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Fitzgibbon reappointed to Shadow Ministry



Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon has been reappointed to the shadow ministry in next parliamentary term. "I am delighted by my reappointment to the Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry portfolio and by my new and additional responsibilities as Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Australia," said Joel. "I would also like to welcome Lisa Chesters to her new role as Shadow Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Australia and look forward to working with her". "The opportunities in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors are vast and will need a cohesive sustainable long term plan to fully capitalise on them". He also said that despite his offer for a bi-partisan approach to our food and fibre sectors three years ago

Barnaby Joyce remains locked in his populist approach. "This has done no more than perpetuate low profitability, flat-line productivity, and contribute to a shrinking global market share". He also said that Labor will continue to offer a higher-value path to higher and sustainable profitability for agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors & that the Turnbull Government has ignored our rural and regional communities. "Cuts to health and education have hit rural communities hardest and Malcolm Turnbull's second-rate NBN has been a great disappointment to everyone keen to address regional disadvantage", he said. "The establishment of

Regional Development Australia and the Regional Australia Institute remain great Labor initiatives designed to encourage local decision making based on sound research. Labor will continue to build on its record on regional development policy and remains committed to adequately funding the infrastructure needs of rural and regional communities". He also thanked Bill Shorten for the opportunity to lead Labor's work in the rural and regional economies. "This work will be supported by a number of other Shadow Ministerial colleagues who have responsibility for many of the issues important to those living outside our capital cities", he said.

Photo above: The Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Member for Hunter

Local greyhound racing industry come together to oppose Premiers bid to close the industry down

Approximately 40 local greyhound racing industry stakeholders met for a forum at Greta Workers Club last Sunday to try & rationalise the 'crazy reckless', as described by one participant, decision made by the state government to ban their industry. The group had one thing in common ... the love of their dogs & racing them. Present at the forum was local state, MP Clayton Barr MP, who supported the group in their bid to have the legislation stopped or overturned.

Inquiry, which were handed to the state government two weeks ago. The Inquiry found that in the last 12 years in NSW, between 49,000 and 68,000 dogs were killed because they weren't considered quick enough to win races. Commissioner Michael McHugh recommended Parliament consider shutting down the industry & that is what has eventuated. Premier Baird said despite the fact there were undoubtedly good people working in greyhound



Local state MP Clayton Barr MP, extreme left, with local stakeholders at Sundays forum

"The Baird government has signed the industry's death warrant on an 'impulse' & that it is "fundamentally un-Australian," said Clayton at the commencement of the forum. Mr Baird's ruling came in response to the findings of a Special Commission of

racing, the industry, as a whole, had let them down and left no choice but for him to implement the ban. The forum was told that in our local community there are approximately 150 who have a vested interest in the industry & and that some rely entirely as a means of living. CONT Page 17

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all details page 13



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 After Hours Emergency 4940 7816

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 PO Box 152, Cessnock 2325 NSW

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR KIOSK LICENCE AT CESSNOCK OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL

Cessnock City Council is seeking expressions of interest from interested parties for the operation of Councils outdoor swimming pool kiosk at Cessnock Pool for the 2016/17 season. The term of the agreement will be for two years (October 2016 – March 2017 and October 2017 – March 2018), with a one (1) year option.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact Council's Recreation & Community Facilities Co-ordinator, Mr Nathan Eveleigh, via email nathan.eveleigh@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 4993 4235 to discuss the operation of the kiosks and obtain a draft agreement.

To register your interest please post or email your name, contact details and a brief resume outlining your experience in the operation of similar facilities to Cessnock City Council with reference number EOI 1617-01 in the subject line by close of business Friday 5 August 2016.

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

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up until **4:00 pm Friday 19 August 2016** via email recreation@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post.

P O BOX 152
 CESSNOCK NSW 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
 GENERAL MANAGER

2016 NSW Local Government Election

The NSW Electoral Commission is required by legislation to conduct the 2016 local council elections on Saturday 10 September, unless advised otherwise. A dedicated website has been launched for those elections. The website address is: www.votensw.info

Non-Residential Rolls

If you are an owner, rate-paying lessee or occupier of rateable land which is not your primary residence, you or a nominee may be entitled to be enrolled on the roll of non-residential owners of rateable land or the roll of occupiers and rate-paying lessees for this election.

Details of the eligibility criteria for a claim and enrolment claim forms are available for download:-

[Non Residential Roll Individual Application \(LG127I\)](#)

[Non Residential Roll Nominee Application \(LG127N\)](#)

The claim must be completed and lodged with Cessnock City Council on or before 6.00pm Monday, 1 August 2016. If a claim for non-residential enrolment was made for a previous Council election, and you wish to claim enrolment for this election you must re-apply

Planning permission granted for place of worship

Cessnock City Council approved a development application proposing the establishment of a place of public worship and funeral home on Buchanan Road, Buchanan.

The proposal was recommended for approval pursuant of Section 80 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW), subject to conditions of consent.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the development application complied with the relevant planning provisions.

"Council carefully considered the public submissions and planning merit. Tonight's decision is a reflection of that", Cr Pynsent.

The Development Application was assessed against:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979;
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2000;
- Council policies; and
- Other relevant planning controls.

The development includes a place of public worship, funeral home, ablutions facility, car parking, intersection upgrade and a picnic and recreation area.

A notice of determination will be issued to the applicant by Council stipulating the conditions of consent which the applicant is required to comply with prior to, during, and at the completion of construction.

The applicant will also need to obtain both a Construction Certificate and Occupation Certificate, both of which require a number of criteria to be met before being issued.

What can I do about a barking dog?

Council often gets complaints about barking dogs. This matter is dealt with under the State Environmental Offences and Penalties Act and can carry an on-the-spot fine. Council may also issue a "nuisance order" against your dog under the Companion Animals Act, and if it continues to bark this may attract a fine. Sometimes all that is required is for the dog owner to be told that their dog is causing a nuisance. Unfortunately this is often not the case and in many cases the dog owner doesn't believe that there is a problem. To address the problem we need some information from you including the address of where the dog lives. Should you experience problems with a barking dog in your neighbourhood, please contact Council's Customer Service on 4993 4300 to lodge a complaint.

Companion Animals ~ Looking after your pet

Council's Ranger Services team is friendly and helpful. Their aim is to help animal owners take proper care of their pets.

Attach an ID tag to your pet's collar, stating the pet's name and owner's contact phone number. Keep your pet off the streets and your neighbour's property.

Provide your pet with food, water, shelter, veterinary care and most of all, time and companionship.

If your pet is missing, immediately contact Cessnock City Council's Customer Service on 4993

4300 to inform our friendly staff that you have lost your pet. Also you can contact the RSPCA on 4939 1574.

It is advisable to lock your cat up at night to prevent your cat from attacking other animals. Studies have revealed cats that are kept in at night live longer.

For further information on keeping your cat safe and sound contact Council on 4993 4300



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
 SEPTEMBER 2016



Considering standing for Councillor?

Know your obligations

For more information call 1300 135 736 or visit www.votensw.info

John Paul Young and the Allstar Band

13 August 2016

The Vanda & Young Songbook



Travel through the decades of mega hits and hear John's *behind-the-scenes* stories about the songs and their making.



On a perfect winter's morning 75 excited netballers, of all ages and experience, gathered at the Miller Park Netball Courts for the first Branxton

District Netball Club Coaching Clinic. The clinic was organised by the club, to provide the players and coaches, the opportunity to learn some

new skills, improve on current skills and gain valuable knowledge about court play, attacking, defending and shooting.

The club was lucky enough to engage the services of Katie Robinson. Katie is an ex-Hunter Jaegers player, and currently plays and coaches in the 2HD competition in Newcastle. Katie organised excellent drills and games which helped all of the players and coaches in many ways. She was full of

valuable advice, and more than generous with her time, and willingness to share all that she knows. It was wonderful to see so many of our local players learning new skills, and participating so enthusiastically, with huge smiles on their faces. After 4 hours of drills and skills, the morning was finished off with a well deserved sausage sizzle and ice-block. A huge thank you to all of our members who helped out in some way – our coaches who helped with drills, our dads with the BBQ, the players who helped with the sausage sizzle, ice-blocks and canteen/merchandise, our

parents who supported us, and of course the players! Thank you to the committee who put in many hours to organise the clinic, and of course Katie for her time and knowledge. Thank you to Glencore whose generous grant enabled us to put this successful clinic on free of charge for our members. Hopefully this will become an annual event.

Photo above: participants & coaches.



North Rothbury Tidy Towns unveil new history plaque at park shelter



North Rothbury Tidy Town has had prepared, and now displayed, a plaque telling the detailed history of the village. The plaque titled "Creation of the Village of North Rothbury" is now displayed at the shelter in Ayrefield Memorial Park & is the culmination of a concerted effort by many members of Tidy Towns. Steve Lind & his wife

Maureen, who are doyens of the organisation, spent many hours preparing the installation.

Preparatory to the installation both helped rejuvenate the tables & seating in the shelter.



Maureen & Steve Lind preparing the installation of the plaque.

North Rothbury Tidy Towns is a very active organisation & has done many good things for the village since it was re-constituted many years ago.

They have had a new children's playground installed at a cost of \$60,000, a new shelter with lock-up, new perimeter fencing, the planting of many shade trees & and a basketball hoop installed on the tennis court. They do welcome new members & meet once a month in the warmer months & bi-monthly in the colder period of the year. Meetings are held the first Monday of the month & all residents are welcome to attend and join.

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GRETA-BRANXTON UNITED CRICKET CLUB

***** NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *****

GBUCC will be holding its annual general meeting from 3.00pm on Sunday, 7th August 2016 in the Bowen Room of the Royal Federal Hotel.

All positions will be declared vacant, with nominations to be forwarded to gbugcricketclub@hotmail.com prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Please note a bar tab will be in place for the duration of the meeting.

GBUCC would not be what it is today without the support and dedication of the volunteers that make up our committee. Some members have indicated their desire to retire from their position within the committee and therefore some new fresh faces are imperative to ensure the Club's future success.

What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

Over my many years I have not taken much interest in US Presidential elections as they always seem to be rudimentary viz., Democrat, Republican, Democrat et al. Most do 8 years & in that time they manage to annoy the electorate somehow & they then vote that party out.

There also seems to me that the difference in governance & policy are not that much different; Obama had a hostile Congress which stopped him from enacting policy differences which basically nullified his proposed changes.

Anyway this election is much different to any I have seen; Donald Trump who is despised by most of his party & offcourse the Democrats of which he is aware but has secured the Republican nomination which, to me, is scary stuff. My consolation has always been that Hillary will win so no need to be concerned but that consolation has

been very rudely disturbed by the prediction of a Republican victory by no other than Mike Moore who is the long-time leading firebrand of left wing politics in America. Appearing on a special online broadcast episode

of *Real Time with Bill Maher*, the director of incendiary documentaries such as *Bowling for Columbine* and *Fahrenheit 9/11* has predicted Donald Trump will become the next leader of the free world.

To quote him:- "I think Trump is going to win. I'm sorry," the Oscar-winning filmmaker said, prompting boos from the audience. He elaborated on his reasoning, discussing four states.

"I lived in Michigan, and let me tell you. It's gonna be the Brexit strategy. The middle of England is Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Mitt Romney lost by 64 electoral votes," Moore said.

"The total number of electoral votes in those states in the rust belt, 64. All he has to do is win those four states. I was there during the primary, he went down and said they moved this factory down to Mexico, I'm putting a tariff on the cars, and it was

music to peoples' ears." "More people in the primary in Michigan voted Republican than Democrat this year. That should be a disturbing thing for everyone."

I also remember early in the race where it was predicted that Trump would never make it to the White House as he would be assassinated either by a Republican or Democrat if he got too close!

After Trump's coronation in Cleveland we now shift camp to Philadelphia for Hillary Clinton's big moment at the Democratic National Convention. Can she arrest declining support and finally win over the party?

Anyway if Moore is right, & hopefully not, the Donald Trump Show is just getting started.

It is not often our little neck of the woods features prominently in the national press but last weeks Cessnock City Council meeting did just that. With headlines such as this in the Sydney Morning Herald "*Furore as Buchanan mosque is approved in NSW Hunter Valley*" it was assured to engender wide coverage & the wrath of many Australians not just in our backyard.

The rise of Pauline Hanson in the federal sphere should have been a warning. No matter what your



feelings are from a political perspective the ALP, with their Green support, have shot themselves in the foot. They would have been better to let the decision go to the Land & Environment court for decision thereby taking it out of their hands. The local government elections are on the 10th September & that is within most voters memory time. Whether they are right or wrong there were over 600 people who wrote to council with objections which is a word of warning. I can see a resurgence in the conservative parties &, to many voters, rightly so.

Some housekeeping:- 'The News' needs paper deliverers for Branxton & Greta on a fortnightly basis. If you would like more details please give me a call on 4937 1773 or call into our office at 12 Clift Street, Branxton.

The ALP have reappointed our local federal member Joel Fitzgibbon MP to the Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry portfolio and have also appointed Lisa Chester in the new role as Shadow Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Australia. The Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce, has

retained the same government ministry &, as Joel said, he is looking forward to the next government but *sadly, despite my offer for a bi-partisan approach to our food and fibre sectors three years ago, Barnaby Joyce remains locked in his populist approach which has done no more than perpetuate low profitability, flat-line productivity, and contribute to a shrinking*

global market share.

It appears that the Premier will not listen to any argument concerning the closing down of the greyhound racing industry in NSW by the end of this financial year. Locally it has devastated many aficionado's & they have not given up.

Cheers, Mike

fresh eggs, concentrated passion fruit juice, pectin, natural flavours, concentrate grape juice, salt, citric acid milk and egg. Packet info states that they may also contain traces of rye, barley, oats, tree nuts & sesame. They had been made in France and imported by Menora Foods of Noble Park (VICTORIA). Never mind global warming. What a waste... these things had travelled halfway around the world to Melbourne and then to the Hunter Valley in their "food miles". Despite the twee packaging only a complete twit or a 'specials seeker' (hubby) would be attracted to these. He is to specials like bees are to honey. Shame on the IGA for not exercising duty of care to "special seeking" customers by ceasing stocking jam tarts which have travelled at least the same distance to the

Hunter Valley as from (vertically) through the atmosphere out into space ... despite whether you 'believe' in global warming or not, I have lived long enough to have experienced the last ice age. It is each of our duties to do what we can to avoid waste. So stop ironing ...and for the sweet tooth. **Jam Tarts:** 6oz short crust pastry 6 tablespoons of jam Bake in a mod to hot oven for 20 mins. Note: Oven is that square thing under the bench...not the dishwasher that is for cooking fish. *I have decided as editor to not reveal the writers name & address as a mark of respect to the poor man!*

Letters to the Editor

GETTING IT RIGHT

I have a couple of things I wish to bring to the attention of your readers and yourself.

Firstly in you 'What's Happening' column you suggest Corey Bernadi is endeavouring to form a breakaway conservative party. Not so. This is a line put about by journalists such as your mate Cassidy and the ABC.

What the Hon. Corey Bernardi, Senator for South Australia, is doing is to give a voice to the conservative minded in this Country via a mirror image of the Get Up outfit i.e. What 'Get Up' says or proposes his conservative outfit will certainly examine and give a different point of view commensurate with conservative principles.

Now for the second point. Your letter from Mr Jonathan Sanders is a good letter and few would argue with the drift of what he is saying, particularly to the idea that we should be looking forward 50 to 100 years in setting our planning.

