



# The News

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## Oaths and affirmations as Singleton Council elects deputy mayor at first meeting of the new term



the oath or affirmation before General Manager Jason Linnane. It was the first time such a ceremony has been performed in Singleton following amendments to the *Local Government Act, 1993*. The Council also elected Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite as deputy mayor for a two-year term. In taking on the role consecutively following on from the previous term of Council, Deputy Mayor Adamthwaite said he was looking forward to working beside Mayor Moore. "We might only be a week in, but this Council already has a strong sense of what we want to achieve and a commitment to working together to see results for the people of Singleton," he said. "The position of deputy mayor is an important one because it assumes all the duties and powers of the Mayor in the Mayor's absence.

The Mayor and councillors of the newly-formed Singleton Council have officially taken an oath or affirmation of office at their first meeting last night. Mayor Sue Moore and the nine councillors elected as a result of the local government election on 10 September 2016 took or made

"Therefore, I am looking forward to working closely with Mayor Moore and my fellow councillors to continue to provide the effective leadership our community has become accustomed to."

¶ Photo above: Newly elected Singleton Deputy Mayor Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite

# Councillors hit the road!



Cessnock City Council's newly elected Councillors toured the local government area with Council staff as a part of their induction. Cessnock City Council's General Manager, Stephen Glen said it was a good opportunity to further familiarise Councillor's with the infrastructure and services Council provides the community.

"The tour gave our Councillors the opportunity to visit some of our key facilities such as the Cessnock Depot, Cessnock Library and Branxton Pool". "Councillors were able to gain a holistic view of what we do here and ask our staff questions about each of these services", Mr Glen said. The tour also included site visits to major

infrastructure projects including Frame Drive Bridge, Abermain, Broke Road and Hermitage Road, Pokolbin. Council staff briefed Councillors on each project providing valuable background information and recent updates. The itinerary also included visits to key local development areas such as the Hydro Aluminium, Kurri Kurri and Huntlee,

all important areas of consideration for the future of our local economy. The newly elected Councillors have now completed their induction ahead of their first Council meeting on Wednesday 5 October. The induction also consisted of a mock Council meeting and presentations from the General Manager, Directors and Managers.

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## Cessnock City Council show commitment to safety

Cessnock City Council is getting involved in National Safe Work Month, October 2016, putting on a range of events for all Council staff. Cessnock City Council's General Manager, Stephen Glen said maintaining a healthy and safe workplace is a key goal for Council all year round, but this presents a unique opportunity to place it at the forefront of our minds for the entire month of October. "Safe Work Month is a chance for us all to be

reminded of the importance of work health and safety." "Often when people think about work health and safety they think about people working with machinery or tools but it also about a person's mental wellbeing." "Staff are encouraged to start conversations and make suggestions on how we can improve WHS at Cessnock City Council", Mr Glen said. The activities running throughout October include

a general health check, skin check and a presentation from guest speaker Darren Flanagan. The presentation by explosives expert Darren Flanagan is expected to be a highlight as he recounts his involvement in the rescue at Beaconsfield Mine in 2006 and how it affected his life. To find out more about National Safe Work Month head to <http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/media-events/safety-month>.



Community Giving Fund applications now open from Monday 12 September to Friday 21 October 2016.

COMMUNITY SAFETY EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT HEALTH & WELLBEING

Previous recipient: Mackay Surf Life Saving Club Inc.  
 Previous recipient: Life Education Centre Foundation QLD Inc.  
 Previous recipient: Australian Animal Care and Education Inc.  
 Previous recipient: HeartKids NSW

aurizon.com.au/community

grants delivering such positive outcomes with their projects." The grants are helping four charities in the Hunter Valley region – The Song Room, Breast Cancer Network Australia, State Emergency Service NSW, and Hunter Region Botanic Gardens – to make their communities a better place to live. The Song Room's Community Connections project is delivering an educational program for disadvantaged and indigenous children and their parents to engage in an arts-based learning program in the Newcastle area. The Breast Cancer Network Australia is supporting breast cancer survivors with forums for women to hear from experts on treatment and supportive care, and learn strategies for dealing with the emotional impact of breast cancer. The State Emergency Service NSW has purchased new battery packs for their CB Radios to ensure they are able to maintain contact in community evacuations and events. The Hunter Region Botanic Gardens is making improvements to

Local community groups and charities in the Hunter Valley region are encouraged to apply for cash grants via the latest round of Aurizon's Community Giving Fund. Grants of up to \$20,000 from Australia's largest rail-based transport business are available to assist with community projects aimed at delivering positive out-

comes in the areas of Health & Wellbeing, Community Safety, Environment and Education. Aurizon Managing Director & CEO Lance Hockridge said the Community Giving Fund continues to contribute to the success of local community projects in the regions where Aurizon's employees live and work.

"We are proud to say that we have helped over 200 charities and community groups around Australia since 2011 with projects that touch the lives of many people across the country," he said. "This funding goes a long way towards improving the future of our communities, and it's great to see the previous recipients of our

their emergency first aid facilities for visitors and volunteers through the purchase of a portable defibrillator, Oxyviva equipment and first aid supplies. Applications for the latest round of the Community Giving Fund are open until 5pm AEDST Friday 21 October 2016. To apply visit [www.aurizon.com.au/community](http://www.aurizon.com.au/community)

## A long but successful walk for Cancer



Rural Fire Brigade volunteers, from left :- Jenny Crowther (Lochinvar), Tash Cotton (Lochinvar), Sean Carman (Lochinvar) & Campbell Anlezark (Mulbring)

Lochinvar Rural Fire Brigade volunteer members Michael Gillis & Jeff Jackson organised, for the second year, a charity walk from Tamworth to the Lower Hunter Fire Control Centre in Louth Park (East Maitland). Melissa Gillis (Michael's Wife), Cameron Burrows (volunteer NT Fire and Rescue Service), Midge Gray (Volunteer Tasmania Fire Service/NSW RFS) and David Seabrook (volunteer North Rothbury NSW RFS) & many others helped/walked to raise money for the NSW Cancer Council. By the time they reached Branxton they had raised \$17,000. Well done to all!!

## CITY OF CESSNOCK HALL OF FAME CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2016

Council is now calling for nominations for the 2016 City of Cessnock Hall of Fame and celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event.

To be eligible for consideration for induction into the Hall of Fame the nominated individual or family must have:

- been born in the local government area (LGA); and/or
- spent a substantial period of their childhood/adolescence in the LGA; and/or
- been a resident in the LGA for a substantial period of time during their period of high achievement.

Guidelines are available providing examples of the types of achievements which could establish eligibility for induction.

There are six categories of achievement:

- Arts
- Business
- Public Service
- Science
- Sport
- Meritorious Families.

Guidelines and nomination forms are available on Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/halloffame](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/halloffame)

If you require a hard copy, please collect one from the Administration Centre (62-78 Vincent Street Cessnock) or Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries.

Anyone considering making a nomination is encouraged to read the policy and selection criteria before completing the nomination form.

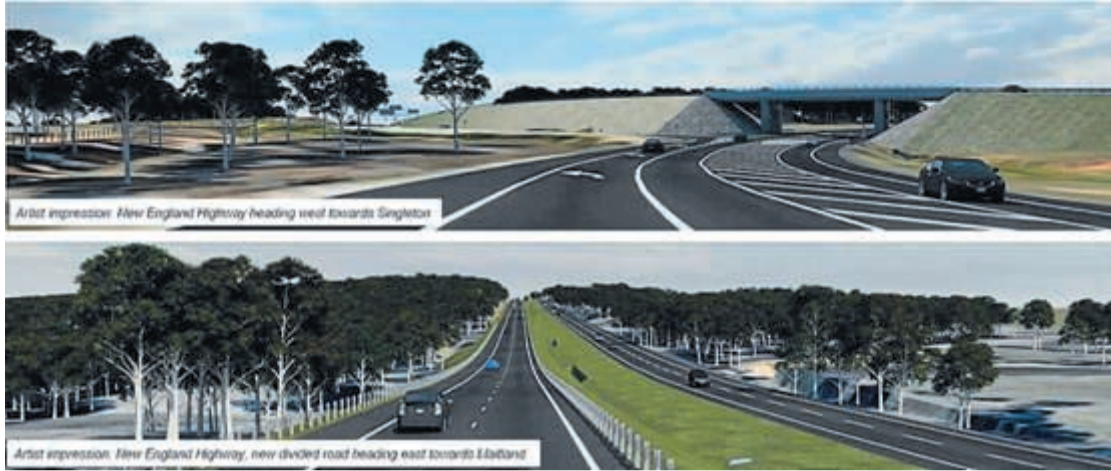
Completed nomination forms must be received by Council no later than **5pm on Monday 31 October 2016**.

For further information please contact Council's Community and Cultural Engagement Officer Jo Miller P: (02) 4993 4258 | M: 0427 818 202 E: [Jo.Miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)



# New England Highway upgrade between Belford and the Golden Highway

The NSW Government has committed \$85 million for the proposed upgrade under the Rebuilding NSW Plan.



The Roads and Maritime Service is planning to upgrade the New England Highway between Belford and the Golden Highway to provide two travel lanes in each direction and a flyover for vehicles turning right from the Golden Highway towards Maitland and Newcastle.

The NSW Government has announced \$85 million under the Rebuilding NSW Plan for the upgrade to improve traffic flow, travel times and safety for motorists. The New England Highway is part of the inland route of the Sydney to Brisbane National Land Transport Network and the primary route connecting the Upper Hunter with Maitland and Newcastle. The Golden

Highway connects the New England Highway at Whittingham with Dubbo. These road corridors are designated B-Double routes and are used extensively by heavy vehicles servicing coal mining, grain production and other industries in the Hunter Valley and the Central West to access the port of Newcastle. The New England Highway is a critical connection between the urban and employment centres of Maitland and Singleton, which are planned future growth areas for the Hunter region. Around 22,000 vehicles travel along the New England Highway between Belford and the Golden Highway each day. This

section of the New England Highway is currently two lanes westbound and one lane eastbound and has a history of crashes, particularly near the Golden Highway intersection. The proposed upgrade would include:

- Widening the New England Highway to provide a divided road with two travel lanes in each direction between Belford and the Golden Highway. This is the last section of the route between Newcastle and the Golden Highway intersection to be upgraded to a four lane divided road
- Replacing the existing right turn movement from the Golden Highway to the New England Highway

Establishing a road corridor for future development of the New England Highway towards Singleton. The proposed upgrade would:

- Increase capacity and connectivity of the New England Highway and Golden Highway for the efficient and reliable movement of freight
- Improve safety at the New England Highway and Golden Highway

for motorists turning right from the Golden Highway

- Increase capacity at the New England Highway and Golden Highway intersection to cater for the predicted increase in traffic movements due to future growth in the Hunter

Allow for access to existing and future adjoining land uses. The proposal includes the removal of the Whittingham rest area adjacent to the New



INTERSECTION: New England Highway and the Golden Highway. Picture: Andrew Thompson

- with a right turn intersection by reducing the risk of crashes, particularly

England Highway and Golden Highway intersection. Roads and Maritime has built new rest areas on the New England Highway at Rixs Creek Road north of Singleton and on the Hunter Expressway at Branxton and Buchanan. The new rest areas have been designed and positioned to cater for heavy and light vehicle motorists using this route and include toilets, shade shelters, rubbish bins, tables and chairs. Work is underway to prepare the concept design and environmental assessment, which are expected to be displayed for community comment in mid 2017

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# What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

when it comes to computers. It's a useful way of extrapolating the numbers to see how fast the processors of the future may be; that's one reason Moore's Law continues to work.

(Moore's law is the observation that the number of transistors in a dense integrated circuit doubles approximately every two years)

We can even use it to predict how much RAM future machines will have access to and how big hard drives are going to get, but given that the biggest changes to computers come in the way we use them, any

predictions of the future would be better left to futurologists, industry wishlists and brief glimpses of roadmaps.

You need only look at the rapidly changing way in which we use our computers to see that it's not just technological advances that have pushed the PC to centre stage in our lives. The PC has left its expensive, exclusive, elitist origins. Instead of being reserved for education and the workplace, as was once the case, PCs can now be found in nearly all our homes. We've built our whole lives around the things these machines



A good mate of mine, who lives in Sacramento USA, sent me the above advert that was published in 1991. His comment was ... *your smartphone can now do almost every task that the advertised products performed!* The PC they advertised had a 20MB hard drive ... my phone has a 128GIG storage capacity & my work PC has 1000GIG! The digital revolution since then ... 25 years ... is just amazing. The best way to predict what the future holds, they say, is to look to the past, but such a philosophy isn't necessarily the best option

enable us to do. We use them for everything from storing home movies, music and photos, through to planning trips and holidays, socialising, online shopping, gaming, finding a cure for cancer and searching for extraterrestrial life. The PC has come a very long way in 25 years. So what does the future hold? If I knew the answer I'd be a very wealthy man! I know with publishing this newspaper compared to 1997 when it was first published it is much easier; back then we hadn't descent digital cameras and

accessing the web was as slow as a wet week; remember 'dial-up'? Last week I had reason to travel to Lismore to attend a funeral. It has been a long time since I have used the Pacific Highway or M1 as we normally take the New England Highway when travelling north and I was amazed at how fast it is now viz., dual carriageways &, on the other hand, how slow it is in places particularly at night. I returned late in the afternoon & had quite a number of stops as they

were doing night work in a number of different spots. One big detour was near Urunga which I suspect added another 30 minutes to the trip. It appears that all works will be completed within another 5 years which will complete one of Australia's major infrastructure projects. Cheers, Mike

## Letters to the Editor

**NBN RISKS SENDING LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES TO THE WALL**  
Malcolm Turnbull's mismanagement of his inferior National Broadband Network (NBN) is threatening to send local small businesses to the wall. In the last week alone, four small businesses in the Morisset area have complained about internet and telephone disruption caused by NBN Co. A day without phone or internet services is problematic for any small business, but to lose

services for weeks is devastating. Malcolm Turnbull's inferior NBN is bad enough, but the Government's mismanagement of its rollout has been appalling. Businesses and residents alike on the Western side of Lake Macquarie are telling me Malcolm Turnbull's NBN is just not good enough. I have written to the Minister for Communications demanding action. **JOEL FITZGIBBON MP** Member for Hunter

**TOLERANCE REQUIRED**  
Concern has been raised that the proposed plebiscite will unleash hatred and bigotry by those who oppose gay marriage.

