



# The News

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Greta Branxton first grade player & captain Josh Dagg plays a late cut on his way to his maiden first grade century Saturday week ago. Full round up of Senior Cricket page 23

## Cessnock City Council calls on Hunter Water to prioritise North Rothbury sewerage service

Cessnock City Council is backing North Rothbury residents and is calling on Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) to review their decision not to provide sewerage services to the area until 2024/25. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said a motion was passed at last weeks Council meeting in support of North Rothbury residents and other villages in the Cessnock local government area gaining access to sewerage services earlier than currently planned. "Council passed a resolution in 2014 which placed North Rothbury at the top of a list for the provision of sewerage services. The list included North Rothbury, Abernethy, Mulbring and Wollombi". "This priority list was established at the request of

Hunter Water and was provided to them," Cr Pynsent said. Despite this in August HWC advised Cessnock City Council North Rothbury is not on the agenda for at least a decade. Cr Pynsent said he is extremely disappointed by the decision and believes it has unacceptable implications for residents. "North Rothbury is rapidly growing, Huntlee continues to expand and residents are struggling with their private septic sewage systems. I have heard directly from the residents about the impact this is having, treated effluent is spilling on to neighbouring properties and roadsides", Cr Pynsent said. As a result of the motion Council will reiterate its support for the 2014 resolution. Council will write to HWC and the Minister for Land and Water requesting urgent review of the decision and



that the necessary works be brought forward by HWC to be completed by August 2020. Council will also seek support from Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Scot Macdonald and the State Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP. North Rothbury Tidy Towns, at its last meeting, endorsed councils actions unanimously but some residents say that there needs to be more community consultation. One resident said that the

on-site treatment tanks work properly if serviced and hoses moved regularly. "I think council need to police it more than they do as they don't seem to care (about improper servicing and drainage problems)", he said. A spokesperson for North Rothbury Tidy Towns said that the issue is about the health risks associated with poorly maintained services and thanked Clr Dagg for putting the motion to council.

### The Outpost Cafe and General Store @ Lochinvar

The Outpost couples the homey feel of quaint country living with a general, convenience store and gourmet cuisine. While waiting on your gourmet 'all day breakfast' you can sip your 'Bliss' coffee on a sunny veranda seat or even get your hair cut at our in-house hairdresser.

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**Instagram:** @outpostcafeandlochinvar  
**Facebook:** @TheOutpostCafeandGeneralStore  
**Contact number:** 0432 156 661

We showcase local producers & artisan's creations (such as milk, eggs, coffee beans, paintings & arts & crafts). A few of our partners happen to be world renowned artists who are secretly tucked away in our corner of the Hunter Valley.

**OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 9am ~ 5pm**



## Greta Branxton Parish Assembly

Do come along and join us on Sunday 13th November 2016 at the McAuley Centre, Maitland Street Branxton, following 10am Mass at Saint Brigid's Catholic Church Branxton.

This is your opportunity to express any ideas/opinions on the good running of our parish.

It is also a day to be informed ~ you may come away with a better understanding of the running of all the different organisations/groups that make-up our parish.

Once the formal occasion is finished we would welcome you to stay on and enjoy a 'sausage sizzle' lunch.

By attending you will be showing appreciation to Fr George & other parishioners who give a great deal of time & considerable effort endeavouring to make Greta Branxton Parish a better Parish Community.

**Please make a special effort to join us.**

**WHAT:** Greta Branxton Catholic Parish Assembly  
**WHEN:** Sunday 13th November 2016 following 10am Mass at St Brigids Catholic Church  
**WHERE:** McAuley Centre, Maitland Street, Branxton  
*Numbers will be required for catering purposes so if you are attending please contact Craig Trunk on 0428 752 362.*

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# Hunter Regional Plan supports Cessnock City's growth

Cessnock City Council welcomed the release of the *Hunter Regional Plan 2036* by NSW Minister for Planning Rob Stokes. A clear plan forward has been set for Cessnock City's key assets and planning opportunities for the next 20 years, with an expected growth from 56,000 to 70,000 residents by 2036. With directions to support

the growing viticulture and tourism industry in the local government area (LGA), the *Plan* identifies Kurri Kurri and Cessnock as 'Strategic Centres' and ensures planning priority and infrastructure. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is pleased to see strategies developed by Council incorporated into the *Plan*

and Council's formal submission to the draft plan acknowledged. "This is a promising outcome for our local government area and it is great to see Cessnock City Council's planning initiatives recognised in the new regional plan," said Cr Pynsent. Cessnock City Council is also pleased the NSW Department of Planning and



Environment has prioritised the review of the *Hunter Special Infrastructure Contributions Plan* ensuring effective planning and allocation of resources for infrastructure projects in key growth areas within the LGA. Cessnock City Council will

also be working with adjoining Councils to plan for and deliver the Richmond Vale Rail Trail Cycleway project. "We look forward to working with NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Hunter Development Corporation, affiliated agencies and other Hunter Councils to help deliver this plan." To view the Hunter Regional Plan visit [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

# Singleton residents encouraged to nominate our outstanding citizens for Australia Day honours

The hunt for Singleton's most outstanding citizens is on again, with nominations open for the 2017 Singleton Australia Day Awards. All Singleton residents are eligible to nominate someone they think should be recognised for their exceptional contribution to the community or personal achievement in 2016 as Citizen of the Year or Young Achiever of the Year. Nominations close on Friday 25 November 2016 with the awards to be presented on Australia Day, Thursday 26 January 2017.



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

2016 Singleton Citizen of the Year Kaye Stacy encouraged anyone who knew someone worthy to put their name forward. Mrs Stacy, the current President of the Northern Agricultural Association Ladies, received the honour for a long list of community service and involvement with organisations including the Singleton Historical Society, Singleton Museum, Singleton Hospital Board, the Australia Day Committee and Singleton Embroiderer's Guild. She said she had a greater awareness of the extent of volunteer work carried out in the community since receiving the award and talking to other people. "I always knew there were a lot of volunteers, but I now realise there are a lot more than a lot and just how much the community is kept going by volunteers," she said. "The Singleton Show, for example, is run by volunteers – there has never been anyone paid to run the Show. "The trouble is the volunteers all go about it in their own quiet way, so the people are there but we don't find them. "I think it's a very good idea for people and in particular service groups to recognise someone who is doing good work and nominate them." Mayor of Singleton, Sue Moore said the Australia Day Awards were a wonderful way to highlight the many hours of volunteer work and commitment made to our community, and to say thank you to those who happily gave their time and effort. "These are people who go out of their way to contribute to making our community better, and they don't do it because they want to receive an award or a prize," she said. "In fact, they are usually embarrassed by the attention. "But it is important to recognise the work they do for the community, and to let them know that it is appreciated." Nominees for Citizen of the Year should be 28 years or old on 26 January 2017, while nominees for Young Achiever should be aged between 16 and 27. Download a nomination form at [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiaday) or for more information contact Cheryl Smith on 6578 7206.

# Sky is the limit for LGA's newest Australian Citizen

Cessnock City resident James Lummus became our newest Australian citizens in an urgent ceremony held at the Council Chambers earlier today.

Mr Lummus's application for an urgent citizenship ceremony was accepted in order to complete his training as a pilot.

Cessnock Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent, oversaw official proceedings with General Manager Stephen Glen as MC of the intimate event in the Council Chambers forecourt.

"We provide a personal ceremony here at Cessnock, and today was no exception despite the urgency", Cr Pynsent said.

"Each new Australian Citizen is presented with a certificate, a native Australian plant and a commemorative gold coin to mark the occasion".

Born in Poole, England Mr Lummus migrated with his family at the age of 9 months and now lives in Cessnock to complete his studies.

Studying at the Basair aviation college, Mr Lummus hopes to become a pilot for the Royal Flying Doctors Service.

"I would like to officially welcome Cessnock City's newest citizen Mr Lummus to our community and wish him all the best in his career as a pilot," Councillor Pynsent said.

Other official guests at the ceremony included: Cessnock City Council Directors Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Gareth Curtis and Robert Maginnity.

You can register your interest in becoming an Australian Citizen at a future ceremony by contacting Council on 4993 4210.



Photo above: James Lummus with Mayor Bob Pynsent, partner and family.

## Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

Nobody likes an abandoned trolley. They are an unsightly hazard and seem to pop up far from where you would expect them to be. Introducing Trolley Tracker™ a very simple and rewarding initiative returning trolleys to where they belong.

Using Trolley Tracker™ the public can report wayward trolleys. This useful information is then passed on to the appropriate collection contractor. If you spot an abandoned trolley you can report in using the Trolley Tracker™ smartphone app, online or via the call centre 1800 641 497, which is open from 8 AM to 6 PM AEST, seven days a week. By simply reporting an adventurous trolley you have the chance to win some great prizes.

Find out more at [www.trolleytracker.com.au](http://www.trolleytracker.com.au) and help us keep our community free from trolley traffic.

Our very own Ranger Kurt is also on an adventure this week. He is attending the Australian Institute of Animal Management Conference where he has been asked to speak about some of Cessnock City Councils key programs. This 'Tail of Compliance' will share the importance of compliance and enforcement while also working closely with the community by providing support and education initiatives including the Desexing program, Free Microchip Day, School Education Program and the Community Survey. It is great to see Cessnock City Council Rangers recognised nationally for the initiatives in this area.

Learn more about these programs [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals)

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent Community Survey, getting feedback from you was really important to us. A large portion of people agreed that our educational programs were essential, with 89% supporting education strategies and actions. However, when there is a risk to public safety however, for example school zones or dangerous dogs, 91% of people said they understood and supported the need for enforcement action when people do the wrong thing.

As the weather warms up snakes become more active and may become unwanted visitors in their search for water or a place to sun themselves. We recommend clearing out any areas of your yard that could encourage a snake to take up residence and keeping your garden well maintained. If you do find a snake on your property do not attempt to move it yourself. There are a number of trained snake catchers in the area including the Cessnock District Rescue Squad (02 49912444) who will be able to assist you. Don't forget to keep an eye on the snake from a safe distance while you are waiting for the snake catcher to arrive to make sure it is still there and not in a new hiding spot.

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

**CESSNOCK COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE**

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Starring **John Waters**

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**John Lennon Quotes:** "Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans." "Time you enjoy wasting, was not wasted." "Music is everybody's possession. It's only publishers who think that people own it." "Only by trying on other people's clothes do we find what size we are."

"Declare it. Just the same way we declare war. That is how we will have peace... we just need to declare it." "Surrealism had a great effect on me because then I realized that the imagery in my mind wasn't insanity. Surrealism to me is reality."

## Emergency Phone Numbers

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It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. **ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED**

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<b>Police Assistance Line (PAL).....</b>	131 444	<b>Electricity Energy Australia.....</b>	131 388
<b>Police</b>		<b>Hospitals</b>	
Branxton.....	4938 1244	Maitland....	4939 2000
Lochinvar... ..	4930 7209	Cessnock..	4991 0555
<b>Ambulance... ..</b>	131 233	Singleton..	6572 2799
<b>NSW Fire Brigade</b>		<b>SES .....</b>	132 500
Branxton... ..	4938 3396		
<b>Rural Fire Brigades</b>			
Belford.....	6574 7149		
Broke.....	6579 1491		
Greta.....	4991 1733		



# Planning ahead, the hot topic

Cessnock City Council hosted the seventh Development Consultation Forum at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, which included a feature presentation from the NSW Rural Fire Service. Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent said land-use planning is an important part of building and preparing a community for future generations. "This forum is a great opportunity to share feedback and information with stakeholders about our plans for the future". "It is also brilliant platform to share the latest news about local and regional planning matters and to focus on different aspects of the planning system that need clarification". "We are often reminded that having a plan is important ahead of each bushfire season but what is not as well known, is that managing the risk of bushfires and other hazards is a fundamental part of the planning process".

"The NSW Rural Fire Service provided useful, practical and clear information about the different considerations and requirements relating to fire safety and risk mitigation from a planning perspective", Cr Pynsent said. The Department of Planning and Environment provided an overview of the recently released Hunter Regional Plan and Cessnock City Council staff provided around 60 attendees with updates about current planning projects in the region. This included an overview of the Cessnock Commercial Precinct project which is looking at creating public areas that will meet the needs of our community now and into the future. If you are interested in attending a future forum, please contact Council's Planning and Environment Team on 4993 4100. Photo at right: Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent opening the Development Forum.



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What's Been Happening at Branxton Preschool.....

We had a Grandparent & Family morning tea on the week of 17<sup>th</sup> October, in conjunction with our annual Book Fair to celebrate National Grandparents Day 2016. Our families, the children and wider community joined in on our celebration. It was an opportunity to come together, share the learning journey the children have embarked upon throughout the year, show our grandparents what we do at preschool and around our environment. The

feedback for this event was overwhelming. Everyone said how beautiful our environment is, how much our preschool has evolved and how lucky we are to have such an amazing preschool within our community. We look forward to sharing the photos, stories and feedback with our families from these days. All the children received a book to remember this special event

and share with their families at home. Our 30<sup>th</sup> Year Cookbook has gone to print and we are taking pre-orders now. Preschool will be holding a stall at the St Brigid's Monthly Markets in December. We have 93 recipes in the cookbook - soups and starters, salads, lunch box/morning tea ideas, cakes and slices, mains & desserts. These include; Hot potato &

chicken salad, spinach salad with bacon, Pumpkin, beetroot & Avocado Salad, Healthy sausage rolls, Hi-veg muffins, Strawberry balls, Healthy Apricot bites, Yoghurt slice, Apricot bars, Chocolate slice, Caramel fingers, Crusty chicken casserole, Thai chicken meatballs, Simple satay chicken, Slow cooker Mongolian beef, Salmon and brown rice pie, 4 ingredients ice-cream, Golden syrup dumplings, Crustless milk tart, and lots more! The children will be selling the cookbooks at the markets, along with some plants they have potted and nurtured here in the Preschool Nursery. The children have compiled a Wish List of resources that they would like in our environment. These include balance bikes, helmets, and a spider swing. Money raised from the plant sales will go towards purchasing these resources.