However, as many commentators and particular politicians are prone to do, the writer makes sweeping statements that sound good and we tend to agree without too much close examination. To whit: -

Asylum seekers. This is not a social issue; it is an issue for the asylum seekers themselves only. They are where they are of their own choice. They may choose to go home anytime they like at our expense. Any third country alternative will only exacerbate the problem and encourage people smugglers.

As with the above, same sex issues concern only homosexuals. It is not a

social issue the main stream public need concern themselves with unless they have relatives who are homosexuals. Again, individuals may choose to have a wedding with all the trimmings or a simple signed partnership agreement which may or may not include children. The rest of us don't have to get our knickers in a knot. It's simply not our business. Plebiscites' are expensive - use the money elsewhere.

All parents should be concerned about their children's education but remember the only part paid by the Federal Government is to assist the states with funding. State Governments set the standards, train the teachers and test for results. Parents of students must accept their role in the parent/teachers relationship. This is the most important part of the education equation and sadly is given little emphasis in the so called education debate. Parents must set the attitude of the

students and continue to maintain the child's enthusiasm throughout the year. By engagement with the teachers, parents encourage the teachers' interest in the child and the child's interest in learning. Well, good luck with that. Mr. Sanders also mentions the parlous state of our economy and our lack of growth but does not mention why this has occurred.

I suggest the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon has the answer. *Steve Lind. North Rothbury NSW*

Bonne Maman Tartlets My husband recently purchased a packet of Bonne Maman Tartlets from our local IGA in Branxton .

The Tartlets had been reduce from \$3 something to \$1.99. (He has been programmed to buy Arnotts biscuits).

Each beautifully presented box contained 9 individually wrapped jam tarts. The tarts were made from sugar, wheat flour French fresh butter, raspberry puree, concentrated raspberry puree, invert sugar syrup, concentrated apple puree,



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Letters to the editor can be sent to:

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

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Stand for Your Community ~ A Call for Council Election Nominations

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS SEPTEMBER 2016

Considering standing for Councillor?

Know your obligations

For more information call 1300 135 736 or visit www.vote.nsw.info

Singleton Council invites residents to stand for their community at this year's September Local Government elections. Women, young people, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse

backgrounds are particularly being encouraged to step up this election. Singleton Council's Director of Corporate and Community Services Group Anthony Egan says

a greater representation of candidates from all walks of life would not only strengthen Singleton Council, but also ensure it has a greater voice for all ratepayers. "Councillors have an important role to play in making decisions that respond to the changing needs of the community," he says. "Serving the local community as an elected Councillor is a challenging but rewarding role. "Even if you don't think you have the experience in local government – if you are passionate about your local community and want

to make a real difference then I encourage you to consider this opportunity and stand for your community." A 2012 Office of Local Government report found women comprise only 27 per cent of Councillors across NSW, and five councils did not have any elected female representatives. Sixty per cent of Councillors were aged between 50-59 years, which is twice the proportion of people in that age range in the state's population, while only eight per cent of councillors come from culturally and linguistically diverse

backgrounds. "Our Council's should be a reflection of the people and communities they serve. However, across the state more than 70 per cent of Councillors are men, and fewer than 20 per cent of Mayors are women," says Mr Egan. "Bringing diverse views and experiences to decision making will ensure our community gets the best solutions and outcomes." The Office of Local Government has prepared a range of materials to assist prospective candidates in making an informed decision about standing for local government elections,

which can be accessed at www.olg.nsw.gov.au. To be eligible to stand for election you must:
 □ be at least 18 years old and an Australian citizen
 □ live or own property in the council's area
 □ be on the electoral roll for the council's area
 □ not be disqualified from standing for office, for example, if you have committed certain offences. Nominations to become a Councillor open on Monday, 1 August 2016 and close at noon on Wednesday, 10 August 2016. The NSW Local Council Elections are on Saturday 10 September 2016.

Reaching great heights

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent met with high-flying individuals from DreamSky Aviation, Australia's first Indigenous flight school. "DreamSky is based at Cessnock Aerodrome and is working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to give them the chance to pursue a career in aviation".

"The Hunter region has a long association with the aviation community and it was a privilege to meet young pilots who are refining their skills at our local airport".

"DreamSky have set their sights beyond education and are also looking to improve access to medical services in remote communities by training pilots who can provide aeromedical services", Cr Pynsent said. Chief Executive Officer, DreamSky Aviation, Matthew Spicer said Robert and Buen, our first two students, have proven very early that they are the most suitable candidates to kick off our Indigenous Pilot Program. "Our students and staff are very excited to be contributing to the 'Closing the Gap' initiative by way of improvements in education, improvements in health services and employment readiness for our nation's first Australians" Mr Spicer said. Cessnock Aerodrome is located in the vineyards area on Wine Country Drive at Pokolbin, approximately seven kilometres north of Cessnock. It is the base for a number of flying schools and aircraft maintenance operations. Joy flights, hot air ballooning, helicopters and business/tourist charters also utilise the airport connecting visitors to the region.



Mayor Bob Pynsent, centre, with the first two trainees

LATE SPORTS RESULTS

Hunter Valley GOLF CLUB
Sunday 17th July The Weekly Challenge has been won by Ron Douglas from Wiseman's GC with 39 points from John Foster from Terrigal GC on 38 points and Dion Hodgson in 3rd place with 35 on a countback. Ball winners were: Scott Martin 35, Ash Mundie 34, Paul Davies 34, Clinton Shah v33, Robert Wonnacott v33 and Brad Pringle 31. **Tuesday 19th July** The Tuesday Stableford went to Bob Prentice with a solid 41 points from Hieu Le with 39 and Graeme Flynn taking 3rd with 37 points on countback. Ball winners were: Mark Barrow 37, Chris Taggart 35, Garry Marsden 35, Brendan Connor 34, Phousang Sihapanya v34, Grahame Sheldon 34, Ray Hodson 33, Ray Newton 33 and Peter Wilson 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) John Parish (4th) Tim Lonergan (8th) Grahame Sheldon (10th) and Steve Piggot (17th) **Wednesday 20th July** The Ladies 4BBB Par qualifying round was unfortunately washed out this week and has been rescheduled for 3rd August. This week the Ladies will contest the Foursome Championship over 27 holes. **Thursday 21st July** The Vets Stableford went to Ray Hodson with a very good 40 points on a 'wet track' runner up was Michael Watson with 37 with Ray Newton 3rd with 35 points. Ball winners were Geoff Sweetman, Dave Irwin and Kevin Smith. Next week the Vets will play a 2 person Ambrose **Saturday 23rd July** This weeks Par event turned out to be tough on the A Graders with -2

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Members say



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK
Last week, I met a group of high-flying individuals from DreamSky Aviation. Based at Cessnock Airport, DreamSky is working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to give them the chance to pursue a career in aviation and also to improve access to medical services in remote communities. The Hunter region has a long association with aviation and it was a privilege to meet young pilots who are refining their skills in our community.

This August Cessnock City Council joins other councils across the state to celebrate NSW Local Government Week 2016. Good luck to the Cessnock Youth Week Organising Committee who have been nominated for the Best Local Youth Week Program 2016.

It's also great to have Paul 'The Chief' Harragon as guest speaker at the School Leaders' Breakfast. Chief Harragon will share his journey - the kid from Kurri Kurri to sporting superstar, giving local students a unique understanding of the effort and perseverance needed to achieve their goals. The chance for local students to hear the highs and lows that go hand-in-hand with chasing your dreams will encourage them to aim high and persist even when they encounter setbacks.

Later in the month, the Mayoral Debate will take place. This event is a wonderful opportunity to showcase sharp minds and encourage academic endeavour. Year 9 and 10 students from four High Schools in the Cessnock LGA will come together to share and challenge ideas in an articulate and informed manner. The students and teachers are very enthusiastic about the debate and I wish all them all the very best.

Our next Citizenship Ceremony is only a few weeks away. So far I will be welcoming 15 new Australian citizens. Citizenship ceremonies are very special and memorable occasions for everyone involved. We like to give our new citizens a warm welcome and keep tradition alive by having our Town Crier join the festivities.

As this term of Council winds up and this is my last Mayoral column, I reflect on the last four years as Mayor and sign off as always with "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." Ralph Waldo Emerson.

It has been a great honour to be able to use that enthusiasm and to be involved with so many community organisations. The value that the VIEW, Lions, Rotary, Probud Clubs and other cultural groups bring to our community is immeasurable. My special project has been as a 'White Ribbon Ambassador' campaigning with our young people to learn more about domestic violence and how our community can work hard to reduce the appalling statistics in the Cessnock LGA.

Our community has been enriched by new festivals like the Kurri Kurri

Festival, Brantxton Umbrella and Mulbring Fair, with 'The Postie Bike Grand Prix' and 'Stomp' bringing extra tourists to enjoy our LGA. Hosting the Japan national team for the Asian Cup pre training showcased the Hunter Valley to the world.

The Hunter Expressway has changed the traffic network and made it easier for visitors to come to our community. Council still needs to work hard to improve local roads for our residents and guests.

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR – TAFE TO BE CENTRALISED – IS THIS GOOD FOR THE HUNTER?

Announcements last week assure us that TAFE has been brought to its knees. The decision last week to centralise all decisions to a single Head Office guarantees that the local knowledge in decision making will be lost. In the past, when TAFE had guaranteed funding and trained more than 95% of all students, this wasn't such a bad thing. But today, when TAFE has separate "business units" that need to be "agile" and "respond to demand" while competing against "private delivery" of courses, a centralised model hardly seems like a bright rosy future. My concerns about the future of TAFE will not be new to readers, but it is increasingly clear that my predictions and fears were more than just a figment of my imagination.

IS THE ECONOMY ALIVE?

Is it just me, or are others noticing that the economy is increasingly being described as a living breathing thing. Apparently the economy can be "strong" or "weak". Apparently it can be "buoyant" or "resilient". Apparently it can "face adversity" and it can "deliver outcomes". Apparently it can "produce wealth" and "create jobs". Now forgive me, but isn't the word economy just an expression of many financial issues and most certainly NOT a living breathing thing? So why would we give the economy a sense of life/living? Well the truth is this, being humans, we are less likely to want to injure, hurt or damage another living creature. It also means that if the economy is alive then it could possibly be a leader, a powerful force, a decisions maker for our future. To go on step further, it's almost as if the economy is some type of supreme being, to use a religious term, a deity. This in turn makes it reasonable or rational for a Government to sack, sell and destroy whatever they want, to "protect" the economy and in turn, we all simply nod our heads and say OK. How absurd this all is! The economy is a financial concept, not a "being"! Be sure to have a giggle next time you hear the economy referred to as a living creature.

And to follow on from this point, why the heck does the nightly news show the stock-market update, the international currency exchange, and on some channels, even cross "live" to the floor of the Stock Exchange. I mean, who really cares? Does anybody see that

market update on the news and rush to the phone/internet to place an order to buy or sell? Does anybody rush to the phone/internet and make a sudden decision to travel because the Australian dollar is up or down? And what about the talk of the housing bubble or value of homes? Are people making the spontaneous decision to buy or sell based on the nightly news? If you have lived in your house for the past 5-20 years and intend to live in it for next 5-20 years, does it really matter a jatz-cracker what the value of it is today? Really! I wrote extensively in my last column about the state of the NSW Budget, not because it is a "god" to be prayed to, but because it impacts on the delivery of services every day for people like you and me. Some matters of money are important and other are far less important than our media coverage would suggest.

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 13 28 61 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 or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au



John Martin, Mayor Singleton Council

I am pleased to say that the proposed works to remove and prune the dead and dying trees in Burdekin Park have now been completed. Works in the park commenced on 1 June and was carried out in three stages, under the supervision of an ecologist, with flying fox carers on standby. There was little disturbance to the flying foxes during the operation and the ecologist was happy with the work being undertaken by the arborist. Council was granted a licence on 24 May from Office of Environment and Heritage to remove and prune the recommended trees in the park. The licence is valid for five years; however, the works are only allowed to be carried out between 1 May and 31 July each year. To progress planning for Burdekin Park, post tree removal, Council intends to call for three

conceptual landscape designs that define the future uses of the park. It's anticipated these landscape concepts will be exhibited to the community for public comment before progressing to detailed designs. I would like to thank the community for their continued patience during this difficult matter.

Jan and I attended Singleton's first ever Upper Hunter NAIDOC Awards on Friday 8 July. The event celebrated the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders young and old in all areas of society including education, art, industry, community, sport and youth and was hosted by the Upper Hunter NAIDOC Week Working Group, in conjunction with Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council and Singleton Council. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians to our country and our community. I offer my congratulations to all the winners and commend everyone who helped make this a memorable event.

Singleton Festival 2016 might be the mini year but there is certainly nothing small about the program. From July 17 through to July 26, a program featuring art, music, food and wine is shaping up to be one of the best yet with all the traditional events plus a few new ones to keep visitors and locals alike, coming back for more. The festival has already kicked off over the weekend with an amazing performance by the Sydney Consort Irish Baroque at the Sisters of Mercy Convent. More events coming up can be found on the Singleton Festival website visit www.singletonfestival.com.au

Singleton Council will host the 2016 National Tree Day event on Sunday July 31 from 9am at Robinsons Reserve. National Tree Day celebrates its 21st year in 2016 and is Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event. Singleton residents plant over a thousand trees annually for National Tree Day and I encourage everyone in the community to get involved once again. For more information on Singleton National Tree Day 2016 please visit singleton.nsw.gov.au.

A quick reminder that Council is in the process of renewing the Singleton Community Strategic Plan and need as much community input as possible to ensure that the plan meets the current needs of our community. The Plan displays the 10-year vision for Singleton and sets the framework for Council activities and programs over the next 4 years. During the next few months you will have plenty of opportunity to share your vision for Singleton – register on the Engagement Hub at www.singleton.engagementhub.com.au to take part in the online conversation, keep an eye out for Council staff at local events and locations in town, and information and feedback workshops will be held for all to attend. I urge you all to share your vision for Singleton and help shape Council's activities for the next 4 years.

There has been a change to Councils Ordinary Meetings in August and September due to the Local Government Election which will take place on Saturday 10 September 2016. As part of the election process a caretaker period will be in place for a period of four weeks preceding the date of the ordinary election. Council's August meeting is scheduled to occur on Monday 15 August 2016 which falls within the caretaker period. Therefore, this

meeting will be moved forward a week to Monday 8 August 2016. Additionally, the September Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, 19 September 2016. Due to the timing of the election and to enable induction workshops to be undertaken with the new Council prior to its first meeting, the September Council Meeting will be moved back a week to Monday, 26 September 2016 commencing at 5:30pm.

Cheers, John



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHARE RECORD CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE SPEND

Our local public schools will benefit from the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's record investment in school infrastructure announced in last month's State Budget, which will improve the learning facilities for local students.

The NSW Government will spend \$554 million in 2016-17, an increase of 37 per cent on last year's expenditure. The 2016-17 Budget includes an allocation of \$330 million over two years to address priority maintenance needs in schools, including \$44.1 million for schools in the Hunter Region. The capital works in our Upper Hunter Electorate include the following schools:

- Quirindi High School
- Singleton Public School
- Quirindi Public School
- Glen Willian Public School
- Gresford Public School
- Dungog High School
- Murrurundi Public School
- Muswellbrook Public School
- Paterson Public School
- Aberdeen Public School

This budget contains a substantial boost to the NSW Government's maintenance program, as a result of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's determination to provide the best learning environments possible in our schools. School principals consulting with Asset Management Units will select high priority maintenance projects through the planned maintenance program. Under the *Local Schools, Local Decisions* reform, implemented by the current Government, principals now have greater decision making responsibilities about maintenance.

