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## Fitzgibbon comfortably re-elected in seat of Hunter



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

ALP candidate & setting member Joel Fitzgibbon MP has been comfortably elected in the new re-distributed seat of Hunter. Eight candidates stood with Fitzgibbon receiving just over 52% of the primary vote. Ruth Rogers for the Nats received 26.2% first preference votes with the informal vote taking 3rd place. The 'two party preferred' gave Fitzgibbon 55.68% & Rogers 44.42%. The Greens ran fourth on primary votes taking just 6.8% with the best performing Independent being John Harvey from Cessnock with just under 5%. Fitzgibbon will no doubt regain a seat on the front bench with a real preference for the agriculture portfolio. "I'd love to see Barnaby Joyce retain agriculture so he can try & clean up the mess he has

already created," said Fitzgibbon. Fitzgibbon said he was very grateful for the electorates ongoing support. "It remains a great privilege to represent this electorate & I commit to working as hard as I have for the last 20 years," said Fitzgibbon. The 54 year old son of former member Eric Fitzgibbon, Joel continues a long Labor tradition in the Hunter of sons inheriting their father's seat. A former small business operator, he worked on his father's electoral staff before being elected in 1996. He also served on Cessnock City Council 1987-95, including a term as Deputy Mayor.

Two candidate preferred (TCP)	Party	Votes	Margin	This election (%)	Previous election (%)	Swing (%)	Status
ROGERS, Ruth	The Nationals	33,009	-22,710	37.20	44.32	-7.12	
FITZGIBBON, Joel	Labor	55,719	-22,710	62.80	55.68	+7.12	Previous Member

**A BIG Night Out 2016**  
*Community invited*

**Dust off those hats and throw on those boots as we gear up for the very first Branxton Big Night Out on Saturday 16 July. A good old fashioned dance at Branxton Community Hall, Branxton Big Night Out will be fun for the whole family with live music, great raffle prizes and sausage sizzle.**

"Branxton Big Night Out will be a fantastic time for the whole community," says Rita Dixon, Town Coordinator for the Branxton Greta Business Chamber. "We have organised some fantastic raffle prizes including a 65" Soniq LCD LED Smart Television, 2 night stay at Little Lamb Cow Farm Stay, Double Pass to Dashville Skyline Americana Music Festival and gift vouchers from The Gabby Horvath Collection, Royal Federal Hotel, Hunter Pet Motel, Bliss Skin Beau-tique, as well as a Maybelline Gift Pack care of Greta Guardian Pharmacy. The local Branxton chapter of the Lions Club will keep everyone well fed with BBQ sausage sandwiches and both hot and cold non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase on the night. The event is BYO alcohol but we ask everyone to behave responsibly on the night as it is a family event."

Of course no dance is possible without some great toe-tapping live music from Outback Radio who are guaranteed to get people up and dancing playing all the hits! Outback Radio is made up of musicians Andy Abra, Tim Usher, Nash Chambers and Tim Reeks who have been playing professionally on their own projects for the better part of twenty years and have joined together especially for Branxton Big Night Out! Hailing from Newcastle, frontman Andy Abra has just finished recording his new studio album with producer and fellow Outback Radio bandmate Nash Chambers and has played with everyone from Kasey Chambers to Harry Hookey and Bill Chambers on stages from one end of NSW to the other.

"We are stoked to be playing at Branxton Big Night Out," says Andy. "We'll have everything from Slim Dusty to Red Gum and a good dose of Johnny Cash to get everyone up and dancing and we'll throw in a few Paul Kelly and Hunters & Collectors hits to round it out!" Kicking off at 5pm until 9pm, Branxton's Big Night Out will be held at the Branxton Community Hall on Saturday 16 July. Tickets are \$15 per adult, \$5 per child or \$40 for a family ticket (2 adults, 3 children). Sausage sandwiches raising much-needed funds for the Branxton Lions Club are \$4. Hot and cold beverages will be available for purchase. BYO alcohol. Tickets are available for the dance and raffle online on the Branxton Greta website. [www.branxtongreta.com.au/events/](http://www.branxtongreta.com.au/events/), or you can pick them up from Branxton Pharmacy, The Royal Federal Hotel and Branxton Hardware. For further information please call Veronica Chambers on P: 0414 290 237.

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**all details page 13**



# Cessnock City Council Statutory Notices

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 After Hours Emergency 4940 7816

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

**The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 June 2016 to 30 June 2016.**

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2015/00000680/001	3-Jun-2016	59 Maitland ST	Change of Use to Retail Premises (Comprising a Produce Store and Cafe) and Internal and External Alterations to the Building
EAST BRANXTON	008/2016/00000266/001	17-Jun-2016	8 Wyndham ST	Storage Shed
GRETA	008/2016/00000064/001	3-Jun-2016	20 North ST	Subdivision One (1) into Two (2) Lots
GRETA	008/2014/00000315/001	20-Jun-2016	66 Wyndham ST	Torrens Subdivision Involving Two (2) into Two Hundred and Forty Eight (248) Residential Allotments
LOVEDALE	008/2015/00000666/001	23-Jun-2016	418 Lovedale RD	Alterations and Additions to Existing Dwelling
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000313/001	1-Jun-2016	20 Gollan AV	Single Storey Dwelling
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000240/001	3-Jun-2016	17 Harkin RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000326/001	6-Jun-2016	6 Ainsworth CR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000329/001	17-Jun-2016	14 Harkin RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000345/001	21-Jun-2016	3 Gollan AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000347/001	21-Jun-2016	9 Gollan AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Detached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000325/001	23-Jun-2016	13 Abberton PWY	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000363/001	28-Jun-2016	6 Harkin RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000297/001	29-Jun-2016	2 Harkin RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000364/001	30-Jun-2016	10 Hoban RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000024/001	8-Jun-2016	587 De Beyers RD	Two (2) Storey Dwelling & Inground Pool
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000271/001	9-Jun-2016	336 Oakey Creek RD	Temporary Event 'Cheese Festival'
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000308/001	10-Jun-2016	7 Verdale PRIV	Two (2) Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000009/001	27-Jun-2016	2342 Broke RD	Restaurant, Function Centre comprising Chapel, and Alterations to Existing Premises
POKOLBIN	008/2015/00000361/001	28-Jun-2016	85 Gillards RD	Ancillary Development Waterbody (Artificial) and Earthworks

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

P.O. BOX 152  
 CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN  
 GENERAL MANAGER

## PUBLIC EXHIBITION CESSNOCK AQUATIC CENTRE FEASIBILITY & DESIGN REPORT

At its meeting of 15 June 2016, Council resolved to place on public exhibition the Draft Cessnock Aquatic Centre Feasibility & Design Report.

The public exhibition period will be from Monday 20 June 2016 to Friday 19 August 2016. The documents can be viewed at the following locations:

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

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until 4.00 pm Friday 19 August 2016 via email to [recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post.

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

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

DATE	TIME	COMMITTEE MEETING	VENUE
20 July 2016	6.30 pm	Council Meeting	Council Chambers

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

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

## JULY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT YOUR LIBRARY

Bookings essential, tickets on sale now. Numbers strictly limited

Snugglepot & Cuddlepie Story time For ages 2-8	Tuesday 12 July	Cessnock Library 10am – 11.00 am
	Wednesday 13 July	Kurri Kurri Library 10.00 am – 11.00 am FREE
Tell Me a Story Model Building Competition For ages 5-12	Tuesday 12 July	Cessnock Library 12.00 pm – 1.00 pm 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm Kurri Kurri Library 1.00pm - 2.00 pm 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm FREE
	Wednesday 13 July	
Dead Stuffed Things for Kids! For ages 5+	Friday 15 July	Kurri Kurri Library 10.00 am – 11.00 am Cessnock Library 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm Cost - \$3.00

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STEPHEN GLEN  
 GENERAL MANAGER



Live on stage!

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 14 July 2016

by May Gibbs

# Singleton Council's Sam Higgins awarded RYDON Youth Sector Worker of the Year & Branxton's Samantha Butler awarded Young Person of the Year



Branxton's Samantha Butler awarded Young Person of the Year

Hunter and Central Coast regions covered by the Regional Youth Development Officers Network. Sam Higgins is based at the Singleton Youth Venue and coordinates Singleton's Youth Action Team, which is an inclusive youth consultative committee. Sam and his team are currently engaged in a project where the needs of young people in Singleton High are being 'mapped' through a survey. Sam has also been involved in the Hunter LoveBites (domestic violence & sexual assault awareness program) Steering

practical aviation based programs that teach risk management and decision making life skills while building self-esteem. Singleton Council's Director of Corporate and Community Services Group Anthony Egan says Sam is a 'go to' person for information on local young people, youth priorities and youth services. "This year's awards showcased a large number of exciting new programs being developed across the country and it was pleasing to see Sam acknowledged for his work in the community," he says. "I was also delighted to hear Samantha Butler a member of Singleton's Youth Action Team won Young Person of the Year Award. Samantha is a proactive member of the committee who advocates for her peers and is a mentor to the



committee members. "We are proud to have both Sam and Samantha working and volunteering at the

Youth Venue and I congratulate them both on this achievement." RYDON Inc. [Regional

Youth Development Officers Network] is a network of Youth Development Officers from the Cessnock, Dungog, Gloucester, Gosford, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Upper Hunter and Wyong Local Government Areas. RYDON's primary purpose is to focus on community development activities that will assist young people to access community resources and opportunities

Photo at left: Singleton Council's Youth Programs Coordinator Sam Higgins winner of 2016 RYDON - Youth Sector Worker of the Year and Samantha Butler winner of 2016 RYDON - Young Person of the Year Award.

Singleton Council's Youth Programs Coordinator Sam Higgins was awarded the 2016 Youth Sector Worker of the Year Award at the annual Regional Youth Development Officers Network (RYDON) Conference

Awards Dinner, last month. The RYDON awards recognise the work undertaken by Youth Services, Youth Workers, Local Businesses and Young People in providing opportunities that support young people across the

Committee and is passionate about making the program more inclusive and ensuring best practice in the program. Sam introduced the successful LIFT program to the Youth Venue. The program offers tailored and

## Cessnock endorses MoU for NSW Mining Development

Cessnock City Council has endorsed the Association of Mining Related Councils to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the NSW Minerals Council, set to facilitate a stronger working relationship with the mining sector. The MoU will enable Council opportunities to engage with the mining industry to help secure better outcomes for the local community. This could include contributions for local roads and infrastructure. The agreement adopts a framework for negotiating Planning Agreements for mining developments in NSW and is supported by a negotiation time frame document. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed the endorsement of the MoU. "Our community has a long association with the mining industry and this is an opportunity to develop closer working relationships, particularly in relation to Planning Agreements". "Council will be more involved in the decision making process with a view to improve outcomes for our community", Cr Pynsent. The document, drafted in collaboration with the NSW Minerals Council, aims to promote transparency for the community and increase efficiency. The Association of Mining Related Councils requested Cessnock City Council, as a member of the association, support the MoU.

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waving his whip in delight. Unfortunately for Hall the photo finish showed the champion galloper, *Might And Power*, with Jim Cassidy aboard had prevailed by the barest margin. Later, Jim Cassidy would

wryly observe about Hall's antics, "I have never seen a bloke so happy to run second."

None of us have. Until now. Labor leader Bill Shorten has been on a whirlwind victory lap of Australia, beaming and waving to all his supporters, despite the ALP securing its second-lowest primary vote since the war. In a horribly staged monotone that would have done Julia Gillard proud, Shorten announced on election night, "the Labor Party is baaaack." Yes, Bill. The Labor Party is back. In opposition. You lost.

I am putting this together last Sunday & have just seen that Bill Shorten has acknowledged the fact ... eight days after the election. 2 days after the poll the bookies had the ALP at \$4 & the LNP to retain government at \$1.20. The bookies don't get it wrong in most cases with the exception of the UK mob who did a bundle on the Brexit vote.

Canberra last weekend. Maybe the new government will have the guts to use some good old-fashioned politics to generate a truly bipartisan debate on the issues that really matter, instead of slugging off the opposition. Perhaps they could also tackle a bit of vision setting; what do we want our nation to look like in 50, or 100 years from now, and start setting the groundwork. Unfortunately, the language of the past week suggests that a bipartisan approach is the last thing on anybody's mind. A pity, but I live in hope. Jonathan Sanders, Malvern

AEC: fail  
The AEC has one major task: to competently and efficiently run a federal election. It failed on both counts. The commission spent millions on full page print ads and TV ads, educating voters on the new voting rules for the Senate. It hammered home

Anyway, one can only wonder how the PM feels right now; there will be no joint sitting. The Australian Building and Construction Commission will not pass the new Senate & governing will become very difficult.

You would have to be pretty good to be able to reconcile the competing demands of the new rabble that has emanated from the results of the poll. Jacqui Lambie, Derryn Hinch, Pauline Hanson and Nick Xenophon have nothing in common. Hanson wants a royal commission into the role of Islam in our society (she also wants climate change scepticism to be taught in school!) & Xenophon wants a royal commission into the financial sector (read banks). Only God knows what Lambie wants, and Hinch appeared to run his campaign on state matters. Political commentator & journalist Barrie Cassidy, whose opinion I do note, has suggested that we will be back to the polls sooner then later; within 12 months. The Libs have a number of problems apart from too few members & a very hostile senate. They now have Cory Bernardi wanting to form a break-away conservative party. Although the chances of that happening are slim it still weakens the Lib structure. Put your seat belts on!

the message so well that unfortunately numerous lower house votes were invalidated by voters only numbering 1 to 6, regardless of the number of candidates. The commission needs to work on its message. Worse was the lack of planning regarding the impact of school holidays on absentee voting (people voting outside their own electorate). Insufficient staff and ballot papers in this area led to long queues and, in many instances, an inability to vote. Finally, officers were only paid \$400 for what turned out to be for many a 17-hour day. They barely had time for toilet breaks let alone take in food and drink and had to cope with irate voters all day. The onus is on the AEC to get it right. It didn't on the 2nd July 2016.

Name & address supplied but withheld at request of writer  
CPCSG Meeting  
Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meet 28<sup>th</sup>



You would have surely noticed the recent works at Miller Park Branxton which included the replacement of the rural fencing along the New England Highway, two outdoor grass netball courts, site levelling and drainage improvements and an outdoor gym. The outdoor grass netball courts were funded by the netball club (well done) and the outdoor gym was funded by the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation by the Samaritans as reported in The News.

Cessnock City Council has budgeted for the development of a new Miller Park Masterplan in 2016/17 which will identify recreational opportunities within the existing sportsground as well as the recently acquired land at the front of the site. In relation to the Recreational Vehicle site at Branxton Oval the works include access improvements, signage, lighting, seating and shelters. Works are due to be completed by September 2016.

The project was part funded by money received through the Community Building Partnership & by Branxton Greta Business Chamber. It's looking good!  
I see that the local greyhound racing fraternity have closed ranks to defeat legislation that is set to shut them down.