Our enrolments for 2016 are almost completed. If you wish to know more about our Preschool please do not hesitate to contact us on Ph: 49381990

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# What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

This month's 'Local Hero Award' goes to the organisers & helpers who helped & supported the High Tea Fundraiser held at the Branxton Community Hall on the 12 October. \$2300 was raised for the Cancer Council. (Delicious treats courtesy of Branxton CWA, Crib Box Branxton as well as The Branxton Bakery and IGA. Cessnock City Motor Group donated \$250. The Branxton Op Shop provided the vintage items to style the stage, and Kerrin's Kandles created the beautiful table centerpieces. Also thanks to Recommended Resumes each guest received a gift on arrival. Fashion parade courtesy of Sue's Clothing from Rutherford, with local ladies as models and Lady Franklin's Hats showcased the latest spring styles. Helen Scott and Branxton/Greta CWA for coordinating the event) Well done!

Had a weekend in Cowra (central west of NSW) the weekend before last. We went down the Putty Road, to Bathurst & then onto Cowra. I was reared in the central

west of NSW and I have never seen the country looking so good ~ cropping, cattle & sheep all showing the best our rural community can produce. The Lachlan Valley at its best. Went and had a look at the Japanese War Cemetery & was absolutely amazed at

the age of those who were killed during the 'Cowra Breakout'. The oldest at 65 & the youngest at 22 but the number of older soldiers killed far outweighed the number of youth. The Cemetery contains graves of the Japanese involved in the POW Breakout during World War Two, as well as other internees and those involved with the battle of Darwin. The land was ceded to Japan in 1963, thus Cowra has its own little piece of Japan.



A large black granite monument dominates the Cemetery and the burning of incense, wreaths and gifts can be seen at the Cemetery after Official Functions they tell me. This is the only Japanese War Cemetery in Australia. The Australian section

commemorates those who died in training at the local Military Camp, as well as the four Soldiers who were killed during the breakout. The Cowra War Cemetery is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and has become truly showpiece for modern military cemeteries. It is worth the trip just to see the war graves & gardens & just how good the country looks. When this flush finishes it may be awhile before it happens again!

North Rothbury Tidy

Towns has continued steady progress & growth. Its last meeting was its yearly AGM with a good turnout of members. The group has a number of tireless workers who continue, week in & week out, to promote the group & lobby for the better good of the hamlet. One matter that did come up at the meeting was the possible provision of sewerage services to North Rothbury as a result of Hunter Water putting it back to 2024/25 in their infrastructure capital works programme. At the AGM we had Clr's

Dagg & Sander attend & their input was invaluable particularly on this matter. As an end result of our discussion local Cessnock Councillor Melanie Dagg put up a 'Notice of Motion' at the last council meeting. The motion was:-  
1. That Council reiterates its support for its previous resolution of 2 April 2014 in relation to the provision of sewerage services to North Rothbury and other villages within the Cessnock Local Government Area as a high priority and for these works to be completed by August 2020.

2. That Council writes to the Hunter Water Corporation and to the Minister for Lands and Water, requesting an urgent review of the decision not to provide sewerage services to North Rothbury until 2024/25 and that the necessary works be brought forward by Hunter Water as a matter of priority.  
3. That Council writes to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Scot Macdonald and the State Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP requesting support for Council's position. It is my

intention to move the above motion at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 October 2016. The motion was 'put' and accepted unanimously. I had a conversation with Clr Rod Doherty after the meeting & he suggested that Tidy Towns should not be involved in any political activity. Now Rod is a tremendous councillor & a great advocate but in this case I disagree with him; the hamlet is only one of 4 in the LGA without sewerage & its provision will benefit all. Cheers, Mike



## Letters to the Editor

Centrelink services appalling In the Parliament last week Labor pursued the Government over its Centrelink funding cuts and the appalling impact it is having on pensioners, carers, people assisting their elderly parents, disability pensioners, students and the unemployed. These cuts are leaving the elderly, the sick and their families distressed. People are spending hours on the phone without result. Those presenting at Centrelink offices are being told staff don't have the

resources to help them. These are often elderly people who have made a significant contribution to our country over the course of their working lives. I've had people in tears as they share their bad experiences. The old, the young, the sick and people just trying to help their mum or dad are being left with a bitter taste in their mouths. It's typical of this Liberal-National Party Coalition. They think all Centrelink clients are bludgers. The Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Australia Spokesperson for Country Caucus Member for Hunter

Deaf to voters pleas Not a day goes past without a media story reminding us of Joe Hockey's "lifters and leaners" snapshot of Australian society. However, despite Coalition rhetoric about "welfare bludgers", the articles are predominantly about businesses exploiting vulnerable workers; tax evasion by wealthy individuals and top Australian companies; and generously remunerated politicians unreasonably claiming expenses, the latest examples being Kim Beasley's exorbitant lunches and Joe Hockey's "leaning" on taxpayers to fund his childcare expenses. With the government

planning to cut pensions and the paid parental leave scheme, it's no wonder many people feel they are getting a raw deal. How long will it take mainstream political parties to realise that voter disillusionment is the reason many people are turning to demagogues like Pauline Hanson, with her simplistic analysis that we need to turn back the clock to better days. Mike McGregor, Narrabri NSW



Maitland Repertory Theatre and Maitland Musical Society present  
**NUNSENSATIONS!**  
The Nunsense Vegas Revue  
Book, Music and Lyrics by DAN GOGGIN  
Directed by Ian Massey  
What Happens in Vegas Stays in Vegas!

Maitland Repertory Theatre and Maitland Musical Society have teamed up to provide great entertainment to finish off the year with nine performances of *Nunsensations! The Nunsense Vegas Revue* at Maitland Repertory Theatre. The cast of five Maitland Musical Society regulars includes Julie McLaren as Sister Mary Regina, the Mother Superior, Amber Lewis as Sister Mary Leo, Jane Martin as Sister Mary Paul, Jacquelyn King as Sister Mary Hubert and Angie Hutchison-Ussher as Sister Robert Anne. An orchestra of five will bring the songs and the stage to life. Audience members have the choice of attending the first weekend and seeing just the show, or coming along for the second and third weekends to have a light meal and see the show. We're giving away **one double pass** for opening night (show only) on Friday November 18 and **one double pass** for the first light meal and show on Friday November 25.

What: NUNSENSATIONS! *The Nunsense Vegas Revue* - at Maitland Repertory Theatre  
Where: Maitland Repertory Theatre, 244 High Street, Maitland (opposite Maitland Town Hall)  
When: Opening at 8:00pm on Friday 18 November, 2016 - doors open 7.30pm.  
Show Only - \$22  
Fri/Sat: 18/19 Nov 8:00pm  
Sunday: 20 Nov 2:00pm  
Light Meal and Show \$42  
Fri/Sat: Nov 25, 26, Dec 2, 3 6:45pm  
Sundays: Nov 27, Dec 4 12:45pm

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Cessnock... 4991 0555  
Singleton... 6572 2799  
**SES** .....132 500

Letters to the editor can be sent to:  
**The Editor, The BGV News, 12 Clift Street, Branxton NSW 2335**  
or  
**fax to 4938 3301**  
or emailed to [thenews@hotmail.net.au](mailto:thenews@hotmail.net.au)



## The Royal Federal inaugural ladies luncheon raises \$1500 for Cancer Council

The Royal Federal Hotel hosted an inaugural Ladies Lunch on Sat 22nd Oct. The day included a beautiful two course meal, plenty of laughs & a little shopping, with the Hotel hosting stall holders on the balcony.

"The day was a great success raising over \$1500

for the Cancer Council," said mine host Kim Starley. "We would like to thank the many sponsors of the day which were Brokenwood, Allandale, Lewis Wine, First Creek, Petersons Champagne House, Tinklers, Branxton IGA, Little Wine Co, Event Cinemas, Manettas,

Meerea Park, Hair Art & Royal Federal Hotel," said Kim. The local area has been very proactive in support of the Cancer Council with this function being one of two that is reported in this edition. Page 22 details a High Tea Fundraiser for women's cancer. Both events reflect the amazing community spirit that exists in our region, with local businesses throwing their support behind these charitable functions. Well done to all concerned.

Kim Makin, Yvonne Bain, Kerrie Prosser, Meghan Hawkins & Nadine Mills enjoying lunch at the inaugural Ladies Luncheon



Some of the stall holders supporting the Cancer Council at the Royal Federal inaugural Ladies Luncheon held to raise money for the Cancer Council



## Drayton officially closes

Anglo American has closed its Drayton coal mine early as it failed to get approvals for its Drayton South project after the Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC) rejected Anglo American's Drayton South project on three occasions. The current Drayton mine ceased operations earlier this month as opposed to previously set date of December 2017.

Around 200 jobs have been lost, although a small team has been retained to manage the mine's rehabilitation commitments.

Concerns were raised earlier this year over Anglo American's ability to rehabilitate the mine. Conditions for the Drayton mine specify a three year period of decommissioning and rehab after the closure, however a 2014 Planning and Assessment Commission report said it was "not confident" the work would be carried out.

The proposed Drayton South extension plan was put forward as a way to extend the Anglo American operations in the Hunter Valley, however it saw consistent setbacks during its approval process eventually forcing its closure.

## Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association decides new board members at AGM



Ingoing & outgoing board members Bruce & Chris Tyrrell

The Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association 2016 AGM was held last Wednesday 26th October at McWilliams Mount Pleasant Wines.

Three new board members were appointed to replace outgoing board members Bruce Tyrrell, Belinda Paterson and Steve George.

The new board members are Guiseppe Spagnolo from The Vintage, Gwyn Olsen (Pepper Tree and Briar Ridge Wines) and Chris Tyrrell (Tyrrell's Wines).

HVWTA chairman George Souris spoke highly of the departing trio mentioning their tremendous contribution to tourism in the Hunter Valley while on the board.

"Our immediate goal remains to grow overnight stays and day visitation by attracting greater shares of markets that fill non-peak seasonality and to target differential market penetration to attract a new segment of visitors," Mr Souris said.

"Twelve months on we can now see that the alliance (Cessnock & Singleton Council representation) has set the platform for future success and the realisation of the goals that will deliver outcomes for both the tourism and wine industries," he said.

Some of the key tourism achievements for Hunter Valley wine country for 2015 include:

- \$494 million economic contribution
- \$108 million in salaries and wages
- 2451 jobs supported by tourism
- 1,484,000 domestic overnight visitor nights, representing 2.77% growth from the previous year
- 19,141 international visitors, representing 81% growth from the previous year.

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

### FROM THE MAYORS DESK

Last Monday I was pleased to attend the Cessnock Youth Frontiers Showcase at Cessnock High School, where students under the guidance of industry mentors showcased programs supporting young people. I congratulate YWCA, Cessnock students and mentors on their well presented projects and out of the box ideas. Frame Drive Bridge has now been demolished with the official sod turning held last week marking the commencement of work on this important piece of infrastructure. Building the new bridge will involve installing steels piles into rock to provide a suitable foundation. It is satisfying to see the progress and I look forward to the ribbon cutting on the new concrete bridge in the not too distant future. Residents seeking updates and information on the construction progress should head to

[www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/works](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/works)  
I welcomed the release of the *Hunter Regional Plan 2036* by NSW Planning and Environment which sets out a clear plan for our community. The document provides a way forward for Cessnock City's key assets and strategic centres over the next 20 years, with an expected growth from 56,000 to 70,000 residents in the area. I am pleased to see strategies developed by Cessnock City Council incorporated into the Plan and Council's formal submission acknowledged. It is a promising outcome for our local government area and it is great to see Cessnock City Council's planning initiatives recognised.

The *Hunter Regional Plan 2036* also highlights Cessnock City Council will be working with adjoining Newcastle City Council and Lack Macquarie Council to deliver the Richmond Vale Rail Trail Cycleway project. The plan includes 32km of shared cycle ways between Kurri Kurri and Hexham and is a fantastic opportunity for our area. In its completion we can expect an increase in the number of visitors to our local government area and the economic benefits that come with day visitors. The cycleway project has now progressed to the consultation phase giving residents the opportunity to have their say.

In collaboration with Newcastle City Council and Lake Macquarie City Council a number of community consultation sessions are being held including at the Kurri Kurri Business Enterprise Centre, 9 November from 4pm to 7pm. Drop-in to one of the community information sessions to chat about the proposal, view the concept design and provide input to help us improve the quality of the project. For more information visit [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Council/News/Projects-Works/Richmond-Vale-Rail-Trail](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Council/News/Projects-Works/Richmond-Vale-Rail-Trail)  
*Cheers, Bob*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR

### SOMETIMES POLITICS IS REALLY HARD TO FOLLOW

Having the privilege of working close to the centre of the NSW political process, one might think that I am better informed and better equipped to understand the strange forces at play. Some days this is true, and other days it is completely baffling. On these "other" days, I am left to read the various media articles, which are by and large "best guesses" of what is happening and how it all works. Take for example the recent decisions around Greyhound racing. I again, from the outset, respect the many different positions on this issue. On the one hand the Premier decreed that the level of animal cruelty was a moral dilemma that could not be ignored. But on the other hand also declared that no other animal industry would be investigated or addressed – apparently their issue was less confronting to the moral. Regardless of your thoughts, you would have to agree that the logic is hard to follow.

And then came the announcement that the Government would build privately funded hospitals. In question time at Parliament, on that same day, the Minister for Health also explained that the chemotherapy under-dosing over the past 7 years, a health catastrophe that scares all of us, could not be investigated because the Doctor in question was working as a private Doctor inside of a public hospital. And yet she declared the new private hospital model to be a fantastic outcome. Again, one was left wondering, if it is so fantastic, why is the whole state not getting this fantastic opportunity; why just some hospitals? And how would future health issues be investigated if something went wrong.

And then we have the electricity generator sell off. Apparently the opportunity for private business to run our electricity providers is a wonderful thing. But, the "wonder" in wonderful, apparently ends at the line where Ausgrid or Endeavour services end. Because the third and final generator business in NSW, Essential Energy, primarily in National Party seats, won't be sold off, no matter how wonderful the outcome for city folks. So who exactly gets the wonderful and who misses out?

Primarily, I try to be a logical and factually driven member of Parliament, representing our community with my own political allegiances, but there are some days, many days in fact, where logic is an absent fact.

### A FUTURE AUSTRALIA – IS IT REALLY THAT HARD TO SEE

There are some real hot topic issues that are questions of the conscience far more than they are questions of the mind. I come across these issues frequently as I move around the Electorate. Without fail, these issues are emotive and often argued with great passion. At your next family dinner, BBQ with friends or even just walk with a mate, try biting off one or two of these issues for conversation: (1) Same sex Marriage; (2) Australia as a Republic; (3) Dying with Dignity or Euthanasia. Enjoy. And just as a comment on this last issue – I recently listened to a whole series of interviews done by Andrew Denton under the title 'Better Off Dead'. It is an amazing listening experience that will at times have you laughing and at other times in tears.