However, a fair bit of that is actually coming from those who favour gay marriage and unleashed on those who don't. Bill Shorten has said: "I don't want to give the haters ... to ... make life harder for LGBTI people." Adam Bandt has denounced Lyle Shelton of the Australian Christian Lobby as a "bigot", while Crikey's Bernard Keane has vilified Shelton as a "nauseating piece of filth". Many decent people believe traditional marriage and family values are vital to societal stability, and that same-sex relationships are not equal to traditional marriage. These people are not "haters" or "bigots". A meeting of the ACL had to be cancelled because of physical threats to guests

and staff. David van Gend from Australian Marriage Forum had the word "bigot" painted on the wall of his medical practice, and a printer refused to print a book he had written. Who is showing intolerance and bigotry? Where is the outrage from "liberals" and defenders of free speech that people cannot meet to hear about a matter of public interest without fear of physical violence? **Mike McGregor, Coffs Harbour**

**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**  
Sam Dastyari overspends on his travel plans and gets a Chinese benefactor to pick up the \$1600 tab. He repays the amount but loses his position in shadow cabinet. WA Liberal Steve Irons bills taxpayers (us) \$2000 to attend his own

wedding, gets caught out, puts it down to an audit error, repays the amount and that is the end of the matter. The PM and other leading Liberals called for Dastyari's head; I hope they do the same for Irons. *Name & address supplied but withheld at request of writer*

**HISTORY FAIL**  
During his ABC documentary on Robert Menzies, John Howard again claimed that Menzies introduced free university education. Mr Howard says he paid for his first year of university in the 1950s and then won a Commonwealth scholarship, making the remainder of his degree

free. Menzies introduced commonwealth scholarships but they were available to less than half the people wanting to attend university. Using this logic, a private school education is also free as private schools provide scholarships for some students.

Mr Howard, university fees were abolished by Gough Whitlam. **Charlie Ginty, Orange NSW**



**What goes on at my child's preschool and why? Do you know what to know what to expect for your child out of preschool?**

**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

Greta Community Preschool would like to present Ian Alachin to answer all your questions

Ian Alachin from CSNA will be presenting an information night on some common asked questions. Ian has over 30 years experience in children's services working as a teacher, director and executive director and now the services development manager at CSNA. Ian will help us understand why there has been major changes in the way preschools now deliver their program. This includes how a play based program gets your child ready for school and why this shall be important. Play is important businesses for children!

**Key topics include:**

- How a play based program prepares children for school.
- What does school readiness look like?
- Why standards are now discouraged?
- The importance of risky play

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Letters to the editor can be sent to:

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# Members say ....



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

Last week in Parliament the Government took the decision to privatise our Land Titling and Registry Services. How important is Land Title you might ask? Well every block of land, every unit, every piece of infrastructure is on a piece land with a Title. If you are a home owner or if you own other property, then you undoubtedly have ownership by Title. You rely on our title to be 100% accurate. You rely on your Title to have been thoroughly researched and cross-checked prior to getting the stamp of approval by the Register General of NSW. Your Title carries that stamp.

Under the proposed new scheme, approved by Legislation last week, the Titling and Registry Services will be sold off, on a 35 year contract. The certainty, accuracy and thorough cross-checking, we would all hope, might continue. Admittedly it is hard to improve an already brilliant service. But the greater fear is that the search for profit might lead to a lower quality service. And this would mean that the title that people hold for their home or their other property would have far less certainty. This will increase the "risk" factor (risk over the accuracy of your Title) and that will make banks and financial institutions far more nervous about mortgages and land investments. The risk will also come if your neighbour sells their property and the new owner wants to challenge the boundary. The other hidden little fact in this privatisation is the massive increase in fees and charges that will apply in the future. Some of the fees and charges will make it more expensive to first develop or establish land – the developer won't simply absorb this cost, they will pass it on to customers and that will make new housing more unaffordable. Some of the increased fees and charges will be capped to CPI and other fees and charges will have no such cap or limit. The net impact to the State Budget will be a minus of \$140M p.a. But the great news for sports fans in Bellbird, Byron Bay, Broken Hill and Bega is that the sports stadiums in Sydney will get a massive injection of funds. So if you attend one of the 2 games each year that are sold out, then you will be able to pay tribute to the increased fees and the increased risk that every land Title holder in the state now carries.

### ARE TAXES BAD OR GOOD?

Fundamentally, the Government collect taxes to provide services. Health, Education, and Police are the obvious ones. But it also includes Roads, Public Transport, the Arts, Social Housing, Welfare, National Defences, Environment, Research, our Courts, Primary Industries, Water services, and the list goes on. So, in short, the more taxes that are collected, the more services that can be provided. And it is a fact that we all benefit from these services. If we wanted to improve any, or all, of these services then we could find a way to collect more tax. If we thought that these services were a little too well funded, then we could argue to collect less taxes. On this second point, I don't get too many people coming to me saying that they want less money for Police, our Hospitals or our schools, or any other of the headings above. So, if this is the case, why are taxes so demonised by the media, and as a flow on effect, by each of us?

If we think about any successful business, we can accurately say that they rely heavily on the taxes that provide structure to our community. Think BHP or Rio Tinto, think Woolworths or Coles, think Horse studs, 5 star resorts or the local café. All of these rely on our road networks to move products, to allow people to get to or from the store and to get to or from work. All of these rely on our laws and courts to protect their rights to trade, to make sure that their ownership is enforced and to make sure that anarchy and chaos doesn't burn down their business. All of these also rely on people having money and wages to buy stuff, to own cars and things to get to and from and to have people who are healthy enough to both work and be customers. And all of these need people with an education and skills to work for them, etc, etc, etc. In essence, tax is good, not bad, and we all need to pay our fair share. The conversation about tax should be about that word, fair, and the companies and businesses have a stake in that conversation too.

\* \* \* \* \*

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My office can be

contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to [cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You also follow me on my Facebook page "[www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp](http://www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp)", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at [www.claytonbarr.com.au](http://www.claytonbarr.com.au)

Cheers Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

A number of recent issues have renewed talk about the number of people on unemployment benefits and the need to place them to work. It's a sentiment we all share.

One such issue was the Government's decision to tax backpackers for the first time. This was a foolish move because some employers will always rely on backpackers to meet the high demand they have for labour for short periods of times. Typically three to six weeks. At 32.5 per cent, the new tax is sending backpackers elsewhere, denying our growers and others much needed pickers and other workers. The short-term nature of seasonal work is the other reason it's not a solution to our stubborn unemployment problem. Actually, by international comparison our unemployment rate is not high. The real problem is young and the long-term unemployed. I'm talking about those who are in effect almost born-to-be-idol because of the circumstances they were born in to. Even when our unemployment in our electorate fell to 3.5 per cent, the 'unemployable' remained idle. Over more than twenty years I've seen and been involved in many attempts to break the unemployment cycle. Schemes like the Red Scheme (a long time ago) right through to Work for the Dole. Each of them has met with some success and put people into long-term work. The problem is they are expensive and only moderately successful. Forget about forcing people to work by the threatening to "cut their dole". First, the work is highly seasonal. Second, unemployment benefit is less than a living wage and believe it or not, most would rather do something else if they could. Three, employers don't want people who don't want to be there. Four, compliance and supervision associated with such a crack-down would be more expensive than the unemployment payments themselves. Finally, desperate people without money simply turn to crime.

Long-term youth unemployment has been a key focus for me. Having studied and worked on the issue for so long, I've concluded the only way to break the cycle is to prevent it in the first place. In other words, we have to intervene early on those at risk of falling through the cracks. That's what the so-called Gonski reforms were about; providing our schools with the resources they need to identify any special needs students have from the moment they arrive in kindergarten and then, designing programs for them to give them the very best chance in life.

Of course Gonski was also about identifying those with particular talents and making sure those students reach their full potential. Sadly, it appears Gonski is about to come to an end under the Turnbull Government. If so, it will be a great tragedy. I am always keen to assist with issues or questions relating to Federal Government departments or put you in contact with someone who can, so please ring, write, visit the website or call in. Please like my Facebook page [Joel Fitzgibbon MP](https://www.facebook.com/JoelFitzgibbonMP) or follow me on Twitter @fitzhunter. Check my website

[www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) regularly for news or why not sign up to my e-newsletter?

To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753 or post to 3 Edward Street, (PO Box 526) Cessnock, 2325.

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

### State Matters

#### LOCAL SPORT GRANT PROGRAM OPENS

I encourage local sporting clubs to apply for the NSW Government's Local Sport Grant Program to get more locals involved in sport and recreation activities. The Program aims to increase regular and on-going participation in sport and active recreation. The Local Sport Grant Program provides funding for sports clubs in Upper Hunter electorate and across NSW.

The NSW Government is committed to delivering the best infrastructure and services to the people of NSW and this Local Sport Grant Program provides funding opportunities for every single community across the state so I encourage our local sporting groups to take advantage of the fund.

There are four project types within the Program, these being:

- Sport Club Development;
- Community Sport Events;
- Sport Access; and
- Facility Development.

Applications are now open and close 11 November 2016.

For more information and to apply, visit [www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/grants)

#### SAFE SHOOTING PROGRAM OPENS

I wish to advise local sporting clubs to apply for the NSW Government's Safe Shooting Program.

The Safe Shooting Program aims to increase the safety at shooting facilities in NSW as well as during club sponsored activities held away from a club's permanent base.

The purpose of the Safe Shooting Program is to provide funding for shooting clubs in the Upper Hunter electorate and across NSW, so that we can enjoy the sport of shooting in the safest way possible.

Grants are available from \$500 to \$20,000 and the grant amount requested cannot be more than 50 per cent of the project cost. Applications are now open and close 28 October 2016.

For more information and to apply, visit [www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/grants)

#### APPLICATIONS - COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Essential Energy are offering grants through their Community Support Program for not-for-profit, non-commercial halls used by the general community. Through this program, eligible halls will receive a \$200 donation (GST exclusive) to put towards general maintenance costs for the hall. Applications for the 2016-17 Community Support Program are currently open and will close 5.00 pm Friday 11 November, 2016.

For more information on how to lodge an application, visit [essentialenergy.com.au/community-support](http://essentialenergy.com.au/community-support) or if any halls require a hard copy form contact David Crough, Manager Community Relations 02 6701 7474.

#### \$95,000 TO MANAGE HUNTER REGION FLYING FOXES

Hunter Councils has received a \$95,000 NSW Government grant to prepare seven flying fox camp plans of management for flying fox colonies across the region. The flying-fox camp management plans will cover six camps at Wingello Creek, Watanobbi, Karloo Reserve, Raymond Terrace, Aberdeen and Muswellbrook. The existing plan for Burdekin Park in

Singleton will also be updated. The plans will be developed as part of a regional approach to flying fox management, including a regional community engagement strategy and updated flying fox habitat mapping. These plans will be developed as part of a regional approach to minimise community impacts.

Hunter Councils can consider a range of options in its plans to manage flying-foxes, including vegetation trimming or removal to create buffer zones, or as a last resort, it can apply to disperse camps.

Contact: My Email address; [upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au), phone numbers; 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook 2333.

Cheers, Michael



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

If spring is the season of renewal and new beginnings, then Singleton is well on trend this September.

The local government election is a case in point, as we officially start the new term of a newly elected council with the first meeting was held on 26 September 2016. Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite was elected to the position of Deputy Mayor for the following 2 years.

It is my honour and privilege to have been elected to the position of Mayor by you, the people of Singleton, and I intend to repay your faith in me with a lot of hard work and commitment to achieve the best results for our community.

It is only the second time the position of mayor has been decided by popular vote and I can assure you the significance of graduating as the first female mayor of Singleton to the first woman to be popularly elected as the mayor of Singleton is not lost on me.

That there were other equally capable candidates vying for the role in a hard fought contest makes it all the more humbling, and the people of the shire of Singleton can be proud of the calibre of those who stood up willingly to represent them at the most fundamental level of government we have in this country.

With a team of such people working alongside me in the chamber for the next four years, the community can be confident that their needs will take priority within a strong, stable and outcome-driven political environment where our only line of sight is serving your interests the best we can.

So it's appropriate, as we head into spring and a fresh start with a new Council and a new outlook on what we want to achieve for Singleton and surrounds, that we conclude a long conversation with you about what your priorities are for the next 10 years.

The Community Strategic Plan currently in development will be the guiding document for our new Council and where we will channel our energies in providing the services and infrastructure you want and deserve.

There has been a lot of discussion around five key pillars - our people, our places, our economy, our environment and our leadership - at a series of workshops and events across the Singleton LGA as well as social media over the past few months, and the feedback we have received has been nothing short of phenomenal.

Council staff are now busily collating what you told us into a comprehensive, easy to understand and most importantly meaningful document that will become our well-thumbed first point of reference.

But the conversations between you and your Council won't stop with the endorsement of the Plan.

In this new term of Council there will be more to talk about than ever and a range of ways we can communicate with each other, not least through social media and our online tool, Engagement Hub.



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

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**Traffic Offences/ Branxton:**  
About

3.55pm on Saturday the 17th of September 2016, the Accused, male, aged 28 from Singleton was the driver of a white Holden Cruze, which he drove in a southerly direction on New England Highway, Branxton. Police stopped the Accused for excessive speed 116km/hr in a 100km/hr area. Police requested the accused to produce his driver's licence in which he complied. Police conducted the breath test in which he returned a negative result. The Accused produced a photo class P2 Provisional Drivers Licence. Police returned to the Police vehicle to conduct checks on the accused licence status. Police found that the accused licence is endorsed 'suspended' due to fine default. Police returned to the Police vehicle to complete the paperwork. Police conducted

checks on the Accused in relation to his licence and found that the Accused is suspended due to fine default which commenced on the 25/08/2016. The Accused was also issued a infringement notice for excessive speed. Police issued the Accused Field Court Attendance Notice to attend Singleton Local Court on the 29/09/2016 in relation to this matter.

**High Range PCA/Singleton**  
At 4:50pm on Sunday 18th September 2016, Police responded to a job that was broadcast as a driving compliant via VKG. Police observed the accused a male aged 42 from Budgewoi driving a light green Daewoo sedan in a southerly direction, on New England Highway, Singleton. Police have stopped the accused for the purpose of a breath test which has returned a positive reading. Police observed the accused breath smelt of intoxicating liquor, unsteady on his feet



and not responding to other police directions. The accused was consequently placed under arrest for the purpose of breath analysis and was conveyed to Singleton Police Station. The accused has undergone a breath analysis which has revealed a reading of 0.227 grams of alcohol per 210 litres of breath. The accused is a Class C licence holder and is subject to 0.050 alcohol provisions. His is to appear at Singleton Local Court on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 for the offence of High Range PCA – 1<sup>st</sup> offence. **Break, Enter and Steal/**

**Singleton:**  
Between 17:00 on Friday 16 September 2016 and 08:30 on Monday 19 September 2016 Unknown person/s have gained entry to the stated location being a property on the New England Highway, Singleton by breaking the lock to the ground floor front door. Once inside offender/s have moved through the room, rummaged through property and at time of report it appears Communication Equipment of Quad LNBs, decoders, remotes, sd cards, paperwork & field metres have been stolen. No persons at the location at time of break and enter.



**BAKED POTATOES RECIPE** Serves: 4 | Preparation time: 5 minutes | Cooking time: 55 minutes  
Ingredients 4 potatoes Method 1. Preheat oven to 200OC (180OC fan forced). 2. Place potatoes in an ovenproof dish and cook for 50 minutes, or until tender. 3. Make 2 cuts in an 'X' shape, across the top of each potato. 4. Carefully open out halfway to the base, flattening slightly to hold open. 5. Fill with desired filling.

