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# The News

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TUESDAY  
31 May 2016

## Reconciliation theme strong in Cessnock LGA



The Cessnock local government area geared up to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with a morning tea held at Council to celebrate National Reconciliation Week and the start of NAIDOC Week activities last week. National Reconciliation Week is a time to raise awareness, and build understanding and relationships. The week is held between 27 May and 3 June of each year, in recognition of the anniversary of the 1967 referendum, when Australians voted to change the constitution and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as full citizens. It also recognises Mabo Day in 1992, when the High Court of Australia overturned the notion of Australia being 'terra nullius' (nobody's land) before settlement, and paved the way

for Native Title. "Recognising National Reconciliation Week and supporting NAIDOC Week is an important part of Council's commitment to creating meaningful change within our organisation and in the community," Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Pynsent said. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held each year from 3 to 10 July 2016, but local events will kick off earlier, with the Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation NAIDOC Awards night on Friday 24 June and the Songlines Print Project exhibition at the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery from Wednesday 8 June. The 2016 NAIDOC Week theme is *Songlines: the living narrative of our nation*. This year will also include the 'Put your Hand Up' for

NAIDOC poster campaign. The Mayor along with local elders and Council staff, participated by hanging their printed hand posters in Council's administration building earlier today. Community members, organisations and local schools are invited to participate. "This is a great way for everyone to get involved in NAIDOC. Posters will be available for schools and community groups, as well as at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries for the community to print their hands and participate." "This year's NAIDOC Week activities will include the annual flag raising and family fun days in Cessnock and Kurri Kurri, which are growing each year, as well as art exhibitions, traditional basket weaving workshops, and Dreamtime Storytime in the city libraries." A full list and details of the activities planned for NAIDOC Week can be found in the 'What's On' calendar at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) Anyone interested in becoming involved in the 'Put Your Hand Up' for NAIDOC poster campaign can contact Jo Miller on 4993 4258 or [jo.miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jo.miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) 2016 NAIDOC Week is proudly supported by Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre, Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation, Catholic Care, Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, Cessnock City Library and CYCOS.

Photo above: National Reconciliation Week celebrations at Cessnock City Council featuring the Imi-Wonna-Roi dancers (L-R) Shantel Roberts, Mayor Pynsent and Shantel Sinclair.

## Anglican Parish 'Bridal Parade' a great success



Photo courtesy of Alicia at Billy June Photography  
All details & photos page 2

## Local 'NBN Rollout' delayed

The anticipated arrival of the NBN Broadband network to the local area has been delayed by a transmission technical glitch which has set the program back to the first quarter in 2017. The NBN had been rolled out to 108,000 premises across the Hunter, of which 36,000 had already connected to the network, one of the highest take-up rates in Australia.



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all details page 15

## Anglican Parish 'Bridal Parade' a great success

The Anglican Parish of Branxton, Greta & Lochinvar, held a very successful Bridal Parade at St John The Divine Church, Branxton on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Despite very trying weather conditions with chilly, gale force winds & sleet-like conditions, 80 guests enjoyed a parade of wedding gowns of all

descriptions, including men's attire. The parade featured gowns from the 2000's through to the 1940's. Many gowns were loaned by parishioners & the community, as well as lovely gowns from the Branxton Boutique Collection (Anglican Op Shop). 14 adult models (male & female) & 9 children provided many

delightful moments. Guests were treated to champagne & canapés on arrival, and a delicious afternoon tea after the parade. Thank you to all who attended & to all who helped make it, a very entertaining afternoon. Funds raised will help projects in our local communities.

*Below: a photographic potpourri of the day*



• Photos courtesy of Alicia at Billy June Photography



# P&F TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY 17 JUNE

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOLS LANDSCAPING PROJECT

- BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL, BOWER ST BRANXTON
- 7PM
- \$20PP OR BOOK A TABLE OF 10 FOR \$175.
- BOOK YOUR TABLE OF 10 BEFORE 31ST MAY AND YOU WILL GET A FREE CHEESE PLATE.
- BOOK TICKETS VIA: [HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/202267](https://www.trybooking.com/202267)
- THEME: DECORATE YOUR OWN TABLE - THERE WILL BE A PRIZE FOR BEST IDEA/DECORATION!
- FOOD: YOU CAN PREORDER PIZZAS FROM GOURMET PIZZA. SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON THE NIGHT. YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO BYO SNACKS.
- DRINKS: BYO ALCOHOL. (PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY). SOFT DRINK & WATER WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON THE NIGHT.
- PRIZES: 1ST, 2ND, 3RD AND LAST WILL SHARE IN THE PRIZE POOL ON THE NIGHT. THE WINNING TABLE WILL ALSO GO INTO A NATIONAL DRAW TO WIN A \$5000 CASH PRIZE!
- THERE WILL BE LOTS OF FUN GAMES TO PARTICIPATE IN ON THE NIGHT, A PHOTO BOOTH AND RAFFLES! SO BRING YOUR CASH, YOUR CARDS AND REMEMBER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A ROCKET SCIENTIST, YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN.
- CONTACT DETAILS: BELINDA MONFORTE - 0413 232 949 - ADMIN@HUNTERBUSINESSSERVICES.COM.AU



### The Wizard

An old man goes to the Wizard to ask him if he can remove a curse he has been living with for the last 40 years.

The Wizard says, "Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you." The old man says without hesitation, "I now pronounce you man and wife."

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY

## PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

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### Forever Diamond 18 June 2016

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### 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.

# SINGLETON 2027

Singleton Council has launched an exciting project called Singleton in 2027. It's focused on having conversations with our community about their 10-year vision and aspirations for Singleton. Your feedback will help determine Council's priorities for the next four years.

Over the next six months, we'll be inviting people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in various consultation activities - both online and in person - and it's important you get involved.

Register now on Engagement Hub at [singleton.engagementhub.com.au](http://singleton.engagementhub.com.au) to join the conversation.



# First annual 'Dementia Run' raises \$30,000



11am when the club was to lead the mass of bikes and cars on a procession of 90kms to a mystery venue, which happened to be the Tattersalls Hotel Greta. The procession of bikes and cars was very impressive with up to 200 vehicles out for the ride and support the fight against Alzheimer's.

On Saturday April the 30th The Coalfields chapter of The American Motorcycle Club ran their first annual Dementia Run supporting Alzheimer' Australia donating all proceeds to the Newcastle Branch. The day started at Stockton RSL club at 6am for all members to set-up for the day ahead. After the tents were set up, stage erected, bacon and eggs cooking and coffee brewing the club was ready for what was to be one of the best days imaginable. The gates

opened to the public at 9am. There was a bike and car show at the event with stalls and a jumping castle and 'face painting' for the kids something for all the family to look at and do. The trophies and prizes were handed out to best cars and bikes and speeches made it was time to wrap it up at Stockton. The bikes kept on rolling in up until

With an interview from NBN to air that night on the local news the people at home got to hear and see the bikes leaving the venue and words from our President letting people know the devastation and impact this disease has on



families and the fight they will make to try and beat this. On arrival at the Hotel there was plenty of hot food to eat, cold beverages to consume, good company and two great bands to listen too. The day was a great success with a figure of around \$30000 to be donated from great people who sponsored them, donated, and bought tickets in raffles and also from an auction held on the night. It is fair to say that the human spirit and generosity amongst the biker community is well and truly alive; without the people that turned out, the day would of not been such a success. Coalfields American Motorcycle Club is already working on this day for next year to be bigger and better then this year which will take some beating. They would also like to thank everyone involved in whatever capacity that was, without your help and donations they could of never done this day and made it the success it was.

## Branxton's very first Cat Show



This Saturday June 4th will be a special occasion for members of the Branxton Wine Country Cat Club as they host their very first cat show at the Branxton Community Hall from 10am to 3.30pm. The contestants are being groomed and instructed in feline etiquette in order to be judged best in their categories. The caring owners, showing 100 plus cats and kittens will travel from Sydney, Armidale, Kempsey, Newcastle,

Maitland, Singleton and Branxton and the felines will be judged by local and interstate judges. Breeds on show will include Siberian, Persian, Exotic, Ragdolls, Oriental, Siamese, Abyssinian, British Shorthair, Bengals, Burmese, Russian Blue, Selkirk Rex, Companion/ Domestic Cats plus many more. There will be raffles, stalls, food and drinks available and visitors will be invited to vote for their favourite

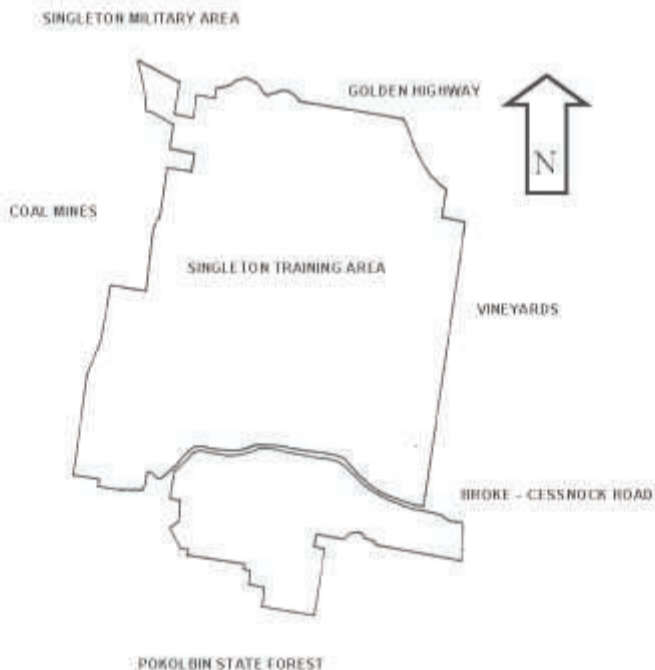
kitten or cat. Now that Branxton is becoming a charming small village, it is good to see events such as the cat show being hosted here, so it will be great to see a big turnout on the day. Admission \$2 single, \$5 family. More info contact Deirdre 0417277589 Deeanne 0429636925 Email: [mark-deeanne@bigpond.com](mailto:mark-deeanne@bigpond.com)



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

## 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.

## Free chips for local pets



Cessnock City Council welcomed dogs and cats to Council's Administration

Building car park for the Free Microchip Day on Saturday 14 May 2016.

Ranger Team Leader Kurt Livens is thrilled by the success of the day. "Over a three hour period we have moved towards our goal of making every dog and cat in the local government area identifiable," Ranger Kurt said. "By law pet owners must have their dog or cat microchipped by

12 weeks of age, at the point of sale or when they are given away." In collaboration with Hunter Animal Watch, Council Rangers worked hard to arrange this positive initiative. "Access to these affordable pet services has made a big difference for local residents," Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said. "It was a great opportunity for people to find out more on what is required as pet owners and to have the opportunity to ask Council Ranger's questions in person." "This was a great day for pet owners in the local area and was enjoyed by all, particularly the young people who received a pet friendly show bag," Cr Pynsent said. "Thank you to Council staff, Rangers and Hunter Animal Watch for assisting on the day." Photo above: Cessnock City Council's Microchip Day.

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"It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them." ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*  
"A friend is one who walks in when others walk out." ~ *Walter Winchell*  
The business of life is to go forward. He who sees evil in prospect meets it in his way, but he who catches it by retrospection turns back to find it. That which is feared may sometimes be avoided, but that which is regretted today may be regretted again tomorrow. ~ *Samuel Johnson*  
"Nobody believes the official spokesman, but everybody trusts an unidentified source." ~ *Ron Nesen*

# What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

Hunter Valley school students and youth groups are invited to join an innovative sustainability leadership training program provided by OzGREEN. The 'Youth Leading the World' training program kicks off in Singleton on July 26 -27, 2016 and aims to equip young participants with leadership skills they can use to take action to create a better future for the Hunter Valley. OzGREEN trainer, Lena Hammond said that the training helps young people identify environmental problems in their community, then develop and implement solutions with the support of local mentors, who they will invite from community groups. Lena said that they are providing scholarships for students in years 6 - 12 so they are encouraging teachers, service clubs and youth group coordinators to register as soon as possible.

They are also offering fully funded training scholarships to community mentors working with young people, in order to help them with project management and implementation. OzGREEN

ambassador and one of the Hunter's young community leaders, Katie Field, recently undertook the training & she said that without a doubt this OzGREEN training provided her with new skills and the motivation she needed to make a difference to the world around her. It also helped her gain a scholarship to attend university. She said that it's really exciting to know that more students and community members in the Hunter can have the same opportunity as she did.

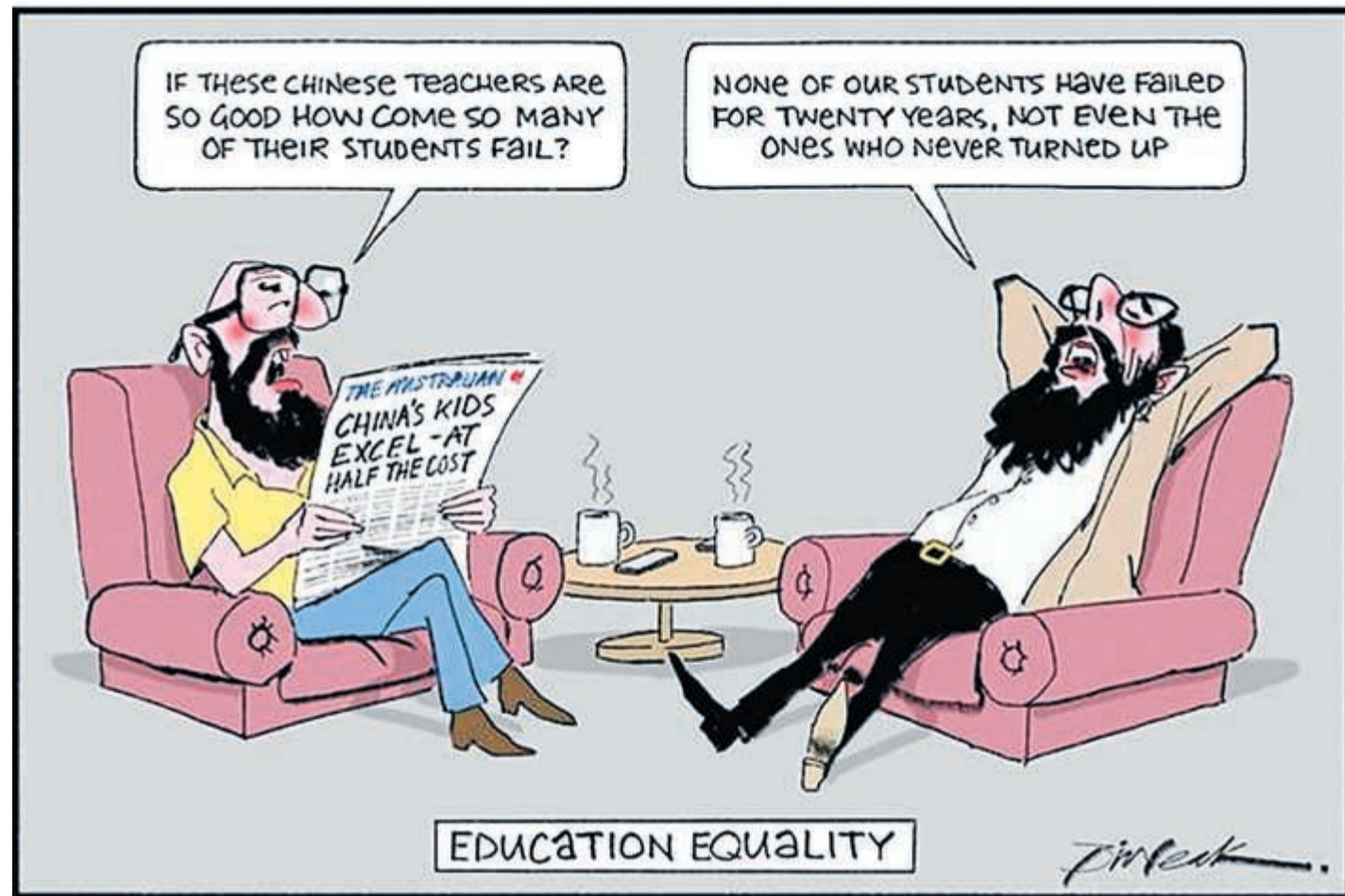
Ms Hammond said the event is an amazing opportunity for local young environmental leaders who want to make a difference in the world around them. Schools, youth and community groups are invited to apply for this training as soon as possible. The deadline for first round applications is July 1, 2016. For more information you can contact the Program

engendered amongst students and teachers to do better.

What is not appreciated in the public education system is that teaching requires feedback from students in order to measure the successes or otherwise of the instruction.

This means tests. Test at the completion of the lesson - test at the end of the day and test at the end and beginning of each week. Never mind the end of term and end of year's course examinations. When teaching, you teach a skill or a theory/knowledge lesson. Knowledge must be demonstrated.

A skills lesson is taught by demonstrating the skill. Like this ... do that ... Woodwork /metal work or a stinks experiment which all students must do and are assessed and must be tested by demonstration on the student's part. When imparting knowledge, and therefore the ability to think and



Manager, Lena Hammond on 0416 011 598. To find out more about the training visit [www.ozgreen.org/upcoming\\_events](http://www.ozgreen.org/upcoming_events)

The 'fridge buyback' is still alive and kicking. According to their website old fridges and freezers are some of the biggest energy users in the home, consuming up to three times

the energy of new appliances. Running a typical second fridge adds an average of \$300 to your power bill and causes one

tonne of carbon pollution each year. Old upright freezers use almost as much power as an old fridge. Fridge Buyback provides

residents with a free collection by professional removalists and a \$15 rebate (qualified) providing the removal does not involve stairs with more than 6 steps. Fridge Buyback operates

under the NSW Government's Energy Savings Scheme and is supported by Cessnock Council. More info go to [www.fridgebuyback.com.au](http://www.fridgebuyback.com.au) Cheers, Mike

The *Branxton Greta Vineyards News* is a member of the **Country Press Association of New South Wales Inc.**



## Education(?)

It is becoming increasingly apparent that our primary and secondary education fraternity do not have a clue on how to educate.

This pathetic issuing of so called achievement slips for everything except academic achievement is the tip of the problem.

Bill Leake's cartoon in the Weekend Australian dated 14/15 May says it all (see above).

Apparently it is not in the interest of teachers to test their students' knowledge or ability because the results will;

- \* Reflect on the poor ability of the teacher
- \* Cause students anxiety
- \* Students will be compelled to learn something.
- \* Parents will discover the deplorable state of their 'Little Darling's education, and
- \* competition might be

apply that knowledge, the student's comprehension and ability to interpret and apply that knowledge is achieved by subjective test i.e. a written test.

The oral test must be given to all students not just the smartars or the rowdy. This brings us to question technique. Questions are used to teach and test. i.e. 'What do you think will happen when I add water?'

To ensure the class remains attentive all questions are directed to class as a whole, never to any individual student. The teacher then nominates the student who is to answer. In order QUESTION, PAUSE NOMINATE, REDIRECT (is she right, .... Teao? ... Freddie?) Then teacher CONFIRMS the correct answer. In this way the ability of each student and give additional instruction where needed.

When a student does well they are to be commended and encouraged to assist their fellow students who

might be having difficulty. The class should be considered as a team and it is the concern of all the class that everyone gets the message.

When planning a lesson the teacher should always START WITH THE END OF LESSON TEST and what the students will know at the end of the lesson. THEN THE MIDDLE TO THE LESSON IS TO BE PLANNED, in sections which will together build the knowledge of the subject IN LOGICAL ORDER.

Only when has this been done can the start of the lesson can be planned, this is the INTRODUCTION (WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON) Revision from last lesson on the subject (5 min). Then there is the planning of the TEACHING AIDS to be constructed or put together. Lesson then must be REHEARSED. At the start of the lesson the teacher should gauge the

existing knowledge of the students and encourage those with prior knowledge the chance to demonstrate it. The body of the lesson may then be given to an alert and attentive class and this should also include class involvement by questions. The last 5 minutes are given over to testing. The test achieves the following benefits; the Teacher can assess how much has been assimilated by the class and who is not up to speed, the students discover if their knowledge or skill is progressing and they get a sense of achievement when it has. The sense of achievement by the student is most important. They need to be complimented when they get it right and corrected when they get it wrong. They cannot attain achievement without tests. In learning achievement is the greatest motivator of all. When a young child is recognised for their ability they remain engaged and seek further challenges.

