mills 33. Nearest-the-Pins went to Nick Hain (3rd) Darren Rockley (4th) Tim Lonergan (8th) and Adrian Kent (17th).

Next weeks event will be the Monthly Stroke rounds.



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Branxton ProAm raises \$30,000 for Westpac Rescue Helicopter



Special Guest Australian Rugby League Coach Ricky Stuart, at right, with Mick Buffer. Mick is the NSW Manager of Xstrata Coal who are the major sponsors of the Branxton ProAm. The photo was taken at the ProAm Dinner.

The 18th Annual Branxton Golf Club ProAm held earlier this year raised \$30,000 for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter giving a cumulative total of \$230,000 raised over those years.

Major Sponsor of the event Xstrata Coal were delighted with the result. "We have a great relationship with the ProAm event & we are truly delighted to have been part of this tremendous community event that has raised so much for this community essential service," said Mick Buffer, NSW Manager of Xstrata Coal.

The ProAm event was played through some inclement weather but, thankfully, all competitors managed to play their respective rounds.

The last two events have been for the ladies pro-circuit which has been an outstanding success. "The success of the event does encourage sponsorship & to that effect we have some very loyal & generous contributors," said Mick Watson, Chairman of the event committee.

The ProAm dinner was a full house with guest speaker Australian Rugby League coach, Ricky Stuart, delighting the guests with an insight to his career, on & off the field.

SPORTS RESULTS

Branxton Lady Golfers

Last Wednesday we played a Stableford round instead of the stroke monthly medal as per the program. This was because the greens have been cored and sanded this week. The Stroke round will be played on 11th May instead.

Winner with 36 points: Jen Selna

Runner-up 34 points: Trish McMillan

There was no Nearest the Pin winner this week.

Branxton Greta Amateur Swimming Club Season Round-up

BGASC held their presentation evening at Greta Workers Club on Saturday 2nd April. We would like to congratulate our age champions and our point score winners for their outstanding achievement.

Age Champions:
5yrs, Harry Preece
6yrs, Ethan Wenham and Summer Preece
7yrs, Connor Morgan
8yrs, Charlie Wilton and Lauren Matt
9yrs, Jack Barattini and Alannah Thomas



≡ E Grade Champion, Maddy Flannery

10yrs, Matthew Wenham and Lucy Macindoe
11yrs, Shay White and Bridie Waters
12yrs, Isabelle Barattini
14yrs, Patrick Macindoe and Mikayla Thomas
15yrs, Maxine Barattini
16yrs, Megan Searles
17yrs, Rianna Cronin
Point score winners:
A GRADE, Maxine Barattini
B GRADE, Matthew Wenham
C GRADE, Alannah Thomas
D GRADE, Nicholas Hughes
E GRADE, Maddy Flannery
Overall Point Score Winner: Maddy Flannery.
The club also awarded 6



≡ A Grade Champion, Maxine Barattini

swimmers with special club awards, for their dedication and commitment to the club. The recipients are:
Cub Leadership Award: Patrick Macindoe and Mikayla Thomas
Club Spirit Award: Justin Macindoe and Tess Peel
Club Commitment Award: Grace Melnik and Adrian



≡ C Grade Champion, Alannah Thomas



≡ Jim Sheedy presenting Tess Peel and Justin Macindoe with their Club Spirit Awards

Wenham

The committee would like to thank the following people for their assistance during the season:

Glen and Bruce and all of the staff at the pool. The parents and older swimmers that volunteer each and every week, Friday nights would not be successful if it wasn't for your help. Special thanks goes to Jim Sheedy. Jim doesn't have any children swimming with club but he is there each and every week to start our races. He gives enormous encouragement to all of our swimmers and is a big asset to our club.

For these reasons, we are proud to announce that Jim has been awarded Life membership of BGASC. Congratulations to Jim on this well deserved award. Thank you to the following businesses and support over the season:

Gold Sponsors- Greta Workers Sports and Recreation Club, Coal & Allied

Silver Sponsor - Royal



≡ D Grade Champion, Nicholas Hughes

Federal Hotel
Bronze Sponsors- Branxton Engineering, Branxton Greta Smash Repairs, Jax Tyres Singleton, Domayne Maitland
BGASC Supporters-



≡ B Grade Champion, Matthew Wenham



≡ Overall Point Score Champion, Maddy Flannery

Brokenwood Tyrells Wines
McGuigan Wines
Bimbadgen Kelman Estate
iTravel Cessnock
Jax Tyres Singleton
Inflatable world Thornton IGA
Libreri Egg Farm
Most importantly, we would like to thank the members of our committee, and their helpers for 2015/2016. Ainslie Martin, Megan Wilton, Jayne Thomas, Lindsay Fox, Ian Cox, Steph Barattini, Leanne Melnik, Leanne and Justin Preece. You cannot run a sporting club without a dedicated committee, and

without the tireless work of our committee we would not be able to run such a successful club. From running race night, organising the BBQ, organising the intertown, chasing sponsors and raising funds, point scoring, timekeeping...the list is endless.

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 3rd May at 7pm, a Greta Workers club. We would like to see some new faces there as most of our committee are stepping down. If you would like to be a part of the committee, or just want to have some input into how the club is run, please come along.

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The NEWS SPORT

Branxton Croquet Club News



The Branxton Croquet Club was very happy to organise a special morning tea to celebrate the 90th birthday of Grace Brown of Branxton who has a game with us twice a week. An enormous cake, a 90th birthday balloon and a bear signed by all members were presented to Grace with our best wishes. Members supplied numerous plates of goodies to turn the morning tea into a little party. Once again HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRACE.



its first Novice Competition for high handicappers and for



☺ The Branxton team at the 'Sweet Pea' Tournament. From left. Fran Klein, Helen Haines, Lorraine Dillon, Claire Clark, Jacky McDonald, Helen Enright, Maureen Dick & Rod Dillon



☺ Photo Above: Grace cutting her birthday cake with our Club President's help.

players who had never entered a competition. This competition was won by Patricia Ernst with Carmel Munzenberger runner-up. Well done. Nine of our players competed in the "Sweet Pea" tournament at Maitland with ten games played over three days. The

players in each division were well matched and each win a hard fought battle. Branxton did quite well with a runner-up win in a division. We have started our Division 3 Pennants with the first game played at Branxton against Maitland; Our Branxton team did very

well. Keep up the good work. We also wish Maureen, our Treasurer, a speedy recovery and hope to see her back on our croquet lawns very soon. SPECIAL EVENT On Saturday 7th of May, we celebrate World Croquet Day and we invite you to

come and try croquet from 9 a.m. at our Club. Free tuition, equipment and morning tea will be provided. All ages welcome. Come and try something new! We recommend that you wear a hat and enclosed footwear. For further information



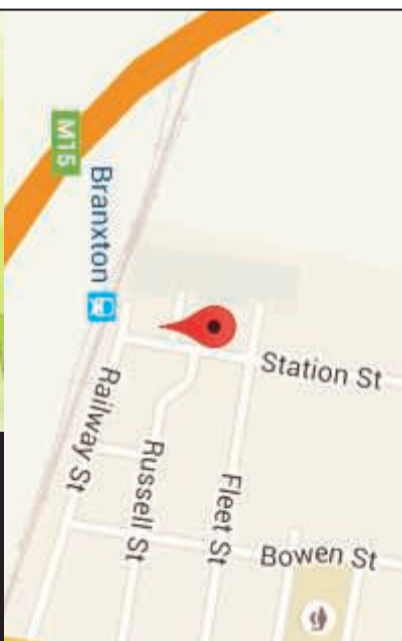
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