**PRAWN AND AVOCADO RICE PAPER ROLLS RECIPE** Serves: 4 | Preparation time: 30 minutes | Cooking time: 0 minutes

**Ingredients ~ 50 g rice stick or vermicelli noodles, 150 g snow peas, ends trimmed, 1 large avocado, peeled and stoned, 12 rice paper rounds (22cm), 18 cooked prawns, shelled, deveined and cut in half lengthways, 1/3 cup mint leaves, 1/3 cup coriander leaves, 1 large carrot, peeled and grated, 1/3 cup sweet chilli sauce.** Method  
1. Place noodles in a heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water and let stand for 5 minutes. Drain and set aside.  
2. Meanwhile, cook snow peas in a small saucepan of boiling water for 1 minute. Refresh under cold running water and drain well.  
3. Slice snow peas and avocado lengthways into thin strips. Divide filling ingredients evenly.  
4. To make rolls: Soak the rice paper in warm water until just softened. Remove from the bowl and place on a plate. Put 3 prawn halves into the centre of the rice paper. Add a mint leaf, coriander leaf, snow peas, avocado, carrot and noodles. Fold over rice paper and roll up, pressing edge to seal. Repeat with remaining ingredients.  
5. Cut rolls in half and serve with sweet chilli sauce.

**PHARMACY ADVISOR**



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

**Think F.A.S.T, Act F.A.S.T**

Stroke is one of Australia's biggest killers and a leading cause of disability. One in six people will have a stroke in their lifetime. Last year alone, there were more than 50,000 new and recurrent strokes – that is 1000 strokes every week or one stroke every 10 minutes. Stroke kills more women than breast cancer and more men than prostate cancer. Around 65% of those living with stroke also suffer a disability that impedes their ability to carry out daily living activities unassisted. A speedy reaction not only influences the treatment path for a person having a stroke but also their recovery. Most treatments for stroke are time sensitive so it is important to *Think F.A.S.T. and Act FAST!* A stroke happens when blood supply to the brain is interrupted. Blood is carried to the brain by blood vessels called arteries. Blood contains oxygen and important nutrients for your brain cells. Blood may be interrupted through an artery, because the artery is blocked (*ischaemic stroke*) or bursts (*haemorrhagic stroke*). When brain cells do not get enough oxygen or nutrients, they die. The

area of brain damage is called a cerebral infarct. Brain cells usually die shortly after the stroke starts. However, some cells can last a few hours, if the blood supply is not cut off completely. If the blood supply can be returned in the minutes and hours after the stroke, some of these cells may recover. A 'mini stroke' (or *transient ischaemic attack* TIA) happens when there is a temporary interruption to the blood supply to the brain. It causes the same symptoms as a stroke, but these go away completely within 24 hours. The National Stroke Foundation recommends the F.A.S.T. test as an easy way to remember the most common signs of stroke. Using the F.A.S.T. test involves asking these simple questions:  
Face – Check their face. Has their mouth drooped?  
Arms – Can they lift both arms?  
Speech – Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you?  
Time – Is critical. If you see any of these signs call 000 straight away.  
A stroke is always a medical emergency. The longer a stroke remains untreated, the greater the chance of stroke related brain damage. Emergency medical treatment soon after symptoms begin improves the chance of survival and successful rehabilitation. The risk of stroke and second stroke is influenced by a number of factors. The more stroke risk factors you have, the higher your chances of having a stroke. Stroke risk factors fall into three groups:  
Stroke risk factors that you cannot control, including:  
Age – as you get older, your

risk of stroke increases  
Gender – stroke is more common in men  
A family history of stroke.  
Medical stroke risk factors  
Transient ischaemic attack (TIA)  
Irregular pulse (atrial fibrillation)  
Diabetes  
Fibromuscular dysplasia.  
Lifestyle stroke risk factors that you can control  
High blood pressure (hypertension) – is the most important known risk factor for stroke. High blood pressure can cause damage to blood vessel walls, which may eventually lead to a stroke.  
High cholesterol (hyperlipidemia / dyslipidemia) – contributes to blood vessel disease, which often leads to stroke.  
Cigarette smoking – smoking can increase your risk of stroke or further stroke by increasing blood pressure and reducing oxygen in the blood.  
Obesity or being overweight – being overweight or obese can increase the risk of stroke. Too much body fat can contribute to high blood pressure, high cholesterol and can lead to heart disease and Type 2 Diabetes. If you are unable to maintain your weight within recommended levels, ask a doctor or nutritionist for help.  
Poor diet and lack of exercise – being inactive, overweight or both can increase your risk of high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease and stroke.  
Drinking too much alcohol – drinking large amounts of alcohol (six or more standard drinks per day) increases your risk of stroke.

Cheers, Lee

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# Local residents join forces to demand a better heating system for Branxton Memorial Pool



Local Branxton resident Peter Macfarlane, a regular user of the Branxton Pool in the warmer summer months, has to travel to West Wallsend during the colder spring & autumn months to get his daily constitutional. There is quite a retinue of locals who make the similar trek and all for the same reason; the water temperature at Branxton Pool is too cold. "Wallsend is always warm & welcoming because it has a heat pump that keeps the water at a comfortable temperature." said Peter.

"Branxton Pool opened last weekend & it was 14°C. It does have a solar system to warm the water but if it has no sun then it just doesn't work. Fullstop." Peter went on to say that within the Cessnock LGA both Kurri Kurri & Cessnock have heat pumps & that of the three public pools in the Cessnock LGA Branxton is the only one to not have a simple system to heat the water to a comfortable temperature. "Our local Branxton Pool is used by many of our residents for a number of different purposes. In my

case I use it to keep reasonably fit others for the purpose of rehabilitation from injury or illness. We also have lap swimmers & our local schools who use it," Peter said. "I call on our newly elected Cessnock Ward Councillors to please look at the present situation & to give it some serious thought for providing a heat pump for this great public facility," Peter said. The solar heating system was provided by the CFMEU so that their members could use the facility whilst recovering

from injury and or illness. According to information received it does work well as long as it has plenty of daylight sun but otherwise it is only marginal; it will raise the pool water temperature by about 2°C as it did last weekend (from 14°C to 16°C) but it then drops back to 14°C overnight. "It is a wonderful community facility that has been there for over 50 years but does need to come in line with the other public pools in the Cessnock LGA," said Peter.

## Master photographer works on exhibition at Emma's Cottage Vineyard



Master Photographer, David Oliver, has chosen a selection of photographic works from the Gresford Photography Exhibition to hang in the gallery at Emma's Cottage Vineyard. The works include photos from the only three Grand Masters of Photography in

NSW, David Oliver, Peter Eastway and Jacqui Dean. The exhibition for photographers is by invitation only, ensuring the highest quality content. Emma's Cottage Vineyard is located at 438 Wilderness Road, Lovedale. The gallery is located in the

Cellar Door and Dining room space which looks out over the garden. The exhibition opening is being held tonight, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, at 5.30pm. The works will be on show from the 1<sup>st</sup> October until the 16<sup>th</sup> October.

# Community urged to apply for War Memorial Grants



State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr today said that funding is now available to protect and repair local war memorials and fund educational and commemorative programs which preserve the ANZAC legacy. Applications are now open for the Community War Memorials Fund and the ANZAC Community Grants Program. The Community War Memorials Fund was established by the State Labor Government in 2008 and has provided grants for a wide range of projects including honour roll repair, war memorial cleaning and conservation work, memorial conservation assessments, security measures for memorials, repairs to war memorial halls and improvements to the accessibility of memorials. Since the establishment of the program in 2008, grants have been provided for a wide range of projects including honour roll repair, war memorial cleaning and conservation work, aborist advice for war memorial trees, memorial conservation assessments, security measures for memorials, repairs to war memorial halls and improvements to the accessibility of memorials. For more information regarding the program, visit <http://veterans.nsw.gov.au/heritage/community-war-memorials-fund/>

The ANZAC Community Grants Program funds projects which

benefit the veteran community and promotes a greater understanding and recognition of the Anzac legacy. The Program provides small grants for a range of projects that commemorate and educate New South Wales communities about the service and sacrifices of current and former military servicemen and women. It has funded projects including work to the Bulga War Memorial Gates. Applications can be made by schools, historical societies and community organisations for educational programs and commemorative events and close on Friday, 24 February, 2017.

For more information about the program, including application forms, visit: <http://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/education/anzac-community-grants-program/>

FROM PAGE 6

## Members say ...

It's all part of a renewed focus on widening our communication channels because we recognise that it's important for our community to be well informed and conversely, to know that your views are important and considered. At its fundamental level, the reason local government exists at all is for the wellbeing of our community, and there could be no better symbol than my first official duty as Mayor to stand alongside Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen at the official opening of the extended and upgraded Gym & Swim on Friday 16 September. This facility represents more than simply a ceremonial ribbon cutting. It is a bricks and mortar example of Council's commitment to ensuring Singleton has the best standard facilities possible to provide for the health and wellbeing of our residents, enabling ageing residents to stay local and encouraging new residents to move in. Of particular importance to the almost \$6 million project, funded under a NSW Government grant from the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and a Voluntary Planning Agreement, is the delivery of a hydrotherapy pool. Previously unavailable in Singleton, the absence of such a facility meant residents undergoing rehabilitation either had to travel outside the area for this kind of treatment or go without. The Gym & Swim project is also a great example of the relationships Council has with other levels of government and the private sector, and which we will continue to build on now and into the future. It all points to a healthy future for our area and a successful new term of Council. I look forward to what we will achieve together over the next four years.

Cheers, Sue

## Visit Your Local Recycle Station!

Did you know you can now recycle the following items?

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(\*mobile phones no longer accepted at this location)

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# Real News Estate

## Property sale windfall for NSW Government

The NSW Government will be the big winner of the sale of John Symond's Point Piper mansion, according to the REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin. John Symond has put his property at 2 Windagal Place on the market which he purchased in 1999 for \$10.89 million. It has been listed with Bill Malouf of LJ Hooker Double Bay and Ken Jacobs, of Christie's International. Tim said: "NSW Premier Mike Baird and Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian must be rubbing their hands together with delight.

"With the property expected to fetch in excess of \$100 million and stamp duty remaining unadjusted for bracket creep for the last

30 years, the NSW Government is expected to earn at least \$6.94 million if the property is sold to an Australian or \$10.94 million if sold to a foreign buyer.

"The sale of this property should prompt the government to finally address bracket creep, which would make such a difference to first homebuyers. "NSW transfer duty revenue for 2015-16 was more than \$1 billion over Budget at \$8.887 billion and is budgeted at \$8.777 billion for 2016-17. It is time to review stamp duty rates and help those who are trying to enter the property market."

## Home energy efficiency

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

Over 40% of the energy Australians use at home is

for heating and cooling, and this doesn't include heating hot water.

The cost involved in using energy in your home is substantial and as a result consumers are becoming more conscious of its importance.

A lot of white goods have stickers displaying their energy ratings, and it won't be long before it becomes routine to look at the overall energy rating of a house. Items such as solar power and building and insulation materials are important factors in making a property energy efficient. Homeowners are increasingly factoring in these items when considering the attractiveness of a particular property.

After all, if your home is not energy efficient then you will be committing yourself to higher ongoing costs which can be avoided.

## The benefit of landlords' insurance



By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

Owning an investment property brings many risks which cannot be completely extinguished through good practices and procedures. The biggest concern of a landlord is damage to the

property caused by the tenant, and a loss of rental income when the tenant leaves the property owing rent.

Therefore it is important for any landlord to take out landlords' insurance to protect their interests in the event of deliberate or intentional damage by tenants.

It is one of the most important decisions a landlord will make because it gives peace of mind that they are covered if things go wrong.

It is much the same with medical insurance. You can lead a healthy life, but it doesn't prevent you from becoming ill which is why most of us obtain medical insurance.

## Make enquiries before you purchase

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

There are a variety of standard searches your solicitor carries out as part of the conveyancing process when you buy a property.

These are designed to reveal problems or issues which could affect your decision to purchase the property. However they are not a complete enquiry of all of the matters that may affect your decision. It is also worthwhile speaking to other authorities, including the local council, to find out if there are any proposed

development applications or approvals from the neighbouring area which may adversely affect your property. This could be a development which will interrupt your view or an application which contains a certain activity which would impact on your peace and enjoyment. The last thing you want when you move into your new home is an unpleasant surprise.

## Strata will become greater democracy



By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

Over 90 changes to the existing strata laws will be implemented on 30 November 2016, and this includes one potential controversial change.

One of the more provocative is the change which makes voting on the collective sale or redevelopment of a strata scheme fairer. Currently the level of support required by owners to terminate a strata scheme is 100%. However under part 10 of the new Strata Schemes Development Act 2015 this will be changed to

75%. Some will be unhappy about this, other unit holders will not. But when choosing to live in a strata complex you are choosing to live in a democracy. The current system enables one lot owner to defeat the collective will of all the other lot owners, and in my view this is not a just outcome.

## What land do you own?



By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

Many people who buy property are unaware that others may have specific and limited rights over a portion of their land. When you buy a property you are given a Certificate of Title, which is the primary document that demonstrates your title (ownership) in the property. This document also includes any other interest (s) in your property, which could be a caveat and/or mortgage from the bank that provided you with the money to buy the property. However, there is one registered interest that also regularly appears on the

Certificate of Title - easements. Some easements provide others with the right to enter your land to perform certain functions. Common ones are for sewage pipes or other utilities connections. It is important to be aware of easements because they can benefit or burden your property.

## Sydney's dwelling approvals up 7.3%

Sydney's dwelling approvals are 7.3% higher compared to last year, with a total of 16,360 house and 38,307 unit approvals. These figures were released by CoreLogic and compare the last 12 months until July 2016.

In July 2016, there were 17,380 capital city dwelling approvals in Australia, which was the highest number of approvals since October 2015. It was also the third highest monthly number of capital city dwelling approvals on record.

Head of Research at CoreLogic, Cameron Kusher said: "Despite repeated warnings around apartment oversupply and settlement risk, the number of dwellings being approved for construction across the capital cities remains unquestionably strong."

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# Indigenous family history research workshop



undertake effective research and engage them in their families past. It will also provide information and advice on the wealth of material available at the State Library of NSW, which is vital for people engaged in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history research. It will provide an overview of:

- Resources and techniques to search the collections and other important resources for Aboriginal family history.
- Significant collections held at the State Library relating to the local area.

The workshop is on Tuesday 11 October 2016 10 am 3pm, at Cessnock City

Library. This event is free but bookings are essential.