Unless students and teacher are challenged they will not progress. Teacher instruction should be regularly assessed by senior teachers. The teacher assessor and the assessed, then discuss the particular lesson in a positive way to improve lesson presentation and format. This is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to teaching. There are so many teaching subjects to cover this barely touches on them. There are 12 principles of good instruction. Throwing money at the public education system is not the answer - Good challenging teaching which is continually monitored by test results will produce results. Yes, this means much marking of papers so Headmasters have their work cut out. It starts with them as they must set the standards and demand results. No more pussyfooting around with little merit certificates but marks out of ten for each subject. In learning achievement is the greatest motivator of all. When a young child is recognised for their ability they remain engaged and seek further challenges.

leigh) the daughter of the last teacher at the school Mr Athol Fairleigh. Debbie has been researching information about the school and ex-students for number of months. I think my father Athol Partridge is the oldest living ex-student at 91 with Mr Thrift only a couple months younger. Please get the message out:- ELDERSLIE PUBLIC SCHOOL REUNION SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER 2016 @ 2 p.m. @ ELDERSLIE HALL. Afternoon tea will served at \$5.00 per head and all profits will be donated to the Elderslie Hall. We are looking for photos and stories about the school and the students that attended the school. Please contact one of the following people if you would like to attend as this will assist with catering purposes. Debbie Edmunds (née Fairleigh ) 0249344936 Sue Moore (née Thrift) 0249381712 Sally Partridge 0408963698

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

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 Singleton... 6572 2799  
**SES** .....132 500



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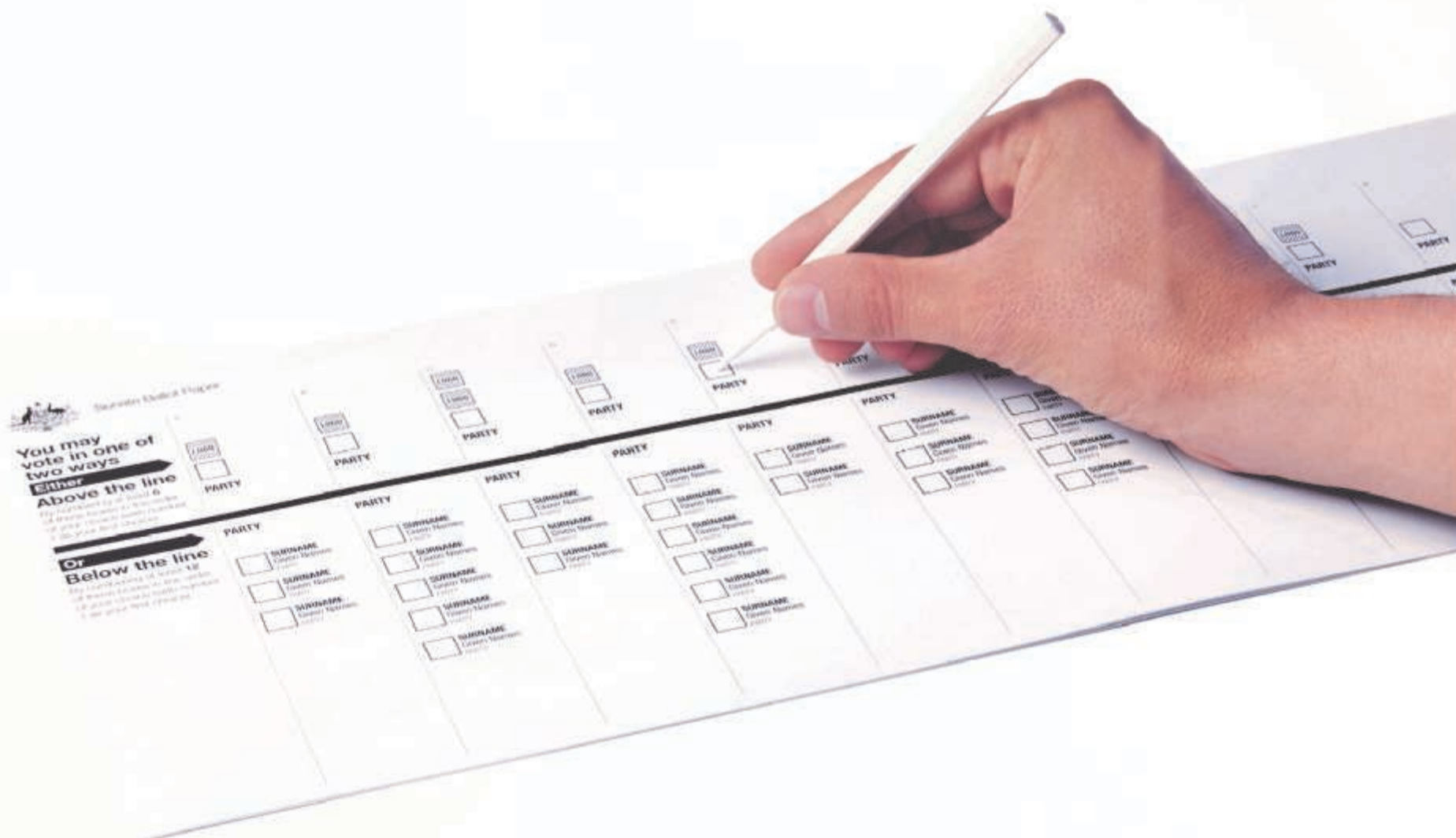
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or emailed to

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# DID YOU KNOW VOTING RULES HAVE CHANGED?



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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 need to 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 need to 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.

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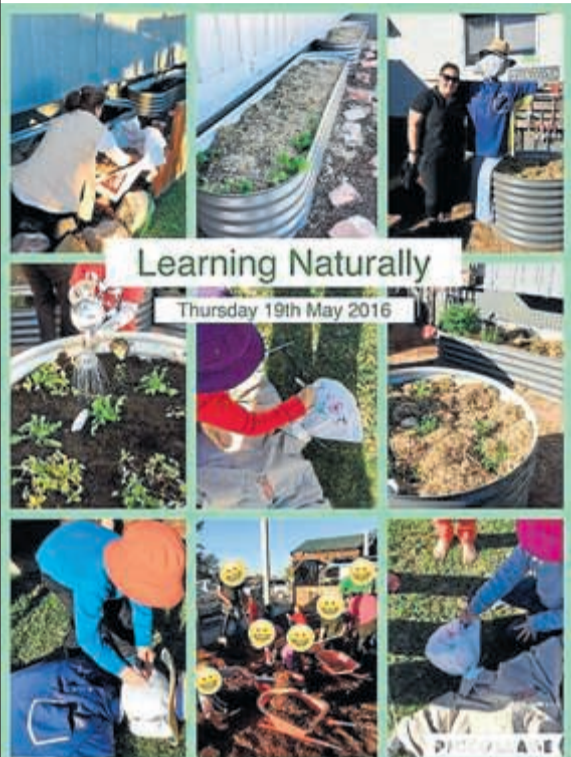
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**BRANXTON NEWS**

LOVE LEARN LIVE

# PRESCHOOL



Learning Naturally

Thursday 19th May 2016

One of our Educational Team members organised a community event within our Preschool grounds. Parents, local business and of course the children all jumped on board. Together

they worked to replenish our veggie garden beds, build scarecrows (using local community business uniforms), topped up our pine bark soft fall area and generally tidied our natural

play spaces. We were overwhelmed by the support for this project and would like to thank everyone who was involved in any way. We are sure to share photo's of our gardens as they grow and share some of the cooking experiences over the coming months.

Our new shelving for the shed was purchased with our recent pie drive money. We raised a grand total of \$1,173. This paid for the entire shelving units and we are very grateful to all our families and local community members who



supported this event.

**THANK YOU!**

We had a visit from our Local Member for Hunter, The Honourable Mr Joel Fitzgibbon.

Branxton Preschool was

spirit and inclusion for many families by educating them to be able to deal with the needs of their children more effectively.

We will be celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> year of Preschool next



successful in obtaining a grant to purchase an digital projector and screen. This will enable us to conduct parent workshops within our preschool facilities. This grant will fund a parenting education project to support positive outcomes for parents and their young children. Many of the families would not have the finances to attend such workshops and we believe this will assist in building community

year and we are putting together a cookbook to celebrate this occasion. We are seeking recipes from local people who may have been associated with the Preschool over the years. You may have been a parent or child who attended Branxton Preschool. We will also be having a local directory for business to place their listing. Letters will be going out very soon! If you would like to know more about putting in a recipe or listing your business please email [admin@branxtonpreschool.com](mailto:admin@branxtonpreschool.com). We encourage local businesses to jump on board and be a part of this celebration.

We are currently at capacity within our Preschool however if you would like to know more about Preschool or would like to place your child on our waiting list for next year please contact the office on Ph: 49381990.



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**PLEASE NOTE:**

The closing date for the Cessnock Local Government Area funding round for ClubGRANTS applications **has been extended to 4:00pm, Friday 17 June 2016.** ClubGRANTS funding is made available by Local Clubs who earn over \$1 million annually in gaming machine revenue. ClubGRANTS provides funding for a wide range of local social services and community projects, with the aim of addressing social need and disadvantage in the community.

For more information on ClubGRANTS, including accessing the grant guidelines and the online application form, please visit the Cessnock City Council website:

<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/grants/club>

ClubGRANTS applications will only be accepted using the Clubs NSW website online submission portal. The application form is available there. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants who have received funding through ClubGRANTS in the 2014 and 2015 funding rounds must acquit their funds to be eligible to apply for the 2016 funding round. Funds can be acquitted using the Standard Reporting Form available online.

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# Members say ....



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR

### A REMINDER OF OUR BRILLIANT COMMUNITY AT SPORTS AWARDS

The Advertiser Annual Sports Awards, recognising athletes from across the entire LGA, is one of the most positive nights of the year in celebrating our great community. There was a stage full of junior athletes, followed by a stage full of senior athletes, all being recognised for excellence in their chosen sport. Incredibly, you couldn't get onto the stage unless you were at least a State Champion!

This year, the icing on the cake was the special guest, Billy Peden. What an inspirational human he is. He exudes a sincerity, kindness and authenticity that our local community can be proud of. He spoke glowingly about growing up in our area and about all of the wonderful things that he learnt as a child, right here, that have carried him through life. He is about to embark on a north to south crossing of PNG to raise money for the Mark Hughes Foundation (brain cancer). It will go from June 6-16 and will include, just as a part of the journey, the Kokoda Track, not to mention hundreds of kilometres of cycling. If you can afford a few dollars, please go online to the Mark Hughes Foundation to make a donation.

### MINISTER HANDS FLYING FOX PROBLEM TO COUNCIL

I started making flying fox enquiries with the Minister for Environment in 2011. I was led to believe that the Flying Fox issue needed to be addressed by Council. Over the next 2 years, this became the standard line. Hence, any enquiries that came into my office 2011-13 were referred off to Council for action.

Then, during 2013, the Minister became aware that the flying fox colony was on Crown Land, making it a problem for the State Government, not Council. As a result of this "shift" in who was responsible, my office embraced responsibility and started a campaign, with the community, to bombard the Minister with so many complaints that the Minister would fund the Management Plan. We have all been working together on this for 3 years now, and I thank everyone that has written to me, which allowed me to write again and again to the Minister. In total, over the past 5 years, we have sent almost 100 letters to the Minister(s). But then, on April 6, no doubt fed up by the delays from State Government, along with the ever expanding size of the flying fox colony onto Council managed land, Cessnock Council moved a Motion at a Council meeting to "take a lead role and prepare" a Camp Management Plan. As a consequence, our most recent communication with the Minister has led to a Ministerial response that now reads "Cessnock City Council has resolved to take the lead in dealing with this matter". So, I am not one for passing the buck, but the State Government and Minister certainly is. I wish Council every success.

**WHY ARE THERE SO MANY FLYING FOXES & WHAT ARE THEY EATING???**  
As you could imagine, I have a deeper

knowledge of flying foxes now than I ever dreamed that I would. One of the questions that I am asked most often is "why are the bats so bad this year?" This has led me to some research and I will do my best to answer that in the following lines. It turns out that one of the preferred foods of the flying fox/fruit bat is the flowering spotted gum. As you would appreciate, the spotted gum is a protected species in the Hunter Valley. Because there are so many healthy, flowering spotted gums in the Hunter, as a result of an "ideal" growing season, bats have been drawn to the Valley at large. Cessnock, with such an abundance of spotted gum, is an ideal roosting site for a bat colony. Bats are believed to have been drawn from areas as far away as Sydney, Taree and Dubbo. One of Cessnock's local Councillors has tried to blame the Council for having a pro-development attitude which has led to removal of the natural bat habitat. This Councillor must be unaware of the facts. The first logical error is this: Cessnock Council cannot be responsible for decisions of Councils in Sydney, Taree and/or Dubbo, not to mention the dozens of Councils in between. Logical error two: it could be more easily argued that the complete opposite of the Councillors naive claim is true. By that I mean this: if the Councils across the Hunter had wildly and recklessly allowed mass clearing of the spotted gum, then the bats would not be here. Given that this Councillor has a long record of voting against almost all development, while at the same time championing the need to protect the spotted gum, one might say the Councillor has "bats (not blood) on his hands".

\* \* \* \* \*

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

**Cheers Clayton**



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

### State Matters

#### FUNDING BOOST FOR 24/7 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT IN UPPER HUNTER

Women and children experiencing domestic violence in Upper Hunter will have access to extra crisis accommodation and 24/7 support under a NSW Government funding package announced today. The NSW Government is determined to provide better support to domestic violence victims with this extra funding but we continue to need a community-wide effort to say violence is unacceptable. It is a terrible reality that there is this

demand for services but we will not let women who need help go unaided. The new services mean women escaping domestic and family violence will have more access to support, housing and financial assistance with transport and food, 24 hours a day. The funding boost means local service provider, Upper Hunter Homelessness Specialist and Outreach Service will establish new after hours intakes and provide additional support and housing options to help women and children leaving dangerous situations in the home." The roll out of the services to the local area is part of a \$20 million boost to refuges and crisis accommodation services announced late last year by Minister for Family and Community Services Brad Hazzard and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Pru Goward. Women fleeing domestic violence are also eligible for a rental subsidy, Start Safely, which will help around 3,500 families this year across NSW. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence:

- Anyone in immediate danger should call 000.
- For information and support call the NSW Domestic Violence Line on 1800 656 463 or 1800 RESPECT on 1800 737 732. For information and referral to crisis accommodation and support call Link2home on 1800 152 152 Contact: My Email address; [upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au), phone numbers; 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook 2333.



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council



### FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK 27 May 2016

This Thursday 2 June 2016 at 10am we are holding a very special civic reception to honour the late Jeff Maybury as Freeman of the City. This is the highest honour Council can bestow upon one of its citizens, and it only fitting that Jeff be recognised at this level for the immense contribution he gave throughout his life. For those of you who may not have known Jeff, he worked tirelessly in the community and was our longest serving Councillor, having been on Council for 35 years. Jeff, who is survived by his

wife Pat and children Karen Jurd and Justin Maybury, sadly lost his battle with cancer in July 2015. He was known for providing assistance to those in the community who were in need and was affectionately referred to as the 'Mayor of Weston'. Besides his Council work, he was very active with the St Vincent's de Paul Society. Jeff lived in the Weston and Abermain area for 71 years and was a huge supporter of the Cessnock region in general. The father-of-two was president of the Weston RSL Sub Branch and was committed to helping the Tidy Towns movement. I worked alongside Jeff for 16 years and he was so passionate, especially about the Tidy Towns movement and helping people less fortunate. During his long career as a Councillor, he saw significant changes in local government and his historical knowledge of Council was invaluable. Jeff saw many projects he supported come to fruition over the years including the construction of the Multipurpose Centre and restoration of old Council chambers at Greta. He was also a long-time advocate for the general maintenance and improvement of Chinaman's Hollow/Peace Park at Weston. Throughout his life, Jeff worked as a telephone technician operator, fireman and a coal miner. He was also a life member of the Australian Labor Party. I encourage anyone who would like to attend to contact my office today on 4993 4210 as seats at the venue are limited.

Tomorrow (last Saturday) will also be a big day for our local sports community, with the GIO Cup event at 10.45am at Cessnock Sports-ground. The elite schoolboys' rugby league competition will see local St Francis Xavier students take on visiting side Hallam College from Victoria. The game will be televised nationally through the Foxtel network. Best of luck to our local boys!

It was great to be a part of the Kearsley Public School Red Kite fundraising efforts to support a brave young student battling Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. \$5000

was raised and has resulted in three teachers and myself shaving our heads for this great cause. With this cooler weather I may be sporting a beanie until my locks grow back! ☹️ Photo above: The Late Jeffrey Maybury who is to be honoured by the being made a 'Freeman of the City of Cessnock'. This is the highest honour Council can bestow upon one of its citizens,

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

Cheers, Bob



JOEL FITZGIBBON prior Member for Hunter & Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Rural Affairs, Fisheries and Forestry & ALP Candidate for Hunter in coming Federal Election

As history's longest campaign drags on, I'm monitoring the things that are driving people crazy most. One such irritation is the constant haggling about the Budget, the financial cost of election promises, and how they are being funded. People tell me everywhere I go that they are sick of it all and so they should be. The fact is that under the Charter of Budget Honesty (which has been law for more than a decade), the major parties are held to account for every dollar they promise. That's why we have what they call the Pre-election Economic & Financial Outlook (PEFO). The PEFO re-sets the Budget. In other words it gives us an update on the state of the Budget. From there, the major parties are held to account for every promise. If they don't match the spend with a saving elsewhere (either raising a tax or cutting funding from another area) the party making the promise must accept that it will have a bigger Budget deficit (or a lower surplus) than the other party. Unlike "the good old days", the system can't be fudged. Under the Charter of Budget Honesty every dollar has to be accounted for. So forget the Government's allegations that Labor's promises on Gonski (education), health and other initiatives are unaffordable, it's rubbish. Indeed the allegations are an attempt to justify the Coalition's unwillingness to make the same commitment to the areas Labor believes are most important. That's what this election is becoming; a battle over priorities. Labor has found savings of more than \$70 billion to fund our key spending promises. Most of it comes from cuts to superannuation tax concessions for very high income earners, an increase in the tobacco excise, and changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax arrangements. The Coalition's approach by contrast, is to prioritise wealthy individuals over improvements to our health and education systems. This is why the Coalition is trying so hard to make out Labor's commitments are unaffordable, to mask the fact that their spending is going to those who need it least. Sadly you can expect to hear more of it because the only alternative available to them is to just admit their priorities are different and then, try to justify them. Don't hold your breath waiting for that confession!

\*\*\*\*\*

I am always keen to assist with issues or questions relating to Federal Government departments or put you in contact with someone who can, so please ring, write, visit the website or call in.

Why not go the extra step by following me on my Facebook page "Joel Fitzgibbon" or on Twitter and type in the search bar "fitzhunter". Or by regularly checking my website at [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or you can even sign up to my E-Newsletter. To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753, visit [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or by post 3 Edward Street, (PO Box 526) Cessnock, 2325.

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Rain was predicted, but the sun burst through and although the wind persisted, it did not deter the 110 guests/supporters of the Cancer Biggest Morning Tea, hosted by Branxton/Greta CWA on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> May. Branxton Community Hall was packed with generous people from within the community and some having travelled from as far as Newcastle and Broke, only too willing to support

you Pausha. Sarah Lukeman from Singleton was next and was able to give everyone an insight into her journey with cancer and able give everyone the happy news that she was now cancer free. Thank you Sarah for your openness and we wish you more healthier years in the future. The delicious food was served and from all the comments, enjoyed by all. Were able to sell off boxes of slices and

such a worthy cause. The day started with Guest Speaker, Pausha from Cancer Council, Singleton letting everyone know about all the services the Cancer Council provide to anyone with cancer or recovering from cancer. Thank you Pausha. Sarah Lukeman from Singleton was next and was able to give everyone an insight into her journey with cancer and able give everyone the happy news that she was now cancer free. Thank you Sarah for your openness and we wish you more healthier years in the future. The delicious food was served and from all the comments, enjoyed by all. Were able to sell off boxes of slices and

cakes leftover, which will make extra money to the Cancer Council. Will have a presentation of the cheque to the Cancer Council in the next edition. As the CWA support women, there were three women at the Cancer Morning Tea promoting their products and (just in case you missed them on the day or would like to check them out) their details are as follows: (1) Kerrin's Kandles, lovely fragrant candles - facebook; (2) Marina - Art of Accessory - Jewellery - mobile 0402665905 or facebook; (3) Deborah - Miche Handbags - mob. 0417263711 - Do inhouse demonstrations on handbags and teach dancing in Maitland. Thank you all for your contributions to the day. Thank you to all the Businesses in Branxton and Greta who ordered cakes, slices and scones also. Your contribution is also greatly appreciated. Hope you enjoyed your Morning Tea. Thank you to everyone who cooked for the day and thank you to Helen Scott and Julie Farrell for your assistance before and during the day. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED ON THE DAY AND MAKING IT SUCH A GREAT DAY! Re the Cookery Awards I had in the previous edition, I would like to amend Declan Shearer's Highly Commended Awards for the Crunchy Topped Lemon Loaf and Cornflake Cookies to Hunter River Group Junior Section (apologies for my oversight but am sure Declan, with his love and enthusiasm for cooking, will achieve more in the future). **Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.**



© Photos above & below: some of the crowd who supported & enjoyed the morning tea



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Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

**Quitting and Staying Quit**

Tobacco smoking is the largest single preventable cause of death and disease in Australia. Smoking damages nearly every organ in your body and causes about 15,000 deaths a year in Australia. Smoking increases your risk of developing a stroke, and heart and blood vessel disease. It damages your lungs, and increases your

risk of lung cancer as well as cancers of the lips, tongue, mouth, throat, bladder, and pancreas. The damage caused by smoking starts with the first cigarette and continues for as long as you smoke. Smoking can also cause damage to other people through passive smoking, which is breathing in of another person's breathed out tobacco smoke. Children are particularly at risk of serious health effects from this 'second-hand' smoke. Unborn babies of mothers who smoke or passively smoke are at risk of developing

birth defects. Quitting smoking is vital though may not be very easy. Nicotine, one of the chemicals in tobacco, is very addictive and makes you want to smoke. This makes quitting very difficult, but not impossible. It may take a few attempts at quitting smoking before you are successful. To help in quitting and staying motivated, there are courses in quitting smoking as well as counselling and

coffee and lunch breaks or when drinking alcohol. If you smoke when you are stressed, try using relaxation techniques. Also remove things that remind you of smoking such as cigarettes, lighters and ashtrays. When you get the urge to smoke, remember the 4Ds: **Delay** acting on the urge to smoke. After a few minutes the urge will weaken. **Deep** Take a slow, deep breath in and out. Do



telephone support services. Don't forget to ask friends and family to support you by not smoking around you. Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) products can also be useful when you are trying to quit smoking. They provide nicotine to reduce the cravings and withdrawal symptoms that many people get when they try to stop smoking. Using NRT can increase the chances of successful quitting. A pharmacist can advise on correct use of NRT. To help you stay quit, try avoiding situations that tempt you to smoke. Don't be around other people who are smoking at work, during

this three times. **Drink** water slowly. **Do** something else to take your mind off smoking such as exercise. This year, May 31 is World Tobacco Day. It calls for countries to get ready for plain packaging on cigarette packets. Plain packaging is a way of reducing the attractiveness of tobacco products. It highlights the dangers of smoking through pictures and delivers simple antismoking messages. Plain packaging is a very effective way of telling the public about cigarette health warnings

Cheers, Lee

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# WHAT LEGENDS ARE MADE OF...

