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The News

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TUESDAY
23 August 2016

Local IGA Supermarket 'Community Chest' distributes \$4000 to schools & sporting clubs

THE Greta Public School, Greta Branxton Netball Club & the Greta Branxton Wildcats were the grateful beneficiaries of a donation from Branxton IGA Community Chest at a special presentation last week.

The cheques were presented to representatives of each group by Branxton IGA Manager Sue Mitchell. Greta Public School will use the \$2000 donation to purchase rubber matting for around their fixed playground equipment; Branxton Greta Netball Club will purchase much needed equipment with their \$1000 & the Greta Branxton Wildcats intend to purchase iPads for their canteen with their \$1000.

The IGA Community Chest initiative is a program that operates at Branxton IGA supermarket and IGA's across Australia. Throughout the year IGA shoppers contribute to the Community Chest by purchasing products displaying the Community Chest ticket. The program guarantees a percentage of the purchase of these items is given back to community organisations, charities and clubs selected by the IGA community. At the end of each annual program, the accumulated funds are donated by Branxton IGA back to the community. Donations via the IGA Community Chest program have now

topped \$70 million nationwide. Branxton store manager Sue Mitchell said community groups and charities were facing difficult times so it was pleasing to see donations granting them extra assistance. "On behalf of the Branxton IGA team and the local community groups involved, we would like to thank our customers for helping support their local community," Sue said. "It's important that our shoppers receive credit for their great community achievement, as it would not be possible without their support."

Photos: Representatives from the three beneficiary groups receiving their cheques from Sue Mitchell.



Celebrate Melbourne Cup in true "Vintage Race Day Style"

Enjoy a relaxing cruise and Melbourne Cup Luncheon on the Brisbane Waterways on Tuesday, 1st November 2016

Rotary Club of Maitland



Join us on a fun-filled "All Things Vintage Melbourne Cup Day". Board our private charter vintage train at your nominated railway station, settle back with a complimentary drink and relax as we journey south towards the ever changing scenery of the magical Hawkesbury River waterways.

On arrival in Woy Woy we will make our way to the waiting Starship Vessel and begin a four hour Brisbane Water cruise. A delicious buffet lunch followed by dessert, tea and coffee will be served as we explore the waterways. Passengers will be able purchase "sweeps" prior to watching the world famous Melbourne Cup horse race as we sail through the spectacular waterways. Tea, coffee and sweets will also be served during the return rail journey.

Judges will be looking to award prizes to the "Best Dressed Vintage Race Day Outfit", and the "Best Period Hat" on the day.

As with our 2014 Melbourne Cup Cruise, we expect tickets for this trip to sell quickly. To secure a seat, telephone Rotarian Doug—0407 978 435 or Rotarian Danny—0418 116 552 and request an application form. Tickets will ONLY be confirmed upon receipt of payment. Payment methods include; credit card, direct deposit into the Rotary Club of Maitland bank account or cash payment as arranged with the Booking Officer.

Ticket Cost \$ 140.00 per person

The ticket cost includes: private return rail journey to Woy Woy; a four hour cruise onboard a Starship Cruiser; a delicious buffet lunch with dessert, tea and coffee. Tea/coffee and cake will be served on the return rail journey.

Passengers are permitted to bring a small esky onboard the train.



Additional Booking Information can be obtained by contacting:

Doug Perry—Mobile No 0407 978 435 or email doug.perry@bigpond.com

OR

Danny Litwin—Mobile No 0418 116 552 or email carmdan@bigpond.com

Profits from the day will be distributed to various charities



Recently Branxton Lions had a fundraising event with a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Hardware in Singleton. Funds raised from this event will be donated too Diabetes NSW, Camp Quality and Haemophilia foundation. Branxton Lions Club would like to thank Singleton Bunnings Hardware for their support. Lions Branxton are always looking for new members to make a difference and to help the community. Please contact President Bob 49381001 Alan 49381654 ~ you will be made very welcome!

Photo: Members of Branxton Lions at the Bunnings Hardware BBQ Fundraiser

Cook up a storm on FATHERS DAY



Recipe

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Famous Spicy Grape Sauce - Taste @ Moorebank Vineyard cellar door 150 Palmers Lane Pokolbin



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CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL SPORTING FACILITY & EQUIPMENT DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR GRANT SCHEME & COMMUNITY FACILITIES DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR GRANT SCHEME 2016/2017

Cessnock City Council has \$20,000 available within the Sporting Facility and Equipment Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme and \$20,000 in the Community Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme to distribute to sporting and community groups.

Groups are invited to apply for funds through either one of these grant schemes. Applications may be used for developing Council owned community and sporting facilities.

Grants will be provided on a dollar for dollar basis and Council will assess applications in line with a preset selection criteria. **All projects must be completed by June 30, 2017.**

Application forms and grant guidelines are available from Council's Administration Building or via Council's website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au). Completed application forms must be returned no later than 5:00pm Friday, 9 September 2016.

It is advised that all applicants contact Council's Recreation & Community Liaison Officer, Mrs Kate Hicks on 4993 4234 prior to lodging an application.

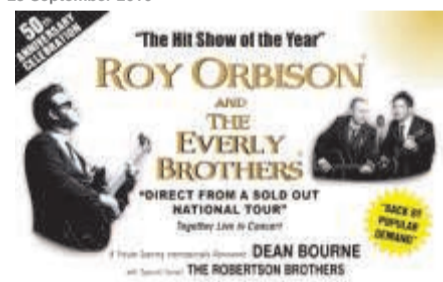
USE OF COUNCIL'S SPORTING FACILITIES 2016/2017 SUMMER SEASON

Applications for the use of Council's recreation facilities by personal trainers, educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups during the Summer Sporting Season (1 October 2016 to 19 March 2017) are now open. Applications should be submitted to Council by Friday 26 August 2016. Applications are available via Council's website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or from Council's Administration Building, Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised sporting activities can take place.

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

Roy Orbison & The Everly Brothers
23 September 2016



Starring internationally renowned artists Dean Bourne with special guests The Robertson Brothers.

Together in Concert

Anh Do
21 October 2016



Comedian Anh Do brings his best-selling memoir, *The Happiest Refugee*, to life in a ground-breaking new stand-up show

The Happiest Refugee - Live

The Listies 6D
29 September 2016



A kids' comedy all about the movies.

(it's twice as good as 3D)

Graeme Connors
4 November 2016



The iconic singer-songwriter and his incredible five-piece band perform a selection of hits, new songs and fan favourites including the #1 Official Country Airplay chart single, *60 Summers*.

60 Summers: The Ultimate Tour

Also coming
Damien Leith
5 November 2016
10th Anniversary Tour

Swan Lake
7 - 8 November 2016
Russian National Ballet Theatre

SEMINAR: Autism
Developing the Individual
13 September 2016

USE OF COUNCIL'S OUTDOOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS 2016/2017 SUMMER SEASON

Applications for the use of Cessnock and Branxton Swimming Pools during the upcoming Summer Season by educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups are now open. Applications should be submitted by Friday 26 August 2016. Bookings for the Pool season commence Tuesday 4 October 2016. Application forms are available via Council's website (www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or from Council's Administration Building, Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised swimming activities can take place.

Enquiries should be made to Council's Recreation and Community Liaison Officer, Mrs Kate Hicks on 4993 4234.

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
GENERAL MANAGER

Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

Spring is just around the corner and with it comes sunny days, spring blooms and lawn mowing. As the weather warms up grass flourishes and lawns need to be mowed more often.

Having a regular lawn mowing routine will make the task easier and keep your yard looking neat and tidy. Ask the kids to pitch in, negotiate with your partner, offer to mow next doors lawn or even set up a neighbourhood roster to tackle a few yards at once so everyone gets a week off.

Council Rangers often receive complaints about residential properties being overgrown. It is up to each resident to maintain their properties so they do not become overgrown and a home to vermin. This is particularly important in late spring and summer as snakes come out of hibernation.

Last month Council Rangers impounded 65 dogs of which 36 were returned safely home. We like happy reunions but unfortunately often we can't return pets directly home because their microchip details are out of date or they do not have a microchip. By microchipping your pet and keeping your registration information up-to-date when you move house or change contact details helps us reunite you with your pet if they are ever lost. Please contact the RSPCA if your pet is missing because it may be there waiting for you.

You can find change of address and ownership forms free on our website
<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals>

If your puppy likes to dig their way out of your yard, here's some useful tips to help prevent them escaping:

- spray citronella on the area they are digging and on the fence as dogs dislike the smell.
- install chicken wire 30cm (a foot or so) against your fence or try placing it flat on the ground so they can't dig down.
- scatter some of your doggy's doo where they are digging as they often won't dig where their toilet is.

Before spring is really 'in the air' have your cat or dog desexed to avoid any unplanned pet additions to your family. Council rangers love to work closely with Hunter Animal Watch, who is a member of Animals Australia. Hunter Animal Watch operate a subsidised pet spay/neuter program to financially assist pensioners and the unemployed. This is a great program and for more information go to www.hunteranimalwatch.com.au or call 4961 6133.

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

Does your community facility need a bit of TLC?
Find out if you are eligible for a Community Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grant

<http://ow.ly/TRY1303esBZ>



VOTE 1

LIBERALS FOR CESSNOCK

*Support your local Liberal team
because we are committed to the community;
and dedicated to progress.*

ROD DOHERTY

Mayoral candidate and Ward D

JOHN FAGG

Ward C

JACQUIE LAFRANCE

Ward B

PAUL DUNN

Ward A



What's Happening & other matters

one's views but my own. As we approach our local election I consider the things most important that I require from someone who was going to represent ME on Council and not numbly follow a party line...

My candidate has to be able to think freely and be honest, having spent time prior to standing, to reflect on what they might bring to the job and what personal challenges there might be. They must be firm, fair, and approachable. They must be self aware and understand strategies for managing their duties and organise 'to do lists', reviewing them before they begin their tasks each day'. Even more they must have a proven record of service to the community...

WHAT DOES OUR COUNCILLOR HAVE TO DO?

As part of the council, councillors guide the development of local policies, set service standards and priorities, and monitor the performance of the organisation. Councilors' responsibilities include:

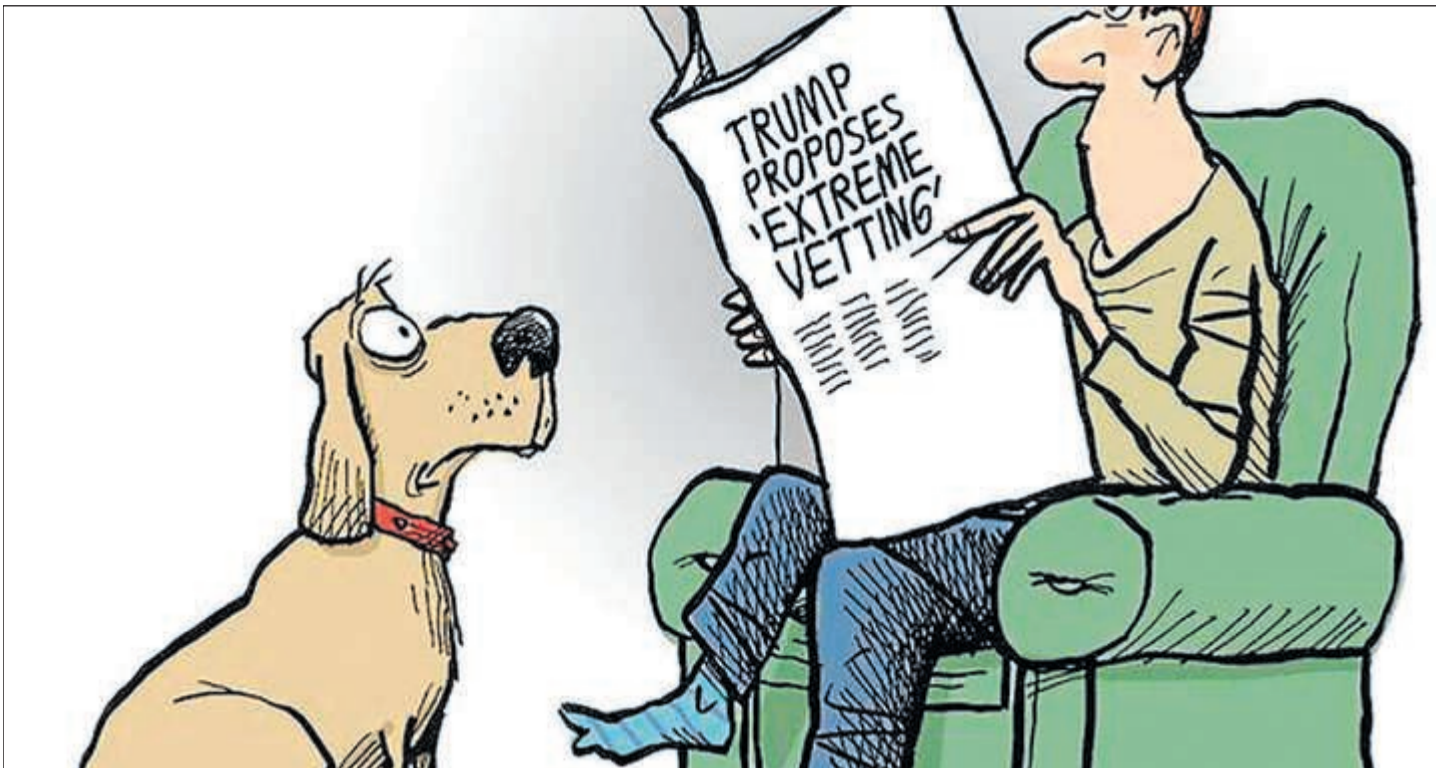
- * strategic planning for the whole municipality and a sustainable future
- * determining the financial strategy and allocating resources via the council budget
- * representing ratepayers and residents
- * advocating on a broad range of issues
- * liaising (sic) and coordinating with other levels of government, non-government, community groups and the private sector
- * overseeing the management of community assets
- * facilitating community participation
- * managing the relationship

to have a re-think.