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Cessnock City Library is encouraging local indigenous residents to attend a free workshop

about researching family history. Back to Basics workshop is presented by staff from the

Indigenous Services Branch from the State Library of New South Wales and is for people who are new to

looking into family history. The workshop will provide participants with the knowledge and tools to

# Do you REMEMBER when....

The news Issue No 52 23rd Sept. 1999

## ALP'S John Clarence Elected Mayor

The dominance of the ALP on Cessnock Council was confirmed at the declaration of the poll last Monday. Nine of the 13 positions were taken by endorsed Labor candidates.

The Labor elected candidates are Mayor John Clarence & councillors Katie Brassil, John Radnidge, Elizabeth Martin, Catherine Kennedy-Parsons, Darren Riley, Bob Pynsent, Bob Bedford & Jeff Maybury.

The other councillors are Merv Pyne, Des Mills, Alison Davey (independents) and Greens candidate Claire Cosh.

The election of mayor saw incumbent Merv Pyne with 8697 votes to John Clarence 12,127. Merv Pyne said his was "naturally disappointed" at not being given the chance to complete a lot of his initiatives.

Mayor John Clarence said his was overwhelmed by the level of support the community has shown the Labor team... "we have the first Kurri Mayor since the election of the Hon Bob Brown in 1968 and the youngest councillor to be elected to the City Council in Kurri's 19 year old Elizabeth Martin", Mayor Clarence said.

Newly elected councillor & ALP campaign director, Katie Brassil said that the ALP team "welcomed the record number of Mayoral and ward candidates who strengthened the democratic process and offered the voters in our community a wide range of choice" Katie went on to say that she congratulated those candidates who had the courage of their convictions to stand up and be counted in our community. Mayor Clarence said that he would like to "still pursue the initiatives of the previous council"

Singleton Shire Council mayoral election will be held next Monday, 27th September & at this stage candidates are unknown. The elected councillors for 'A' Ward are:-

- Paul Nichols
- Daniel Golenia
- Tony McNamara
- Sue Moore



Newly elected Cessnock Mayor John Clarence

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4 2 4

**Greta**  
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Price: \$550,000  
View: by appointment  
Contact Michael Cruickshanks  
0409 362 130  
LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779  
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**North Rothbury**  
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**Two Blocks**  
Located on the edge of the rapidly growing suburb of North Rothbury, at 810m<sup>2</sup> 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  
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4 2 2

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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.  
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3 1 1

**Branxton**  
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Asking \$370,000



New on Market

## BRANXTON

### Potential! Potential

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One to do up at the expected price

Expressions of Interest



## NTH ROTHBURY

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New on Market

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Asking \$245,000



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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

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## Ground-breaking new project to tackle youth unemployment!



¶ CWA Volunteers at the Clearing Sale on Old North Road.

Branxton/Greta members were given the opportunity by Neil Thomas, Thomas Real Estate, to provide food and drinks to everyone who attended the Clearing Out Sale at Old North Road, Farley recently. Thankyou Neil. It was a busy and enjoyable day. A BIG thankyou to James Bendeich for cooking the BBQ and Marie Shearer who took over when James had a break. We would like to wish all concerned in the transaction the very best for the future. The Singleton Show was on the same weekend and Noleen Bendeich has achieved an award she certainly deserves by winning CHAMPION CROCHET EXHIBITOR for a rug and also MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR IN THE HANDICRAFT. A wonderful achievement, Noleen. Congratulations. Also winning awards, Leanne and Robert Bendeich won

CHAMPION for TWO HENS and TWO ROOSTERS. Congratulations, Leanne and Robert. On Monday, 14th November, the Land Cookery/Product Promotion (Blueberries) Day will be at the McCauley Hall, Branxton again, as it was such a success last year. Guest Speaker. 10.00am for 10.30am. Morning Tea, Lunch. Cookery Competition. \$15. Winning cakes are sold so there is the opportunity to purchase some lovely home made

cakes if anyone wishes. Anyone wishing to attend can RSVP to Marie before 7th November with their details (for catering purposes) and with any special dietary requirements on 0402015850 or email branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com This may also apply if anyone would like to be added to our mailing list for invitations to be sent or emailed for any future functions.

*Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.*



Cessnock City Council is excited to announce a landmark program addressing youth unemployment in the region which may be used as a model to roll out across Australia. The jointly funded program worth over \$100,000 was secured by Cessnock City Council following the Youth Unemployment Symposium. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said youth unemployment in the Hunter region is a serious concern and this initiative presents a unique opportunity to combat the issue. "This is about taking a ho-

listic approach to break the cycle of young people out of work made possible by collaboration between Council, NSW Government, business, the wider community and young people", Cr Pynsent said. "The Cessnock City Youth Employment Project provides unemployed youth the opportunity to undertake work placements at Council facilities such as the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre". "The participants gain training along with valuable qualifications in both retail and hospitality, better preparing them for the local workforce", Cr Pynsent

said. The first group of five young people have commenced their placement and are learning skills in customer service, RSA, RCG, first aid, teamwork communications and work health and safety. Participant William Boyd said it is a great opportunity to work at the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre and learn from experienced staff.

"I have really enjoyed engaging with customers

and look forward to learning more over the next month", Mr Boyd said. Yancoal has provided \$10,000 for the project on top of funding from the NSW Government. PKs on Pokolbin and Peterson Wines are also supporting the project. The first stage of the project will see twenty young people take part in the coming months in four groups of five, maximising the opportunity of one-on-one coaching, training and mentoring distinctive to this program.

¶ Photo at left: Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent, at back, with 5 youth work placements at the Visitors Centre

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## Finding Tom Wills – the founder of Australian Rules Football

By Greg de Moore



Tom in Australia in 1857.

Greg de Moore is a Sydney psychiatrist and author. His 2011 book *Tom Wills – First Wild Man of Australian Sport* is a biography of Tom Wills, the man most credited with creating the game now known as Australian Rules football.

“Sent to the strict British Rugby School in 1850 at 14, Tom returned as a worldly young man whose cricket prowess quickly captured the hearts of Melburnians. But away from the adoring crowds, in the desolation of the Queensland outback, he experienced first-hand the devastating effects of racial tension when his father was murdered in the biggest massacre of Europeans by Aboriginal people. Yet five years later, Tom coached the first Aboriginal cricket team.

“Tom Wills lived hard and fast, challenging authority on and off the field. But when his physical talents began to fade, the psychological demons that alcohol

and adrenaline had kept at bay surged to the fore, driving him to commit the most brutal of suicides. He was 44 and destitute.”

Greg de Moore is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Sydney’s Westmead Hospital. His latest book (written with Anne Westmore) is *Finding Sanity – John Cade, lithium and the taming of bipolar disorder* (Allen and Unwin) and is the first biography of the Australian doctor who discovered the first pharmacological treatment for mental illness.

Below is an extract from *Tom Wills*.

\*\*\*

I first came across the name of Tom Wills in a short article on the origins of Australian Rules football. Tom Wills had been bequeathed a lavish talent for the playing of games – he played cricket with virtuosity, challenging the constraints of that game, and was credited, more

than any other, with creating the game of Australian Rules football. Towards the end of the article, my eyes settled upon a single line: Tom Wills had stabbed himself in the heart. In the early afternoon of a Melbourne day in 1880 he had committed suicide.

Curious about Wills, I wanted to know why his life ended that way – my starting point was his suicide. I went to the Mitchell Library in Sydney and searched the Melbourne newspapers for his obituaries. These gave me the first insights into his life. Wills was an alcoholic and his behaviour in the hours before his suicide suggested that he had been hallucinating. On the day before his death, 1 May 1880, Wills had been taken to the Melbourne Hospital and offered refuge, but had somehow managed to leave hospital and return home, where he took his life.

I couldn’t imagine anyone being allowed to leave hospital in that state. The only way to know how and why he left hospital was to locate his medical notes. In hope, more than belief, that such records still existed, I rang the Royal Melbourne Hospital, long since made imperial. The boxes of patient records from 1880 had, indeed, been stored at the hospital and kept in a backroom. When I arrived at the hospital, I was directed to a room overfilled with heavy, unopened cardboard boxes. Inside each box were leather bound volumes of doctors’ admission notes from the nineteenth century. The boxes were not organised in any particular manner – I would have to open each one and then each bound volume of medical notes to find Tom’s admission.

For five hours I peered silently into the lives of patients admitted to the Melbourne Hospital until, without warning, I found the notes I had travelled 1000 kilometres to discover. Hasty and to the point, they recorded the essence of Wills’ mind as it unravelled: the telltale hallucinations and delusions of alcohol withdrawal, recognisable and unchanged across the century. At 5 p.m. Tom Wills had ‘absconded’ from the Melbourne Hospital. The next day he was dead. This single archival discovery suggested that other discoveries might be made, but before I delved further I needed to know more about my man. This did not take long. Standard texts on the history of Australian sport painted what was known of his life. Born in 1835, Wills had been despatched by his father to England in 1850 to study at Rugby School. His father, Horatio Wills, was a man of hefty girth and even heftier ambitions for his son. Tom excelled at Rugby School in sports; returning to Melbourne in 1856 he

became the transcendent cricketer in the colony of Victoria. A sporting libertine, he was courted by clubs and colonies throughout Australia. It was a safe bet for the average punter to wage a shilling on any team captained by T.W. Wills and like a medieval prince swinging a cricket bat, he travelled the country holding court on fields of his choosing.

In 1859 Tom Wills, along with three other men, sat down in the back room of a Melbourne pub and penned what has become the most important and original document in Australian sporting history. The ten rules they wrote established the basis of Australian Rules football. As I recorded what was known of Wills’ life, it became clear that there were many gaps in his history. To research these gaps, I sent out one enquiry after another to locate archives in an attempt to unlock the secrets of his life. Letters, photographs and assorted archives were collected from across five countries; items were found in unexpected places. Of all

### About the Author

Greg de Moore is a consultant psychiatrist based at Sydney’s Westmead Hospital. He has a love of history and science. Greg’s career took a detour, with a PhD in history and two books published in the last few years. One of these books - *Tom Wills* - was short-listed for the National Biography Award. The book and PhD has introduced him into the world of writing (including articles for the SMH and Daily Telegraph) and speaking engagements

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Greg de Moore

the material I unearthed, nothing was more unexpected than finding Tom’s schoolbooks from Rugby School. The mere fact that they had survived for over 150 years without any attempt at preservation was astonishing enough but it was *where* I found them that was most incongruous.

While searching for material on Tom Wills I visited Minerva Creek Station, a homestead near Springsure, Central Queensland. The cattle station was run and owned by another Tom Wills, a descendant of the Wills family. The Tom I met lived in a modest bungalow on a property spanning 10,000 acres; nearby stood the original homestead where his mother lived. In the early evening, about 6 p.m., I was led into an old outhouse where I started looking at priceless letters written by Tom Wills 150 years ago. My Queensland host told me that the

letters had been stored under the homestead for years.

I picked up the letters, sat down on a bench, and spread them out on the vast rough-hewn table under a lamp. My only companions were the large winged insects that spun about the lamp and a seemingly endless supply of beer. I sat for hours on a hot Queensland night, with a can of XXXX at my elbow, reading the letters. To save paper, writers of the period often completed a letter in their normal horizontal script then turned the letter 90 degrees and wrote at right angles on top of the original letter. Some of the letters were torn and dates and phrases were missing at crucial points. Deciphering the letters took time. Not all the letters were in one piece so I moved the pieces, like tectonic plates, trying to find which piece went with which letter. When I looked at my watch it was four o’clock in the morning.

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Tom Wills (standing at back wearing a cap) with his aboriginal cricket team in 1866 outside the Melbourne Cricket Ground.



# HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

open. Organisers of events to be held in the Hunter Valley during 2017 are invited to apply for funding to support marketing activities that attract overnight visitation from outside the local area. For more information visit [destinationnsw.com.au](http://destinationnsw.com.au)

### Hunter Valley Wines will be a feature in the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney)

ICC Sydney will open its doors in December 2016 and underline Sydney's position as one of the world's most desirable meeting and event destinations for leaders and thinkers, to meet, collaborate, innovate and enjoy. ICC Sydney, Australia's premier convention, exhibition and entertainment precinct, has launched its inaugural wine collection featuring 93 varieties, 80 per cent of which have been sourced from New South Wales wine producers chosen following a seven day tasting of over 1000 wines from more than 300 wineries. The ICC Sydney's wine collection includes numerous standout Hunter Valley wine producers for example, Tyrrell's Wines, De Iuliis Wines, Margan Family Wines, Hungerford Hill and Allandale Wines. This is a fantastic opportunity for our local labels to be exposed to a huge number of Australian and international guests.

### 2016 NSW Restaurant &

### Catering Award Hunter Valley Winners

Congratulations to Estate Tuscany on winning 'Caterer of the Year' and 'Wedding Caterer' and Restaurant Botanica on winning 'Best Restaurant in a hotel, motel, resort' at the 2016 NSW Restaurant & Catering Awards (R&CA's Awards). R&CA's Awards for Excellence program provides deserved recognition to those restaurants and caterers that excel in their field. The Savour Australia Hostplus Awards for Excellence is a nationally recognised, independently judged awards program that recognises exceptional service and culinary talent across Australia. It provides publicity for hospitality businesses, a chance to network with key suppliers, and acknowledges the achievements of hospitality staff. Congratulations to Estate Tuscany and Restaurant Botanica for their excellent achievement.

### 2016 Hunter Valley Boutique Winemaker's Show

The big winners at this year's Hunter Valley Boutique Wine Show winning Best Red Wine of Show, David Hook Wines with their 2014 Shiraz and Best White Wine of Show, Tintilla Estate with their 2009 Semillon. All Trophy winners were announced at the gala dinner last Thursday night at Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley with over 150 guests in attendance. All up, 315

wines were tasted over two days by a panel of six judges. The six judges are winemakers from the valley's bigger wineries who offer their opinions and expertise to the smaller operators. Other trophy winners included Thomas Wines, Midnight's Promise Estate, Mistletoe Wines, Ridgeview Wines, McLeish Estate, Ballabourne Wine Company, Davis Premium Vineyards, Two Rivers Wines, Pretty Dog Vineyard, Elbourne Wines, Intuition Wines (Hunter TAFE, Kurri Campus), The Little Wine Company and Hunters Dream. Congratulations to all the winners.

### Hunter Valley Wine Country welcomes V8 Supercars and new Cruise Terminal to boost tourism

The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) warmly welcomes the announcements this week made by Premier Mike Baird regarding Newcastle to host the V8 Supercars finals series from 2017 and construction of a dedicated cruise terminal in Newcastle. The announcements this week can only be beneficial to tourism in the region. The Cruise Industry currently attracts around 17,000 international and domestic visitors to the Hunter. The new terminal will allow Newcastle to entice more cruise ships to the region giving Wine Country the opportunity to promote day and overnight visitation. Hunter Valley Wine Country is perfectly positioned to take advantage of this by enticing visitors to extend their stay to one of Australia's preeminent wine & food destinations. Furthermore, the attraction of interstate and international visitors presents an excellent opportunity to expand visitation from these sought after markets. The HVWTA is enthusiastic about the opportunities this event will bring for the region and tourism businesses and congratulates the Premier, Mr Mike Baird for the vision and investment in the Hunter Region which will not only boost the Hunter economy but produce many long term jobs in the tourism sector.