## 2016 Hunter Valley Legends Awards 10th Anniversary - Industry Legend Inducted and Winners Announced

The Hunter Valley's prestigious 2016 Hunter Valley Legends Awards were held on Friday at Cypress Lakes Resort with 230 attendees celebrating the recognition of the outstanding achievements of those who have made a major contribution to and excelled in the wine and tourism industries. In its 10th year, the Hunter Valley Legends Awards plays homage to its 2016 Wine Industry Living Legend Alain Le Prince who has contributed over 40 years to the Hunter Valley Wine Industry. Not only was Alain inducted, but winners in four other categories were also announced. Chairman of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association (HVWTA), Hon George Souris gave special recognition to the high calibre of this year's nominees and that the annual awards are a celebration of, and give recognition to the skill, hard work, dedication and excellence of the region's winemakers, viticulturists and industry professionals, and reflects on the successes of the year that has passed. The 2016 Hunter Valley Legends Award

Winners are:  
**2016 Hunter Valley Wine Industry Living Legend - Alain Le Prince**  
*The Living Legend award is bestowed to honour a Hunter Valley grape grower or winemaker who has been involved in the Hunter Valley Wine Industry in excess of 30 years and who has been in a position to influence the course of the Hunter Valley Wine Industry.*  
 Alain's story is of a successful migrant who arrived in Australia in 1971 with his wife Jeni with a dream of growing grapes and making fine wine! In the early 1970's Alain paved his way working in the vineyard at Rothbury Estate, as Vineyard Manager for Tyrrell's Wines and planting and managing his own Chardonnay vineyard in Pokolbin. From 1980 to 2000, Alain became a partner at "Terrace Vale Wines" where his role in the wine industry had expanded from vineyard manager to winemaker and sales manager. Alain's wines have won numerous accolades and he has remained involved in the wine industry for over 40

years.  
**2016 Winemaker of the Year sponsored by First Creek Winemaking Services**



– **Liz Jackson, First Creek Wines**  
*This award is to recognise a Hunter Valley winemaker who has achieved success on the show circuit and has made major commitments to the promotion of not only their own wines but the Hunter Valley and its wines in general.*  
 Liz has been working a total of 17 years in the wine

industry and has gained a reputation for her fresh approach to creating wines truly expressive of the Hunter Valley. Liz crafts wines for not only First Creek Wines and her own label Silkman Wines, but also 27 winemaking customers of First Creek Winemaking Services. Having been Dux of the Len Evans Tutorial, a finalist for Winemaker of the Year 2013 Gourmet Traveller Wine and

*This award recognises the outstanding contribution of an industry person over the preceding 12 months, whether they are a young person just starting out, someone just recently involved in the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Industries or whose star is ascending.*  
 Belinda has been General Manager of The Sebel Kirkton Park since 2013 and her primary focus has been

participating in indigenous art trail and indigenous youth training days. Belinda has truly cemented her place as a rising star in the Tourism Industry and continues to contribute to the Hunter Valley by actively participating on the Committee of the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association, the Marketing Sub-Committee representing business tourism and the Hospitality Sub-Committee, along with Parish of Pokolbin with a focus on roads and supporting Hunter Valley Wine Country businesses.  
**2016 Viticulturist of the Year sponsored by Laffort Australia – Paul Harvey, Mount Pleasant Wines**  
*This award is for an outstanding viticulturist involved in the management of Hunter Valley vineyards. The award recognises that any outstanding wine starts with good vineyard management resulting in quality grapes.*  
 Paul completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Viticulture) in 2004 and commenced working for McWilliam's Wines in 2010 as Vineyard Manager and completed his Master of Wine Business through the University of Adelaide in 2015. Paul's technical knowledge coupled with practical experience has resulted in consistent and high quality of fruit produced for award winning wines. Paul is passionate about viticulture

and endeavours to work closely with research and development providers for the betterment of Hunter Valley Wine Country.  
**2016 Cellar Door of the Year sponsored by CBA Local Business Banking – De Iuliis Wines**  
*This award is to recognise a cellar door with outstanding public relations, sales technique, presentation and attitude.*  
 De Iuliis Wines has been steadily building a bustling and friendly Cellar Door experience. They offer fantastic service with a variety of tastings including a matched wine and cheese adventure. Set in parklike grounds, the cellar door is modern and airy with striking floor to ceiling glass, and the more adventurous might like to climb their observation tower for breathtaking views of the surrounding area. De Iuliis Wines is a proud and diligent promoter of the Hunter, guests are offered great regional wines made from local fruit. De Iuliis Wines was judged the best at promoting local history, attractions, events and other cellar doors in the Valley. The cellar door operation is very efficient at selling wine in an easy going way and successfully signing up new members. These efforts are making a great contribution to growing the overall Hunter Valley fan base.

Photo above: Paul Harvey, Liz Jackson, Alain LePrince, Belinda Paterson, & Sean Parkinson (Deluliis Cellar Door)

# MEGA CAR CLEARANCE

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**NEW Holden Trax LS**  
 Manual from **\$22,990**  
 + FREE Auto Upgrade + 3 Years Servicing  
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 Manual from **\$36,990**  
 + FREE Auto Upgrade + 3 Years Servicing  
 RRP \$46,860

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 from **\$43,990**  
 + FREE 3 Years Servicing  
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**2010 Cruze CD**  
 \$7,888  
CG78VV / Auto / 52,000kms

**2012 Nissan Navara ST** \$24,810  
CF86WA / 4x4 Diesel

**2009 Hyundai Tucson City** \$9,934  
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**2007 Lancer ES** \$6,486  
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# Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

## .....GRETA

The Great Depression (1929-1939) hit Greta badly, with some coal mines closing as prices obtained for coal dropped rapidly. The lockout at Whitburn Colliery continued after the Rothbury Riot until June 1930 using 'scab' labour and caused real distress and bitterness, as well as hardship, for the families concerned and the town as a whole. The Greta Council Chambers, where the Greta Museum now happily exists, was where dole rations were handed out to the needy, and a soup kitchen was set up in the Greta Primary School to help eke out the small amount given. Greta's population went from 2845 down to less than half that by 1933. Of the 438 workers only 100 had a job. The village of Anvil Creek that had sprung-up with the first coal mine and had been partly subdivided into the other ghost village of Illalong, became 'tumble-down' shacks, appreciated only by the shelter-desperate, such as some of the aged pensioners and receivers of welfare. A tin and hessian shanty town also sprung up behind the Hollingshed Street gravel quarry, which became known as Bagtown. Ten families existed there but for some of the children, at least, the time was happy. (see the Greta book at the Museum for more information) The young men and women of the community also attempted to liven life up with a weekly dance at Harpers' Hall put on by the Merry-makers Club and run by Jean Harper. Piano and violin music was supplied by Sinclair's Orchestra and admission cost was a twelfth of their income, making the chance of learning to dance a reality. Charlie Beswick's Hall across the road provided movies, first silent then the talkies and even roller skating was introduced once a week. Playing sport also helped to keep spirits up and soccer in the 1920s

turned into the formation of an impressive Rugby League team. Sunday cricket was also held, with bats handmade from willow wood growing on the river bank. Parties and a yearly May Day celebration became even more important, although tea was often the only affordable refreshment. In a vast number of cities and towns, the impending Second World War created jobs in the form of manufacturing to be ready for the coming assault. In Greta there weren't any factories to work for, in preparation for the cause, but in 1939 the Department of Defence decided to build a training camp in a big area of what is now known as Camp Road, and the men of Greta were able to help, giving many back their livelihoods. Greta's position meant defence could be readily mobilised when needed, with major rail and road access. Throughout the 1930s different army units trained around the area in places such as the Rutherford Racecourse, before the Greta camp could be built. On the day war was declared, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939, the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, made up of 800 men, arrived at the Rutherford camp for 12 days training. By early October the whole of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, over 3000 men, were encamped in the area, with 5000 troops from the five infantry battalions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade following. They occupied the Rutherford Camp as well as the Aberglasslyn Road and Raymond Terrace camps. Meanwhile negotiations for the land at Greta were continuing, which ended up settling with 1580 acres after a lot of upset and disruption to the local farmers. Greta



Camp had the capacity for 6000 men, one of the biggest camps in Australia, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1939 work began, with as many local tradesmen employed as possible. JE Parry of Hamilton, Newcastle, had been given the contract. 138 wooden buildings included seventy sleeping huts, officers' quarters and ten mess halls with kitchens took until December 1939 to complete enough for the first units to move in. A second lot of

construction at Greta Camp was started in April 1940. These new buildings had brown exteriors, earning their nickname of Chocolate City and included a 60 bed hospital. There was also an Army Supply Corps Depot of 16 huts built near to the railway station. The camp became completely self-contained in regards to water and sewerage, transport and social facilities, and a large recreation hall. Corrugated iron Nissen huts, including

nurses' quarters and isolation wards, surrounded the hospital and became the Silver City. Greta business people expected an upsurge in turnover and some built new businesses, such as shops and pubs, in preparation. There was usually between 4000 and 6000 men training at any time. However, although some business was brought to the town, the majority of men thought it 'too far away from civilisation', so owning a bus or taxi was a

lot more lucrative. However, the camp newsletter, the *Greta Grind*, complained about the local bus service from Rover Motors breaking down all the time. This came about from the shocking condition of the roads that were that way even before the heavy army vehicles arrived. A number of the young Greta women dated and married soldiers who were stationed at the camp, as it was a feast of choice for the women. This caused fights between the local men and those that had been sent to train there. After the war was over, the huts were used again by the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) volunteers, who arrived in March 1946. The camp was renamed the Greta Recruit Training Centre. For some time they shared the camp with the Italian prisoners of war, who were Australian but had to be incarcerated in case their personal affiliation was with the enemy. The new post war

recruits were trained by the veterans of the army and eventually the troops were sent to Japan. Their job was to enforce the terms of the unconditional surrender that ended the war and to maintain military control while securing the Japanese military stores. The British Commonwealth Forces Korea took over from them in 1952.

Singleton Camp then became the permanent army training camp in the area as it was said it would cost too much to renovate Greta Army Camp back to a habitable state. In the meantime Greta almost had its pre-Depression number of residents back. Some had been attracted to the new munitions factory that had opened at Rutherford which later became a textile mill. There were also some soldiers that had stayed because they liked the town or were married to local ladies. Leconfield and Whitburn Collieries re-opened and new houses were built on recently bought blocks. A water supply was finally laid on. The long awaited water came from a 200,000 gallon tank built at Harpers Hill and a 50,000 gallon balance tank on Walter Thomas's land, west of Camp Road. (With thanks to Christopher Keating's book on Greta for much of this information.) What happened in Greta next is a whole other story, for next time. To read more about the Army Camp, and many other historic stories, call into the Greta Museum on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, between 11 am and 3pm. Or if you can't make it phone Neridah on 0427657150 or Peter on 0478896722 to make a suitable time to visit. Greta Historic Museum is now incorporating the *Greta Old Style New Wares & Sweet Shop*, which boasts an unusual range of souvenirs and gifts to remember your visit by and old fashioned lollies to make your mouth water and maybe bring back some childhood memories. Open when the museum is, on High Street in the middle of Greta, opposite the rotunda

☰ Photos taken at the Army camp parade ground & nurses at the hospital.



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Singleton Council  
PO Box 314  
Singleton NSW 2330

Jason Linnane  
General Manager

## NOW OPEN

Greta Museum's

Old Style New  
Wares

& Sweet Shop  
Great for gifts or  
just to indulge

Any profit goes back to Greta Tidy Towns  
Open 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month  
High Street, Greta

## North Rothbury Tidy Town 'Home of the Month'



Congratulations to Linda & Jason Lunnon of 3 Olivia Place, North Rothbury 2016 who have taken out the North Rothbury Tidy Town 'House-of-the-Month' for June 2016. This new contemporary residential brick & tile home is set on over 1000 square metres & Linda & Jason have done a superb job on landscaping both the front & back. Congratulations.

## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Greta

Held on Tues 24th May at Prop That / The Holy Cuppa



Candice from 'Prop That' and Kristy & Lynneve from 'The Holy Cuppa' would like to say Thank you, thank you so much to all our wonderful guests and helpers that joined us for The Biggest Morning Tea. Numbers are in and at the moment we've just pipped the thousand dollar mark with a grand total of \$1040 going to The Cancer Council!

The Bingo Queen, Colleen Anderson strutted her stuff & lots of happy winners grabbed some goodies. So many donations for Raffle

prizes & lucky door prizes made more happy smiles. Many thanks to 'Prop That', 'The Holy Cuppa', 'Little Sprouts Chiropractic', 'Wendy's Hair at Greta', 'Branxton Pharmacy', 'Sue's Clothing at Rutherford', Branxton IGA, 'The Rustic Tuckshop' and all the local ladies that bought delicious delights for everyone to share.

A Great time was had by all and for many it was a reunion with friends of old.

Photo above: Enjoying some good company while raising \$ for a great cause!

## Destination Hunter Valley

The Hunter Valley will be on show to over 1.3 million television viewers, when the 'Today Show' broadcasts live from the region on Thursday, June 2nd as part of its 'We Love Australia' adventure week. The broadcast will take place from the Hunter Valley Gardens and has been secured by the NSW Government through its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.



### Seasoned Firewood

3 Mitre Load \$250  
4 Tonne Load \$460  
1 Tonne Load \$120

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WE DELIVER !!  
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DALE DROPLET SAYS...

Look after your AWTS!



**WATER - REUSE - RECYCLE**

### What is an AWTS?

An Aerated Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS) is an onsite sewage treatment plant. The wastewater produced is put through a series of treatment and disinfectant processes and then distributed on lawns and gardens.

### How to maintain your AWTS

The effective operation of your AWTS depends on:

- quarterly service and maintenance by a qualified service technician
- ensuring that treated effluent is not running or being sprayed onto neighbouring properties
- power to the system not being turned off.

### Owner's responsibilities

The owner of the AWTS is responsible for:

- fixing the system when problems are detected
- ensuring the system is inspected quarterly by a qualified service technician and the service report is sent to Council within 7 days
- desludging the system when solid levels become high (usually every 3-5 years)
- complying with Council's request for inspections or maintenance
- ensuring compliance with your Approval to Operate (licence) issued by Council annually
- displaying a sign stating "Recycled water, avoid contact, do not drink" is clearly visible around the disposal area.

Following these simple points will extend the life of your AWTS, reduce water consumption and save you money.

Further information can be found at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or contact our Environmental Health team on (02) 4993 4100.



DALE DROPLET SAYS...

Do you know what a land application area is?



**WATER - REUSE - RECYCLE**

### Land Application Area

### What is a land application area?

For those residents who have an on site sewage management system, this is a designated area of your yard where your domestic waste water is managed. Waste water can be applied to the designated area through a sub-surface absorption system (with trenches) or through an irrigation system (using sprinklers).

### Protecting the environment and your health

The waste water is rich in nutrients and can provide excellent nourishment for flower gardens, lawns, certain shrubs and trees. However if the land application area is not correctly installed or maintained it can harm the environment and place your health at risk.

To prevent this it is important to:

- engage suitably qualified people to design and install a land application area
- plant vegetation which is tolerant of high water and nutrient loads
- undertake regular inspections to identify changes to your application area
- fix any problems early

Further information can be found at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or contact our Environmental Health team on (02) 4993 4100.



**Ray White****Auction**

## Developments can make housing more affordable

by Kathryn Welling

**Proposed changes to negative gearing will not help housing become more affordable, the president of the Real Estate Institute of NSW warns.**

It will instead lead to a flurry of panic buying in the short-term and a shortage of rental properties in the long term.

John Cunningham, who is also managing director of Cunninghams Property on the northern beaches, says Labor's election plan to limit negative gearing just to new properties would not improve housing affordability.

Negative gearing gives property investors tax breaks. Any losses on a property investment can be used to lower tax.

**Policies: Ending negative gearing no silver bullet for affordability**

The Labor Party wants to restrict negative gearing to new property, taking effect from July next year. It is part of the party's election platform to make housing more affordable.

Cunningham says the change to negative gearing would see a flurry of investor buying before the July deadline followed by a steady decline in rental property coupled with a sharp rise in rents. "Labor hasn't identified that the property rental market of 33 per cent hasn't changed in 20 years



and it is a good balance because it works," he says.

"Most investors are mum and dad buyers who don't want to buy new apartment miles away but something close," he added. In addition the first home buyers wanting to get into the market will take longer to save their 20 per cent deposits, because their rents would be so high."

"And Labor is basing its policy on data that is three to four years old when interest rates were much higher."

Cunningham says property will become more affordable if the right sort of property is built in the right areas.

"I love the concept of medium density," he adds.

**Charitable: Investors help bridge housing affordability gap**

"Inner city living is vibrant and alive with medium density developments giving people options."

He pointed to the award-winning Stockland development in Balgowlah as a model for northern beaches living.

"We need more Stockland developments in my view," he says.

*This story was originally published by the Daily Telegraph.*

Photo above: John Cunningham, president of the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales

**NORTH ROTHBURY 7 Olivia Place** Land Size: 1244m<sup>2</sup>  
**Opportunity Plus Building Block** Auction: On Site  
 • North facing vacant 1244m<sup>2</sup> block Saturday 25th June at 10am  
 • Perfect opportunity to build your dream home Agent James Matthews  
 • Located in close proximity to Hunter Expressway/ 0402 773 476  
 Newcastle, Huntlee and Hunter Valley Vineyards raywhite.com/1472669

**Ray White Cessnock**

# TAYLOR

PROPERTY MARKETING

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50 Station Street, Branxton

SOLD \$245,000

**'Brick and Tile Family Home'**

- Brick and tile construction
- Tiled lounge room with ceiling fan
- Combustion fire
- Split system air conditioning
- Kitchen with electric cooking & meals area
- Main bedroom with BIR, ceiling fan, carpeted
- 2nd Bedroom with BIR, ceiling fan, carpeted
- 3rd bedroom, carpeted
- Internal laundry
- Boundary fully fenced; level rear yard
- Detached double lock up garage
- Land Size: 683sqm

Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836

**SOLD**

21 Kent Street, GRETA

SOLD \$290,000

**'A Great Start'**

- 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

Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836

**SOLD**

“ **Knowing just where you stand in the market gives you better choices!** ”

A Free Market Appraisal is a start, it gives you the peace of mind of knowing where you stand in the market. I can then plan a successful marketing campaign for your property.

Call me now for a **FREE** market appraisal and let's discuss your options.

**Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836**





**Thornton**  
 78 Golden Wattle Crescent  
**Safe Investment**  
 ideal for Self-Managed Super Funds & those wanting a secure tenant. This property is for sale on behalf of a Defence Housing Australia lessor & has a Defence Housing Australia lease in place. Vis it dha.gov.au to learn the benefits of investing in Defence Housing Australia Property. As a DHA your rent is guaranteed.  
 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 4000m<sup>2</sup> 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 900m<sup>2</sup>**  
 4 bedrooms, three with built in robes, large block & great shed. The combined lounge & dining room has RC/AC & polished pine timber floorboards throughout. The colourbond garage also has plenty of storage cupboards and a second shower and toilet. This garage could easily accommodate 2 large vehicles as well as storage space.  
 Price: \$375,000  
 View: by appointment  
 Contact Michael Cruickshanks  
 0409 362 130  
 LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779  
 7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



**Branxton**  
 10 Sutton Grove  
**View with Huge Shed!**  
 On 2 acres with beautiful views over the township of Branxton & only minutes to town or the new Hunter expressway. Large lounge and rumpus gives you the space needed to relax and unwind. Fully fenced yard with a good sized dam allows for maybe a pony or two. This property allows you the space to grow with plenty to offer.  
 Price: **UNDER OFFER**  
 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: \$290,000  
 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



**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

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## 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 ONO**



## 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**

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## 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 All reasonable Offers)**



### EAST BRANXTON

**Modern Villa ~ first home buyer or investor**  
In a sought after area n Branxtton ~ 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 Branxtton 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 Branxtton 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**

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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!