Since 2011, the NSW Government has committed almost \$4.9 billion to school infrastructure and maintenance, with almost \$2 billion allocated for school maintenance across NSW.

COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS

A reminder for all interested community groups that the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program is still currently open for applications, however the strict cut-off date for submissions is 5pm, this Friday 22 July 2016. Grant funding of up to \$200,000 is available for every NSW State Electorate, and local councils and incorporated not-for-profit bodies such as charities, sporting, social and environmental groups are eligible.

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The Chief to help celebrate Local Government Week



Ⓚ Above & at left: Paul "The Chief" Harragon to be guest speaker at School Leaders Breakfast during Local Government Week in Cessnock

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Cessnock City Council is celebrating NSW Local Government Week 2016 by holding a School Leaders' Breakfast with guest speaker Paul "The Chief" Harragon. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said having represented Australia in 17 Tests and NSW in

20 consecutive State of Origin games, Paul Harragon is sure to inspire. "In his 220 senior matches, Paul's leadership, team-work and dedication were shown time and time again. Off the field he is a passionate advocate for many charities and the Hunter region". "Chief Harragon will share his journey, the kid from Kurri to sporting superstar, giving local students a unique understanding of the effort

and perseverance needed to achieve goals. "The chance to hear the highs and lows that go hand-in-hand with chasing your dreams will encourage local students to aim high and to keep going even when they encounter setbacks", Cr Pynsent said. The School Leaders' Breakfast will be held on Wednesday 3 August at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre from 9.00am.

Schools across the region have been invited to attend the event, giving students the chance to learn from a great of the game and take away valuable life lessons. For more information about Local Government Week events please contact the Mayor's Office on 4993 4210 or follow the twitter conversation to see what's happening around NSW at #lgweek2016.

PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

Love Your Liver

Globally, the impact of hepatitis B and hepatitis C is staggering. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates 500 million people to be infected with hepatitis B or C, Worldwide. These viruses kill 1.5 million people a year; 1 in every 3 people has been exposed to either or both viruses and most infected people do not know about it due to dormant symptoms. In Australia, approximately 225,000 people are living with chronic hepatitis B and more than 226,000 Australians are living with chronic hepatitis C. The liver is our largest internal organ – and in some ways, the most complex. Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver – from any cause. Hepatitis C is transmitted via blood-to-blood contact and unlike other common hepatitis viruses A and B, there is no vaccine available to protect against hepatitis C. Prevention strategies, managing symptoms and reducing the risk of liver damage are critical. There are many very good reasons why we should look after our liver but generally we do not treat it well. Instead, we constantly put it under stress, with alcohol being one of the worst offenders.

Other medicines (including complementary and alternative medicines) and other substances also have the potential to cause liver problems. Viral hepatitis is recognised on July 28 each year with World Hepatitis Day. On this day individuals, community groups, clinicians and other supporters run events to raise awareness. This year sees the first ever World Health Organization's Global Strategy for Viral Hepatitis, which sets a goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. In 2008, the first World Hepatitis Day was launched by the World Hepatitis Alliance, in response to concerns that chronic viral hepatitis did not have the level of awareness, nor the political priority, seen with other communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The aim of World Hepatitis Day is to improve levels of liver health literacy, knowledge of viral hepatitis within the general community, to break down barriers such as stigma, and create more positive attitudes towards those living with viral hepatitis. Every year World Hepatitis Day gets bigger and bigger, with more countries and organisations participating. Since its launch in 2008, thousands of events have taken place, from rock concerts and press briefings to ministerial meetings and fundraising events. Through these coordinated events, the hepatitis sector and the community are able to highlight the significance of viral hepatitis to a large audience around the world. In Australia, they also use this opportunity to promote the Love your Liver campaign. Love your Liver was launched in 2011 by Hepati-

tis Australia. It is a 5-year health promotion campaign with the long-term aim of normalising viral hepatitis and portraying it as a health condition without moralising. The Love your Liver campaign provides a safe and non-threatening platform to start conversations with the general public about viral hepatitis. Everyone has a liver, and therefore potentially has some interest in liver health. To look after the liver, a healthy diet is a high priority. You should also build regular light to moderate exercise into your routine. Alcohol intake should be limited and if you smoke, talk to your pharmacist for assistance with quitting. Special subsidised antiviral therapy is available under certain criteria for people with confirmed hepatitis C infection. However, these medicines are potent, with possible interactions and side effects. Talk to your pharmacist about antiviral therapy. Muscle and joint pain, and pain in the area of the liver, is frequently a symptom of hepatitis C, and the appropriate use of pain relievers needs to be considered. Paracetamol and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory pain relievers can be used (not exceeding the recommended doses, and not in advanced liver disease). Heat packs and massage are also effective non-pharmacological options. Skin moisturisers, lubricating eye drops and saliva substitutes are also helpful to relieve the dryness caused by hepatitis C, and you can find all of these products in pharmacies. As we approach World Hepatitis Day on Thursday, 28 July, consider what changes you can make to improve the health of your liver.

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Despite the cold, windy weather, seven intrepid VIEW club ladies attended a VIEW Zone Conference in East Maitland. Many other VIEW clubs were in attendance and we were so pleased to hear the inspiring words from a former Learning For Life student. His presentation reinforced our belief in supporting Australian schoolchildren in their education through the Smith Family. This young man was helped financially to achieve his education wishes and was proud to announce to everyone present that he

was now a practising lawyer! He thanked everyone for their support of this wonderful Learning for Life program which took him from school to university. Our Branxton VIEW club supports four Learning for Life students. Do you have a free day on Thursday, 11th August? If you would like to share in friendship, laughter aplenty, entertainment, and great food, then come along to Greta Workers Club and help us celebrate our 28th



Birthdays. Cost is \$30 which includes Chinese banquet. Please advise our secretary, Bethany, 4938 7597. by 1st August if you would like to attend-10.30 am for 11 am

start. Our Branxton Belles have been practising for a most entertaining and hilarious skit. There will be lots of lucky doors, raffles and surprises, so bring your friends for a great day out and beat the winter blues! Our popular donna-lou Fashion parade will be held on Thursday, 6th October and the ladies will be showing their latest Spring and Summer collection. More details later. We look forward to seeing you in birthday party mode on 11th August. Enjoy the blessings of warmth, good soups, and friends-no financial costs here but wellbeing benefits abound!

Peace and love to everyone
Judy Spillard
■ Photo: Former Learning for Life student.



The Branxton Greta Mens Shed would like to announce that Mr Kevin Bell has been elected as the new President and Mr Jim Cahill Vice President. New members are welcome to join; we operate on Wednesdays and Fridays and as from August Saturdays as well. Anybody interested in joining please call in and have a chat and see what we are

up to. Anyone who has made any donations to the shed in the past please get in touch with us and let us know what it was so we can thank you in person. We are always after tools and parts for model trains. Also I would like to thank Mr A Hutchinson for his donation. The numbers to contact are Kevin Bell 0467314211 Jim Cahill 49381637

The Real Definition of Words When Used By Women

Fine - I am right. This argument is over. You need to shut up.
That's Okay - One of the most dangerous statements a woman can make to a man. "That's okay" means she wants to think hard and long before deciding when and how you'll pay for your mistake.
Nothing - The calm before the storm. This means "Something" and you better be on your toes. Note: Arguments that start with "Nothing" usually end with "Fine" (See #1).
Loud Sigh - Not actually a word but rather a non-verbal statement often misunderstood by men. It means she thinks you are an idiot and wonders why she is standing here wasting her time arguing with you about "Nothing." (See #3)
Go Ahead - This is a dare, not permission. (Don't Do It!)

Peek Into The Past at Tocal Homestead

Huge Clydesdale horses will once again work at Tocal Homestead, as the sights and sounds of days-gone-by come alive at 'Peek Into The Past' on Sunday 31st July. The blacksmith will be busy at the forge and the sheep will be shorn as the smell of fresh baked scones in the old wood stove wafts from the kitchen. Visitors need to keep an eye out for the 'redcoats' of the soldiers of the 73rd Regiment of Foot. They will fire their muskets and march through the site - keeping King's peace, as they did in Newcastle in 1813. There is an open invitation to visit their encampment and chat with the soldier's families as well. If that is not enough visitors can pat the donkeys; watch the old tractors and vintage machinery underway; enjoy some damper cooked in the campfire, dripping with golden syrup; then try out their skills at croquet or bush billiards. The children love to watch the calf feeding, while their parents listen to the rollicking stories of the bush poet.

"This is the only day of the year all these skills, crafts and activities come together at the Homestead," Mr Darren Bayley, Director of Tocal Agricultural Centre said, "It's a great family day out, with loads of nostalgia for the older folk and plenty to interest the younger family members."

Delicious refreshments are available on the day or visitors can bring a picnic to enjoy in the garden. Tocal Homestead can be found at 957 Tocal Road, Paterson. Gates open from 10am and close 3pm. Admission is \$10 adults, \$8 for concession. School aged children are free. For more information see www.tocal.com/homestead, or email homestead@tocal.com.

Singleton LIONS MONSTER Book Sale is on again!

Lions Club of Singleton will hold their annual **BOOK SALE** on Thursday 28 July, Friday 29 July and Saturday 30 July 2016. The **BOOK SALE** will be held in the N.A.A. Pavilion, Singleton Showground, Bathurst Street, Singleton and will be open from 9am to 5pm on each of these days with one extra hour on Thursday to 6pm. All good quality second-hand items (books, magazines, games, CDs, DVDs etc) will range in price from 50c to \$2! There will be a large Children's Section. Free entry to the Book Sale and free tea and coffee will be available. We look forward to seeing you at our **BOOK SALE!**

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SINGLETON COUNCIL ELECTIONS SATURDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016



Thinking of nominating as a candidate for your local Council?

If you are considering nominating you should read this notice. As a candidate you have certain obligations and responsibilities under law. Check the website www.votensw.info for further details.

How to nominate for election as a Councillor

To nominate as a Councillor, you must lodge a nomination form and \$125 nomination deposit with the Returning Officer from Monday, 1st August to 12 noon Wednesday, 10th August 2016.

How to nominate for election as Mayor

To nominate for Mayor, you must lodge a nomination form and \$125 nomination deposit with the Returning Officer from Monday, 1st August to 12 noon Wednesday, 10th August 2016.

Where do I get a nomination form?

Nomination forms and other important nomination and electoral information are available from the Returning Officer or from the New South Wales Electoral Commission website: www.votensw.info

Candidate Information sheets: Every candidate is required to lodge a candidate information sheet with their nomination.

Grouping of candidates and group voting squares: Two or more candidates may form a group. A group may, in certain circumstances, request a group voting square on the ballot paper. A request to form a group and have a group voting square on the ballot paper must be lodged with the Returning Officer by 12 noon Wednesday, 10th August 2016. See www.votensw.info for the publication 'Handbook for Parties, Groups, Candidates and Scrutineers - Local Government Elections' for more details.

Where and when to nominate

Your nomination form and deposit must be lodged with the Returning Officer at Singleton Region Returning Officer's Office, Shop 23, 159 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330. Nominations will be accepted during business hours from 8:30am Monday, 1st August 2016 to 12 noon Wednesday, 10th August 2016.

Nomination enquiries should be directed to the **Candidate Helpdesk: 1300 088 942**

Returning Officer details

VIJA GRAHAM
Singleton Region Returning Officer's Office, Shop 23, 159 John Street, Singleton NSW 2330

Information: www.votensw.info or 1300 135 736

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service 13 14 50

For hearing and speech impaired enquiries, call us via the National Relay Service on 13 36 77

Renters don't get blacklisted & some tips on how to win a rental application

Most renters understand that if they don't pay their rent, or if they make irreparable damage to a property, it's not going to end well.

But did you know that as a renter, you can appear on a national database of tenants that potential landlords can check at any time?

That's right – landlords have the power to 'blacklist' you, but only if:

- the amount you owe them is not covered by the bond; or

- a possession order has been made against you. Tenant databases are run by private companies who collect information about tenants and share it with landlords for a fee. The largest tenant and public record database is the National Tenancy Database (NTD). Used for both residential and commercial property, the NTD contains basic tenant information that is vital for landlords when reviewing a rental application, including public record files and tenant history files.

As a renter, what else should I know?

Hocking Stuart Brunswick Property Manager Persa Kapsali says it's not just landlords lodging complaints with NDT. Utility providers can also list problem customers. "I've come across some renters that haven't paid phone bills for months and months. If you can't afford to pay your phone bill, you'd struggle to pay rent."

However, things have to be pretty extreme for a third party to lodge a complaint. The amount you owe a landlord – in rental payments or damages – must exceed the amount of your bond.

Kapsali says the complaint must also be presented to you in writing before being lodged with a tenancy database. "If a potential landlord tells you that you've been blacklisted, you can take steps to remove or change the listing by paying the amount you owe."

"If the amount you owe is paid within three months of the due date, you are

eligible to have your name removed from the database. If you pay outside of the three month period, your listing can be changed to 'inaccurate' but not removed."

As a landlord, why should I use the database? Kapsali encourages all of her clients to use the database. A NTD tenant check costs \$13.98. It can offer protection or peace of mind if you're feeling unsure about a potential tenant. "At the end of the day it's your investment, and for that extra \$14 it's definitely worth it," Kapsali says. "It would be ideal if everyone used it. To have all agencies working together to protect landlords would be great." Kapsali says a lot of the tenants on the database are repeat offenders, but most tenants do the right thing. "We manage around 2300 properties in Melbourne's inner north, and we might lodge one or two complaints a year."

Renters: 8 tips for a winning rental application

1. Make sure you have all the correct documentation. The real estate agent should provide you with a list of documents that you need to bring but it can't hurt to be over prepared. In most instances you'll need references, the completed application form, pet references if applicable, pay slips or proof of employment, photo ID and a cover letter. Make sure you have all of these documents copied and ready to submit to the agent because they aren't going to wait around while you duck to the newsagent to make a photocopy of your passport. Have everything copied, certified if necessary and organised into a folder that you can hand to the real estate agent on the day.

2. Save time & apply online. We barely use snail mail for anything anymore, so why should rental applications be any different? If you click on the apply button on any property in our Rent section, you'll be redirected to a simple online application form. Forget printing, scan-



ning, photocopying, stamping and walking to the postbox – fill in a single form that gets automatically emailed to the property manager. Apply for as many properties as you like with one simple online form. The best bit? Once you've filled in your details once you can apply for as many properties as you like – halving the amount of time you spend on each individual application. Sending your applications online also means you can manage them on the go from any device.

3. Get your housemates into gear. Your housemates don't have to attend the property inspection (although this is preferable) but you need to get their full and completed application and references. If you have a complete set of documentation for all members of the household you've got a better chance of being on the top of the pile. Apply online straight after the inspection, and you can bypass the pile altogether. You'll be

sure your information won't get lost or cast aside. Agents will be unlikely to waste their time chasing people for important information.

4. Be on time. This is a general courtesy rule but one that is applicable to all professions. Holding an open house is quite stressful and usually agents work solo in circumstances like this, so they're very busy on the day. If you're ready and waiting when they arrive they might remember when the time comes to choose a tenant. Arrive early to the open house to make an impression.
5. Make your application as uncomplicated as possible. Only submit the necessary documents. It's fine to have any additional documents you think you might need on hand, but only submit what the agent asks for. The IForm application is the easiest way to consolidate the information that agents really need.