They have suggested that the Baird government has signed the industry's death warrant on an 'impulse' & that it is "fundamentally un-Australian". Whatever you may feel about the industry the decision will hurt a great number of good people who have derived a living from the industry and have nowhere to go.

tion for use by travelling and grazing stock, which can be beneficial for farmers in times of drought, bushfire or flood. Some of the reserves contain sensitive, high conservation assets and removal of firewood can have negative environmental impacts, such as disturbing or removing vital habitat for native wildlife including koalas and owls. Dumping rubbish and dirt bike riding on TSRs is illegal, and camping is prohibited at all times unless accompanying travelling stock. Local Land Services is responsible for maintaining these public assets and protecting them from illegal activities. Fines of up to \$5,500 can apply to people caught carrying out illegal activity on TSRs under the Local Land Services Act 2013. Local Land Services is using

surveillance cameras, staff inspections and public reports to identify and fine offenders. Members of the community can report illegal activity to Local Land Services on 1300 795 299, or to local police. Please record as much detail as possible, including registration numbers, descriptions, locations and dates, to help locate and fine those responsible. Special use permits are available from Local Land Services for a range of non-destructive recreational activities. People can collect firewood from selected state forests with a firewood permit. For more information, visit [www.forestrycorporation.com.au](http://www.forestrycorporation.com.au).



Fragmantation  
Thanks to a fragmented Senate, it is likely we will have another three years of the inadequate government we have endured for the past three parliaments. The past nine years of government have not worked: real wages have gone down or sideways; there has been no movement on social issues such as asylum seekers in detention; same sex marriage has still not been resolved; economic growth has stalled; traditional manufacturing is almost dead; academic standards are falling; the federal budget is a mess; and there is no vision from Canberra. The list goes on. It is time to try something different and perhaps this is what the electorate was trying to tell

July 3pm- 4:30pm at Cessnock Leagues Club. Guest speakers are Ken Wilson and Linzi Robson from Priceline Chemist Kurri Kurri. Topic: Information about Diabetes which is a disease that effects both genders. So come along and ask questions knowing you will receive the correct answer. Our meetings are open to all members of the public. COST: free, tea and coffee provided. More information - Barry 49904554-0457073852. Barry Preston, Chairman, Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group.

**Illegal firewood collecting on travelling stock reserves**  
Hunter Local Land Services is closely monitoring travelling stock reserves (TSRs) in the region for illegal firewood collection, and is encouraging the public to help. TSRs are parcels of Crown land reserved under legisla-

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Letters to the editor can be sent to:  
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## Healthier hearts in the Hunter!

Cessnock City Council is renewing its commitment to the Heart Foundation's Healthier Oils program and is calling on cafés, restaurants, pubs and local take-away businesses across the region to change their oil. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said Council has seen a positive change in the community since the introduction of the program and looks forward to continuing the partnership. "Over 40% of food service businesses have switched to cooking oils which are lower in saturated and trans fats. After identifying the high rate of Cardiovascular Disease in the area we

wanted to tackle the issue and improve our heart health". "By working with businesses and health professionals we have been able to educate the community on how simple it is to improve health by changing frying oils", Cr Pynsent said. Heart Foundation Dietitian and Food Supply Senior Manager, Shane Landon said the Heart Foundation was very pleased to continue the relationship with Cessnock City Council. "The Council is a leader nationally and is helping the Heart Foundation guide the program in other regions. Thanks to this success, we

have been able to attract other NSW Councils to embark on similar projects", Mr Landon said. Environmental Health Officers from Cessnock City Council are working with local businesses on the campaign and the community can also support the program by asking local eateries to use healthier oils. Cessnock City Council and the Heart Foundation will sign the new Terms of Reference on Thursday 14th July to extend the partnership for two years. The Healthier Oils Program



is a partnership between the Cessnock City Council, Heart Foundation NSW, Samaritans Foundation, Hunter New England Local Health District and local dining outlets.

Photo above: Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent presenting award to the Ink Cafe.

## Community collaboration shines again!



Cessnock City Council has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2016 Local Government Awards following another outstanding Youth Week. The 2016 Cessnock Youth Week Organising Committee has been nominated for the Best Local Youth Week Program 2016, planning and delivering over 18 events and activities. Youth participation in the event reached an all-time high with 1800 young people engaged and entertained by the various activities, which marks a 10 year record. Cessnock City Council's Youth Week is already recognised as one of the best in Australia as the Committee took out the Most Innovative Youth Week Program at the 2014 Local Government Awards. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is a credit to the dedicated people at Council and in the community. "The success of this event relies on the commitment and dedication of individuals in the community who want to see our young people flourish", Cr Pynsent said. "I congratulate everyone involved, you really do an outstanding job in working together to make this event such a success. This nomination is a reflection of your hard work". The 2016 Youth Week was a collaborative effort between community organisations, local businesses, the Cessnock Youth Entertainment Committee and other local young people. The variety and range of events on offer would not be possible

without the valuable contribution of young people. The Local Government Awards will be held on August 4 at the Grace Hotel, Sydney, NSW.

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**Waste Vouchers still valid**

Cessnock City Council advises local residents waste vouchers from last financial year are still valid until new vouchers are issued. The 2015/16 waste vouchers can be used by residents until the 2016/17 vouchers are received, which will be distributed with rate notices. Cessnock City Council expects rate notices will be delivered in the coming weeks. Residents are reminded the vouchers are issued to the property listed on the rate notice and are not transferrable or permitted to be sold. Offenders may be prosecuted and/or the voucher(s) voided. Vouchers are issued once and will not be reissued.



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# Members say ....



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

‘Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm’  
Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*Cheers, Bob*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

**Raising the BARR  
INCONVENIENT BUDGET TRUTHS**  
You have all undoubtedly heard and read my ongoing concerns about the NSW Budget, the debt that we are ticking up and the disappearing sources of income. My observations on this front are not political spin; in fact quite the opposite, I am trying to un-spin the spin. Now, people will no doubt jump to the “you’re Labor and you are just bashing the Government” view. I respect that this is easy to do. But, as in the past when people have accused me of this, I am more than happy to point people to the exact pages, tables, graphs and line items in the Budget that say exactly what I am saying. In addition to this, Ian Kirkwood of the Newcastle Herald wrote an excellent piece along very similar lines, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2016. When you un-spin the spin, there are definitely some inconvenient truths.

Question: How much debt is NSW really in? Well, what do you call “debt” and how do you measure “debt”? For those of us that manage a household budget, this is generally pretty straight forward, but not always. Let me give you this analogy: What would you say about your debt position if you had \$100,000 to pay on your mortgage, and at the same time had set aside a cash bank account that had \$90,000 in it. In the one account you were negative \$100K and in the other bank account you were plus \$90K. How much debt do you have? Some would say \$100,000 because that is what you have borrowed for the mortgage. Others would say \$10,000 because that is the gap between what you borrowed and what you have in savings. Now, that was the easy part. What if the \$90,000 that you had saved was set aside for a few projects around home that you had already negotiated and just had to hand over the money: \$50,000 for a new pool; \$30,000 for a new car and \$10,000 for an overseas holiday. If I asked the same question, how much debt do you have, what would your answer be now? For those that still answer \$10,000, although you are technically correct today, you also know that you are going to be incorrect tomorrow (or when the bills are paid) so you are actually living on a false, some would say dishonest, economy. After the new pool, the new car and the holiday, you come back to work and you have just one account left – the \$100,000 debt account. So, what if the State had \$31.664B (that’s 31-thousand-six hundred and sixty four million dollars) worth of borrowings today and, in other places, other accounts, the State had \$31.001B worth of savings, deposits and cash advances? What would you say is the size of our State debt? Is it the \$31.664B that is borrowed or is it the much smaller “gap” figure of \$663M. And having answered that question,

like we did with the pool, car and holiday above, what if the Government had already committed all of the savings to build roads and tunnels and train lines and other things in Sydney worth more than the \$31.001B available? Then, what would you say our debt position was? The Treasurer tells us that we have a “net debt” of \$663M. She is being, selectively, technically correct and mis-leading at the same time. Our Treasurer is a smart cookie – she knows exactly the web of deceit that she weaves. The fact is that we have borrowings of more than \$31B that will need to be paid back. None of the current \$31B in “savings” is being used to pay off any of the debt because this money is being used to pay for other things. And by the way, the \$31B in savings is largely made up of everything that has been sold across the State; things like ports, electricity assets, buildings and other profitable Government businesses. It’s a bit like selling your furniture and the kitchen sink to pay for the new car. If you want to fact-check these figures you should check 2016/17 Budget Paper 1, pages C-1 through to C-6.

**BEWARE OF SCAMS**  
Especially now that we are at the end of the financial year, beware of scammers phoning to let you ‘know you have a tax refund’ or ‘you owe the ATO money’. These people claim they are from the Tax Office and spin a great yarn – they are very convincing. They might even give you a phone number to ring them back on. DON’T! These operators are from overseas which is why it is proving nearly impossible to shut them down. Remember – the Australian Taxation Office DO NOT phone people unsolicited. They do not ask to confirm information over the phone and they do not tell you over the phone where to deposit money. If you get any phone call from someone saying they are the ATO – hang up. If you are unsure if the call was legit, ring the ATO on 132861 to verify. My guess will be that they have never made contact with anyone by phone.

\* \* \* \* \*  
*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



John Martin, Mayor Singleton Council

I was delighted to attend the official opening of the \$2.93 million Ryan Avenue project. The project was funded by the NSW Government’s Resources for Regions program and was officially opened by Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen. Ryan Avenue provides a necessary bypass for heavy traffic away from John Street and has important benefits to the community in terms of travel times, pedestrian and road safety. The project opened to two-way traffic five weeks ahead of schedule and compliments the new town centre with our unique red street lights and a

similar landscaping palette to that of John Street. Council was fortunate to obtain grant money for this project from the NSW Resources for Regions fund. The upgrade will benefit the community well into the future. For full details and construction photos from the project visit [singleton.nsw.gov.au/majorprojects](http://singleton.nsw.gov.au/majorprojects) Singleton Council will receive additional funding for three major bridge upgrades thanks to the NSW Governments Round Two of Fixing Country Roads. Singleton projects that have been approved for funding include: the replacement of the Brookers Creek Bridge on Mirannie Road; the upgrade of the unnamed bridge on Gresford Road and the upgrade of the bridge on Cranky Corner Road. This is an outstanding result for our community. Works on the unnamed bridge on Gresford Road are already set to commence on Wednesday 13 July and are expected to be completed by mid-September, weather permitting. I would like to thank the NSW Government for their support on these projects, without which they may not have been possible.

Works on Burdekin Park are coming along very well. The second stage of work has now been completed, with 16 trees removed and 14 trees pruned to remove dead and dying branches. I am pleased to say that our parks team has mowed, cleaned and re-opened the park. The museum and toilet blocks have also been re-opened and the bus stop has been re-located back to its original area. The next stage of works will commence from 4 July and will be carried out during the day with an ecologist and carer on standby, in an effort to minimise any disturbance to the flying foxes. The works have been approved through the 5 year licence that was granted to Singleton Council from Office of Environment and Heritage in May 2016.

Candidate Briefing Sessions for Local Government Elections 2016 will be held on Monday 11 July 2016 at the SVIEC North Room, Townhead Park, Singleton. The first session will take place from 9am to 12pm, with a second session in the evening from 5pm to 8pm. Councillors can play a key role in making decisions that influence both the short-term concerns and long-term strategic direction of their local community. It is a big commitment, and these information sessions will provide prospective Councillors with the information they need to make a considered decision. More information can be found on Council’s elections page at [singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://singleton.nsw.gov.au) or by contacting Council on 02 6578 7290. Earlier this month I attended the Upper Hunter Industry Leaders Forum. The Forum looked at the future of Upper Hunter Developments and the sustainable growth of communities in Regional NSW. I was delighted to attend this really positive event and take part in some comprehensive discussions on developing industry futures for the Upper Hunter.

Council last week launched the #singleton2027 Instagram competition to engage residents in the review of the Singleton Community Strategic Plan (CSP). Entering is easy you simply take a photo that captures what you want for Singleton in 2027 – it can be a place, thing, event or activity and share it on Instagram using the hashtag #singleton2027 and you could win \$1,000. Entries in the #singleton2027 Instagram competition close on 29 July 2016. The winners will be announced

during Local Government Week in August 2016. For more information and terms and conditions, visit <http://singleton.engagementhub.com.au>

*Cheers, John*



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

## COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS

I would like to take this opportunity to remind our local communities that the NSW Government’s Community Building Partnership program is still currently open for applications, however the cut-off date for submission is 5pm, Friday 22 July 2016. Late submissions **will not be accepted**. The NSW Community Building Partnership program creates more vibrant and inclusive communities by supporting projects that encourage community participation, inclusion and cohesion, and deliver positive social, environmental, inclusive or recreational outcomes. The program offers grants across the State at an individual State Electorate level for the enhancement of community facilities. Grant funding of up to \$200,000 is available for every NSW State Electorate. An additional \$100,000 is available for electorates with higher levels of social disadvantage as indicated by higher comparative unemployment rates. The maximum funding available in each electorate is detailed at Appendix 1.

Grants will be open to local councils and incorporated not-for-profit bodies such as charities, sporting, social and environmental groups. Applications must be made online at [www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au](http://www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au)

## NEW TOURISM NETWORKS FOR REGIONAL NSW

The NSW Government will invest \$43 million over four years in a major overhaul in the way in which regional and rural areas such as the Upper Hunter Electorate attract visitors. The establishment of local destination networks will be a win for tourism in Upper Hunter. Our Upper Hunter Electorate straddles three Destination Networks: Country and Outback, Sydney Surrounds North and North Coast. Upper Hunter therefore has a diverse and wonderful tourism experience for visitors to enjoy. These Destination Networks funded by the NSW Government will bring industry, local government and local tourism organisations together on the ground, strengthening the local tourism industry and assisting them in accessing a range of resources to boost visitation to our local areas.

Regional tourism contributes \$6.7 billion to our state and employs 73,900 people. This plan will strengthen the operation of our tourism bodies to ensure we can continue to create growth in this key industry, and in which our local communities feature so strongly in. Visitor numbers across regional NSW are up 5.9% on last year and while we are proud of this, we know there is still more we can do. By providing a new structure, streamlined funding processes, and record funding, we are confident these initiative will deliver the results that regional NSW deserves.

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Members of BTT manning a stall outside of Branxton Bakery to raise funds by selling "Branxton in Pictures, A History of 188 Years: 1828 - 2016".

Members of the Branxton Tidy Towns Committee (BTT) braved wind-chill and plummeting temperatures on two occasions' in June to fundraise for their next main street project. BTT is selling their latest publication, "Branxton in Pictures, A History of 188 Years: 1828 - 2016". The last few copies of the first edition "Black Creek to Branxton" are also available. These two books have demanded uncountable hours of research by Mrs. Melita Watson, a resident with a family history going back to the earliest

days of Branxton. "Branxton to Black Creek" records our earliest land grants and census information, businesses and significant historical buildings, some of which have been demolished whilst so many remain, significantly unchanged. The BTT heartily thanks the contribution of Branxton residents for providing yet more information and photographs for our second edition, from their personal family archives. The committee thanks the community for their generous support to raise

these funds. The pictorial references in these books are wonderful look at the past of Branxton and contrast the "then and now" comparative images of our architecture. People have made Branxton and these pictures record our workers, tradesmen, families and businessmen. A spokesperson noted that, "Although this bias may be politically incorrect we have to remember that, historically women were the support system and rarely noted as owners or managers". BTT holds a set of plans and management to

implement their next main street project. It will be a continuation, in the style of the 2015/16 project outside the Crib Box. Funds are needed to match the Cessnock City Council \$4\$ grants. The Committee is committed to pro-active implementation of a lifestyle town by advocating main street beautification and a relaxed ambience in our town. Both books are available for purchase at the Branxton Pharmacy and The Bread Shop or by contacting Mrs. Melita Watson Ph. 0402 247 599.

PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy



**Incontinence**

Incontinence describes any accidental or involuntary loss of urine from the bladder (urinary incontinence) or bowel motion, faeces or wind from the bowel (faecal or bowel incontinence). It may cause distress as well as being a hygiene problem. However, incontinence can be managed and treated. If you have experienced this problem, you aren't alone. Incontinence is a widespread condition. It can range from 'just a small leak' to complete loss of bladder or bowel control. In fact, over 4.8 million Australians have bladder or bowel control problems for a variety of reasons. It is likely that the true number of people affected is much higher. Many people do not tell their doctor or pharmacist about their incontinence, due to embarrassment. Some people mistakenly think that incontinence is a normal part of ageing or that it cannot be treated. If you experience bladder or bowel control problems seek help, as the symptoms will not go away on their own and may worsen over time. Urinary incontinence is common and often associated with preg-

nancy, childbirth, menopause or some chronic health conditions. It can range from a small dribble when you cough or laugh, to large flows of urine. Stress and urge incontinence, are common types of urinary incontinence. People with poor bowel control or faecal incontinence have difficulty controlling their bowels. This may mean you pass faeces or stools at the wrong time or in the wrong place. You may also find you pass wind when you don't mean to or experience staining of your underwear. About 1-in-20 people experience poor bowel control. It is more common as you get older, but a lot of young people also have poor bowel control. Many people with poor bowel control also have poor bladder control (wetting themselves). Treatment depends on the type of incontinence. However, there are lots of things you can do. Lifestyle changes may significantly help some types of incontinence and these include: Drink about 6-8 cups of fluid each day (1.5-2 litres) spread evenly throughout the day.

Reduce the number of drinks containing caffeine (e.g. tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cola) as they can worsen urge incontinence. Avoid constipation by maintaining a healthy balanced diet that contains plenty of fruit, vegetables and fibre. Lose some weight as a modest amount of weight loss can improve urinary incontinence.

- Aim for 30 minutes of exercise most days.
- Do pelvic floor exercises to improve stress incontinence to strengthen the pelvic floor muscle.
- Go to the toilet only when you need to, rather than 'just in case'.
- Go to the doctor if you think you have a urinary tract infection.

Your local pharmacy can help too. Pharmacists can give you practical advice on how to manage incontinence as well as supply incontinence pants, pads and other aids. Visit your local pharmacy during World Incontinence Week and find out how they can help.

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## Desexing program a barking success!

Cessnock City Council's free desexing program has wrapped up seeing over 100 companion animals benefit from the service. The program, aimed at promoting responsible pet ownership, provided Senior Citizens or pension card holders the opportunity to have their pet desexed free of charge. Cessnock City Council with the help of the RSPCA managed to desex 114 companion animals in just a few months. These pet owners now get the added benefit of being able to register their animal at a reduced rate set by the State Government. Cessnock Council rangers

have been overwhelmed with the community response and applaud owners for ensuring their pet is desexed. The entire community stands to benefit from this program. Desexing prevents unplanned breeding, promotes better behaviour and reduces the chance of an animal escaping. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said it is good to see local pet owners doing the right thing. "I'm pleased Council can offer such a practical service to the community and support responsible pet ownership", Cr Pynsent said.



Cessnock rangers would like to thank the RSPCA and the Office of Local Government for their support. Cessnock City Council received a dollar for dollar grant from the Office of Local Government of \$10,000 for Council

education programs including the School Education Program and the annual Free Microchip Day. *Next issue we will try and identify how 'Rover', pictured above, felt about the program ... he looks a little sad!*

## Easy steps for residents to reduce woodsmoke pollution this winter

Local residents are being asked to help improve winter air quality by checking they are using wood heaters correctly. As temperatures drop and winter sets in, the incorrect use of wood fire heaters can seriously affect local air quality & smoky chimneys could be a real problem in the local areas during the winter months.



fire; and 10. Clean the chimney every year to prevent creosote build-up. Creosote is a sticky black residue that can build up in your chimney - A creosote-clogged chimney can spill smoke into your room when you open the heater, and even catch fire, putting your home at risk.

Council staff members are available to give advice on using your wood heater more efficiently.

"Residents are encouraged to phone council and ask to speak to one of the wood smoke reduction officers; they will help you get the most out of your wood heater without harming your neighbour's health," he said. All local Councils are working closely with the NSW Environment Protection Authority to reduce the pollution caused by wood smoke in our region.

"Unfortunately wood smoke pollution can harm the environment and your health and can be upsetting for neighbours," said a council spokesperson. "We're encouraging all residents with wood heaters to go outside and check their chimneys. Ideally, chimneys should not vent any smoke, just a heat haze. Older models may vent a thin wispy smoke.

"However if your chimney has obvious smoke this means it's not operating as efficiently as it could be, regardless of its age." The following ten tips will ensure your chimney produces less smoke and will help you and your neighbours breathe easy.

1. Always burn small logs of aged, dry hardwood;
2. Store wood under cover in a dry ventilated area; freshly cut wood needs to be stored for 8-12 months;
3. Never burn rubbish, driftwood or treated or painted wood, which can pollute the air and can be poisonous;
4. Use plenty of dry kindling to establish a good fire quickly;
5. Stack wood loosely in your firebox so air can circulate;
6. Keep the flame

- lively and bright; your fire should only smoke for a few minutes when you first light it and when you add extra fuel;
7. Open the air controls fully for five minutes before and 15-20 minutes after reloading;
8. Don't let your heater smoulder overnight
9. Check your chimney regularly - if there is smoke coming from the chimney, increase the air supply to your

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## Put a freeze on your energy bill this winter

Cessnock City Council is encouraging residents to take advantage of the Fridge Buyback scheme as the rebate has increased as of July 1. The initiative is about cutting down your power bill and reducing the impact high power usage has on the environment by giving up your working second fridge or upright freezer.

Old fridges and freezers are some of the biggest energy users in the home, consuming up to three times the energy of newer appliances. It is estimated to add an extra \$300 to your power bill and results in one tonne of carbon pollution each year. Free collection is now available under the Fridge Buyback Scheme with the rebate now increased to \$25. Cessnock City Council urges residents to consider if they are eligible for this waste smart initiative. Contact Fridge Buyback 1800 708 401.



### FROM THE CHAMBERS JULY 2016



The Branxton Greta Business Chamber has been a hive of excitement since the appointment of Town Coordinator, Rita Dixon.

In April we held our first networking breakfast for 2016 and had a great turnout. At this meeting the brand new Chamber website was launched containing a comprehensive directory of all businesses located within the Branxton and Greta townships. It serves as a central hub for locals and visitors alike to find contact details for essential and retail services. It also features a full list of things to do, places to stay and eat in the area. The website also takes online payments for membership, chamber networking meetings, workshops and social events.

Branxton Greta Business Chamber is always on the lookout for new members so do your business a favour and join the Chamber to receive great support and benefits. Visit [www.branxtongreta.com.au](http://www.branxtongreta.com.au) to become a member

Speaking of which, on Saturday 16 July the Chamber will host the Branxton Big Night Out! An afternoon/evening of dancing to the tunes provided by local act, Outback Radio - grab your hat and dust off your boots! A fun time for the whole family. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$5 children or \$40 a family (2 adults, 3 kids) and can be purchased at the Chamber website.

A new initiative for the Chamber is a scheduled PR campaign that will highlight individual businesses each month and let the greater community know about the proactive businesses that are located within Branxton and Greta! This month the business focus is on Branxton Pharmacy, owned and operated by Lee Grundy. Branxton Pharmacy recently welcomed new pharmacist and trained Naturopath Victoria Rogers to their team, who is on hand each Monday & Tuesday to answer and give advice on natural remedies in addition to traditional pharmaceuticals. Pay Branxton Pharmacy a visit today!



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# Major changes to strata laws

New strata laws will start on **30 November 2016**. They have been modernised to fit the reality of living in a strata townhouse or apartment today. The new building defect bond scheme will start on 1 July 2017. Currently more than a quarter of NSW's population lives in, owns or manages strata. Many new requirements will not impact strata communities immediately. This includes allowing time for pre-appointed strata managing agents, building managers and executive committee members to continue in their roles once the law reforms start. Some key changes include:

- strengthening the accountability of strata managers
- allowing owners to adopt modern technology to conduct meetings, vote, communicate and administer their scheme
- the need for owners to review by-laws (strata community rules) within 12 months, which can be customised to suit their lifestyle - such as whether to allow owners to keep a pet by giving notice to the owners corporation
- a process for the collective sale and renewal of a strata scheme
- a simpler, clearer process for dealing with disputes
- broadening tenant participation in meetings
- a new option to manage unauthorised parking through a commercial arrangement between a local council and a strata scheme
- a clearer and simpler

three-tier renovations process, which waives approval for cosmetic renovations within the strata lot (for example, installing handrails for safety). There are also measures to reduce red tape, such as simplifying financial statements for owners. **Complying with the new laws** Strata schemes will have plenty of time to understand and adjust to new requirements after the reforms start. Be aware that:

- decisions already made and financial contributions already levied under pre 30 November laws remain valid once new laws start.
- **legal proceedings already underway will be dealt with under the former Act that was in place when proceedings began.** Managing the strata scheme Previous appointments will be able to continue after the new laws as follows:
  - if a **strata managing agent** is appointed before 30 November 2016, their term of appointment ends whichever is later:
    - up to 3 years after their term commenced (on the day the term is due to end), or
    - 6 months from the start of the new laws.
  - contracts with **caretakers and building managers** in force before 30 November 2016 will remain in force after that date, until 10 years after the laws have commenced (unless the terms of the contract are for a shorter period, then that period will apply).
  - the existing **owners**

**corporation** continues to operate. The previous executive committee becomes the new 'strata committee'. There is no need to appoint people to the strata committee until the next AGM.

#### Modern and flexible strata schemes

The reforms will allow a strata scheme to adopt social media, video and teleconference to hold meetings. Voting will be able to occur electronically and through secret ballots. It will also be possible to distribute papers by email.

The new laws will also give owners corporations more flexibility around when to hold their AGM. **Stronger accountability for strata managers and caretakers** Strata managing agents will have new requirements to disclose conflicts of interest, including financial interests. Strata managing agent agreements will be time limited to 1 year (in the first year of the strata scheme) and 3 years in following years, with possible 3-month extensions able to be granted.

If a strata managing agent or building manager/caretaker is not performing, owners will be able to apply to the Tribunal to vary or terminate the contract, or to be compensated.

**Collective sale and renewal** This new process will allow owners to jointly end or wind up a strata scheme so the site can be sold or renewed.

The reforms will ensure that owners receive at least the market value of their lot, plus an extra amount for costs like those associated with moving. Any plan for renewal will be referred to the Land and Environment Court for final

consideration. The Court will be able to reject a renewal plan if:

- it has not followed proper processes or been developed in 'good faith', or
  - the amount to be paid to a dissenting owner was less than the compensation value of the lot, or
  - the terms of settlement were not just and equitable in all the circumstances.
- Fair Trading will establish a Strata Renewal Advice and Advocacy Program to provide free advice for vulnerable and elderly residents, including referrals to support services. Similar collective sale and renewal models already operate in New Zealand, the majority of states of North America, and the United Kingdom.
- Maintaining the building's condition** The new building defect bond scheme will start on 1 July 2017. This start date will enable:
- strata buildings to be inspected for defects against the new Australian Standard, which will be introduced as the standard for inspections of group title buildings
  - the necessary time for industry and stakeholders to prepare for this important change. This reform introduces mandatory defect inspection reports and a building bond. The developer will also need to prepare a maintenance schedule, to be tabled at the first AGM of a new scheme to inform owners about their maintenance obligations. These changes will increase builder

and developer accountability, enable defects to be identified and fixed early, and prolong the life of the building.

#### How the process will work

The building bond will be for the construction of strata buildings over three stories high. Developers will be required to lodge a 2% bond for the final contract price of the building, as a form of security to fix any defective work.

Developers will need to pay to engage an independent building inspector to provide defect inspection reports. A first report is due between 15 and 18 months after the completion of the building. The final report must be provided between 21 months and no later than 2 years after the building work is completed.

The owners corporation must agree to the appointment. If there is no agreement or the developer ceases to trade after the building work is complete, Fair Trading will arrange for an inspector to be appointed. If the defects are not rectified, the building bond will be used to carry out the repairs. If there are no defects or they are rectified, the bond will be returned to the developer.

#### Owner renovations

Current laws can make it difficult for owners to carry out minor renovations to their lot. The reforms will provide clearer, common sense approvals for owner renovations. They will waive restrictions for cosmetic changes to lots such as inserting a picture hook.

Renovations with a lasting impact, such as installing floorboards, will still require approval but only a general resolution (50% of the vote). Renovations like those that affect the structure or external appearance of the building, or waterproofing, will still require a special resolution (75% of the vote). Top of page

#### Proxy voting

Changes to proxy voting will prevent an individual controlling owners' decisions by obtaining a majority of proxy votes (that is, voting rights delegated to them by other owners). Proxy votes able to be held by one person will be limited to:

- one proxy vote only for schemes with less than 20 lots, or
- 5% for schemes with more than 20 lots.

#### By-laws

Reforms will introduce a model by-law dealing with smoking that intrudes into the common property or another person's lot. The reforms will also amend the model by-laws to make it easier to keep pets. Model by-laws provide a guide for schemes to use in deciding on their own enforceable by-laws.

Reforms will allow schemes to take more action against the misuse of parking spaces and excess noise, as well as introduce increased fines for non-compliance. The changes will introduce measures to help address overcrowding in strata schemes.

#### Tenant participation

Tenants will have a right to attend owners corporation meetings, no matter how many of the lots are tenanted in their scheme. Tenants may vote only if they hold a proxy (giving their voting rights on a lot owner's behalf). The owners corporation may vote to allow a tenant to speak on a particular matter. Tenants can be excluded from a meeting when financial matters are discussed.

If at least half the lots are tenanted, a tenant representative can be nominated as a non-voting member of the strata committee. The representative may still be excluded from meetings when financial issues are discussed, such as the collective sale or renewal process.

#### Levies and capital works funds

New laws will require developers to set realistic levies during the period between when the strata plan is registered, and the developer has sold at least one third of the unit entitlements in the scheme (the initial period) and for the subsequent year after. Owners corporations will be able to more easily recover outstanding levies that are mainly used to pay for the scheme's day-to-day expenses.

#### Dispute resolution

The reforms will expand the Tribunal's power to exclusively deal with most strata disputes, including orders to recover outstanding levies.

As well as being able to register outstanding levies as a debt in the Local Court, owners corporations will be able to enter into payment plans with lot owners if they wish, for up to 12 months. This would allow a lot owner to make periodic payments of their debt to the owners corporation. If an outstanding debt is registered with the Local Court, it can order debt recovery (including garnishee orders on the lot owner and, for the first time - if necessary - any rent paid by a tenant to a real estate agent) to recover the debt.

The Tribunal's expanded powers will help it ensure owners corporations can run more smoothly where there is dysfunction in a scheme. These include removing members of the executive committee and the strata managing agent and forcing elections of office holders.

Currently the only option for the Tribunal is to appoint another strata managing agent to replace one who isn't performing. This may not be the best response to a number of these issues. It can be costly to a scheme and create disharmony for lot owners.

The Tribunal will also be able to limit the matters that committees can make decisions about, and require votes on certain matters.