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**Open to all reasonable offers**



## EAST BRANXTON

Lovely family home

3 Bedroom family home with good built-ins in two.

Separate dining & living room with neat kitchen which includes granite bench tops.

Other features include:-

Combustion fire & air conditioning, lovely decking at rear, free standing garage.

All this on a very large fenced block.

Absolutely nothing to do just move in!

**PRICE ~ Open to all reasonable offers**

# Fixer-upper or reno nightmare? Eight warning signs to look out for

by Elicia Murray

The term “renovator’s delight” is banded about a lot in real estate ads but it pays to know whether a home is a genuine fixer-upper – or a sure-fire flop. Even rookie renovators will know a lick of paint, a few rolls of new carpet and some fancy appliances can lift a home with minor cosmetic flaws from drab to fab.

Beyond the surface uglies, there is a host of property turn-offs that could stand in the way of a dream renovation. How do you know whether they’re curable ailments or signs a home’s condition is terminal? Read on ...

## 1. Cracks

A few fine cracks here and there aren’t a huge concern but when they are more than 5 millimetres wide, you might have cause to be afraid. Very afraid.

Jim Elliott, principal of Sydney construction company Elliott Projects, says large cracks could be a sign a house has underpinning problems that can’t be fixed. “Big cracks could mean major structural issues,” Elliott says.

## 2. Damp

Likewise, mildew can be tricky – if not impossible – to eradicate. Be wary of homes with damp walls and musty smells. Evidence of crystallising salts in the walls is a warning sign that moisture could be penetrating the building, Elliott says.

“If it’s a small, localised section of damp and the building has been there for some time, it’s probably not as much of an issue, but if it’s extensive, you’ve got a problem.”

## 3. Ugly kitchen and bathroom

Owners of pink bathtubs

and floor-to-ceiling timber laminate kitchens, rejoice! Even the ugliest kitchens and bathrooms can be prettied up or ripped out and replaced relatively easily.

“Old-fashioned, worn-out looking bathrooms and kitchens you can always

fix,” Elliott says.

## 4. Dark rooms

Open-plan living is all the rage these days, so much so that bathrooms are occasionally incorporated into master bedrooms with nary a low shelf for privacy. (Seriously, architects, can we stop this trend?) Happily, traditional floorplans with separate kitchens, living rooms and dining rooms can usually be opened up by knocking down a wall or two, creating a modern, open-plan living space.

“Skylights and windows can be used to bring light into dark rooms too,” Elliott says.

## 5. Bad location

The gold standard in real estate is usually the house on the high side of the street with a north-facing backyard.

Of course, the asking price

will probably reflect a less-than-ideal location, but remember that location is one flaw that can’t be remedied.

Sarah Wood, director and project manager at The Middlewoman in Sydney, says it’s best not to buy a house built in a hollow. “If it’s a hot environment, it’s better to buy something on a hill,” Wood says.

“Think of the landscape without the houses and whether it gets a lot of shading naturally. It doesn’t matter how many skylights you put in, you can’t change the location.”

## 6. Mismatched additions

Some homes have had more nips and tucks than all the Real Housewives combined. Wood says a house in original condition – even if that condition isn’t too flash – is easier to renovate than one that has been extended ad infinitum. “The reasoning is that when it’s had several additions, they’ve usually been done by people who aren’t builders who have been fixing it up without a coherent plan. Most builders will say it’s best to knock it down and start again,” Wood says.

## 7. Wacky style

From charming terraces to sturdy bungalows, different

home types and styles are popular in different areas. When fixing up with a view to selling for a hefty profit, Sydney buyer’s agent Patrick Bright, EPS Property Search founder, advises researching the neighbourhood thoroughly and making sure you pick a home that is likely to sell quickly post-renovation. “You’ve got to look at what the area offers, what the demand is now and what the demand is likely to be in the future,” Bright says.

## 8. Traffic noise

Even the most delightfully decorated al fresco entertaining area isn’t going to be a hit with would-be buyers if it’s covered with smog from the B-doubles charging down the road over the fence.

For Bright, no matter how appealing a fixer-upper is in other respects, he would shy away from buying a home on a noisy road.

“It’s going to affect the resale,” he says. “Every property has negatives but you can’t fix the position. My personal preference is to avoid properties that are going to take a bit of time to sell but there’s a price point for everyone.”

≡ Photo above: outdated kitchen(?)



**Thomas**  
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SUNDAY

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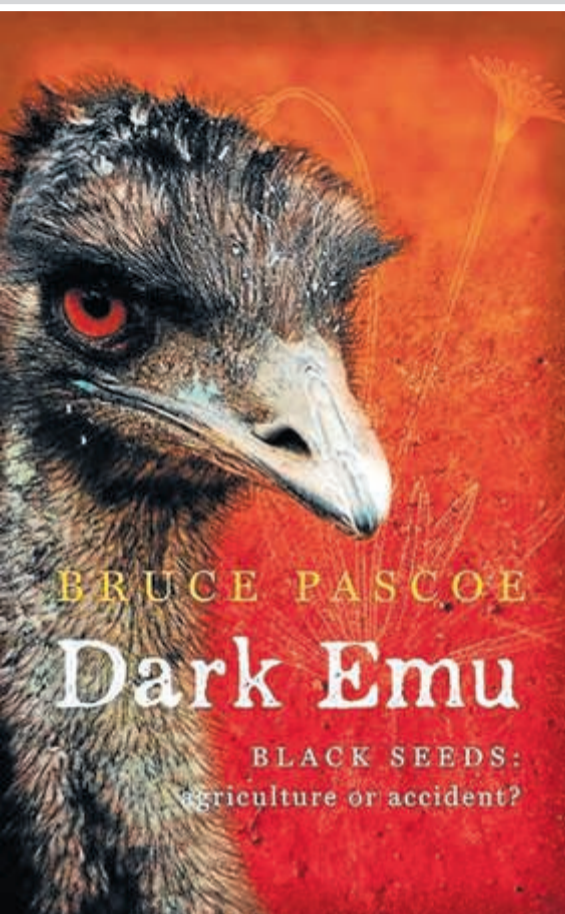
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SUNDAY 6.00pm



## Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe

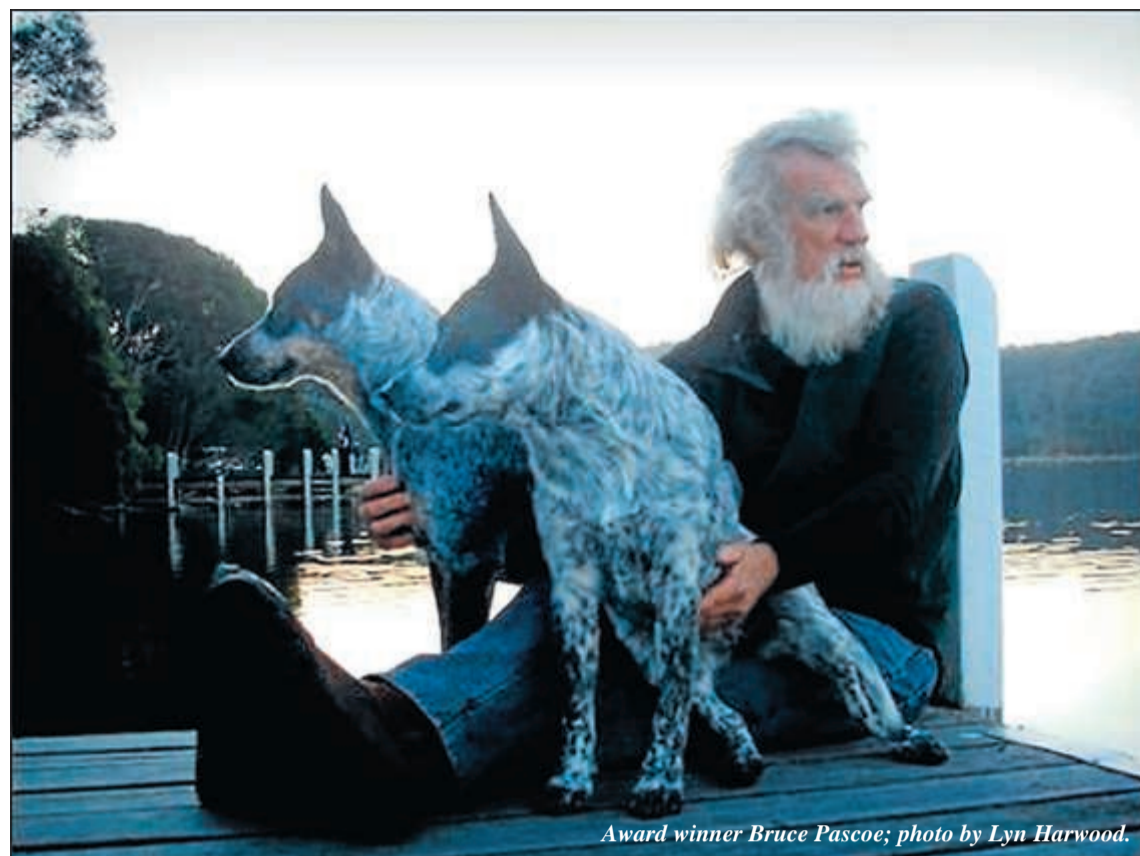


*Dark Emu Black Seeds: agriculture or accident?* is a short, sharp challenging book. Not challenging because it is difficult to read – far from it – but challenging in the way it undermines everything we thought we ‘knew’ about Aboriginal land management before white settlement. *Dark Emu* is an evocative title but the text is in fact illuminating, both for the light it sheds upon Aboriginal labour, agriculture and ingenuity and for its exposure of white people’s willful blindness. Pascoe builds on the work of Bill Gammage’s *Greatest Estate on Earth* (another text I highly recommend) but goes much further. Over and again, the early colonists recorded the existence of Aboriginal crops, food stores, houses, wells, irrigation systems and fisheries. Then, almost in the next breath, those same colonists exclaimed how the land was just there for the taking. Major Thomas Mitchell, as he crossed the frontier, describes what he sees: ‘... the grass is pulled... and piled in hayricks so that the aspect of the desert was softened into the agreeable semblance of a hay-field... we found the ricks or hay-cocks extending for miles.’ Mitchell goes on to describe and count the houses, and estimates a population of over one thousand. Yet later he can write, without a trace of irony, about the ‘land so inviting and still without

inhabitants!’ Another early white colonist of Victoria, James Kirby, went so far as to describe the ingenuity and skills that were demonstrated by the Aborigines and then to dismiss their labour-saving activities as sheer laziness. Pascoe captures the inconsistency beautifully and is worth quoting from *Black Emu* in full (pages 14-15). Later they witnessed people fishing with canoes, lines and nets. The purpose of the weirs gradually became clear. They were made by damming the stream behind large earthen platforms into which channels were let in order to direct fish as required. On one particular day Kirby noticed a man by one of these weirs. He wrote that: *a black would sit near the opening and just behind him a tough stick about ten feet long was stuck in the ground with the thick end down. To the thin end of this rod was attached a line with a noose at the other end; a wooden peg was fixed under the water at the opening in the fence to which this noose was caught, and when the fish made a dart to go through the opening he was caught by the gills, his force undid the loop from the peg, and the spring of the stick threw the fish over the head of the black, who would then in a most lazy manner reach back his hand, undo the fish, and set the loop again around the peg.* How did Kirby interpret this activity?

After describing the operation in such detail and appearing to approve of its efficiency he wrote, ‘I have often heard of the indolence of the blacks and soon came to the conclusion after watching a blackfellow catch fish in such a lazy way, that what I heard was perfectly true.’ Kirby saw a man, who must have known he was being watched, casually demonstrate a fishing method demonstrably better than that used by the whites. But Kirby, blinded by prejudice, was absolutely determined to see only what he wanted to see. He was not alone. Pascoe provides example after example of this kind of wilful blindness. Almost as an afterthought Pascoe also explores the similarly wilful excision of Aboriginal land management, Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal exterminations from white history.

Many early whites had positive interactions and relationships with Aborigines but, in order to occupy their land, those whites had to think of the Aborigines as inferior, nomadic, and even not quite human. To acknowledge anything else would be to invite the question – what right have I to be here? The Macarthur family were a perfect example of the dissonant relationship between black and white. John and Elizabeth were Georgian English colonists who genuinely believed the land was theirs for the taking. They had no sense of the extent of their own ignorance in the face of Aboriginal law, land management and custom. Yet John and Elizabeth were not unkind. With Governor Phillip they had dined with Aborigines at Government House and would later continue to do so in their own home. It seems that at one stage they may even have adopted or fostered a young Aboriginal boy. In the history I learned at school, such as it was, the Aborigines were simply assumed to have melted away and disappeared. Of course, we now know better – or do we? One particular passage in *Dark Emu* made me gasp. Pascoe describes a number of ceremonial grounds and includes a drawing, by Major Mitchell, of an exquisitely beautiful Aboriginal cemetery near the Darling River. At least one ceremonial ground, about an hour’s drive from where I live, has been preserved by four generations of white farmers. In this grove, according to Pascoe, trees ‘had been altered by lacing one limb over another while the trees were still saplings so that as they grew the limbs fused and left oval-shaped windows or rings.’ I have a tree like that in my back paddock (see photo at right). The kids call it the Hugging Tree. All of the others in that



Award winner Bruce Pascoe; photo by Lyn Harwood.

paddock (and there are many) grow straight and tall and I can’t tell you if my tree was deliberately shaped or not. But I can tell you that *Dark Emu* has opened my eyes to the possibilities of my own wilful blindness.

**SHORTLISTED** – History Book Award in the 2014 Queensland Literary Awards  
**SHORTLISTED** – 2014 Victorian Premier’s Award for Indigenous Writing  
**WINNER** – Book of the Year in the 2016 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards  
**WINNER** – Indigenous Writer’s Prize in the 2016 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards

### About the author

**Bruce Pascoe** (born 1947 Richmond, Victoria) is an Australian Indigenous writer, from the Bunurong clan, of the Kulin nation. He has worked as a teacher,

farmer, a fisherman and an Aboriginal language researcher. He is Director of Commonwealth Australian Studies project. He is working on preserving the Wathaurong language. His books include *Fog a Dox*, a book for young adults that won the Prime Minister’s Literary Awards in 2013, *Convincing Ground* about the Convincing Ground massacre, and *Dark Emu*, a book that challenges the claim that pre-colonial Australian Aboriginal peoples were hunter-gatherers. His research of early settler accounts found accounts of grain cultivation, flour, wells, and dams. He edited *Australian Short Stories*, from 1982 to 1998. **NSW Premier’s 2016 Literary Award**  
Author Bruce Pascoe won Book of the Year at the NSW Premier’s 2016

Literary Awards, for his acclaimed non-fiction study of Aboriginal agriculture, *Dark Emu*, which also shared top honours in the inaugural Indigenous Writer’s Prize with Ellen Van Neerven’s *Heat and Light*. NSW Premier Mike Baird said, In *Dark Emu*, Pascoe – a Bunurong, Tasmanian and Yuin man who grew up on King Island, and is now based in Victoria’s Far East Gippsland in Victoria – explores an alternative view of pre-colonial Aboriginal society, and encourages Aboriginal people to look at Indigenous food and farming as a viable commercial industry. ‘Pascoe demonstrates with convincing evidence, often from early explorers’ journals, that the Aboriginal peoples lived settled and sophisticated lives here for millennia before Cook. Aboriginal democracy created “the Great Australian Peace” on a continent which was extensively farmed, skilfully managed and deeply loved,’ the judges noted.

‘*Dark Emu* is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand what Australia once was, or what it might yet be if we heed the lessons of long and sophisticated human occupation.’

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# HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



Filming is now complete for the Winter Campaign and we look forward to releasing this to market from the middle of June. We are extremely excited by the great quality of work once again produced by the boys at Eluminate and look forward to sharing the end product with you.

Our Hunter Valley Legends Awards took place at Cypress Lakes Resort on Friday 27th of May to recognise the outstanding achievements of those in the region who have made major contributions and excelled within the Hunter Valley wine & tourism industries. This year the event was moved from a dinner event to a lunch function and we are pleased by the enormous amount of industry support. Full details in next report.

Now almost half way into Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival, anecdotally the two month wine and food extravaganza has been a huge success with a number of sold out events. With just over five weeks to go, you can expect such gourmet events as the Epicurean Club dinner which was happening at Chateau Elan last Thursday (26th May), A Taste of Wollombi was held on 29th

May, Whispering Brook Olive Long Luncheon and Hunter Valley Wine Festival at Crowne Plaza both on 4th June and Heroes of the Hunter, a decadent five course degustation which will be taking place daily at Redsalt, Crowne Plaza. For more not to be missed events, visit [winecountry.com.au](http://winecountry.com.au)

The Hunter Valley was well represented at the Australian Tourism Exchange on the Gold Coast with Balloon Aloft, Two Fat Blokes, Chateau Elan/The Vintage, Hunter Valley Gardens, McGuigan Wines and Hunter Valley Resort sharing a stand. There were over 2000 people in attendance and the Hunter Valley had 95 appointments with major travel agents from around the globe who send the majority of visitors to Australia.



## Police Report

### Stealing/Branxton:

Between 18:00 on Thursday 26 May 2016 and 09:00 on Friday 27 May 2016

Unknown person/s have entered the side chain fence at stated location by cutting the fence by unknown means. Offender/s have stolen copper pipe from the ground - nil

ransacked.

### MVA/Rothbury:

About 3.30pm on Thursday the 26th of May 2016 Veh 1 a Mitsubishi Triton single cab ute was being driven by a male, aged 30 from Rothbury. The Driver was travelling along Old North Road, Rothbury as he was going to deliver some fire wood that was loaded on the rear of his vehicle. As he was driving along Old North Road he has picked up speed after leaving an address. As he has come to round a slight left hand bend it appears that the driver has lost control of his vehicle. The vehicle went off the right side of the road and got caught up in loose gravel. The driver has over corrected and fish-tailed the vehicle about 40 metres before the vehicle appears to have spun around and flipped over. The cab of the vehicle has come to rest against a very large tree. The cab was crushed down onto the driver and he was confined in the vehicle and trapped by his feet.

Ambulance were called by the first person on scene. VRA rescue also attended to assist in removing the driver from the vehicle. The complete roof of the vehicle was cut away to remove the driver. The time of the collision was about 3.30pm 26/05/2016 and the time of extraction from the vehicle was 5.30pm. The driver was airlifted to the John Hunter Hospital.

Injuries include de-gloving of the right arm from just above his elbow to his wrist. He was suffering from pelvic pain and back pain. Police are still to speak with the driver of the vehicle about the cause of the collision.

### Steal from MV/North Rothbury:

Location : Olivia Place North Rothbury At 10.00 pm on Wednesday the 25th of May 2016, the victim parked his vehicle in the drive way at the front of his house in Olivia Pl, North Rothbury. At this time he believes that he locked his vehicle but cannot be certain.

At 8.00 am on Thursday the 26th May 2016 the victim went to his vehicle and found that his I Phone that was sitting on the front passenger seat had been stolen. There was no signs of forced entry into the vehicle.

### Fire/Greta:

T/D: 6am 30/5/16 LOC: Greta Workers Club. 2 West St, Greta.

Female toilets. Gaming area. FIRE: Electrical Exhaust fan.

Destroyed.

DAMAGE: Fan destroyed. Very minor smoke damage to ceiling. About 4.15am 30/5/16 the WITNESS, has arrived and turned on all the lighting in the club from the main electrical board in the bar.

Turning on the lights also turns on all the exhaust fans. The WITNESS has then emptied all the bins in the toilets and was in the female toilet where the fire originated at about 4.20am. At this time they did not notice anything unusual about the fan. About 6am the fire alarm has activated and the fire was located. At this time the P/R had arrived at the club and used a fire extinguisher to put the fire out. At the time the exhaust fan had fallen from the ceiling on to the tiled floor and was burning. The ceiling was not on fire at all.

Branxton F&R attended and checked the internal ceiling area and found all to be okay. The exhaust fan was destroyed. The brand of the fan is unknown.

There is nothing suspicious and the cause is believed to be electrical

### Southern Sector:

#### Fatal MVA/Jerrys Plains:

TIME; 9:57 pm

DATE; 21/05/2016

LOCATION; Golden Hwy, 4 km south of the Edderton Rd intersection, Jerrys Plains

VEHICLE 1; Holden Commodore sedan

Damage; Total

DRIVER 1; Male, aged 27 from Scone.