6. Be presentable at the inspection. You don't have to wear a suit but it's important to look presentable. It shows you're keen to secure the property and that you're taking the application process seriously. If you show up looking like you mean business, you could increase your chances of success.

7. Be reasonable & pleasant on the day of the inspection.

If you're the only people applying to live in the property, this could give you a little extra power to ask for repairs to the property or a reduction in rent. However, if you're up against another dozen people who are also applying, you're not in a position to bargain or be demanding. Being pleasant rather than pushy can put you in the good graces of the agent.

8. Follow up. If you've submitted an application and you haven't heard anything 48 hours later, do send a follow up to the agent. Let them know you're very interested in the property and that you're happy to provide any additional information or references they might need. They may well be trying to decide between your application and another candidate and if they receive a pleasant message from you, it might just put you at the top of their list.

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 Clift 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



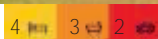
Interested in finding out the current value of your home in today's market?

Why not satisfy your curiosity with a **FREE** market appraisal.

LJ Hooker Greta Branxton have buyers waiting to purchase a property in this area!

Contact Ben your area expert today!

0404 564 725



Mitchells Flat
36 Armour Road

Amazing Home with Rural Views

Spacious bedrooms, main with ensuite, walk in robe, split system air conditioner & sliding door opening onto the timber deck. The open kitchen/family/dining have large sliding doors and windows to take advantage of the rural views. 3 bay stable, kids play ground, chicken coop & dam with pump to water gardens. Price Range: \$645,000 to \$675,000

View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW

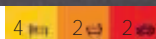


Branxton
22 Station Street

4 Bedrooms/Large Shed on 900m²

4 bedrooms, three with built in robes, large block & great shed. The combined lounge & dining room has RC/AC & polished pine timber floorboards throughout. The colourbond garage also has plenty of storage cupboards and a second shower and toilet. This garage could easily accommodate 2 large vehicles as well as storage space. Price: \$375,000

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

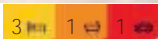


East Branxton
3B Grape Street

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
3 & 5 Frederic Street
Two Blocks

Located on the edge of the rapidly growing suburb of North Rothbury, at 810m² each, these blocks could be the perfect location for your dream home. Situated close to everything the Hunter has to offer, as well as only 30mins to Newcastle via the Hunter Expressway. Option to buy both blocks or take your pick. \$110,000 Each

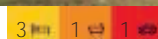
Price: \$110,000
View: by appointment
Contact Ben Bridge
0404 564 725
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



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.

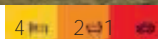
Price: \$305,000
View: by appointment
Contact Ben Bridge
0404 564 725
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



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



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: **UNDER OFFER**
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

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

WANTED

With some recent good property sales through our office we need more property to sell.

If you are contemplating selling you property please contact our office for a FREE appraisal.



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 LEASED
North Rothbury ~ entirely renovated 3 bedroom home with carport, ensuite to main. \$360/week LEASED
Branxton ~ Renovated 2/3 bedroom home with good entertainment area, fenced block & free standing lock-up garage. \$330/week LEASED
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 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**

WANTED

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

There is a strong demand for residential rental accommodation in the local area & our office needs more properties to sate the current demand.

If you are contemplation renting your property please contact either Helen or Mike on 4938 3300

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

How to maintain that trendy bathroom

So you want an up-to-the-minute bathroom with those designer fixtures. But did you know that maintaining and sometimes even installing trendy features can take a bit of work?

Here's what you might need to know before you order that concealed cistern or install those wood panels.

Ahead of the curve: Bathroom trends to take off in 2016

Freestanding baths

Freestanding baths are a design favourite, but they do take up more room than built-ins and require a little more work to install and maintain.

Common issues

- Freestanding tubs are heavier than built-ins. Is your floor strong enough? Or do you need to look into reinforcing the floor?
- Where will the pipe-work go? You will need to figure out how to hide the plumbing (hot and cold supply and drainage pipes) so it doesn't detract from the designer look. In both cases, this may compromise a plumber's access to the pipes to conduct maintenance checks or to do

any repairs.

Solutions

For footed baths:

- Keep the pipes discreet, but easy to access. This might require some design tricks to hide them, but it's worth thinking about where you place the bath.

For baths with a solid base:

- Run the pipes under the floor, but make sure a plumber can access them easily without having to move the heavy bath or redo the floor.
- Another option would be to construct a plinth for the bath to sit on – this can really make the bath the centrepiece of the room and include a handy hidden hatch.

Alternatively, run the pipes beside the bath. Although this would be your best option, it may be tricky to achieve an effortless look.

Concealed cistern

A toilet with a concealed cistern gives a bathroom a clean look and can save a little space, which makes it the darling of a modern bathroom.

Common issues

- Concealed cisterns can be difficult and some-

times expensive to access. If you have even minor issues, you will need to call in a plumber.

- The wall behind a concealed cistern may need reinforcement or could require special treatment upon installation.

- The button and wall plates for a concealed cistern can be pricey.

Solution

- Include an access panel: A reputable plumber will know to include an access panel for future maintenance. Have the plumber show you how to access the cistern to make diagnostic checks and minor repairs.
- Store a box of spare tiles: If the worst happens and there is no access panel, at least have some replacements if the walls have to be opened up.
- Consider a close-coupled toilet: If your walls are unsuitable for concealed cistern loos, consider a close-coupled toilet, where the cistern hugs the wall rather than lives in it. They are streamlined

and often cost less. **Smart bathroom** Designed for convenience and to save water and energy, smart bathrooms include everything from temperature-controlled showers to self-cleaning toilets.

Common issues

- If the technology fails, the fixture or appliance also fails and you're left with a bathroom you can't use.

Solution:

- Select items that work without the gadgetry: For instance, your toilet might no longer operate as a self-cleaning one, but you should still be able to flush it.
- Follow the care instructions: If the maintenance booklet says to wipe down the control panel after each use to prevent moisture build-up, you should do it.

Tech integration: How has technology changed our homes?

Living feature wall

One of the latest bathroom trends has us looking to nature for inspiration and a product of that is the living feature wall.

Liven up: Decorate with green

Common issues

- A living wall needs lots of love: This involves regular watering and drainage, and perhaps even weeding, trimming and replanting.
- Your wall may need some reinforcement as well as sound water-proofing to prevent damp.

Solution

- Plant selection: If you have a black thumb, only choose plants that thrive on neglect. Those with a bit of gardening know how, can select needier plants.
- Orientation, ventilation and moisture: A south facing bathroom with no windows is a very different environment to a north facing, sunlight flooded bathroom with huge windows.
- Wall structure: Make sure it is well supported for the current and future weight of the plants. Have the wall professionally water-proofed to prevent issues with damp seeping into the space behind the vertical garden



– that could be a bedroom or living room.

Wood features

Just like the living wall, wood features in the bathroom have become trendy, due to our desire to get back to nature.

Common issues

- A wooden feature wall will rapidly deteriorate if it's not taken care of. If you don't maintain the correct moisture level in the wood, it could dry out or become mouldy.

Solution

- Select the right timber: Consider moisture, heat, light and ventilation. You may want to beef up your exhaust fan and/or ensure that it works well and is positioned correctly.
- Seal the wood properly: Lacquer, wax and oil are three popular

sealants and your preference may vary according to what you're trying to achieve. If you have a Japanese bath, for example, oil is the way to go, whereas a wooden vanity unit might be better off with a few coats of lacquer. Get professional advice from a timber merchant, not from the aisle of a big box hardware store.

- Dealing with mould: You can use a spray bottle of white vinegar to cover the wood, leave for 15-30 minutes, then wipe down with a damp cloth and leave in a well-ventilated area to dry. You can also include this routine in your weekly clean to prevent mould.

Thomas

Real Estate



For Sale

1/17 Durham Road, Branxton
Price: \$315,000

Located in a cul-de-sac location in East Branxton this well present home is ideal for the first home buyer and/or property investor. Features include:

- 3 bedrooms main bedroom has en-suite
- Open plan design living/ dining area
- Outside covered area
- Double lock up garage
- Other features include; split air conditioning, gas, water & remote control doors on garage



For Sale

11 Vine Street, Branxton
Price: \$455,000

House: brick and tile constructed home offering 3 bedrooms – 2 bedrooms have built-ins, separate lounge room with polished timber floors and split air conditioner, timber kitchen with dining area, southern facing light filled sun-room.

Land: 2,024sqm approx. land size offering 40m width x 50m depth dimensions. Zoned R2 Low Density Residential offering town water, sewerage & power.

Improvements: Double bay 8m x 7m approx. + attached front double carport with power, de-attached separate brick and tile single lock garage, attached covered carport plus in-ground pool.

Properties For lease



5 Little Park Street, Greta

Price: \$250 p/w
Bed - 3 Bath - 1 Car - 1



2/15 Durham Road, Branxton

Price: \$330 p/w
Bed - 3 Bath - 2 Car - 2



95 High Street, Greta

Price: \$270 p/w
Bed - 2 Bath - 1 Car - 1



4/20 George Street, Branxton

Price: \$190 p/w
Bed - 1 Bath - 1 Car - 1

Ph: 49 38 20 20

www.thomasrealestate.com.au

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

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 28th JULY
\$5,000
SUNDAY 31st JULY
\$3,000
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

MEAT RAFFLES
FRIDAY 7.00pm
SUNDAY 6.00pm

FRIDAY NIGHT
ENTERTAINMENT

29th JULY
SOLID GOLD
5th AUGUST
FORMULA

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

27th JULY
\$600

SUNDAY

31st JULY
\$600

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

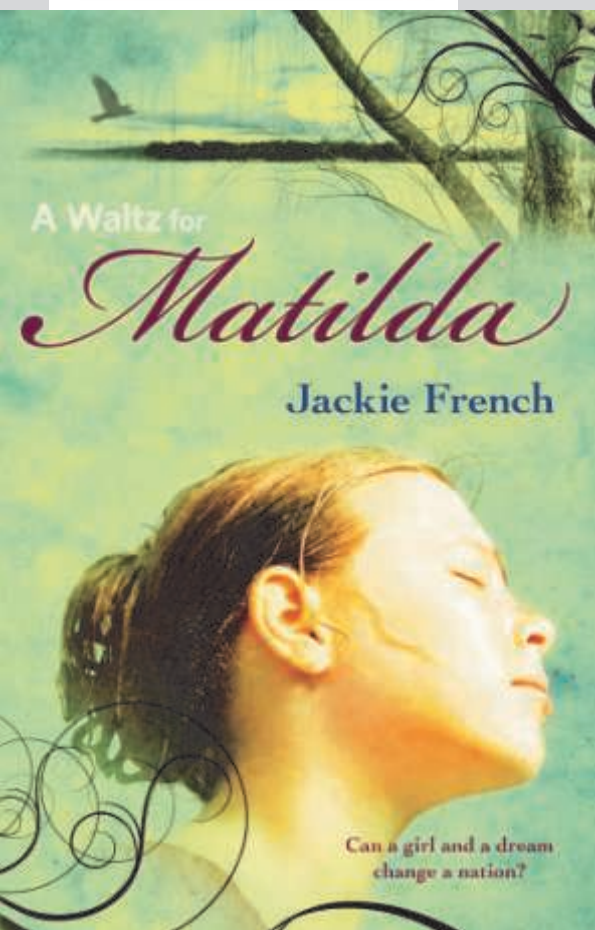
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woman and her daughter, who's about Matilda's age. Matilda throws in her lot with the working men, who give her a lift into town where her father will be – it's a big night for the union, and her dad is the man who began it in Gibber's Creek.

When she does finally meet her father, it's a happy reunion. Her dad is full of plans, and Matilda learns a new version of the truth as to why she'd never met him before.

But all too soon, a shocking and tragic event unfolds and Matilda must once again turn to her own abilities to survive in this harsh, drought-afflicted land. With the assistance of a local Aboriginal woman called Auntie Love and Auntie's nephew, Mr Sampson, and her dog, Hey You, Matilda turns her energy and willingness to learn to making her dad's dream for Moura come true. But it's not only the land she has to struggle against: her neighbour, the wealthy and powerful squatter Mr Drinkwater, presents a challenge of his own.

Jackie French is a prolific writer and the Australian Children's Laureate; she was also, this year (2015), declared the "Senior Australian of the Year". Both are well deserved, and I hope she receives even more recognition. I was first introduced to French through her priceless picture book, *Diary of a Wombat*. But I had to wait till I'd moved back to Australia, in late 2013, before I could start reading her novels. *The Road to Gundagai*, the third book in the Matilda Saga, was one of my favourite novels of 2013 – it reads as a standalone, but I knew I had to go back to the beginning with this volume, *A Waltz for Matilda*. *A Waltz for Matilda* deserves to be

few meagre possessions, learns which train to catch from her friend Tommy, a young boy with a knack for machinery and inventing, and heads off to find her father. All she really knows is the name of her father's farm – Moura – and the nearest town, Gibber's Creek. When the train stops for Gibber's Creek, she finds no station or town, but the faint demarcation of a road which she might not have spotted if a wagon wasn't stopped at it. Three men are there to pick up a union speaker who rode the train with her; also waiting to be picked up are a well-dressed

About the Author

Jackie French



Jackie was the Australian Children's Laureate for 2014/15 and the 2015 Senior Australian of the Year. She is also an historian, ecologist, dyslexic, and a passionate worker for literacy, the right of all children to be able to read, and the power of books. Jackie's writing career spans 25 years, 148 wombats, over 140 books, 36 languages, 3,721 bush rats, and over 60 awards in Australia and overseas. Her books range from provocative historical fiction such as *Hitler's Daughter* and *They Came on Viking Ships* to the hilarious international bestseller, *Diary of a Wombat* with Bruce Whatley, as well as many nonfiction titles such as *The Fascinating History of Your Lunch*, and *To the Moon and Back* (with Bryan Sullivan), the history of Australia's Honeysuckle Creek and man's journey to the moon. In 2000, *Hitler's Daughter* was awarded the CBC Younger Readers' Award. *To the Moon and Back* won the Eve Pownall Award in 2005. *Macbeth and Son*, and *Josephine Wants to Dance* were both shortlisted for the 2007 CBC Awards

better known and more widely read than it currently is. It's a Young Adult historical fiction novel that is accessible to children and just as satisfying and wonderful a read for adults – it's not many authors who have such breadth in their style. French effortlessly captures the tone and feel of the era, both through period details and characterisation as well as through the way she writes. It's not that it's written in a faux "olde worlde" style – that would be naff to the highest degree – but that the articulate, intelligent, smoothly-flowing prose instantly grounds the reader in another era. French manages to incorporate the information her readers need to picture scenes and understand events, without the usual clunky exposition or conversations that sound manufactured and contrived. For instance, Matilda – a polite, considerate, well-mannered girl who knows how to write a letter and say 'thank you' – begins a correspondence with the lady she met at the Gibber's Creek 'station', Mrs Ellsmore, after Mrs Ellsmore discovers a shared tie with Matilda through her now-deceased Aunt Ann. Aunt Ann, a spinster of small income (especially compared to Mrs Ellsmore, who's upper class), is a member of the Women's Temperance League. Through these letters we get a sense of what's happening

in Australia over the course of the next few decades, as Australia heads to Federation and then women get the vote.