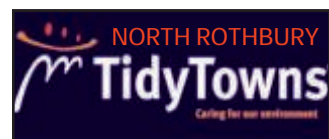
### Hunter Valley Spring Campaign Kicks Off with a Bang

The Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association's (HVWTA) Spring campaign has been launched and in just one week live on our social media platforms the promotional video has received over 24,000 organic views. The HVWTA marketing team are now going to market with a very strong strategic digital

advertising campaign targeting Sydney and surrounds. The purpose of the campaign is to drive visitation to the Hunter Valley by targeting the short break market for a Spring escape. For great deals on a Spring break in the Hunter Valley visit [winecountry.com.au](http://winecountry.com.au) Finalists have now been announced for the 2016 NSW Tourism Awards. The 2016 NSW Tourism Awards celebrates over 100 finalists across 26 categories recognising excellence from a range of tourism areas such as Tourist Attractions, Ecotourism, Destination Marketing and Accommodation. Congratulations to all Hunter Valley finalists including Beyond Ballooning, Margan Wines and Restaurant, Chateau Elan at The Vintage, Hungerford Hill Wines and Legends Grill at The Vintage.

The Awards Presentation and Gala Celebration will be held at Luna Park Sydney on Thursday 24 November. Good luck to all the Hunter Valley Finalists.

### NOTICE ~ AGM



Notice is hereby given that North Rothbury Tidy Towns will be having their AGM on Monday 10th October at the shelter in Ayrefield Memorial Park at 6:30pm.

All members & guests welcome.

## TAX RETURNS From \$90

# Dianne Preston

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# Branxton Golf Club



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

## Melbourne Cup Tuesday 1st November

### Live Entertainment

### Pat v Cat



## Calcutta night Sat 29th October

Twilight Golf Every Wednesday @ 4.30pm Great prizes

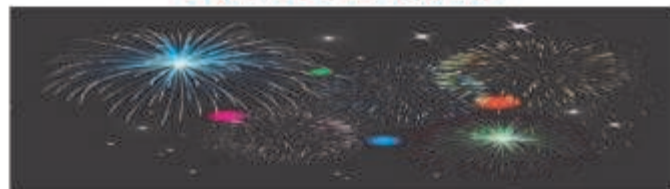
Mr J's Kiddies Golf Every Tuesday After School

Donnie's Kids Disco 1st Sunday of every Month

Broadband for Seniors Computer Classes Available on request

## Christmas Spectacular

9th Dec 2016



### Giant Toy Raffle

Friday 25th November



Tickets on sale from 6.30 Drawn 7.30pm

\$1600 Worth



# MOVIE REVIEW

## The Magnificent Seven

### ABOUT

Director Antoine Fuqua brings his modern vision to a classic story in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures' and Columbia Pictures' *The Magnificent Seven*. With the town of Rose Creek under the deadly control of industrialist Bartholomew Bogue (Peter Sarsgaard), the desperate townspeople, led by Emma Cullen (Haley Bennett), employ protection from seven outlaws, bounty hunters, gamblers and hired guns - Sam Chisolm (Denzel Washington), Josh Farraday (Chris Pratt), Goodnight Robicheaux (Ethan Hawke), Jack Horne (Vincent D'Onofrio), Billy Rocks (Byung-Hun Lee), Vasquez (Manuel Garcia-Rulfo), and Red Harvest (Martin Sensmeier). As they prepare the town for the violent showdown that they know is coming, these seven mercenaries find themselves fighting for more than money.



Movie remakes have not been setting the world on fire lately.

The all-gal *Ghostbusters* will maybe break even. *Ben-Hur* and *Tarzan* each cost — and lost — a fortune. So what's Hollywood pushing this weekend? *The Magnificent Seven*, a remake of a remake — admittedly, one with a decent pedigree. In Akira Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai* (1954), a pickup band of seven sword-wielding rōnin are hired by a Japanese farming village to protect it from bandits. Only three of them walked away at the end. In the original *The Magnificent Seven*, John Sturges made it seven gunslingers protecting a Wild West town from Mexican bandits. Only three of them rode out.

Now comes *The Magnificent Seven* the remake, and though the plot's essentially unchanged, the filmmakers have made some clearly intentional updates to their time-honored formula. No bandits this time. The bad guy is a greedy U.S. capitalist named Bogue (Peter Sars-

gaard). And the good guys? A rainbow coalition: Asian knife hurler (Byung-hun Lee), Hispanic outlaw (Manuel Garcia Rulfo), face-painted native-American archer (Martin Sensmeier), a Confederate sharpshooter (Ethan Hawke), a guy described as a bear in people's clothes (Vincent D'Onofrio), and a goofball gambler (Chris Pratt), all led by silky-smooth bounty hunter Denzel Washington.

Actually, I say Denzel Washington leads this band of variously grumpy, dopey and bashful dudes, but they're actually in the employ of a woman this time — that's another change — a woman I started to think of as a particularly aggrieved Snow White (Haley Bennett). When asked if she seeks revenge, she says she seeks righteousness, but she'll take revenge. Whistle while you work on that. Though much of the film was shot in Louisiana, there are crags and wide open plains enough that the Old West vistas and the artfully shot mayhem look appropriately majestic. If you're going to have church bells crashing down from flaming steeples, director Antoine

Fuqua is definitely the guy you want behind the camera. He previously teamed up with Denzel Washington on the contemporary shoot-'em-ups *Training Day* and *The Equalizer*, and he seems to really relish the sight of his star riding a horse (or even just walking beside it). At one point, Washington quietly says something like "go on, horse" and his steed obligingly saunters away to give him a clear shot at a bad guy.

As you might expect, the firepower is significantly increased this time out — I don't recall a Gatling gun in the 1960 version — and the climax, pitting Bogue's thug-gish army of 200 against the town's nobly heroic seven is, let's say "explosive."

If body count is what you go to Westerns for, by all means drift into this one's corral. It's hardly magnificent, and apart from its casting it's not doing anything particularly original with its premise. But it's diverting in about the way you'd expect of a remake twice removed — call it a perfectly competent seven.

It might be a bit late to close that door since they say the breach occurred back in 2014. The company says the stolen information includes passwords and security questions, email addresses, phone numbers, and dates of birth. They say there's no evidence anything is going now, but it's still a good idea to not only change your password but also activate two-factor authentication

### Watch Out For Fake Facebook Friend Requests

I got a Facebook friend request from my cousin. Which was odd since we're already Facebook friends. Once you're friends with someone, they can't send you a request. I didn't choose to accept it, but I did go to the profile. It used three photos that belonged to my cousin and had about 5 family members as friends. But when I searched for my cousin's actual profile, it was still there with hundreds of friends and the proper information about my cousin.



ley 1

This was definitely a scammer. Once these scam friend requests are accepted these crooks will message you. Generally to either sell you something or to ask for money. They don't need to hack someone's account to do this. They can just grab some screenshots of public photos and use the name.

If you get a request from someone you think you're already friends with, check your friends list to make sure it's not a duplicate. Sometimes people do start second accounts because they've been locked out. But before accepting a duplicate request, try to contact the person through their current profile or via email, text, or phone to confirm they've started a new FB account

### Will A WiFi Adapter Work With A Surface 3?

Poor wireless reception can be the bane of anyone's existence. A reader asked, "Will a WiFi adapter work on a Microsoft Surface 3, which has a USB port? Do you know of anything like this that will work on an iPad and iPhone?"



A USB WiFi adapter will work with a Surface 3 for two reasons: 1: A Surface 3 is a PC running the full version of Windows and 2: It has a USB port. Whether or not it will improve your WiFi reception will depend on what speed you're paying for and the speed and strength of the signal your router is broadcasting. If your Surface 3 is picking up the full speed put out by your router, an adapter won't be able to improve it.

There's nothing you can attach directly to an iPhone or iPad to boost WiFi reception, but you could purchase a WiFi extender to extend the range of a WiFi signal in your home. As long as your reception problems aren't caused by something structural or interference from another device, this can greatly improve your connectivity.

### Mathigon

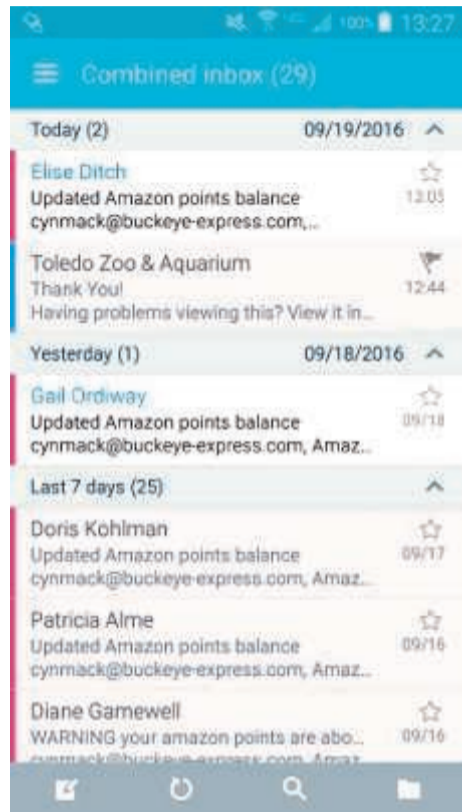
Welcome to Mathigon! This site offers free, math education that uses an interactive textbook, videos, games, and more! When you arrive at the site you can scroll down the page to learn a little bit about Mathigon, and even check out the course library. The course library is divided by grade level. It offers you grades 6-9, 10-12, College, and there's also a Recreational section. Each grade level offers multiple categories of math. Be sure to check out the Recreational section, that's where I found my favourite thing on the site — **Mathematical Origami!**

After you've browsed the site and decided you're into this new way of experiencing math, you'll want to register for a free account. You can do so by clicking Login on any page. They offer the option to connect via Facebook, Google, or with your e-mail address. If you want to register with your e-mail address be sure to click the Create A New Account link. Logging in will let you save your progress, and get a personalized curriculum.

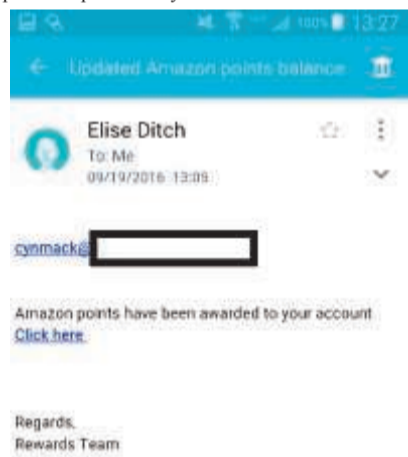
This looks like a really neat way to learn math concepts! Go check it out for yourself today! <https://mathigon.org/>

### Amazon Email Scam - What To Look Out For

An email scam came to my attention this weekend. Scammers were flooding my inbox with the same trick. I must have received 7 of them in two days.



There are all kinds of red flags here. An email from Amazon wouldn't come from a name, it would come from Amazon customer service. And Amazon doesn't have any such thing as points. Open it and you see a direction to "Click here."



I'm guessing this Amazon scam is big now because of the recent judgment against Apple, requiring them to offer a refund to Amazon customers who were forced to pay more for certain books because Apple has forced the publishers to fix the price at a certain point. The settlement was made in the form of store credit. Amazon has been reminding those with store credit left to spend it.

If someone wasn't playing close attention, they might think this was a notice that their store credit was about to expire. Of course, if you click this link, there's a whole lot of bad things that might happen.

You could end up on a fake site that asks for your Amazon information. Then they might steal your credit card info or use your account info to buy items and have them shipped to them. Or, even worse, you might end up on a site that downloads spyware on your PC to steal your information or perhaps download ransomware that locks up your PC.

As always, if you think an email like this might be for real, just go to your account. Don't click on the link in the email. Go to the web page for your account and check on the claims made in the email. These scammers won't content themselves to just target Amazon users. Expect to see notices that everything from fuel points to

### Time To Change Your Email Password

If you have a Yahoo account, you'll want to change that password ASAP. The company says that 500 million accounts have been compromised in what it says is a "state-sponsored" act of terror.





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

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

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

Andrew is on hols so I have taken the liberty to re-publish an article he had written for paper in 2010



I am sitting at Tullamarine airport in the cultural city of Melbourne. I, along with hundreds of other poor souls, have been attending the 2010 Wine Industry Outlook conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre. Outlook conferences

generally begin with the head of the industry presenting a long list of irreversible and discouragingly sour predictions for the foreseeable future and offer a handful of suicidal anecdotes to sound as if there just could be the slightest glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel for those who are prepared to sell their souls to the devil. This one was no different and basically went down the way of..... "Good morning ladies and gentleman .....if you are sitting here today you are basically f\*\*\*ed, so let's not waste any more time and head over to Crown Casino across the road and party for the next three days....." Of course, I'm just kidding. The wine industry is a tough gig nowadays but the wine consumer has never had it better. So all I'm saying is that when it comes to wine, the world's your oyster.....waste no time, drink up and enjoy!

While it was fresh in my mind, today's article was to focus upon some of the business sector's up-to-date ploys and a sure fire route to turning into the next Richard Branson. The mind, however, works in funny ways (oh my, I'm so insightful – the mind works in funny ways – any other great worldly secrets you need to know?). I have obviously already forgotten the **corduroy** of knowledge generously bestowed upon us and left it at the black jack table (I'm sure one Mike De Iulius and one Christopher Tyrrell can vouch for that.) No, I am a long way from my topic; let me explain.

Sitting just over from me is one of the oddest looking characters I have ever seen. He is not odd due to his own repertoire of maverick fashion, he is actually dressed very conservatively. He is not acting in an impromptu manner or irresponsibly, in fact he is quietly reading a novel. There is nothing untoward and I do trust that you forgive my callous insinuation but I have to share this with you – or someone – as I could not possibly take it to the grave with me. The chap I speak of resembles a giant from a children's fairytale. He is relatively tall but it is not necessarily his height. It is everything else. His head, and I am far from exaggerating, is three times the size as the two people seated alongside him. His eyes are like paper-weights, enclosed by these mud-flap sized eyelids. His nose is the size of his ears which are the size of large pears. His teeth and lips resemble a donkey and the book in his large hands looks like any of us holding a train ticket. I know what you are thinking girls, and so I will stop there but rest assured, you are probably on the mark with your baseball bat comment.

Let me put this into context. As a child, anything out of the ordinary becomes a spectacle of awe. A child will stare at something (or someone) which does not fit into the equilibrium of the norm. It is not rude, it is quite a natural response. Why do you think good marketing captures attention? It's different! This chap warrants a double-take, in fact a triple-take and then some. I am neither proud nor boastful about viewing this individual in a child-like manner but I can't help it ..... it is amazingly hypnotic.