\* \* \* \* \*

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),

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Cheers Clayton



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

### OUTSTANDING RESULT ACHIEVED IN \$16.189 BILLION AUSGRID LEASE

The NSW Nationals have achieved another outstanding result in its infrastructure program, entering into a binding agreement with an all-Australian consortium for the partial lease of Ausgrid.

The transaction will deliver \$16.2 billion to the State and will help fund critical infrastructure projects as part of our \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan. This follows our successful \$10.258 billion lease of TransGrid.

As promised at the election, our poles and wires transactions are unlocking billions of dollars to fund new schools, hospitals, public transport and roads that will make a real difference to peoples' lives.

The successful Unsolicited Proposal was by all-Australian firms, IFM Investors and AustralianSuper and was thoroughly assessed by government agencies and financial advisers, within the strictest probity requirements.

As this is an all-Australian consortium, there is no need to seek approval from the Foreign Investment Review Board.

IFM Investors is a global fund manager owned by 29 Australian superannuation funds. AustralianSuper manages assets on behalf of more than two million members. One in 6 working Australians is a member of AustralianSuper. This lease means that for many, your money is being invested in your state, and it is your super that is investing in your power network.

The Price Commissioner, Professor Allan Fels AO, has signed off on the Ausgrid transaction. The consortium has also signed the Electricity Prices Guarantee which confirms total Ausgrid network charges will be lower in 2019 than they were in 2014.

The NSW Government will of course retain 49.6 per cent of Ausgrid and will have an ongoing role as the lessor of the business and an investor.

### SENIORS GET A BOOST WITH NEW MOBILE DEAL

Seniors are being offered an exclusive new deal on mobile phone plans as well as new in-store workshops to help use technology as part of a new partnership between Vodafone and Seniors Card NSW.

The new partnership that will allow Seniors Card NSW holders to switch over or upgrade to any of Vodafone's \$40 or above handset plans or SIM only plans in-store, and receive the first months' access fees free.

This great deal is another example of how the NSW Government is making Seniors Card even bigger and better. Importantly, this great deal will make it easier and cheaper than ever for older people to use a smartphone.

We know 93 percent of seniors use their card every day to receive discounts and 77 percent of them also use the internet every day.

Vodafone will also be holding six in-store workshops for Seniors Card holders from November 2016. These workshops will be focused on helping older people better use technology, including making the most of a smartphone's features, how to back up a phone, and security tips and tricks. For more information about the partner-

ship between Vodafone and Seniors Card NSW, visit [http://www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au/ECO\\_SCHOOLS\\_GRANTS](http://www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au/ECO_SCHOOLS_GRANTS)

I am pleased to advise that two schools in the Upper Hunter electorate:- Murrurundi Public School and St. Catherines Catholic College Singleton have received a \$3,500 NSW Government Eco Schools grant. The Eco Schools Grant Program aims to instil environmental awareness and appreciation in school communities. The NSW Environmental Trust grants would help these schools to implement local and practical environmental education initiatives. The school children participating in these grassroots environmental projects are likely to transfer their learnings to friends and families. Congratulations again to these schools and I look forward to visiting these schools to view their projects.

**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*



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

It was a big week in Canberra for Australia's agriculture sector last week. The National Farmers' Federation, the ASA 100 group, and the Australian Live Export Council all held conferences. I addressed each of them. Across the three events I spoke about a range of issues including the need to embrace the technology and innovation we need to make the most of our opportunity to export premium products into the growing middle class markets of Asia.

While we can always do more by raising productivity and embracing innovation, the volume of food we can produce will remain limited by the extent of our water and soil resources. Already we produce three times more food than we consume ourselves. But most of our product is sold into "commodity" markets where global prices determine what we receive for it.

So we need to focus more on producing products for which we can secure a big price margin. Products which secure premium prices because they are tastier, or healthier, are a different colour, or even just packaged and labeled differently. On this last point, one Tasmanian cherry grower I spoke with is securing a premium in Asian markets because his quality Tasmanian cherries are packed in small boxes which look not unlike those you seen containing expensive chocolates. I suspect most buyers use them for gifts. Customers in Asia are aware of our reputation as a supplier of clean, green and safe product. It is that reputation which provides us with our main competitive advantage in export markets.

The question is, are we fully capitalising on that reputation? That's what the ASA 100 gathering was all about. The group was formed by miner Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest to push for a better branding strategy. We need one Australian logo that people shopping Asia's supermarkets are familiar with and can easily spot. The green kangaroo has served us well in the past but you can't put a

kangaroo on Australian meat of milk for example. The risk is customers may think it's kangaroo meat or milk.

To establish what logo or brand will work best, ASA 100 wants to do extensive research and testing in China. Of course, they want government financial assistance to do so. Personally, I believe it would be a sound investment.

\*\*\*\*\*  
A few months ago flying fox problems in our local communities had reached fever-pitch. People were effectively trapped in their homes, community events were being disrupted, and the noise and smell was becoming unbearable for many residents.

Since then, the seasons and weather has intervened and the problem was receded somewhat. But it hasn't gone away. Recently we've secured some money to help Councils manage the problem and the benefits of that work are already apparent in some locations. But one challenge is still with us; the "endangered" status of the bats. During the election campaign I said I would fight to secure a Parliamentary Inquiry into the matter. I'm very pleased that the Government has agreed to my request. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy will inquire into the status of the flying foxes, the manner in which such species become listed, whether the listing is scientifically robust, and the circumstances in which species listed might be de-listed.

I've also asked the Committee to investigate the interaction between State and Federal agency listings which further complicate the issue and restrict our capacity to deal with flying fox problems. Any resident or organisation interested in making a submission to the inquiry can do so by contacting my office.

To contact the office, phone 4991 1022 or visit 3 Edward Street, (PO Box 526) Cessnock, 2325. Please like my Facebook page Joel Fitzgibbon MP, follow me on Twitter @fitzhunter and check my website [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) regularly for news.

*Cheers, Joel*



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

A waste revolution is happening in Singleton as our community becomes ever more astute about minimising rubbish and ramping up recycling. We're already recognised as having a below-average rate of contaminants in our kerbside recycling bins, and the community recycling centre at the Singleton Waste Management Facility, which opened in August last year, has made it easy for residents to recycle products such as glass, cardboard, household chemicals, ewaste and timber.

Now I'm looking forward to the addition of the Burragan Recycling Shop to the facility, which will transform rubbish into retail and trash into treasure.

You may wonder about the use of the word Burragan. This is the Wonnarua word meaning boomerang and reflects the nature of the items for sale in the recycling shop – what's thrown out ... comes back.

Signage artwork for the shop was designed by Elder Denise Hedges specifically for the site. The shop will be officially opened on Saturday 5 November 2016 at 11am, and customers can start shopping with the start of trade at 12.30pm.

CONT PAGE 9



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Hunter Resource Recovery	Post HSC (Graduated in the past 2 years)
Hunter Resource Recovery	Undergraduate (Current Student from 2017)
Solo Resource Recovery	TAFE
Kurri Kurri Retired Mineworkers Association	Local Government
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CDLC Support	Child Care
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Cessnock City Council is celebrating local young people in our community striving for a worthwhile career, with the launch of the 2017 Mayoral Scholarships. Cessnock City Council Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the Mayoral Scholarships are for any young person choosing undertaking further education. "Each year we offer a number of different scholarship

opportunities which can support a person studying at University, TAFE or completing an apprenticeship". "Encouraging and supporting a young person to further their education, benefits not only the individual, but also their family and the broader community", Cr Pynsent said. Students enrolled in TAFE or University in 2017 who are residents of the Cessnock

local government area could be eligible for one of the 2017 Mayoral Academic Scholarships. Scholarships are for one year and are valued at \$2,500. Applications close Friday 24

February 2017. For more information <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships>

Photo above: Recipients of the 2016 Mayoral Scholarships.

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### Homestyle Baked Beans Recipe

Serves: 4 | Preparation time: 5 minutes | Cooking time: 20 minutes

#### Ingredients

Olive or canola oil spray  
1 medium brown onion, peeled and diced  
2 cloves garlic, crushed



1 lbs Worcestershire sauce  
420 g can no-added-salt cannellini or butter beans, drained and rinsed  
3 lbs parsley, finely chopped  
4 slices wholegrain bread, toasted  
Freshly ground or cracked black pepper, to taste

1 lbs no-added-salt tomato paste  
1 tsp smoked paprika  
400 g can no-added-salt diced tomatoes  
1 lbs salt-reduced tomato sauce

#### Method

1. Spray oil in a medium saucepan and cook onion and garlic over medium heat until softened.
2. Add the tomato paste and smoked paprika. Stir through and cook for 1 minute.
3. Add the can of tomatoes, including juice, tomato sauce and Worcestershire sauce. Mix well and bring to the boil.
4. Reduce the heat and simmer uncovered for 10 minutes until slightly thickened.
5. Add in the cannellini beans and stir until heated through.
6. Remove from heat, mix in the parsley, pepper and serve on toast.

Variations - Add 1 thinly sliced fresh long red chilli to the onion for a spicy light lunch/Replace cannellini beans with canned no-added-salt haricot, butter, borlotti or red kidney beans.

### PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

#### Hot weather risks and staying cool

We live in a sunburnt country where hot days and heatwaves can stress our bodies. Here's how to stay cool and hydrated. Heatwaves are a cause of weather-related deaths in Australia and are also considered the most underrated of natural disasters in our country. There were almost 1,000 deaths during the severe heatwaves in southeastern Australia in 2009 when Melbourne sweltered through three consecutive days at or above 43 °C in late January. This was almost 400 more (mostly among people aged 75 or older) than the estimated average for that time of year.

#### Who is most at risk from hot weather?

While most people find extremely hot weather and heatwaves uncomfortable, some people have a higher risk than others of becoming ill. These include:- Elderly people aged over 75 years, babies and young children, people with long term health conditions, for example heart or respiratory disease, diabetes or circulatory diseases, people who are obese, people taking certain medicines, people who are socially isolated, people who work outdoors or in hot and poorly ventilated areas, people engaging in vigorous physical activity in hot weather & people who are not acclimatised to the heat, for example overseas visitors. It's important to keep drinking water even if you

don't feel thirsty.

#### Tips to help you stay well during hot weather

\* Drink plenty of water

One of the best ways to avoid heat related illness is to drink plenty of water. It's important to keep drinking water even if you don't feel thirsty because this can prevent you from becoming dehydrated.

Avoid alcoholic, hot or sugary drinks (including tea and coffee) because these can make dehydration worse.

\* Keep your body cool

Keeping as cool as possible can also help you prevent heat related illness. Making sure you stay out of the sun, drinking cold drinks and eating smaller cold meals, such as salads and fruit, can help you to keep cool. Other things to do include wearing light coloured and loose fitting clothes made from natural fibres such as cotton, and taking cool showers or baths.

\* Keep your house cool

You can help keep your house cool by shutting curtains and blinds during the day. If you don't have air-conditioning, go to a cool place such as a library, shopping centre, cinema or swimming pool. Stay in the coolest room in the house and use the stove and oven as little as possible.

\* Take care of others

Visit or call elderly friends, neighbours or relatives at least once a day. Check they have water in the fridge and encourage them to drink it. You may like to take them to a shopping centre, library or cinema with air conditioning. Children also need to be reminded to drink water, and babies, children or animals should never be left alone in a car, even if the air-conditioner is on. Ensure animals have water and plenty of shade if they are outside.

\* Have a plan

Keep an eye on the weather forecast and know who to call if you need help. Ask your doctor if you have any health conditions that mean you are at greater risk of heat related illness, and what you need to do about them to keep well in the heat. If you are unwell, contact

your doctor or go to the nearest emergency department. If you think your symptoms are serious call for an ambulance immediately on triple zero (000).

\* Keep your food safe

Make sure food that needs refrigeration is properly stored, and defrost foods in the fridge, not on the kitchen bench.

When the heat has passed, continue to drink plenty of water. Open windows and doors to let your house cool down, contact family and friends to find out how they have coped and to see if they need help, and go to your doctor if you feel unwell. You might also like to think about how well you coped and if you would do anything differently next time, including making changes to your home to make it more comfortable during extreme heat periods.

\* Stay safe in the sun

If you need to go out into the sun, it's important to protect your own skin and that of your children's. If you avoid sunburns you reduce the risk of skin cancer, which is one of the most common cancer types in Australia.

What heat related illnesses should I look out for?

\* Heat rash

This is an itchy, painful rash commonly called 'prickly heat'. It is caused by excessive sweating during hot, humid weather, and particularly affects young children.

**Symptoms:** A cluster of red pimples or small blisters, particularly on the neck or upper chest, or in creases in the groin, elbow and under the breasts.

**What to do:** Move to a cooler, less humid environment. Keep the affected areas dry (powder can help), and avoid using ointments or creams because they keep the skin warm and moist which can make the condition worse.

\* Dehydration

This occurs when the body doesn't have enough water and other fluids to carry out its normal functions.

**Symptoms:** Dizziness, tiredness, irritability, thirst, dark yellow urine, loss of appetite, fainting. CONT P. 14

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**Mount View High School students at MUNA**

MUNA was introduced to Australia in 1980 when Rotary clubs in NSW were invited to sponsor a team of two students to represent a nominated country at an assembly modelled on the format and function of the United Nations. The purpose of MUNA is to encourage young people to learn about other nations and to understand and appreciate the workings of the United Nations while they develop debating skills and gain self confidence in public speaking. Before the debate begins a delegate may deliver a brief address setting out the most important facts about the country he or she represents. The resolutions to be debated are selected from those actually debated by the UN as well as a number of motions proposed by the teams. The debates reproduce genuine UN debates, often with a fine flow of rhetoric, points of order, motions of dissent and bloc walkouts! MUNA is actually a United Nations initiative and there are a variety of MUNAs



held throughout the world. Janette Jackson from the Rotary Club of Cessnock is pictured above with Cameron Abbott and Matt Griffin who represented Germany and Ingrid and Marine Bullen who represented the United Kingdom.