This is a novel in which a lot is happening within a very simple, straight-forward narrative structure. It's a coming-of-age novel for Matilda, who grows into adulthood over the course of the book, from 1894 to 1915. It's also a treasure trove of insight into the history of the period, the dynamics of small rural towns, conflicts between class, gender and race, the rise of unions in Australia, the conditions of Aborigines, and of course the land. The land is one of French's main themes, throughout

all her work – I recognised many details, beautifully rendered and incorporated into this story from 2010, from her 2013 nonfiction work, *Let the Land Speak*. This novel is educational while at the same time entertaining and engrossing. A key scene towards the beginning of the novel is used as the fictional inspiration of the famous song, "Waltzing Matilda" (in real life, this was written by Banjo Patterson in 1895. There is a note at the beginning of the book that outlines the origins – both known and dodgy – of the song, but I did love the way it was woven into the story. It fitted perfectly. Needless to say, this is a book that made me cry as much as it made me smile. It connected with me from the opening lines, effortlessly, like that moment at the birth of your child when you hold in your arms a being that is a part of you, yet separate. (You know you're struggling to articulate a sense when you have to resort to such an intense, mind-blowing yet traumatic and over-represented event!) Perhaps it is better to say, simply, that whenever you find an author whose writing just fits perfectly with you, that you're so comfortable with and that ticks all your boxes (personally, I want stories that engage, entertain, challenge and confront me and make me *feel*), you know you'll never be disappointed.

One of the things I really loved about this story (and there were many) was the juxtaposition of Matilda actively listening and learning from Auntie Love, who taught her women's business, including how to find food where white people see dirt and dust, with that of Mr Drinkwater, whose character, early on at least, represents your typical white squatter. An authoritarian figure, like a local lord, who owns great swathes of land and controls pretty much everything, he too loves the land, but he also is too stubborn to learn a non-white way of farming it. The character arc for Mr Drinkwater was wonderful, and really enriches the story. Matilda is, of course, a real heroine. I can't imagine any twelve year old today doing what she did, none of it – this is another aspect of the story that makes you feel grounded in the 1890s, when children worked and often died on factory floors. The Australian landscape is brought vividly to life, and whether you're Australian or

not, it is both familiar and new. Familiar because it is the dry, drought-afflicted land so often talked about and photographed, and new because there's more to it than that. I loved that moment, early on, when Matilda puts aside her pre-conceived idea of beautiful, based on pictures in books – the pretty, neat English green fields and fluffy white sheep – for the glorious gold of her new land. It is, almost literally, a transfiguring moment, when she steps away from the English ideal into the

Australian reality, and learns to appreciate it and *see* it. This helps to enable her to learn how to care for it, rather than mould it to fit an inappropriate ideal (something people still try and do today – if you're interested in learning more about that, I recommend you read *Let the Land Speak*). I could go, but I'd rather let you read it for yourself and discover the joy within its pages. As for me, I've got books 2 and 4 ready to go, and I can't wait to visit the next generations of The Matilda Saga.

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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)

FROM FRONT PAGE

Local greyhound racing industry come together to oppose Premier's bid to close the industry down

Wal Simmons, from Greta, who has been an active participant in the greyhound racing industry for nearly 50 years, spoke of his love of the industry as a owner, breeder & trainer. He said the decision to ban greyhound racing was devastating particularly as it affected many wonderful people in the industry who have & would continue to do the correct thing. "In 2013 I was given an industry award for my involvement in the 'Greyhound Adoption Program' which was instigated within the industry. The industry has

been proactive in this regard on the basis that the dogs should have a life after racing," he said. That near sentiment was repeated by many of those attending. One local owner, breeder & trainer explained that he some years ago decided on a 'sea-change' from the 'big smoke' and purchased a property near Greta to follow his love of the industry & now that decision has been shattered. "I packed up the family & our life & came to Greta. It was, at the time, the most rewarding decision that I and the family had made

but now with one foul blow it is ruined," he said. Other matters raised included the possibility that the government could be legally liable for compensation payments to those owners, breeders & trainers who will suffer financial duress; the loss of around \$30million to the states coffers in gambling revenue which will have to come from some other source (the taxpayer), the

intention of the government to push the legislation through on the first sitting day after the winter recess, the fact that the state regional National Party members must be very upset with the Premier's decision as it will ultimately affect their tenure in a lot of country seats & the certain loss of jobs. The forum was also told that the industry in the

Hunter Valley has well over 2500 people involved, is a state \$335million industry & that other forms of racing must be terrified of what could be coming to their industry if the greyhound industry is closed down for alleged mistreatment. At the end of the forum it was decided to use their best endeav-

ours to lobby the state members particularly those in the Upper House as the Premier needs to get his legislation through both house. At the finish of the forum the participants thanked Clayton Barr MP for attending & for his support.

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Friday Night Raffles

7.30pm
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Badge Draw \$1950 as at 22/7/16



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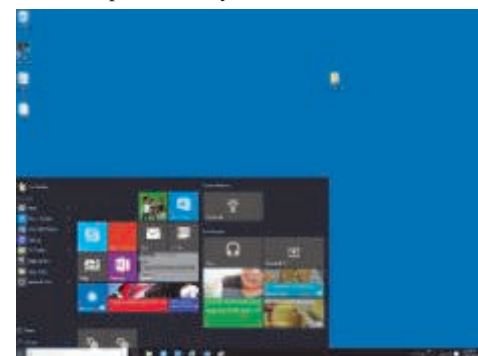
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Windows 10: One Week Left For Free Upgrade

If you're putting off taking that free upgrade to Windows 10 – you've only got one week to go! The free upgrade offer for Windows 7, 8 and 8.1 devices expires on July 29.



After that, you'll pay around \$100 if you want to upgrade your device. The upgrade is good for the life of your PC.

Ubuntu User Forums Hacked

Username, passwords and email address for millions of those registered in the Ubuntu forums were stolen by hacker.

Ubuntu is a popular "flavor" or "distro" of the Linux operating system. Ubuntu is an open source operating system that is free to download and install. It's also considered to be very safe.



But nothing is hacker-proof in this day and age. In this case, the crook managed to get into the forums where users provide each other with tech support. The folks that maintain the forum say they've wiped the affected servers clean and rebuilt them and reset all system and database passwords as well installed a firewall. They also promise to pay closer attention to security patches. There have been perceptions in the past that certain operating systems like Mac OS or Linux distros were safe from attacks. But that's just not the case. Any system can be a target.

Can Clip-On Lenses Up Your Phone's Photo Power?

A company says its clip-on lenses for your smartphone camera will give you the power of a DSLR camera. But is it true? These LUX HD450 lenses can offer a wide angle view, a 12X zoom and a fisheye lens to add some variety to your phone photography, but you will fall far short of having the power of an expensive DSLR camera.



However, the Lux clip-on lenses fall at the top of the clip-on lens price range. Also the necessity of adding a clip-On lens sort of defeats the purpose of having a quick camera to go to in an instant in your pocket. And this certainly isn't the only option. There are a lot of other kits out there for a lower price.

Help! I Can't Play DVDs On My Computer

Joe from Rothbury is having some trouble with watching DVD's on his computer. He writes "I have a DVD problem, maybe you can help. I'm running Vista with 64 bit, on a HP. When I insert the DVD into the slider, I can hear something running but I'm not able to open or play the DVD. I have had Silverlight installed and it worked until just a short time ago. I'm stumped,

Any help would be appreciated."

Hi, Joe! Thanks for the great question. When you say "it worked until just a short time ago", do you mean that you were able to watch DVD's until a short time ago, or your Silverlight worked until a short time ago? If you mean that you were able to watch DVD's until a short time ago, it could be that your drive has simply gone bad and needs to be replaced. I do have some other options for you, though.

If you mean that your Silverlight has stopped working, and that you haven't watched DVD's on your computer before, the first thing that you need to check is to make sure that you've got a DVD drive instead of a CD drive. Although most modern computers don't have a logo embossed on the drive door (the drives have just become too small to display them), there is a way to check on your computer.

First, you need to click on your START button, and then on CONTROL PANEL. (Note: A shortcut to what I'm showing you here is to enter the words DEVICE MANAGER into the search box, and then click on the device manager to open it.)

Once your control panel is open, click on SYSTEM AND MAINTENANCE. From there, click on DEVICE MANAGER from the list.

From the list here, find the entry for DVD/CD drives and click on the arrow to the left of it to expand the list. If it is a DVD drive, it will say DVD RAM or ROM. CD will say CD RAM or ROM.

If it says CD, then your computer isn't capable of running DVD's. You can buy external DVD drives for your computer that run through USB. You can also swap out your internal CD drive for a DVD drive yourself if you know how, or take it to your friendly neighbourhood computer geek to do it for you.

If it says "DVD", then you can try updating your driver. From the same screen, right-click on your DVD drive and click on UPDATE DRIVER SOFTWARE. Click on the top option to have your computer search the internet for the latest driver software. Follow the instructions and you'll get the latest driver update for your drive. I know that this is going to sound stupid, but if this doesn't work, and you've only tried one DVD, then try another one. If the other one works, then clean the first one by using a soft cloth to wipe the entire disc, starting at the centre and wiping toward the edge instead of radially, because if you wipe a disc radially, even with a soft cloth, may scratch it.

The other thing to check is to make sure that the disc that you're trying to play isn't a Blu-ray. Look for this logo on the disc:



If it's a Blu-ray, then it won't play unless you have a Blu-ray drive on your machine. The designation for this in your device manager will be BD ROM or RAM.

So... if all of this checks out, if you have a DVD drive and you've tried several DVD's and updated your device drivers and nothing works... sorry, it may just be time for a new drive.

Also, if you're running Windows 8.1 or Windows 10, there isn't a built-in program to play DVD movies. You'll need to download one.

I hope that this helps.

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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This article was first published in The News in 2012

I am currently lying on a bed in hospital. I received an urgent telephone call earlier in the day.....

"Hello?"

"Hello, Mr Marsh, this is Dr Valikiminasafakatiastilatakirastivelastaki. I am calling to alert you that some blood tests you had performed in the Hunter Valley on Monday have shown some abnormalities. It is vital that you come in to see us as soon as possible."

"Oh...okay...well how does Friday sound? Oh no, I've got golf! How about next Monday?"

"I don't think you will live until next Monday Mr Marsh... you may barely make Friday at this stage."

"Ooohhhh.....that doesn't sound good. How about tomorrow....."

"I'm thinking more along the lines of right this very minute. Can someone bring you in right now?"

"Uuuuummm.....not really.....I suppose I could drive myself in though."

"What sort of car do you drive?"

"Beg your pardon.....uuuummm.....a four-wheel-drive, why?"

"How fast does it go?"

"Well, it's not going to win Bathurst or anything but it goes....."

"Then I suggest you don't procrastinate....see you soon."

I arrive at the hospital to find two nurses waiting upon my arrival. This certainly brought little comfort to the situation. I was briskly taken to a cordoned-off bed and within minutes had my heart rate, blood pressure and temperature monitored followed by a rather large needle inserted into my arm. Several vials of blood were extracted before an ashen-faced doctor arrived.

"How do you feel?"

"Fine."

"Really?"

"Yeah...bright as a button."

"Hhhhhmmmm...OK, then...we have taken some more blood from you and we will prepare you for some scans in a few hours. Rest up."

Scans? Rest up? What? I'm as right as rain. I look around my cubicle. Am I going to die here? It was always meant to be a drug and alcohol-fuelled collapse on a stage in front of a hundred thousand screaming fans, singing with my band at the age of twenty-eight. Granted, I made it past that age, (how, I'll never know) but to die here is just not how it was written, all the same. Anyway, I'm far too busy to die. Hospitals tend to freak people out a little. There is an envelope of rationalised uncertainty and morbidity. If you stop and listen, there is always lots of noise and movement, yet a decisive mute-like aura, which adds to the austerity. In saying that, after a few days, hospitals are like holiday retreats. Once your mind overcomes your irrational fear-based observations, it is actually a haven for peace for many people.

I make these outlandish claims with points on the board, of course. Hospitals have become my 'off' button, as I was void of one at birth. Most things I have put my hand to are performed, well, let's just say with borderline fatalistic enthusiasm. When I was fifteen, my eldest brother and I were the unfortunate victims of a serious car accident which miraculously didn't send us to an early grave. A long stint in hospital was the cost. During this time I was thoroughly immersed in the world of hospitals from intensive care all the way through to being discharged as a patient.

If I may offer a small excerpt from my diary from a few hospital stays ago. In resolute style, it sums up how I view these institutions...."If one observes the current NSW hospital system, there lurks a rather deceitful and unnerving

energy within the core administration and supporting governmental positions an obvious renegade superficialness, if you will. Thus, in consequence, there seemingly exists a faint suggestion of an acute lack of empathy and a pronounced inclination towards a self-propelled philosophy by vote-hungry individuals, daily finding their footing on floating balloons....."

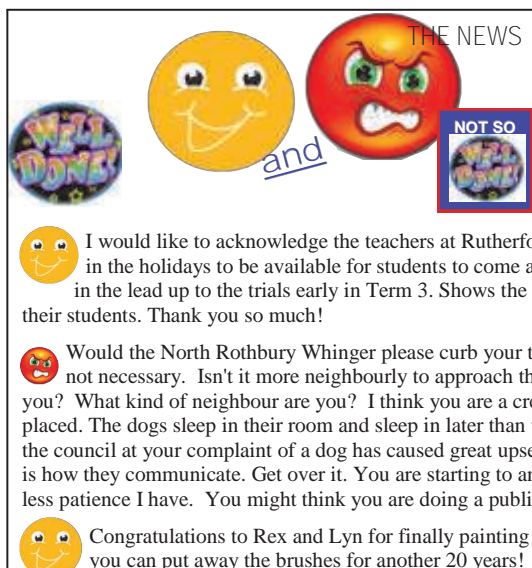
Now, I was on morphine when I wrote that. (Basically, they hooked me up to it and gave me a button to press when I wanted more. That is akin to handing Tweety-Bird to Sylvester the Cat on a silver platter). Although it is tainted with my well recognised hint of arbitrary cynicism, I have come to learn that the people on the front line in hospitals are angels. Doctors, nurses and all supporting hospital staff are the rock stars of our world, yet the system, in the eyes of our wonderful government, would be far more effective if there were no f***ing patients. The one facet of these places I have come to acknowledge is that if you surrender yourself and trust what is unfolding, your hospital visit will benefit. If you resist it in any way, shape or form, you are in for a long, drawn out and unpleasant time ahead. The choice is yours.

Probably the most memorable hospital story is following a rugby match in Queensland in the very early nineties, I awoke in a Brisbane hospital after being knocked out cold, with stitches to my head, a broken nose and bruised ribs. This would be quite a valiant tale had it happened on the field. Alas, it was during the post-match celebrations where a muck-around crash tackling game sent me flying from a one story verandah. I remember nothing. Alcohol had nothing to do with it. Alcohol is good for you....mmmmwwwahahahahaha!!

The following morning, a bunch of my team mates came to visit and were bitterly (and visibly) resentful towards my female doctor for not allowing me to be discharged and continue drinking with them at the infamous Brisbane rugby hang, the Paddington Tavern. Looking at the state of them, I couldn't thank the doctor enough for ushering them out of the ward. She told me I owed her one and winked. Then we talked for the next few hours. Then the next few days. Then we spent the next eighteen months together until she moved to the other side of the world. And yes, I got to play all those doctor/patient games....mmmmwwwahahahaha hahaha haaa ha ha h.... I miss those games. So, here I lie, staring at the ceiling, my mind belting down the doors to the chapters of my life, reflecting upon the age-old questions. I've been here before many times. Same scenario. Have I lived the life I wanted? Have I contributed enough? Have I left an impressionable footprint on this Earth? Yadda, yadda, yadda, yadda!!! The thing is, there is no such thing as death. Life and death are merely forms and degrees of consciousness. People who live constricted to their minds and bodies may as well be so-called dead. Whilst people who live in a sphere of freedom from the attachment from the destructive mind patterns we so inherently create, are alive and live in a higher consciousness, far removed from the mind and body. I suddenly get it!!! If we stop living through our egos, we will cease creating fear or pain in our lives and unearth the beauty within, which can never die, as it is not in mind or flesh.....hallelujah.....just a second.....