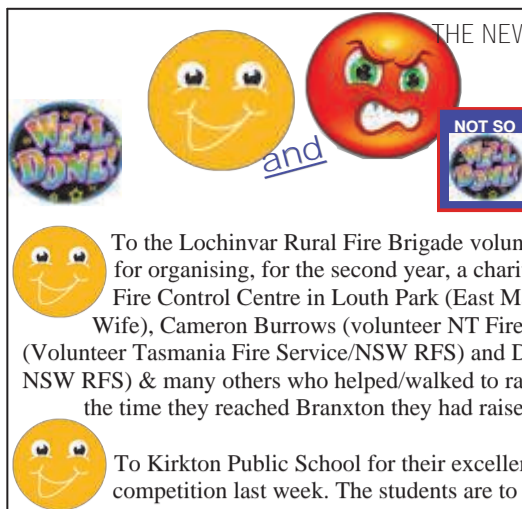
It is an uneasy fact that the minorities create the greatest intrigue with the ease of simple aesthetics. After studying our friend, albeit very discreetly, I decide to direct my attention not on his big, inflated, massively ginormous features .....oh, maybe just another ten or fifteen second peek .....but on the other people in our vicinity, who I have overtly noticed taking a similar interest in my subject. Now this is much better. One particular woman, who is perhaps in her late twenties – early thirties holds no bars at all and only relinquishes her stare during the random moments he lifts his humungous eyes from the page. She is intently enamoured and progressively starting to fall off her seat. The person seated directly next to him is looking reservedly nervous and the teenage girl sitting alongside her sleeping mother has been staring, open-mouthed, using

her mother's head as a shelter. Of course, it is not as if we are all perfect. How boring if we were. But this guy's head is its own galaxy.....remarkable! Now, here's the thing. The oddest looking chap I knew at school was a guy called Andrew Upton. Great bloke- very odd- and very odd looking. I remember my constant moments of staring at Andrew thinking 'this guy's a different kettle of fish'. Granted, he was not as odd looking as my new friend but odd enough to write about him today. Ready for this? He married Hollywood dream girl Cate Blanchett. Enough said. Given this fine example, I am prepared to accept that Dr Gigantor over here has a story which could blow us all away. He has just devoured half a sandwich which looked more like a Tic-Tac being thrown down his throat. Maybe he's in the circus? Perhaps he does children's birthday parties? Which brings us to a point. I've thought about this a lot and have contrivically (and I'm making that a word because it grammatically sounds correct) reached an interim opinion that most people begin to customise a closing declaration based purely upon how they were emphatically conditioned as children. I suppose the resultant assessment we all make upon everything is simply a way of emphasising and almost institutional run of proceedings with a partially twisted sentiment, which quickly exacerbates our pre-conditioned thoughts. In a lot of ways, we have never really grown up. Adults may walk around all high and mighty with a 'look at me.....I'm all grown up' attitude but the illusion is almost as absurd as the belief. As far as I'm concerned, growing up is for people who had a rotten childhood. I do not wish to re-invent an already visited concept of the not-altogether comfortable terrain of Freudian slips, but I do see the lurid and enticing passage into adulthood as a betrayal of the innocent values of childhood.

Put it this way. If my five year old daughter were to be sitting with me now and I caught her staring at our subject, I would not for the life of me do what most people would do and yell "Stop staring at that chap ..... it's rude!" I would say nice and quietly to her.... "Wow, he's a big guy isn't he? He must have a big heart.....how lucky." I would then direct the attention to another person straight away and pay them a compliment based upon a unique feature. I have not read this in a book or had it taught to me, far from it. Maybe there is a more creative way to deal with this situation but it will hopefully desensitise the ambivalent fashion in which most of us were disciplined. There is nothing worse than seeing a child stripped of creative expression through being told they 'can't' do something. "Don't look!", "No touching!", "Stop thinking!", "Stop living!" There are different methods by which a similar result can be attained. It's called encouragement. I know, it's bloody hard sometimes and it takes time and effort but nothing worthwhile is ever easy.

Anyway, It's too late for me. The damage is done. Please excuse me whilst I go back to staring at..... wait a minute..... oh, my.....you should see this.....I accidentally just swiped a fleeting look at this hideous looking thing in the adjoining room.....oh wait.....it's a mirror.....oh shit.....

Cheers  
Andrew



To the Lochinvar Rural Fire Brigade volunteer members Michael Gillis & Jeff Jackson for organising, for the second year, a charity walk from Tamworth to the Lower Hunter Fire Control Centre in Louth Park (East Maitland). Also to Melissa Gillis (Michaels Wife), Cameron Burrows (volunteer NT Fire and Rescue Service), Midge Gray (Volunteer Tasmania Fire Service/NSW RFS) and David Seabrook (volunteer North Rothbury NSW RFS) & many others who helped/walked to raise money for the NSW Cancer Council. By the time they reached Branxton they had raised \$17,000. Well done to all!!

To Kirrton Public School for their excellent entry in the Singleton Prime Beef competition last week. The students are to be commended on their behaviour throughout the day.

## Classified's Classified's

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

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

**Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908  
**Computer Services:** Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128  
**For Rent:** Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460  
**For Sale:** 1999 TS City Astra, 215,800 kms, Rego 16/09/2016, 2nd Owner, Mechanically Sound & Reliable, Pink Slip. \$2050.00 ONO Great First Car. 0417 987 334  
**For Sale:** 2002 Rover 75. Unregistered. Needs some TLC which I am not prepared to do. Full leather, GPS. Beautiful vehicle. Price Neg NEED TO SELL TO GET OUT OF GARAGE ~ **BETTER HALF'S ORDERS!** P: 0414 757 826  
**Guitar Lessons:** Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.  
**Microchipping:** Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.  
**Fitness Classes:** 'Core & Strength'. Get fit for summer. 8am - 10am Tue & Thur at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478  
**Found:** Drone found in backyard Branxton. Call 4938 1820  
**Riding Lessons:** agistment, horses trained. [www.byalee.net](http://www.byalee.net) 0407 453 494  
**Share accommodation:** Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton; off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067  
**Share House:** Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866  
**Wanted:** high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826  
**Wanted:** all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 sl70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841  
**Work Wanted:** Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292  
**Work Wanted:** Lawn Mowing: best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397  
**Work Wanted:** Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601  
**Work Wanted:** HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701

**Work Wanted:** Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567  
**Work Wanted:** Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081  
**Work Wanted:** Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.  
**Work Wanted:** experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804  
**Work Wanted:** Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153  
**Work Wanted:** Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989  
**Work Wanted:** Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936  
**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/branxonandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/>  
**For Sale:** 1989 Isuzu FSR, 6 horse, 9300GVM, King single bed, microwave, fridge, shower, electric hot water system, slide out BBQ, hydraulic tailgate with cattle door, 285000.00km, good tyres, water tank, led 24v lights as well as 240v ones, aux battery's with auto solenoid for lights/car fridge, tv/dvd player, ample cupboards, heaps of under oxy boxes as well as 4 saddle and tack box with 6 bale feed box, shocks etc renewed in the last 12months, services regularly and well looked after. \$4000 ono 0265776035 or 0411280663.  
**For Sale:** CASH ONLY NO SWAP OR TIME WASTERS. Selling my 2006 Nissan cube as we only need one car. Engine 1.4, auto, air con, central locking, electrical windows, 5 seater with plenty of room and big boot. CD/DVD/GPS player with bluetooth, mag wheels and a set of standard wheels. about 113000km. rego march 2017. plates BS68CW. Location Cessnock NSW \$6000 ONO. PHONE 0427912281  
**For Sale:** 2014 suzuki intruder 250, bought brand new in 2014, only has a low 2,000 km on it, so still brand new, not a mark on it. Has side leather panniers, never been dropped, always garaged since day 1, \$5,500 ono ph: 0411820086

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



**Tue 4 Oct** - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
**Wed 5 Oct** - Night Time Bingo @ Greta Workers Club from 7.00  
**Mon 10 Oct** - First day of Term 4  
**Tue 11 Oct** - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting AGM, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.  
**Tue 11 Oct** - 6:30pm Tim Low author Songbirds of Australia and the Hunter Valley Talk @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre  
**Wed 12 Oct** - Rags to Riches High Tea for Women's Cancer @ Branxton Community Hall from 11.30am  
**Fri 14 Oct** - Branxton Public School Infants Athletic Carnival  
**Sat 15 Oct** - Branxton Public School P & C shopping trip  
**Sun 16 Oct** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds Cnr Station Street & Maitland Road, Branxton  
**Mon 17 Oct** - Branxton Public School P & C Meeting 6pm in Library  
**Tuesday 18 October** - The Branxton Heart Foundation Walking group "The Hearty Ducks" are going on a garden ramble at Hunter Valley Gardens @ 10am. Sonnie Moran (Mob: 0455683607) Walk Organiser for Heart Foundation Walking Group. Branxton Area  
**Wed 19 Oct** - Sec 355 Committee Public Meeting Branxton Community Hall at 4pm.  
**Fri 21 Oct** - Ch 7 @ 7pm Better Homes and Gardens featuring North Rothbury Rural Fire Service fire station Makeover.  
**Sat 22 Oct** - Garage Sale Trail Happening in Singleton & Cessnock LGA and across Australia. Register now at [garagesaletrail.com.au](http://garagesaletrail.com.au)  
**Sat 22 Oct** - FREE Mattress Drop off. Hunter TAFE Cessnock Campus Car Park  
**Thur 27th October** - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support



Groups next meeting at Cessnock Leagues Cub 3pm to 4:30pm. Guest Speaker is Dana Buzinec from The Newcastle Cancer Council. Subject: An update on Cancer Council new support and transport services for people in the Hunter Region affected by cancer during and after treatment. This information will help remove the stress for those people. So come along and ask question. Meeting are open to all members of the public: Cost FREE. For information: Barry 49904554. - 0457073852.  
**Thur 27 Oct** - Art After Hours Cessnock Regional Art Gallery 16 Vincent St, Cessnock  
**Tue 1 Nov** - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
**Tue 8 Nov** - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.  
**Mon 14 Nov** - B/G CWA Land Cookery/Prod. Prom. (Blueberries) Day, McCauley Hall, Branxton, 10.00 for 10.30am, M/T, Lunch, Guest Speaker, \$15. Enq./RSVP Marie 0420215850.  
**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  
**Mon 12 Dec** - Greta Public School 'Angels'  
**Tue 13 Dec** - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigid's 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  
**Fri 16 Dec** - Greta Public School End of Year Movie Day  
**Sun 18 Dec** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds



## Kirkton Public School News

Our Cattle Judging Team had their last formal experience for the year when they recently attended the Singleton Prime Beef Competition.

This was quite a long day and the students should be commended on their behaviour throughout the day. Luna, our heifer, won on the Singleton Junior Judging Day in May, was groomed and spoilt throughout the day.

Luna's parading was assisted by Jago who did a first class job. She gained a fourth in her class. The Team ensured that she was well watered, fed and her area clean and tidy while they waited for their final event – The Young Farmers Challenge.



Even the rain didn't dampen their spirits – they were very keen and competed well – even against the high school teams. They should all be very proud of themselves.



## Branxton Public School



▲ Ashley & Anton

**Branxton Public School News10**, with visitors from many students from all over the region. Well done to Mrs Mungoven and her band of helpers for organising the event.

Our School Gardening Club, under the watchful eye of Mrs Standen and Mrs Goodyer, have been doing an excellent job of making the school's garden areas weed free and well mulched. They have been involved in planting new plants and are keen to make our school look both tidy and beautiful.

Congratulations to ex-Branxton P.S. students Ashley Fry and Anton Osborne who have been elected as School Captains at Rutherford Technology High School for 2017. We are always proud to see our past students taking on important leadership roles.

The Infants' Sports Carnival will be



▲ Happy gardeners

held on Friday 14th October. The carnival will be held on the back field at school and will begin at 10.30am. All parents and friends are welcome to attend.

We are having a very special day the 28th of October with the whole school participating in A Day for Daniel. This is a national day of action to raise awareness about child safety and protection. We will begin the day by encouraging our students to walk safely to school and other activities will follow during the school day.

The Branxton P.S. P&C have organised a Fundraiser Shopping Trip to Birkenhead Point and DFO at Homebush on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets are \$40. Check our Facebook page for more information. A great chance to start the Christmas shopping!

The P&C are introducing an exciting new system into the school next term called FlexiSchools. This will support the canteen and uniform shop. Parents and carers will be able to order lunches and clothing ahead of time without sending cash to school.

Students and staff both return for Term 4 on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

### Dates for the Calendar

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October – First day of Term 4

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Infants' Athletics Carnival

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October – P&C Shopping Trip

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October – P&C Meeting 6pm in library

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

# ANNUAL ART & DEMENTIA FUNDRAISER

*Proudly supported by Walka Grange Lifestyle Village*

**1233 ABC NEWCASTLE'S PAUL BEVAN IN CONVERSATION WITH CELEBRITY CHEF PETER VICKERY**

*Join us for a decadent dessert bar!  
Tickets include a smorgasbord of desserts, Tyrrell's Wines, live painting, music and more!*

This not-to-be-missed event includes food styling demonstrations with 2011 MasterChef contestant Peter Vickery, complemented by ceramicist Katherine Mahoney and artist Rachel Milne who will paint the scene as the night unfolds. A great atmosphere and fundraising auction awaits!

**FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER 2016  
8PM - LATE (7:30PM ARRIVAL)  
\$50/PERSON \$90/COUPLE  
RSVP 18 OCTOBER 2016**

**Tickets available at Maitland Regional Art Gallery 4934 9859**

*Presented by The Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise and Maitland Regional Art Gallery with the support of Walka Grange Lifestyle Village. This joint community initiative will raise funds for the Art and Dementia program at Maitland Regional Art Gallery.*



**Maitland Regional Art Gallery is supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW**

**MRAG.ORG.AU**



In some parts of the world, students are going to school every day. It's their normal life. But in other part of the world, we are starving for education... it's like a precious gift. It's like a diamond. *Malala Yousafzai*

I guess what really forms you as a person is what you do within your family to receive love or attention. In my family, what you had to do to receive attention was to have good conversation at the dinner table or for me to do well at school, and those were really my focuses because that was what was valued the most. *Emma Watson*

Reading develops cognitive skills. It trains our minds to think critically and to question what you are told. This is why dictators censor or ban books. It's why it was illegal to teach slaves to read. It's why girls in developing countries have acid thrown in their faces when they walk to school. *Karin Slaughter*



# Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service



## Winx to be Hunter Valley's first Hall of Fame female

THERE have been some wonderful racing females bred in the Hunter Valley since breeding in the region began, but to date none as yet have been inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame, one only instigated in 2001 and still catching up on notables of the past. Worthy candidates of last century from the Hunter Valley appear to be Denise's Joy, Wiggle, Citius, Evening Peal, Lady Medalist (born 1906), Triscay, Bounding Away and Fairy Walk, to mention a few. None of these, however, appear better qualified for Hall of fame honours than Winx, the mare with the smooth porche gear changes who cruised to her eleventh successive win in the Group1 George Main (1600m) at Randwick on Saturday. It was Winx's sixth Group1 in then sequence, being preceded in ascending order by the Epsom, Cox Plate, Chipping Norton, George Ryder and Doncaster. Including \$1.09 on Saturday, she has been odds on in all her last eight appearance, a measure of excellence that predictably will apply she contest the Cox Plate again next month.