G. Adeane

Day to remember

Last Thursday veterans and the Australian community honoured the service and sacrifice of nearly 60,000 Australians who served in the Vietnam War, including the 521 who lost their lives and more than 3,000 who were wounded. Vietnam Veterans Day is commemorated annually on August 18, and this year it marked the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, one of the fiercest



with, and employment of, the General Manager.

COUNCILLOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPRESENTATION

Councillors are accountable to both the community and to their own constituents. (As members of council, where the focus is necessarily on governing in the best interests of the entire municipality, councillors are accountable in multiple ways. These include acting in their roles as legislators, policy makers, strategists and financial overseers)

Councillors also have to represent their constituents on a wide range of issues. In doing so, councillors must obey the law, including the principle of natural justice. Councillors must also deal with a range of requests and complaints from their constituents which they need to find ways to deal with, preferably in conjunction with the administration. Both these types of accountability need to be accommodated.

THE GOOD GOVERNANCE APPROACH

Accommodating all of these complex, and at times competing, roles is ongoing and constant. So it is important, from a good governance perspective, that these pressures are recognised and managed. It can be helpful for councillors to be aware of and very clear about the particular role they are undertaking at any point in time – for the councillors, the administration and the community. For example, when dealing with a planning decision councillors should overtly state when they are moving from a representative role (consulting over a planning issue) to a quasi-judicial one (such as being part of a determination as the Responsible Authority). This approach not only helps to foster productive relationships, but can also reduce misunderstandings and frustration for everyone.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD

GOVERNANCE?

Good governance is accountable
 Good governance is transparent
 Good governance follows the rule of law
 Good governance is responsive
 Good governance is equitable and inclusive (A community's wellbeing results from all of its members feeling their interests have been considered by council in the decision-making process. This means that all groups, particularly the most vulnerable, should have opportunities to participate in the process.)
 Good governance is effective and efficient
 Good governance is participatory.

I see no advantage to voting above the line where Party Politicians might choose one of the under the line candidates who is not your own personal choice. Far better to pick someone you know fits the criteria. Voters should see themselves as the employer, choosing a representative who has experience, a

proven record in our area and whom they know to be more than capable of the job. As for 'C' Ward this is how I will vote (*See below right*).

We have had Allan McCudden before in Ward 'C' and he was in Branxton, North Rothbury and Greta on average 2/3 days a week, and in my considered opinion, we are a better place because of him. He's a good husband, dad and grandpa. He's a just good man, capable and consistent.

FUNCTIONAL POWERS OF THE MAYOR

Apart from the roles stated in the legislation, the mayor is usually the council spokesperson and has a significant ceremonial role at particular events, including citizenship ceremonies. The mayor is also an important community leader and is often the spokesperson for the community on economic issues (such as commenting on the impact of jobs lost or gained in the municipality) or when the community is put

under stress (such as disaster management and socio-economic issues). While the mayor has been elected by at least a majority vote, the position becomes the leader of all the councillors whether they supported an individual or not. What this means is that the mayor has responsibilities towards, and is accountable to, all councillors. And the mayor's leadership style should reflect this. I will be voting for Rod Doherty for mayor.

Ref: <http://www.goodgovernance.org.au/>

Labor	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Meiane Dagg
2	Anne Sander
1	Allan McCudden

Maureen Lind, North Rothbury NSW

Australian who served in Vietnam. As is inscribed on the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial, it is a day, "for all those that served, suffered and died".
 Dan Tehan, Minister for Veterans' Affairs



Botched Census not worst So it is being reported that the Census is the bungle of the century. Really? It has to be put into perspective. Is it worse than Syria? Worse than Brexit? Worse than the new improved barbecue 'Shapes'? I think some journalist have

battles fought by Australian soldiers in Vietnam. The battle involved 105 Australians and three New Zealanders from D Company 6RAR. A total of 17 Australians were killed in action and 25 were wounded, one of whom later died of his wounds. D Company were greatly assisted by an ammunition resupply by RAAF helicopters, close fire support from New Zealand's 161 Field Battery, together with additional artillery support

from the Australian task force base at Nui Dat, and the arrival of reinforcements in APCs as night fell. Commemorative events took place across the country which provided an opportunity for the nation



to reflect on the service and sacrifice of the Australians involved in the Vietnam War. The major commemoration was the public National Service, that was held at the Australian Vietnam Forces

anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, we should all reflect on the sacrifice and experiences of the Australians who served their country in Vietnam. We honour and commemorate every single

National Memorial in Canberra, which was attended by the Governor-General, Prime Minister, other dignitaries and over 400 veterans. On the 50th

The *Branxton Greta Vineyards News* is a member of the

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Letters to the editor can be sent to:

The Editor, The BGV News,
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or

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50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and Vietnam Veterans Day commemorated at Greta War Memorial



The Vietnam War memorial which has two wreaths that were laid earlier in the ceremony by the sub-branch & the local State Member Clayton Barr MP



A minutes silence & a time to reflect



A minutes silence & a time to reflect

A relatively small number of veterans and some families members & guests have honoured the lives of the 521 Australians killed in the Vietnam War on the 50th anniversary of their bloodiest battle at Long Tan. The veterans & guests gathered with dignitaries, including the local state member Clayton Barr MP, at the Greta War Memorial for a ceremony which featured representation from all arms of our defences force & a surprise fly-over by two RAAF jet fighter trainers. The ceremony also included the unveiling of a bronze plaque, pictured above, honouring the service of all servicemen who contributed to Australia's presence back then. The plaque was prepared and donated by Cessnock City

Council who were thanked by the sub-branch for their generosity. The ceremony took place amid diplomatic friction with Vietnam, after a lengthy phone call between Malcolm Turnbull and the Vietnamese Prime Minister the previous night persuaded the Vietnamese government, which had cancelled a ceremony which was to commemorate the deaths on both sides, to allow small groups of fewer than 100 people to travel to Long Tan. Australia had been working on commemoration plans with Vietnam for 18 months when the decision was made.

Lest we Forget



State Member Clayton Barr MP, centre, at the commemoration ceremony.

Ancient ceremony is a chance to cheer our soldiers

The ceremony may date back to the 15th century but the gesture of Freedom of Entry remains the same. On Friday, September 9, local residents have the opportunity to witness this ancient, medieval ceremony in what will be the fourth time in Singleton's history that it has taken place. In fact the 2016 ceremony marks 50 years since the first Freedom of Entry took place back in September 1966, making next month's ceremony all the more significant. Centuries ago, the movement of armed men around Europe was a slow and complicated procedure. These units of men required access to the cities and villages along the way to replenish food and arms, to rest and relax. Villagers would refuse access if they thought those seeking entry could not be trusted so it was a genuine act of goodwill and trust if 'Freedom of Entry' was granted. As time went on, the necessity for this freedom dwindled and the ceremony became rare and subsequently an even higher honour. Freedom of Entry has now become the highest compliment that a local government area can bestow. Some 300 soldiers will form up in Hunter Street on the day to step off at 11am, turning right into John Street. The soldiers will be led by The School of Infantry Commanding Officer Scott Morris who will be met by NSW Police Inspector Tim Seymour under the Hunter Crossing overpass. With swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing, Inspector Seymour and Lieutenant Colonel Morris will exchange words with Inspector Seymour then granting permission for the Army to enter the town. Mayor John Martin will then address the gathering before being escorted for an inspection of the troops with Newcastle Army Band accompanying this step. Equally significant will be the presence of the Army Banner, the only one of its kind in Australia which also brings its own explicit procedures of protocol. Cr Martin is delighted to be taking part in such a significant ceremony, particularly because of the opportunity it offers to thank the military. "We share a very special relationship with the School of Infantry, they are an intrinsic part of our community and it is indeed an honour to grant the troops Freedom of Entry. I really hope the townspeople get behind the event, line the streets of Singleton and welcome our soldiers to town with the respect and honour they so deserve," Cr Martin said. The soldiers will step off from Hunter Street at 11am with the formal ceremony taking place on the Village Green between Singleton Library and the Civic Centre. The formal part of proceedings will be finalized around 12:30pm. Please note there will be impacts on traffic movements through the CBD between 10:45am and 12:15pm for the duration of the ceremony with sections of John Street, Ryan Avenue, Queen Street and the off-ramp of the Hunter Crossing Bridge for periods through the march and the ceremony.

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Members say



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

The Battle of Long Tan remains a symbol of Australian courage, sacrifice, dedication, commitment and skill. Last Thursday marked 50 years since the heavily out-numbered Australian soldiers of 6 RAR held out against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces. They were supported by other force elements including a cavalry, artillery, signals and RAAF Iroquois. Our American and New Zealand partners were also involved. Together, they beat the odds.

Australia suffered the loss of 18 ADF members at Long Tan. Another 24 were wounded.

Last week I was fortunate to be able to attend services in both Canberra and Cessnock to mark the Anniversary. They were solemn occasions.

The Cessnock service was made particularly special by the official unveiling of a replica of the Long Tan Cross memorial in Vietnam which was erected by our soldiers following the Battle.

Congratulations to Cessnock RSL Sub Branch for its efforts in ensuring we always remember their deeds and sacrifice. I also thank members of other Sub Branches in our electorate including the Upper Hunter who also held services. Lest We Forget.

The decision of the Government of Vietnam to deny Australian veteran's access to Long Tan last week is regrettable. The 11th hour declaration came as a shock to all and was inexplicable.

There have been suggestions that the Communists were concerned that the pilgrimage was becoming more and more like a celebration of Australian victory on their soil. Maybe that is true but whatever the case, I hope our own Government is able to use the next twelve months to ensure our vets and their families are not denied in the future.

It's a great tragedy that the Government has not been prepared to do more to help our dairy farmers. Every response so far has been slow and inadequate. More pressure needs to be put on Murray Goulburn to support their farmers and across the industry, the bargaining power of farmers needs to be enhanced. I will continue to exert as much pressure as I can from opposition to ensure these two things are done.

It was interesting watching such a big class of new MPs attending "pollie school" in Canberra last week. Among them was our own Meryl Swanson who will be an outstanding representative. Twenty years after my own induction, it's difficult to fully appreciate the mix of excitement, anticipation and nervousness they would have all been feeling. But I can be sure of one thing, the day and a half of briefings they received won't suffice in readying them for what lays ahead.

Just finding their way around the building is a challenge in itself. As one new MP told me, "it took him 15

minutes to find his way back to his office"!

However, it is not just a big class it looks one full of talent. So I'm sure they'll all work it out quickly enough. In the current environment in which the Government holds the slimmest of majorities and the Senate is volatile they'll need to!

Cheers, Joel



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR

NEW AND IMPROVED SERVICE NSW

There is no doubt that people from right across our area will have noted changes at the old RTA/RMS building in Cessnock. First of all it was sold, and then immediately rented back for 15 years. Then, as tenants of the recently sold building, the NSW Government completely re-furnished the building. It has been given an enormous facelift at the expense of the taxpayer and is now called Service NSW. And then finally, following all of this, from the end of September, the hours of operation will be reduced, cut-back, restricted! Welcome to Baird economics.

GREYHOUND RACING KILLED OFF

About 6 weeks ago now, Premier Baird announced that he would shut down greyhound racing. There are a range of views on this issue. Regardless of your thoughts, no-one could say that the idea of a shut-down was being openly and publicly discussed. It was delivered like a king hit! Again, I emphasise that there are a range of views – but the term king-hit is about the best description of the announcement. There are thousands of people who work hard, care for and respect their animals, who have many millions of dollars invested into property, buildings, tracks and training facilities, businesses, vehicles, dogs, etc. No matter who you are or what your thoughts are, you must have some compassion for the financial destruction that this king hit has caused. This brings me to the debate in Parliament last week, as the Legislation to kill-off greyhound racing was introduced. It appears there is a real logical gap in the arguments of the Government. On the one hand they are saying that it is the death of the animals that is key driver. But then they state that this greyhound ban should not be interpreted as an attack on any other animal industry like horse-racing. Well, if animal deaths are your main concern then how can the greyhound decision not lead people to the issue of horse racing? That is a logical gap! And then there is the issue of the "social licence". What exactly is that? I would think of social licence as "public opinion". I am willing to be wrong and happy to be corrected. But if social licence is public opinion, where does that place the Government on issues like same sex marriage, the democracy of local councils that are being killed-off as forced amalgamations roll out, or even the public widespread condemnation of the Governments approach to TAFE? Does the Government not measure the same social licence ruler to their own

activities?

I will be participating in the debate when Parliament resumes in 2 weeks. I will be voting against the greyhound racing ban. Fundamentally I believe in a couple of important things:

- (1) Consistency – you have to apply any rule consistently and that means that harness racing and thoroughbred racing must be in question under the Baird rule, which would cause a catastrophic disruption to our economy, and I am not willing to entertain that idea, so I will not vote for in-consistency;
- (2) Reform – I am convinced that the Greyhound industry has been improving and re-shaping its practices of the past 40 years and that this can continue into the future;
- (3) Leadership – the Greyhound industry has been deprived of quality and significant leadership over the past 10+ years, which can be quickly and simply changed;
- (4) People – I cannot vote to destroy so many people's way of life including social and financial ruin. I am 100% for change and reform in the greyhound industry, but not killing it. Cruelty to animals in the past is something that we can't change, but cruelty to animals and humans in the future is something that we can control.