**FROM PAGE 6**  
*Members say ..*

.....This is an event that the community is most welcome to attend, and I would encourage you to come along and prepare to be impressed. The \$300,000 recycling shop and the adjacent information centre was supported by \$77,000 from the NSW Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy. In a further acknowledgement of the achievements we've already seen in waste management in Singleton, NSW EPA will also contribute \$10,000 each year for three years for an approved education plan. It's all about reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill, and this is where the recycling shop really adds a new dimension to how we define what is "rubbish" and symbolises our changing attitude towards what we throw away. People throw out all sorts of items that are still in good condition, and staff at the waste facility are keeping a close eye out to identify goods that have the potential to be re-used and saved from landfill to go on sale in the shop. And in the true spirit of recycling, funds raised through the shop will then offset the cost of providing free recycling to the community. The old stereotype of the dusty, smelly dump is long gone. The new Singleton Waste Management Facility, incorporating a community recycling centre, a permanent drum muster for chemical drums and now the Burragan Recycling Shop and information centre reflects our community's respect for the environment and our commitment to taking action now for the benefit of generations to come. Time is running out to make a nomination for Singleton Citizen of the Year and Young Achiever of the Year. If there's someone you

know who works hard for the Singleton community, this is the perfect opportunity to give them the recognition they deserve. Nominations close on 25 November 2016. You can download a nomination form from Council's website or pick up a paper copy from Council's Administration Building or Visitor Information and Enterprise Centre.

**Sarah Fenton Guest speaker**

Sarah Fenton was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Cessnock from "Mobile Travel Agents". Sarah is pictured with President Ross below and some of Sarah's displays which she showed as great memories from one trip or another. The point being made was that every holiday has special moments to remember and a small item brought from a particular trip will bring all those memories flooding back every time you look at them.

Travel Is The Only Thing You Buy That Makes You Richer, according to Sarah and she goes on to say "This quote is one of my favourites, and the reason that I love working in travel. I have travelled, or worked in travel, most of my professional life, and I love helping people plan the trips that will give them a lifetime of memories, teach them things to enrich them, and allow them to meet people who impact them in ways they will never forget. Wherever you want to go, whatever you want to do, however you wish to do it, I can help you plan a seamless, hassle-free experience. Maybe it's just a quick weekend away? An overseas family visit? Trekking, hiking or something more adventurous? Cruising? Road trip? The possibilities are endless. Let's discover your ideal travel experience together."

**ROTARY CLUB OF CESSNOCK AND THE GIRL GUIDES JOIN FORCES.**

At the recent Hunter Valley Gardens Car Rally, Rotary and the Girl Guides joined forces to supply the BarBQ for the large number of people who attended. The cars ranged from the vintage, classic and sporty and it was a day not to be missed by car enthusiasts.



2016 October  
Home of the Month

Congratulations to 2 Scott Street, North Rothbury for Oct 2016 'Home of the Month'

**Visit Your Local Recycle Station!**

Did you know you can now recycle the following items?

- Fluorescent Tubes
- Household Batteries
- Mobile Phones\*
- Ink Cartridges
- Household Lights

These items require specialist recycling services to recover the metals and chemicals they contain. Now you can drop them into one of the **FREE** Recycling Stations located at:

- Council's Administration Centre
- Kurri Kurri Library
- Cessnock Library

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

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

**St Brigid's Markets**  
St. Brigid's School Grounds, BRANXTON NSW

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# Real Estate News

## Why Chinese investment is booming

By William Shen - Director of the Asian Division at TGC

Chinese investment in Sydney's property market continues to soar year on year.

Why is it so popular? What do investors need to be wary of? And where can you find the most value in 2016 – the Year of the Monkey?

It's no secret that the Sydney property market is ripe for investment. Despite notoriously high prices, both the demand and the potential for growth are there to sustain it.

Chinese buyers spent \$24.3 billion on Australian property in 2014-15, according to FIRB's past annual report, more than three times that of the next

biggest investor, the USA. With increased savviness and competition among investors, here's what prospective buyers should know.

### Why are Chinese investors interested in Australia?

First and foremost, the policy of state-owned land in China doesn't offer much scope for local investment. All properties are lease-held, so when a term expires, it's often unclear what will happen in terms of ownership.

It will either be renewed at a high rate, or taken back by the government without compensation to the occupants. Therefore, many Chinese people have significant wealth and nowhere to safely invest it locally. In order to get on the property ladder, investors must look overseas.

The question is: where are the opportunities?

One of the best opportunities is Australia, which as a result is experiencing a boom period for Chinese investment. Part of that is fuelled by strong Chinese migration. More Chinese-operated businesses are opening on Australian shores – leasing to tenants without a language or cultural barrier is usually preferable. But beyond that, Australia offers opportunity, both in terms of development and return on investment (ROI) potential.

Chinese buyers prefer free-standing buildings with scope for redevelopment – something that Australia can offer, albeit in shorter supply these days. Though market growth has slowed in Sydney, there are gains over the long term. Interest rates remain low and the growing population means that property demand consistently outweighs supply.

### Commercial versus residential property in Sydney

Commercial property is proving attractive to foreign investors for a number of reasons. For example, there can be a higher return on commercial property. While 5% per annum is considered a strong return on residential property, commercial investment (office and retail) has the potential to earn 7-8%. Making commercial property even more attractive is the fact that a lower percentage of returns

go towards things like council rates, repairs, maintenance and insurance. With commercial property, the tenant pays a larger portion of these fees, providing a higher yield for owners.

This is important as commercial property is often purchased with a strong emphasis on generating cash flow, whereas residential property is usually bought primarily with a view to capital growth. Expanding infrastructure in the form of freeways, tunnels and rail links means that western Sydney suburbs are hotting up for development. However, the CBD remains a strong performer in terms of demand and ROI.

### What foreign investors should know

Recent changes have been made to protect local interests. Potential obstacles for Chinese buyers include:

- Additional 4% stamp duty for overseas buyers
- 10% withholding tax on properties over \$2 million
- A crackdown from the big four Australian banks on loans based on overseas income
- Stronger enforcement of restrictions on moving money out of China - \$50,000 (USD) per year.

Foreign buyers are also limited to purchasing new

property with permission from the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB), a government agency. This means only new development projects which are under construction or those which have not been previously occupied. Existing commercial space can be purchased, on the condition it has undergone extensive refurbishment. Failure to gain requisite permission, or buying an off-limits, established property carries the potential penalty of \$134,000 or three years in prison.

Foreign investors must pay tax on income and capital gains earned in Australia. However, expenses such as property management fees, maintenance and interest on mortgages can be deducted from the taxable income to reduce the amount owed.

## Affordability, a backyard, and a safe neighbourhood are the key priorities for Australian home buyers, new research shows.

The Westpac 2016 Home Ownership Report shows that 80% of respondents think staying within budget is the most important

consideration when purchasing a home, up 5% from the 2015 report. Living in a safe neighbourhood is the next top priority that resonates with 66% of respondents, while 51% think it is important to have a backyard.

The findings demonstrate how buyers are adapting to the price rises seen in cities such as Sydney and Melbourne, says Westpac Group Head of Home Ownership Chris Screen. "Our research indicates that in an increasingly competitive housing market, budget-conscious home buyers are prioritising the enjoyment and lifestyle a particular home could bring. This may be through choosing a home with a backyard that has space to play in, or one in a safe and friendly neighbourhood," he says. The Westpac data shows that affordability remains a key concern for most buyers, according to REA Group Chief Economist Nerida Conisbee.

"I think people want affordable, but they can't always get it," she says. When selecting a neighbourhood to live in, respondents rate safety (66%), peace and quiet (55%) and access to public transport (39%) as the most important factors. The Westpac survey of 1,119 home owners and first-time buyers also

shows features such as a modern kitchen dropped by 9% in the past year, making it more of a nice to have rather than an essential feature.

"People are willing to sacrifice quality, to get perhaps the location they want. So if they want somewhere quiet, safe, with good public transport they are willing to sacrifice getting a really good bathroom or the really good kitchen in the short-term to get that," Conisbee says. The report also found that different features matter to buyers, with those planning a family valuing an affordable home within budget (84%) and a property's potential to be a good long-term investment (66%) whereas those approaching retirement are more interested in off-street parking (70%) and finding a property that is move-in ready (38%).

People are willing to sacrifice quality, to get perhaps the location they want. "It's clear Australians place varied levels of importance on different aspects of a home at different stages of life, which is why when working out your budget it's important to consider what the next few years may look like. I recommend taking the time to research the neighbourhood thoroughly, to make sure it offers what you're after now and in the future.

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Taryn Bird | 0404 494 482  
Property Management Representative  
Agent Registration No: 0323 7248



# Greta/Branxton United Cricket Club Moving Onwards and Upwards



with Mark Bercini

The Greta/Branxton United Cricket Club was formed in 1988 after the joint venture of the old Greta and Branxton Clubs. The united club commenced playing in the Cessnock District Cricket Competition across four grades in the 1988-89 season, and has continued to do so up until the present. The club continues to grow in numbers and presently fields five senior teams and six junior teams – U/16's, U/14's, U/12's and three U/10's teams. The club aspires to be the best in the district, and is currently in negotiations with council to include a third field at Miller Park as part of the Miller Park master plan. Other things in the pipeline to be included are dedicated change rooms and viewing areas that incorporate both 1 and 2 fields. Also part of the grand plan are upgraded facilities such as irrigation, new roller etc.



This all would not be possible without the support of our proud sponsors Royal Federal Hotel, Robson Civil Projects, Daracon, KCE, Yore Contractors, Greta McDonalds, A-Plus Contracting, Cessnock City Motor Group and Branxton Pharmacy. Through the help of the community in ways such as the Branxton Greta Business chamber, the club is looking to run a KFC "Big Bash" night this summer where there will be a big screen and projector set up for families to come down and watch the game. There will be a BBQ and drinks available for

purchase, with raffles and other things happening on the night. The annual 10 over competition will be run once again at a date still to be confirmed. The club is also talking to cricket NSW about hosting a trial game between two Sydney first grade teams at Miller Park. Anyone requiring any further information on the above can access the club's website [www.gretabranxtoncc.nsw.cricket.com.au](http://www.gretabranxtoncc.nsw.cricket.com.au), facebook page "Greta/Branxton United Cricket Club," or contact club president Sean Wright on 0429578322.

# NSW Government listens to community concerns regarding Cessnock Gaol expansion; we think!


Community concern regarding the State Government's intention to double the size of the Cessnock Gaol appears to have been taken onboard by the Corrective Services Minister David Elliott. Representations by Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr, after some extensive community consultation seems to have had a positive impact on the Minister who is expected to back down on key parts of its controversial plan. "This is as a result of all those meetings and the obvious community concern and uproar," Mr Barr said. "There's been a bit of compromise ... and we seem to be heading in a better direction. "None of it has been locked in, but verbally, the minister has given some indication we are getting sensible compromise," Clayton Barr said. "Corrective Services NSW consulted with the community on the expansion and will take this feedback into account when finalising the plans for the new centre," a spokeswoman said. Major concerns realised by

community consultation showed that road access to the site & community safety were the main objections to the original plan. Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent met with the Correct Services Minister



last Monday but any signs of a new proposal hadn't been announced as we went to print. One issue that, as yet, has not been addressed is the increase in numbers. Cessnock Gaol is a large

industrial complex employing inmates in a wide variety of jobs that include:  
\* Engineering (mostly light fabrication)  
\* Furniture manufacture (upholstery and timber products)  
\* Demountable refurbishment for the Department of Education & food services facility where lunches are prepared for nearby correctional centres.



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Whittingham  
472 Mitchell Line of Road  
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Set on 10.13 hectares offering a 4 bedroom home with ensuite, formal lounge & dining, large dining/family off the kitchen, rumpus plus screened Queensland room. Outside there is a timber pergola with BBQ area & double shed. The property carries 8 cows & calves, has its own cattle yards, a large dam.  
Price: \$740,000  
View: by appointment  
Contact Ben Bridge  
0404 564 725  
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7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



4 2 4

Greta  
6 Clift Street  
**Spacious Home Huge Block**  
Large bedrooms, main with ensuite & walk in robe, remaining bedrooms have **built in's. 3 separate living areas,** family room with split system air conditioner & slow combustion fire. Double shed & fernery, plenty of room for the kids to grow in a friendly neighbour located within easy access to the Hunter Expressway.  
Price: \$550,000  
View: by appointment  
Contact Michael Cruickshanks  
0409 362 130  
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## Market Appraisal

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All market appraisals done by LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton are completely free of charge and obligation free.

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Buyers actively looking in the area included:

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- A recently retired couple looking for a Tree-change, 4 bedrooms, with a rural aspect, wanting to spend around \$800,000
- A growing family who would like a bit more space, looking for 4 bedrooms, in the range of \$500,000- \$550,000

For information on any Real Estate related matter  
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your area expert today!  
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North Rothbury  
3 & 5 Frederic Street  
**Two Blocks**  
Located on the edge of the rapidly growing suburb of North Rothbury, at 810m2 each, these blocks could be the perfect location for your dream home. Situated close to everything the Hunter has to offer, as well as only 30mins to Newcastle via the Hunter Expressway. Option to buy both blocks or take your pick. \$110,000 Each  
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Belford  
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**Great Opportunity**  
This two hectare block is located just off the New England Highway in Belford, conveniently located near everything that the Upper Hunter has to offer.  
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4 2 2

Branxton  
22 Station Street  
**4 Bedrooms/Large Shed on 900m<sup>2</sup>**  
4 bedrooms, three with built in robes, large block & great shed. The combined lounge & dining room has RC/AC & polished pine timber floorboards throughout. The colourbond garage also has plenty of storage cupboards and a second shower and toilet. This garage could easily accommodate 2 large vehicles as well as storage space.  
Price: \$375,000  
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7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



3 1 1

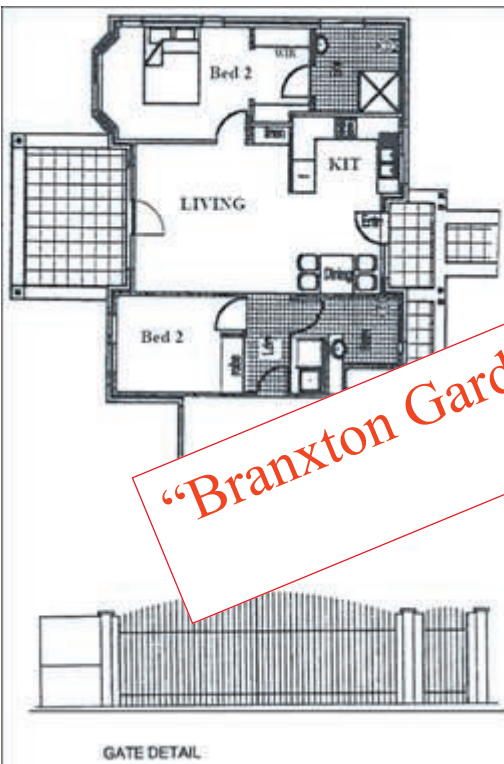
Branxton  
4/5 Maitland Street  
**Comfy Unit**  
Large 3 bedroom unit close all of Branxton's special little features. Open plan living space downstairs & 3 good sized bedrooms with built-ins upstairs. Kitchen has stainless appliances & plenty of cupboard space. Entertain undercover in the rear courtyard. Single lockup garage.  
Price: \$310,000  
View: by appointment  
Contact Ben Bridge  
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*NOTICE ~ This office will be closed this Friday 9 Sept & Monday 12 Sept*

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Asking \$370,000



**New on Market**

**BRANXTON**

**Potential! Potential**

Two large bedrooms plus large ‘sleep-out’. Separate lounge, bathroom, Kitchen. Good sized fenced yard plus separate garage.