Now raced 21 times for 15 wins, three seconds and \$7,135,425 and currently the world's top ranked mare, Winx is now the eighth highest money in Australian history and third top female behind Sunline (\$11,351,610) and Black Caviar (\$7,953,936). She was bred by John Camilleri's Fairways Thoroughbreds using the now deceased Darley visitor Street Cry (GB) (by the Mr Prospector sire Machiavellian) and Vegas Showgirl, a good New Zealand performer up to 1400m by the Success Express sire Al Akbar and sold through Coolmore for \$230,000 at the Gold Coast. If Winx eventually joins the elite in the Hall of Fame she will find, if there is no additions in between, eleven other females, Black Caviar, Briseis, Flight, Leilani, Let's Elope, Makybe Diva, Sunline, Surround, Tranquil Star, Wakeful and Wenona. Let's Elope, a New Zealand bred winner in 1991 of the Melbourne and Caulfield Cups, died this month.

## Daughter of Street Cry in American Hall of Fame

WINX'S sire, Dubai Word Cup winner Street Cry, already has a Hall of Fame inducted daughter. Elected to the American version in August this year, she is Zenyatta, a 2004 born mare who ran 20 times for 19 straight wins and, at her final start, a second. Earner of US\$7,304,580, Champion Older Mare 2008, 2009 and 2010, she included 13 Group1s in her successes, among them the Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic, Breeders Cup Classic and Hollywood Park Vanity on three occasions. Her only loss was in the Breeders Cup Classic. She is a three-quarter sister to Group 2 winner She's Not Here and a half-sister to Balance, a Thunder Gulch (by Mr. Prospector) filly who won three Group1s, including the Santa Anita Oaks. Zenyatta's dam, Vertineux, won one race, a Belmont Allowance. She is by Kris, a son of Roberto, and is one of ten winners from the minor winner For The Flag, a Forli product of In the

Offing, a mare by Hoist The Flag, a champion 2yo by the Ribot sire Tom Rolfe. The only stakes winner among the first six dams is the fourth, Mrs Peterkin, a Listed winner by Tom Fool. She produced nine winners, including Dancing Champ (by Nijinsky), the sire of the dam of Success Express.

Zenyatta was one of two racehorses by Darley shuttled sires added to America's Hall of Fame this year. The other is Rachel Alexandra, a daughter of the El Prado sire Medaglia d'Or, one who his on seventh visit to Australia, standing at Darley Hunter Valley on \$110,000.

Horse of the Year and Champion 3YO Filly 2009, Rachel Alexandra won 13 races, including in five Group1s the Kentucky Oaks by an amazing 20 ¼ lengths, the Mother Goose by 19 ¼ lengths and, in belting the boys, the Classic Preakness.

Dam of Rachel's Valentina (foaled 2013), a filly by the Darley shuttled A.P. Indy sire Bernardini who has won at Group1 level and been second in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies, Rachel Alexandra is from Lotta Kim, a Listed winner by Roar, a Group 2 winning son of the Mr. Prospector sire Forty Niner.

## Takedown's success a joyful occasion for Gary Moore

GARY MOORE, a former seven times champion Hong Kong jockey, a Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winning rider and leading Macau trainer now at Rosehill, showed much more joy than was customary from his illustrious father, George "Cotton Fingers" Moore, when he was the king of Australian riders last century, when his 4-year-old Stratum gelding Takedown won the Group 2 The Shorts (1100m) at Royal Randwick on Saturday. The exuberant Gary Moore jumped over the fence onto the track after the horses thundered past the post and, pumping his arms in the air showed his delight. He had good reason to celebrate as the win boosted the image of the stable and suggested the Widden Stud produced and half owned Takedown is worthy of a crack at Group1 sprints in the current racing year.

Takedown had disappointed at his only two starts at Group1 level before, appearances in the Champagne Stakes at Randwick at two and the Stradbroke at Eagle Farm at three. He is a big lump of a horse, however, who has demonstrated good ability in most of his 16 starts, five wins, including The Shorts, Canberra Black Opal-G3, ATC Baillieu-G3 and Gold Coast Guineas-G3, and seconds in the Fred Best-G3 at Doomben and the Fireball-L at Randwick.

A half-brother to Sea Diamond, a good Hong Kong sprinter by Anabaa (USA) (Danzig), Takedown is the result of the mating of Stratum with Apamea (GB), a placegetter in France and a winner in Adelaide by the Gone West (Mr Prospector) sire Zafonic, one who died at 12 in September 2002 after serving four mares. All had filly foals who are now broodmares. Apamea is half-sister to two stakes performers in France and from Angelina Ballerina, a Nureyev Listed winner in England, a California Oaks second and a sister by Nureyev to Alex Nureyev, an Italian Listed winner the late Colin Richards stood in Queensland. Using Alex Nureyev, Richards bred Oliver Twist, a \$1.3million earner whose 14 wins included two Group1s in Melbourne, the Mackinnon and Underwood. Takedown's dam is inbred 4x3 to Northern Dancer and 4x3 to Secretariat and her fourth dam Sex Appeal is a half-sister to the third dam of Stratum's sire Redoute's Choice.

# Detailed sale yard report



## Saleyard report - cattle

### Singleton report date 28 Sept 2016

Yarding 710 ~ **Change 180** (Comparison Date 21/9/16)

Numbers lifted by 25% this week, with the majority of the yarding consisting of vealers and yearlings, and an increase in the number of export cattle offered. The usual buyers were present, however strong restocker interest continued to drive prices for light weight lines upward by 11c to 20c/kg and more in places. The grown cattle sold slightly cheaper for medium weight cows and dearer for the heavy weights. Medium weight vealer steers made up the majority of the yarding, with medium weights returning to the paddock topping at 496c to average 448c, up 20c/kg. Quality affected the medium weight D2's easing by 20c to average close to 381c/kg. Vealer heifer prices varied with light weight C2 lines averaging 425c, up 14c while secondary quality D2 lines eased 2c to average 392c/kg. Heavier weight D2 heifers weighing 200-280kg averaged 370c back 19c/k week-on-week. Medium weight D2 cows ranged from 220c to 258c averaging 240c, while the better quality heavy 3 scores topped at 275c to average 267 up 3c/kg



### Score report date 27 Sept 2016

Yarding 878 ~ **Change 65** (Comparison Date 20/9/16)

Numbers increased slightly with some good quality yearling heifers and steers off crops continuing to sell strongly while quality was the main driver behind some strong price fluctuations. Not all the usual buyers were present which affected the heavy cattle, with export cows and grown steers also easing with the majority back 2c to 12c/kg. Medium weight vealer steers to restock sold 12c dearer topping at 439c to average 427c, while light vealer heifers ranged from 382c to 430c to average 419c, for D2's. The 200-280kg heifers to restock, eased 12c, to average 395c/kg. Medium weight yearling steers to process averaged 394c, back 3c, while medium weights to feed averaged close to 391c/kg. Heavy feeder steers sold from 335c to 394c to average 373c/kg. Medium weight yearling heifers returning to the paddock sold 2c to 5c dearer averaging 364c for D2's and 388c/kg for C2 lines. The better quality heavy heifers to process sold steady to 8c cheaper, averaging between 370c and 385c/kg. Medium weight D2 cows topped at 274c to average 258c, while the 3 score lines reached 298c, however averaged 2c cheaper on 279c/kg. Heavy D3 cows averaged 266c, back 12c/kg week-on-week.



### TRLX Tamworth report date 26 Sept 2016

Yarding 1167 ~ **Change 625** (Comparison Date 19/9/16)

A few reasonably fine days enabled producers to allow transport in with the numbers more than doubling. Yearlings were well supplied. Quality and condition was fair to good with the percentage of well finished cattle continuing to increase. Most of the regular processors participated with all other orders in place. Demand was high for most classes. Market trends varied through the young cattle with light weight vealers and yearlings attracting keen restocker competition. The market trend was dearer with the steers up to 26c dearer and the heifers by 10c/kg. Medium weight yearling feeders were up to 6c dearer for steers and more for the heifer portion with the heifers also showing some quality improvement. Heavy yearling feeder steers sold to a cheaper trend, down 8c/kg with some quality related price change also. There was a dearer trend for an improved quality penning of heavy grown steers and heifers. The penning also included a number of younger milk and two tooth lots that attracted competition from the supermarket trade. Heavy weight cows remained firm, while the medium weights sold to a cheaper trend.



## At the close of Tuesday's, 27/9/16, markets:

- The Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) settled on 717.50¢, up 3.50¢/kg cwt, on where it had finished the previous day
- Trade steers were back 1¢, to 378¢/kg lwt
- Medium steers were back 10¢, to 337¢/kg lwt
- Heavy steers were back 7¢, to 345¢/kg lwt
- Medium cows were back 2¢, on 262¢/kg lwt
- Feeder steers were up 3¢, on 386¢/kg lwt




## Daily Thoughts

"Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds." ~ Thomas Jefferson

"It has been my philosophy of life that difficulties vanish when faced boldly." ~ Isaac Asimov

"Life is trying things to see if they work." ~ Ray Bradbury

"The best way out is always through." ~ Robert Frost



**Details:-**  
An intensive two day course to develop skills in assessing pasture and animal production and to develop pasture and livestock management plans. This course is an abridged version of the eight day Prograze™ course for those who can only attend for two days. If you have limited knowledge and experience you may wish to attend the Beef care and handling course first. Cost: \$550 GST-free  
Course aims:

- To visually assess pasture quantity and quality
- To understand how pasture quality and quantity impact on animal production
- To assess livestock fat scores
- To use pasture and livestock assessment as a basis for matching pastures to livestock requirements
- To use grazing management to improve the productivity and sustainability of pastures

**Register with Tocal College, CB Alexander Campus, by calling 1800 025 520 or emailing [profarm@tocal.com](mailto:profarm@tocal.com)**  
When ~ 11th Oct 2016 - 12th Oct 2016  
Where ~ Tocal College  
815 Tocal Road, Paterson  
Contact  
1800 025 520 or [profarm@tocal.com](mailto:profarm@tocal.com)

# REFLECTIONS

Gospel: [Luke 17: 11-19](#)

Sunday 9th October 2016

*And it came to pass, as he was going to Jerusalem, he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.*

*And as he entered into a certain town, there met him ten men that were lepers, who stood afar off;*

*And lifted up their voice, saying: Jesus, master, have mercy on us.*

*Whom when he saw, he said: Go, show yourselves to the priests. And it came to pass, as they went, they were made clean.*

*And one of them, when he saw that he was made clean, went back, with a loud voice glorifying God.*

*And he fell on his face before his feet, giving thanks: and this was a Samaritan.*

*And Jesus answering, said, Were not ten made clean? and where are the nine?*

*There is no one found to return and give glory to God, but this stranger.*

*And he said to him: Arise, go thy way; for thy faith hath made thee whole.*

## The Faith of the Outcast

*What fears cause people to cast others out? Why do they have such fears?*

Tragedy creates community. But it can also create a common enemy.

So can fear and prejudice. We can ban together for the good. But we can unite against others. To isolate

them. To cast them out. We might think we see the real truth. But, ironically, there are times the outcast sees clearer than our passions allow us. Emotion blurs the picture that the distance of the outcast clarifies. Sometimes the outcast has a vision that our prejudice hides.

Jesus encountered such an outcast on his way to Jerusalem.

**Popular Translation**  
11 When Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he walked on the border between the Galilee and Samaria. 12-13 As he was about to enter a village, ten men who had leprosy met Jesus. (Leprosy was contagious skin condition. People with leprosy had to live away from anyone else so they wouldn't infect them.) So, the ten stood far away and shouted, "Jesus! Great Teacher! Have mercy on us!"

14 When Jesus saw them, he replied, "Go! Show yourselves to the priests!" As they left, they were cured. 15 But one of them, seeing he was cured, returned. "Praise God!" the man shouted. 16 Then the man fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan.

17 "Weren't ten people cured?" Jesus said. "Where are the other nine? 18 Didn't any of them return to praise God except this foreigner?" 19 Then, Jesus said to the man, "Stand up. Your faith has saved you." In Luke, ten lepers did not shrink back from their hope: to be part of the community again. But one of their number had a double burden. He was a leper and a hated ethnic enemy of the Jews, a Samaritan. His extreme isolation helped him see who Jesus really was. And it helped him become a disciple.

**Literal Translation**  
11 It happened in (his) journey to Jerusalem, HE went along (the border) of Galilee and Samaria. 12 As HE entered a village, ten leper men who stood far off met [HIM] 13 and they shouted out, saying, "Jesus, (great) Teacher, have mercy on us!" 14 Having observed (their plight), HE said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

It happened, in their departure, they were cleansed (of the leprosy). 15 But one of them, having seen that he was cured, returned giving glory to God in a loud voice. 16 He fell on his face at HIS feet, thanking HIM. He was a Samaritan. 17 Having answered, JESUS said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where (are) the other nine? 18 Were (there) none found, having returned to give God glory, except this foreigner?" 19 HE said to him, "Stand up, go! Your faith has saved you." 17:11 "along (the border)"

is literally "in the midst of." The middle between Galilee and Samaria is either along the border of the two areas or directly through Galilee first, then Samaria. Luke did not know the geography of the area. But that was not his intent. He touched on both areas as arenas for the preaching of the Good News. He would return to each area in the Acts of the Apostles.

17:12 "'shouted out' is literally 'lifted up their voices.'"

17:13 "(great) Teacher" can also be translated "Master." This is the only time a non-disciple used this phrase (epistates). In the Leviticus, 13:45-46, the lepers should have warned strangers away because of their affliction. Here, they approach (even at a distance) and use the phrase as they ask for mercy. The combination of the title and the request implied an expectation for the coming kingdom. In his reign, God would grant mercy to the weak and the outcast.

17:19 "Go" is literally "Having gone." "Stand up" is "Having stood." In these sentences, the participle has the force of a command.

17:16 "He was a Samaritan." Like the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Luke used the hated Samaritan as the model for the disciple. This time, the Samaritan showed faith. Notice the man was an outcast for two reasons, ethnic impurity (i.e., heresy) and leprosy. For Luke, it seemed the more

outcast the person, the clearer he or she could see the power and will of God. 17:19 "Stand up" can also be translated "Rise up," another way to express resurrection. At the point the man returned to Jesus, he became a disciple and a subject of God's Kingdom. In a story of healing, Luke again affirmed the mission of Jesus to the outcast.

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. [17:11a]

Pointing out the destination of the journey, Luke emphasized the nature of Jesus' mission. His way was the road to humiliation and death in Jerusalem. Healing and preaching to the outcasts laid the groundwork for the capital charges that would be brought against him by the Jewish leaders.