#### FURTHER READING

[www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/sites/ftw/About\\_us/Legislation/Changes\\_to\\_legislation/Major\\_changes\\_to\\_strata\\_laws.page?DCSext.ref=HomePageClick:Whats\\_new](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/sites/ftw/About_us/Legislation/Changes_to_legislation/Major_changes_to_strata_laws.page?DCSext.ref=HomePageClick:Whats_new)

# TAYLOR

PROPERTY MARKETING

## 1300 803 300

taylorrealestate.com.au

21 Kent Street, GRETA

3 1 3

'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

Agent: Taryn Bird 0404 494 482

2A Cliff Street, BRANXTON

3 1 1

'Large Duplex in Central Location'

This brick and tile duplex is Located in the heart of Branxton within walking distance to all local amenities.

- 3 Good sized bedrooms with built in robes
- Man bedroom with ensuite access to main bathroom; 3 Way bathroom
- Large lounge room with built in bar and split system air conditioning
- Separate dining room
- Single lock up garage with internal access
- Private rear patio area; new Fully Fenced Yard
- Available now

Agent: Taryn Bird 0404 494 482

## “ We Have Tenants Waiting! ”

With an abundance of enquiry and **NO VACANCIES** in the Greta Branxton area we are looking for new rental properties.

If you are looking to rent out your home or know someone who has a vacant property, take advantage of the favourable market conditions and contact Taryn Bird for an obligation FREE appraisal of your property.

**Taryn Bird 0404 494 482**

hunter@taylorrealestate.com.au

2/72A Maitland Street, Branxton NSW 2335





**Introducing Ben Bridge - Sales Consultant**  
Coming from a family with deep roots in the Greta Branxton community, Ben has a lifelong understanding of the community & its people. Through this love of the area, Ben has a great knowledge of the real estate market trends around this area & has had extensive training through the LJ Hooker network. Ben is looking forward to dealing with people to help meet their real estate dreams.  
**Call 0404 564 725**



**Branxton**  
10 Durham Road  
**Family in Quiet Street**

Located in a quiet street, ideal for families, sitting on a 900m2 block. Bedrooms have ceiling fans, main with ensuite, walk in robe & split system air conditioner. Featuring a large lounge room, family/dining room & rumpus room. 2 pergola areas, overlooking the large backyard.

**Price:** \$445,000  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



**Branxton**  
22 Station Street  
**4 Bedrooms/Large Shed on 900m<sup>2</sup>**

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

**Price:** \$375,000  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



**East Branxton**  
3B Grape Street  
**A New Opportunity**

Bedrooms with built in robes, master bedroom has a walk in robe & ensuite. Large lounge room, with a separate dining/family room adjoining the kitchen plus a pantry. Outdoor patio & low maintenance backyard. Quick possession & new home buyer grants available. This property would lease for approximately \$380-\$400 a week

**Price:** \$ 399,000  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



**Branxton**  
4/5 Maitland Street  
**Comfy Unit**

Large 3 bedroom unit close all of Branxton's special little features. Open plan living space downstairs & 3 good sized bedrooms with built-ins upstairs. Kitchen has stainless appliances & plenty of cupboard space. Entertain undercover in the rear courtyard. Single lockup garage. Split system air conditioning.

**Price:** \$310,000  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**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 Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



**North Rothbury**  
42 Lindsay Road  
**29 ACRES**

Built-in robes in 3 bedrooms, main offering walk in & private reading room or nursery, combustion fire place & air conditioning to living area, ducted vacuum throughout, storage, spa, verandas, pizza oven, carport, garden shed, 3 dams & shelters for horses.

**Price:** \$699,000  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**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 Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



**North Rothbury**  
28 Rothbury Street  
**Village Living**

This cottage style home has 3 large bedrooms in the growing area of North Rothbury. Just minutes from the Hunter Expressway & all the Hunter has to offer. A large backyard & a front garden make this property feel like home. Comfort is assured with split systems air conditioning & a large contemporary kitchen.

**Price:** \$310,000  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



**East Branxton**  
5 Grape Street  
**Street Appeal**

Modernised 3 bedroom family home on corner block. Renovated throughout with great kitchen. Single garage with plenty of storage space. Timber deck & pergola for entertaining guests & fully fenced yard to keep kids & animals safe. The home is rendered & painted to give that street appeal you have been looking for.

**Price:** \$335,000  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



**Thornton**  
**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:** \$460,000  
**View:** by appointment  
**Contact Ben Bridge**  
0404 564 725  
**LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779**  
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



**LJ Hooker Greta-Branxton currently have NO VACANCIES!!**

With the enquiry rate increasing in the area we are seeking new rental properties. If you have a vacant property or know someone with a vacancy contact Bernadette Gleeson 0401 296 884 today for an obligation free assessment or to discuss your property management needs.

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 Branxton ~ two bedroom villa

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

**PRICE \$320,000**



## BELFORD

**Vacant Land with building approved**  
**Lot 1 DP 1205549**  
**Well over half an acre of good level block.**

**PRICE \$160,000 ONO**



## BRANXTON Senior Living

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

**PRICE \$265,000**



## BRANXTON Senior Living

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

**PRICE POA**



- 2023m2 block
- 3 bedrooms
- Large rear deck

## WINGEN

**Village living at its best**

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

**PRICE NEGOTIABLE**



**Branxton** ~ 3 bedroom renovated cottage with carport. \$350/week  
**North Rothbury** ~ entirely renovated 3 bedroom home with carport, ensuite to main. \$360/week  
**Branxton** ~ Renovated 2/3 bedroom home with good entertainment area, fenced block & free standing lock-up garage. \$330/week  
**East Branxton** ~ large modern unit with double garage & courtyard. \$320/week



## LOWER BELFORD

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

**\$420 per week**



## GRETA

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

**\$350 per week**

Call Helen or Mike

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

## BRANXTON

A couple of minutes to town



### LOT 1

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

**PRICE \$520,000**



### LOT 3

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

**PRICE \$830,000**

## BRANXTON



### First home or investment.

This family home features a low maintenance brick & tile structure and includes a stylish bathroom, well presented kitchen, separate lounge with slow combustion fire, 3 good sized bedrooms (main with 'walk-in' robe), 2 x garages, fully fenced with many more features.

**ASKING \$340,000**

## EAST BRANXTON



### Features include:-

Balcony / Patio / Terrace, Bath, Block 1145sm, Built in Wardrobes, Close to Schools, Close to Shops, Close to Transport, Fireplace(s), Formal Dining, Formal Lounge, Garden, Internal Laundry, Large Fenced Block, Lovely Queensland Room with spa, Modern Bathroom, Modern Kitchen, Split system air conditioning & slow combustion fire & Quiet Location

**PRICE \$370,000**

## EAST BRANXTON



### MUST SELL! Open to all reasonable offers

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**

## 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  
NEG**

## BRANXTON



### Family home well loved and cared for

Spacious living areas plus a large Queenslander at rear.  
A good sized carport.  
3 bedrooms which includes built-ins in two. Ensuite plus sunroom in main bedroom.  
All this on a large fenced block & lovely gardens

A must to inspect .....

**ASKING \$390,000  
NEG**

## 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**

## 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**



Apologies for missing the last edition. The weeks are flying by too fast these days. Can't believe we will be halfway through July by the time this edition is out. Would like to update everyone in the community who isn't on Facebook,

the Cancer Morning Tea in May raised \$2,200 for the Cancer Council. So, thank you again to all who attended on the day and the local Business community in Branxton and Greta. Cancer treatments have improved a lot over recent years and many people who have got

for 10.30am, you will be welcomed with either hot soup or tea or coffee (whichever you prefer) (and if these cold days keep up, you will need it), with a hot lunch and a lot of other surprises – the theme of the day is a PARTY, so if you have any, dress in your PARTY clothes (not compulsory) and join in the fun, whilst catching up with old friends and meeting new ones – all for \$15.

Anyone wishing to attend can RSVP to Marie on or before 15th July with their details (for catering purposes) and with any special dietary requirements on 0402015850 or email [branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com](mailto:branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com) This may also apply if anyone would like to be added to our mailing list for invitations to be sent or emailed for any future functions.  
*Denise McGoldrick  
Publicity Officer.*

**They said it....**  
"Man seems to be capable of great virtues but not of small virtues; capable of defying his torturer but not of keeping his temper." ~ **G. K. Chesterton**  
"The hills of one's youth are all mountains." ~ **Mari Sandoz**



## Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

Families across Cessnock are busy enjoying the school holidays. Did you know there are over 50 parks, 40 playgrounds and 20 sportsgrounds located throughout Cessnock City Council? Council also manages a number of bushland areas across the LGA, which are another great way to experience our natural environment.

When out and about please remember to always let somebody know where you are going and when you are expected home because not all of the great outdoors is mobile friendly! Also remember to take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints.

Find out more about parks and recreation areas on the website <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/sport/parks> Don't forget children go back to school on Tuesday 19 July 2016 so be mindful to stick to the 40km limit in School Zones and remember to choose safety over convenience and park legally.

If you would rather curl up by the fire inside this winter or enjoy sitting by a fire pit here are some useful fire tips:

- Always use clean, dry wood
- Use natural accelerants (not fuel)
- Avoid damp wood
- Don't burn painted wood, plastics or grass clippings
- Take note of the wind direction and avoid windy days
- Let your neighbours know what you are doing beforehand

Council Rangers impounded 31 dogs last month, thankfully 27 of them were registered and microchipped so were returned home without needing to stay in doggy detention. If you have lost your dog please contact the RSPCA because it could be there waiting for you. Be sure to keep your registration details up-to-date so we can help your pets home if they ever decide on a day of misadventure.

Discover how we can assist you and your pets <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals>



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



## 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



Tuesday, 19th July which will be held at the Branxton Community Hall in Bowen Street, Branxton. Starting at 10.00am



## A sample of local real estate for sale on

The news Issue No 80 7th December 2000

BRANXTON



An old fashioned rambler set in the heart of town. This home is set on a double block. Included is some large shedding with possible development potential.

Asking .... \$130,000

BRANXTON



Wonderful modern brick & tile home in quiet cul-de-sac location. This family home boasts 4 bedrooms, double garage, covered BBO area, inground pool. Ideal property for a family with an eye to quality.

Asking ... \$162,000

BRANXTON



Great first home or investment. Potential plus – A neat three bedroom home in a very popular, quiet area of Branxton. The home also has an inground pool & good shedding.

ASKING ..... \$125,000

BRANXTON



Great Investment ~ 2 bedroom plus sunroom ~ spacious lounge/dining, kitchen, double garage ~ an easy walk to all amenities.

Asking ..... \$92,000

NORTH ROTHBURY



Brand new 3 bedroom home, cathedral ceilings, quality inclusions throughout, patio pergola area at rear. Very private enclosed landscaped yard.

Asking ... \$115,000

BRANXTON



What a bargain!!! Grand older style home of 3 bedrooms in excellent condition. Separate lounge, eat-in kitchen, sunroom with air-conditioning, good shed, great views. Rent this out & build your dream home on the extra block! GREAT FIRST HOME PURCHASE. NOW!!

Asking ..... \$99,990

NORTH ROTHBURY



Quiet cul-de-sac backing onto rural land. This property features a 4 bedroom Brick & Tile plus ensuite. This property is in a serene location.

Asking ..... \$140,000

GRETA



If you are looking for a top quality home in a quiet setting then be sure you arrange a time to come and have a look at this quality family home. Features include:- extra large enclosed block, extensive use of double brick & quality slate, four bedrooms, two bathrooms, formal & informal areas, freestanding double garage. In ground pool & Air conditioned!

Inspection recommended

GRETA



Enjoy a low maintenance life style from this stylish modern four bedroom home. Absolutely feature packed including stainless steel kitchen, ensuite, slow combustion fire, double garage, landscaped block.

Inspection Recommended! \$175,000

**GRETA WORKERS CLUB**

**2 WEST ST GRETA**

**4938 7325**

**MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB**

**6 MAITLAND RD EAST BRANXTON**

**4938 1226**

**GRETA WORKERS**

**THE OAKS**

**FAMILY RESTAURANT**

**CHINESE & AUSTRALIAN**

**TUESDAY—SUNDAY**

**LUNCH & DINNER**

**COURTESY BUS**

**WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS &  
SUNDAYS**

**Ring the Club for more details**

**MEAT RAFFLES**

**FRIDAY 7.00pm**

**SUNDAY 12.00 Noon**

**MILLER PARK**

**MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**

**THURSDAY 14th JULY**

**\$5,000**

**SUNDAY 17th JULY**

**\$2,800**

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**MEAT RAFFLES**

**FRIDAY 7.00pm**

**SUNDAY 6.00pm**

**FRIDAY NIGHT  
ENTERTAINMENT**

15th JULY

**ROB WILSON**

22nd JULY

**SMOKIN'  
ROSIE**

**MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**

**WEDNESDAY**

**13th JULY**

**\$4,600**

**SUNDAY**

**17th JULY**

**\$2,800**

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**SAMMY'S AT THE PARK**

**FAMILY RESTAURANT**

**WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY**

**LUNCH & DINNER**

**2 HAPPY HOURS**

**MILLER PARK**

**WEDNESDAY 4 - 6pm**

**GRETA**

**THURSDAY 4 - 6pm**

**\$3.30 SCHOONERS**



# CARL HIAASEN RAZOR GIRL ★ A NOVEL ★

(The first novel of Carl Hiaasen that I read & thoroughly enjoyed was 'Native Tongue'; I remember the first page & thinking ... where is this going? It got better & better. I have read all his adult fiction & they are all great reads with just one (his first novel) 'Tourist Season' not fulfilling my expectations. Around the same time I was also introduced to a new Australian author Robert G. Barrett who went on to be Australia's best selling fictional author to the despair of the Australian literati. Ed.)

**Razor Girl**  
Andrew Yancy (Bad

Monkey, 2013) returns in this immensely entertaining wild ride through the Florida Keys. He is still doing penance as a health inspector on roach patrol for an earlier assault with a car vacuum. But when the star of a redneck reality show called Bayou Brethren goes missing, Yancy sees a chance to win back his real cop job at the sheriff's office. Merry Mansfield, the Razor Girl, is sharp, that's for sure, and one of the coolest characters Hiaasen has ever brought to the page. She runs car-crash scams but has the proverbial heart of gold, which lands her bejeweled flip-flops in a diabolically complicated

story that includes (and often skewers) phony reality shows and the fine folks who bring them to us: goofball goodfellas; sand-restoration, reef-raiding scammers; an ill-fated, mongoose-owning stinky conycat psycho; a high-profile product-liability lawyer who's dangerously addicted to the very male-enhancement potions in his TV commercials. And, oh yes, let's not forget an environmentally invasive infestation of Gambian pouched rats, electric cars, and cruise lines, along with Sharpie pens that create a male enhancement that perhaps only this author could dream up. Or maybe it is one of the true lurid Florida tales he claims to have incorporated into the story? This is the ultimate beach read for anyone with a taste for Hiaasen's skewed view of a Florida slouching toward Armageddon.-- ANOTHER LOOK.....