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

Cheers Clayton



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

NSW TARGETS ONE MILLION NEW JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

Regional NSW would be a key focus for jobs growth under a NSW Government plan to create an additional one million new, rewarding jobs over the next 20 years. The State Government last week released the Jobs for the Future report outlining how NSW can harness opportunities and respond to challenges to create one million new, rewarding jobs by 2036. NSW leads the nation when it comes to job creation, but we know the world is changing and we must keep adapting with it, and while it is pleasing that regional NSW currently leads all other regional areas across Australia when it comes to job creation, there is no question that workplaces are rapidly changing and will continue to do so over coming decades. This strong focus on jobs growth is great news for the Upper Hunter electorate, as the release of Jobs for the Future had been supported by the announcement that a \$30 million funding program will be established to specifically grow jobs in regional NSW. Other state-wide funding programs will:

Help fast-growing, small-to-

medium size companies - known as gazelles - to access the funds they need to grow jobs through a \$50 million loan guarantee program and a \$3.5 million direct loan pilot program;

Assist start-up companies to flourish into the gazelles of tomorrow by setting aside \$10 million to grow the State's network of incubators and accelerators, and \$3 million in 2016-17 for direct grants to start-ups; and

Attract large and international companies to base their headquarters in NSW through use of a \$30 million fund.

Government had engaged some of the best business minds in the country to grow jobs now and over the next 20 years, with innovative financial support programs that have been specifically developed to have maximum job creation impact for NSW.

The announcement was an important part of the Government's ongoing support for regional NSW, and this includes \$6 billion for regional infrastructure from the Rebuilding NSW plan, along with \$39 million to fix mobile black spots, \$32 million to build the Murray-Darling economy and \$110 million to boost regional tourism.

The Jobs for NSW Fund will now provide an additional opportunity to help deliver our number one priority to grow jobs in NSW, including regional NSW.

The Jobs for the Future report and further information can be viewed at www.jobsforNSW.com.au

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL SPORT AND RECREATION PROJECTS

I would encourage our local community groups, sports clubs and councils in the Upper Hunter Electorate to apply for up to a million dollars to help them deliver an important sports infrastructure project for their communities.

I invite local community groups, sports clubs and councils to apply for grants between \$500,000 and \$1 million for new or upgraded sport and recreation infrastructure projects. These grants are being made available under the NSW Government's 2016/17 Club-GRANTS program for projects providing modern and safe community facilities for people to take part in sport and recreation and improve fitness and well-being. Over this term of government, around \$50 million in ClubGRANTS will be provided to local communities across NSW to support three categories of infrastructure: sport and recreation, arts and culture and emergency relief facilities, which are a crucial part of any community. Sport and recreation is part of our state's social fabric and the NSW Government is committed to investing in facilities for our communities to enjoy for generations to come.

An applicant information pack is now available on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website

liquorandgaming.justice.nsw.gov.au with expressions of interest closing on Friday 16 September 2016.

Applications will be assessed by the independent ClubGRANTS fund committee and approved applicants will then be invited to lodge formal applications. Successful projects will

be announced in 2017.

APPLY NOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO LOCAL FISH HABITAT

Individuals and community groups wanting to improve their local fish habitat are being encouraged to apply for a grant through the next funding round of the NSW Government's Habitat Action Grants Program.

Large grants of up to \$40,000 and small grants to kick-start a project of up to \$2000 are available to fishing clubs, community groups, local councils and individuals wanting to improve fish habitat in the Upper Hunter electorate. With over half a million dollars available statewide in this funding round, this is a great opportunity to improve fish habitats in our local creeks, rivers or estuaries, and encourage more fish as a result.

This program is another excellent example of how recreational fishing fees are helping to support a productive local fishery.

The NSW Government wants to ensure that quality habitats are available to ensure native fish thrive into the future. Applications for Habitat Action Grants are currently open and close on 30 September 2016.

For more information about the program, application forms and examples of past projects visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hag or contact a Department of Primary Industries Fisheries Manager on (02) 6626 1396 (coastal) or (02) 6042 4213 (inland).

BUSINESS WOMEN INVITED TO NETWORK

Local business women can now sign up to the Women's Online Network (WON), an Australia first online platform created by female entrepreneurs and industry leaders in partnership with the NSW Government, to champion and support women through their business journey.

I encourage local business women to join WON to share in the resources, knowledge and experience of the new collaborative community.

WON is a great resource for existing and aspiring female entrepreneurs, offering a one-stop-shop to business networking groups, resources, training and funding avenues.

We are encouraging local business women to make the most of this information which is available to female entrepreneurs at any stage in their business careers, with a focus on learning, sharing ideas and helping other like-minded women to reach their business goals.

WON provides support at all stages of the business life-cycle, ensuring anyone who wants to start-up or grow their business can use this resource. The NSW Government is dedicated to delivering new opportunities and making NSW the easiest state to start and grow a business.

WON is an outcome from the Women in Entrepreneurship (WiE) initiative, which has been created to discuss small business barriers and assist female entrepreneurs with access to information and resources.

WON community members communicate on social media using the hashtag #WONNERSNSW. For more information on WON please visit: www.wonnsw.com.au

Contact: My Email address; upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au, phone numbers; 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook

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Cessnock City Council Column

Last week Council announced the exciting news we'll be hosting an A-league pre-season clash between the Newcastle Jets and the Western Sydney Wanderers next month. The match on Saturday September 24 at Cessnock Sportsground is expected to be hotly contested as it is the last game before the season gets underway. It is fantastic we have been able to secure the fixture and give the community the opportunity to watch this level of football in their own local area. Tickets are available for sale at Ticketmaster and from the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre.

Young footballers from across the region will also have the opportunity to participate in a free clinic put on by the Jets on Friday September 23 at Cessnock Sportsground. Up to 200 boy and girls will be able to take part and get pointers of some of Australia's best players. More information will be released in early September at www.newcastlejets.com.au.

The Mayoral Debate heats were held last week with teams competing from St Philip's Christian College, Cessnock High School, Kurri Kurri High School and Mount View High School. Well done to all of the students who took part in the heats, they engaged in intelligent discussion and prepared strong arguments.



Police Report

Break, Enter and Steal/

stolen.

Break, Enter and Steal/ Glendon Brook:

Time/Date: Between 15:00 12/8/16 and 18:00 14/08/2016

LOC: Blind Creek Road, Glendon Brook.

PROP: 1x Honda 400 quad bike.

Unknown person(s) have gained entry to the property by forcing the locks on the gate. Once in the property, they have gained access to shipping containers and an open caravan within the property. They were ransacked, but only one item was confirmed as stolen as above.

House Fire/Mitchells Flat: T/D: 15:15 on 17/08/2016 Mitchell Flat Road, Mitchell Flat

The premises located at number at Mitchell Flat Road,

Glendon Brook:

Between 15:00 on Thursday 11 August 2016 and 16:00 on Sunday 14 August 2016

Person/s unknown have accessed the site by forcing the padlock on the front gate. The location is a Mine site with a homestead on Cranky Corner Road, Glendon Brook. The offender/s have used a fire extinguisher to throw through the front glass sliding door. Once inside the offender/s have entered 6 rooms and opened and closed some cupboards but no property has been

Congratulations to St Philip's Christian College and Kurri Kurri High School debating teams as they have secured themselves a place in the final which is being held today (24 August).

Cessnock welcomed 16 new Australian citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony held on Friday August 19. Our new citizens came from all around the world including the United Kingdom, Vietnam, Israel and Indonesia. It is always special to be part of this ceremony as it takes great courage to leave the land of your birth and great wisdom to choose to make Australia your home. Congratulations to all 16 new citizens and best of wishes for your future.

It was with great sadness we heard of the passing of Arthur Francis, who was an

outstanding member of our community. Mr Francis was inducted into the Cessnock Hall of Fame for public service following his service in the Australian Army until his retirement in 1997, where he served time in Malaysia, Borneo and Vietnam. He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 1986 for his services to the Parachute Battalion, 3rd Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment, and the Conspicuous Service Cross in 1997.

His passing is a great loss to the entire community. He was always heavily involved with our local ANZAC Day services, including assisting at the Kearsley Dawn Service and also contributed through the establishment of the Australian Army Infantry Museum in Singleton.

Mitchell Flat was a single story weatherboard home with a tin roof in the final stages of renovation. The owner of the premises was renovating the dwelling with a builder for over the last year.

Around 2:44pm on Wednesday 17th of August 2016 neighbours came to notice that the house was a light, with plume of smoke emitting from the top of the premises. Emergency services were contacted and arrived around 3pm with NSW Fire Brigade first on scene. At this time the house was already completely destroyed, police already had information that no persons would be present in the home which was confirmed by the owner who arrived on scene. The Singleton NSW Fire Brigade 444

crew, Scott Flat Rural Fire service, Glendonbrook Rural Fire service and Darlington Rural Fire service were all in attendance extinguishing the fire at 4:45pm.

According to the owner there was only one source of electricity to the house connected to a refrigerator. Ausgrid crew members were in attendance. The entirety of the premises was destroyed prior to the attendance of all emergency services. No residents were inside at the time of the fire and no persons were injured while extinguishing the fire. The Rural Fire Service fire investigators will be in attendance the following day for an assessment of the scene.

PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

Whooping cough vaccination in pregnancy

Whooping cough vaccination during pregnancy has been shown to be the most effective way to protect infants from whooping cough, before they are old enough to receive their own immunisation at six weeks. Use of the whooping cough vaccination during pregnancy has been shown to be safe during pregnancy in studies involving over 40 000 women. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) latest recommendation is for routine vaccination of pregnant woman against whooping cough during the third trimester of each pregnancy.

Whooping cough (also called pertussis) is a serious respiratory infection that causes a long coughing illness. In babies, the infection can sometimes lead to pneumonia and occasionally brain damage and can be even life threatening. Older children and adults can get whooping cough and can spread it to others, including babies. Whooping cough starts like a cold with a blocked or runny nose, sneezing, a mild fever and an

occasional cough. As the disease progresses the cough gets worse and severe bouts of uncontrollable coughing develop. Coughing bouts can be followed by vomiting, choking or taking a big gasping breath which causes a "whooping" sound. The cough can last for many weeks and can be worse at night. The disease is particularly serious in newborns, they may not cough at all but stop breathing completely and turn blue. Other babies have difficulties feeding or they can choke and gag. Older children and adults may just have a mild cough that doesn't go away which can commonly last 5-7 weeks, and sometimes longer. Why is whooping cough so serious? While for adults, whooping cough can just be an annoying cough, for babies, it can be life threatening. Severity is closely related to a baby's age. Newborns and premature infants are at greatest risk. Whooping cough in babies can lead to: apnoea (pauses in normal breathing), pneumonia, frequent vomiting, feeding problems leading to weight loss, seizures or brain damage when breathing problems, heart failure or pneumonia interfere with oxygen getting to the brain, very low blood pressure which can lead to failure of other organs. Babies with whooping cough may require hospitalisation and some require treatment in intensive care. Recent evidence suggests that whooping cough vaccination during the third trimester of pregnancy is effective at preventing whooping cough disease in infants (who are at the greatest risk for whooping cough associated morbidity and

mortality) and is safe for both infant and mother. Whooping cough vaccination during pregnancy is likely to protect new born babies through a combination of in utero transfer of antibodies to the infant and indirectly through reducing the likelihood of the mother acquiring and transmitting whooping cough to the newborn. Is it safe? Yes. Current evidence (from studies involving more than 40 000 participants) suggests that vaccination during pregnancy is safe for both the mother and baby. Whooping cough vaccination should occur in each pregnancy as immunity from whooping cough (whether through vaccination or natural infection) fades over time. After getting vaccinated during pregnancy there is an immune response which produces antibodies. These antibodies are passed to the baby before birth. The antibodies will protect the infant while it is most vulnerable, helping keep it safe until it is able to get its own vaccinations. To ensure the highest protection for infants vaccination needs to occur during each pregnancy at 28 - 32 weeks. The 28 week visit is an ideal time to get the whooping cough vaccine. After birth, babies still need their own vaccine. The protection against whooping cough that is passed on to infants through maternal vaccination is only temporary. The baby still needs its own vaccination to be protected against disease. This should be given as early as possible at six weeks of age, followed by two further doses at 4 and 6 months of age. All children are now recommended to have booster doses of whooping cough vaccine at 18 months and 4 years of age.

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Open Week ~ All welcome

They are a small group of people – about 60 of them – retired and semi-retired. They come from everywhere between Wollombi through Cessnock to Kurri/Weston and Greta/Branxton. The range of experiences in work, and current activities is a great contributor to their ongoing physical and mental health!

U3A is not a service or sports based or 'ex' club. Their activities take place

Monday to Friday, daytime hours (with few annual exceptions). There are two semesters per year, with only two general meetings. There is a small annual fee to cover group insurances etc however courses and activities are free, with token (\$2) charges for venue hire, or basic costs if the activity requires a journey. They operate an efficient car pool system as well, sharing fuel costs. They walk, talk, exercise,

do Tai Chi (\$2 per session!), listen to music, watch movies, read, make things, have lunch (in wine country)... **It has been decided to run an open week in September to encourage interest from potential new members. All the week's activities are free to visitors and members.** Here's the program (may be subject to minor changes closer to the date): Please check the web site www.cessnockcity.u3anet.org.au See you there!