OBJECT 2; Guide post

OBJECT 3; Power pole

During the evening of Saturday the 21st of May 2016 the deceased attended a party at Jerrys Plains. About 9:57pm the deceased has been travelling west along the Golden Hwy at a speed believed to be well in excess of the posted 100 km/h when he has lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a right hand bend. The vehicle has left the near side of the roadway where it collided with an object 2 (guide post). The vehicle has continued for 80 metres on the grass verge before re-entering the roadway while rotating in a clockwise direction through 90 degrees. The vehicle has continued for a further 65 metres before leaving the off side of the roadway and colliding heavily with object 3 (power pole). The impact occurred on the rear of the vehicle and was so severe the power pole entered the vehicle cabin to a point in line with the rear of the front seats.

The deceased was attended to by passer bys before police arrived. At that time the deceased had not shown vital signs since shortly after being located. Ambulance arrived and confirmed, deceased.

The highway was closed in both directions with diversions put in place via Lemington and Bureen Roads. Crime Scene Officer in attendance. About 3:00am the deceased was removed from the vehicle and transported to the Newcastle Morgue.

The highway was re-opened about 3:45am. Vehicle escorted to the Newcastle holding yard for mechanical examination.

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**L**ight it **UP**  
NIGHT GOLF

Friday 17th June 2016

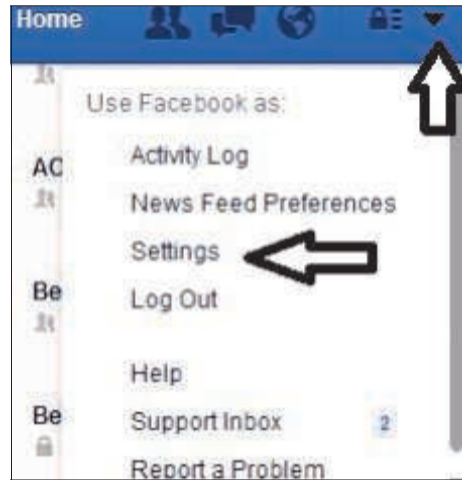


## Protect Your Facebook Account

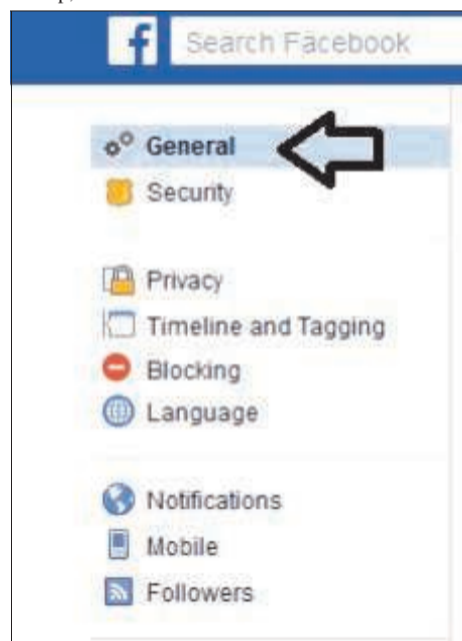
If you use Facebook, getting locked out of your account is a real pain. Fortunately, it's not too difficult to retrieve your password. But, for those steps to work, you need to have an e-mail address and phone number set up with Facebook for retrieving your password.

You also need to make sure that the phone number and e-mail address are current. Let's look at how to set up your account so that retrieving a lost password doesn't turn into a major hassle.

Start out by going to your Facebook homepage. Click the little arrow in the upper-right-hand corner. Choose **Settings** from the drop-down menu.



First up, select **General**.



Under General Account Settings, check e-mail. Make sure it's set to your current e-mail address.



To change the e-mail address, click edit. This is also how you can add an additional e-mail address. That's not a bad idea. Because you could also get locked out of an e-mail account. Especially, if someone steals your ID.



Your current e-mail will be displayed. To add another e-mail or phone number, just click "Add another email or mobile number."



You can then just type in the e-mail you wish to use.



You can change your primary contact e-mail by choosing the button next to the address. Removing an address is as easy as selecting **Remove**.



You can also add or update a mobile phone contact number by clicking **Add another email or mobile number**. Choose **Add your phone number?**



Then you can add a phone number. Easy!



### 57 Million Had Information Compromised

A whopping 57 million people had their passwords, e-mail addresses, phone numbers and other important information stolen when hackers stole a huge database last year and put that information up for sale on the dark web.

The breach only came to light when another hacker purchased the information and showed it to the folks at the ZDNet website. According to their report, the affected e-mail address included Apple and Google accounts as well as government agencies. At this point, no one is exactly sure just where the information was stolen from.

Many security experts say the safest thing to do is just assume that at some point your information has been compromised. That's why it's always best to enable 2-factor authentication and to change your password frequently.

### How A Kid Earned A Big Payout From Facebook

It's not uncommon for tech companies to offer rewards to people who go on "bug hunts" and discover flaws in their products.

The folks at Facebook recently paid out \$10,000 to a tech-savvy user who found a flaw in their Instagram photo sharing service. But this time, the bounty went to someone who isn't even old enough to have an Instagram account, a 10-year-old named Jani. The boy found a way to delete comments from anyone's Instagram accounts.

He alerted Facebook about the issue and they patched the bug and rewarded him with \$10,000. Previously, the youngest person to be awarded a bounty was 13. Facebook has paid out more than \$4 million to companies and individuals who've alerted them to security flaws.



## The Law Report



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



executors and those who benefit under the deceased's will is that almost always costs come out of the estate so Mr McCrohan's beneficiaries received \$140,000 after all deductions. It's not surprising that there are people who want to change the law. Some want to remove the chance for healthy adult children to claim anything. There are problems with that because sometimes the children have been unjustly treated - and sometimes its not just children but it's people who were regarded as children. I'll give you two examples.

### Mistresses and lovers

Some time ago I quoted the late Frank Hutley, a former judge of the state's highest court as writing in a foreword to a textbook as saying the Family Provision Act gave *mistresses and lovers* the right to bring claims.

Well sometimes, but not always. So for example Ms Hitchcock the mistress of the late Richard Pratt who was the founder of Visy Industries (perhaps best known as the makers of Visyboard) failed in her claim, but not because she didn't qualify.

Rather it was because Mr Pratt has so arranged his affairs that although while he was alive he could control his companies he had no assets in his own name.

Having no assets is one way to defeat a claim - and giving your assets away at least three years before you die is another but they are rather extreme.

And for those not able to set up the structures Mr Pratt did, mistresses can and do claim. So Ms Morgan, the former mistress of Mr Bohm succeeded in her claim against Mr Bohm's widow and received \$225,000 although the sexual relationship between Mr Bohm and Ms Morgan had been over for many years - its perhaps unusual in that Mr Bohm and Ms Morgan remained good friends and helped each other out; indeed Mr Bohm died of a heart attack while mowing Ms Morgan's lawn.

The case shows a quirk in the New South Wales law not copied in the other estates; the idea of notional estate. If I die without any assets in my own name then a claimant can claw back assets which I did own in some cases up to three years before my death - so that my estate 'notionally' owns them and they are available for a claim.

Mr Bohm owned assets in New Zealand where he normally lived and foreign or even interstate assets cannot be touched by New South Wales courts unless the deceased was 'domiciled' in New South Wales (domicile is a complicated concept, it covers people and companies but for most estate purposes it means where the deceased person normally lived). But Mr and Mrs Bohm also owned a house in Paddington as joint tenants. As I tell everyone whom I act for when they buy a home, if you own a property as joint tenant with someone else, upon your death that property passes to the other person "By operation of law" that is without any need for probate. But properties jointly owned can be brought back as notional estate even though upon death it passes to the other. And so it was with Ms Morgan.

That case also shows the amount of legal costs in these sort of actions - Ms Morgan's legal costs were \$110,000; Ms Bohm's \$142,000 (its unusual that an estate's costs are more than a claimants). That is together the costs were more than what Ms Morgan got from the estate.

That is sadly not uncommon. In Peterson v McCrohan where the entire estate had a net value of about \$410,000 the legal expenses were \$170,000 and Mrs Peterson (a step daughter of the deceased) was awarded \$100,000.

The problem for

The son had not - he had been in Western Australia when his sister died of a heart attack in Sydney but no matter how hard the deceased's friends (who were prepared to give evidence that she believed that her son killed her daughter) tried to reason with her, she remained adamant.

The second case shows why the drafters of the Family Provision Act wanted to widen claimants. A child whose mother had died had been taken in by his childless uncle and aunt and treated as their own child (though they never formally adopted him). He worked - for the proverbial 'pocket money' - on their farm all his life. The uncle's will gave his estate to his wife but if she died before him to the nephew. The aunt's will was a mirror image. Sadly, after the nephew had worked on the farm for over 50 years and his uncle had died family members whispered in the - by now ill and perhaps not all mentally competent - aunt's ear, persuading her to change her will to benefit them and not the nephew who was still farming and still paying the profits of the farm to his aunt. In both these cases the child - in my view rightly - succeeded.

Others want to make it harder to bring a claim. That I think is an excellent idea; there should be some additional reason beyond being a child - for a child (or someone in a child's position) to be able to bring a claim. Both of my examples above had that additional reason - the first that his mother was clearly suffering delusions, the second that he had worked all his life for his uncle and aunt expecting (as most farmer's sons do) to get the family property on the death of his 'adopted parents'.

The Victorian Law Reform Commission is looking at both these - and more - options and you can read about their enquiry here.

<http://www.lawreform.vic.gov.au/content/succession-laws-consultation-paper-family-provision.html>

The advice I normally give estates - and I've acted for many over the last 30 years - is to settle the claim because it's not worth the court costs in fighting even if the executors think they will be successful. It's unpleasant but its the best advice I can give, even though I have had some good wins on behalf of estates - including one where the claimant lost completely.

Cheers, Peter

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## Home loan pre-approval is essential

John Cunningham REINSW President

Finding your dream home can take years, but without a pre-approved home loan your dream could turn into a nightmare.

This is why one of the most important pieces of advice I always give prospective buyers is to get their finances pre-approved.

Heading off to an open home on a Saturday and falling in love with your dream home without having your pre-approval in place can cause a lot of stress and heartache.

Having a pre-approval means you know exactly how much you have to spend and shows the real estate agent that you're serious. The last thing you want after spending so much time and effort finding a property is to miss out on it because you don't have the finances in place.

It is more important than ever to get one done as soon as possible because the time it is taking our major banks to approve loans is the longest I have seen in the last 20 years.

Home loan brokers have told me that some banks are taking three weeks to approve loans, whereas in the past it would take a week.

This puts buyers at serious risk if they exchange contracts with a five day cooling off period and do not get their pre-approval, let alone their full approval within the five days.

Lending rules are also being tightened for investors which is making banks take a closer look at all applications: what may have been acceptable even six months ago may now cause some issues.

This is why if you had a loan approved longer than three months ago, I would recommend checking that your limits are still OK as the rules are constantly changing.

The self-employed, small business owners and commission-based income earners are the hardest hit because their income stream is often erratic and seen as a possible risk by banks. It is important to get evidence over a period of time.

So my advice to any homebuyer is to contact your broker or bank and get your loan pre-approved, because once you get the green light and know your limits you can buy with confidence

## A population problem

By John Cunningham – REINSW President



One of Sydney's biggest problems is you, me and the rest of us that live here, as well as everyone else who desires to do so.

Sydney's population is

closing in on five million and its rapid growth has led to excessively high property prices, packed trains, clogged motorways and hours on the bus to work or a football game on the weekend.

The problem is not going to go away and will only get worse, unless a cohesive approach is taken to create both a metropolitan and regional renewal program, including the building of more appropriate housing in the Sydney basin.

One of the problems is that we live in an undulating city which restricts easy construction. We have waterways to cross and deep valleys to traverse, and an inadequate and antiquated transport system. State and federal governments for the past 30 years have put the solution in the "too hard" basket and now

the price is being paid. You only have to look at the dithering on the second airport solution!

However, despite all these issues we still love the place and wouldn't want to live anywhere else, which is why the population keeps on growing at over 60,000 people a year. So what is the solution? Firstly, it's to discover what Sydneysiders actually want in their housing - and the results may be surprising.

We have an ageing population who want to downsize, and yet in many established areas we have antiquated planning controls that will not provide effective integrated living. This style of living would even scale from high density in city areas to low density in small local community hubs. As a result, we are sending our elderly citizens to aged care facilities situated well away from their own neighbourhoods. Integrated living would help people of all ages live in a vibrant safe area where shopping, cafes, medical and commercial facilities are all in close proximity.

Let's hope that another one of the positives to come out of the recent council amalgamations is an overhaul of planning controls to bring us into the 21st century.

## Elections impact on property

By John Cunningham - REINSW President

Election results don't just have a massive impact on the economy, but also on the future of the property industry.

Now that we're in Federal election mode, the question on everyone's lips is about who will win and what effect it will have. The main consideration for most people is employment, taxes, health and education.

However the property industry is one of the biggest industries in Australia and the election will play a critical role in shaping its future. The main issue that could affect the property sector is any changes to negative gearing. This is seen by some as the refuge of the wealthy. The reality is far different, with the vast majority of negatively-gearing investment property owned by working class people who have used the equity they have built up in their family home to get ahead.

Negative gearing plays a positive part in ensuring the supply of rental properties in the market. Currently about 30% of homes are rented and if that number drops, then rents would go through the roof.

Any proposal to play with negative gearing would result in a series of hiccups and could cause first-time investors to rush into the market to secure established property. The knock-on effect would see an immediate spike in property values due to this increased demand, and then an oversupply of rental properties as a result.

We would then only see investment in new dwellings and the supply of established housing for tenants would slowly disappear, forcing people into new dwellings at much higher rents.

The unique nature of how our housing system is structured and the risks undertaken by the property investor support the private rental market - and without it where would people live? Certainly not in the tiny amount of social housing the government offers.

All we can do until the election is wait to see what our future holds. I hope we see a positive future for everyone in the property industry, because buying a property is one of the biggest and best financial decisions someone will ever make.

## What is vacant possession?

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

During the process of buying or selling your property, you may hear your solicitor or conveyancer refer to the term "vacant possession".

This is a legal term which means the vendor has to provide the purchaser the property, free of any item that was not contracted to be there, so that there is no substantial impediment to the undisturbed enjoyment of the property. So, for example, if the property was tenanted then the tenant must vacate the property to make it available for the purchaser. This "status" is required at settlement when the purchaser pays the remaining money due to acquire the property, and the vendor gives the purchaser all of the necessary documents to enable the purchaser to register their title.

So on the face of it that sounds relatively simple. Well, unfortunately, like so many legal issues, it is anything but simple! Vacant possession is very subjective, and depends on the circumstances of each case and contract terms. As an example of the problems you can encounter, take the issue of rubbish. Vacant possession requires the vendor to remove all the rubbish from the property. However, one person's view of constitutes rubbish can be very different from another person's view. We have all heard the expression "one man's trash is another man's treasure"!

As a purchaser you would do well to ensure you are as specific as possible. Don't be frightened to ask the obvious questions like is that item staying or going? You may be very pleased you did.



## THE NICE GUYS



**SYNOPSIS: In 1970s Los Angeles, down-on-his-luck private eye Holland March (Ryan Gosling) and world-weary enforcer Jackson Healy (Russell Crowe) have nothing in common until they're plunged into a life-or-death mystery when the missing persons case they're both following makes them the target of paid killers. Now grudgingly working together along with March's precocious teenage daughter Holly (Angourie Rice), they must navigate the smog-filled days and neon-soaked nights of 1970s Los Angeles to follow a labyrinthine trail of clues to finally find Amelia (Margaret Qualley), the missing girl. But this is only the tip of the iceberg; they uncover a shocking conspiracy that reaches up to the highest circles of power. Review by Louise Keller:**

The ingredients are mouth wateringly good: Russell Crowe and Ryan Gosling as a mismatched odd couple in a retro 70s comedy action thriller written and directed by Shane Black, the man who created the original Lethal Weapon in 1987. The tone is offbeat, the juxtaposition of ideas occasionally inspires and goofy moments entertain; yet overall the film never quite satisfies or rises to the level to which it aspires. The screenplay is to blame. But there is fun to be had in this rambunctious comedic film that keeps us guessing as blows are exchanged, bullets fly and two flawed individuals somehow find their mark together. As for the two leads, they play exceedingly well against each other.

The year is 1977 and the place is Los Angeles, where both Healy (Crowe) and March (Gosling) are guns for hire. Healy's niche is punching guys who prey on young women, while March accepts pretty much any commission his PI badge brings in. According to March's 13 year old innocent, ever-helpful

daughter Holly (Angourie Rice), her dad is the worst PI in the world, which perhaps accounts for the fact that she keeps her eye on him. Rice is a lovely surprise, popping her head unexpectedly into all the action and getting caught up in the proceedings as a result. From the outset we know that both Healy and March are struggling to hang onto the lowest rungs of their respective ladders. Crowe and Gosling have crafted their characters beautifully, delivering something we have not seen before from either of them. Crowe's Healy may be all brawn and little style, but he has a twinkle in his eye; March's inadequacies bring out the best in him. Gosling meanwhile, is goofy and earnest all at once as March accidentally tumbles from balconies, swims with party mermaids and stumbles over his own feet.

The story involves a porno star called Misty Mountain, air pollution activists and the making of an experimental film, whose star Amelia (Margaret Qualley) is the girl for whom everyone is searching. Amelia is a wonderful, almost mystical creation, wearing a canary yellow gown that is low cut at the front, rises high elsewhere and flutters in the breeze like an illusion. The body count rises as clues are followed and questions mount. Watch out for Kim Basinger who has a small but important role as head of the Justice Department with a keen interest in the case. The fun / sleazy side of Los Angeles is on display: there are wild parties with unicorns, red Indians and near naked girls whose rumps double as somewhere to place your drink. It's the oddball nature of all the elements that are the film's greatest rewards; with a better script, it could have been another Lethal Weapon.

**Review by Andrew L. Urban**

I would have been curious to attend the Cannes festival screening of The Nice Guys (screening out of Competition) just to see the reactions. It's the sort of film that would have divided festival audiences (never mind the media) with its drunken lurches of tone from broad comedy, sharp satire,

crazy farce and heavy drama – all wrapped in the quintessential American genre, the detective movie. Shane Black revels in these tonal differences and accentuates them – not something many filmmakers dare (or want) to do.

Adding to the schizo feel is that Russell Crowe plays it pretty straight as the enforcer whose physical force is his way of getting things done. By contrast, Ryan Gosling plays it more for laughs, farce even, as the loser private eye with a 13 year old daughter, Holly (Angourie Rice), who seems smarter and nicer than her dad. Rice gives a ripper performance, and is destined for great things. The difference in the characters is perhaps partly accounted for by the fact that Shane Black created the Holland Marsh character (Gosling) while Anthony Bagarozzi, the co-script writer, created Jackson Healy (Crowe) before trading the characters back and forth.

In many ways the plot is secondary to the 70s ambiance of Los Angeles and the undercurrent of vice, corruption and sleaze. The motivations for the characters manipulating things are not just corporate greed – that would be too simplistic. Black introduces layers of misguided national pride through the character of Judith Kuttner (Kim Basinger), head of the Justice Department, mother of missing Amelia (Margaret Qualley) – and a staunch defender of the Detroit motor industry, whose behaviour is under the spotlight.

The film is full of spiky performances from a terrific cast of supports, from Murielle Telio's leggy porn star Misty Mountains, to Daisy Tahan's innocent young Jessica, Holly's friend, Matt Bomer as cold blooded John Boy, Yaya DaCosta as the surprising and striking looking Tally, and not least the wonderful Lois Smith as Mrs Glen, who plays a key role in the mystery of the Misty Mountain's apparent death in a car crash which launches the film with something of a bang.

Even Lance Valentine Butler makes an impression in his only scene as a boastful kid on a bike who sells information ... and anything else he can. If you like your films to zig zag for entertainment, this is an always engaging and edgy work, carrying Black's signature elements of conflicting textures which created the sardonic action buddy comedy franchise, Lethal Weapon. **3.5/5**



Helen Lowing, Proprietor .Licencee-in-Charge

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

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

This article from Andrew was first published in May 2013 but it's a cracker! To get my kids to behave, I use lollies as a bartering tool. There, I said it! Does it work? Every time! E.V.E.R.Y time!! Of course, their



mother does not know I do this, so I trust that you will keep this little secret to yourselves. When she is in earshot and I have been given the arduous task of disciplining the little buggers during a 'performance', it is not so easy to just produce a small handful of jelly beans or some other gooey confectionery. So I wink in a way in which they know that I'm going to reward them later if the nonsense stops immediately. They know the look. I hear my wife always telling her friends that I'm amazing when it comes to stepping in when needed and restoring order. What a sucker! Seriously! My wife is a smart, sophisticated woman (which could easily be challenged when you look at whom she chose to shack up with), so how, you may ask, can she be so blindsided by this scenario? The answer is simple. She's a sucker. Actually, we're all suckers. Every one of us.

Let's discuss. Actually, the basis of today's article is the result of an arresting piece I read in the Sydney Morning Herald last week. While we're on the topic, what do you think of the new tabloid format for the SMH? Personally, it doesn't sit very well. I'm sure commuters on Sydney trains will be thankful. However, I love that it was so big that you had to disassemble the sections and have your arms widespread, as you toss and tumble with its form. In fact, the old format of the SMH was such that it would take over the entire kitchen table and half the living room. It was a pleasurable experience to have to find which section you wanted to view next.