**The full-tilt, razor-sharp, unstoppable hilarious and entertaining novel from the best-selling author**

When Lane Coolman's car is bashed from behind on the road to the Florida Keys, what appears to be an ordinary accident is anything but (this is Hiaasen!). Behind the wheel of the other car is Merry Mansfield--the eponymous Razor Girl--and the crash scam is only the beginning of events that spiral crazily out of control while unleashing some of the wildest characters Hiaasen has ever set loose on the page. There's Trebeaux, the owner of Sedimental Journeys--a company that steals sand from one beach to restore erosion on another . . . Dominick "Big Noogie" Aeola, a NYC mafia capo with a taste for tropic-wear . . . Buck Nance, a Wisconsin accordionist who has rebranded himself

## About the Author

Carl Hiaasen

Authors Personal life



Hiaasen was born in 1953 and raised in Plantation, Florida, then a rural suburb of Fort Lauderdale. He was the first of four children born to Odel and Patricia Hiaasen. He has Norwegian and Irish ancestry. He started writing at age six when his father bought him a typewriter. After graduating from Plantation High School in 1970, he entered Emory University, where he contributed satirical humour columns to the student-run newspaper *The Emory Wheel*. In 1972, he transferred to the University of Florida, where he wrote for *The Independent Florida Alligator*. Hiaasen graduated in 1974 with a degree in journalism. He was a reporter at *Cocoa Today* (Cocoa, Florida) for two years before being hired in 1976 by the *Miami Herald*, where he worked for the city desk, Sunday magazine and investigative team. Since 1985 Hiaasen has been a regular columnist for the newspaper. His columns have been collected in three published volumes, *Kick Ass* (1999), *Paradise Screwed* (2001) and *Dance of the Reptiles* (2014), all edited by Diane Stevenson. In 2005, Hiaasen was the subject of a "60 Minutes" (USA) profile by Steve Kroft. Novelist

After becoming an investigative reporter, Hiaasen began writing novels in his spare time. His first three were co-authored with his friend and fellow journalist William Montalbano: *Powder Burn* (1981), *Trap Line* (1982), and *A Death in China* (1984). His first solo novel, *Tourist Season* (1986), featured a group of ragged eco-warriors who kidnap the Orange Bowl Queen in Miami. The book's main character was whimsically memorialized by Jimmy Buffett in a song called "The Ballad of Skip Wiley." In all, seventeen of Hiaasen's novels and nonfiction books have appeared on the New York Times Best Seller lists. His work has been translated into 34 languages.

Hiaasen's newest novel, *Razor Girl*, was published this year. His first venture into writing for children was the 2002 novel *Hoot*, which was named a Newbery Medal honour book and was adapted as a 2006 film of the same name (starring Logan Lerman, Brie Larson and Luke Wilson). Hiaasen's subsequent children's novels were *Flush*, *Scat*, *Chomp* and, most recently, *Skink-- No Surrender*, which introduces one of his most popular adult characters to teen readers. All of his young-adult books feature environmental themes, eccentric casts and adventure-filed plots.

Hiaasen also co-wrote three songs with his good friend and famed L.A. rocker, the late Warren Zevon. "Rottweiler Blues" and "Seminole Bingo" appeared on Zevon's *Multineer* album in 1995. The third song they wrote together, "Basket Case," was done in conjunction with Hiaasen's novel of the same name, and appeared in 2001 on Zevon's album *My Ride's Here*.

Hiaasen is also noted as the person who helped bring the young adult fantasy novel *Eragon* to the public. The book, written by Christopher Paolini, was self-published and self-promoted without much attention until it came to the notice of Hiaasen's wife, Fenia, in 2002, during a trip to Montana. Hiaasen immediately recommended the novel to one of his editors at the publishing house Alfred A. Knopf. The book went on to become an astounding success, marking the start of a series that sold over 30 million copies worldwide

Adult fiction  
*Tourist Season* (1986), *Double Whammy* (1987), *Skin Tight* (1989), *Native Tongue* (1991), *Strip Tease* (1993) (filmed in 1996 as *Striptease* by Andrew Bergman, starring Demi Moore and Burt Reynolds), *Stormy Weather* (1995), *Lucky You* (1997), *Naked Came the Manatee* (1998) (A Mystery Thriller Parody with 12 other authors), *Sick Puppy* (2000), *Basket Case* (2002), *Skinny Dip* (2004), *Nature Girl* (2006), *Star Island* (2010), *Bad Monkey* (2013) & *Razor Girl* (2016)

as the star of a redneck reality show called Bayou Brethren . . . a street psycho known as Blister who's more Buck Nance than Buck could ever be . . . Brock Richardson, a Miami product-liability lawyer who's getting dangerously--and deformingly--hooked on the very E.D. product he's litigating against . . .

and Andrew Yancy-- formerly Detective Yancy, busted down to the Key West roach patrol after accosting his then-lover's husband with a Dust Buster. Yancy believes that if he can singlehandedly solve a high-

profile murder, he'll get his detective badge back. That the Razor Girl may be the key to Yancy's future will be as surprising as anything else he encounters along the way--including the giant Gambian rats that are livening up his restaurant inspections. 4.5/5

## Has your phone stopped ringing?



## You need to advertise your Business locally

## Call Mike At 'The News'

# 4938 1773

MAITLAND GARDEN RAMBLE 2016  
17 & 18 September 2016  
10am – 4 pm  
Presented by McDonald Jones Homes

The Maitland Black & White Committee presents the 33rd Annual Garden Ramble which is proudly sponsored by McDonald Jones Homes and supported by MRM Thompson Norrie solicitors. All funds raised go to Vision Australia.

Welcome spring by wandering through some of Maitland's beautiful gardens. Eight gardens will be open to enjoy at your leisure allowing you to meander slowly or sit and relax to take in the views and gather ideas for the upcoming gardening season from a variety of garden styles.

If you are from out of town why not plan a peaceful weekend away for an enjoyable break.

Food and beverages will be available at Heritage listed Pinehurst and a sausage sizzle will be held at another garden.

Also included in the Ramble is another heritage listed property Aberglasslyn House.

A bus will depart from Maitland Railway Station at 9.45 each morning

Early bookings are required for the bus as there are only 25 seats available and can be made through Maitland Tourist Information Centre on 49 312800 before Tuesday 13th September.

Enquiries will be welcome at the Visitor Centre on 49 312800 or the website at

info@maitlandhuntervalley.com.au, on our website at www.maitlandbandw.com or contact our President, Kathy Willmott at kathryn\_willmott@hotmail.com

Tickets are available from:

Maitland Visitors Information Centre  
Heritage Gardens Nursery

Cherry Road Nursery

Bolwarra Café

At all the gardens on the day.

Prices are as follows:

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:

All gardens: \$30, Concession \$25, (aged pension only)

Individual garden entry: \$5 per garden, children free

SATURDAY ONLY: Transport and all gardens: Adults \$45, Concession - \$35 (aged pension only)

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# HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE

with Jo Thomas  
General Manager HWWTA



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HWWTA

## WINERY RUN

**When:** 6:00am - 3:00pm  
July 24, 2016

**Location:** Hunter Valley  
Gardens - 2090 Broke  
Road Pokolbin NSW  
2320

**Web-**  
**site:** [www.hevents.com.au](http://www.hevents.com.au)

**Phone:** 49348138

**Email:** [admin@hevents.com.au](mailto:admin@hevents.com.au)

A major Recreational Running Festival staged in and around the vineyards of Pokolbin. Attracting 3000+ runners and 6000



spectators the event is now celebrating 11 years. Events on offer include an Ultra Marathon, Marathon, Half Marathon, 10km, 5km and 2km Kids event. A festive atmosphere surrounds the event with sports and local produce expo and many cafes, eateries and wineries within 400m.

## MARKETS IN THE HUNTER

Following are a number of nearby Farmer & Craft Markets to Hunter Valley Wine Country:

### 1ST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

**MAITLAND MARKETS** 1st Sunday of every month (except January): also 3rd Sunday from October to December. Maitland Showground in Blomfield Street. 8am - 2pm. The biggest markets in the region. Ph: 02 4962 5522. [www.maitlandmarkets.com.au](http://www.maitlandmarkets.com.au)

**HARVEST MARKETS** Every Saturday (except when the Maitland Showground is booked for other events). 8am - 11am. Maitland Showground in Blomfield Street. Ph: 4962 5522

**BROKE COMMUNITY MARKETS** 1st Sunday of the month. 8am - 12pm. McNamara Park, Wollombi Street, Broke. Ph: 6579 1259

### 2ND WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

**HANDMADE IN THE HUNTER MARKETS** 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month @ Kevin Sobel's Wines, Halls Road, Pokolbin 9am - 4pm. Ph 02 4936 6726

**KURRI KURRI FARMERS MARKETS** 2nd Saturday of the month: Bake it, grow it or sow it. Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri 8am - 1pm. Ph: 4937 2640.

### 3RD WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

**ABERMAIN GIRL GUIDE MARKETS**, 3rd Saturday of the month. Centenary Park Bathurst



## Police Report

### Branxton/Break, Enter and Steal:

Between 21:00 on Monday 27 June 2016 and 06:30 on Tuesday 28 June 2016 unknown persons have entered the detached garage at the stated location being in Whitburn St, Greta by jemmying the ground floor side door by unknown means. The offenders have stolen a gas bottle, solar panels, tent and assorted food. Person reporting asleep in bed during the time frame.

### Singleton/Break, Enter and Steal:

Between 11:45 on Tuesday 28 June 2016 and 10:30 on Wednesday 29 June 2016 Person/s unknown have entered the tent that the victim was residing in at the stated location being Rose Point Park, Ryan Ave, Singleton by opening an unlocked door by unknown means or method.

The offender/s have taken the victims mobile phone and cash from the tent while he was sleeping.

### Singleton/MVA:

Incident: 2 vehicle collision - 2 vehicles towed Time: 08.40am Date: 29th June 2016  
Location: Hunter Street x Bourke Street Singleton

About 08.40 am on Wednesday the 29th June 2016, vehicle 1, a red sedan driven by driver 1 a male, aged 69 from Hunter view was travelling in a southerly direction in lane 1 of 1 upon Bourke Street Singleton at a stated speed of 40 km/h. Vehicle 2, a white sedan driven by driver 2 a male, aged 55 from Singleton was travelling west in lane 1 of 1 at a stated speed of 55 KPH upon Hunter Street Singleton. When vehicle 1 approached the intersection of Bourke Street X Hunter Street which is sign posted with give way signs, vehicle 1 has failed to give way to vehicle 2 approaching on the left, colliding with vehicle 2.

Police investigations have determined Driver 1 at fault and he was informed he would be reported by way of TIN for the offence of: NOT GIVE WAY TO VEHICLE (GIVE WAY SIGN/LINE)

Persons injured - The driver of vehicle 1 was transported to Singleton Hospital for observation due to chest pain.

Vehicles towed - both vehicles towed from the scene.

Breath test results - Both drivers breath tested at the scene with a negative result.

Street, Abermain. Ph: 4930 4625

**LAGUNA MARKETS** 3rd Sunday of the month. 9.30am to 1pm. Old Northern Trading Post, Great North Road, Laguna. Local produce, plants, second hand items, gifts, Landcare information and much, much more! Ph: 4998 8244

### 4TH WEEKEND OF THE MONTH

**HANDMADE HUNTER MARKETS** 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month at Kevin Sobels Wines, Halls Road, Pokolbin. 9am - 4pm. Phone: 02 4936 6726

**SINGLETON FARMERS & CRAFT MARKETS** 4th Saturday of the month. Singleton Showground on Bathurst Street. 8am - 1pm. Buy produce direct from local growers & see a wide range of arts & crafts. Ph: 02 6574 5390

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ONLY

**WOLLOMBI VILLAGE MARKETS** Every Holiday Monday. Come to historic Wollombi for this great market of over 100 stalls; including local produce, crafts, plants, clothes, tools, bric-a-brac and much more. Each market attracts thousands to the beautiful countryside of the Lower Hunter Valley. 8am - 1pm at the Salyards on Paynes Crossing Road.



# Branxton Golf Club



Phone: +938 1421 Fax: +938 3571 Email: [branxtongolfclub@westnet.com.au](mailto:branxtongolfclub@westnet.com.au) Information for Members and Guest.



13/7/2016

\$3.00 Schooners all game

### Thursday Night

Trivia: 7-9pm \$10 per team- cash prizes

Badge Draw: \$850.00 as at 7/7/16

### Friday Night Raffles

7.30pm

Meat And Vegies

Badge Draw \$1850As At 8/7/16



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## OUR TOWNS GOT TALENT

Saturday 30th July

Entry \$5.00 Adults \$2.00 Children

Interested local talent—call club  
for details

Supporting Harry Meyn

Foundation

## Lions Trivia Night

Saturday 23rd July

# click



## The 10 best websites you've probably never heard of, according to redditors

**Reddit is amazing. The site has earned a reputation as an extraordinary place to find content quickly and easily - so what do the users of the go-to site see as the go-to sites?**

A thread on the AskReddit subreddit sought to find the answer to this question, which you can peruse at your leisure if you wish.

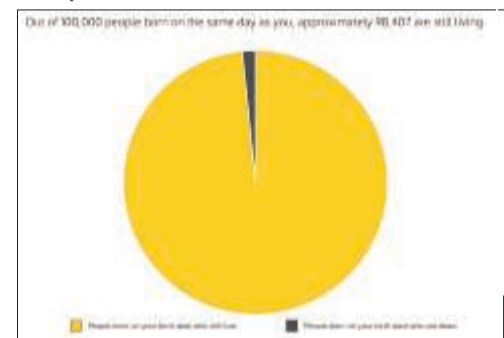
For the pedants among you, there is a reason google.com doesn't feature - this is meant to be detailing websites most would not know about already. If you want a slightly condensed and editorialised version, see our top ten, below:

1. [you.regettingold.com](http://you.regettingold.com)

Enter your birthday and the website will put your age into perspective with a whole host of morbid statistics.



Possibly the most harrowing is the chart which shows the proportion of people who were born on your birthday who have died.



2. [pcottle.github.io/MSOutlookIt/](http://pcottle.github.io/MSOutlookIt/)

You can now read reddit in Microsoft outlook form.



Unsurprising perhaps, that redditors recommended a tool to make it easier to browse the site without drawing scrutiny at work...

If you don't like Outlook, you can use Cluffle, which makes pages appear like a Google search if you type in the subreddit, or Subdood which makes it read like Wikipedia.

Employers, you have been warned.

3. [chordify.net](http://chordify.net)

If you're learning an instrument and want to learn how to play certain songs, the chances are that chordify can assist you.

4. [camelcamelcamel.com](http://camelcamelcamel.com)

Want to know when an item drops price on Amazon? This site will alert you, keep track of item prices or just allow you to view the history of them over time. You have to create an account, but still, we're told, worth it. Or, you could just use this guide from magamaleh, apparently the ultimate consumer.

5. [asoftmurmur.com](http://asoftmurmur.com)

I'm going to level with you: this article has taken far longer than it should have done, simply because of this website.

Whatever the purpose, if you need some ambient, soothing sounds, this website has unparalleled, easy configuration.



**All the options.**

If you ever needed to relax, with the optimal configuration of gentle waves to rain with a hint of coffee shop, then you should bookmark this site.

**Warning: Do not use at work. You will drift off, drawing odd looks from colleagues and a jolting**

**wake up call from your boss.**

6. [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org)

A learning resource which welcomes with the tagline 'You can learn anything'.

It doesn't seem to be lying, as many users jumped at the chance to recommended it.

It's free, not-for-profit, with no adverts and recommended by the internet. What could go wrong?

7. [manualslib.com](http://manualslib.com)

Did you ever throw away the manual to a device and need to access it?

Yep, that problem's gone now.

8. [libraryofbabel.info](http://libraryofbabel.info)

This website generates books. It's a generation of every combination of letter, commas, full stops and spaces in the English language, in every possible combination.