One to do up at the expected price

Expressions of Interest



**NTH ROTHBURY**

**Just move in ~ no work to be done!**

Perfect family home in the popular village of North Rothbury. Features include:- Open plan lounge/dining with 4 large bedrooms all with built-ins. Ensuite to main bedroom & walk-in robe. Air conditioning. Double garage plus large rumpus room or entertainment room. Dishwasher. Large fenced block with house facing north.

Asking \$420,000



**New on Market**

**GRETA**

**Duplexes**

Only a few years old. Features include modern kitchen & bathroom, air conditioning, Torrens Title, 3 bedrooms, good sized court yard & LU Garage. An excellent opportunity for anyone looking for easy maintenance, quality finish & a great location.

Asking 320,000 each



**New on Market**

**NTH ROTHBURY**

**A Little TLC Required**

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

Asking \$245,000



**GRETA**

**For the astute investor**  
**Approx. 2000sm (half an acre)**  
**58 High Street, Greta**

An older style 3 bedroom cottage is situated on this large, approx half acre, block. This is one for the savvy investor/developer or renovator.

**ASKING \$472,000 (Open to All reasonable Offers)**



**BRANXTON**

**An opportunity not to be missed!**

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

**Reduced to \$379,000 ono**



**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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BRANXTON



## Hot weather risks and staying cool

**What to do:** Drink plenty of water or diluted fruit juice and avoid tea, coffee and alcohol. Move somewhere cool (preferably air-conditioned), and if possible use a spray bottle filled with water to cool you down. If you start to feel unwell call your doctor or the nearest emergency department



**\*Heat cramps**

These usually affect people who sweat a lot during strenuous activity causing the body to lose salt and water. This can lead to heat cramps.

**Symptoms:** Muscle pains or spasms. Heat cramps can also be an early symptom of heat exhaustion.

**What to do:** Stop all activity and lie in a cool place (preferably air-conditioned) with your legs raised slightly. Drink water or diluted fruit juice, have a cool shower or bath, massage your limbs to ease the spasms and apply cool packs. Do not go back to strenuous activity for a few hours after the cramps have subsided. If they continue for more than one hour seek medical attention.

**\*Heat exhaustion**

This is the body's reaction to losing excessive amounts of water and salt contained in sweat.

**Symptoms:** Heavy sweating, pale skin, fast and weak pulse rate, fast and shallow breathing, muscle weakness or cramps, tiredness and weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting.

**What to do:** Move to a cool place (preferably air-conditioned) and lie down. Remove excess clothing, take small sips of cool fluids, and have a cool shower, bath or sponge bath. Put cool packs under the armpits, on the groin or on the back of the neck to reduce body heat. If symptoms last for longer than one hour, call your doctor or the nearest emergency department

**\*Heat stroke**

This occurs when the body temperature is not controlled properly and it rises above 40.5 °C. It is the most serious heat-related illness and is a life-threatening emergency. Immediate first aid aimed at lowering the body temperature as quickly as possible is very important.

**Symptoms:** A sudden rise in body temperature, red, hot dry skin (because sweating has stopped), dry swollen tongue, rapid pulse, rapid shallow breathing, intense thirst, headache, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, confusion, poor coordination or slurred speech, aggressive or bizarre behaviour, loss of consciousness, seizures or coma.

**What to do:** Call triple zero (000) immediately and ask for an ambulance. While you are waiting for help, move the person to a cool shaded area and keep them as still as possible. Remove excess clothing and give them small sips of water if they are conscious and able to drink. Bring their temperature down any way you can, for example by gently spraying them with cool water from a spray bottle or garden hose, soaking their clothes with cool water, or sponging their body with cool water. Place cool packs under their armpits, on the groin or on the back of their neck to reduce body heat. Do not give aspirin or paracetamol because they won't help and may be harmful. If they are unconscious, lay the person on their side (the recovery position) and check they can breathe properly. Perform CPR if needed. If you are unwell, contact your doctor or go to the nearest emergency department. If you think your symptoms are serious call for an ambulance immediately on triple zero (000). If calling triple zero (000) does not work on your mobile phone, try 112. While you are waiting for an ambulance try to cool yourself down. You can do this by placing icepacks under your armpits, on your groin or on the back of the neck to reduce body heat. Take a cool shower or bath (if you feel well enough) or spray yourself with cool water from a spray bottle.

# GREAT ESCAPES

## Kurrajong Trails & Cottages

**Phone:** (02) 4576 1417

**Address:** Kirkwood Road, Blaxlands Ridge NSW 2758

Reclining in my canoe, I follow the graceful glide of a Wedge Tailed Eagle silhouetted against the intense blue sky. Water lilies surround me, closing behind, erasing evidence of my silent passing. Wheeny Creek Wetlands, strictly for the birds-ducks, King Fishers, the odd Pelican or Black Swan - & daydreamers. The lyre birds melodious mimics carry across the valley. I count 25 different

continues to expand his vocabulary. Gently flowing Wheeny Creek, on its lazy journey to the Colo River, meanders through Paper



*Helen & I had some time at Kurrajong Trails & Cottages a few weeks ago & it was just magnificent ~ would recommend 100%~Mike ed.*

bird calls rolled into one, two of which are not native to this region, supporting

Bark Groves, home to a variety of wild life, including the stocky, shy



'belief calls' are passed from parent to chick. Hearing the distinct 'twang' made by a horses hoof striking fence wire assures me the Lyre

Swamp Wallaby. This sanctuary rambles from the Hawkesbury Sandstone ridge tops where cottages perch to



the grassy low-lands where horses graze. In keeping with The Wollemi National Park surrounds, a 3k dirt track connects to the outside world. A stand-alone solar system powers all 5 cottages, 2 sheds & the main residence. Plentiful rain water collection is gravity fed to all premises. Native flowers erupt in confusion along sandy ridges, persisting for many months, ignoring seasons.

Distant hills appear as patches of snow when The Yellow Butt Bloodwood Trees bloom.

Christmas Bush prefers the southern gully, white flowers competing with angophora blossom before turning the deep red of new shoots. The creamy velvet elegance of Flannel Flowers cling to rocky outcrops, defying gravity.

The veggie patch & native gardens attract 3 species of bees; tiny black fellows ¼ the size of a house fly, a slightly larger variety with typical bee markings, as well as his large common cousin. One must be prepared to share produce with hop-in, fly-in locals. Fortunately Cody Dog ignores all, including the



bustling Quail scurrying beneath the bushes. The occasional movement of RAAF aircraft remind me the historic towns of Richmond & Windsor, plus quaint Kurrajong Village, lay a short distance away. Bustling Sydney CBD a 1.5 hour drive South East. Explore Wheeny, cast a line into 'The Fishing Spot', swim in 'The Deep', surprise wildlife

along our rough walking tracks, bring your push bike or horse - or none of the above. You may prefer to relax with a wine on sunset lookout or gather with mates around 'The Fire Pit' outside 'The Entertainment Shed'.

Each cabin will accommodate 6 people. Phone for more details.



**BRANXTON GRETA CHAMBER**  
PRESENTS  
*Networking Breakfast in Greta*  
at.....





67 High Street, Greta

**Tuesday 8th of November**  
**7.00am- 8.30am**

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Payment and RSVP due by November 1st  
Direct Deposit Details  
The Mutual  
BSB 646 000  
Acc No 100041204  
Braxton Greta Community Business Chamber Inc  
\$15 each

Guest Speakers  
Jason Linnane & Mark Irlwin  
Singleton Council  
Melanie Dagg Cessnock City Councillor

*Get to know your local business chamber!*

**Community Notice from Greta Tidy Towns Committee**

## GRETA CAMP FAMILY GET-TOGETHER

Local families and individuals connected to the Greta Migrant Camp are invited for an informal gathering to share memories and food.

**On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

At 11am to 3pm in the former Greta Court House, next to the Museum.

*Please bring a plate, sweet or savoury to share. Tea and coffee provided.*

Enquires – please call into the Greta Museum or phone Neridah on 0427657150 or Peter: 047889672

Or email: [gretahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:gretahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com)

This will potentially be the first of a number of regular get-togethers, depending on response. If you can't make it this time leave your contact details at the Greta Museum so we can tell you about the next one.

**NOW OPEN**

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

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



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**LUNCH & DINNER**

**COURTESY BUS**

**WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS &  
SUNDAYS**

Ring the Club for more details

**MEAT RAFFLES**

**FRIDAY 7.00pm**

**SUNDAY 12.00 Noon**

**FRIDAY NIGHT  
ENTERTAINMENT**

4th NOVEMBER

**SOLID GOLD**

11th NOVEMBER

**SECRET  
SOCIETY**

**MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**

**WEDNESDAY**

2nd NOVEMBER

**\$2,000**

**SUNDAY**

6th NOVEMBER

**\$1,300**

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**MILLER PARK**

**MEMBERS BADGE DRA**

**THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER**

**\$5,000**

**SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER**

**\$4,600**

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**“THE PARK”  
RESTAURANT  
WEDNESDAY —  
SUNDAY  
LUNCH & DINNER**

**HAPPY HOUR**

**MILLER PARK  
WEDNESDAY 4-6pm**

**GRETA WORKERS  
THURSDAY 4—6pm  
\$3.30 A SCHOONER**

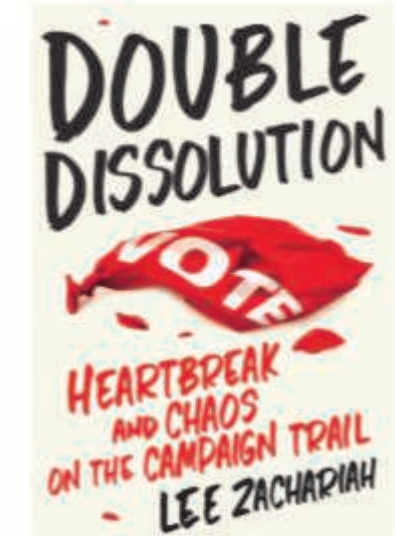
**T.A.B. FACILITIES**

**T.A.B.  
NOW OPEN  
AT MILLER PARK**





Double Dissolution – Heartbreak and Chaos on the Campaign Trail by Lee Zachariah + book extract



He writes: “I spent two months driving around Australia, meeting politicians and voters, navigating big cities and hidden towns, and having some of the strangest encounters of my life. If you want a snapshot of Australian politics in 2016, it’s that. If you want an emotive journey of painful introspection, it’s that too. If you want a road trip journal, it’s absolutely that. If you want a bunch of jokes, then I’ve got you covered”.

\*\*\*

**19 June 2016**  
In old animated features and animated shorts, studios would save money and time by repeating backgrounds. Road Runner would speed past the same blurred background, or some character would walk down a hallway with the same table, the same painting repeated over and over again. I am now convinced Australia ran out of money before it got to the Sturt Highway.

but ostentatious swimming pool. The over-lit roadhouses that look like gigantic ceilinged oases, petrol stations with diners attached, big enough to allow road trains to manoeuvre about, but also big because there’s nothing else around. Real estate is not the commodity here that it is in the city. I’m smart enough to top up the tank at every opportunity, knowing that it could be a while before the next one. But I’m also picky enough to dismiss the food at one diner as looking too greasy, not realising that it’s several hundred kilometres to the next food outlet.

I make the journey by the signs of candidates that sporadically adorn the highway, affixed to a pole or a fence. I drive through Minister for Health Sussan Ley, through Minister for Workforce Participation Sharman Stone, through Nationals MP Andrew Broad and Liberal MP Tony Pasin. We rarely have anything complimentary to say about our elected officials, so I feel compelled to point out that they are all very picturesque. Particularly Tony Pasin. He’s definitely had some work done.

I manage four states/territories in a single day. After leaving the ACT, I pass through New South Wales until I hit the northern edge of Victoria. The highway takes me across to Mildura, a town I visited about a decade ago with an ex-girlfriend. Although, at the time she was a current girlfriend. Otherwise it would have been weird.

I’ve never travelled the specific trip west from Canberra to Adelaide, so this is a corner of the world I’ve not seen before. I am, as ever, filled with awe at how Australia can be so beautiful yet so fucking dull.

After a couple of nights back in Canberra, I climb back on the road bound for South Australia. It’s going to be about fourteen hours of driving in one hit. The day before, my cousin Natalia tells me that I should really stop putting off dealing with everything, and all this driving isn’t the cathartic undertaking I think it is; it’s just a delaying tactic. Today’s journey is 1200 kilometres. Yeah, but *what* a delaying tactic.