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Cessnock U3A September 2016		
Monday 19	Petanque class with resident instructor. Boules will be provided. Coffee and beverages available at own cost.	10.30 - 12 noon Front lawn Potters Brewery Hotel Nulkaba
Tuesday 20 daytime	Walk with us with our own botanist. Place to be advised – see our web site the week prior	10 am - 1 pm tba
Tuesday 20 evening	Film performance of the "Gallipoli Symphony". A moving interpretation of the 1915 campaign by Australian, Turkish and New Zealand composers.	5.30 for 6 - 7.30 pm North Hall Church Street Cessnock Refreshments will be served.
Wednesday 21	Regular Coffee and Chat, with a subject list on the day. Non-religious or political, share your thoughts and opinions.	10 - 11.30 am Cessnock Supporters Darwin Street Cessnock
Thursday 22	Our regular 'Balance and Bones' exercise group. Designed for U3A. Great for golfers and bowlers!	2 - 3 pm North Hall Church Street Cessnock
Friday 23	A favourite regular – Tai Chi. Another activity beneficial for mature age sports people.	10 - 11am North Hall Church Street Cessnock

Cessnock City U3A Inc. University of the Third Age PO Box 712 Cessnock NSW 2325

Media and general enquiries please email John Cormack

johnshannoncormack@hotmail.com or phone or text 0408 745 639

Last bus to Lomas



The sight of a large bus parked on Lomas Lane marks the start of work on the replacement of Lomas Lane Bridge, Nulkaba. The 12 metre bus is the unique mobile office of Kenpass, who have been engaged by Cessnock City Council to complete the work, and will be the last bus to cross the old structure. Residents will notice the vehicle parked on site during the construction period which commenced last week. The bus, purchased from Breast Screen Australia has a new lease on life after being converted into a 24 hour on site office. Cessnock City Council's, General Manager Stephen

Glen welcomed the arrival of the interesting site office and the start of another project under Council's capital works program. "The single lane timber girder bridge has deteriorated over time and is no longer adequate". "At the moment the bridge has a load limit of 12T which will be removed once the new bridge is opened", said Mr Glen. The wooden bridge will be replaced by a 12 metre, single lane, single span reinforced concrete bridge. A temporary side track and bridge will be installed to allow continued access to businesses and residents on Lomas Lane. The installation of the temporary bridge will commence tomorrow with the road to be closed from 9:30am to 2:30pm. Cessnock City Council thanks residents for their patience during the construction period. Hunter Valley Zoo will remain open during the

upgrade with an alternate route set up. To find out more call 02 4990 7714, visit <http://www.huntervalleyzoo.com.au/> or jump on their Facebook page for details.

Quotable quotes

You can do anything, but not everything. —David Allen
You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take. —Wayne Gretzky
The third-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the majority. The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority. The first-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking. —A. A. Milne
Just the fact that some geniuses were laughed at does not imply that all who are laughed at are geniuses. They laughed at Columbus, they laughed at Fulton, they laughed at the Wright brothers. But they also laughed at Bozo the Clown. —Carl Sagan
Never ascribe to malice, that which can be explained by incompetence. —Napoleon (Hanlon's Razor)

Australia's litter experts to get rid of rubbish at only conference devoted to this national problem



Experts from around the country will speak in Sydney on 31 August – 1 September 2016 about the strategies, plans, and approaches that have changed Australia's negative littering behaviours into positive ones. At Keep NSW Beautiful's third annual Litter Congress: Less Litter. Live Better. – the only conference in Australia to focus solely on littering – delegates from the waste and recycling industries, local and state government, and community groups will hear about the best and newest litter reduction techniques, campaigns, and methodologies.

Held in NSW, which has announced a new container deposit scheme designed to reduced beverage container litter, and where its Premier, Mike Baird, has announced reducing litter as one of his 12 Premier's Priorities, delegates will discuss littering issues, from roadside litter and plastic bags, to community problem areas, and provide concrete examples of strategies that actually work.

Littering is a pervasive problem in Australia. According to the National Litter Index, 90% of Australians feel guilty if they drop rubbish on the ground, but one third of the population admits to littering anyway. Food, cigarette butts and small pieces of paper such as receipts are the most typically littered items across the country – approximately 7 billion cigarette butts are littered in Australia each year.

"It has never been more important to come together and share our practical litter reduction strategies and successes," said Keep NSW Beautiful Chief Executive David Imrie.

"No one likes a littered community, and across Australia, local government teams, dedicated community groups, researchers and consultants, and more, are finding innovative solutions to litter that could apply to towns and cities across the country.

"Be inspired by examples of education and community engagement that have transferred problem public spaces into new community hubs of activity and leisure."

Tickets are still available to anyone in Australia who is directly involved in reducing littered materials – local and state government, environmental non-profits, industry and manufacturing, business owners, and more. The Litter Congress would not be possible without support from Presenting Partner the NSW EPA. "The EPA believes the congress is a great opportunity to share ideas on litter prevention initiatives," said the organisation in a statement provided to KNSWB.

Support also comes from Congress Supporting Partners: The Australian Packaging Covenant, Lion, Suez, BioBag and The Wrigley Corporation.

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 Affordability (25%) and neighbourhood safety (22%) were given as the two priorities for home buyers.

rates to land tax, and more. It is equally important to factor these costs in because they could have a serious impact on your finances.
 So before you make any decision, make sure you find out what all the additional costs will be make sure the biggest decision of your life does not leave you with any unpleasant surprises.

Find out about your assets

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO
 When buying an investment property there are a range of things you need to consider, however one matter is often forgotten. There may be fixtures and fittings included in the property you are looking at purchasing.
 Many people don't realise that these are can be depreciable items, and from a tax point of view can be advantageous.
 So you should determine if they are depreciable and their value at the point of purchase. You should ask the vendor if they have a depreciation schedule which you can use to prepare your own depreciation schedule. If you are not able to acquire the vendors depreciation schedule you may be able to Commission an independent report. You need to ask plenty of questions of your legal and tax advisors to make sure you're not losing out.



Hidden home costs

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO
 Buying a property is undoubtedly the biggest investment most people will ever make in their lifetime, which is why it is so important to be aware of every cost involved.
 Everyone is aware of how much a deposit usually is, but there is a whole raft of other costs which you need to know about.
 This includes stamp duty, legal fees, pest and building reports, council and water

All the Hot Topics!



The heats of the 2016 Mayoral High School debate were hotly contested this week as the Cessnock City Council hosted teams from four local high schools at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. In the first heat Cessnock High School (affirmative) and St Philip's Christian College (negative) debated the topic 'That the Olympics is of benefit to host cities'. Students reflected on the economic, social and reputational impact of the Olympics citing examples from Rio, London, Athens, Sydney and Moscow. The second heat saw Kurri Kurri High School (affirmative) and Mount View High School (negative) consider if 'Teenagers' relationship with exercise is becoming unhealthy'. Key points of discussion included healthy levels of physical activity, how technology has influenced

excise and perceptions of safety in the community. Following lengthy deliberation the adjudicators determined that the teams from St Philip's Christian College and Kurri Kurri High School had won their respective debates and secured a place in the final. Cessnock City Council General Manager, Stephen Glen said all the students were very well prepared and presented informed arguments supported by strong examples to make their case.
 "Congratulations to the teams from St Philip's Christian College (affirmative) and Kurri Kurri High School (negative) who will debate 'That mental health has changed since the introduction of digital technology' in the final to be held on Wednesday 24 August", Mr Glen said.
 Photo above: Jack Benic from Kurri Kurri High School

First Ballot of the Election

Wednesday, 10 August 2016 marked the close of nominations and the official candidate ballot draw for the forthcoming Cessnock City Council election to be held on Saturday, 10 September 2016.
 Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) is divided into four (4) Wards, with three (3) Councillors per Ward to be elected. Ballot results for the 4 Wards and details of the individuals and group candidates for Cessnock LGA can be found at candi-dates.elections.nsw.gov.au/. Election Day is less than a month away, with pre-poll commencing on 29 August 2016 and applications for postal votes now open. Voting is compulsory. Further details regarding pre-poll and polling day places are available at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/election.

daily thoughts

Nothing lowers the level of conversation more than raising the voice.
 ~Stanley Horowitz
 The most damaging phrase in the language is: It's always been done that way.
 ~Grace Hopper
 "An economist's guess is liable to be as good as anybody else's."
 ~Will Rogers

The top five bad neighbour habits revealed



Nuisance pets, loud music and using your parked spot were given as some of the worst habits of Australian neighbours.
 The new research was released by **Nabo**, a free social aimed at helping residents to get the most out of their local area.
 It revealed that the top five bad neighbour habits are:
 1. Nuisance pet
 2. Loud music
 3. Neighbours putting rubbish in your bin
 4. Using your parking spot

5. Leaving dog poo on your lawn/drive.
 It also showed that 84% of Aussies believed they are good neighbours, but only 67% thought this was reciprocated.
 The biggest difference in this view was in Tasmania where 92% rated themselves as good neighbours, but only 56% rated their neighbour's behaviour good.
 The research also exposed that you're more likely to be a better neighbour (87%) if you live in your ideal neighbourhood compared to living outside of this (68%).
 The influence of the internet
 The most popular way to meet the neighbours is online, with 68% having never met their neighbours in person, yet 40% connecting online.
 A total of 61% said the

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 Director

Taryn Bird | 0404 494 482
 Property Management Representative



Mayoral aspirant Bob Pynsent at back with Ward C ALP candidates (L-R) Allan McCudden, North Rothbury resident, Mel Dagg & Anne Sander at a meet-and-greet in North Rothbury recently.



(L-R) Paul Monforte, Paul Dunn & Liberal Mayoral candidate Rod Doherty at the Branxton Markets last Sunday



With just 18 days to go before the local government elections, 10th September 2016, it appears all candidates for the Mayoral seat & councillor aspirants are well and truly out & about. With a record number of candidates (49) for 12 council seats & 5 mayoral candidates it will be hot contest! The mayoral race could be the interesting contest with two Independents, a Liberal, ALP & Green vying for the pivotal position. Voting is compulsory & there is pre-polling. Check the AEC website for details.

(L-R) Ward C ALP Candidate Mel Dagg with Jane Power at the Branxton Markets last Sunday

Setting the pace for Development Applications

The latest data shows Cessnock City Council hits the ground running when considering development applications, approving just under \$600 million worth of developments over the past four years. The timely consideration of applications was also highlighted with Cessnock City Council again achieving under a 50 day average processing time for development applications. Welcoming the result Cessnock City Council General Manager, Stephen Glen said this is an outstanding milestone for our community. "This investment in our local area will provide long term benefits to the local economy and help create jobs in the region". "Of the \$576.6 million, last financial year alone we saw a development value of \$168.4 million which is one of the highest ever experienced in the local government area", Mr Glen said. Most recently last quarter, over \$48.5 million worth of developments were approved with major developments including:

- 15 dwellings in North Rothbury
- Expansion of Hunter Valley Gardens
- A restaurant, function centre and chapel in Pokolbin
- 248 residential allotments in Greta



Twenty eight years ago, Jacqui Rockett became President of Branxton VIEW club, and so a wonderful charity community organisation was founded. Seventy happy ladies celebrated our 28th Birthday on 11th August at Greta Workers Club-all definitely in party mode. Special guests included the Cessnock Lady Mayoress, Maitland VIEW representative, Robyn Bosch, Julie Cook and Laurel Dean representing Greta Workers Club and many more, (you are all special ladies!). Lunch was a delicious Chinese Banquet. Thank you, Pat and staff.

Cathy Lindsay and Shirley Waters were delighted to be presented with 10 year badges by former Zone Councillor, Robyn Bosch. Congratulations, ladies! Two club foundation member, Jan Travis and Edith McRae cut the birthday cake. Joan Nightingale and Sandie Smith were kept busy with the trading table bulging with homemade goodies, books, eggs and other wonderful items for sale.

The tables were decorated with placemats and pencils for colouring in those, packets of jelly babies and decorations of paper dollies-great work, ladies! This of course was all in keeping with our overall theme for the day, School Days. In turn, guests were entertained with a hilarious skit reminiscent of old school days, by our talented crew.

Proof of success for our dalliance was the applause and laughter, especially when that naughty character, Reggie Rhubarb got the cane and all the other "children" sang naughty rhymes! Many thanks to all those who supported us. We raised money for our four Learning for Life students.

Next month, Evelyn Thrift and Yvonne Bell will be the guest speakers, regaling us with "Scandalous Tales from Scandinavia". Everyone welcome to attend. Please ring our Secretary Bethany on 4938 7597 if you would like to attend.

Thursday, 6th October is the date for our popular, donn-lou Fashion Parade. This will be held at the Branxton Community Hall, 10 am for 10.30 am start. Cost is \$15 which includes a light lunch. Affordable women's clothing and accessories are available for purchase on the day, with adequate fitting room facility, EFTPOS available and the promise of the latest new season styles.

So come along, bring a friend and enjoy a super day out.

Have you noticed the stirrings of Spring on its way? The joyful songs of birds gathering nesting material, the burgeoning buds of blossoms to come and the longer light filled days. All marvellous reminders of the constant renewal of life! Enjoy! *Peace and love to everyone, Judy Spillard*

One day in retrospect, the years of struggle will strike you as the most beautiful.