"Where's the sport?"  
 "I think it's under the bean bag!"  
 "Oh goody.....and where's the entertainment section?"  
 "Uuuuummmmm.....oh, here it is, on the table!"  
 "Oh goody...and where's the business section?"  
 "The business section was next to the toaster a minute ago...by the way....your toast is burning."  
 "That's not my toast...I think it's the business section."  
 "Oh goody!"

By the end of breakfast, there would be a pile of newspaper, spilt coffee, cereal, jam, peanut butter, milk... you name it. The SMH would be like a tornado... "Here I come - Whhhooooosssshhhhh!!!" Hhhhhmmmmmm... yes...it's just not the same. Nowadays when you read the SMH, you may as well be reading the bloody Branxton News! Whoops!

Okay, moving along. So listen to this. The article's heading is 'Lives At Risk Around The World From Novel Bomb Detectors'. So I'll give you the rundown, ready? This guy, right, his name is James McCormick. He was a former electrical appliance salesman. He developed (along with another guy), a bomb detector and approached armies, police forces and governments around the world. Mr McCormick claimed that the bomb detectors needed absolutely no power, except the 'electrostatic energy from the human body'. Wow! Pretty advanced stuff, don't you think? He also claimed that the detectors worked from deep underwater or even from a low-flying plane. Whoa! But there were just one or two tiny little problems. The bomb detectors were in fact novelty golf ball finders with 'no scientific basis and absolutely no ability to identify explosives'. Damn! They turned out to be nothing but a swivelling antenna connected to nothing but a plastic hand grip. It was found that the design lacked 'any grounding in science, nor does it work in accordance with the known laws of physics' and was 'completely ineffectual as a piece of detection equipment'. Bummer! So did Mr McCormick pick up his bomb detector and head back into his shed in the hope of modifying a more complete version of his idea? S\*\*\* no!!! He went out and sold 37 million pounds (A \$55 million) worth to Iraq!! And ready for this? This is the scary part. The United Nations got sucked into the con, parting with 42,000 pounds for just five units (which cost 13 pounds per unit in your local golf shop). When all this was brought to light, the detective

superintendent in charge, Nigel Rock, was quoted as saying "It's inconceivable. I find what he did quite incredible and diabolical." Yep! Uh-ha!  
 I guess the question is what is more concerning? A guy who is stupid enough to think that the top security forces of the world are going to fall for such an obvious con? Or that senior governmental officials fell for it? The fact that the same officials who fell for it are the same people in charge of administering bombs (ie pressing "the button") in the first place, is possibly the most concerning fact. Old James Patrick Shamus Ryan McCormick just waltzed straight into the UN.....

"G'day guys...look...I've got some bomb detectors, do you want to buy some?"  
 "Yeah, sure mate, give us a look."  
 "There you go."  
 "It's just a piece of metal with a plastic handle!"  
 "Yes...uuuummm...well....."  
 "Look mate, you look like you're a trustworthy kind of fella....we'll take some!"

Based on the infrequent occasions when I entertain a mild paranoia with modern society, within this sphere of high melodrama, I cease to hold a radiant and enlightened future for our universe. I cannot help but reflect on the famous quote by Albert Einstein...."Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity....and I'm not sure about the former". James McCormick may cut a relatively harmless figure on the surface, but when one views his potential abilities, he is verging on ascending to the same dizzy heights of stardom occupied by such luminaries as Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden. Thank God all of this nonsense was identified and stopped before Mr McCormick could board a plane to Australia.....

"So you see Mr Abbott, this device is absolutely essential in your country. I have no doubt that there are bombs literally everywhere here. There is probably a bomb planted in the ground just below us. Let me just test it.....yes.....just as I thought!"  
 "Oh, Mr McCormick, thank God you're here! The people of Australia are in real danger! The only problem is that we are in a huge deficit at the moment...so maybe if we just take 30 billion dollars worth for now, with a view of getting more down the track."

"Great....I'll put you down for 30 billion dollars worth.....and could we make that cash up front if that's okay?"  
 "Of course we can....I insist!"  
 You see, the James McCormick's of this world are not 'good' at what they do. They are simply allowed to flourish as a result of a collective naivety. We are all suckers. If I was to dispense with a smattering of immortal advice to principally showcase the essential core of why we are suckers, we would have to penetrate deeply into the bubble of global anxiety. But do we really want to do that? No??? Exactly! There's our answer, right there! That's why we are suckers!

There is a lesson here, yet I will endeavour again to leave it in your capable hands. I must go now as my offspring are trying to send their mother to an early grave by setting the house alight. S\*\*\*!! I'm all out of lollies!! Hhhhhmmmmmm....I wonder if I just colour in this Blue-tak I have just stumbled upon, and pass it off as chewing gum? Yes.....I think I'm catching on....mmmwha....mmmwwhahaha..... mmmmmwwwwwhahahahahaha-haha.... Cheers Andrew

THE NEWS No. 431 TUESDAY 31 May 2016 25

You can e-mail, fax or simply drop your or into our office:- 12 Cliff Street, Branxton or Fax: 4938 3301 or E-mail: [thenews@hotmail.net.au](mailto:thenews@hotmail.net.au)  
 All contributions welcome

and

TO Cessnock City Council for their work in upgrading the entrance to Branxton with their work at Miller Park. The entrance now, even though not complete, is just what was needed to give our town a most pleasant entry for all to see as compared to what was. It also gives Miller Park a lot more area for passive recreation & sporting facilities. . . Just fantastic!

TO the dog owners particularly in East Branxton; if you have a dog that you know could be a danger/nuisance please ensure you understand your responsibilities as an owner ~ Under the Companion Animals Act 1998 a dog is a nuisance dog if it:

- consistently roams; or makes persistent, excessive noise; or repeatedly defecates on private property other than the property on which it is ordinarily kept; or repeatedly runs at or chases a person, animal (other than vermin or in the course of droving, tending, working or protecting livestock) or vehicle; or endangers the health of a person or animal (other than vermin or in the course of droving, tending, working or protecting livestock); or repeatedly causes substantial damage to anything outside the property on which it is ordinarily kept

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**For Sale:** South Suffolk rams, top quality. Price neg but looking for reasonable offers. P: 4938 3236  
**For Sale:** 2002 Rover 75. Unregistered. Needs some TLC which I am not prepared to do. Full leather, GPS. Beautiful vehicle. Price Neg P: 0414 757 826  
**Garage/Moving Sale:** Saturday 4th June 8-12 noon @ 42 Cessnock Road Branxton. Furniture, Kitchenware & other bargains. Ph 49381236  
**Garage Sale:** Sat 11 June at 8 George Street, Branxton. Just some items up for sale: 1xrecliner chair, bookcase, 4ward-robos, 2xdressing tables, 1 single steel, 1 double steel frame bed with slates, 1 computer desk, 1 blanlet box, 5 draw cupboard, chest drawers half hanging with 7 draws + other sundries.  
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**Wanted:** high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826  
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**Work Wanted:** HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701  
**Work Wanted:** Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567  
**Work Wanted:** Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081  
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**Work Wanted:** experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804  
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**Work Wanted:** Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989  
**Work Wanted:** Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936

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

Dates for your diary >

Wed 1 June - Greta Public School P&C Fundraising Meeting  
 Thur 2 Jun/ Fri 3 Jun - Stage 1 Tocal excursions. Branxton Public School  
 Thur 2 June - Greta Public School Greta Play2Learn Playgroup  
 Fri 3 June - Greta Public School Questacon  
 4 Jun to 5 Jun - Dungog Antiques and Collectables Fair Lord Street - Search your cupboards and have your collectibles valued at the Dungog Antiques and Collectables Fair.  
 Sat 4 Jun - Sat 4th June Branxton Wine Country Cat Club is holding their first Pedigree and Companion Cat Show at Branxton Community Hall. Public Welcome from 11am to 3-30pm Come and see over 100 Cats and Kittens from your long haired Persians to your Orientals. Burmese Bengals British Abyssinians Companion Cats and many more! Watch and listen to the Judges talking about the breeds as they judge. Talk to the owners and Breeders on the day. Raffles, Lucky door prizes. Entry fee \$2 Pensioners/Singles \$5 Families  
 Mon 6 June - Cypress Lakes Resort Hunter Culinary Food Fight 2016. This year's theme will see the former team of Sydney's prestigious Banc restaurant going head to head with former Brett Graham Scholarship winners.  
 Mon 6 June - Branxton Public School P & C Meeting. 6pm Library  
 Mon 6 June - Greta Public School ZOO EXCURSION (Whole School!!)  
 Tue 7 Jun - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Brxt Golf Club  
 Thurs 9 June - Greta Public School Greta Play2Learn Playgroup  
 Sat 11 June - The Grazing Blaze - Pokolbin Brokenwood Wines - Brokenwood Wines and The Cellar Restaurant team up for a bonfire supper and wine tasting amongst the vines in Brokenwood's iconic Graveyard Vineyard.  
 Tue 14 June - Greta Public School Assembly  
 Tues June 14 - Branxton/Greta CWA Mtg, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff room. Enquires to Deirdre 0417277589 or Deeanne 0429636925  
 Wed 15 June - Greta Public School P&C General Meeting  
 Thur 16 June - Greta Public School Greta Play2Learn Playgroup  
 Sun 19 Jun - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
 Thur 23 June - Greta Public School Greta Play2Learn Playgroup  
 25 Jun to 17 Jul - Mercure Resort Hunter Valley Garden - Snow Time in the Garden is a great opportunity for families and friends to get together and experience an icy wonderland over three huge weeks, including the winter school holidays.  
 Tue 28 June - Greta Public School 'School Assembly'

Dates for your diary >

Thur 30 June - Greta Public School Greta Play2Learn Playgroup  
 Fri 1 July - Greta Public School Last day term 1  
 Tue 5 July - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
 Wed 6 July - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00pm  
 Tue 12 July - B/G CWA Mtg, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.  
 Sun 17 Jly - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
 Tue 19 July - B/G CWA Birthday Lunch, venue etc. TBA.  
 Sat July 23 - Trivia Nite at Branxton Golf Club hosted by Branxton Lions Club  
 Tue 2 August - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
 Tue 9 Aug - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.  
 Sun 21 Aug - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
 Sat 27 Aug - Annual Op Shop Fashion Parade @ Branxton Community Hall from 2.00  
 Tue 6 Sept - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
 Tue 13 Sept - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.  
 Thur 15 Sept ~ Branxton Public School "The Boscars" School Concert  
 Sun 18 Sept - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
 20-22 Sept - New South Wales Wine Industry Awards at Cessnock Leagues Club  
 Wed 5 Oct - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00  
 Tue 11 Oct - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting AGM, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.  
 Wed 12 Oct - Rags to Riches High Tea for Women's Cancer @ Branxton Community Hall from 11.30am  
 Sun 16 Oct - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
 Tue 8 Nov - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.  
 Sun 20 Nov - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
 Sun 2 Dec - Twilight Market (4.00pm to 8.00pm) - Proceeds to Prostrate Cancer & Beyond Blue  
 Tue 13 Dec - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room, followed by Christmas lunch.  
 Sun18 Dec - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds



### Kirkton Public School News

#### Cattle Judging

Our Cattle Judging Team recently travelled to Singleton to participate in the Junior Judging event held by the Singleton Beef and Land Management Group. This was another great day, both the activities and the weather.

Not only did the students judge cattle but they also enjoyed other activities related to agriculture. These were selecting seed types, cuts of meat, vaccinations, washing and preparation of cattle, types of breeds and fat cover.

The team was very professional with their judging and organising their notes for a possible oral presentation.

Jago and Asha were the 'lucky' ones to be chosen for oral presentations. Both spoke on behalf of their teams and Asha's talk also counted in the individual contest. Both did a magnificent job. They were clear and confident.

The results were - as an individual Asha gained a Highly Commended broad ribbon. Two of our three teams tied in the teams' event and each person in those teams of three received a broad ribbon for their efforts. (Team 1 - Jago, Millie Ethan Smith; Team 2 - Asha Audrey Raoul)

Finally, the efforts of the whole team of ten students combined for us to win 'Luna' a Charolais/Angus cross heifer.

We now have the task of preparing her for the Singleton Prime Beef Competition in September. WOW!!!!!! Well done to all our team!!!



### Rosary Park Catholic School

Term 2 has been very busy at Rosary Park .

#### Knights Knockout

The Under 10's Rugby League team have been invited to the Newcastle Knights Knockout on 16 June, 2016. (Wet weather alternate date is 23 June, 2016.) A note will go home regarding this as soon as the venue has been announced. Thank you to Jayden Miller and Trent Wagstaff for volunteering to coach the boys again.

#### Congratulations Alex Martin

Congratulations Alex Martin for competing in the Maitland/Newcastle Diocesan Basketball team. The team competed over a week in Terrigal and they came 3<sup>rd</sup> in their competition. Alex's coach congratulated him on his excellent skills. We are proud of you Alex!

#### Mother's Day

Thank you to the children who participated so beautifully in our Anzac Day Liturgy and our Mother's Day Mass. It was lovely to also see so many parents, family and community members joining in on these days. Congratulations also to the school choir and Katelyn Lawrence and Piper Dougherty on a fabulous performance after the mass.

Saint Vincent DePaul has launched their Winter Appeal for 2016. SVDP would like any donations of good quality blankets and warm clothes you can provide. Time to clean out the cupboards! We will also be collecting non-perishable food items that will be distributed to those in need. In response, our Mini-Vinnies team will be organising a fundraising day, details to come. Thank you Mini Vinnies!

**Kinder enrolments** are still being accepted. If you know anyone interested in sending their child to



our school, please direct them to the school's phone number - 4938 1541 or to the school office.

#### World Youth Day 2016

Congratulations to Miss Edser and Miss Ward on being selected to accompany our youth of the Diocese to World Youth Day in Poland later in the year. It will be a great experience for both of them and I am sure they will be richer for the experience.

#### Library

Thank you to Branxton Pre-School and Liberty Hunter, author of 'Denial is a River in Egypt: *Dare to dream, dare to be free*', for their generous donations to the school library.

Thank you also to the wonderful generosity to the families of RPCS for past donations of pre-loved books.

Don't forget the Book Fair on Wednesday, 25 May.



### Branxton Public School

Branxton Public School participated in Walk Safely to School Day in Week 4, with groups of walkers making the trek from Miller Park and North Rothbury. They were then treated to a free breakfast at the canteen, courtesy of the P&C. Thank you to the parents who walked with us. It was a lovely way to start the day.

Both of our soccer teams achieved success in Week 4. Mr J's soccer boys and Ms Magann's soccer girls not only won their games against the Greta teams, they showed

excellent sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the games. The soccer boys played Bolwarra P.S. in Week 5 and while they didn't win, they played an excellent game. Well done!

Mr Foster had a great time at the Knights Knockout day with his team. They also showed great sportsmanship and gave their all, winning one game out of four. Huge congratulations to Will Leonard, who has made the Hunter Touch Football Team. He will travel to Tamworth next term to play in the State Championships.

The PBL Assembly was held in Week 5 with students receiving their merits in the morning and enjoying an afternoon of reward activities. It was wonderful to see the families and community members in attendance.

The Greta-Branxton Men's Shed has become involved in our school in a very practical way. They are helping some of our Year 6 students build pencil boxes during lunch time on Wednesday. The program is designed to improve the self-esteem of students and promote leadership skills. So far the response from students has been very positive. Thank you to Kevin and Stephen for your patience and for sharing your expertise.

Thank you to the P&C for making the Questacon Science Show available to all students by covering the cost of the show. A fantastic way to support all of our students. The next P&C meeting is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm in the library.

Plans are being made for a retirement dinner for Mark & Maria Ouvrier at Restaurant Cuvee in June. They would like to share this event with community members both past and present who have played a significant part at their time in Branxton. Please phone the school office for further details.

Save the date! BPS students and staff will be presenting "The Boscars" concert on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September. The auditioning process has begun and the excitement is building!



Knights Knock-out team



Girls Soccer 2016

Girls Soccer

#### Dates for the Calendar

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June & Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Stage 1 Total Excursions

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June - P&C Meeting 6pm in library

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September - "The Boscars" School Concert



Walk Safely to School Day



Boys Soccer



Men's Shed activities



■ A very regal looking Mrs Bateman and her beautiful kindy's looking resplendent for National Simultaneous Storytime!

## Greta Public School



### Walk to School Day

Students and staff had a pleasant time getting some fresh air and exercise on their walk to school last Friday to celebrate National Walk to School Day. What better way to conclude the walk than to have a free breakfast, prepared by some of our wonderful parents. Let's hope we can keep the healthy practice continuing!



■ Walking to school

### Quستاcon

Are coming to Greta Public School on Friday 3 June!! We are very aware that with Sports in Schools and the Taronga Zoo excursion, there has been some financial pressure on our families and for this reason, we have been able to make funds available to cover the cost for all students to be able to attend. Quستاcon is an awe-inspiring science-based activity and show that meets a lot of the future learning needs of students in the fields of Science, Maths and Engineering, areas which will be the jobs-base of the coming years.

### Moving Term 3 School Development Day

We have been in discussions with some of our Community of Schools members about combining for staff training in the "7 Steps to Writing Success" program. 7 Steps to Writing Success is a very highly regarded program for boosting student writing efforts and instilling a love for writing. As it is such a sought after program, presenters are booked up over 12 months in advance for School Development Days. We can do the training, it would just mean that we would have a different 'pupil free day'. Instead of students returning to school next term on the Tuesday, they would return on the Monday and the following Monday 25 July would be our 'pupil free day'. Whilst we appreciate that this rescheduling of the School Development Day may cause some inconvenience, we believe that the program and the benefits that will flow on to our students make the change necessary and worthwhile.

### Girls - Paul Kelly Cup AFL

Last week at Max McMahon Oval our senior girls played in the Paul Kelly Cup. Unfortunately only Greta Public and Telarah Public School attended the competition, so we happily played each other three times and our experience and skills grew with each game with Farisha Khan winning our Player of the Day Award. Well done girls!! Thank you to our parents who provided transport and Mrs Playford for her coaching.

### Open Boys Knights Knockout

Last Thursday our senior boys played in the Knights Knockout at Waratah Oval. In our opening game we played Tea Gardens Public School and we fought out a tough 4 all draw. Our second game was an exciting match versus Wiripaang that we won 12-8. In our third game we managed another win defeating Maitland East 12-8. Our fourth game which was against Marks Point we were soundly defeated 16-0. Having to win our last game to make the quarter final we defeated Beresfield 20-12 in a very exciting match. We then played Swansea Public School in the final and whilst we tried hard we were defeated. Swansea had not conceded one try throughout the day! Well done boys - you did our school proud!! Special mention must go to our try scoring machine Jase and the courage award to Liam (voted by the parents). Thankyou to the parents for providing transport and a special thanks to Rob Barnes for coaching our boys.



■ Our amazing senior rugby league team at the Knights Knockout!

### Hunter Dance Festival

Congratulations to both the Junior and Senior Dance groups who were successful at audition for inclusion in the Hunter Dance festival! We will be performing at Wests Newcastle. Tickets for the show are \$18 and will be available from Wests Newcastle from 25th June - first in best dressed for seats! Professional photos will be available for purchase at the performance. Congratulations to all our wonderful dancers at Greta Public School !!!

### National Simultaneous Storytime

On Wednesday 25th May, Mrs Bateman and Kindergarten celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime with a theme from the targeted book "I Got This Hat". Mrs Bateman ensured each child had a hat to wear for the storytime. As we can all see by the photos this proved to be a ton of fun for Kindergarten!

### PSSA Soccer

Recently both the girls' and boys' soccer teams played a PSSA soccer match against Branxton Public School. While both teams were defeated they showed great sportsmanship and teamwork. The girls were defeated 2-0 in a very close game and the boys lost 6-1 in a game that was closer than the score suggests. An amazing achievement for the girls - given that they had only been able to train together once due to other sporting commitments so they did extremely well. A big thankyou to Michelle Woodhouse for being the boys' team coach at the game. Thanks also to Mrs Brown for her efforts in coaching all

the soccer players over a number of weeks. Well done all players for representing Greta Public School so well and demonstrating the schools core values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best!

### P&C Fundraising Project

All proceeds from events are going towards the purchase of the rubber soft fall to be placed around the schools fixed equipment. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can raise funds to go towards this major project please share your ideas with a P&C member or attend our next P&C fundraising meeting to be held on Wed 01/06/2016. Our target goal is \$40,000.

### 5c Challenge

Our 5 cent challenge is still continuing in the classroom for the whole of this term. So keep collecting. Lookout in the next school newsletter for the next tally update.

### Thompsons Pie Drive

The P&C are again holding a Thompsons pie drive. The order form needs to be returned by Friday 10/06/2016 with a return of orders on Tuesday 21/06/2016. If you didn't receive your order form last week or require any more please collect from the canteen.

### School Disco - State Of Origin Theme!!

Don't forget about the P&C disco that will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June in the school hall. First session for K-2 will commence at 4pm - 5:30pm. Second session for years 3-6 will commence at 5:30pm - 7pm. A precise pick up is required for the event to conclude in a timely matter. It is a State or Origin theme, so feel free to show your support for your favourite team/state. If you are able to spare some time in your Childs allocated session and want to assist in manning one of the stalls please fill in your available times on the spreadsheet at the canteen.