I romanticise the hell out of the remote towns spotted along the motorways – the strange qualities they all share, from the abandoned water slides to the anachronistic palm trees lining some gaudy pastel motel with an uninviting

Shorten isn’t looking too bad. They’ve clearly worked on his image a lot, and I heard someone say he does an hour of speech coaching each day. Everyone else in the world seems to have figured out how to deal with the changing nature of relationships, but I’m convinced my brain has been wired in such a way so as not to cope with such a concept. It’s not that I expect every relationship to exist in a static, permanent state, but there is an elusive emotional vocabulary I don’t possess. I don’t understand how friends become strangers, how intimacy becomes distance. And aside from one Fiona Apple song, I’ve not seen any indication that anyone else in the world has this problem. Is this one of those things that we all have but don’t talk about, or is this such a unique problem that it’s going to be named after me in future medical textbooks? Look, a legacy is a legacy, I can’t

be choosy. The one hope I have, the one hint that I might actually be healthy enough to be able to move on from things, is that I’ve been able to surgically remove the memory of that Mildura holiday from the relationship it’s associated with. The distinct lack of trauma in that particular relationship break-up may be a contributing factor, though. I can’t rule that out. I want to take advantage of being here and locate that maguffin of sanity, but my timing is off and the sun sets right before I get to the town. I see familiarity in the main strip, but I can’t remember the location of the resort we stayed at, and I’m not going to start hunting around for the wineries or restaurants we went to. I foolishly assumed that passing through the town would provoke some sort of answer, an easy key, like picking up enlightenment via a drive-thru window. But just like back on the Gold Coast, the place I’m thinking of exists only in my memory, and whatever

it is I’m driving through now is wrong. I’ve come to it in the wrong year. The next four hours are mostly a straight line, with dark clouds obscuring what I assume is the horizon. I do the thing I’d always do as a child and convince myself they’re mountains, and marvel at their height and width. It’s soon pitch black, and I can’t see the scenery, and this may be the only time in my life I ever travel this road, so I have a sense of misplaced frustrated urgency about everything I’m missing. How do people cope with life being so crushingly finite? There’s just enough moonlight to glint off the tapered western tail of the Murray River and Lake Bonney, just enough to tease me about the view I’m missing. Haunting dead trees stick up out of the water, silhouetted and sinister. I stop at a fast-food place to use the bathroom, and see the evening news reporting on Labor’s campaign launch. Bill Shorten shakes hands with Bob Hawke, hugs Paul Keating, and

kisses Julia Gillard. Thank God Kevin Rudd isn’t there, or the escalation of affection would have given this campaign an alarming tone. Shorten isn’t looking too bad. They’ve clearly worked on his image a lot, and I heard someone say he does an hour of speech coaching each day. This is clearly going to be the most successful election loss Labor’s ever had. It’s very late when I enter Adelaide. I’ve never entered the city from the north, so this is all unfamiliar. And the election is on here like it’s on nowhere else. Every single electricity pole along every street is plastered with candidates. And if you think by ‘every single electricity pole’ I mean ‘a high number’ or even ‘three, the minimum threshold to call something “every single”’, then allow me to stress that I really do mean every single damn one. Labor’s Penny Wong, and

the Liberals’ Christopher Pyne, and the Greens’ Sarah Hanson-Young, and Nick Xenophon Team’s Nick Xenophon, and a lot of faces I don’t recognise, all beam down at me with smiles powered by the electricity their 12-metre wooden spines are propping up. The streetlights are merely a tangential function of these poles, now solely here to prop up the candidates until the early hours of the 3rd of July. *This is an edited extract from Double Dissolution: Heartbreak and Chaos on the Campaign Trail by Lee Zachariah (Echo Publishing)*

**Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate**  
4938 3300

Lee Zachariah is a writer who has worked across film, television and journalism and has written on politics and the arts for *Vice*, *Junkee*, *The Age* and *The Guardian*. He co-hosted the ABC2 film comedy series *The Bazura Project*, and has written for *The Chaser*, *The Checkout*, *The Hamster Decides* and *Mad As Hell*. His new book, *Double Dissolution – Heartbreak and Chaos on the Campaign Trail*, sees him following the recent Federal Election trail in the wake of a relationship break-up.



## Fans of Morris Gleitzman invited to *Sticky Beak* into his life and writing when he visits Singleton Library

One of Australia’s most successful authors is heading to Singleton Library to share an insight into such books as *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *Misery Guts*, *Bumface*, *Wicked!* and *Deadly!* Morris Gleitzman has carved a cult following since he wrote his first children’s novel in 1985, with audiences around the world delighting in his moving and humorous style. His hugely popular books for children explore serious and sometimes confronting subjects in funny and unexpected ways. After emigrating to Australia from England in 1969 and working as a bottle-shop shelf-stacker, department store Santa Claus, frozen chicken defroster, fashion-design assistant and sugar-mill employee, he gained a degree in Professional Writing at the Canberra College of Advanced Education and started his writing career as a writer for three award-winning and top-rating seasons with the Australian TV comedy series *The Norman Gunston Show*. He also wrote a number of feature film and telemovie screenplays, including *The Other Facts of Life* and *Second Childhood*, both produced by The Australian Children’s Television Foundation, and his semi-autobiographical columns appeared in the *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* magazine, *Good Weekend*, for nine years. But the majority of Morris’ accolades are for his hugely popular children’s books, including his latest title, *Toad Delight*.



**Morris Gleitzman will talk about his books and life in writing at Singleton Library on Monday 7 November 2016 from 5.30pm to 7pm.**

Bookings are essential. To reserve your place, contact 6578 7500

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Open 7 days  
8am - 8pm

4990 3485

202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock  
(opposite ALDI)

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I’ll consider any job and will tell you if I can’t do the work!

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Free quotes or will work for hourly rate on any project. **Seniors Discount!**

Great attention to detail and always clean-up at the end of the day! References available.

**Satisfaction Guaranteed!**

For a FREE quote, call Peter on: 0419 441 257



# HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVVTA

## Two Hunter Valley Restaurants in the Top Five Trip Advisors' Travelers' Choice Awards!

Muse Restaurant has been awarded the number one position in Australia and number 15 in the world, whilst Restaurant Botanica was awarded number three in Australia. This is a fantastic accolade for these two incredible establishments and for the Hunter Valley. The award is a result of the reviews made by Travelers and diners on Trip Advisor over a 12 month period. This year's awards recognize 528 restaurants overall, including the top 25 fine dining in the world and dedicated lists for Asia, Canada, Europe, India, Mexico, South America, South Pacific, the U.K. and

the U.S. Award winners were determined using an algorithm that took into account the quantity and quality of reviews for restaurants around the world, gathered over a 12-month period.

## Giant Waterslide Festival to Launch at the Hunter Valley this Summer.

The event appropriately named Slideapalooza is set to transfer Calais Estate Winery into a summer waterslide festival, the first event of its kind that the world has ever seen. With over 45,000 interested on the social media event pages, the event is expected to sell out fast as the event capacity is capped at 10,000 sliders over the four day festival. The event has partnered up with Tour de Cure and will use the event and its world record beating slide to raise money for the charity organisation which spread's its be fit, be healthy, be happy message to school children around the country. Registration for the event are now open where participants can choose between the world record slide on

Australia Day, family events on the Friday and Sunday or Saturday mornings fitness event Sprint'n'Slide, afternoon live music event Slide'n'Sounds or the evenings DJ and light festival event Slide'n'Lights. A fantastic event for the Hunter Valley. For more information visit the website [www.slideapalooza.com](http://www.slideapalooza.com)

## Bruce Tyrrell awarded the prestigious 2015 Graham Gregory Award

A doyen of the Hunter Valley wine industry, Bruce Tyrrell, has been awarded the prestigious Graham Gregory Award for his invaluable dedication to the NSW wine industry. He joins such identities as Len Evans, his father Murray Tyrrell, Max Lake and Don McWilliam in receiving the award. Named after NSW wine industry pioneer and former NSW Agriculture Deputy Director General, Graham Gregory, the award celebrates the wine industry and the people who contribute to its success.



≡ Doyen of the Hunter Valley wine industry Bruce Tyrrell CEO of Tyrrell's Wines & 2015 Graham Gregory awardee

The award is a recognition by peers of an individual for honourable contributions benefiting the NSW wine industry generally. The NSW Primary Industries Minister Niall Blair said that Bruce Tyrrell has played an important role in developing & expanding the NSW wine industry through his innovation & leadership. "NSW is the second largest wine producing state in Australia, accounting for over 30% of the

\$5billion Australian wine industry," said Mr Blair. In 2006, he was recognised with an Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to the Australian wine industry; improving grape quality, research, tourism and export opportunities. In 2009, he became a Hunter Valley Living Legend at the Hunter Valley Wine Industry Awards.

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### Past winners

Year	Graham Gregory Trophy winner
2014	Bill Calabria OAM
2013	Chris Barnes AM
2012	David Lowe
2011	Brian Freeman
2010	R F Hilder
2009	D J (Doug) McWilliam
2008	E G Walkquist
2007	M Flannigan
2006	G R Scollary
2005	P Ryan
2004	R Turkington
2003	J Brayne
2002	I L Riggs
2001	B J McGuigan
2000	P L Shaw
1999	G R Johnston
1998	R H Roberts
1997	L P Evans
1996	K F Helm AM
1995	D A V (Deen) De Bortoli
1994	D R (Don) McWilliam
1993	M D Tyrrell
1992	R I Oatley
1991	G R Gregory



# Branxton Golf Club



Phone: 4938 1421 Fax: 4938 3571 Email: [branxtongolfclub@westnet.com.au](mailto:branxtongolfclub@westnet.com.au) Information for Members and Guest.

## Christmas Spectacular

9th Dec Fireworks 9.15pm



## 2016 Golf Presentation

Saturday 26th November 5.30 for 6.30 pm start (finger food provided)

Dress code—Neat Casual

Dry till until 8.30pm

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



## Giant Toy Raffle

Friday 25th November

Tickets on sale from 6.30 Drawn 7.30pm

\$1600 Worth

Raffles every Friday

Badge Draws every

Thursday And Friday

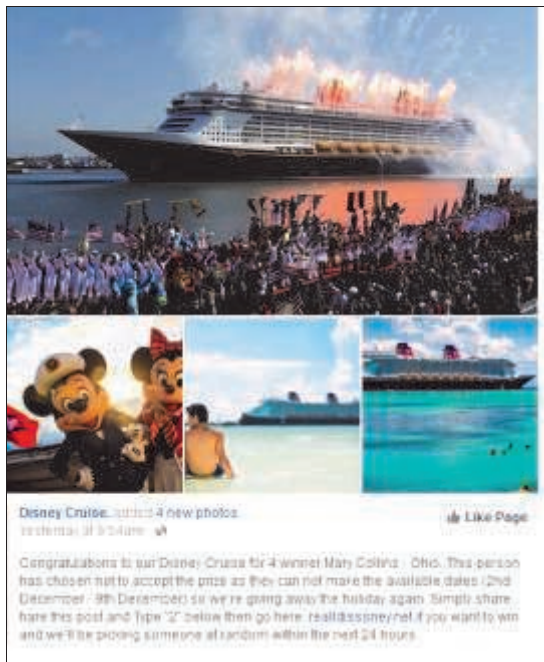


# click



## The Latest Facebook Fraud & Why You Fall For It

There's yet another Disney fraud making the rounds on Facebook. Check it out below.



Your first clue that this is not legit is the way the contest is handled. That's not the way big companies handle contests. If someone can't accept the prize, they just draw another winner from eligible entrants. This prize claims to be offered by a page called Disney Cruise.



Pop over to their page and there are a bunch of clues that this is fake. There are only a few posts. Only a few photographs and nowhere near the number of followers an actual Disney site would boast.



An actual Disney page would have more than four stock photos available.



See the site they talk about in the post? If you click on that link, this is what you get.



You'll see the standard Privacy and Rules links at the bottom, but guess what? They don't work.



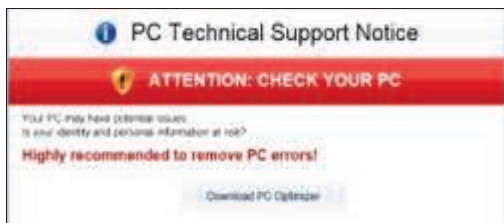
Clicking on this site will likely bring some lovely malware or ransomware right to your device. Or authorize an app to make spam posts to everyone you know. It's not only dangerous for you but for your friends. So if you get any type of message from this site, do not respond or click on it. So why do you keep falling for things like this? Because you keep sharing things like the one below.



At least 5 Facebook friends of mine that I know to be fairly intelligent humans shared this post over the weekend. Blindly sharing information like this as if you have confirmation it is true is irresponsible. None of that "better safe than sorry" nonsense either, is folks. It's a bad habit that breeds careless online behaviour that leads to people clicking on links or messages that wreck their computer or phone. Or to your more gullible friends sending money to strangers who sent them a message. Set a good example. Don't share sketchy things and make sure you let the people who do share them know that they're spreading falsehoods.

### Beware Of This Noisy Scam

Scammers are always changing their tactics to take advantage of computer users. There's a new one out there that I wanted to tell you about. We've talked before about fake virus pop-ups that direct you to scam tech-support sites. This new one adds the element of sound.



A window will open and you'll hear a voice telling you that your computer has just been infected and that you need to call a certain number right now to fix it. What's worse, there's a scary countdown that says you only have 5 minutes to call or else.

In the past few days a friend of mine's mother, our graphic artist's father-in-law, and my father-in-law were hit by this same scam. It's completely FAKE! If your virus software detects a virus, it fixes it. It won't direct you to a number to call. These crooks just want to get your credit card number or access to your computer.

What you're hearing is just a pop-up ad. There is no legitimate scenario under which a voice will tell you there's an issue with your PC and have you call a number. Got it? Promise? If it happens, just shut the browser to make it go away. If you can't get the browser to shut regularly, try pressing the Ctrl + Alt + Delete keys to bring up task manager. Then you can just choose your browser and select end task.

If your browser offers you the ability to restore the last session when you re-open, don't choose it. You don't want to go back to where you were and get stuck with that nasty pop-up.

If you're actually concerned about your computer run a scan with your always up-to-date security software.

### Noteworthy

This NPR series called Noteworthy investigates the creative process by focusing on one artist at a time through video interviews.

When you arrive at the site you'll navigate by scrolling down the page, and click on the video you want to view.

Each video displays a play button and runtime, beneath the video you'll find the title and a brief sentence about what the video is about.

The genre looks like a mix of R&B and pop, but it was really interesting to learn about the way the creative process works differently for each artist.

Go check it out for yourself today!

<http://www.npr.org/series/487480008/noteworthy>

# MOVIE REVIEW

## HACKSAW RIDGE

**ABOUT** HACKSAW RIDGE is the extraordinary true story of Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield) who, in Okinawa during the bloodiest battle of WWII, saved 75 men

without firing or carrying a gun. He was the only American soldier in WWII to fight on the front lines without a weapon, as he believed that while the war was justified, killing was nevertheless wrong. As an army medic he single-handedly rescued the wounded from behind enemy lines, braved fire while tending to soldiers and was injured by a grenade and hit by snipers. Doss was the first conscientious objector awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour, which is the highest military honour in the US, awarded for personal acts of valour above and beyond the call of duty.



kill." See what I mean about subtlety?