The journey would take Jesus into the area of Galilee and Samaria; the communities of each hated each other and, so, were ripe for healing and the preaching of the Good News. So, Luke sets up the story of mixed outcasts who banded together out of necessity. As centuries-long enemies, Samaritans and Jews would never have eaten together unless the situation was desperate. Leprosy created such conditions for meal fellowship.

Standing at a distance, the ten lepers implored Jesus for a healing. [17:12-13] The distance was required by the Law, which both Samaritan and Jew followed (Leviticus 13:45-46). Their request was an act of faith in the healer, for they should have cried

out "Unclean! Unclean!" Jesus obliged their request with the command to show themselves to the priests, as required by the Law (Leviticus 14:1-32). [17:14a] Notice that only the word of Jesus was sufficient for the healing. Not only does speaking the word allow Jesus to remain ritually clean (he does not touch the lepers themselves), his word reveals his personal power. A person with such Godlike powers must be intimate with the Creator; he must speak the word of God and be filled with God's Spirit. When the healed lepers saw the priests (in Jerusalem), they would carry the physical evidence of who Jesus was. Their story to the priests would be a testimony to Jesus of Nazareth. The lepers would be advance men in Jerusalem for the wandering rabbi. But, realizing he was healed, the Samaritan returned to praise God and thank the Lord. The hated foreigner fell at the feet of Jesus and became a disciple. [17:15-16] While the nine Jewish lepers witnessed to what Jesus did, the Samaritan witnessed to who Jesus was (and is). The rhetorical question Jesus asked was only a bridge to focus the crowd's attention on the outcast. From the position of submission, the Samaritan stood up at the command of Jesus (this is a sign of the resurrection, since the Greek word for

resurrection, anastasis, means to "stand up"). [17:17-18a] Finally, Jesus told the Samaritan, "Your faith has saved you." [17:18b] Many people have misinterpreted this statement; they believe people can heal themselves, if they only call upon their inner power. In this scenario, Jesus became the teacher who simply pointed out their inner power and gave them the means to "tap" into it. These people forget who was in charge. Jesus did not explain an inner power or provide a hidden wisdom. He commanded healing. He lifted up the outcast (the Samaritan leper) to a new life. And, through Jesus' comment to the Samaritan, he affirmed the trust that the new disciple placed in him. Faith is the conduit of God's activity, but God is not bound to act through faith. In fact, God usually acts outside the presuppositions we place upon faith. As a walk with Jesus, faith can take into areas over which we have no control. Into areas of the outcast. Into areas where Jesus raises us up. Like the Samaritan, we only need to trust in the Lord and allow him to affirm that trust.

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# SPORTS RESULTS

## RESULTS GOLF

### September

Once again rain has washed out the Ladies day without a ball struck! Next week the Ladies will hold their Open Day on Monday with Individual Stableford set down for Wednesday.

### Thursday 22nd September

The Vets 2 Person No Scotch event went to Keith Dunlop and Peter Wilson with a great 60 1/2 with Wayne Drayton and Dale Macklinshaw runners up with 66 1/4. Ball winners were: Ray Newton & Ray Hodson, Grahame Sheldon & Heinz Kestermann, Doug Wand & Garry Marsden, John Grayson & Noel Ellanor, Eric Smith & Peter Munro, Mark Barrow & John Harrison, Ken Harris & Ryan Wilson, Kerry Choromanski & Kerrie Ann Skinner, Phil Durie & John Carmody, Graeme Flynn & John Stewart, Darrell Preston & Wayne Berry, Dave Fury & Geoff Sweetman, Lynette Russell & Lorraine Clack, Ken Wright & Bob Campaign and Rod Campbell and Robyn Dunlop. Nearest-the-Pins went to Noel Ellanor & Lorraine Clack (3rd) Peter Wilson (10th) and Ray Newton (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.

### Saturday 24th September

Great conditions greeted the Saturday field and led to great scoring. A Grade went to Ben Bradley on countback to David Preece after both had 40 point returns, B Grade to Brad Pringle also with 40 points from Brad Burgess who finished with 39 points and C Grade to Chris Connolly

### Wednesday 21st

with another 40 point return from evergreen Brian Rooney on 38 points. Ball winners were: Glen Foster v39, John Brown 38, Justin Preece 38, Bruce chambers 37, Brian Doherty 37, Luke McArthur 36, Peter Puerta 36, Neil Day 36, Ken Springbett 36, Greg Noble v36, Wes Bourke v36, Wade Attewell 35, Troy Coyle 35, Graeme Flynn 35 and Jaye Syevens 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wade Attewell (3rd) Adrian Kent (4th) Roy Hurn (8th) Cade Bradley (10th) and Rob Flanagan (17th). Next week the competition will be a Medley Stableford.

### Sunday 25th September

The Weekly Challenge has been won by Andrew Campbell with a solid 38 points from Singleton visitor Brad Ingram with an even Par 36 points.

### Tuesday 27th September

The Tuesday Stableford went to inform Stephen Applebee with a great 43 point round from Ray Newton with a fine 41 points and Andrew Nichols claiming 3rd place with 39 points. Ball winners were: Wayne Cowan 38, Joe Laughlin v37, Gary Arnold 36, Jeff Richardson 36, Ian Newell 35, Ken Scott-MacKenzie 35, Regan Powell 34, Andrew Edwards v33, Scott Archibald 33, Ray Hodson 33 and David Peel 33. Nearest-the-Pins went to Chris Taggart (3rd) Tim Lonergan (4th) Ray Hodson (10th) and Gary Arnold (17th).

### Wed 28th September

The Ladies finally had a fine day and those who played made the most of it, Lynette Russell doing best with 38 points to win the event from Robyn Dunlop who survived a countback from Kerrie Anne Skinner after both had 37 point returns. Ball winners were: Melita Watson, Isabel Skeates, Lorraine Clack and Dianne Oakes. Next week the Ladies will play Stroke.

### Thursday 29th September

Early morning showers greatly reduced the Veterans field with only a few brave 'lads' taking the weather on. Peter Payne had little trouble in the conditions returning a splendid 40 points to be the winner from Geoff Sweetman who also did well to record 39 points. Next week the Vets will play Par.

### Saturday 1st October

Strong winds greeted the Saturday field with scoring quite good despite the conditions. A Grade went to countback with Tim Lonergan getting the 'nod' from Justin Preece after both had 39 point returns, B Grade went to Russell Calderwood with 38 points from Ken Springbett on 37 and C Grade went to Jaye Stevens with another

cracking round of 46 points, beating his handicap by a staggering 10 shots, runner up was Greg Morgan with 41 points. Ball winners were: David Peel 37, John Brown 37, Peter Milas 37, Alex Lascelles 36, Scott Jones 36, Graeme Flynn 36, Brian Rooney 35, Wayne Jenkin 35, Neil Day 35, Michael Booth 35, Tony Butler 35, Gareth Shaw 34, James Harvey 34, Mark Faulkner 34, Peter Nash v34 and Rob Flanagan v33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Tony Butler (3rd) Wade Attewell (4th) Michael Booth (8th) Scott Jones (10th) and Bruce Chambers (17th). Next weeks golf will be the October Medal rounds along with the Mug of Mugs playoff and Girls Goblet playoff. Qualifiers are: Nathan Nancarrow, Adam Lettice, Scott Norrish, Rod Nyman, David Preece, Ian Taylor, Pat Maher, Todd Mitchell, Sue Peel, Julie Van Den Berg, Tracey Morison, Melita Watson, Lorraine Clack, Dianne Oakes, Jill Slatter, Perree Watson and Jill Ramsden

# Do you REMEMBER when....

THE NEWS Issue No 198 2nd March 2006

## \$15,000 to revamp football ground



Above: (L-R) Local Member Kerry Hickey MP & Minister for Community Services and Youth, Reba Meagher with Steve Bailey & some young club players with the \$15,000 cheque.

MINISTER for Community Services and Youth, Reba Meagher, has announced \$15,000 for the redevelopment of facilities at Greta Central Oval, new home to the Branxton Greta Colts. The Minister announced the funding during a visit to the area for the NSW Government's Regional cabinet meeting held in Maitland last week. "This year, the local Greta Branxton Colts will relocate to a bigger oval at Greta Central, and this money will ensure their facilities are up to scratch," Ms Meagher said. "With a significant increase in the number of rugby players joining the Colts, it's been necessary for them to find a bigger home ground. "I am pleased to be able to support

local sporting activities by providing this \$15,000 grant for the upgrade of the oval's facilities." Ms Meagher said the money would be used to provide additional fencing, new goal posts and player enclosures at Greta Central Oval. "The Member for Cessnock, Kerry Hickey, has told me about the importance of supporting youth projects in the local area," Ms Meagher said.

The funding announcement was welcomed by the Member for Cessnock. "The Colts are a popular rugby league team in the area, and its membership has increased significantly since joining the Upper Hunter Group 21 Rugby League competition this season," Mr Hickey said. "With around 350 players expected this season, it is important that facilities at the Oval are able to meet the club's needs." Ms Meagher said she was pleased to provide funding to a facility which will provide young people with a social outlet. "I am grateful to the Member for Cessnock for bringing this issue to my attention and allowing me to ensure funding for this important project."

# Do you REMEMBER when....

THE NEWS Issue No 204 25th May 2006 Page 44

## Bowls green distinction

GRETA Workers Club continues to impress! This time it's the bowling green that has attracted the attention of the Hunter District Bowling Association. The bowling green is widely acknowledged as the best playing surface in the Hunter Valley. The club has been the venue for the finals of



Club President Doug Dennis, second from far right, with guests from Lorn Park & Maitland City, last Sunday.

the District Fours this season & last weekend was again to the fore as the venue for the Pennant Final between Maitland City & Lorn Park. The green is a credit to the hard work & dedication of Mr. Stephen Gardner, who not only prepares the green but also ensures that the surrounds of the club are always attractive to the members & guests who visit the club. "We are always looking for new members, both ladies & gentlemen, to enjoy the game of bowls as well as the facilities the club has to offer. Beginners are more than welcome & free coaching is always available," said Doug Dennis, President of Greta Workers Club. Social games are played throughout the week so why not have a game. "You'll be pleasantly surprised," said Doug.



On the magnificent green at Greta Workers

## New Online Pool Booking Making a Splash

The 2016/17 pool season has commenced with Branxton and Cessnock pools officially opened at 7am on Saturday October 1.

Cessnock City Council Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said Council has introduced new software so patrons can purchase pool entry online.

"The community will have the convenience of buying full season, three month, 20 entry and single entry passes from their computer or smart device".

"Flexible direct debit payment options are also now available for full season and three month memberships", said Cr Pynsent.

### Entry Costs

<b>Single Entry</b>	<b>Family:</b> \$12.00 <b>Adult:</b> \$4.50 <b>Spectator:</b> \$2.20
<b>Season Tickets</b>	<b>Family:</b> \$355.00 <b>Couple:</b> \$275.00 <b>Single:</b> \$196.00
<b>Three Month Tickets</b>	<b>Family:</b> \$185.00 <b>Couple:</b> \$143.00 <b>Single:</b> \$103.00
<b>20 Entry</b>	\$65.00
<b>Booking Fee - Carnival/Fun Day</b>	\$113.00
<b>Replacement Pass</b>	\$4.00

During the off-season over \$90,000 of maintenance and renewal works has been undertaken to the outdoor pools. Patrons will see change room improvements and freshly painted exteriors. The pools are also ready to keep the community cool and comfortable following servicing of the main pumps and improvements to the plant room. Pool memberships and passes can be purchased online from [cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au).



# The New **SPORT**

## BRANXTON GOLF CLUB RESULTS

**24 September**  
**A GRADE WINNER**  
 LEE HEUSTON 38PTS  
**A GRADE RUNNER**  
 UP PETER VITNELL  
 35PTS  
**A GRADE 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
 ROD WILTON 35PTS  
**B GRADE WINNER**  
 ED GARLAND 40PTS  
**B GRADE RUNNER**  
 UP DAVID KINCH  
 37PTS  
**B GRADE 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
 STEPHEN ROSS  
 37PTS  
**C GRADE WINNER-**  
 DOUGLAS  
 MUNCASTER 41PTS  
**C GRADE RUNNER**  
 UP PETER MATHEWS  
 40PTS  
**C GRADE 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
 DANIEL ROGERS  
 39PTS  
**BALLS TO**  
 33pts  
 NTP  
 D THOMSON 214CM  
 T SEAMER 232CM  
 R CALDWELL 520CM  
 M TRACEY 140CM  
 Lee Heuston returned to form to win A Grade on Saturday with 38 pts,

well clear of Peter Vitnell and Rod Wilton who both recorded 35 pts. Eddie Garland won B Grade with an impressive 40 pts, no doubt enjoying his relatively new utility clubs, giving him that extra difference going for the greens. David Kinch and Steve Ross finished runners up with 37 pts. Douglas Muncaster recorded the best stableford score of the day, winning C Grade with an excellent 41 pts, just ahead of Peter Mathews with 40 pts and Daniel Rogers, fresh from his recent outstanding round, finishing third with his 39 pts. The ball competition went down to 33 pts with the shot of the day belonging to the consistent sharp shooter, Mick Tracey, whose tee shot finished only 140 cms away on the last hole. Members are again reminded to register for the upcoming club championships, as these fields traditionally become very full, with the better tee times filling up quickly.

**Branxton Vets Results 22-9-16 Stableford**  
 Div 1 Winner R Yandle 35 pts (SOD) R/u R Chenery 30 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> E Munzenberger 28 pts (c/b)  
 Div 2 Winner B Ward 30 pts (c/b) R/u I Harris 30 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Wilton 29 pts  
 Ladies Winner P Threlfo 23 pts R/u N Craig 21 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Friis 20 pts  
 NTPs Ladies P Threlfo Gents R Chalmers  
 Members draw - Not won  
 A fine day, with strong and gusty winds, greeted the 37 players who gathered for a round of golf, a convivial glass and fellowship. Congratulations to Roger Yandle on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Roger prevailed and finished with a fine score of 35 pts. A well done to all winners and placegetters.  
**Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 29-9-16 Stableford**  
 Div 1 Winner J Flynn 32 pts (SOD) R/u R Wilton 30 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Yandle 29 pts  
 Div 2 Winner L Bootes 31 pts R/u M Hunt 29 pts

3<sup>rd</sup> J Scobie 27 pts  
 Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form a division.  
 NTPs Ladies J Scobie Gents B Benton  
 Members draw - Not won  
 The predicted rain and associated winds did not arrive, so the 22 players who gathered for a round of golf enjoyed the mild

conditions and the sunshine. Congratulations to Jeff Flynn on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all winners and placegetters.  
*LN Bootes, Hon Sec*

**The Branxton Greta Vineyards News**  
 call Mike on **4938 1773**  


**Greta/Branxton Colts RLFC AGM**  
 Sunday 23rd October  
 Greta Workers Club  
 10:00am  
 All Positions Declared Vacant  
 Everyone Welcome

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