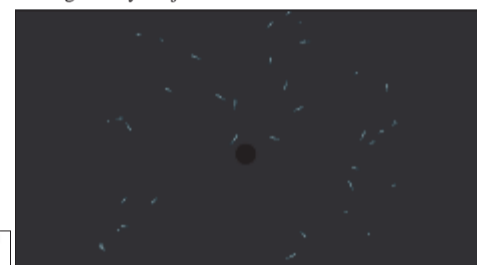
At present it contains all possible pages of 3200 characters, about 10 to the power of 4677 books.

Everything that has been spoken in English, and will ever be spoken or written, is in this database.

Apparently.

9. [codepen.io/akm2/full/rHlSa](http://codepen.io/akm2/full/rHlSa)

Start having fun with gravity and say goodbye to your evening. And your job.



10. [concerthotels.com/got-rhythm](http://concerthotels.com/got-rhythm)

Do you have rhythm? It's a question that has plagued everyone too timid to pick up drumsticks or eyeballed for some out-of-sync shapes in clubs.

Now you can answer it, try to keep in time with the beat as the music fades out - you'll receive a score afterwards.

Here's my score, and yes, that's the clang of a gauntlet on the office floor you're hearing:



**Will My Floppy Work With Windows 10?**

One of the big changes in Windows 10 is that the OS no longer has built-in support for floppy drives. I first told you about this more than a year ago. A reader who recently upgraded to 10 found that out the hard way: "My Windows 10 operating system on my laptop won't recognize my external 3.5" Floppy Disc drive connected thru a USB port. The driver says it is up to date. The "A-Drive" appears for a split second on the Control Panel when I plug the FDD into the USB but immediately goes away."

There's no built-in support for floppy drives in Windows. You'll need to go to the manufacturer's website and download the Windows 10 drivers. You may have the latest updates available for the device, but it's possible the manufacturer doesn't have Windows 10 drivers available yet.

Or you can try this: type "Find and Fix Problems" in your search box and click on the results. Then select **Hardware & Sound**.

Then choose Hardware & Devices and follow the instructions of the wizard that opens.



Keep in mind that it can only help if your device's maker has updated drivers available for Windows 10.

## The Law Report



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

### The benefits of the Torrens Title system

One of my constant themes throughout all the series I have written has been the benefits of the Torrens Title system - a system as the then Chief Justice of Australia wrote - not of registration of title but of title by registration; that is that one does not have title till one is registered.

But there are a few exceptions to this rule that you don't have title unless its registered and the first and most important of them is easements.

The Real Property Act - the act setting up the Torrens system in New South Wales provides that a registered proprietor's interest in land is subject to *the omission or misdescription of an easement subsisting immediately before the land was brought under the provisions of this Act or validly created at or after that time under this or any other Act or a Commonwealth Act.*

Incidentally, the phrase the act uses to describe an owner "The registered proprietor" again shows the importance of being registered.

The first group of easements that trump a registered proprietor's interest is an easement that existed before the land burdened by the easement was brought under the Torrens title system. I've written about this before, telling you that there are several properties in High Street Maitland where there were easements created by a written agreement (generally a 'conveyance' - the deed used to transfer land that isn't under the Torrens system but sometimes a deed simply creating the easement) before the land was 'converted' to the Torrens system and do not appear on the Torrens title deed.

The reason appears to be that the Registrar General - the government office controlling the title registries - does not normally record these easements on Torrens title deeds when it converts the title which it does these days by a largely administrative process. This in turn is because it does not search back the chain of title deeds to see whether an easement was created perhaps 80 years ago but only examines the most recent deed and then issues a Torrens 'certificate of title' based on that most recent deed.

The problem can be fixed - even when the owner of the land burdened by the easement refuses to assist you. I've done it. You lodge a form - called a Request - asking the Registrar General to register the easement with two other documents. First a supporting 'search' showing the title deed by which the easement was created and every title deed since (these are required to show that the easement was not released in the years between when it was created and when the land was brought under the Torrens system). Second a statutory declaration (or even better two) by independent people who live locally who say that the easement is and has so long as they can remember been in use.

The Registrar General then writes to the owner of the land burdened by the easement telling him or her that unless he or she takes action within a month the Registrar General will register the easement on their land. The action is normally to seek a "declaration" in the Supreme Court that the easement does not exist. I have never seen anyone take that action.

But as I wrote in my series on roads and rights of way last year easements are not always created by a written agreement. They can be created by "implication" by, for example, an owner of land building a duplex on his or her land - such that each house of the duplex requires support for the common wall from the other house (which is usually the case) and then selling one of the houses. An easement for support will arise in favour

of both blocks of land. Another and more contentious issue (and I've written about this before) is when an owner uses part of his or her land to the benefit of another part of their land in such a way that had it been two separate lots an independent person would have thought there was an easement over the part used and in favour of the part benefited. The owner then sells the part so benefited. The law implies an easement. Examples of such a use are a drain on part of the land draining the other part, part of the land being used for vehicular access to the other part, and even the right to use a "garbage room" in a large shopping centre.

These implied easements also prevail against the registered proprietor. Perhaps the best example is one of the first cases to decide this, the Court of Appeal decision in *Beck v Auerbach*.

Before 1911 two houses were built on two adjoining blocks owned by the one owner. Perhaps because survey techniques were then not nearly as good as they are now, the wall of one of the homes was over the boundary of the adjoining block and pipes and wires overhung still further.

In 1911 the owner sold the block on which was the house which encroached onto the adjoining block which he retained. Soon after the new owner successfully applied to have his block brought under the Torrens system (in those days the only way to 'convert' the title system was by a "Primary Application" a quite involved and expensive procedure - these days there are several other simpler ways).

The original owner sold the block he retained and some time later a later purchaser of this land also successfully applied to have this block brought under the Torrens system.

Both conversions had been done without anyone apparently noticing the encroaching wall, pipes and wires.

60 years later - in the 1980s there was a dispute between the then owners (who by then were many steps removed from the original ones), and the owner of the land who encroached on the other sought and obtained orders that that they had a right to go into and upon the adjoining land to maintain and repair their own home and the right to permit such parts of their own home as overhung the adjoining land in 1911 to continue to so overhang. Both of those rights are easements and had been omitted from the title deed. The title deeds were then corrected by court order to show the easements.

The most interesting comment the judges made from my point of view is that the primary obligation of the Registrar-General is to investigate and to consider the title of applicants seeking to bring land under the Act and that investigation required consideration of the question whether any and if so what easements had been created in relation to the building on the adjoining land and which should be noted on the applicant's certificate of title.

The court continued by saying A proper investigation would have revealed the existence of the easements (for overhang, support and access to carry out repairs)

I say that is the most interesting comment because it strongly suggests that the Registrar General should investigate titles more fully when converting them to Torrens land and not rely on its present practice in just looking at the current deed. (In the next article I will deal with easements "Omitted" where the land has always been under the Torrens system).

Cheers, Peter

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# Wines & Vines

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

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



This article was first published in The News in 2005

As you are reading this article Holly and I are in W.A., attending a wedding in the beautiful Margaret River area. I will then spend three days surfing the famous "North Point" at Cowaramup Bay, which on a map you will read as Gracetown. This is where that young chap was taken by a shark six or so months ago. This surf break is so good that Kelly Slater, in his recently published autobiography, Pipe Dreams, names it in his top ten surfing spots in the world. But, get this, in brackets next to it, it reads ("I've never actually surfed there, but its reputation exceeds it."). That is like Tiger Woods including The Vintage in his top ten golf courses in the world, without actually ever playing there. That's how good this place is.

My middle brother, Nick, has lived in Cowaramup Bay for thirteen of the last fifteen years. Nick's in the wine industry and has worked at many of the well-known wineries in Margaret River. Fifteen years ago there were only a handful of wineries operating so he is part of the old crew, even in that short space of time. Nick did not go to Margaret River for the wine, however. The wine industry just allowed him to follow his dream. Two words dragged Nick out of Roseworthy College in South Australia, across the Nullarbor and into a relatively unknown but beautiful area known as Margaret River – "North Point".

Cowaramup Bay is one of surfing's most picturesque landmarks. Looking at the bay from the beautiful old style village of Gracetown (confusing – Gracetown is situated overlooking the bay), there are four surf breaks in view. On the southern side and just south of the headland is "Lefties". The southern point is the aptly named "South Point" which handles good swells from any direction. Coming into the bay is a smaller wave known to locals as "Hazzar's". Then, as you look to the northern end of the bay you witness a wave so powerful that it rates with some of the famous breaks of the North Shore of the island of Oahu in Hawaii. "North Point" can be your greatest highlight as a surfer or your worst bloody nightmare. Behind the breathtaking beauty of Cowaramup Bay lies a deeply horrifying past. Not only has the Bay featured in the media through shark attacks, in the early 90's a group of local school children and some of their parents were crushed to death as they sat in an open cave overlooking the Bay. Many of you will remember this. What you don't hear however, are the frightening stories of unwary surfers taking on North Point. The last time I surfed there was October 2003 and I nearly died...twice. The same day two surfers from Perth had to be resuscitated and a local friend of Nick's spent seven weeks in hospital with a total of 280 stitches to his head, shoulder, hands and feet, with several other complications.

Here on the east coast of Australia you hear of massive swells hitting the coast and the stories that follow. In the west it is always massive, so days such as the one I experienced last time are numerous, just another day. To be dealt a blow at North Point is not like getting back on a horse that throws you or a bicycle mishap, it is a warning. Chasing the rush which surfing gives you is addictive, it is never ending. You often take chances you'd rather not take but something inside you pushes the boundaries. It's one thing to surf the beach breaks of Sydney. You then start taking on the point breaks which add a new dimension. As your curiosity grows you find yourself surfing rock bottom reefs of which there are many around the east coast. The lure of the Indonesian islands (where we will be heading to on Friday – but we have had to scrap Nias because of the

earthquake) you're a travelling surfer with a quest which is never ending. Once you reach the Hawaiian Islands the seriousness of your quest sets in. The waves of Sunset Beach, Waimea Bay and Pipeline are famous throughout the world. No doubt you've heard of the Banzai Pipeline, a harrowing barrel, breaking only 30 metres off the beach, over a foot or two of water with a fatal coral reef floor. One of Hawaii's favoured sons and current tour professional, Shane Dorian, describes Pipeline as "Surfing's epicentre". Shane describes North Point as "Surfing's greatest obstacle...the only time I've seen my life flash before my eyes.....totally insane!" Margaret River houses some of the most revered waves in Australia and the world. Names such as "The Womb", "The Gallows", "Guillotines", "Supertubes", "Moses Rock", "Barnyards" and "Cobblestones" are just a handful of the most unique breaks on the untouched coastline of Western Australia. You may never have heard of them, but they make Margaret River one of the most famous areas in the world. "North Point" stands alone in the "cursed" Cowaramup Bay and will forever be one of Australia's best kept secrets.

When I hear people talking about Margaret River, it is generally in regards to the wine of this region. Whenever people ask me about the area my mind sits in a hollow right-hand barrel, praying I'm going to come out alive. I think of snapped surfboards, open wounds and shattered dreams as surfers come face to face with the power of the Indian Ocean. Wine is my life and I have and always will, travel from one end of the earth to the other to find and experience the greatest vineyards and their subsequent wines but when you mention Margaret River, the furthest thing from my mind are the wines. Don't get me wrong, I have my favourites which I know and buy, but the natural attractions of the area far surpass any of the human interventions.

While most people organise a trip to Margaret's by booking accommodation and restaurants with a view to visiting wineries and galleries and the like, I am making sure my life insurance, private health care and a selection of surfboards are ready to go. You may think it is a shame that I feel the wine industry holds second tier in Margaret River but I believe it does. Many people visiting the Hunter, nowadays, may prepare by making sure their seven iron or three wood is in good condition but the vineyards were here first and are the reason the Hunter Valley is famous. In Margaret River, one guess as to who was there first – the vineyards or the surf? The coastline around Margaret River is remote, rugged and volatile. Its beauty lies in its "rawness". The only thing that may, one day, destroy this is an overdeveloped tourist boom in cooperation with an already overdeveloping wine industry. The Hunter's strength and beauty lies in its vineyards; Margaret River's lies in its surf. The vineyards certainly compliment the area at this stage (especially the top Chardonnays and Cabernet based wines) but by no means are they the strength of Margaret River. On the other hand, could you imagine the Hunter without its vineyards?? I rest my case.

Cheers Andrew



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

TO THE idiot, irresponsible drivers who continually use Devon Street, Greta as a race track. This area is mostly made up of families with children & God help if you happen to continue what you are doing and run over a child; the vigilantes will hang you!!!!

A THANK you to The Branxton Greta Business Chamber Inc. for your kind donation to help make my son Matthew's Brandt journey to The National Worldskill's Competition in Melbourne a little easier. The competition is now only 3 months away, with Matthew doing extra training at TAFE and he also recently attending a 4 day training camp in Tamworth; it's making it all seem real now.

TO the homeowners on Wine Country Drive North Rothbury who insist on expelling their waste water onto the walkway ~ it's a bog & a health problem; please fix!!!

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**Work Wanted:** Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081  
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## The "For your Diary" section of The News is a FREE community service.

### Dates for your diary >

**Tue 12 July** - B/G CWA Mtg, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.  
**Sat 16 July** - Dust off those hats and throw on those boots as we gear up for the very first Branxton Big Night Out. A good old fashioned dance at Branxton RSL Hall, Branxton Big Night Out will be fun for the whole family with live music, great raffle prizes and sausage sizzle.  
**Sun 17 Jly** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
**Mon 18 Jly** - Branxton Public School First day of Term 3 (Staff and students)  
**Mon 18 July** - Branxton Public School P&C Meeting 6pm in library  
**Tue 19 July** - B/G CWA Birthday Lunch, venue etc. TBA.  
**Wed 20 July** - Cessnock City Council meeting, Council Chambers at 6:30pm  
**Sat 23 July** - Trivia Nite at Branxton Golf Club hosted by Branxton Lions Club. Kitchen open for meals from 5pm. \$10/person. Tickets Brian 0417 282 440 or Bob 4938 1001  
**Sun 24 July** - 6am - 3pm Hunter Gardens  
**Mon 25 July** - Branxton Public School Staff Development Day (pupil free)  
**Thur 28 July** - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meet 3pm- 4:30pm at Cessnock Leagues Club. Guest speakers are Ken Wilson and Linzi Robson from Priceline Chemist Kurri Kurri. Topic: Information about Diabetes which is a disease that effects both genders. So come along and ask questions knowing you will receive the correct answer. Our meetings are open to all members of the public. COST: free, tea and coffee provided. More information- Barry 49904554-0457073852.  
**Sat 30 Jly** - 'Brxt Got Talent'. Brxt Golf Club 7:30pm  
**Tue 2 August** - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
**Thu 4 August** - Branxton Public School 'Book Parade'  
**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  
**Thur 1 & Fri 2 Sept** - Branxton Public School Stage 2 Sydney Excursion  
**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

### Dates for your diary >

Concert  
**Sun 18 Sept** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
**Sat & Sun 17 & 18 Sept** - Maitland Garden Ramble 10am - 4pm  
**20-22 Sept** - New South Wales Wine Industry Awards at Cessnock Leagues Club  
**OCT/NOV** - Branxton/Greta CWA Land Cookery/Product Promotion (Blueberries) Day, venue/date TBA.  
**Tue 4 Oct** - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf 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 1 Nov** - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
**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 6 Dec** - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
**Fri 9 Dec** - Branxton Golf Club Christmas Spectacular  
**Tue 13 Dec** - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room, followed by Christmas lunch.  
**Sun 18 Dec** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

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



## Branxton Public School

Stage 1 held a Toy Exhibition in the last week of school. Our Stage 1 students constructed toys that moved as a culmination of the Term 2 Science topic. The results were amazing and the rest of the school and parents were very impressed with the results of the student's hard work. Thank you to the parents who assisted in the project. Our PBL Assembly was held on the last day of Term 2. It was wonderful to see so many family members in attendance. Over 30 students received their Principal's Award at the morning assembly and were then invited to have morning tea with Mrs Maier with delicious treats provided by the



Principals' award recipients



Mega draw winners

teachers. After lunch all award winners were included in Colour Fun Activities which included a very popular 'Colour Run' in the playground. A very colourful way to complete a busy term. The finale of the day was the Mega Draw where PBL tickets from Term 1 and Term 2 were combined and then drawn out for an awesome selection of prizes. Thank you to the parents who helped with the afternoon activities. It was lots of fun!