Another factor is that his father (Hugo Weaving) became an alcoholic after he lost his friends in World

Hacksaw Ridge must be the most quintessentially Mel Gibson-y film that Mel Gibson has ever made. Like so many of the projects he has had a hand in, it features plenty of rigid Christianity, plenty of entrail-splattering violence, and zero subtlety.

It even harks back to his youth in Australia: most of the actors are Australian, and it was shot in New South Wales. The one Gibson trademark that's missing is the craziness that has enlivened so much of his work both in front of and behind the camera, from his live-wire performance in Mad Max to his ancient dialogue in the last two films he directed, The Passion of the Christ and Apocalypto.

There's nothing as exhilaratingly eccentric as that in Hacksaw Ridge.

Maybe Gibson was feeling chastened by the scandals that have followed him since Apocalypto came out a decade ago: the racist and anti-Semitic outbursts, the drunk-driving, the starring role in Jodie Foster's awful comedy, The Beaver. Whatever the reason, he proves with Hacksaw Ridge that he can still make an efficient Hollywood epic which is as stirring, and as gruesome, as Braveheart.

The film tells the true story of Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield), a pacifist and Seventh-day Adventist who served courageously as a US army medic in World World Two, despite his refusal to pick up a rifle.

The screenplay, by Andrew Knight and Robert Schenkkan, traces his pacifism back to an incident in his picturesque childhood in rural Virginia when he clonked his brother on the head with a brick, and then, afraid that he might have murdered him, dashed over to a framed picture containing the commandment, "Thou shalt not

War One, a trauma which the film conveys by having him slugging whiskey in an army cemetery.

It would be harsh to call the film 'Hackneyed Ridge', but not too harsh.

The depiction of Desmond's romantic life is even more old-fashioned. From the moment he catches sight of a winsome nurse (Teresa Palmer), lit like an angel, and wearing a perfectly tailored and laundered white uniform, it's plain that she will turn out to be as loyal, virtuous, and loving as he is.

Sure enough, after one of those film courtships in which the woman addresses the man by his full name ("Are you going to help me, Desmond Doss?"), the young sweethearts are engaged. It would be harsh to call the film 'Hackneyed Ridge', but not too harsh. The film doesn't get much more sophisticated when Desmond joins the army and meets his new buddies at training camp. One of them is a cowboy nicknamed Tex who is first seen practising lasso tricks. Another is a drill sergeant (Vince Vaughn) who, like every other drill sergeant in the movies, seem to have spent as much time in an improv-comedy class as he has in a warzone. But as hokey as this part of Hacksaw Ridge is, it's also spirited and entertaining, and it raises some interesting issues: does Desmond deserve to be on a battlefield if he won't carry a gun? Will he endanger his comrades if he can't defend them? And how do his pacifist principles square with the knowledge that his fellow troops will slaughter as many enemy soldiers as they can?

'Relentless carnage'

Well, we soon find out. After an hour or so, Desmond and company arrive at the titular Hacksaw Ridge in Okinawa, where they have to scale a sheer cliff-face and then charge through a smoky, blasted wasteland towards the waiting Japanese. What follows may not be the best battle scene ever, but it's

certainly the one in which the most faces and limbs are turned to raw mince. As well as getting the adrenaline pumping, this relentless carnage demonstrates just how bold Desmond's pacifism is.

In one breathless set piece, he dashes through a warren of dark tunnels, dodging Japanese soldiers, and there's a real frisson in knowing that, for once, we're watching an action hero who can't resort to a dagger or a pistol or even a punch in the face. He just has to keep running.

It's clear that, rather than being the coward that some of his comrades had accused him of being, Desmond is a genuine braveheart - and that's even before he puts himself in danger, again and again, so that he can drag wounded soldiers away from the frontline and back to safety.

Beyond the novelty of a war film about a pacifist, and the fact that the remarkable events it depicts really happened, Hacksaw Ridge doesn't have many surprises. There is no ambiguity, no questioning of Desmond's beliefs, and no complexity to his wholesome, all-American character. Another director would surely have made a more challenging, intelligent version of his life story. But no other director could have made a more sincere one. As clichéd as it is, Hacksaw Ridge passes muster because it is so uncynical about the man it memorialises. Gibson's reverence, for soldiers and for hardline Christians alike, is disarming. Still, the film would have been better if it hadn't been quite so hagiographic. It's one thing to have Desmond slap away a grenade that's just been thrown at him, but having him deflect another one with a Maradona-like kick immediately afterwards is a little too reminiscent of Garfield's most famous character, Spider-Man. By that point in Hacksaw Ridge, Gibson had already convinced us that Desmond was a hero. There was no need to make him a superhero, too







'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@holkey.net.au](mailto:thenews@holkey.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 recently

Three weeks ago, my Uncle Jim wasn't feeling well and decided to visit the doctor. He passed away at the start of this week. We are very, very sad.

The thing about uncles is that although they are generally around your parent's age and are in a position of responsibility, they are not so much an authoritative figure whom you view with vast amounts of fear or reverence but a figure you can relate to when you can't relate to your parents. I hardly need to tell you that at the age of 15 or 16, uncles are the only ones you can relate to.

Jim was a figure my brothers and I dubbed Santa Claus from a very young age because he was always laughing and generously filling the air with humour.

When we arrived to see him, wherever it may be, his entire face would light up and the fun would start. He was more like an older brother at times yet he seemed not to have to discipline us very often as we respected this arrangement. Every second year growing up, my parents would head overseas to different wine regions in Europe for two or three months. When I was seven years old, I was to stay with Jim and my aunty Susan, in their house in Sydney. Mum and Dad had actually been away the previous year and my brothers and I had stayed with my grandparents. This time around, however, both my older brothers were in boarding school and it would be another year before I could start. So this was my first time out of home by myself and although I thought the world of Jim and Sue and my cousins, three months of not seeing your parents or brothers at seven years old precipitated into me developing a minor nervous twitch. It wasn't so much a twitch actually. Periodically when I blinked, I would shut my eyes quite tightly. Whatever it was, Jim, who assumed it was an eye problem, took me to an optometrist. The optometrist put me through a series of tests and confusingly declared that there was nothing wrong with my eyes and to bring me back if I started going blind. Jim studied me over the following days and finally got the whole family together and we played a game where we had to blink hard for five minutes and whoever could blink the hardest (not the fastest) won the game. Three things happened. Firstly, I won convincingly. Secondly, I never felt the urge to blink like that again and thirdly, Jimmy called me "Blinks" from that day forth.

It was at this time that I attended the local public school which was a harrowing experience well out of my comfort zone. I befriended an Italian boy named Alderino Valentino. We were inseparable. The friendship began when he asked me on the first day what my name was and what my father did. When I told him my father was a winemaker, he smiled and said that his father made wine as well. I didn't quite understand how his father could make wine in the middle of Sydney but I didn't recognise at the time that many Italian families made wine in their backyards. Alderino's family lived in one of the biggest houses I've ever seen and on the last day before I was to go home, they invited us over for dinner. As we begged our farewells, Alderino and his entire family stood on their verandah, took their handkerchiefs from their pockets and waved them in sorrow at my departure. I will never forget that day.

Many years later whilst at boarding school, Jim noticed that many of my rugby team mates had names such as Sergi and Trimbole and were infamous identities from Griffith and suggested that maybe their families just may have done some business with Alderino's family. After putting two and two together, this may have made some sense. We couldn't stop laughing about that.

Jim was my father's younger brother. Whatever Dad did, Jim followed. Growing up in a very serious horse racing family, spanning five generations before them, it was hard to resist the urge to gain knowledge of the game. Both became heavily involved in different capacities but at the same time ran successful businesses outside the racing arena. In true tradition however, they spoke only of

racing... and Uncle Ted! Don't worry who Uncle Ted was as you cannot sit for

more than ten minutes with the Marsh clan before his name is mentioned. He died before I was born but I know more about him than I do about anyone!

During an interview one day, the journalist asked Jim what it was like to grow up in a horse racing household. Jim smiled and replied .... "I was born at 10.00am on a Saturday morning. Saturday as you can appreciate, is race day. My entire family were at Randwick racecourse. The only ones at the hospital were Mum and me. By about 2pm Mum had me put in the care of the nurses and changed into her racing clothes and trotted off around the corner to the racecourse to let the others know I was born, as there were no phones allowed on the racecourse in those days. They stayed at the races all day, then sipped Champagne until the early hours of Sunday and the next time they saw me was Monday morning."

The interviewer looked slightly aghast "Is that true?"

Jim laughed.

"No, of course it's not true....it was more like the Tuesday or Wednesday!"

I sat with my grandfather last night at his home. He is ninety years old and reminds me of a younger version of my father. I keep telling him he will outlive the lot of us. He is taking it pretty well but he did make the comment... "It is against the laws of nature to bury your kids... even at my age."

Jim's funeral is on Thursday (today). None of us can believe he is gone. The racing fraternity will be there in droves. I guess we will hear his countless achievements including the Paul Harris Fellowship Recognition for Rotary and his love of racing and of course-his family. One thing Jim did love was reciting poetry. He would sit with a good glass of red and have people in stitches or have them welling in tears. If I may leave you with the last three verses of Banjo Paterson's "Old Pardon, the Son of Reprieve"...

But he's old - and his eyes are grown hollow;  
Like me, with my thatch of the snow;  
When he dies, then I hope I may follow,  
And go where the racehorses go.  
I don't want no harping nor singing -  
Such things with my style don't agree;  
Where the hoofs of the horses are ringing  
There's music sufficient for me.

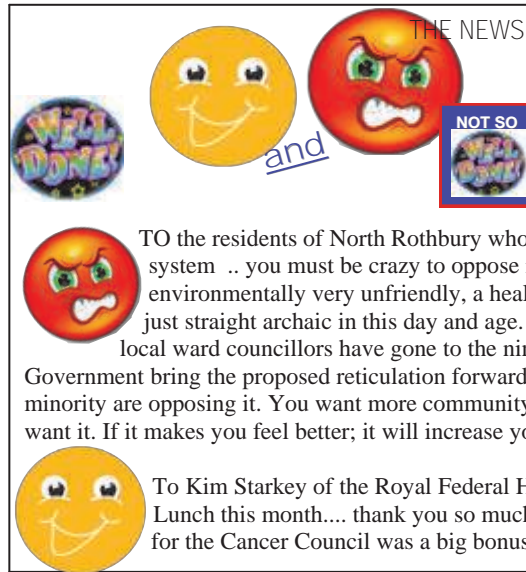
And surely the thoroughbred horses  
Will rise up again and begin  
Fresh races on far-away courses,  
And p'raps they might let me slip in.

It would look rather well the race-card on  
'Mongst Cherubs and Seraphs and things,  
'Angle Harrison's black gelding Pardon,  
Blue halo, white body and wings."

And if they have racing hereafter,  
(and who is to say they will not?)  
When the cheers and the shouting & laughter  
Proclaim that the battle grows hot:  
As they come down the racecourse a-steering,  
He'll rush to the front, I believe;  
And you'll hear the great multitude cheering  
For Pardon, the Son of Reprieve.

Thank you for your laughter.....will miss you dearly...  
Blinks

Cheers, Andrew



TO the residents of North Rothbury who are not in favour of a reticulated sewerage system .. you must be crazy to oppose it. The in-situ septic systems are environmentally very unfriendly, a health hazard if not correctly maintained and are just straight archaic in this day and age. Cessnock Council, Clayton Barr MP & our local ward councillors have gone to the ninth degree to have Hunter Water & the State Government bring the proposed reticulation forward by 4 years & I think a very, very small minority are opposing it. You want more community consultation ... here it is ~ the vast majority want it. If it makes you feel better; it will increase your property value!

To Kim Starkey of the Royal Federal Hotel who organised the inaugural Ladies Lunch this month.... thank you so much as it was a great day & the money raised for the Cancer Council was a big bonus. Hope there are more to come!!

### 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:** Best offer over \$30. Large U-shaped grey melamine desk for any purpose, office/work bench/student study station. Pics available. Phone 49381496, 6-7pm or leave a message.  
**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  
**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 128 707  
**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/>  
**Wanted:** HC Truck driver wanted: Looking for a part time driver must have HC license and asphalt experience desired mixture of day and night work Rutherford based ph 0406761311  
**For Sale:** Western saddle. Hardly used. Very comfortable. Fully mounted. \$1,100 ONO. Ph: 0459060634  
**For Sale:** Kawasaki GPX250/2005. Current 56220K's. Has new rear disc, new rear pads, serviced brake calliper Oct 2016, near new front pads, new chain Oct 2016, Aug 2017 rego, clutch replaced last year, front fork seal replaced 48825, after market front indicators. Mechanically good, cosmetically OK for age. \$1700 P: 0412 317 618  
**WANTED ASAP** We are after a reliable casual hc truck & dog drivers & hr bogie drivers to work on the Central Coast, Newcastle, Hunter & some Sydney work. It is ongoing work although the rain slows us a bit, will be carting asphalt, dirt etc. You have to be flexible to do days & night work, you will need a white card, hc or hr licence & driving record print out, must have road ranger & tipper experience and know how to back a dog trailer, asphalt & profiling experience would be in your favour & power line ticket would be also be ideal if you have it other wise you will need to get 1 eventually, 0402921935 located Central Coast NSW