- Sigmund Freud
- You can stand tall without standing on someone. You can be a victor without having victims.
- Harriet Woods
- Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals.
- Samuel Ullman
- Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Forgiveness is a strong move to make, like turning your shoulders sideways to walk quickly on a crowded sidewalk. It's your move.
- Unknown
- Self-respect is the root of discipline. The sense of dignity grows with the ability to say no to oneself.
- Abraham Joshua Heschel

Notice

You may have noticed the increased amount of notices for you to notice. Some of our notices have not been noticed. This is very noticeable. It has been noticed that the responses to the notices have been noticeably unnoticed. This notice is to remind you to notice the notices and respond to the notices, because we do not want the notices to go unnoticed.





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

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Julie 0427 381 250

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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



4 3 2

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



4 2 2

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



Singleton
523 Gresford Road
Rural Living Close to Town
Located on Gresford Road 5km from Redbournberry Bridge this 12.9 acre (approx) lot offers a rural lifestyle close to town. With fertile creek flats, connected power box and large level building site allows plenty of room for many different pursuits. Fantastic rural living close to town. Agent declares interest. Price: \$ 309,000
View: by appointment
Contact Allan Cruickshanks
0407 724 930
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



3 1 1

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



4 2 2

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



DALWOOD ACRES
NEW LAND RELEASE
A Limited land release at Dalwood Acres Branxton. All blocks have mountain and valley view's ranging in size of 5001m² to 1.46Ha. These lots are only 3 minutes from the F3 extension & the centre of Branxton. The lots will have town water, phone, power available & hinge joint fencing. Price: See Agent
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
LJ Hooker Singleton 6572 4930
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



4 2 1

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
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7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



4 2 2

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
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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

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ELDERSLIE

Lifestyle 100acres

100 acres of beautiful rolling countryside. Views to die for!
4 bedroom family home featuring open plan living, verandah, large new shed & free standing double garage

Asking \$830,000



New on Market

BRANXTON

Potential! Potential

Two large bedrooms plus large 'sleep-out'. Separate lounge, bathroom, Kitchen. Good sized fenced yard plus separate garage.
One to do up at the expected price

Expressions of Interest



New on Market

NTH ROTHBURY

A Little TLC Required

Solid three bedroom home.
Open plan.
All this on a large 809sm fenced block in popular North Rothbury

Asking \$245,000



EAST BRANXTON

Lovely family home

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

MUST SELL!

Open to all reasonable offers



EAST BRANXTON

Features include:-

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

Asking \$370,000



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)



NTH 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.

Asking \$420,000



BRANXTON

An opportunity not to be missed!

Well maintained family home in premier street. This is a well maintained 3 bedroom weatherboard family home on a 1320 square metre block. A combined living lounge room & dining room + large family room will add to your living pleasure. Modern kitchen & bathroom give some olden day charm with modern living. Fully fenced with a huge back yard which includes a non intrusive 6-bay garage + another free standing garage & fernery.

Reduced to \$379,000

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.

Asking \$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.

Asking \$830,000

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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



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!

Asking \$340,000 NEG



NTH ROTHBURY

"Jewel box"

This wonderfully fully renovated weatherboard cottage is set on a very large fenced block in the small hamlet of North Rothbury. Features include:- new bathroom, renovated kitchen, new decking front & back (both covered from summer evenings westerly sun), very large block, original floor boards renovated to near perfection, 2 bedrooms, 4 minutes to Hunter wineries & restaurants & 2 minutes to Huntlee New Town proposed commercial centre & other facilities. The home has a number of decor/design features that make this cottage a unique experience.

A must to inspect

Offers over \$305,000

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

Greta Tidy Towns Committee nominated for 2016 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Award



Greta Tidy Towns Committee from GRETA has been nominated for the Prime Super Community of the Year - Population Under 15,000 Award in the 2016 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards. We congratulate Greta Tidy Towns Committee for being nominated and wish them best of luck with judging on Wednesday 28th September 2016.

Nominations are being sought in the following categories:

- Department of Primary Industries Crown Reserve Trust - Community Manager's Award
- Prime Super Community of the Year - Population Under 15,000 Award
- Department of Primary Industries Crown Reserve Trust - Corporate Manager's Award
- Prime Super Community of the Year - Population Over 15,000 Award
- MOA Benchmarking Community Service in

Aged Care Award

□ Prime Super Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award

□ 1st Choice Rentals

Volunteering Award

□ Dobija Print World

Events and Tourism Award

Finalists will be presented

and winners announced at

an Awards Gala

Presentation Dinner on

Friday 11th November

2016. All nominees not

successful in reaching the

finals but able to attend the

Award Presentations will

also be presented on stage

with a framed certificate in

recognition of their

achievements.

Seven category winners

will be presented with a

\$2,500 Bank Account from

Commonwealth Bank and a

trophy and the other

category winner will re-

ceive Television exposure

on PRIME7 and a trophy.

We wish Greta Tidy Towns

Committee every success

in the future!

Please feel free to contact

them directly to cover the

story or contact the Awards

Office on 1300 735 445 or

email

nswactraca@awardsaustralia.com

for further information.

Double the Dollar

Match

We match. No catch.

Cessnock City Council is encouraging community organisations to apply for Dollar for Dollar Grant funding set to provide a boost to community facilities.

Community groups should submit an application if they are looking to upgrade community venues, sporting facilities or sporting equipment. Grants on offer include:

* Community Facilities Dollar for Dollar Grants Program

* Sporting Facilities and Equipment Grant Dollar for Dollar Grants Program Cessnock City Council General Manager, Stephen Glen encouraged local community and sporting groups to take advantage of the grants.

"Sport plays a big part in our community and supporting it at a grassroots level is a great way of boosting participation".

"Our local halls and community centres are vital as they host a range of events and activities for all residents including youth activities, playgroups, community gatherings and recreational activities".

"We look forward to supporting projects that will rejuvenate the places that bring our community together," Mr Glen said. Applications close on 9 September 2016. For more information visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/grants/council

Free Yourself of Unwanted Mattresses

Cessnock City Council is offering another two free mattress drop-off services in August and October making it easier for residents to dispose of old mattresses and ensembles. Cessnock City Council General Manager, Stephen Glen said the drop-off days were back by popular demand.

"We were overwhelmed by the sheer number of people using the drop of service and are pleased to be offering it again in two locations".

"Many don't realise that the majority of mattresses and ensembles contain valuable materials like steel, timber and foam which can be re-used or recycled", Mr Glen said.

The drop-off days will be held on:



Saturday 27 August 2016 at the Business Enterprise Centre Car Park, Corner Merthyr & Barton St, Kurri Kurri (Entry via Barton Street).

Saturday 22 October 2016 at Hunter TAFE Cessnock Campus Car Park, Darwin St Cessnock.

The service is available to Cessnock City Council residents only and proof of address is required.

Up to five mattresses or bases will be accepted per household between 8am and 12 noon. Mattress drop-offs must be made using a vehicle as there will be no pedestrian access. If you are unable to attend

the drop-off days mattresses can be taken to the Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre for disposal for a fee of \$27.

Photo: Sustainability Officer Michelle Lindsay and Environment and Waste Manager Michael Alexander with discarded mattresses at the Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre last August.

NOW OPEN

Greta Museum's
Old Style New
Wares
& Sweet Shop
Great for gifts or
just to indulge



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

Thomas

Real Estate



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.



1/17 Durham Road, Branxton
Price: \$309,950

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 with internal access
- Other features include; split air conditioning, gas, water & remote control doors on garage



1 Railway Street, Branxton
Price: \$360 per week

Details: 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom fully renovated home located in Central Branxton.



11 Tulloch Street, Branxton
Price: \$340 per week

Details: 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 3 car garage with rear access and power.

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 25th AUGUST

\$5,000

SUNDAY 28th AUGUST

\$3,500

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

MEAT RAFFLES

FRIDAY 7.00pm

SUNDAY 6.00pm

**FRIDAY NIGHT
ENTERTAINMENT**

26th AUGUST

2STUFD2JUMP

2nd SEPTEMBER

SOLID GOLD

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

24th AUGUST

\$1,000

SUNDAY

28th AUGUST

\$500

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

SAMMY'S AT THE PARK

FAMILY RESTAURANT

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY

LUNCH & DINNER

2 HAPPY HOURS

MILLER PARK

WEDNESDAY 4 - 6pm

GRETA

THURSDAY 4 - 6pm

\$3.30 SCHOONERS



“The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo”

AMY SCHUMER



like her popular comedy act, is plucky, forthright, hilariously raunchy—and honest. Though she claims the book is not an autobiography (at the age of 35, Schumer asserts, it's too early to share her life story), readers will learn of her childhood on Long Island, born into "New Money" (her father ran an exclusive baby furniture shop). By the time she's 10, however, challenging times have fallen on the family: the business is lost, her parents eventually divorce, and her beloved alcoholic father is diagnosed with MS. Schumer works various jobs (waitressing, pedicab driver, etc.) but ultimately is true to her passion for inspiring

laughter. The book's centerpiece is a comparatively longer essay on her career, revealing the hard work of touring and the dedication, heartaches, missteps, and triumphs on the path to stand-up success. Along with off-the-wall one-liners, anecdotes, and confessions, Schumer shares some solemn experiences, such as bodysurfing with her disabled dad for the last time, and her involvement in an abusive relationship with a boyfriend ("When you're in love with a man who hurts you, it's a special kind of hell, yet one that so many women have experienced"). Amid ill-fated dates, alcohol-induced blackouts, and late-night eating binges, Schumer, in these candid, well-crafted essays, wears her mistakes "like badges of honour."

Second Glance
 “The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo” (Gallery Books), by Amy Schumer Amy Schumer is a powerhouse in the entertainment industry, thanks to her Emmy-winning TV series, “Inside Amy Schumer,” and feature

film box-office smash “Trainwreck.” A comedian, actress, writer, producer and director, Schumer is on her way to adding “best-selling author” to her list of achievements with her new book, “The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo.” Schumer is a talented storyteller. She's known for standing in a spotlight and sharing every corner of her soul with thousands of strangers. So it's no surprise that her book is packed with hilarious, honest and often vulnerably raw details of her life. Her self-deprecating essays reveal a young Amy navigating the tricky waters of adolescence, including new love, lost friendships and the accidental discovery of what the naked body of an older woman looks like up close and personal. Readers also get a peek inside Schumer's “new money” world. She starts by chronicling the better part of a decade when she hustled comedy clubs for work in order to make a name for herself. She notes that her achievements are the result of hard work, never passing up an

opportunity to get on a stage, and the ability to poke fun at herself. Schumer writes that life isn't all butterflies and rainbows. She's been the subject of emotional and physical abuse. Her parents' divorce was painful. Her father suffers from a debilitating disease. And she'll never forget the dreadful night when two young women were killed in a shooting while watching her movie at a theatre. As a result, she's an advocate for domestic abuse and gun-violence awareness. Through all the pain, she's used each experience to grow into the version of Amy Schumer that she's supposed to be. Readers will laugh and cry, and may put the book down from moments of honesty that result in uncomfortable realistic details from her life. More important, the essays challenge readers to harness their own stories and rest in the fact that they're good enough. Experience the world. Be bold. Love your body. It's OK to fail and make mistakes. And lower-back tattoos can only make you stronger.



Amy Beth Schumer (born June 1, 1981) is an American stand-up comedian, writer, actress, and producer. She is the creator, co-producer, co-writer and star of the sketch comedy series *Inside Amy Schumer*, which debuted on Comedy Central in 2013 and has received a Peabody Award. Schumer has been nominated for five Primetime Emmy Awards for her work on the series, winning Outstanding Variety Sketch Series in 2015. That year, she also wrote and starred in the comedy film *Trainwreck*, receiving nominations for the Writers Guild of America Award for Best Original Screenplay and the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress – Motion Picture Comedy or Musical. In January 2016, Schumer was accused of stealing jokes from comedians Tammy Pescatelli, Kathleen Madigan, Wendy Liebman, and Patrice O'Neal. Schumer denied the allegations. Other comedians, such as Marc Maron and Dave Rubin, stood up for Schumer. Pescatelli later apologized, stating it had "gone too far," and Liebman stated she believed she and Schumer had engaged in parallel thinking. Personal life ~ Schumer has dated professional wrestler Nick Nemeth a.k.a. Dolph Ziggler, and comedian Anthony Jeselnik.

First Glance
 In her first book, the Emmy Award-winning comedian offers an entertaining and eclectic collection of 30-plus essays, including "An Open Letter to My Vagina" and "Forgiving My Lower Back Tattoo." Her prose,



Treasurer. Committee members to provide support to the above 3 positions would also help to continue to run our playgroup. Everyone is welcome to attend. Hopefully we see lots of people there.

As always new families are always welcome at Branxton Playgroup. Feel free to pop down one morning and visit. We operate at the Playgroup Hall Monday - Thursday from 9.30am. Your first two visits are free

so come along have a cuppa, a play and a chat. If you need any more information you can contact our Co-Ordinator Rachel Furner 0407015704. Happy playgrouping everyone.

Wow!! this year is going fast! Luckily we're now heading into warmer weather which hopefully means the end of yucky winter illnesses and more outside play here at Playgroup.