Congratulations to Rhiannon whose design of Elaine the Crane was chosen to represent our school at the Name the Crane competition at Stockland Greenhills. Look out for her design at Greenhills. Branxton Public School will have a senior and junior dance group performing in the Hunter Dance Festival at Wests Newcastle next term. The Junior Dance Group will perform on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July and The Senior Dance Group will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July (pupil free day).



Colourful end of term!

Our Jump Rope for Heart 'Jump Off' raised over \$4000 for the Heart Foundation. A fantastic effort from everyone involved. Mr Howell is getting the students excited about the Book Parade to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Students are encouraged to dress as a character from one of their favourite books. A great holiday project! The P&C will have their next meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 6pm in the library. They will be looking at introducing a sport shirt to the uniform. Some styles will be on show so come along and have a look. They still have Entertainment Books available from the front office. The Book or Digital version are \$60 and include hundreds of offers and vouchers for restaurants, movies, holidays and much more.

Next term Branxton Public School will be having the Staff Development Day/Pupil Free Day in Week 2 (25<sup>th</sup> July) instead of Week 1 (18<sup>th</sup> July). This is to allow the teachers to attend a writing course which will benefit all our students. Save the date! BPS students and staff will be presenting "The Boscars" concert on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Classes are working on their items!

### Dates for the Calendar

- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July – First day of Term 3 (staff and students)
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July – P&C Meeting 6pm in library
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Staff Development Day (pupil free)
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August – Book Parade
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> & Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Stage 2 Sydney Excursion
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September – "The Boscars" School Concert

**At Branxton Public School students, staff and community are respectful, responsible and achieve their personal best.**



Rhiannon's entry for Greenhills Competition



Stage 3 students visiting 1-2Q's Toy Exhibition



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# Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

## Sebring 2015-16 progeny earnings exceed \$11million

SEBRING, the More Than Ready 2007-08 champion 2yo who is the fifth Golden Slipper winner to stand at the Widden Stud, a distinction he shares with Stratum, Marscay, Vain and Todman – in his twilight years, has consolidated his eminence as one of Australia's best sires of this time with progeny earnings in 2015-16 in excess of \$11million.



photograph are among 49 in the Queensland Thoroughbred Breeders 2016 edition of their Stallion Register.

On a fee of \$4,400, the Australian bred Pure White starts his career at Royston this year alongside another newcomer in PRINCE CHERI (FR) (Lando (Ger) – Princess Cheri (Ger), by Mondrian (Ger), a winner France (two starts), Group 3 winner, Goup1 performed Australia, fee \$6,600, and proven sire of stakes winners LONGHORN (Danhill – Fitting, by Marscay) fee \$4,400.

The appearance of Pure White at stud follows the enterprise of the founders of the Winning Colours Farm at Rockley, near Bathurst in importing coloured thoroughbreds from America. A foundation sire has been PROFILE IN STYLE, 'a world class and performance coloured thoroughbred stallion'.

A bay bred in America in 2006, Profile In Style appears to the first ever frame overo thoroughbred to come to Australia. He has a fashionable thoroughbred pedigree, being by Ellusive Quest, a bay with a lot of white by a son of the influential Halo and from a mare by the Secretariat sire Shantariat.

So far Profile In Style has had 64 foals registered by the Australian Thoroughbred Stud Book. Three are white, including Pure White (2011) and a younger brother born 2013. They are from Laughyoumay, a white daughter of Sky Chase (won Champagne Stakes, Rosehill Guineas, Gloaming Stakes, Chelmsford Stakes and Caulfield Stakes) and from Harrisburg, a stakes placed daughter of Diagramatic (USA).

A stakes performer in France and America used at the Waikato Stud in New Zealand when it was owned by Texas oilman Nelson Bunker Hunt, Diagramatic was by Sir Wiggle. He was from Wiggle, an exported champion Australian 2-year-old who at this age won the Stradbroke at Eagle Farm.

Wiggle, a daughter of the Nasrullah sire Rego (Ire), was bred ten minutes drive away from the famous Kia Ora stud, Segenhoe Valley, Scone, one which bred the Hall of Fame inducted Shannon. Also exported to America, Shannon's fourth dam, Brig of Ayre, was a half-sister to Santa Cruz, a bottom line ancestress of Pure White.

## Hayes legacy behind historic Cornerstone winner

ASSUREDLY, Colin Hayes AM, OBE, the enterprising Adelaide horseman who in the early 1960s went out to Barossa Valley and at Angaston, midst the grapes whose juice flavoured the nation, established a world class breeding and racing conglomerate, if he was still here would have been ecstatic at the debut win of the Hussonet 2yo filly Abandonment when sent out favourite at Geelong on Friday.

It was a win that showcased the Hayes legacy as she is trained by the Euroa and Flemington located partnership of his son David, one like his father in the Hall of Fame, and grandson Tom Dabernig and was bred by her half-owners, the Cornerstone Stud Farm, a burgeoning young complex with a national image hived off Lindsay Park by another grandson, Sam Hayes.

The first up victory of Abandonment was also a history maker for Cornerstone as she is the first juvenile winner got on the stud by the first sire they acquired after they launched the stud in 2011, one which is programmed to stand stallions that would attract mares from interstate, encourage local breeders to upgrade their mares and new breeders into the thoroughbred industry.

Although Hussonet, a son of Mr. Prospector, was a veteran when he moved to Cornerstone in 2011, he had a big reputation from use in Chile and then at Arrowfield in the Hunter Valley.

# Detailed sale yard report



## Saleyard report - cattle

### Singleton report date 6 July 2016

Yarding 1002 ~ **Change 192** (Comparison Date 29/6/16)

Quality was mixed, with percentages of the younger cattle showing the effects of the colder conditions. Numbers lifted, with the bulk of the penning entering the younger categories, as the majority were suitable for the restockers and requiring extra finish. There were numbers of prime-conditioned vealers and yearlings suitable for the butchers in the penning, with some lots well-muscled and high yielding. The usual buyers competed in a firm to cheaper market. The vealer steers purchased by restocker orders slipped 11c, as the medium weights made from 330c to 370c, with the heavier end topping at 369c before averaging 357c/kg. The heifer portion also to restocker orders sold 2c cheaper selling from 321c to 343c/kg. Yearling steers to the restockers sold close to firm ranging from 330c to 358c/kg. The unfinished yearling heifers also sold close to firm making from 300c to 331c/kg. The limited supply of prime-conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold to strong competition, with well-muscled heavy vealers topping at 384c/kg. Grown steers slipped in quality, week-on-week, with the heavy weights to slaughter averaging 307c/kg. Cows slipped 15c, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 229c, with the better finished 3 and 4 score heavy weights making from 242c to 260c/kg.



### Scone report date 5 July 2016

Yarding 1423 ~ **Change 798** (Comparison Date 28/6/16)

Consignments more than doubled compared to the last rain affected market, with quality fair to good. The younger categories made up the bulk of the penning, with around 140 cows also offered. There were good percentages of the younger cattle showing good finish and suitable for the butcher orders, with the best of these grain-assisted and high yielding. The usual buyers competed in a cheaper market. The medium weight vealer steers returning to the paddock slipped 13c, making from 321c to 369c/kg. The equivalent weighted heifer portion to the same orders lost 7c to range from 305c to 358c/kg. Yearling steers sold to strong restocker and lot feeder competition, as prices sold from 305c to 364c, depending on breed. The yearling heifers sold from 315c to 349c/kg, with the lot feeders paying the premium for the better end. Heavy grown steers to slaughter sold at 310c/kg, with some carrying plenty of weight. Cows eased 3c to 6c, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 239c, with the better covered 3 and 4 scores ranging from 240c to 276c/kg. Heavy weight bulls averaged 231c/kg.



### TRLX Tamworth report date 4 July 2016

Yarding 1772 ~ **Change 397** (Comparison Date 27/6/16)

There was an increase in supply with yearlings and cows well supplied. Heavy grown steers were in fair numbers. The overall quality and condition of the offering was mixed with all buyers catered for. There were some high quality cattle in the feeder categories as well as in the heavy steers to process. All the usual buyers were in attendance. Demand was solid throughout the young cattle with most categories showing firm to dearer market trends. Vealers to restocker were up to 20c/kg dearer for heifers, the steers showing a smaller rise. Yearling steers to restock and feed remained mostly firm, however there was some quality and breed related price change. Heifer yearlings to restock and feed sold to a dearer trend, up 2c to 6c/kg. Medium weight trade heifers were cheaper, while the heavy weights were slightly dearer. The quality of the heavy grown steers contributed to dearer prices on an improved market trend. This category also included some heavy milk tooth lines. The market trend for cows was generally firm to slightly cheaper, however there were odd sales in the 2 score medium weight dearer. Yield potential was a factor in those sales.



## Cattle projections



The Australian cattle industry will be influenced by a number of extreme forces in 2016.

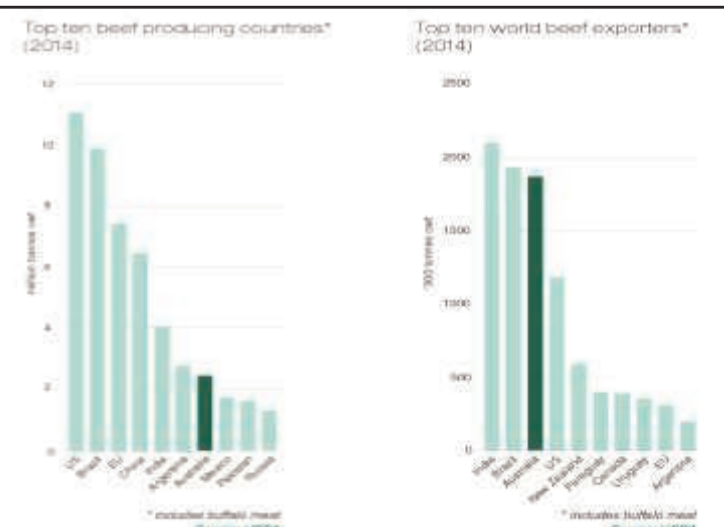
From a cattle supply point of view, numbers over the coming two years will fall to levels not seen in more than twenty years. This alone will

more than likely stimulate strong competition between restockers, feedlots and processors for the limited availability.

The national herd is estimated to fall to 26.2 million head by 30 June 2016, before declining slightly again in 2017, to 25.9 million head. If this occurs, it will represent a 3.4 million head, or 12%, fall since 2013 and become the lowest national herd for 24 years (1993).

Working to partly offset the projected 16% year-on-year decline in adult cattle slaughter for 2016, at 7.6 million head, will be the expectation that average carcass weights will increase considerably. This assumption is based on much lower stocking rates, a greater proportion of lighter northern cattle exported live, a higher proportion of cattle on feed and fewer female cattle processed. Beef and veal exports are

expected to fall as a result of lower production, not due to waning demand. The prediction of the A\$ to average between 66-69US¢ is a significant positive, but needs to be balanced against the heightened competition from Brazil in many markets, the expectation of high US poultry and pork production, higher year-on-year US beef production and significantly weaker US beef markets compared to 12 months ago.



### At the close of markets Thursday's 7/7/16 :

- The Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) averaged 658.25¢/kg cwt, hold firm on where it finished the previous day
- Trade steers were up 1¢, on 345¢/kg lwt
- Medium steers were back 2¢, on 329¢/kg lwt
- Heavy steers were back 3¢, on 328¢/kg lwt
- Medium cows were back 2¢, at 242¢/kg lwt
- Feeder steers were firm, on 358¢/kg lwt

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

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Phil Baker of 26 Thomas Street, North Rothbury who have won North Rothbury Tidy Town 'House of the Month' for July 2016.

North Rothbury Tidy Town is a very active community organisation that meets regularly (bi-monthly in the winter months & monthly in the warmer months) & welcomes all members of the local community to join & help.

The next meeting is the first Monday evening in August at 6pm-in the park shelter. All welcome.

## REFLECTIONS

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Lectionary: 108**

**Sunday July 17 2016**

**GOSPEL LUKE 10:38-42**

Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him.

She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.

Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me."

The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.

There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

**Reflection on the Gospel-16th Sunday in Ordinary Time C, 17 July 2016 (Luke 10:38-42)**

*This gospel story forms part of a broader Lukan canvas where women provide the model for leadership but are more often than not excluded from its exercise, writes scripture scholar Sister Veronica Lawson rsm.*

The story of Martha and Mary has been interpreted fairly consistently over the centuries. Mary's silent contemplative pose at the feet of Jesus is generally affirmed while Martha's action-oriented focus is seen as a less desirable Christian stance. To be a "Mary" is to "choose the better part". To be a "Martha" is to be "anxious and distracted about many things".

In recent times, some interpreters have re-evaluated this reading of the Martha-Mary story. They have drawn attention to the many voices that inform the gospels and have suggested that this particular text reflects a struggle in early Church communities over the role of women in leadership and ministry. One voice in the text comes from those who want to downplay the initiative of women like Martha and to affirm the silence of women like Mary. The same voice functions to pit the two women over against each other and to cast Jesus in the role of arbiter between them, approving Mary's choice over against Martha's. This voice has had the effect of creating a false dichotomy and of reducing the women to exemplars of active ministry on the one hand and of quiet contemplation on the other. In other words, the judgment of Luke's Jesus reflects the views of a certain group in Luke's house churches rather than the words of Jesus of Nazareth.

A more women-friendly voice in the text presents Martha as the householder who welcomes or receives Jesus into her household church. This is possibly the voice of a circle of women disciples who preserved memories of women like Martha and Mary in less divisive ways. For these women, Martha is a generous host who uses her resources for the sake of the community. She welcomes those who share faith in Jesus, among them her sister Mary. The designation "sister" does not necessarily denote blood relationship. Mary may be one among many sisters and brothers in faith who gather to hear the teaching of Jesus. According to the narrator, Martha is "pulled in every direction" (periespato) by many ministerial tasks (peri pollēn diakonian), and most leaders can sympathise with her in this. There is no indication in this description that she is distracted. This is in contrast with the subsequent evaluative comments of the Lukan Jesus: coming from the lips of Jesus, the expression "anxious and troubled by many things" services a negative interpretation of Martha's leadership.

This story is problematic in many ways. It forms part of a broader Lukan canvas where women provide the model for leadership but are more often than not excluded from its exercise. This is in stark contrast with the ways that women are presented elsewhere in the gospels, especially in John.