"Excuse me.....nurse.....can you just top up my morphine drip please.....I think I'm onto something big here....."

Cheers Andrew



THE NEWS No. 435 TUESDAY 26 July 2016 19

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

I would like to acknowledge the teachers at Rutherford Technology High School for giving up time in the holidays to be available for students to come and ask questions and to work through past papers in the lead up to the trials early in Term 3. Shows the dedication they have to bringing out the best in their students. Thank you so much!

Would the North Rothbury Whinger please curb your tongue. Reporting this and that to the council is not necessary. Isn't it more neighbourly to approach the 'offender' of anything that is a problem for you? What kind of neighbour are you? I think you are a creep. Reporting my grandchildren's dogs is misplaced. The dogs sleep in their room and sleep in later than the kids. The resulting 'Warning Letter' from the council at your complaint of a dog has caused great upset; not doubt this will please you... dogs bark, this is how they communicate. Get over it. You are starting to annoy me and that is not wise. The older I get the less patience I have. You might think you are doing a public service but you really are a public nuisance!!!!

Congratulations to Rex and Lyn for finally painting your living room. Looks much better and now you can put away the brushes for another 20 years!

FREE Classified's

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

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

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908

Computer Services: Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128

For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460

For Sale: One solid wooden table with six chairs (in good condition) \$85.00. One exercise bike \$35.00. One NordicTrack T12.2 treadmill (like new, hardly used) \$985.00 ONO. Contact mobile: 0400 526 049 to view.

For Sale: South Suffolk rams, top quality. Price neg but looking for reasonable offers. P: 4938 3236

For Sale: 2002 Rover 75. Unregistered. Needs some TLC which I am not prepared to do. Full leather, GPS. Beautiful vehicle. Price Neg P: 0414 757 826

Guitar Lessons: Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.

Microchipping: Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.

Personal Trainer: 1 on 1 or small groups. Louise Cairns 'Fit for Life' ALSO Low impact Strength & core Miller Park 8am Tue & Thur \$12/person P: 0439 383 478

Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494

Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton: off street parking. \$150/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067

Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866

Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826

Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292

Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing: best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397

Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601

Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128

701

Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567

Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081

Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.

Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804

Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153

Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

Work Wanted: Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936

For Sale: Millard campervan \$5,500 Cessnock Up for sale is my pop top camper, has new tyres, wheel bearings done last outing, new canvas all round. Comes with full annex. Everything works lights, power points, fridge, stove and oven. Always garaged since I've owned it. Excellent condition for its age. \$5500 Ono May swap 2008 or newer ktm 450 exc with rego **Go To:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/ranxronandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/

For Sale: tv corner stand \$50 Branxton, New South Wales Corner TV stand, selling because we upgraded, great condition. I mean there's some cobwebs and a bit of dust on the back. **Go To:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/branxronandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/

For Sale: baby swing \$60 Newcastle, New South Wales: Bright stars baby swing, Battery operated, can turn Swing in different directions for sideways swing or front to back swing, Great condition, Different swing levels and music Pick up Weston \$60 **Go To:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/branxronandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/

For Sale: tv corner stand \$50 Branxton, New South Wales Corner TV stand, selling because we upgraded, great condition. I mean there's some cobwebs and a bit of dust on the back. **Go To:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/branxronandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/

For Sale: Xbox 360 \$150 Branxton, New South Wales. Xbox 360 with 23 games and two controllers, works fine except sometimes the disc ejector gets stuck. **Go To:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/branxronandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/

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



Mon 25 July - Branxton Public School Staff Development Day (pupil free)

Thu 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'

Mon 8 Aug - North Rothbury Tidy Town Meeting 6:30pm at 24 Mayne Street, North Rothbury

Tue 9 Aug - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigids 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 Brigids old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.

Thur 15 Sept - Branxton Public School "The Boscars" School Concert

Sun 18 Sept - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds

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 Brigids 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 Brigids 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 Brigids 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



Branxton Public School

The Staff and Students of Branxton Public School started Term 3 with big smiles and enthusiasm for the exciting term to come.

The Under 10's Rugby League team played in the Newcastle Knights Knockout Grand Final on the second day of term and took a bus load of supporters to cheer them on. They were narrowly beaten but played hard and with great sportsmanship. It was an amazing experience for the boys to play



Stage 1 Public Speakers

where the elite athletes play. Well done team.

On Tuesday 28th June the debating teams travelled to Scone Public School for a debating gala day. The students learnt a number of valuable skills including rebutting, arguing and public speaking. All debaters have improved their skills and should be proud of the effort that they put into each debate. A big thank you to Mrs Williams and Mrs See for transporting the students all the way to Scone. We are now gearing up for the Public Speaking Competitions later in the term. Congratulations to all the students who tried out for the honour of representing their stage at the Zone Competition.

Branxton Public School will have a senior and junior dance group performing in the Hunter Dance Festival at Wests Newcastle in Week 2. The Junior Dance Group will perform on Thursday 28th July and The Senior Dance Group will be on Monday 25th July (pupil free day).

Mr Howell is getting the students excited about the Book Parade to be held on 4th August. Students are encouraged to dress as a character from one of their favourite books.

Save the date! BPS students and staff will be presenting "The Boscars" concert on Thursday 15th September. Classes are working on their items!

Search for year 6 students

Nominations have now opened for the second Fred Hollows Humanity Award in New South Wales and State Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP is encouraging locals to get involved.

Professor Fred Hollows dedicated his life to helping others, saving the sight of disadvantaged people around the world. The Fred Hollows Foundation is keeping Fred's vision alive through an award which recognises Year 6 students who follow in Fred's footsteps by showing care and compassion for others. "There is no act of kindness too small. Whether it is volunteering, fundraising

for a good cause or helping others, children in the Cessnock Electorate are making a positive difference in our community. This award is a great opportunity for their work to be recognised," said Mr Barr. The award launched in NSW to great success last year and recognised the positive contributions of 97 students from 77 primary schools across the state. Award recipients included a boy who volunteered at a nursing home, and a student who showed compassion by helping to look after her seven siblings at home. Ryde East Public School student Keats Mackay was

named the first Fred Hollows NSW Junior Ambassador and chose to support The Foundation's work in Bangladesh. The Foundation's Founding Director Gabi Hollows said: "Fred used to say that the basic attribute of mankind was our ability to look after each other. The Fred Hollows Humanity Award will recognise students in NSW who have reflected this value in their own lives."

All nominees will be recognised at a presentation ceremony where the 2016 NSW Junior Ambassador will be announced. This Ambassador will be able to extend their humanity by allocating \$5,000 donated

by Specsavers to one of The Fred Hollows Foundation's programs to end avoidable blindness. "I urge parents, teachers and other community members to nominate Year 6 students in the area and showcase the community spirit of the Cessnock Electorate," said Mr Barr. To learn more about the award, or to nominate a young person in the Cessnock Electorate, visit www.hollows.org/humanityaward

Nominations for the Fred Hollows Humanity Award close on Sunday 21 August 2016.



Ready for the match

Thank you to everyone who placed an order in our Pie Drive last term. A big thank you to Mel Nemeth who did a fantastic job of organising the drive. Also thank you to the small group of volun-



BPS Senior Dance Group at rehearsals

teers who helped to sort and pack the orders for you to collect. Without volunteers the P&C would not be able to raise much needed funds for our school. Please consider helping out when we next organise an event.

Dates for the Calendar

Monday 15th August – P&C Meeting 6pm in library
Thursday 4th August – Book Parade & Education Week Assembly
Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd September – Stage 2 Sydney Excursion
Thursday 15th September – "The Boscars" School Concert

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

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Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

Aust stakes stars by Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winners

TWO stakes winners in Australia on Saturday were won by performers whose sires won the race designated the greatest in world racing, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe over 2400m at France's Longchamp. It is a race which in the past twenty years has been taken out on five occasions by subsequent dual hemisphere's sires, namely Montjeu, Peintre Celebre, Helissio, Dylan Thomas and Dalakhani.

Used in southern hemisphere seasons in New Zealand, Montjeu died at Coolmore in Ireland at sixteen, but not before supplying some very good performers in both hemispheres. Challenging as the best of them has been Hurricane Run, the Ireland bred winner in 2005 of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and sire from use in Ireland of one of the two Australian stakes winners on Saturday, Queensland Cup winner Murphy's Delight.

The other stakes winner by an Arc winner was Oxford Poet, annexer of the Winter Stakes (1400m) at Rosehill Gardens. In the Kim Waugh stables at Wyong, he is an Australian bred son of Dylan Thomas, an Ireland sired Danehill Arc de Triomphe winner who visited Coolmore in the Hunter Valley five times, 2008 – 2012, and supplied 370 foals.

Winner of ten of his twenty starts, six of them Group 1, Dylan Thomas has to date been represented world wide by nearly 400 winners of over 1000 races and \$36million. His 24 stakes winners have included six at Group 1 level.

The best of his Australian sired runners have been Dylan's Promise (two Group 2s South Africa) and Not Listenin'tome (raced Australia and Hong Kong, four Group 3 wins).

Named after a Welsh born poet, Dylan Thomas got his newest stakes winner, Oxford Poet, from the Fadega Pty Ltd (NSW) owned Oxford Princess, a Sydney winner by Magic Ring (GB), a fleetfooted son of Green Desert. Her grandam, Mother Duck, was a Luskin Star winner of nine, including four stakes in Sydney.

Snitzel a nose off national juvenile record

DAVID HAYES may not be aware of it, but the debut victory of Athena Lass, a filly he trains with nephew Tom Dabernig for a mass of owners, in the juvenile event which opened the program at the Moonee Valley July 13 meeting, put her sire Snitzel a nose off equaling the record for the most winners in the age group in a racing year by an Australian based sire set forty years ago by Without Fear.

This is very significant for the Hayes family because Without Fear, a France born son of Baldrick 11 (by Round Table) and the Never Say Die English Oaks and Thousand Guineas winner Never Too Late, was a foundation of much of the greatness achieved at Lindsay Park, the breeding and racing colossus built by David's father Colin Hayes at Angaston in South Australia's Barossa Valley.

Raced only four times, but a winner of both outings at two, successes that saw him assessed second best of the year on France's Free Handicap, Without Fear burst on the Australian scene as a sire with thirty individual 2-year-old winners in his first crop in 1975-76.

Claimed as a world record, one now surpassed in Europe, the crop was headed by four stakes winners including champion filly Desirable. Trained by Colin Hayes, she won the VRC Sires' Produce Stakes, Newmarket, Lightning Stakes and AJC Sires' Produce, finished second in the Blue Diamond and third in the Golden Slipper.

Without Fear's Australian juvenile record, one achieved from a first crop of 46 foals, had not been threatened until Athena Lass became the 29th winner in the age group for her sire Snitzel, a score that includes an unbeaten runner in South Africa. There is nearly two weeks of the year left, so feasibly he could add another one or two.

All told in 2015-16, a year his oldest

have been eight, Snitzel according to the Bloodhound Pedigree Service has supplied 138 winners (127 Aust) of 214 races (196) of \$11,400,000 (\$8,100,000). There have been seven stakes winners (five Aust) and 19 stakes placed (18 Aust) and he is in the top ten for Australian racing by earnings, winners and wins. Naturally he is the top juvenile sire numerically, but Written Tycoon stands clear on earnings.

The precocity and brilliance of the progeny of Snitzel, a resident with his sire Redoute's Choice at the Arrowfield stud and like him on a 2016 fee of \$110,000, including GST, has not been surprising. He won four of six starts at two, including the Breeders' Plate on debut, the Skyline Stakes and Doomben Tommy Smith.

At three, his only other campaign, Snitzel was successful in the Oakleigh Plate (Caulfield), Challenge Stakes (Warwick Farm) and Up and Coming (Randwick) and second in the Newmarket (Flemington).

Inbred 4x5x4 to Northern Dancer and 5x3 to Lunchtime (GB), Snitzel is a three-quarter to the Yarraman Park, Scone based top young Fastnet Rock sire Hinchinbrook. Both are by Danehill sires and from the tough, speedy Snippets mare Snippets Lass.

Danehill appears on both sides in the pedigree of Snitzel's newest 2-year old winner Athena Lass, a Brian Doyle Bridesan Bloodstock, Melbourne bred daughter of Meduesa, a mare by the shuttled Mr. Prospector Kentucky Derby winner Fusaichi Pegasus.

One of the best fillies of her time up to 1600m, Athena Lass's grandam, Danglissa, was by Danehill Golden Slipper winner Danzero and from Vreeland, a daughter of the Habitat sire Lord Seymour (GB) and Polished. The latter mare's grandam was a queen of broodmares, Dark Jewel.

Irish Oaks a show window for shuttle sires

NINE of the eleven runners who contested the Darley Irish Oaks over a mile and a half, a journey clocked at 2.34.53 secs, a time 3.69 secs faster than the course average, at Curragh on Saturday, are by sires used in Australia. In addition, six were from mares by sires who served in both hemispheres.

In order of finish, the first seven home were Seventh Heaven (Galileo – La Travista, by Johannesburg), Architecture (Zoffany – Brigayev, by Fasliyev), Harlequeen (Canford Cliffs – Aurelia, by Rainbow Quest), Turret Rocks (Fastnet Rock – Beyond Compare, by Galileo), Somehow (Fastnet Rock – Alexandrova, by Sadler's Wells), An Cailin Orga (Galileo – Finsceal, by Mr. Greeley) and Even Song (Mastercraftsman – Guntanamera, by Sadler's Wells).

A visitor from Ireland to Coolmore in the Hunter Valley in five seasons, 2002 – 06, Galileo, himself a son of Sadler's Wells, also contributed to the Oaks field through a runner by a son, the Darley shuttler Teofilo (dam by Danehill), and as the sire of the dam of Red Stars (by Manduro) eighth and as the sire of tenth placed Pretty Perfect tenth. The latter filly's dam is the Australian bred Danehill mare Milanova.

Johannesburg, four seasons, and also his sire Hennessy, both shuttled out to Coolmore, and so did Zoffany (by Dansili), 2012, 13, 14 and 15. They have also been flying champion Australian sire Fastnet Rock (by Danehill) to Ireland for use in the last seven northern hemisphere seasons.

Canford Cliffs came out to Blue Gum at Euroa in Victoria in 2012, 13, 14 and 15, Mr Greeley visited in 1996 and Fasliyev in 2000, 01, 02, 03 and 04. Mastercraftsman, a Coolmore Ireland sire, travelled out to Windsor Park in New Zealand 2010-13.

Since Galileo, a winner of the English Derby, Irish Derby and Royal Ascot King George V1 & Queen Elizabeth Stakes, had his stint shuttling to Australia he has laid claim to being the greatest sire in the world at this time.

Detailed sale yard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 20 July 2016

Yarding 655 ~ **Change -165** (Comparison Date 13/7/16)

The forecast wet conditions reduced numbers, with breed quality fair to good, as the bulk in the penning were vealer steers and heifers. There were very few prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers in the offering. Yearlings were limited in number, with the export steers and heifers scarce in the pens, while around 65 cows were offered. The usual buyers competed in a solid market. The medium weight vealer steers purchased by the restockers gained 3c, ranging from 328c to 382c, as the heavier drafts topped at 360c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers improved as much as 20c, making from 312c to 366c/kg. The yearling steers gained 10c, with the medium weights to the restockers averaging 346c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle purchased by the butchers topped at 370c/kg. Grown steers sold to the restockers and showing 2 teeth reached 339c, with the older heavy weight bullocks to slaughter making 265c/kg. Cows sold close to firm, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 215c, with the better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights ranging from 232c to 248c/kg.