Branxton Playgroup are very excited that Huntlee has given us a Community Grant. Thankyou so much to Huntlee for supporting our little Playgroup, it's greatly appreciated by all of our families. Branxton Playgroup's AGM will be held on Wednesday 14th September at 7pm at our Playgroup Hall. All positions are vacant. Branxton Playgroup is run entirely by volunteers and we are now a 41 year old community group. In order for Playgroup to continue we need at the very least a Co-Ordinator, a Secretary and a

Put this date in your calendar and we'll see you at the Broke Village Fair!
 Sunday, 11th September, 9am – 3pm

The Broke Village Fair celebrates the spirit of our village in the beautiful Broke Fordwich Region. Come along to McNamara Park and enjoy the rural atmosphere while the village comes alive with 3,000 happy fair goers.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

There really is something for all members of your family – you'll lose time amongst the vintage and classic cars, trucks and motorbikes. This display gets bigger and bigger every year.

Dripping with nostalgia and all things *vintage* is the display of lovingly restored *machinery* of yesteryear by the hardworking members from the Hunter Valley Vintage Farm Machinery.

Over at centre stage it's non-stop action. Live music from our talented Broke Boys band, a whip cracking demonstration from an Australian champion and a test of strength and laughs in the Tug-o-War competition. Rocker Cover Car Racing (gravity propelled cars made from rocker covers) and bush poetry yarns provide fair dinkum entertainment. In between acts take your time and wander through the stalls, over 60 stall holders and unique products. Look out for magician Joel Howlett amongst the crowd.

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

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

All funds raised go to Vision Australia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Enquiries will be welcome at the Visitor Centre on 49 312800 or the website at info@maitlandhuntervalley.com.au, on our website at www.maitlandbandw.com or contact our

President, Kathy Willmott at kathryn_willmott@hotmail.com

Tickets are available from:

Maitland Visitors Information Centre

Heritage Gardens Nursery

Cherry Road Nursery

Bolwarra Café

At all the gardens on the day.

Prices are as follows:
 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:

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

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

SATURDAY ONLY: Transport and all gardens: Adults \$45,

Concession - \$35 (aged pension only)



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HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HWTWA

Visit us at winecountry.com.au
\$17.1 million Hermitage Road Upgrade and Cycleway Project will help boost Tourism
 The \$17.1 million project is funded by the NSW Government through a \$16.7 million grant under the Resources for Regions program, with additional

contributions from Singleton and Cessnock councils. There are over 40 businesses along Hermitage Road that will directly benefit from the upgrade of the road and the introduction of the cycleway. An estimated one per cent of the current 2.2 million visitors to the Hunter Valley Wine Country are cyclists, contributing an estimated \$5 million to the local economy. The new Hunter Expressway and the New England Highway both feed into Hermitage Road and are both a vital road link in the wine country region. The Hermitage Road upgrade and cycleway is a huge win for the people of the Hunter Valley and will bring a

significant economic boost to both Cessnock and Singleton Local Government Areas.

The popular 'Opera In The Vineyards' returns to the Hunter Valley

The wait is over! After a two year hiatus, 'Opera in the Vineyards' will return at the stunning Roche Estate (formerly Tempus 2016 heralds the return of this much loved annual celebration of food, wine and opera! This spring will see it staged for the first time at the stunning Roche Estate (formerly Tempus Two), right in the heart of Pokolbin.

Let your spirits soar as the stunning voices of Greta Bradman, Natalie Aroyan,

David Hobson and Richard Troxell lead you on a journey through some of the most beautiful arias and duets ever written. Even the 'opera-shy' will be familiar with these unforgettable masterpieces, brought to vibrant life with a full orchestra under the stars. A truly memorable experience and a wonderful excuse for a day or weekend away. Opera in the Vineyards' is a definite highlight in anyone's spring calendar. Please visit operainthevineyards.com.au for more information.

Hunter Valley Wine Country in the Top 3 Lastminute.com Best Australian Wine Regions

The new survey carried out by lastminute.com in Australia named the Hunter

Valley Wine Country in the Top 3 best Australian wine regions for a liquid getaway break. The survey revealed that more than half of people made their

Australian holiday decisions based on the quality of food and wine. With the Hunter Valley only a couple of hours drive from Sydney, a

weekend escape to wine country is the ultimate way to combine a food and wine experience with fresh country air. The Hunter Valley is certainly leading the charge with its award winning wines, world class restaurants and diverse range of activities and accommodation facilities. For more information visit winecountry.com.au



New milestone reached on Broke Road

Cessnock City Council announced work is nearing completion on Broke Road west and construction will shortly commence on Hermitage Road, as part of the \$17.1 million upgrade to the important road link to the region's wine country. Cessnock City Council General Manager, Stephen Glen, said over five kilometres of works on Broke Road have been completed including widening the road and the construction of a new cycleway.

"We have reached a significant stage of the project and we'll now turn our attention to Hermitage Road intersection", Mr Glen said.

Last Monday marked the official start of construction for Singleton Council's section of the Hermitage Road upgrade. Mr Glen said Cessnock crews look forward to meeting Singleton crews out on the road, once the projects finally meet up. "It's good to be working alongside Singleton Council to a deliver a project that will have far-reaching benefits for the wine industry in both LGAs", Mr Glen said. The Hermitage and Broke Road Upgrade project received \$16.7 million in funding under the NSW Government's Restart NSW Resources for Regions program and will be jointly delivered by Cessnock City Council and Singleton Council.

This project includes on-road cycleways and installation of tourist facilities including signage and rest areas.

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After Dumping Mail, Yahoo Sees Big Profits From Alibaba

Yahoo is getting rid of its email and web portal, selling those services off to Verizon in a multi-billion dollar deal. The email business wasn't generating enough revenue to suit the company and they decided to concentrate instead on their investment in the Chinese export company Alibaba.



Financially, it may have been a smart move. Alibaba's second-quarter revenue jumped almost 60% from the previous year to nearly \$5 billion dollars. Alibaba's online marketplace allows consumers to sell directly to other consumers and companies to reach consumers directly in other countries. Yahoo! owns a 15% share of Alibaba.

Arianna Huffington Leaves Huffington Post
Yahoo isn't the only online company recently picked up by Verizon. Verizon also acquired AOL last year. Now, the woman behind one of AOL's most high-profile properties is stepping down. Arianna Huffington is stepping down from the site she founded, The Huffington Post, one of the most popular news aggregator sites on the web and often considered the liberal alternative to The Drudge Report.



Huffington says she's leaving to pay attention to her new health and wellness company, though many speculate the move is connected to uncertainty over what will happen now that Verizon has also purchased Yahoo. Verizon says they plan to operate the services under one department.

Pokemon Go Biggest Mobile Game Ever
According to a report from Survey Monkey, Pokemon Go is already the biggest mobile game in history, even though it's only been out for less than two months.



The game had more daily active users than Twitter within a few weeks of release

Don't Let Freezes Free Your Captured Pokemon!
You are on-the-go in your Pokemon Go game. You catch that rare Pokemon and see that satisfying "Gotcha" confirmation that it's yours. Then tech happens and your device freezes! What do you do?



Stop. Breathe. Take control of your tech with the following steps:
When the game freezes, access your devices setting menu (a.k.a. control center for iOS) to turn ON Airplane Mode.
Navigate to the Pokemon Go game then close it. Standby until you get a "lost connection" notice from your device.

Check your connection and try again.

Retry

Restart the game.

Turn OFF Airplane Mode. Check to see if you've retained your newly captured Pokemon



Gothic Past
Gothic Past is the Visual Archive of Gothic Architecture and Sculpture in Ireland. When you arrive at the site, you can see excellent

examples of what the means by watching the scrolling feature slideshow. I highly recommend clicking on any of those features that strike your fancy as an excellent starting point for browsing the site.

I also recommend checking out the How To section before you get started browsing seriously. It describes the difference between being a registered and unregistered user, how the exhibits work, and what you can do in each of them. After that, you can choose to browse by Collection or Exhibit. You'll find both options on the navigation menu at the top of the page. Collections allow you fairly unmediated access to the objects in the archive. Exhibits provide you more background and history surrounding whatever object or subject the exhibit is about. I liked browsing both ways, but I recommend you check out the Featured Exhibit and Collection on the main page to get a sense of how they are different from each other.

I do Geospatial metadata in one of my other jobs, and I really love that they've included a Map section. There you can browse items by location. To do so, you can pick an item from the left side of the screen and then zoom in on its location on the map or click on a pin and discover objects that way.

This is a really cool archive! I hope you'll check it out today!
<http://gothicpast.com/>

Web Design In 4 Minutes

Welcome to an awesome click-through tutorial that teaches you how to make an awesome website in just four minutes. To begin navigation through the tutorial, you will click the blue links to progress through the steps. For example, you'll click "first thing" to load more information. The tutorial assumes you've already coded the content of the site and are now going to style it through CSS. If you need help with the HTML part, check out the tutorials at HTML Dog or W3Schools.

What I really like about this design tutorial is that it shows you the basics that you need to know in order to get started making a nice design, and as you progress through the tutorial - you'll see these changes, so that you can visually connect what the code is doing to the design.

After you've clicked through to completion make sure to also click the "And voilà!" link to see how the whole thing comes together with a header.

Go check it out for yourself today!
<http://jgthms.com/web-design-in-4-minutes/>

Underground Mathematics

Welcome to Underground Mathematics! This site brings you free resources that will help students explore the connections that underpin different math concepts.

This site is designed to help students learn the math concepts they need to pass their A levels. An A level is short for Advanced level and is taken by students primarily in the UK around age 18. I think this site would have been very helpful to me when I took math in my undergraduate studies. Before we dive into navigation, I want to rave about the infographic on the main page. It is colour coded by math subject (Number, Geometry, Algebra, Functions, and Calculus) and shows how they are all connected.

If you scroll down the main page, you can learn more about the site including how to use it. Now back to the map, it also serves as the menu to help you navigate the site. You can click any of the hyperlinked concepts (those without a hammer icon or circle icon) and be whisked away to a full range of content for that subject. You'll notice the sections with hammer icons are also linked, but they might be under construction or not have a full range of content yet.

At the top of the section, you'll find a list of Key Questions and a list of nearby stations (related concepts). As you scroll down you'll find introductory content, developing content, and then review questions.

One thing I'd like to point out is the navigation strip along the top of the page. There you'll find a search field that you can use to locate specific concepts that you might be working on. You'll also find the user section where you can create a free account which allows you to comment on resources and receive the newsletter. And the More button that has a variety of links, but most importantly a link to the How to Guide.

I think this is a really awesome site to help review and connect math concepts! Go check it out for yourself today!
<https://undergroundmathematics.org/>

The History of Star Trek Uniforms

I'm a huge Star Trek fan! I can't wait for the new TV series to come out. I ran across this infographic as I was looking for information on the new series, and it was so awesome, I've decided to share it with all of you.

It goes through the history of Star Trek uniforms starting with the original television series through to the most recent Star Trek movies. Go check it out for yourself today!
<https://www.costumesupercenter.com/blog/star-trek-uniforms-infographic/>

MOVIE REVIEW

WAR DOGS

ABOUT

The true story of two men who were contracted by the Pentagon to arm America's allies in Afghanistan.



Bro! Did you hear about the two bros who scored the \$300 million government contract, bro?

Director Todd Phillips has fashioned "War Dogs" as "Goodfellas" for the bros set. Call it "Goodbros." It follows a pair of childhood pals who miraculously become arms dealers and nab a \$300 million contract from the U.S. government. Dude! Phillips celebrates the pair's triumph the way you'd root on a buddy playing beer pong. He never really questions the moral or ethical dilemmas at hand, he's too stoked for his pals and their big score. "Government's been screwing us over for years, man," you can hear him justifying. Thing is, Phillips — the merry madman behind "Old School" and the "Hangover" movies — is in over his head fashioning a crime saga. He tosses in classic rock songs, freeze frames and title cards meant to give the material heft, but which come off as Diet Scorsese. The giant "Scarface" mural that can be seen in several scenes is meant to explain his protagonists' worldview of glorified violence, one step removed, but it's also

Phillips' blatant homage to the movies he's aping. (A better blueprint would have been Andrew Niccol's "Lord of War," which actually satirized war profiteers, where Phillips identifies with them.) Miles Teller and Jonah Hill are David Packouz and Efraim Diveroli, two Florida friends who became obscenely rich from dealing arms until they got busted by the Feds. (The script is based on a Rolling Stone article about the real life duo.) Teller is tasked with giving Packouz a soul, which is only half convincing and contrived for storytelling purposes. Ana de Armas is a dud in a thankless role as Packouz's girlfriend, whose job it is to bum Packouz out by nagging him about the lack of attention he's paying her, or their child. Hill's is an extension of the role he played in "Wolf of Wall Street," though his main addition to the character is an obnoxious cackle that feels like a forced catchphrase every time he lets it fly. Bradley Cooper shows up as a shady war monger with whom the boys do a deal; he's playing the Robert De Niro role,

which is fitting since he's the most important figure in Phillips' universe. (Zach Galifianakis doesn't show up, but tellingly, Instagram alpha bro Dan Bilzerian makes a cameo.) "War Dogs" is all slickness and no soul; it's like if "The Big Short" made heroes out of the mortgage lenders. It's watchable popcorn entertainment and it goes down easy, but material like this should be challenging and should at least ask a few prodding questions. The questions "War Dogs" asks are mainly "how can I do that?" and "where do I sign up?" It's like a recruitment tool for douchebags. "War is an economy," Teller's character says in voiceover. "Anyone who tells you otherwise is either in on it or stupid." "War Dogs" is also in on it, and its dime-store moralizing in its final act can't distance itself from its treatment of its two leads as rock stars. The "Scarface" mural isn't a commentary; it's an endorsement



Wines & Vines

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

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



learning abilities are being vastly diminished due to their attachments with technology.”
 “What can be done about it?”
 “Well, in the case of children, it comes down to education in schools on correct usage of them, as well as parents being made aware of subsequent side effects of prolonged identification. What all humans really need to do in the face of this expansive age of technology is learn to become aware of their inner existence.... their spirituality. At the core of all of this is a disconnection from who people really are... as one with life. People simply need to meditate. Simple as that!”
 “F***! Look at this wave!”
 “You know nowadays, your mobile phone can be

I am currently floating on a boat in the Indian Ocean and in deep conversation with one of my American surfing buddies who has spent the majority of his life working alongside Steve Jobs, at Apple. Our conversation suddenly turns to the previously unspoken issue of smart phone addiction. My friend holds no bars when professing that smart phones are one of life's most addictive forms, outside of human 'thinking'. I notice that there is no correlation to the typical barometers of alcohol or drugs. "There are so many addictions humans fall victim to", he smiles, "and the first are their obsessive thoughts. Humans display an unquenchable thirst for making themselves 'viable' through who they think and believe they are, which are merely thoughts, not truths. Their incessant behaviour to 'have' and accumulate is a chronic addiction, a cause and effect of unconscious thinking. Give these people a smart phone, a device capable of all communication, online banking and purchasing, information and entertainment... and that unconscious thinking is taken to a new level. People identify with them and rely on them to give them a sense of 'who they are!'" As I quickly realise I could possibly be a fine example of this, he continues.....