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# SPORTS RESULTS



compiled 67 nett from his 14 handicap. His short game was particularly impressive as he won his quarter final match against Daryl Sheppard in a high quality game. His consistent play finally wore his opponent out. The DSR for the day was 70, indicating how difficult the course plays at this time of the year, where cool breezes, less run on the fairways, and heavier air makes the course play a few shots harder. Joshua Tracey continues to show his class, winning A Grade with a 69 nett score, a near par round for this talented golfer. His father, Mick, finished runner up with the same nett score. Bryce Element won B Grade with a 69 net score as well, on a countback from Craig Bourne, who has started his school holidays very positively. Steve Primmer's 67 nett clearly won him C Grade, with Ted Zawirski runner up with his 71 nett. A 75 nett was needed to figure in the ball competition. Daryl Sheppard was as surprised as anyone to hit the "shot of the day" with his tee shot to the 2<sup>nd</sup> finishing only 55 cms away—a hole he often as trouble on—and he sank the putt!! The match play is now to the semi-finals. One notable semi-finalist is Kyle Mounser, who yesterday defeated Corey Lamb, finishing with 3 consecutive birdies on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>—now that's a way to bring you back next week!

## Branxton Golf club Sat 9<sup>th</sup> July Stableford

A grade winner Stephen Kearney 39 pts  
A grade runner up Joshua Tracey 37 pts  
A grade third Michael Tracey 36 pts  
B grade winner Stephen Ross 39 pts  
B grade runner up John Vassar 36 pts c/b  
B grade third Murray Johanson 36 pts  
C grade winner Richard Alley 38 pts  
C grade runner up Robert Watson 37 pts  
C grade third Leslie Cawthorne 36 pts  
Ball comp 32 pts  
NTP's  
T Foster 350 cm  
R Hale 166 cm  
T Foster 258 cm  
R Turnbull 108 cm  
Steve Kearney once again showed his class by winning Saturday's A Grade stableford competition with a very impressive 39 pts from his single figure handicap. His effort was exemplified by the fact the Daily Score Rating (DSR) for the day was a 70, indicating that not many of the 70 starters played better than their handicap. Runner up was Joshua Tracey who continues to show great from throughout the winter, with his father, Mick, third with 36 pts. Steve Ross has once again played well in the school holidays, winning B

Grade with 39pts, despite spending much of his round debating the incredible speed of seahorses—we are pleased his group played much faster than these very slow sea creatures. John Vasser finished runner up with 36 pts with Club Captain, Murray Johanson third with the same score. Richard Alley's 38 pts was good enough to win C Grade, just ahead of Robert Watson's 37 pts, and Wallsend Veteran, Leslie Cawthorne third with 36 pts. The shot of the day belonged to Richard Turnbull's shot to the last, which finished only 108 cms away—apparently "Rex's Tree" actually helped his cause—a rare feat from this well placed tree! 32 pts was needed to win a ball. Local junior, Corey Lamb has just returned from the Central Coast, playing 3 rounds of the under 14s NSW Junior Championships at Toukley and Shelly Beach, winning by 2 shots. I'm sure his father Tony, whilst very proud of Corey's wonderful achievement, will have to consider adding another room to their house to accommodate all his trophies so far—and Corey has only just started his golfing career! Well done Corey, another great effort from a very talented golfer.

## Branxton Ladies Golf Results for 29<sup>th</sup> June. Stableford event.

Winner: Caren Caldwell with 40 points. Caren's round included a birdie. Runner-up Nikki Craig 31 points  
Nearest to the pin Jan Scobie  
**Branxton Ladies Golf Results for 6th July**  
This week was Round 1 of the Foursomes Championships.

Five teams competed in blustery conditions, the wind was a real challenge without even trying to play golf. The results of Round 1 are: Nikki Craig/Toy Martin- Net 83  
Helen Vandenbruggen/Christine Tancred- Net 92.5  
Jen Salna/Trish McMillan- Net 94  
Carol Miller/Caren Caldwell- Net 98.5  
Ruth McCarthy/Janelle Coe- Net 100  
Nearest to the pin was Janelle Coe  
Next week will see Round 2 played with hit off at 9am.

**Hunter Valley Golf Club 26th June** The Weekly Challenge has been won by Scott Goldman from the Kurri Golf Club with a solid 40 point return from Rupert Doney from Belmont GC with 38 points.

**28th June** The Tuesday Stableford went to Ash Mundie with 'round of the week' 42 points from Steve Piggot 39 and Angello Korlevic 36 on a countback in 3rd. , Gary Thoma winners were Rex Talbot 36, Trent Gageler 34, Paul Smith 34, Garry Marsden 33, Wayne Drayton 33, Jason Cowburn v33, Bob Prentice 32, Chris Taggart 32, Gary Thomas 32, John Stewart 31, David Kennedy 30 and Wayne Cowan 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ryan Thomas 3rd, Geoff Sweetman 4th, Graeme Flynn 10th and Bob Prentice 17th.

**29th June** The Ladies Par event went to Jenny Chambers with -1 with Jill Slater getting the nod for

second spot from Lynette Russell after both had -4 returns, Lynette also survived a countback from Kerry Choromanski who claimed the first ball in the Ball Comp, other ball winners were: Mary Fortey -5 and Molly Hamilton -6. The Singles Knockout will now enter the semi-final stage with Kerrie Anne Skinner, Leesa Robinson, Christine Tancred and Pam Snaddon all progressing. The course in not available for the Ladies this week due to a corporate booking, competition will resume on Wednesday the 13th July.

**30th June** The Vets 2 person Stabrose went to Rex Talbot and Eric Smith with 50 points from Keith Dunlop and Peter Wilson surviving a 3 way countback for runner up with 49 points. Ball winners were: Kevin Smith and Ken Wright, Darrell Preston and Wayne Berry, Greg Ireland and Wayne Cowan. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Berry (3rd) Kevin Smith (4th) David Peel (8th) and Ray Hodson (17th). **\* Note:** The extraordinary meeting held 27th June resulted in Adrian Kent elected to fill the President's position for the remainder of 2016. The club wish to extend best wishes to outgoing President Brad Borham and his wife Sue Ellen for the future with their interstate move due to work commitments. \*\* The winner of the raffle drawn at the meeting was Sue Peel.



## PJRC 02/07/2016

This week Pokolbin **under 8s** played Merewether at the illusive Gibbs Brothers Oval. The Reds played an exciting running game with great team work getting the ball to Tyson O' Leary scoring 5, Lachlan Eather 4 and Lachlan Leybourne 1, carving up the Merewether defence throwing some great passes to share the ball around. Great defence by the Reds mighty forward pack kept Merewether from scoring more than 2 tries despite some excellent attacking runs. Go Reds!

**U10s** travelled to Nelson Bay to take on the top of the table Gropers. The long drive must have had a positive impact on the Reds, with the team playing their best rugby all year in the first half. The Reds scored first from a rampaging run by Jayden Gontier. The breakdown was hotly contested and the Reds secured quick ball thanks to Jessie Shirtcliffe, Callum Barr and man of the Match, Jack Wills. Quick ball allowed for strong running from Zac Cox and Alec Gough which kept the Reds moving forward. At half time the score was 10 to 5 in favour of the Bay. The second half was a different game and the Bay posted 6 tries from wide running. Jack Wills posted a try in the last minute after following a strong running Gontier. The Reds went down 50 to 10. Well played boys.

Saturday 2nd July had the **under 12's** travel to No2 sportground to take on Wanderers. The boys fought

very hard against yet another large team to be leading just after halftime but the size difference eventually wore us down ending up being defeated 33-24. Although smaller in stature our forwards, especially the tight five, Kane Meewtt, Eden Schreiber, Connor Campbell, Thomas and William Nothnagel dominated the scrum winning all the contests in the game. These boys give their all every week and deserve to be congratulated on all the effort they put in.



## Langer's Match Report Reds vs Easts 1 Saturday 25th June

The Reds first home game at St. Philip's Christian College was a great success except for the final score. We unfortunately had 7 players unable to play against Easts 1 who are a grade higher than us and they bought their best team with them on the day. The Reds tried their hardest but found it difficult against Easts' big forward pack and

slick back line. The half time score was 34 to nil. The Reds came out fighting in the second half and to their credit the Reds tackled the big forwards and wouldn't take a backward step with the Reds crossing the East try line however unable to ground the ball. Half way through the second half the Reds had a couple of players injured and this stopped the Reds' momentum and the Easts machine rolled on with a final score Easts 52 to nil. A special mention must go to Faize Khan who tackled well as did the whole Reds team however the Easts team was too strong and slick for the Reds on this day. Player's player - Jack Kirkham  
3 Points to - Lee Sparks  
2 Points to - Shane Doyle  
1 Point to - Faize Khan  
*Mark Langley (Langers) Coach*  
**Langer's Match Report Reds vs Griffins Saturday 2nd July**  
The Reds travelled to Hawkins Oval at Hamilton for the game against The Griffins. We were expecting a hard game as the Griffins

have improved after winning their first 2 games for some time and upon arrival at the ground we knew this wasn't the same team we played in the first round. The first half was very physical and willing with the Griffins drawing first blood with a penalty conversion. Soon after the Reds had their first points with a penalty conversion and then the Reds started to hit their straps with good defence and good ball control. Starting inside the Reds half our team attacked the Griffins defence and went the whole length of the field to score the team's first try in what I believe was the best team try the Reds have scored so far this year. The second half was much like the first with hard, tough rugby. The Reds scored their second try before the Griffins fought back scoring 2 tries. Then late in the second half the Reds scored their third team try and with only few minutes left in the game the Reds converted another penalty goal with Pokolbin Reds winning 25 to 15. As coach the most rewarding thing is the way the Reds team is improving with every game "WELL DONE TEAM"  
Players Player - Stuart Garrett  
3 Points to ; Jacob Meredith  
2 Points to ; Dylan Dower  
1point to ; Sam Boyd  
*Mark Langley (Langers) Coach*



THE NEWS Issue No 193 17th November 2005 Page 52

## Kirkton top state at soccer

by Peree Dagg  
KIRKTON Public School Soccer team has been named the State Small School Division 3 Soccer Champions. In an action packed final the school drew the match with Exeter and were proclaimed joint state champions. Each player received a flag; an ICC Sate Knockout shirt and the school received a flag and will share a shield. Division 3 is for school with a population of 60-150. Kirkton just scraped into the category with 63 students.



The school began their campaign for state honours on 3<sup>rd</sup> August against Ellalong. The team was made up of Taylor Wilcher, Kalle & Cassidy Waters, Annie Nichols, Annabelle Lambert, Tom Lambert, Tom Skinner, Aden Vallance, James Rooker, Kurt & Dylan Shearer, Ben Loss and David Burgess. They easily defeated Ellalong 3-0 to go through to the second round. The team then played Stroud on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August at Stroud. The team won easily and went on to meet Mulbring. In hot conditions the game against Mulbring resulted in a 1-0 win to Kirkton. In a great team performance our team dominated possession and their efforts were rewarded with a goal to Kalle Waters in the last minute. The team then played Vacy in the semi final at Branxton on 9<sup>th</sup> September. The team defeated Vacy 1-0 with a great goal to Thomas Skinner. The team then progressed to the finals to be played in Sydney. The team and a merry group of supporters traveled to Sydney the day before the finals to prepare for the game. The day began with a knockout match against South Coast team Willawarrin. Kirkton won through to the final 3-1. Tom Skinner scored early by chipping the keeper, then the opposition equalized with a runaway goal. Tom made it two early in the second half then Aden Vallance scored in the last five minutes to put the game beyond reach and secure a finals birth. After a two hour wait the team were in the final against the Southern tablelands side Exeter. The opposition came out firing and scored twice in two minutes and the score remained unchanged until the half time break. "Believe in yourself, you can do it" was the message from Principle Bob Neubaur and assistant coach Jeff Wilcher. In the first minute after the break Tom Skinner beat the keeper in the 18 yard box to bring the opposition to within one. Exeter pushed a couple of shots over the bar but where deterred by the great defence of Tom Lambert and James Rooker. Tom Skinner then caught the opposition keeper unawares with a chest high kick into the back of the net to tie the game up. The final 20 minutes was frantic with both teams keen to score an outright victory. The game ended in a draw and joint champions were declared. It was a great team effort built on the solid defence of David, Taylor, Tom Lambert, James and keeper Kurt at the back; but the individual skills of Thomas Skinner and Aden Vallance stood out in a superb endeavour by the whole squad. The bus trip home was full of fun and celebration. The players complained the "old people" wanted classical songs but "We are the champions" also got a run. The team was made up of 7 year 6 students and 2 from years 3, 4 and 5. The team would like to thank Mr. Neubaur, Jeff Wilcher, Mr. Ebert, their parents and supporters and the P&C who paid for the bus.

# The NEWS SPORT

## Australian Double Act

Past Branxton Public School juniors Jake and Mitch Robinson have both been selected to represent Australia in water polo in their respective age groups. The boys will travel to Europe in July 2016 to attend training camps and then will play in international tournaments. The selection caps off a fantastic year for Mitch after a busy period being selected to Represent NSW CHS in the U17 first team resulting in selection in the NSW All Schools team that recently competed in the Australian School Sport Championships in Canberra where he won a gold medal. At the recent NSW championships Mitch was named in the Tournament Team and the NSW Squad. Mitch will travel to New Zealand in early July to compete in the Pan Pacific Water Polo Championships

with the NSW CHS U15 team and has recently been named captain of this team. He will then have 10 days at home to rest before heading to Europe with the Australian Born 2001 team to do a week long training camp with the Hungarian National Team in Hungary before travelling to Serbia to compete with the Australian Team in a week long Tournament. Older brother Jake has also had a stellar year, being named in the tournament team and NSW squad at his recent NSW championships. Jake was also named in the NSW Country Men's team that won a gold medal



at the Australian Country Championships and resulted in him being selected in the Australian Country men's team to compete in Thailand later this year. Jake has attended several training camps at the AIS in a bid for selection in the Australian Born 1997 team and will travel to Croatia in early July with the Australian team for a week long training camp with the Croatian National Team

before competing in Montenegro in a week along tournament. This will be the third time that Jake has toured and represented Australia with the Born 1997 team in the last three years. One of the highlights of this year for Jake was his selection to attend a 10 day Future Olympians Towards Tokyo 2020 training camp at the AIS. He was one of 40 elite male athletes

chosen to attend the camp, where the aspiring Olympians were put through their paces by elite coaching staff. The Robinson family have moved to Newcastle from Branxton to help with training commitments but their family remain in Branxton.

• Past Branxton Public School juniors Jake, at left, and Mitch Robinson: Australian reps

## Branxton Greta Amateur Swimming Club inaugural 'Life Member'

Jim Sheedy is passionate about swimming! He and his family have grown up swimming competitively and also enjoying the sport for pleasure. Jim and his wife Cathy have been involved with the Branxton Swimming Club for over ten years. Jim initially became



involved with the running of Race Nights through time-keeping, starting and refereeing. He has been the 'Race Starter' for at least the past ten years, continuing on with this role even after his children finished swimming with the club. This year, Jim was awarded the Inaugural Life Membership of the club. His dedication to the club and the sport is commendable.

Jim holds a Level 2 Starters Ticket and Level 2 Referees Ticket which he maintains with trips to Sydney twice per year. He is still involved with Coast and Valley Swimming Association and attends carnivals in this district from Singleton to Dungog and down to the Gosford area.

Congratulation Jim on this recognition for your dedication and commitment to the Branxton Greta Amateur Swimming Club. A true gentleman of the club!

☺ Photo above: Life Member Jim Sheedy receiving his recognition from Acting Club President Lindsay Macindoe



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