Scone report date 19 July 2016

Yarding 755 ~ **Change 1125** (Comparison Date 12/7/16)

Consignments slipped, with breed and quality remaining fair to good, as the bulk in the penning were the younger vealers and yearlings. The majority required extra growth and finish and were suitable for the restocker and lot feeder orders, with the better end of the prime younger pens mostly grain assisted. Export steers and heifers were scarce in the pens, as the cows were mainly the plainer light weights. The usual buyers competed in a solid market. The medium weight vealer steers purchased by the restockers lifted 2c, making from 330c to 394c/kg. The equivalent weighted heifer portion also returning to the paddock gained 2c, ranging from 322c to 360c/kg. Yearling steers weighing in excess of 330kg and sold to the restocker and lot feeder orders improved from 9c to 10c, with prices from 340c to 370c/kg. The limited supply of yearling heifers were sought after by lot feeder orders, with the better end ranging from 330c to 346c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 361c/kg. The older heifers to slaughter sold from 284c to 339c/kg, with the older steers in prime condition absent in the competition. Cows were generally plainer and lighter in weight, compared to recent markets, with the 2 scores averaging 236c/kg. The poorer 1 scores sold from 170c to 224c, with the better finished heavy weights ranging from 238c to 245c/kg.

TRLX Tamworth report date 18 July 2016

Yarding 1159 ~ **Change 133** (Comparison Date 11/7/16)

A small increase in numbers with the offering comprising good supplies of young cattle along with a few well finished heavy steers and a fair supply of cows. The quality of the offering was generally good however, did include the largest number of dairy cattle seen for some time. Condition varied quite a bit with a good selection of well finished crop and supplementary feed cattle. The usual buyers were in attendance along with an extra processor on heavy cattle. Demand for restocker and feeder cattle was again high. Yearling steers to restock and feed saw light and medium weights 8c to 10c/kg dearer with quality variations changing some price. Heavy yearling feeder steers saw quality related changes on a firm to slightly dearer market trend. Heifer yearlings to restock and feed sold to a slightly dearer market trend, with the price gap between steers and heifers closing more and more. Competition for well finished domestic trade cattle was not as strong resulting in cheaper trends for both yearling steers and heifers. The heavy grown steers included some yearlings destined for the domestic market. This had a positive effect on price change in what was otherwise a firm to cheaper market trend with export steers losing ground. Plain condition cows had the benefit of restocker competition selling close to firm, while the well finished medium and heavy weight cows sold to a cheaper trend, up to 10c/kg.

Beef overseas markets

BEEF

The Australian beef export record has now been broken for three consecutive years. Beef shipments for 2014 totalled 1.29 million tonnes swt – a staggering 17% above the previous high recorded just 12 months ago. Beef shipment to the US finished the year at 397,890 tonnes swt, up 87% from the previous year, with exporters capitalising on the high beef prices over the course of the year. Japan finished the year strongly, with monthly exports gradually creeping higher as the year progressed, to take the final figure for 2014 to 293,779 tonnes swt, up 2% year-on-year – encouraging, despite Japan falling back into recession towards the end of the year. Shipments to Korea were up 5%, to become the highest on record for Australia, at 150,918 tonnes swt, with demand upheld by the limited US competition. Exports to the EU continued to build momentum through the grainfed beef quota, with shipments for 2014 at 24,619 tonnes swt, up 24% from the previous year. Indonesia completed the year with beef exports 35% higher than the previous year, at 53,139 tonnes swt. Shipments to China reduced 20% year-on-year, at 124,586 tonnes swt, with trade interrupted throughout the year due to changes in import protocols and regulations. Exports to the Middle East also slowed somewhat, albeit to finish the year just 2% below the 2013 level, at 59,803 tonnes swt. Incredibly, 74% of Australian beef production was exported in 2014. Indeed, the proportion exported has been gradually creeping higher over the past decade i.e. from 62% in 2003, to 69% in 2013, however, given the strong international fundamentals, it is anticipated this trend will at least hover around 70% for the coming years.



Talent for charity

Branxton Golf Club will once again be holding their charity night to aid the Harry Meyn Foundation.

Local talented people will be performing their art in a night of variety and great entertainment for all.

This event was first conducted last year and proved to be a most entertaining and enjoyable for all that attended.

It was a chance for artists to "have a go" and it proved to be a great hit with the audience.

This year it has attracted some prized acts including Pat Vs Cat, Sophie and Georgia Cunningham, Justess Jones.

There will be a variety of different types of entertainment including Rock and Roll, Country and Western, Comedy, Poetry, Classical Music.

All funds raised from the night, including raffles and auctions, will aid the Harry Meyn Foundation. This organisation provides family accommodation in Newcastle for sick children and their families who do not live in Newcastle. The organisation has been very successful for many years and is a truly worthwhile charity.

The event will be held at the Branxton Golf Club on July 30th at 7:30pm and will cost \$5 for adults and \$2 for children.

Don't miss this great night of entertainment and fun for all.



Harry Meyn Foundation was founded by David & Samantha Meyn in memory of their son Harry who lost his life to a brain tumor at the age of seven. The foundation was initially established to raised funds for other childrens cancer charities including; Camp Quality, Kids with Cancer, Cure for Life & Lifehouse at RPA. In 2011 the foundation established Harry's House at Stockton, a retreat for families that have a child living with cancer or families that have lost a child to cancer. Since opening in 2011, Harry's House has helped many families when their child is diagnosed with cancer and families that are grieving for a child that they have lost to cancer. The foundation is a registered charity with the Australian Taxation Office. **The Foundation** relies on the generosity of individuals & corporations to contribute towards the ongoing running costs of **Harry's House** through direct donations, payroll deductions, corporate sponsorship and support of fundraising events.

REFLECTIONS

Sunday 31 July ~ 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

The Rich Fool, a warning against greed and selfishness
Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Today, Jesus places us facing what is fundamental in our Christian life, in our relationship with God: to get rich before him. That is, to fill our own hands and heart with all kinds of supernatural and spiritual goods of grace, and not of material possessions.

This is why, in the light of today's Gospel we can wonder: what do we fill our heart with? The man of the parable saw it quite clearly: «Rest, eat, drink and enjoy yourself» (Lk 12:19). But this is absolutely not what God expects from his good sons. The Lord do not want our happiness to rely upon legacies, banquets, last model cars, exotic holidays, estates, our armchair, beers or money. All these things may be good, but they cannot satisfy per se our yearning for the plenitude of our souls, and, consequently, we should employ them only as the means they simply are.

This is the experience of St. Ignatius Loyola's, whose celebration was 30/7/16. This is how he admitted it in his own auto-biography: «When he thought of worldly things, he delighted in them, but when he gave them up, dead bored, he felt sad and empty; when he thought, instead, of the penances he observed in the just men, he felt solace and comfort, not only in that very moment, but even afterwards, he felt contented and cheerful».

And this can also be our own experience. Because material and earthly things become outdated and expire; but, spiritual things are eternal, they last forever and are the only ones that can fill our heart and give a meaning to our human and Christian life.

Jesus said it very clear: «You fool!» (Lk 12:20), this is how He qualifies those who only have material, earthly and selfish aims. Let us beg we may always present ourselves before God, at any time, with our hands and heart full of our efforts to seek our Lord and to look for what it pleases to him, for this is the only thing that will take us to Heaven.

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SPORTS RESULTS



Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 14-7-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Gazzard 31 pts (SOD) R/u G Anderson 28 pts 3rd R Chenery 26 pts
Div 2 Winner B Benton 30 pts (c/b) R/u S Condran 30 pts 3rd L Bootes 28 pts
Ladies Winner F Oakes 25 pts R/u T Martin 22 pts 3rd M Hunt 20 pts
NTPs Ladies M Hunt Gents R Chenery
Members draw - Won (S Condran)

A fine and chilly Winter's day greeted the 34 players who assembled for a days golf. Congratulations to Gary Gazzard on winning his division and achieving the 'Score of the Day' and also a winning "Hat Trick" (23/6-7/7-14/7). A well done to all winners and placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Result 21-7-16 3 Club - Stableford

Div 1 Winner G Beeton 35 pts (SOD) R/u T Seamer 26 pts (c/b) 3rd R Crooks 26 pts
Div 2 Winner P Anderson 31 pts R/u L Bootes 28 pts 3rd B Hain 27 pts
Ladies Winner M Hunt 27 pts R/u T Martin 3rd C Miller 17 pts
NTPs Ladies T Martin Gents L Hunt
Members draw - Not won
A cloudy mild Winter's day greeted the 30 players who had gathered for a round of golf. After some careful club selection players began the round and were mildly surprised with the result, proving you don't need the other 10 clubs to successfully play a round of golf. Congratulations to Gary Beeton on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day", with a creditable score of 35 pts. A well done to all winners and placegetters.

Lester Bootes, Hon Sec Branxton Golf Club - Sat 16th July Stableford

A grade winner ~ Bryce Element 40 pts c/b
A grade runner up ~ Riley McClung 40 pts
A grade third ~ Brendan Bendeich 40 pts
B grade winner ~ Paul Bush 40 pts
B grade runner up ~ Ed Garland 37 pts c/b
B grade third ~ Gary Walsh 37 pts
C grade winner ~ Adam Roeth 44 pts
C grade runner up ~ Barry Turner 39 pts c/b
C grade third ~ Douglas Muncaster 39 pts
Ball comp 34 pts
NTP'S
D Rogers 120 cm
T Seamer 140 cm
C Lamb 184 cm
J Parr 174 cm
Saturday's benign conditions brought out the best from many golfers on Saturday, with the A Grade only separated on a countback after 3 players recorded excellent 40 pts each. Bryce Element won from Riley

McClung and Brendan Bendeich in a very competitive competition. B Grade was won by Paul Bush with a very pleasing 40 pts, 3pts clear of Eddie Garland and Gary Walsh. Adam Roeth's 44 pts was the best score of the day, easily winning C Grade from Barry Turner and Douglas Muncaster, both with 39 pts. The shot of the day was equally shared with all nearest the pins within two metres of the pin. 34 pts was needed to win a ball with the day's DSR being 68, the lowest for a number of weeks. On Sunday, the NSW 4BBB Regional final was held at Muswellbrook with the two teams from Branxton acquitting themselves very well. Daryl Shepard and Barry McDonald finished runner up, on a countback with a plus 6, just missing qualification for the State Final at Bonville, with the pair of Murray and Cameron Johanson finishing only two shots back.

Branxton golf club - Sat 23rd July stableford

A grade winner ~ Cameron Johanson 36 pts
A grade runner up ~ Michael Tracey 34 pts
A grade third ~ Joshua Tracey 33 pts c/b
B grade winner ~ Neil Jordan 34 pts c/b
B grade runner up ~ Ed Garland 34 pts c/b
B grade third ~ Tony Seamer 34 pts
C grade winner ~ Douglas Muncaster 34 pts
C grade runner up ~ Peter Mathews 31 pts c/b
C grade third ~ Barry Turner 31 pts
Ball comp ~ 28 pts
NTP C Lamb 320 cm
J Martin 192 cm
T Mccaw 239 cm
J Burgess 240 cm
Cameron Johanson played one of the best rounds of the year in winning Saturday's stableford event, playing to his handicap of 3, recording 36 pts, on a day that would have blown "a dog off a chain!" Everyone who finished their round on Saturday looked wind-blown, exhausted and thankful to be back inside, away from the gale force winds that played havoc with the whole field. The fact that only 28 pts was needed to win a ball is testament to the conditions, with one player saying I should report that, "63 idiots played today!!" Cameron's round is a great precursor to his new job at the prestigious Killara Golf Club as the Golfing Coordinator—a wonderful achievement from this talented, courteous and level-headed young man. He will certainly be an asset to this golf club. Mick Tracey played very well to finish runner up with an excellent 34 pts, with his son Joshua, third with 33 pts from his low single figure handicap. Neil Jordan won a very competitive B Grade with a very pleasing 34 pts, on a count back from his playing partner Eddie Garland, with Tony Seamer third with the same score. Douglas Muncaster's 34 pts won him C Grade, with Peter Mathews and Barry Turner completing the placings with their 31 pts—an indication of the very

difficult playing conditions. All the nearest the pins were in the 2-3 metres range—all great shots in a gale, but I will give the "shot of the day" to Troy McCaw who managed to hit his shot to near 2 metres on the very difficult 13th.

Branxton Ladies Results this week Round 2 Club Foursome Championships

Helen Vandenbruggen and Christine Tancred 101 nett
Ruth McCarthy and Janelle Coe 104 nett
Toy Martin and Nikki Craig 109 nett.

Nearest to the pin Trish McMillan
Last week
Nikki Craig and Toy Martin were leading with Helen Vandenbruggen and Chris Tancred close behind by 7 shots.

Final result
Scratch winners Helen Vandenbruggen and Christine Tancred with 218 gross scratch Nett Winners Nikki Craig and Toy Martin with 165 gross nett. Congratulations to the winners and good luck at Hawkes Nest on Friday to all Branxton Ladies competing.



PJRC Report 16th July

Under 8's went into this weeks game against Southern Beaches at St Phillip's with pure determination. Having now got a few wins under their belt, the boys are truly enjoying their games and displaying the skills required to have a strong finish to the season. This weeks score line was an impressive win of 90 points to 10 for the Reds, with every player either scoring or being crucial to points getting on the board. Ash was outstanding with 7 tries, Hugo scored his first tries of the season and the rolling maul that held Noah up to get over the line to claim his share of the points shows how teamwork is truly playing off for these young players.

U10s hosted the Wanderers at SPCC on Saturday following a successful week away competing in the Coffs Coast Rugby Challenge. The Reds started the match with gusto displaying the same teamwork they demonstrated at Coffs with great passing and back line moves. The Reds posted the first points after Angus Walker swooped on a ball presented by a strong running Callum Barr. Unfortunately the Wanderers returned fire and posted five unanswered tries by running out wide. The second half saw the Reds scrum continue to dominate winning many a tight head scrum thanks to strong pushing and deft hooking against the feed. The Reds scored a second try from a 5 metre penalty with Jayden Gontier. Man of the Match Alec Gough was tenacious in defence well supported by TC Metcalfe and Zac Cox. The Reds went down 52 to 12.

Under 12's After a successful yet tiring week in Coffs Harbour the under 12's took on Maitland at Marcellin Park Lorn. With only 12 boys available we were always going to find it tough, the fact the coach left the jerseys at home didn't help. The boys tried hard in the first half to be 17-0 behind at halftime with Henry Murray at his usual best. The second had our boys asleep and they found themselves down 39-0 half way through the second term, when they decided it was time to play some great defence followed by some punishing runs from

William Nothnagel saw him score his first meat pie of the season. in the end it was to little to late with Maitland winning 39-19. A huge well done to Angus McClellan on his return from shoulder injury playing very well in the unfamiliar position of Half back.