"Angry Birds (a game available as an App) is a typical example of smart phone addiction from a user point of view. But it is the chronic identification with smart phone users who find their identity through chronic texting, Facebook, twitter, Instagram and the like who are not only addicted but have lost all possibility of contentment of life owing to building their false selves through a reactive view brought on by this technology. In other words, people have lost themselves and attached their unconscious behaviours and thoughts to these devices." "Right... Oh, look at that wave... how awesome!" I suggest, desperately trying to change the focus of the conversation.

"...and it is now an epidemic. Supposed drug and alcohol addiction is nothing on these things. The three main addictions in humanity today are thinking, interpersonal technology (apparently everything from smart phones to television to poker machines) and sugar!" "How can you be addicted to thinking, that's like saying you're addicted to air?" I quiz. "Thinking is a gift that if used in complete consciousness, complete presence, is necessary. However, humans are completely trapped in a storm of excessive and obsessive thinking where negativity is often at the foundation of the stream of thoughts, which incidentally, are not actually truths, just thoughts. People often believe in their thoughts and identify themselves with them. It is an addiction. If you don't believe me, try stopping them." "Oh look... another great wave....."

"Having been at the forefront of the development of this amazing technology (smart phones), there is no doubting the fact that it has changed the face of the world. But at what cost? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to view the way young children lose themselves in technology. How many kids do you see living on a high sugar diet, their face planted in some sort of device and thinking that this is what life is? Their social skills, outdoor entertainment and

tracked anywhere in the world. One day soon, the technology will be such that not only will you be able to track where someone is but also what they are doing and even what they are thinking, through pulse assertionification." "Get outa here!" "No, really!" At this stage, I sit with the notion and recede a little in my chair. Oh, I'm so happy to hear this news. I can just envisage sometime in the future my beautiful, adoring, patient and understanding wife sitting with my mother-in-law waiting for me to come home. "Where's Marshy?" "I don't know... he said he'd be back by now... hold on... I'll just track him down. Oh, it's alright, he's just in Kings Cross with a roomful of hookers, snorting cocaine from their breasts and watching surfing videos....." "What!!! What on earth is he thinking?" "Oh, I can tell you that too.... hang on.... I just have to press this little button.... it says here.... "This is so much better than sitting with my wife and mother-in-law talking about the interior design of our house!" and now he's thinking "Oh my God, I'm living the dream!"

My friend, in my eyes, makes some valid points. They are not points that we are all not aware of to some degree. Surely... surely... there is someone out there at this very moment constructing a program which is aimed at the inevitable smart phone/technology addicted market. Having a rather innate knowledge of becoming 'passionate' about certain pastimes, I can fully resonate with addictive patterns (mmmwwwhahahahaha!) and there is no doubt whatsoever that the addictive thinking my friend spruiks about is the incessant 'mind chatter' which can cling on to any forms, from alcohol to drugs to phones to waves to.... well, anything really! It's all a bit scary. I feel somewhat vulnerable. Excuse me now whilst I go an snack on a Mars Bar and settle in for a few hours of Angry Birds..... and if you really want to know what I'm thinking, you'll have to wait for the technology to be released... or I could just tell you now..... I'm living the dream!

Cheers
Andrew



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

With the greatest respect to you Mayor Bob Pynsent I was annoyed to hear you say at a 'meet and greet' morning that the VPA monies being given to North Rothbury by Huntlee were for Roads. Is this a decision already made by CCC? Instead of Council telling the residents, how about consulting us? We live here you don't. The biggest problem here is 'run off'. We need deep graded spoon drains, not for our roads to be modernised to become high speed traffic sewers. Our kids use these roads. We don't need them to become short cuts to new villages. If you can't do spoon drains. Rather use the money to build a Great Wall around our Historic village. I will still be a resident here when you are no longer mayor.

I am really sad for all the men who have been emasculated by lesbians, communists, and even their own wives and mothers. Never mind about beaten women. I have witnessed more men being shrunk by uneducated wives who never provide a soft landing for their men after a long day or even common respect. To beaten women I say WALK. To unhappy men I say WALK. Just get out and go.

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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
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538
 The pick of.....
 GO TO FOR FURTHER DETAILS
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/branxtonandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/>
For Sale: Harvey Norman lounge suite with chase. Like new condition. 13 months old (can provide receipt), excellent condition, no marks or scuffs. Has fabric protection from electrody (can provide receipt). From a clean, smoke free and pet free home. Welcome to inspect. \$1500 (Branxton NSW)
For Sale: 5.5kg washing machine. Pick up Branxton \$100 (Branxton NSW)
For Sale: 390 Ltrs fridge freezer Westinghouse \$100 (North Rothbury)
For Sale: 8x5 trailer. Long draw bar. Spare wheel & tie downs. \$799 (Greta NSW)
For Sale: S2dio Outdoor Table and Chairs. 8 Seater S2dio Octagon Dining Table and Chairs with Lasy Susan. Brought new for \$2000.00. Would like \$1100 (Greta NSW)
For Sale: Chainsaw mill attachment. Convert Your Chainsaw into a portable mill/slabbng machine!!!! This chainsaw mill can be fitted to a chainsaw with a bar of 18" to 36" You can adjust the thickness from 1/2" to 13" thick. Come's with a complete Instruction manual and operation guide. \$250 (Maitland NSW)

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



Thur 25 Aug - Greta Public School; Book Week Dress Up Parade & Book Fair & Greta Play2Learn Playgroup
Sat 27 Aug - Annual Op Shop Fashion Parade @ Branxton Community Hall from 2.00
Wed 31 Aug - Cessnock City Council TREE GIVEAWAY. Completed application forms must be received no later than 5:00pm Wednesday, 31 August 2016. Have you purchased or built a new home during the 2015/2016 financial year? Did you know you can get up to eight (8) free plants for your property from Cessnock City Council?
Thur 1 8 15 & 22 Sept - Greta Public School, Greta Play2Learn Playgroup
Thur 1 & Fri 2 Sept - Branxton Public School Stage 2 Sydney Excursion
Tue 6 Sept - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club
Thur 8 15 & 22 Sept - Kirrkton Public School Kindergarten students for 2017 are invited to attend these sessions to begin to familiarise themselves with KPS. 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Fri 9 Sept - Cessnock City Council final day to apply for Sporting Facility and Equipment Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme. It is advised that all applicants contact Council's Recreation & Community Liaison Officer Kate Hicks on 4993 4234 prior to lodging an application.
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
Mon 19 Sept - Branxton Public School P&C Meeting 6pm in library

Sat & Sun 17 & 18 Sept - Maitland Garden Ramble 10am - 4pm
20-22 Sept - New South Wales Wine Industry Awards at Cessnock Leagues Club
Fri 23 Sept - Last day of School Term
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.
Tue 13 Dec - Greta Public School Presentation Day 2016
Wed 14 Dec - Greta Public School Y6 Farewell
Sun 18 Dec - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds



Kirkton Public School News

Small Schools Soccer
A big congratulations to our Soccer team! They won their soccer game against Kulnura Public School 8 points to 2. The game was extremely exciting with our team supporting each other to score some great goals. Many parents and grandparents were cheering them on with much enthusiasm. Great effort! Great result!



Kindergarten Orientation Days
Our Kindergarten Orientation Sessions will begin this term. Kindergarten students for 2017 are invited to attend these sessions to begin to familiarise themselves with Kirkton Public School. The dates are listed below.

Thursday 8th September 2:00pm – 3:30pm, Thursday 15th September 2:00pm – 3:30pm & Thursday 22nd September 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Greta Public School

EDUCATION WEEK AWARD RECIPIENTS ~ A huge congratulations goes out to all of our award winners. It was a great night recognising some of the excellent work and effort that is practised everyday in Public Education. Wow!! What a performance by our senior dance group at last night's Education Week Awards Ceremony! The amazing costumes and make-up looked spectacular under lights. The dancers were dynamic and their timing was perfect. Congratulations to our dancers and special congratulations to Mrs Gilmour for all her hard work in getting the dance group to where it is today. Thanks also to our parents who have assisted with make-up and transport for the performances. It makes us all proud to be a part of Greta PS. I was especially proud when the audience clapped and cheered at the end and the other principals seated near me were gob-smacked at how polished our routine was. Well done to all involved.

PRESENTATION DAY 2016 ~ After much discussion we have decided that this year we will trial a daytime Presentation Awards Ceremony. This will be held at 11.30am on Tuesday 13th December.

YEAR 6 - SUPER SLEUTHS ~ Year 6 have been taking part in the Wetlands Environmental Education Centres Wet and Wild Research challenge. They have split into two teams, Girls V's Boys, and both are fighting hard to be crowned the champion researchers. Week 1 sees the girls out in front, but not by much. This week has seen a new resolve and determination by the boys to be in the lead. The improvement in their research skills has been noticeable after only two weeks. Keep an eye out in next weeks newsletter to see if the girls hold on to their lead or if the boys are able to claw their way to the top.

Yr 2 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY INDIGENOUS MAT ~ Year 2 are really enjoying using their new mat that is made from recycled plastic bags. These mats would make a fantastic outdoor/indoor or picnic mat. If you would be interested in having a look at the many beautiful designs available you can go to any of the following websites. www.globalkidsoz.com.au www.recycle mats.com.au www.aboriginalmats.com.au

P&C NEWS FOR YOUR INFORMATION: All proceeds from events are going towards the purchase of the rubber soft fall to be placed around the schools fixed equipment. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can raise funds to go towards this major project please share your ideas with a P&C member or attend our next P&C fundraising meeting. Our target goal is \$40,000. **FUNDRAISING HOLIDAY RAFFLE:** The raffle books will be distributed on 4/8/2016. The tickets can be sold all throughout Terms 3 & 4, with the draw to be held at school presentation.

OLYMPIC DRESS UP: Will be held on Friday 19/8/16 with a gold coin donation. **FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST:** Will be held on Thursday 1/9/16. Further details to follow in coming weeks.

FATHER'S DAY STALL: Will be held on Friday 2/9/16. Further details to follow soon. **CESSNOCK CITY MOTOR GROUP:** We are proud to announce that we have accepted a school partnership program with Cessnock City Motor Group. This partnership opportunity is exclusive to Greta Public school staff and members of the school community. Vehicle Service Partnership Program involves: · Service bookings for staff members, parents and community members will be booked as a priority service · Vehicles will be washed and vacuumed at completion of service. · Cessnock City Motor Group will donate \$20 back to our school for every vehicle serviced. · Cessnock City Motor Group will further donate \$100 to our school when staff, parents or community members purchase a new or used vehicle from the dealership. For our school to benefit from this program please do not forget to mention our schools name, when booking a service or purchasing a vehicle. Please call Mr Craig Torsney on 0437355360 or email craig@cessnockcity.com.au if you would like more information on the partnership program or wish to book your vehicle in for a service.

Greta Play2Learn ~ A reminder to families with children aged 0-6 years, Greta Public host "Greta Play2Learn" every Thursday in the school hall from 9:30-11:330am. Come along and share morning tea, meet other families whilst enjoying art and craft activities, educational toys, books and games with your children. A wonderful networking and educational morning every week!

Dates to Remember GPS
School Assembly – Tuesday 9th August, Greta Play2Learn Playgroup – Thursday 11th August, ZONE ATHLETICS – Friday 12th August, Greta Play2Learn Playgroup – Thursday 18th August, School Assembly – Tuesday 23rd August, Book Week Dress Up Parade & Book Fair – Thursday 25th August, Greta Play2Learn Playgroup – Thursday 25th August, Greta Play2Learn Playgroup – Thursday 1st September, School Assembly – Tuesday 6th September, Greta Play2Learn Playgroup – Thursday 8th September, Greta Play2Learn Playgroup – Thursday 15th September, Greta Play2Learn Playgroup – Thursday 22nd September, Last day term 1 – Friday 23rd September, Angels – Monday 12th December, GPS Presentation Day – Tuesday 13th December, Y6 Farewell – Wednesday 14th December, End of Year Movie Day – Friday 16th December

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



≡ The gorgeous Junior Dance Team before their performance at the Hunter Region Dance Festival.