### Donations

The P&C would like to express their gratitude to the following companies and businesses for their generous donations which will go toward upcoming events, raffles or prizes: Bunnings Rutherford, Masters Rutherford, Hunter Subaru, Guardian Pharmacy, National Stockyard Systems, Paul Bennett Air Show, Branxton Physiotherapy, Ivanhoe Wines, Peterson House, Baileys Country Store, Majestic Cinemas, Flip Out.

### Greta Play2Learn

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

### Dates to Remember

School Assembly - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May  
 P&C Fundraising Meeting - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June  
 Greta Play2Learn Playgroup - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
 Quستاcon - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
 ZOO EXCURSION (Whole School!!) - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June  
 Greta Play2Learn Playgroup - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June  
 School Assembly - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June  
 P&C General Meeting - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June  
 Greta Play2Learn Playgroup - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June  
 Greta Play2Learn Playgroup - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
 School Assembly - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June  
 Greta Play2Learn Playgroup - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June  
 Last day term 1 - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July



■ Learning cooperation and persistence!



■ Teamwork in Sport In Schools!

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

# St Brigid's Markets

## Sunday 19th

## June 9am until 2pm

Helen 0427 047 024  
 Julie 0427 381 250

[www.facebook.com/stbrigidsmarkets](http://www.facebook.com/stbrigidsmarkets)

## Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

### Goodwood winner's family made Victoria better

ONE of the biggest advantages to Victorian breeding last century was the emergence of the imported sire Better Boy as a big influence for physical quality and racing class. A handy performer in England and Australia (Hotham Handicap sole stakes win), this 1951 Ireland foaled son of the Tourbillon grandson My Babu rose up from modest opportunity at Range View Stud, Carrum Downs, Mornington Peninsula to be four times champion Australian sire.

He left a great legacy in his sons Centaine (in New Zealand) and Century (Victorian sire) and the latter's son Rubiton (also a Victorian sire). It is a legacy that may not have been available if had not been a very modestly bred mare who produced Better Boy's first stakes winner and arguably his best performer.

Foaled in 1960 and named Craftsman, he boosted Better Boy's appeal to breeders by winning twenty races, including the Victoria Derby (by five lengths), Australian Cup-twice, AJC Autumn Stakes-twice, VRC Queen Elizabeth-twice and Turnbull Stakes. Seconds included the AJC Queen Elizabeth, VATC Underwood and Caulfield Stakes and thirds the Caulfield Cup and Cox Plate.

Craftsman was bred by the Estate of D S Whiteside, the importer of Better Boy and founder of the Range View Stud using Blue Gipsy, a home bred and raced mare whose best effort in four starts was a dead heat win in bush maiden. She was by Blue Mickie (GB), a modest Blue Peter sire, and from Lorrient, a mare bought as a yearling for 45 guineas (less than \$100) and winner of four country races at 1200m or less.

Lorrient's mother, First Thrill, won a lowly event, but was from Kilmeadon, a half-sister to Carlita, a great staying mare of early last century. Thirteen wins included the Victoria Derby and Oaks and the three mile (4800m) Champion Stakes (at three). She ran third in the 1913 Melbourne Cup.

First Thrill, the third dam of Craftsman, his younger brother Shorengro (nine wins, MVRC JF Feehan three times, third Doomben Cup and fourth Caulfield Cup) and their sisters Hildegard (a winner in Melbourne at two) and Canto (third VATC Debutante Stakes, fourth Victoria Oaks), was by Trillion, a winner of the 1919 edition of the Goodwood, a historic Adelaide sprint first run in 1881 and held again last Saturday, May 21.

On this occasion the winner was Black Heart Bart, a Western Australian bred 5-year-old gelding who is another good galloper who calls Better Boy ancestor. He is one of many stakes winners descending on the bottom line from Craftsman's sister Hildegard.

Saturday's success took the record of this Darren Weir, Victoria trained son of the Robert Sangster (Swettenham Stud) bred and raced Danehill Victorian Derby winner Blackfriars to 30 starts, 12 wins (10 stakes) and \$1.7million. Eight seconds include a head loss in this year's Newmarket at Flemington.

Bred by Durham Lodge Stud and passed in at \$16,000/\$20,000 at the 2012 Magic Millions Perth Yearling Sale, Black Heart Bart is the first black type earner among the five runners from Sister Theresa, an At Talaq (USA) (Melbourne Cup winner by Roberto) winner of six races 1000m – 2100m, three in Brisbane and a Queensland Oaks fourth.

Sister Theresa's Success Express half-sister Savannah Success won eight races including the STC Ansett Australia Stakes (now Vinery), New Zealand Oaks, AuRC Royal Stakes and AJC Surround Stakes). She is the dam of Group 1

performers Savabeel (Zabeel; winner Cox Plate, Spring Champion Stakes, second Victoria Derby, CF Orr Stakes; Champion NZ Sire) and Arlington (Red Ransom (USA); won WRC Douru Cup, AJC Hula Chief, second New Zealand International Trophy, AJC Fernhill, third Randwick Guineas; sire of first crop 2-year-olds).

The quality of the breeding is so appealing, Arlington sold as a yearling for \$1,550,000 and Triumphant Choice, a Redoute's Choice half-brother, for \$1million.

Black Heart Bart's grandam Alma Mater is a 4x4 Star Kingdom inbred stakes winning daughter of Semipalatinsk (USA) (by Nodouble) and Sweetie, a Without Fear (Fr) winner produced by Virginia, a Todman mare out of Hildegard.

All In Vain, another daughter of Hildegard, is the ancestress of stakes winners Memphis Blues (Semipalatinsk), Palatiuous (Semipalatinsk), Danelagh (Danehill), Vengeance of Rain (Zabeel Hong Kong Horse of the Year), Dizelle (Zabeel), Dizlago (Encosta de Lago), Bernicia (Elusive Quality), Old North (Lonhro), Cable – Well Done (Mac) (Last Tycoon), Evasion (Semipalatinsk) and Kings Honour – Bon Amie (Sing) (Fairy King).

The Champion Western Australian sire for the past five seasons, Black Heart Bart's sire Blackfriars is at Scenic Lodge, Muchea, less than an hour's drive away from the heart of Perth. On a 2016 fee of \$12,000 (plus GST), he shares the stallion complex with Universal Ruler (\$4,500), Dash For Cash (\$3,000) and Snippetson (\$6,500).

### Doomben Cup winner chased greatness in four countries

OUR IVANHOWE, the Lee and Anthony Freedman trained German bred 6-year-old stallion who captured Saturday's \$650,000 Doomben Cup (2000m), has appeared in great races in four countries, Germany, France, Japan and Australia.

A son Soldier Hollow (by Sadler's Wells sire In The Wings), Our Ivanhowe earned the title of German Champion Older Male in 2014, a year in which he was successful at home by clear margins in three Group 1s at 2400m, but was unplaced in France's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (18th of 20) and Japan Cup ('respectable sixth').

After the Japan Cup, he was switched to Australia as a Melbourne Cup prospect. So far nine appearances here have included only one win, the Doomben Cup, but a four start Melbourne campaign last spring included a second in the Bart Cumming (2520m), third in the Caulfield Cup and a luckless tenth in the 24-runner Melbourne Cup.

Raced in the northern hemisphere as Ivanhowe, Our Ivanhowe has a five generation pedigree free of inbreeding and a bottom line on which the first six dams are all German. The mother, Indigo Girl, is a winner at 2100m, a third in the German Oaks and a half-sister to Monsun Listed winners Irlan and Indian Breeze.

Our Ivanhowe's sire Soldier Hollow is a Germany based 16-year-old Great Britain bred horse who raced 31 times from two to seven for 12 wins, four Group 1s at 2000m, and eight seconds. He was named Joint Top Rated Older Horse Italy at four and Germany's best at five and six.

## Detailed saleyard report



## Saleyard report - cattle

### Singleton report date 25 May 2016

Yarding 860 ~ Change -70 (Comparison Date 18/5/16)

Numbers slipped, as the vealers made up the bulk in the penning, with the other categories limited in supply. Quality was mixed with well-bred vealers together with ample crossbreds, as the majority were suitable for the restockers and requiring extra growth and finish. The market trend was close to firm to a little cheaper. Vealer steers returning to the paddock remained firm to 6c cheaper, as the medium weights ranged from 270c to 339c/kg. The well-bred heavier end reached 320c/kg. The medium weight vealer heifers to the restockers slipped 3c, making from 240c to 295c/kg. Breed and quality lifted average prices for the yearling steers, with the light and medium weights sold to the restockers making from 280c to 315c/kg. The yearling heifers trended marginally cheaper, as the better bred popular breeds topped at 278c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers reached 331c/kg. Grown steers ranged from 270c to 277c, with the heifer portion reaching 255c/kg. Cows sold close to firm, with the plainer 2 scores averaging 202c, as the 3 and 4 score heavy weights sold from 211c to 228c/kg.



### Scone report date 24 May 2016

Yarding 1270 ~ Change -290 (Comparison Date 17/5/16)

Quality was mixed, as numbers slipped, with the younger drafts making up the bulk in the penning. There were very few grown steers suitable for slaughter, with the older heifer portion also limited in supply. The consignments of cows remained similar, week-on-week, with around 210 in the offering. The market trend remained close to firm, with quality in places contributing to some price variations. Vealer steers gained 4c to 8c, as the medium weights returning to the paddock ranged from 280c to 356c/kg. The heavier drafts reached 326c/kg. Vealer heifers to the backgrounders and restockers slipped 4c, making from 240c to 299c/kg. The yearling steers to the lot feeder and restocker orders remained firm at 279c to 323c/kg. Yearling heifers struggled to maintain firm prices and lost 8c, with quality in places plainer compared to the last sale. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers reached 326c/kg. There were too few grown steers to enable a reliable quote; however those penned sold from 270c to 285c/kg. The older heifers remained firm at 255c to 274c/kg. Cows sold 2c either side of firm, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 198c, with the better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights ranging from 212c to 230c/kg.



### TRLX Tamworth report date 23 May 2016

Yarding 1363 ~ Change -597 (Comparison Date 16/5/16)

There was a large reduction in numbers with the forecast of a decent rain event towards the end of the week holding some cattle back. Young cattle and cows again made up the bulk of the offering. Quality was fair to good, however there were limited supplies of well finished young cattle suitable for the trade. A full field of buyers were in attendance. Market trends varied with restocker vealer steers mostly firm. Backgrounders were active on the heavier weights with the market trend slightly dearer and quality improved. Heifer vealers to restock and feed sold to a cheaper trend. The limited supply of well finished heifers to the trade sold to a dearer trend of up to 7c/kg. Medium and heavy yearling steers attracted keener demand from both restockers and feedlots, selling to a dearer trend averaging 4c to 13c/kg. Medium weight heifer yearlings to feed also sold to a slightly dearer market trend, however there was also some quality related price variation. Well finished medium and heavy heifers to the trade sold to a slightly cheaper trend. A good quality penning of heavy grown steers sold to a dearer trend of 5c to 6c/kg and included a number of milk and 2 tooth heavy weights. An improved quality penning of cows, brought about by a large reduction in numbers sold to a dearer trend, up to 3c/kg on the best heavy weights.



## 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.



## Meeting market requirements for beef cattle

### When

7th Jun 2016 9:00am-3:00pm

### Where

Glendarra Conference Room, 816 Paterson Road (opposite main entry to Tocal College) Tocal

### Contact

Tony Blatch on 0427 788 984

### Details

Hunter Local Land Services is supporting beef producers to better meet market requirements through a series of workshops on 'Proof of Claim' requirements in the beef industry and the value of producing for different market sectors.

Learn about:

- setting up your own record system
- records required to meet the range of 'proof of claim' statements requested by processors
- which assurance program best suits your business
- additional records and practices that need to be adopted for 'proof of claim' statements.

Workshops are limited to 20 participants so please book your place by [registering online](#). Registrations will close after 20 applicants or by Friday 3 June.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

For further information contact Tony Blatch on 0427 788 984.

## Author Toni Jordan visits Cessnock Library



The Melbourne based author had an interesting start as a novelist, leaving a career in marketing in 2003 to study creative writing at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT). It was by chance she read an article on RMIT's professional writing and editing diploma that led her to become an internationally recognised author. From this point on Toni never hesitated and said she jumps first and fixes up all her mistakes later. She has continued to write four successful novels including the international best seller *Addition* (2008), *Fall Girl* (2010) (which was also optioned for a film) and *Nine Days* (2012) named in Kirkus Review's top 10 historical novels of

2013. Her latest novel *Our Tiny Useless Hearts* is a comedy about love and marriage. It captures the emotional intelligence and wit for which Toni Jordan is famous, to produce a hilarious novel. *Our Tiny Useless Hearts* will be made available by The Book Den for purchase and signing on the day. Morning tea will also be provided at the event and bookings are essential. Please contact Cessnock Library on 4993 4399 or email [library@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:library@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) to book your place.

Photo: Author/novelist Toni Jordan

## Gresford Road bridge could be open by August

The unnamed bridge over Glendon Brook on Gresford Rd should be open by the end of August, weather permitting, after Singleton Council awarded the contract for the repair of the approaches on Monday. Diona Pty Ltd will undertake the design and construction to repair the approaches that were significantly damaged during the April 2015 storms. Council has received \$1 million in natural disaster funding that will allow Council to reopen the bridge for vehicles up to 42.5 tonne. Council has also applied for a further \$2 million to strengthen and upgrade the

bridge under the Fixing Country Roads program to allow Higher Mass Limit vehicle access, up to 68 tonnes. The outcome of the application will not be known until July. Singleton Council Director of Community and Infrastructure Services Group Gary Thomson says if all goes as scheduled, Council anticipates the bridge will be open by the end of August. "We are very eager for the works to commence to ensure that the popular route is reopened for local residents and stock carriers," he says. "Council is mindful of the inconvenience and frustration this closure has

caused and we appreciate the community's patience. "The work will also include upgrades of the bridge itself to enable vehicles up to 42.5 tonne to resume travel on Gresford Road. This is an important upgrade that will ease freight transportation to and from the Singleton Regional Livestock

Market. "Council has always been mindful of minimising any direct cost imposition on the ratepayers of Singleton." Council acknowledges the assistance of Roads and Maritime Services with the planning for the proposed works.



### GOSPEL LUKE 7:11-17

Jesus journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, "Do not weep." He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, crying out "A great prophet has arisen in our midst," and "God has visited his people." This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.

In today's gospel passage, Luke continues his account of Jesus' Galilean ministry, spreading the Good News of the Kingdom. The story he recalls is a very striking one, and Luke tells it with a sensitivity that moves us each time we hear it. As he enters the town, accompanied by a large crowd, Jesus was confronted by a tragic funeral procession. The only son of a widow was being taken for burial. Moved with compassion, Jesus comforted the unfortunate woman, and stopping the procession by putting his hand on the bier carrying the dead man, he called him back to life, and 'gave him to his mother'. To understand fully the pathos of this incident, we must recognise that this widow's situation was a desperate one. She faced more than the loss of her son. In the patriarchal society to which she belonged, the loss of her only son left her without the support of a male relative to protect her interests. But Luke wants us to find more in this story than evidence of the compassion of Jesus. Immediately after describing this incident, he recalls the messengers who came from John the Baptist to ask Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come?' To this question Jesus replied by reminding them of the signs spoken of by the prophets, signs that would announce the coming of the Messiah: 'Tell John what you have seen and heard, the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the dead are raised to life, the Good News is proclaimed to the poor' (Luke 7:22). Luke is presenting Jesus as the final prophet of God. In the traditions of old Israel, both Elijah and Elisha restored to life the sons of widows. We hear of Elijah's miracle in today's first reading. What a contrast between the desperate efforts and prayers of Elijah – in many ways the paradigmatic prophet of the Old Testament – to bring the child back to life, so that he could 'give him to his mother' and the sovereign authority with which Jesus performs the miracle in his own name: 'Young man, I tell you to get up'. More than that, he displays an authority that is greater than that of the prophets of the Old Testament – in that his compassion led him to disregard the ritual prescriptions of the Law, which made one who had contact with a corpse 'unclean'. In this miracle, Jesus demonstrates his invincible power over Death, 'the last enemy to be destroyed' as Paul tells us (1 Cor 15:26). He is anticipating the ultimate triumph of his Paschal Mystery. Today's reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians – recalling his sharing in Christ's triumph, when God 'called him through his grace, and chose to reveal his Son to him' – reminds us that we can all know the compassion of Jesus, as he shares with us his triumph over the reign of death.

John Thornhill sm

## NEW WINTER MENU HAS ARRIVED

7 DAYS LUNCH & DINNER

BISTRO OPENED FROM 5.30PM



MONDAY CURRY NIGHT

TUESDAY STEAK STAMPEDE

WEDNESDAY SLIDER & CIDER

THURSDAY SCHNITZ DAY

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Scotts Flat Rural Fire Brigade  
**AGM**  
Wednesday 1 June 2016  
Scotts Flat Station,  
Glendon Road, 7pm  
All welcome

# Trivia Fund Raising Event

Branxton Lions Club is holding a Trivia night on Saturday 23 July 2016 and is calling on the local community to support the event. The Branxton Golf Club is the venue for the evening. The Lions Club supports local organisations, charities and generally people in need. Recently funds have been donated to the four local primary schools, three local rural fire services, girl guides, scouts, sporting groups, a number of medical research foundations and children's charities. Substantial donations have been made to locals requiring mobility assistance equipment, Cancer Council, Westpac Rescue Helicopter, the Black Dog Ride (mental

health) and to the Lions Foundation; a national body who responds to disasters such as bush fires, cyclones, earthquakes and the like, providing assistance to people in need. The Lions also supports the seniors of Branxton and Greta holding a free Christmas dinner for them in both towns each December. The Lions also supports the Branxton RSL on ANZAC Day by providing lunch in the RSL Hall after the ANZAC service. The Lions Club raises funds through a number of activities. In the past year the Club has held four Bunnings BBQs, catered at the local garden ramble, did the BBQ at the



Branxton 10-over comp, ran the kiosk at the Branxton Umbrella Festival and conducted the annual Cancer Council Morning Tea. All funds from that event are donated to the Cancer Council. Every dollar raised by the Lions is used for these worthwhile causes. Last year donations to the value of \$15018.00 were distributed. The Club has decided to hold a trivia night to raise funds in addition to normal fund raising activities. To have a successful night and to maximise their fund raising the Club would appreciate the support of the local community. Everyone is invited to

participate in the evening which will, hopefully, be a great social event. Tables of 10 are desirable but tables can be added to as needed. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and can be obtained by contacting one of the following. Bob Rhodes 4938 1001 Brian Thomas 0417 282 440 Trivia will commence at 7pm and the kitchen will be open for meals from 5pm. Table groups can also bring nibbles or a plate for supper if desired. The Branxton Lions Club looks forward to your support.

# Renowned author and social researcher Hugh Mackay speaks at Library



Spirituality and religion will be put under the microscope when social researcher and writer Hugh Mackay speaks at Singleton Public Library. Hugh will be discussing his latest book *Beyond Belief* at Singleton Library on Wednesday 15 June from 5.30pm -7pm. Around two-thirds of us say we believe in God or some 'higher power', but less than one in ten Australians

attend church weekly. Social researcher and author of seventeen books Hugh Mackay presents this discrepancy as one of the great unexamined topics of our time, in this latest book *Beyond Belief*. He argues that while our attachment to a traditional idea of God may be waning, our desire for a life of meaning remains as strong as ever. Mackay's resume as a social researcher is unrivalled. For 25 years, he produced a social research quarterly called The Mackay Report that told us who we are, what we think and why we behave the way we do. It built his reputation as a pioneer in social research and this was bolstered by

his books on social analysis, ethics, social psychology and communications. Hugh Mackay is a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society and has been awarded honorary doctorates by Charles Sturt, Macquarie, New South Wales and Western Sydney universities. In 2015, he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia. Copies of *Beyond Belief* will be available on the night for sale and signing courtesy of Singleton Books Etc. Book your place to see Hugh Mackay at Singleton Library at [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au) or phone 02 6578 7500

Photo above: Author Hugh Mackay

# SPORTS RESULTS



## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 19-5-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Wilton 32 pts R/u M Ford 31 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> G Anderson 31 pts  
Div 2 Winner J Atton 35 pts (SOD) R/u E Porter 31 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> G Scobie 31 pts  
Ladies Winner C Miller 29 pts (c/b) R/u N Craig 29 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R McCarthy 24 pts  
NTPs Ladies S Williams Gents E Powell  
Members draw - Not won Another beautiful Autumn day for the 45 players who gathered for a round of golf at the "Ultimate Golf Course" at Branxton.. Congratulations to John Atton on winning his division and achieving the 'Score of the Day'. Well done to all winners and placegetters. **NOTICE - 'Away Day' - Monday 6 Jun 16 at Paterson - 7.30 am for an 8 am Tee Off. Shot Gun**

## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 26-5-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Anderson 33 pts (SOD) R/u J Vassar 31 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> G Wilton 30 pts  
Div 2 Winner P Tracey 30 pts R/u B Hain 29 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> P Anderson 28 pts  
Ladies Winner T Martin 30 pts R/u F Oakes 24 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> R McCarthy 24 pts  
NTPs Ladies S Williams Gents L Hunt  
Members draw - Not won Despite a forecast predicting rain, 33 keen players braved the elements for a round of golf. Congratulations to George Anderson on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to all winners and placegetters. *LN Bootes, Hon. Sec.*

## Branxton Golf Club Sat 21st May 4bbb stableford + single in conjunction 4bbb winners

Scobie/ J Scobie 55 pts 4bbb runners up  
T Seamer/ B Turner 48 pts c/b 4bbb third place  
M Moylan / P Wilton 48 pts c/b  
4bbb fourth  
S Ross/ K Walton 48 pts c/b single winner ~ G Scobie 49 pts single runner up ~ S Ross 43 pts  
single third ~ A Roeth 42 pts  
NTP'S G Gillard 201 cm  
P Mackenzie 162 cm  
G Wilton 490 cm  
T Seamer 94 cm  
Saturday's Fourball was sensationally won by G and J Scobie with an unbelievable round of 55 pts, a score that was more than the perfect 4 Ball score, averaging more than 3 pts a hole. G. Scobie's individual score of 49 pts, 13 pts better than the handicap, made the day one to remember. The runners up all tied with a very respectable score of 48 pts, with Tony Seamer and Barry Turner finishing second on a countback—may be Tony's great shot, and "shot of the day" to the last helped them beat the dead lock. Mark Moylan and Peter Wilton finished third with the same score, a wonderful effort from two single markers. Steve Ross and Kevin Walton finished 4<sup>th</sup>, also with 48 pts. Steve's score was particularly satisfying as he recorded 43 pts on his own, a score which included a wonderful 24 pts on the front nine. Marcus, our golfing guru, was very chuffed with his score—another success from this talented golf teacher! A.Roeth finished third in the individual event with 42 pts, a score that usually would ensure an easy win.