Langer's Match Report - Reds vs Southern Lakes, Saturday 9th July

The Reds have become a "team" and will be a force in this competition after the BEST DEFENSIVE EFFORT so far this year. The Reds lifted a gear higher than last week's effort against a determined Griffins. Southern Lakes came with a different team than the last time we played them. This was a much stronger team and from the kick off every tackle from both sides was hard with both teams not giving any quarter and taking no prisoners. After about 20 minutes into the first half the Southern Lakes received a penalty near the 22 yard line and converted it to lead by 3 nil. The second half was no different to the first half - hard and tough - as the Reds got hammered by penalties close to their try line. However as the Reds started putting some good drives on the opposition, we finally made it into the oppositions quarter and received a penalty almost in front just inside the oppositions 22 yard line. The Reds converted making the score line 3 all. Ten minutes into the second half the Reds lost one of their players to the sin bin and as the Southern Lakes pounded the Reds try line they couldn't hold them out any longer as Southern lakes scored a try. Their conversion wasn't successful with the score now 8 to 3.

With only about 10 minutes left in the game and the Reds behind, they started to drive towards the opposition's try line. Five metres out the Reds two props took control with the first prop taking the ball forward and the other following up his team mate powering over the oppositions try line. This was converted by the Reds kicker with the score line now reading Reds 10 to Southern Lakes 8. With only minutes left the Reds held on to defeat Southern Lakes 10 to 8. This was their fifth win in 2016. "CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE TEAM".

Players Player - Geoff Allen 3 Points to - James Bodycote 2 Points to - Stuart Garrett 1 Point to - Jack Kirkham Mark Langley (Langers)
Coach
Langer's Match Report - Reds vs Easts 2, Saturday 16th July
The Reds faced off against the Easts 2 team this weekend and performed well against them. This to me is a great sign that the players have come of age and that the Pokolbin Reds are moving forward as a Club. The first half was tough as the Easts team was very different from the last time we played them. There was much more structure to their game in the forwards mostly, and our Reds forwards found the going tough. The Easts team took first points from a penalty kick and followed up with a converted try late into the first half. The Reds steadied the ship with a converted penalty and a late try out wide by their captain which was not converted leaving the score 8-all at half time. The

second half started with Easts picking up the pace with their supporters cheering on their team loudly. The Reds lifted to go with them and again the Reds forwards muscled up taking on the Easts pack at every opportunity. The Reds backs led by our fly half followed with great defence out wide. Mid way through the second half Easts attacked the Reds line, time and again and unfortunately Easts crossed over for their second try which they converted. Easts now led by 15 to 8. The Reds received two late penalties but unfortunately couldn't convert them and as time was slipping away the Reds picked up the pace and with just minutes left the Reds attacked the Easts try line crossing in the corner with a great team try. This was converted leaving the final score 15-all. The Reds should be proud of their effort especially as we had four regular players missing. The support by our bench players was also wonderful. "WELL DONE REDS".
Players' Player - Aaron Webb 3 points to - Lee Sparks 2 points to - Justin Garrett 1 point to - Jack Kirkham
Mark Langley (Langers)
Coach



Results for the Cessnock Amateur Swimming Club Presentation night that was held on Saturday 16th July at the Performing Arts Centre.

The Club Champions for 5 Years & Under Girls are:
Layla White
3rd Female 5 years & Under 15m Fly ~ 2nd Female 5 years & Under 15m Free
Lara Stamp
3rd Female 5 years & Under 15m Back ~ 3rd Female 5 years & Under 15m Free ~ 2nd Female 5 years & Under 15m Free
Indi Duffie
2nd Female 5 years & Under 15m Fly ~ 2nd Female 5 years & Under 15m Back ~ 3rd Female 5 years & Under 15m Free
Age Champion - 5 Years & Under Girls
Sienna Procter
1st Female 5 years & Under 15m Fly ~ 1st Female 5 years & Under 15m Back ~ 1st Female 5 years & Under 15m Free
1st Female 5 years & Under 15m Breast
The Club Champions for 5 Years & Under Boys are:
Byron Burgess
2nd Male 5 years & Under 15m Free
Age Champion - 5 Years & Under Boys
Zavier Hunt
1st Male 5 years & Under 15m Fly ~ 1st Male 5 years & Under 15m Back ~ 1st Male 5 years & Under 15m Breast
The Club Champions for 6 Years Girls are:
Age Champion - 6 Years Girls
Demi Howson
1st Female 6 years 15m Fly
1st Female 6 years 15m Back
1st Female 6 years 15m Free
1st Female 6 years 15m Breast
The Club Champions for 6 Years Boys are:
Taj Bender
3rd Male 6 years 15m Back
Cael Newsome
3rd Male 6 years 15m Fly
3rd Male 6 years 15m Free
3rd Male 6 years 15m Breast
EQUAL Age Champions - 6 Years Boys
Jai Koeford
1st Male 6 years 15m Fly
1st Male 6 years 15m Back
2nd Male 6 years 15m Free
2nd Male 6 years 15m Breast
Zane White
2nd Male 6 years 15m Fly

2nd Male 6 years 15m Back
1st Male 6 years 15m Free
1st Male 6 years 15m Breast
The Club Champions for 7 Years Girls are:
Molly McDonald
3rd Female 7 years 25m Breast
Addison Williams
2nd Female 7 years 25m Fly
3rd Female 7 years 25m Back
3rd Female 7 years 25m Free
EQUAL Age Champions - 7 Years Girls
Taylor Blake
1st Female 7 years 25m Fly
2nd Female 7 years 25m Back
2nd Female 7 years 25m Free
1st Female 7 years 25m Breast
Hannah Spears
3rd Female 7 years 25m Fly
1st Female 7 years 25m Back
1st Female 7 years 25m Free
2nd Female 7 years 25m Breast
The Club Champions for 7 Years Boys are:
Luca Sheridan
2nd Male 7 years 25m Back
1st Male 7 years 25m Free
2nd Male 7 years 25m Breast
Age Champions - 7 Years Boys
Blade Stevens
1st Male 7 years 25m Fly
1st Male 7 years 25m Back
2nd Male 7 years 25m Free
1st Male 7 years 25m Breast
The Club Champions for 8 Years Girls are:
Kiara Howson
3rd Female 8 years 25m Breast
Ava Larrigo
3rd Female 8 years 25m Fly
Abbie Sheridan
2nd Female 8 years 25m Back
2nd Female 8 years 50m Free
Klaudia Fullbrook
3rd Female 8 years 25m Back
3rd Female 8 years 50m Free
1st Female 8 years 25m Breast
Age Champions - 8 Years Girls
Tayah Koeford
2nd Female 8 years 25m Fly
1st Female 8 years 25m Back
1st Female 8 years 50m Free
The Club Champions for 8 Years Boys are:
Ethan Stamp
2nd Male 8 years 25m Fly
3rd Male 8 years 25m Back
Bailey Burgess
2nd Male 8 years 50m Free
1st Male 8 years 25m Breast
Tom Schreiber
1st Male 8 years 25m Back
2nd Male 10 years & under 50m Back
3rd Male 8 years 50m Free
3rd Male 8 years 25m Breast
Age Champions - 8 Years Boys
Jack White
1st Male 8 years 25m Fly
3rd Male 10 years & under 200m Free
2nd Male 8 years 25m Back
1st Male 8 years 50m Free
2nd Male 8 years 25m Breast
The Club Champions for 9 Years Girls are:
Bella Freeman
3rd Female 9 years 25m Breast
Cleo Hunt
2nd Female 9 years 25m Fly
3rd Female 9 years 50m Free
Tahni Beckett
3rd Female 9 years 25m Fly
3rd Female 10ys & Under 50m Fly
3rd Female 9 years 25m Back
2nd Female 9 years 50m Free
Meghan Meyers
2nd Female 9 years 25m Back
1st Female 9 years 25m Breast
3rd Female 10yrs & Under 50m Breast
Age Champions - 9 Years Girls
Violet Cameron
1st Female 9 years 25m Fly
2nd Female 10ys & Under 50m Fly ~ 1st Female 9 years 25m Back ~ 1st Female 10yrs & Under 50m Back ~ 1st Female 9 years 25m Breast ~ 2nd Female 10yrs & Under 50m Breast
The Club Champions for 9 Years Boys are:
Alex Brown

3rd Male 9 years 25m Breast
1st Male 10yrs & Under 50m Breast
Jett Stevens
3rd Male 9 years 25m Fly
3rd Male 9 years 25m Back
3rd Male 9 years 50m Free
Seth Attwood
2nd Male 9 years 25m Fly
2nd Male 9 years 25m Breast
Xavier Wills
2nd Male 9 years 25m Back
2nd Male 9 years 50m Free
Age Champions - 9 Years Boys
Riley Swift
1st Male 9 years 25m Fly
1st Male 9 years 25m Back
1st Male 9 years 50m Free
1st Male 9 years 25m Breast
The Club Champions for 10 Years Girls are:
Lily Charnock
3rd Female 10yrs & Under 50m Back ~ 3rd Female 10 years 50m Free
Sienna Newsome
2nd Female 10yrs & Under 50m Back ~ 2nd Female 10 years 50m Free ~ 1st Female 10yrs & Under 50m Breast
Age Champions - 10 Years Girls
Olivia Plunkett
1st Female 10yrs & Under 50m Fly ~ 1st Female 10yrs & Under 200m Free ~ 1st Female 10 years 50m Free
The Club Champions for 10 Years Boys are:
Harrison Webb
3rd Male 10yrs & Under 50m Back ~ 3rd Male 10yrs & Under 50m Breast
Jack Gorddard
2nd Male 10yrs & Under 50m Fly ~ 3rd Male 10 years 50m Free
Logan Hall
1st Male 10yrs & Under 50m Fly
Jacob Bender
3rd Male 10yrs & Under 50m Fly ~ 1st Male 10yrs & Under 200m Free ~ 1st Male 10 years 50m Free
Age Champions - 10 Years Boys
Will Schreiber
2nd Male 10yrs & Under 200m Free ~ 1st Male 10yrs & Under 50m Back ~ 2nd Male 10 years 50m Free ~ 2nd Male 10yrs & Under 50m Breast
The Club Champions for 11 Years Girls are:
Age Champions - 11 Years Girls
Lily Cameron
1st Female 11 years 50m Fly
2nd Female 11-13 years 200m Free ~ 1st Female 11 years 50m Back ~ 1st Female 11 years 50m Free ~ 1st Female 11 years 50m Breast ~ 3rd Female 13 & Under 100m Free
The Club Champions for 11 Years Boys are:
Laine Meyers
2nd Male 11 years 50m Back
3rd Male 11 years 50m Free
Thomas Swift
2nd Male 11 years 50m Fly
Caleb Pringle
2nd Male 11 years 50m Free
3rd Male 11 years 50m Breast
Zac Brown
3rd Male 11 years 50m Fly
3rd Male 11 years 50m Back
3rd Male 13yrs & Under 100m Breast ~ 2nd Male 11 years 50m Breast
Age Champions - 11 Years Boys
Henry Murray
1st Male 11 years 50m Fly
3rd Male 11-13 years 200m Free ~ 1st Male 11 years 50m Back ~ 1st Male 11 years 50m Free ~ 1st Male 11 years 50m Breast ~ 3rd Male 13 yrs & Under 100m Free
The Club Champions for 12 Years Girls are:
Lily Freeman
3rd Female 12 years 50m Fly
3rd Female 12 years 50m Free
Jessica Gurnhill
2nd Female 12 years 50m Fly
3rd Female 12 years 50m Back
3rd Female 13 & Under 100m Breast ~ 3rd Female 12 years 50m Breast

CONT NEXT EDITION

The NEWS SPORT

BPS Under 10's Newcastle Knights Knockout Grand Final vs Denman PS

On Tuesday 19th July the Branxton Public School under 10's played in the Newcastle Knights Knockout Grand Final at Hunter Stadium. The kids got the chance to get changed in the Knights dressing room and warm up in the space usually reserved for NRL players.



We kicked off but quickly put ourselves under some pressure with a number of penalties forcing Denman close to our line. Denman scored the first try and converted it, 6 nil. After some sustained pressure on the Denman line Jye Thorpe scored a fantastic individual try and kick the conversion to level up the scores at 6 all. After defending for the later part of the first half we could not hold Denman out who went to the half time break with a 12 to 6 lead.

In the second half the boys dominated possession and territory. Another fantastic try to Jye Thorpe gave us a chance to level it up but we missed the conversion, Denman 12 to 10. The final 10 minutes of the game was very stressful for the coach, as the boys kept attacking the Denman line without luck. The final score was an unlucky defeat by 10 points to 12.

Congratulations to all of the boys on a fantastic achievement. The whole school is very proud of the way in which you played and gave it your all.

We would also like to thank the bus load of supporters, Mr Mikisch (the water boy) and all of the parents who supported us on the day. Your load cheering really made the day a memorable one.

© The team photo above: Sam Hamilton, Duke Engel, Ian See, Jayden Maris, Joel Stafford, Keenan Gillan, Will Bampton, Ashton Allen, Jye Thorpe, Jayden West, Jackson Mikisch and Mathias Cullen

Mitch Hammond Reaches 150 Games

On Saturday 9th July Greta/ Branxton Colts reserve grade captain/coach and club stalwart Mitch Hammond became the first player in the club's eleven year history to play 150 grade games.

Mitch started playing with the club back in 2007, and has played every year up until present.

Along the way he has won reserve grade premierships in 2009, 2010, 2013, and notched a first grade title in 2014.

A long serving member well before the Colts seniors formed in 2006, Mitch coached juniors for eleven years between 2004-2014.

He took on the reserve grade coaching role at the beginning of the 2015 season, a position he has held up until present, and has also spent five years on the club's management committee.

Mitch scored a try in his milestone game, with the match ending in a thrilling 22-all draw.

Congratulations!



■ Mitch Hammond after playing his 150th game for the Colts

PJRC Under 10's and Under 12's Local Boys Win Rugby Tournament in Coffs

Two teams travelled to Coffs Harbour over the school holidays to participate in The Coffs Coast Rugby Challenge 2016. This is a 10-a-side Rugby Union Tournament held over 3 days from 11th July – 13th July hosted at the Coffs Harbour International Stadium by NSW Rugby, allowing participants the chance to play rugby against teams from NSW, QLD and beyond, with a total of 162 games played over the 3 days.

At the culmination of the tournament, a team from each age group was chosen to be the recipient for the "Spirit of Rugby Award". This award is given to teams who best display the true values of rugby and code of conduct from players, coaching team & parents is taken into account. This year the award was given to the Under 12's Pokolbin Junior Rugby Club team for the second year running. This was the 3rd time for the boys to participate in the competition and the 1st time for the Under 10's team.

The Under 10's team consisted of Callum Barr, Angus Walker, Oscar Dent, Jessie Shirtcliffe, Jack Wills, Zac Cox, Izaiah Burgess, Bayley Davidson, Blake Payne, Alec Gough, Will Pavely, Flynn Pavely and Rafferty Wilkins.

The Under 12's team consisted of Zac Harris, Zack Fitzpatrick, Billy Norris, Aidan Eather, Angus McClellan, Connor Campbell, Jordan Edmunds, Charlie Russell, Ash Parkinson, Eden Schreiber, Thomas Page, Tom Nothnagel, Seth Koop and Laine Meyers. PJRC would like to thank the coaches, parents and sponsors involved in organising the two teams to get to the Challenge. A special mention to Glencore, Meerea Park Wines, Saddlers Creek Wines, The Vintage, Sebel Kirkton Park and Ravensworth. The boys raised money to cover such costs as playing jerseys and registration. The winners of the raffle held are as follows: Ian Scarborough, Shelby Odgers, Drew Phillips, Sylvia Ryan, Charlie Russell, Stephen, Steve R, Renae Harriden, M Wilson, and S Day.



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