≡ Our delightful little monsters (aka the Senior Dance Team) warming up for their performance at the Hunter Region Dance Festival.



≡ Hmmm... We didn't really mean "break a leg!"



≡ Relaxing backstage before the show!



≡ Our unused demountable has finally gone!! More room for sports fields!!



≡ Students working together to improve the school environment. Another way we all demonstrate respect and responsibility!



Branxton Public School

Congratulations to our Education Week Award recipients for 2016. They received their awards at the presentation at Rutherford Technology High School in Week 3 where the Senior Dance Group performed to an appreciative audience. They were: Isabella Faustini and Joshua See for Excellence in Student Achievement; Ms Joanne Towns for Excellence in Teaching; Mrs Toni Beech for Outstanding Contribution by a Community member to the school; Weekly Sports Program for School Achievement Award; Mrs Kim Goodyer for Outstanding Contribution by a non-teaching member of staff and Bethani Fenwick for the AECG Award for an Aboriginal Student. Mr Ouvrier also received a special award to recognise his dedication to Branxton Public School. Well done everyone!

NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In Week 4 we celebrated NAIDOC with a visit from Uncle Glenn, Johnny and some students from Woodbury Public School. They began the day with a smoking ceremony and an Acknowledgement to Country. After this K-2 students and then 3-6 students watched and participated in performances by Johnny and the Woodbury dancers. Our Indigenous students then had an opportunity to do some painting with Johnny's guidance. Besides other cultural activities in the classrooms over the week, each class was given a set of clapping sticks to paint. They were made from the She-oak trees in our playground by Mr Cousins. They look fantastic – check out the photo of them being used!

Mrs Maier accompanied our school captains Grace and Will to a special breakfast to celebrate education in the Cessnock City Council region. The guest speaker was 'Chief' Paul Harragon, Newcastle and Australian Rugby league representative. His message to the young leaders was about goal setting and achieving your personal best.

Dates for the Calendar

Monday 19th September – P&C Meeting 6pm in library
Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd September – Stage 2 Sydney Excursion
Thursday 15th September – "The Boscars" School Concert



≡ Grace & Will with The Chief



≡ Award Recipients



≡ Clapping sticks in action



≡ Johnny with students



≡ Smoking ceremony

At Branxton Public School students, staff and community are Respectful, Responsible and achieve their Personal Best.

The Darley Stallion Parade 2016



Lonhro



Epaulette

Some of this country's best stallions were strutting their stuff at Darley's annual parade of stallions last Saturday. Names like Lonhro and Exceed and Excel were joined by relative newcomers Epaulette, Dawn Approach & Exosphere parading in front of more than 1500 visitors to the stud's 'Kelvinside' property near Aberdeen. The decision on who to choose for the upcoming season was on the mind of the many breeders watching the stallions parade. MC'ed by Alastair Pulford & televised web wide world wide it was a tantalising day with many there to savour the magnificent flesh on display.

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 17 Aug 2016

Yarding 785 ~ **Change 265** (Comparison Date 10/8/16)

Numbers lifted substantially for a mixed quality penning of mainly younger cattle, with the bulk suitable for the restocker competition. There were pens of prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers also in the offering; however these were limited in supply. The export weighted categories were scarce in the pens and the usual buying orders competed in a generally firm to slightly cheaper market. Vealer steers to restockers under 200kg defied the firm to cheaper trend and improved 10c, making from 371c to 455c/kg. The medium weights maintained firm prices to average 414c after reaching 432c/kg. The medium weight vealer heifers to the back-grounders and restockers slipped 10c, making from 349c to 387c/kg. The lighter end of the yearling steers to the restockers remained firm at 360c to 405c/kg. Yearling heifers lost 10c, as the restockers paid from 341c to 378c/kg to secure their selections. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the restockers sold marginally cheaper, however the best yearling heifers topped at 399c/kg. Cows struggled to remain firm, with the plainer end slipping 9c/kg, while the heavier drafts sold at similar prices, week-on-week. The plainer 2 scores averaged 243c, with the better covered heavier pens ranging from 240c to 270c/kg.



Score report date 16 Aug 2016

Yarding 1503 ~ **Change 596** (Comparison Date 9/8/16)

Numbers jumped by 600 head, totalling 1,500 head, with some good runs of well-bred calves and vealers attracting strong bidding from an increased number of restocker buyers. The majority of the yarding consisted of young cattle and processor interest was subdued due to limited numbers of export types. The supplementary fed cattle also sold slightly stronger while with secondary lines were also well sought after. Light weight calves sold from 383c to 450c, with strong restocker interest in well-bred lines, while medium weight vealer steers to restock averaged 434c, up 30c/kg. Medium weight vealer heifers sold 9c dearer, topping at 423c and averaging close to 394c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to restock averaged 399c and were unchanged on last week, while heavy weights to feed ranged from 340c to 380c/kg. Medium weight heifers to restock averaged 4c cheaper, averaging 379c, while those to process sold steady, averaging 370c/kg. The export grown steers topped at 359c to average 328c, while the cow market was slightly dearer, with heavy D3 lines ranging from 253c to 278c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date 15 Aug 2016

Yarding 1656 ~ **Change 577** (Comparison Date 8/8/16)

TRLX Tamworth report date 15 Aug 2016 Yarding 1656 comparison date Change 577 Consignments lifted with a large selection of yearling cattle. There was a small number of well finished grown steers and a fair supply of cows. The quality of the offering was fair to good, while there was a large variation in the condition. The full field of buyers were in attendance. Demand for all classes of young cattle to restock and feed remained high, resulting in dearer trends throughout. There were odd sales of secondary quality cattle that struggled to maintain recent levels. Light weight vealer and yearling steers to restockers were 20c to 25c/kg dearer, with breed a contributing factor in some sales. Medium and heavy yearling feeder steers also sold to a dearer trend, up 13c to 16c/kg. Light weight vealer and yearling to restockers saw a dearer trend, although prices did not improve by as much as the steer equivalents. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed were up to 11c/kg dearer. Heavy weight trade yearlings sold on a firm to slightly cheaper market trend, while the medium weight trade heifers were slightly dearer. There was little change in the market trend for heavy grown steers to process. Grown heifers suffered price falls mostly due to a variation in quality. The cow market saw cheaper trends of 10c to 16c/kg, and more in places, with quality a contributing factor in some cases.



Mid Hunter Palliative Care Volunteers

Thursday September 15th 2016
 Conference Room, Dangar House, Singleton Hospital
 2:30 for 3pm start
 Afternoon tea provided
 All interested parties welcome
 RSVP 6572 2121
 By 12th September 2016



Sheep and Goat Information Session September 7th 2016

Where and When: Ruminant Animal Training Centre - Tocal Dairy - on September 7th 2016
 Time: 9:00 for 9:30am start - 12:30pm

lunch provided

- 1) Rates and Ratepayers- PIC's- NLIS-NVD
- 2) Impact of internal parasites on production (Stephen Love DPI)
 - 2 producers will discuss their experiences with worms
- 3) Endemic diseases
 - CAE
 - Johne's Disease
 - Footrot
- 4) Doe & Ewe health; Preparation for healthy kidding and lambing
- 5) Importance of Biosecurity
- 6) Pest Animal Control

If you would like to attend please contact the Hunter LLS office at the Saleyards on Ph: 02 49328866

Find us on..  North Rothbury
Tidy Towns
 House of the Month Caring for our environment

Congratulations to Daniel Wilson of 14 Rothbury Street, North Rothbury. Daniel has created a fantastic topiary in the shape of Australia!



Recycle Right

Cessnock City Council is encouraging local residents to improve their recycling habits, as new data shows while we have a commitment to recycling we aren't always doing it right. Recent audit results are concerning with 10 per cent of recycling bins contaminated with material that should be in the waste bin. Council's Environment & Waste Manager Michael Alexander said it's really important as a community we remember to dispose of different items correctly. "When recyclables are contaminated with general waste the entire contents of the bin then becomes landfill, defeating the purpose of recycling." "Recapturing materials that can be reprocessed avoids expensive landfill and helps our environment. Put simply, the recycle bin is not another waste bin." "A resident may have their service suspended if their recycle bin is con-

taminated so it is really important to think before you toss an item in the nearest bin," Mr Alexander said. Residents are also reminded that plastic bags are not recyclable through this service. Other material that should not be put in the recycle bin includes:

- Building waste
- Garden waste
- General household waste
- Car parts
- Nappies
- Styrofoam

Residents who are unsure should check their Recycle Right sticker on their bin, visit the HRR website <http://hrr.com.au> or call the free Hotline (1800 838 884).



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Spring Fair - St Phillip's Christian College Cessnock

Event Date
27-Aug-2016 10am to 3pm

Venue: St Phillips Christian College - Wine Country Drive Nulkaba (Near Cessnock)

Spring is coming! So come and join us for the Spring Fair at St Phillip's Christian College Cessnock.

This year promises something for everyone with:

- * The woodchopping competition - featuring up to 30 axemen competing for \$5000.00 in prize money!
- * Live performances across the entire event - Acts including 'The Fruit Trees', 'Lines of Flight' and Lachlan Simpson
- * Gourmet food to feed the masses
- * 75 Market stalls
- * Rides and jumping castle
- * Xbox truck
- * Showbags
- * Helicopter rides
- * Hunter Valley Zoo animal displays
- * Equestrian event including exhibitions and competitions involving the Light Horse Brigade Vintage cars and so much more!

Plus, a new delight at this year's fair is 'The Gourmet Palette', an exhibition hall featuring food, art and textiles judged by prominent local experts. The Gourmet Palette is open to entrants now so why not put your talents on show at the fair!

For all the latest information see the college website or search for 'Spring Fair - St Phillips Christian College Cessnock' on Facebook

It will be marvellous family day out, so don't miss it!

Website
<http://www.spcc.nsw.edu.au/index.php?c=18>

For further event information contact Spring Fair Liaison Kath Hiron on 02 4007 5000

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Greta Branxton United Cricket Club

Rego Day 2016

We now have online registration. Go to gretabranxtoncc.nsw.cricket.com.au and click on the registration tab then complete the registration form. Or GBUCC's Registration Day will be held on Saturday, 17th September 10am-1pm at Miller Park Cricket Ground for anyone who is not able to register online

Registration fees for this season:
 Milo In2 Cricket \$75
 Junior \$60
 Senior \$100

President: Sean Wright 0429 578 322
 Secretary: Mel Dagg 0407 006 907
 Junior Coordinator: Roslyn Shearer 0427 558 416

The NEWS SPORT

Colts Ladies through to Grand Final

Rugby kids dream!!



The Greta/Branxton Colts Ladies League Tag team won through to this year's premiership decider after a nail-biting 18-16 golden point win over Muswellbrook in the preliminary final played at

Scone Park last Sunday. It is the first time the Colts girls have reached a grand final since the League Tag competition kicked off in 2014. After being defeated fairly convincingly by Scone in

the major semi-final the previous week, the Colts again started slowly, with Muswellbrook adding first points with a pretty soft converted try after five minutes to lead 6-0. The Colts hit back shortly after when Kimberly Sharpe went straight through the middle to plant the ball down next to the sticks. Skipper Ashlee Harvey added the extras to lock things up at 6-all, and a missed attempt at penalty goal from the Colts right on half time meant that there was no further addition to the score.

The Colts got out of the

blocks nicely in the second half, with Harvey putting through a grubber kick midway through the half and swooped on the bouncing ball to slam it down just before the dead ball line. The attempted conversion was waved away and the Colts held onto a 10-6 lead. Greta/Branxton extended the lead out to 16-6 with eight minutes remaining in the match when fullback Caitlan Shoulders strolled over from dummy half to score next to the uprights, and Harvey's successful conversion should have been enough of a lead to end proceedings. However a spirited Muswellbrook side had other ideas, with back to back tries locking things up at 16-all with just two minutes remaining. The sideline conversion attempt of the second of these tries to win the game fell well short of the mark, and when the full time hooter sounded it was time for golden point.

The first five minutes of golden point remained scoreless, but in the ninth minute skipper Harvey who was the Colts best on the day chipped ahead from 30 metres out, only to be tripped over in her attempt

to regather the ball. This resulted in a penalty to the Colts, and nursing a corked right leg Harvey limped up to the mark to take the kick at goal from 20 metres out and 15 metres in from the western touch line. Like a seasoned professional she calmly piloted the penalty kick straight over the black dot, with her jubilant team mates quickly swarming in to celebrate.

Harvey received the player's player award, with Shoulders and Brooke Carter among the Colts best in a fine all-round performance.

The Colts now take on Scone in this Sunday's grand final at Muswellbrook's Olympic Park, kicking off at 10:00am.

In the other grades Muswellbrook will take on Singleton in U/18's, Aberdeen will play Singleton in reserve grade, while in first grade Scone will take on Muswellbrook after the Thoroughbreds escaped a fast finishing Aberdeen to win 31-30 in golden point.

Photo above: Sofie Casson in action for the Scone Thoroughbreds' women's league tag side against Greta Branxton on the 2nd August 2016.



Alec Gough and Laine Meyers from Pokolbin Rugby Club Juniors had the thrill of a lifetime when they met two of the current Australian Wallaby's legends on a recent trip to the big smoke. Above with flanker Michael Hooper & at left with fullback Israel Folau. How good does it get!!!!



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