**Branxton Lady Golfers**  
This week was a stroke event and Round 4 of the Monthly Medal. Winner was Helen Vandenberg. Helen's round included a Birdie on the 4<sup>th</sup> and she also won the least putts competition. Runner-up was Jan Scobie There was no nearest to the pin

winner.

## Hunter Valley Golf Club 10<sup>th</sup> May -Tuesday - Individual Stableford Event

The Tuesday Stableford was won by Le Hieu with a great score of 42 points. He won by two strokes from three people on 40 points – Gregory White, Paul Smith & Chris Taggart. Vouchers were given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ball Winners were Chris Taggart, Rex Talbot, Col Bradley, Michael Watson, Robert Prentice, Daniel Taylor, David Irwin & Wayne Cowen. Nearest the Pins: 3<sup>rd</sup> Le Hieu, - 4<sup>th</sup> Robert Prentice, 10<sup>th</sup> Gary Johns & 17<sup>th</sup> Le Hieu.

## 11<sup>th</sup> May - Wednesday - Ladies Stableford Event

The Ladies Competition was a Stableford Event played in a slight westerly wind. The winner was Jenelle Jurd on 31 pts. 2<sup>nd</sup> Melita Watson with 30 pts. Ball winners were Jill Ramsden, Karen Baillie, Kerry Choromanski & Dianne Atton. Next week the ladies will play a Fourball Best Ball Stableford event, but the ladies are reminded that the 1<sup>st</sup> Rd. of the Singles Championship will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Could you please place your name on the timesheet through the Pro Shop as soon as possible.

## 12<sup>th</sup> May - Veterans Quota Event.

Unfortunately as David Peel is away these results were not available.

## 12<sup>th</sup> May - Saturday - Individual Stableford

Saturday saw a strong field play in the Stableford Event. 1<sup>st</sup> Division was won by Angello Korlevic with 39 pts from Ben Pickering on 37 pts. 2<sup>nd</sup> Division winner was Michael Armstrong with 41 pts from Philip Jenkin on 39 pts. 3<sup>rd</sup> Division was won by Jeff Shanahan on 40 pts from Jill Ramsden on 36 pts. Ball Winners: Adam Davies (37), Ken Smith (37), Blake Rourke (36), Jeff Morton (36), Ken Aird (35), Gregory Morgan (35), James Newton (35), Brent Watson (35), Stephen Kemp (35), Tony Butler (35), Scott Jones (35), Troy Wallis (34), John Stewart (34), Russell Calderwood (34) & Daniel McLeod (34). Nearest the Pins: 3<sup>rd</sup> Hole – Daniel McLeod, 4<sup>th</sup> Hole – Jules Vandenberg, 8<sup>th</sup> Hole – Tony Butler & 17<sup>th</sup> Hole – Ben Pickering. Next week the Saturday Competition will again be a Stableford.

**15<sup>th</sup> May** The winners from the Weekly Challenge concluded on Sunday 15th May were: 1st Steve Rawlings 41 points, 2nd Michael Christensen 38 c/b and 3rd to Paul Monaghan 38, also on c/b. Ball winners were: Rob Flanagan 38, Peter Payne 35, Jodie Dunn 34, Greg Sonter 33 and Sue Christensen 32. Nearest-the-Pin went to Jodie Dunn on the 3rd and 4th .

## 17<sup>th</sup> May -Tuesday - Individual Stableford Event

A great field contested this event. The winner was Nicholas Aarts with 41 points. Runner up Stephen Rawlings scored 38 points and 3<sup>rd</sup> placing went to Stephen Rawlings with 38 pts. Ball Comp. winners were: Wayne Drayton, Gregory White, Ken Aird, Ian Newell, Geoff Sweetman, Chris Taggart, Ray Newton. David Kennedy, John Stewart, Michae Watson, Le Hieu & Wayne Cowen. NTP: 3<sup>rd</sup> RD – Jodie Dunn, 4<sup>th</sup> – David Kennedy, 8<sup>th</sup> – Ray Newton & 10<sup>th</sup> – Raymond Hodson.

## 18<sup>th</sup> May - Wednesday - Ladies 4BBB Event.

With a field of 24 the ladies contested a 4BBB Stableford. The Winners on 40 points were Kerry Choromanski & Kerrie Anne Skinner followed by three teams on 39 points. Runners up prize went to Sue Williams & Zelma Powell and 3<sup>rd</sup> place was awarded to Brenda Mannix & Dale Hamilton. Ball winners were Robyn Dunlop & Melita Watson (39), Sue Ellen Borham & Lynette Russell (38), Jill Slatter & Jenelle Jurd (37) NTP: 3<sup>rd</sup> – Di Oakes, 10<sup>th</sup> – Sue Williams

## 19<sup>th</sup> May - Veterans Stableford Event.

31 players played in the Veterans Stableford with the declared winner being Peter Wilson on a great 42 points. Runner up was Robert Dunlop on 40 points and 3<sup>rd</sup> place went to John Harrison on 38 pts. Ball Winners: Barry Newell (36), Bob Johnson (35), Lynette Russell (35), Douglas Wand (35), Ray Newton (33), Ian Newell (33), Paul Ireland (33), Garry Minotti (33), Brian Doherty (33), Ken Haddow (33). NTP: 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lorraine Clack, 4<sup>th</sup> – Dale Mackinshaw, 10<sup>th</sup> – Mark Barrow, 17<sup>th</sup> Raymone Hodson.

**21<sup>st</sup> May** 86 players contested the Medley Stableford in ideal conditions with some great scores returned, A Grade went to Tim Lonergan with 41 points on countback to Craig Sharp, B Grade to Nick

Nancarrow with the round of the day 43 points from Cade Bradley on 41 points and C Grade to Roy Hurn with 37 points on a countback to Scott Jones. Ball winners were: Grahame Sheldon 40, Michael Tsakissiris 39, Pat Maher 38, John Parish 38, Nathan Saxby 38, Angello Korlevic 38, Neil Day 38, Troy Wallis 37, Dan McLeod 36, Brian Doherty 36, Nick Hain 36, Tony Lamb 36, Matt Killick 36, Pat Stratham 36, Nathan Nancarrow 36, John Brown 35, Jeff Morton 35, Lachlan Macpherson 35, Tony Butler 34, Peter Callingham 34, Russ Calderwood 34, Ken Springbett 34, Kevin Smith 34, Ben Pickering 33 and Justin Preece 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Tim Lonergan (3rd) Jaye Stevens (4th) Russ Calderwood (8th) Craig Sharp (10th) and Tony Lamb (17th) **22nd May** The Weekly Challenge concluded on the 22nd May went to Marc McGee with an excellent 44 point round from Tim Devjak on 42 and 3rd to

Mark Fullbrook with 37 points. Balls went to Wayne Stedman 36, Andrew Campbell 35, Nathan Sweeney 34, Damien Collison 34, Craig Price 34, Michael Chapman 34, Darrin Cussen 33 and Paul Monaghan 32. **24<sup>th</sup> May** The Tuesday Stableford has been won by Andrew Fensom with 39 points from Harold Pursehouse with 38 points on a countback to David Peel. Ball were won by Josh Hutchinson 35, Grahame Sheldon 34, Chris Goodwin 34, Steven Kane 34, Rex Talbot 34, Chris Taggart 34, Greg White 33, Gerry Irwin 32 and Paul Smith 32. Nearest-the-Pins went to Rod Nyman (3rd) Andrew Campbell (4th) Dan Little (10th and 17th) **25<sup>th</sup> May** No results have been posted for the 1st round of Ladies Championship. Thanks to Ladies Captain Melita Watson for the info on the day. Jenny Chambers is the Scratch leader from Sue Peel in A Grade, Jill Ramsden is leading B Grade from Kerry Choromanski and

Di Atton (tied for second) and C Grade leader is Brenda Mannix from Lynette Russell. The Ladies will contest round 2 of the Championship this week. **26<sup>th</sup> May** The Vets 4 BBB Par event was contested in very tough conditions with the arrival of Winter shortly after tee off. Michael Watson and Dave Irwin with +9 had to survive a countback to claim the day from Eric Smith and Rex Talbot. Nearest-the-Pin winners were Graham McGovern (3rd) Mark Barrow (4th) and Keith Dunlop (17th). Next week the Vets will play an Individual Stableford. **28<sup>th</sup> May** The Blue Tee Stableford was played on Saturday in very cool and windy condition which took toll on the scoring and those who bravely contested. A Grade went to Bonnie Doon visitor Kessian Naidoo with 38 points from Stephen Kemp on 36, B Grade to Jeff Smith from Cronulla on 38 points and Paul Dunn runner up with 33 points and **CONT NEXT PAGE**

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Email: [environment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:environment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

# SPORTS RESULTS

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE  
 Matt Merlo handed in 'round of the day' with his 39 points to claim C Grade from Jeff Shanahan on 35 points. Ball winners were: Tony Butler 35, Brad Duncan 34, Nathan Nancarrow 34, Matt Killick 14, Michael Booth 34, Andrew Nichols 33, Sue Peel 33, Darren Crear 33, Jeff Morton 32, Jay Lyon 31, Brad Nicholson 31, Don Bradley 31, Tom Relf 31, Michelle Dunn 30, Dusty Lawless 30, David Peel 30, Pat Maher 29, Rod Nyman 29, John Brown 28 and Scott Smith 28 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Darren Crear (3rd & 4th) Nathan Nancarrow (8th) and John Stewart (17th) Next week will be the Monthly Mug and Girls Goblet Stroke rounds.



**PJRC Report 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016**  
 The Under 9's faced off against one of the top of the table teams, Maitland Blacks. It was always going to be a tough match and our boys went in with an attitude to match. While the score line was dominated by Maitland, there were some outstanding plays made by Tyson - earning him man of the match. He was strongly supported by Lachy E who took some big hits as he made ground for the Reds. Hugo received praise from the ref after the game for his role in defence. For the Reds, while the score didn't go their way, we continue to see the level of game they play improve. Working together and with some more discipline, these boys make for a great game of rugby to watch. U10s hosted Medowie at home and the boys were keen to play rugby after a week off with the Bye. The new halves combo worked well with Alec Gough

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at half back allowing Zach Cox to make some blistering runs at fly half. The Reds also trialed a new front row combo with Jayden Gontier at loose head, Isaiah Hueston at hooker and Izzy Burgess at tight head. The boys went well up front and this allowed our two other front rowers, Callum Barr and Angus Walker, a bit more freedom; and relish the freedom they did, making great tackles and getting more involved in the breakdown, earning Angus man of the Match. Jack Wills and Jessie Shirlcliffe were once again outstanding all over the paddock with Jack proving to be quite the menace at the breakdown pilfering much ball for his team. Strong runs were made by Oscar Dent, Nate Wilson and Jayden, with Wilson and Gontier rewarded with a try each. A great full length of the field try went to Gough and Wills bagged a meat pie too through great support play from a Cox run. Highlight of the game was Bear Marsh in hot pursuit of the biggest Medowie player on the field. Bear saved a certain try by slowing him down using a piggy back style tackle giving his team mates enough time to support him across the side line. Two conversions to Cox kept breathing space for the Reds. Well done boys on a great game and on your first win for the year. Pokolbin 24 Medowie 15.

The Under 12's had a bye this weekend.  
 PJRC Report for May 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Under 9's came up against Lake Macquarie on a brisk morning that reminded us that it really is mid-rugby season. It was a very physical game from the start. This was a game where size really did matter. As it has been said before the side continues to play as a more cohesive group. But that wasn't enough to stop Lake Macquarie. This week it was the forwards turn to make their mark in defence mention must go to Jarrod for a great game. Despite being sidelined from an early injury Lachlan L returned to the field and was ever present in support of those few lucky breaks that we got running down the paddock. The supporters on the sideline shared the players frustration of never quiet getting the break they needed to increase the score line, especially with the breakaway run down the sideline by Noah who was dragged over the boundary just meters from the try line. Keep it up boys, your never say die attitude is commended. Under 10s travelled to Lake Macquarie to take on the Roos. The Roos were up 12 nil after just ten minutes due to soft defence out wide, the Reds must learn that defence is about shoulder on shorts rather than fingers from an out stretched arm. TC Metcalfe has been listening at training posting many good tackles in cover defence earning himself man of the Match. Tries to Alec Gough and Jayden Gontier kept the Reds in the game. Izzy Burgess toiled hard at tight head prop keeping his teams scrum solid up front with Izzy also winning two scrums against the feed. Good

running from Cooper O'Neill and Bear Marsh while Jack Wills, Jessie Shirlcliffe and Zac Cox worked tirelessly at the breakdown. The Reds went down 22 to 12.  
 Under 12's report. Saturday the 28th May saw our boys take on Maitland at HVG, with three injured and losing one player 1 minute into the game we were behind the eight ball, but this team stood up to the large Maitland pack. The Nothnagel boys started well with some damaging runs which got us moving forward. This allowed Seth Koop to get our backline firing with some great service from halfback. Tom Page to full advantage of this, to have the Reds 12-10 in front at halftime. The second half was tight with no points being until late in the game. Charlie Russell was moved into the forwards due other injuries showed he will be a handy asset. With Ashley Parkinson playing 5/8 and giving quick ball we manage two more tries to come away with a

22 - 10 victory. It was truly a great team effort with every player doing his bit.



**Langer's Match Report - Pokolbin Reds vs Easts2, Saturday 14th May**  
 Well what a difference a week makes! After last weeks effort, the Pokolbin Reds stood up to be counted against East 2 at Dangar Park on Saturday. Earlier in the week it was looking like we would only have 14 players however after the coaching staff started chasing players to help we were able to have a full team with 4 on the bench. The team was fully committed in defence and the first half was one of our best. With a low scoring first half both teams had a try each. The Reds could smell a win in the making however and

kept up the good work in defence in the second half. Their commitment led to the Reds coming away with the teams second win of the season 15 to 12 over the East 2 side. I believe the Pokolbin Reds have turned the corner in that they are believing in themselves as a team and with some of our

recently unavailable players returning next week the Reds can only get better. Well done to all our players and the support team and lets keep this moving by hard work at training.  
 Mark Langley (Langers) Coach

"Imagination is the one weapon in the war against reality." ~ Jules de Gaultier  
 "The secret of creativity is knowing how to hide your sources." ~ Albert Einstein.  
 "My husband said he needed more space. So I locked him outside." ~ Roseanne Barr



**Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licencee-in-Charge**

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**Social Services  
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### Disability Support Worker Information Session

If you are seeking a rewarding career in the disabilities sector, working for a reputable and quality service provider, then CatholicCare invites you to attend our Disability Support Worker Information Session.

We are currently seeking passionate people, who have experience in the disability services industry and/or are working towards their accreditation in this field, to join our expanding team.

- If you answer 'yes' to the following questions, then we want to hear from you:
- Do you want to make a **positive** difference in the lives of people living with a disability?
  - Do you display **passion** when supporting adults with an intellectual disability and/or complex support needs?
  - Do you have **experience** working as part of a team supporting individuals to reach their potential?

- CatholicCare has a range of positions currently available including:
- Full-time permanent
  - Part-time permanent
  - Casual

All positions include sleepovers as part of the roster system.

To find out more about the positions currently available within CatholicCare, our progressive approach to disability services and how we support our employees then our Disability Supporter Worker Information Session will be of value to you.

- The Information Session includes short presentations from CatholicCare managers, caseworkers and people we support. Topics discussed will include:
- The importance of providing quality care and service and how we achieve it
  - The need for soft skills such as a positive attitude, emotional intelligence and why they are essential in the disability services sector
  - An overview of CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning, including a description of our broad range of services, office locations, career opportunities, staff development programs and employee benefits

**Event details**  
**When:** Wednesday 8 June 2016  
**Where:** CatholicCare Social Services, 50 Crebert Street, Mayfield  
**Time:** 5:00pm to 7:00pm

To register your interest or for further information call Dean Kidd 0400 465 600 or [E DKidd@catholiccare.org.au](mailto:DKidd@catholiccare.org.au) [www.catholiccare.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.org.au)

# The NEWS SPORT

## Pokolbin juniors star in under 12 Country Champs win



Three Pokolbin Junior rugby players starred in the recent NSW Junior rugby under 12 Country Champs. Held in Lismore and

involving 8 teams from all over NSW country, the Newcastle Hunter side, called the Wildfires, won the final against Illawarra

29-0. After going through the pool matches and semi-final unbeaten, the Wildfires came up against a big and determined Illawarra side. The game was very physical for 11-year-old boys but the fitness and skill of the Hunter side came through in the end. Pokolbin players Zack Fitzpatrick, Ethan O'Neill and Henry Murray were all in the starting team and played very, very well

representing the Hunter with pride. Zack scored a sensational try to break the hearts of the Illawarra side. Ex-Pokolbin player Jack Roberts represented the winning under 14 Wildfires team. Thomas Nothnagel and Aidan Eather have been selected for the under 11 Wildfires. Jayden Gontier and Jack Wills have been selected in the under 10 Wildfires.

■ Photo above: Henry Murray, Zack Fitzpatrick and Ethan O'Neill with winner's medals

## Langer's Match Report - Pokolbin Reds vs Medowie, Saturday 21st May

Well after last weeks effort the Reds team was in good spirits for the game against Medowie at our home ground and with only 3 changes to the team from last week things were looking good with a full bench as well. The first 20 minutes was a real dog fight as both teams scored tries. The Reds defended their try line for much of the first 20 minutes due to unforced errors which turned over far too much possession to

Medowie who started to take advantage and run away with the game. At the end of the first half Medowie was in the lead 14 to 5. The second half was almost a carbon copy of the first half with the Reds again making too many mistakes in general play mostly due to missed tackles. Medowie ran away with the game with the final score 40 to 5 however the Reds can take heart in the fact that our scrums

worked very well and we played good rugby in patches. I believe that once we get it together the Reds will be a very formidable team. This is a new playing group which is evolving week by week and we are not even half way through the competition yet. With hard work at training we will become a force. "GO YOU MIGHTY REDS "

Mark Langley (Langers) Coach

### HUNTER VALLEY GROUP 21 RUGBY LEAGUE

#### First Grade Results:

|                |    |                  |              |    |
|----------------|----|------------------|--------------|----|
| Greta Branston | 14 | Defeated         | Aberdeen     | 4  |
| Scone          | 30 | Defeated         | Muswellbrook | 22 |
| Singleton      |    | Won on a Forfeit | Denman       | 0  |

#### Results of Round 8

#### Reserve Grade Results:

|              |    |          |                |    |
|--------------|----|----------|----------------|----|
| Aberdeen     | 20 | Defeated | Greta Branston | 16 |
| Scone        | 38 | Defeated | Merrwa         | 12 |
| Muswellbrook | 14 | Defeated | Murrumbidgee   | 0  |
| Singleton    |    | BYE      |                |    |

#### Under 18's Results:

|                |    |          |        |    |
|----------------|----|----------|--------|----|
| Muswellbrook   | 16 | Defeated | Scone  | 6  |
| Singleton      | 12 | Defeated | Denman | 10 |
| Greta Branston |    | BYE      |        |    |

#### League Top Results:

|                |    |          |              |   |
|----------------|----|----------|--------------|---|
| Scone          | 40 | Defeated | Merrwa       | 4 |
| Greta Branston | 32 | Defeated | Aberdeen     | 0 |
| Muswellbrook   | 14 | Defeated | Murrumbidgee | 8 |
| Singleton      | 12 | Defeated | Denman       | 6 |



**Helen Lowing,**  
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