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



**Tue 1 Nov** - Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club  
**Fri 4 Nov** - 8pm Valley Artists presents Ira Levin's DEATHTRAP Laguna Hall, 3734 Great North Road, Laguna 2325  
**Sun 6 Nov** - Crowne2Crowne Cycle Classic 6:30am - 2pm  
**Tue 8 Nov** - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigids old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room.  
**Wed 9 Nov** - Organ recital @ Anglican Parish of Branxton, Greta & Lochinvar  
**Fri 11 Nov** - Armistice Day Service at Branxton Memorial/ Rotunda. 11am. All welcome  
**Sun 13 Nov** - Greta Branxton Parish Assembly  
**WHAT:** Greta Branxton Catholic Parish Assembly  
**WHEN:** Sunday 13th November 2016 following 10am Mass at St Brigids Catholic Church  
**WHERE:** McAuley Centre, Maitland Street, Branxton  
*Numbers will be required for catering purposes so if you are attending please contact Craig Trunk on 0428 752 362.*  
**Mon 14 Nov** Branxton/Greta CWA Land Cookery/(PP Day - Blueberries), 10.00am, MT, Lunch, \$12, Guest Speaker, McCauley Hall, Branxton. RSVP 31/10/16 Marie 0402015850 or branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com  
**Fri 18 Nov** - Maitland Repertory Theatre and Maitland Musical Society present **NUNSENSATIONS!** *The Nunsense Vegas Revue.*  
**What:** NUNSENSATIONS! *The Nunsense Vegas Revue* - at Maitland Repertory Theatre  
**Where:** Maitland Repertory Theatre, 244 High Street, Maitland (opposite Maitland Town Hall)  
**When:** Opening at 8:00pm on Friday 18 November, 2016 -

doors open 7.30pm.  
 Show Only - \$22  
**Fri/Sat:** 18/19 Nov 8:00pm, Sunday: 20 Nov 2:00pm  
 Light Meal and Show \$42  
**Fri/Sat:** Nov 25, 26, Dec 2, 3 6:45pm  
**Sundays:** Nov 27, Dec 4 12:45pm  
**Sun 20 Nov** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
**Mon 21 Nov** Branxton Public School P & C Meeting 6pm in library  
**Fri 25 Nov** - Nominations close for Singleton Council Citizen of the Year. Download a nomination form at [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/australiaday) or for more information contact Cheryl Smith on 6578 7206. Awards to be presented on Australia Day, Thursday 26 January 2017.  
**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  
**Thu 8 Dec** - Branxton Public School P & C Carols by Torch-light  
**Fri 9 Dec** - Branxton Golf Club Christmas Spectacular  
**Mon 12 Dec** - Greta Public School 'Angels'  
**Tue 13 Dec** - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigids old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room, followed by Christmas lunch.  
**Tue 13 Dec** - Branxton Public School Presentation Day 2016 @ 9:30am  
**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





## Branxton Public School

### Branxton Public School News

Special thanks to Mrs Megan Neville in the Library who recently met Mr Paul Hillier, a conservation officer from the Office of Environment and Heritage, and was given three very special native plants to plant at Branxton Public School. These plants are North Rothbury Persoonias and are an endangered plant only found in this area. We will enjoy watching these beautiful plants grow in our school. Kindergarten enjoyed a fabulous day at the Australian Reptile Park in Week 3. They had



Kindergarten Reptile Park excursion

a lovely cool day to enjoy discovering all that is on offer at the park. The students were complimented on their excellent behaviour by the park ranger. Well done Kindergarten!

Stage 3 went a little further for their excursion, venturing all the way to the Bathurst Goldfields. They visited the Three Sisters at Katoomba, the National Racing Museum and Scenic World as well as panning for gold! An adventure filled three days. Thank you to the parents who helped out with both excursions.

We had a very special day on 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. The day started with students (and many parents) walking safely to school with teachers and then we were visited by Senior Constable Sheree Gray from Muswellbrook Police Station. Sheree talked about the importance of personal safety, including cyber safety. The Morcombe Foundation seeks to raise awareness of personal safety, with the key words of Recognise, React and Report at the centre of their



Oliver, Amy & Ebony with drink bottles



Stage 1 with Senior Constable Sheree



Stage 3 Panning for gold

message, and students, parents and teachers wore red to help promote this. Thank you to the P&C, and Mrs Lovell in particular, for organising the day and for providing the red foods in the canteen. Our students had the opportunity to purchase McHappy Day drink bottles in Week 3 to help support Ronald McDonald House Charities. Students were excited to choose the colour of their bottle and then have them filled with icy cold water from the drink

dispenser kindly donated by Greta McDonalds. Thanks to Mrs Heinzel for organising the drink bottles and to Olivia and Ebony for helping on the day.

Kindergarten Orientation Visits start in Week 4 and we are all ready to greet our Kinders for 2017. Visits are scheduled for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

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.

### Dates for the Calendar

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November – P&C Meeting 6pm in library

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – P&C Carols by Torchlight

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Presentation Day 9:30am

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



Walkers for A Day for Daniel



## St BRIGID'S

## TWILIGHT MARKET FUNDRAISER

FOR BEYOND BLUE AND PROSTATE CANCER  
St Brigid's Old School Grounds

Branxton NSW

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec from 4.00pm to 8.00pm

Helen 0427 047 024 & Julie 0427 385 250 – check out our facebook page

BRANXTON'S ONLY MONTHLY MARKET WITH OVER 50 STALLS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

BBQ & COLD DRINKS AVAILABLE

FRESH FRUIT & VEGIES AVAILABLE

DELICIOUS COFFEE

ENTERTAINERS FROM OUR LOCAL AREA

Check out our local talent!

Antique & Vintage items, Candles, Jewellery, Kids & Ladies Clothing, Mice Handbags, Sweets, Olives, Soaps, Goats Milk Soap, Jams, Marmalade, Pickles, Cakes, Slices, Hair Accessories, Tupperware, Gift Ideas & other beautiful crafted items



# Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

## Winx's adds ladies Horse of the Year leadership

WINX, the now 5-year-old daughter of the Darley deceased Mr. Prospector grandson Street Cry and Vegas Showgirl, a dual Listed winner by the Success Express sire Al Akbar recorded her second successive win in this month's Cox Plate and, even at this early stage, her second Horse of the Year title.

Bred by John and Debbie Camilleri's Fairways Thoroughbreds, Hunter Valley and sold through Coolmore to part owner Peter Tighe's Magic Racing at the Gold Coast for \$230,000, the Chris Waller trained Winx's extraordinary ability has already been recognised by Horse of the Year for 2015-16.

Since the start of the 2016-17 racing year, she has primed for the 2016 Cox Plate by winning her three outings, the Warwick Stakes-G2 and George Main Stakes-G1 at Randwick and Saturday's Caulfield Stakes-G1, with consummate ease.

Her second Cox Plate victory on October 23 gave Winx a feat only two females have achieved since the race was first run in 1922, Victorian Tranquil Star, romping home in 1942 (5yo, by 5.0 lengths) and 1944 (7yo, 2 1/2 lens), and Sunline scoring in 1999 (4yo, 1 1/2 lengths) and 2000 (5yo, 7.0 lens).

A daughter of Gay Lothario (GB), Tranquil Star contested the Cox Plate in five successive years for two wins, a second, fourth and fifth, and New Zealand foaled Sunline challenged in four years, following her wins with a second in 2001 (a protest against the winner was unsuccessful) and fourth in 2002. Named Horse of the Year in 2000, 2001 and 2002, Sunline was by the Green Desert sire Desert Sun and from the Western Symphony mare Songline, one who went back seven generations to Fortune's Wheel, a sister to two times Cox Plate winner Phar Lap.

Winx's 2016 Australian Horse of the Year title increases the leadership of the females over the males in the honour board for this century. Including Sunline's success in 2000 2001 and 2002, the ladies have been anointed on eleven occasions, the other recipients being Makybe Diva (GB) (2005, 2006), Miss Andretti (2007), Typhoon Tracy (2010), Black Caviar (2011, 2012 and 2013) and Winx (2016).

Despite their wonderful athletic ability, none of these Horses of the Year with performers of racing age has set the world on fire as producers. Sunline has had two minor winners in New Zealand from four foals; Makybe Diva has two winners from seven foals, namely Rockstardom (by Galileo, two wins, \$29,015) and Taqneen (Lonhro, one win, \$9,410); Miss Andretti has only had three foals, all unraced, from seven seasons, including a current Nicconi 2-year old named Mr Hamilton; and Typhoon Tracy died delivering the foal from her first service on August 12 2012, a colt by Winx's sire Street Cry.

The Australian Racehorse of the Year awards were introduced in 1968-1969, a year it was headed by the stallion Rain Lover and one in which he won his first of two Melbourne Cups. Prior to Sunline, seven females had been honoured, Leilani (NZ) (4yo, by Oncidium) 1974-75, Surround (3yo, Sovereign Edition) 1976-77, Maybe Mahal (5yo, Maybe Lad) 1977-78, Rose of Kingston (3yo, Claude) 1981-82, Emancipation (4yo, Bletchingly) 1985-86 and Let's Elope (4yo, Nassipour) 1991-92.

The most successful winner

producers among these were Rose of Kingston (used America and Australia), 9 foals, 5 winners including Kingston Rule (by Secretariat; four wins including Melbourne Cup, Moonee Valley Cup) and Rose of Portland (Seattle Slew, five wins to Group 3); Let's Elope, 8 foals, 6 winners, Ustinov (Seeking the Gold; won MVRC AAMI Vase-G2, second AJC Champagne Stakes, Caulfield Guineas) and Outback Joe (won Adelaide Cup), Bounding Away (2 foals, G2 winner In Abound); and Emancipation, 7 foals, 3 winners, Royal Pardon (G2 winner, second AJC Derby).

None of these sprinted as brilliantly as unbeaten world champion Black Caviar, a mare whose first runners are eagerly awaited. She has supplied three foals, an Exceed and Excel 2yo filly named Oscietra, yearling Sebring colt and a Snitzel filly born September 18.

## Exceed and Excel exceeds with early juveniles

FEW sires have excelled so spectacularly with early juveniles as Exceed and Excel, the Darley Australian champion sprinter and champion sire who also flies the flag nobly from use at their stud in Ireland. The weekend of October 1 and 2, saw his new 2-year-olds win three of the first metropolitan races of 2016-17 for the age group, namely the Gimcrack Stakes (won by Jorda) and Breeders' Plate (Khan) at Randwick and the Maribyrnong Trial Stakes (Madeenaty) at Flemington.

In addition, Exceed and Excel progeny finished second (Double Jeopardy) and fourth (Inquiry) in the Maribyrnong Trial Stakes. They are colts, while the winner, Madeenaty, is an August 28 born filly and in consequence the first of her sex to beat the males in the new juvenile racing year.

Bred by Segenhoe Thoroughbreds, Scone, the August 28 born Madeenaty was purchased for her owner Shadwell Australasia (Sheik Hamdin bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai) for \$775,000 at the Gold Coast and runs out of the D & B Hayes/T Dabernig stables. She is from Set For Fame, a winner of three Group 2 sprints and an Australian Guineas second by Reset, a Zabeel sire resident at Darley's Northwood Park Stud in Victoria.

On the same day that his daughter was represented by Madeenaty, Reset supplied Hauraki, a Godolphin raced son who won the Group 1 Epsom at Randwick. This was followed up by a sire son, Victoria Derby and South Australian Derby winner Rebel Raider (Wyndholm Park Stud, Ballarat Vic) supplying Pretty Punk, the winner of the Hill Smith Stakes at Morphettville on Saturday.

Double Jeopardy, the Ellerton/Zahra trained runnerup in the Maribyrnong Trial races for his breeder, David Moodie's Heskett Bloodstock. He is an August 20 foal out of Nediym's Glow, a General Nediym Melbourne dual Group 3 winner.

Jorda (September 9), the Exceed and Excel filly who was a smart winner of the Gimcrack Stakes at Randwick was bred by Darley and races under the banner of their world wide Godolphin operation. She is from Montmelo, a winner only once, but a Group 2 and 3 placed three-quarter sister by Viscount, a triple Group 1 winner by Quest for Fame, to MRC Debutant Stakes winner Le Mans.

The success of the new 2-year-olds in Sydney and Melbourne lays the foundation for another big year for Exceed and Excel in the age group. He has been formidable in this sphere

# Detailed saleyard report



## Saleyard report - cattle

### Singleton report date 26 OCT 2016

Yarding 540 ~ **Change -410** (Comparison Date 19/10/16)

There was a reduction in numbers with young cattle making up the bulk. The quality of those young cattle was very mixed and there was a great variation in condition. Well finished cattle suitable to the trade were in limited supply. There was a single pen of very heavy grown steers, a few beef cows and a fair selection of dairy cows. The usual buyers were in attendance. Market trends through the young cattle showed some variation, mostly cheaper. There were however, some breed specific sales in the light weight restocker steers that were dearer. Well finished heifer vealers to the trade remained firm with some quality related price change. Medium weight yearling steers to restock sold to a cheaper trend, down 6c to 12c/kg on average with some sales more. The very light weight yearling heifers to restock remained close to firm, again some price variation for quality. There were cheaper trends through the light and medium weights to restock. Well finished heifers to the trade saw a firm to dearer market trend with some quality related change as butchers struggled to satisfy requirements. The very heavy grown steers remained firm. Cows sold to a dearer trend for all classes



### Scone report date 25 OCT 2016

Yarding 1074 ~ **Change 164** (Comparison Date 18/10/16)

There was a slight increase in numbers and the quality was good for the young cattle. Vealers were better supplied and there were good numbers of yearlings. Restockers and were not as active and feeder buyers were after a larger framed and better conditioned beast. There were a few more grown steers and bullocks and cow numbers were similar at 75 head. The market trend was cheaper with the exception of the feeder cattle. Restocking vealers were 6c to 9c cheaper, with most selling from 366c to 410c, with light weight Angus steers reaching 476c/kg. Heavy butcher vealers sold to 389c/kg. Feeder steers lifted 5c to 6c and feeder and restocking heifers were firm to 6c/kg stronger. Steers sold from 302c to 389c, averaging 370c/kg. Heifers to feed ranged between 330c and 348c/kg. There were too few trade steers to quote, with the feeders purchasing most however heavy trade heifers lost 20c, selling from 285c to 324c/kg. Grown steers and bullocks were back 25c ranging from 270c to 280c/kg. The medium weight 2 score cows sold from 170c to 202c and heavy 3 and 4 scores ranged from 200c to 235c, easing 20c to 25c/kg. The better covered medium weight cows sold to similar values.



### TRLX Tamworth report date 24 OCT 2016

Yarding 996 ~ **Change -1221** (Comparison Date 17/10/16)

Very good rainfall across the region over the weekend saw the numbers reduced by more than half. All categories except for vealers and grown steers were well represented with yearlings making up the bulk of the offering. The quality was generally good with condition varying from forward to well finished. The full field of buyers were in attendance and there was a little extra processor competition on secondary quality lots. Demand was generally weaker for all classes. Restockers were more

active in procuring cattle to put on grass than most of the feedlots were in sourcing stock to put on grain. The result of the weaker demand was cheaper trends through all classes of young cattle. Light weight steers to restock saw the trend up to 28c/kg easier. The medium and heavy weight yearling steers to restock and feed were 11c to 30c/kg cheaper with a minimal supply of heavy weights available to attract much feedlot competition. The cheaper trends carried through to the heifer yearlings with similar price falls recorded. The well finished heifers suitable to the trade were the least affected. There were too few heavy grown steers to quote. The well finished grown heifers saw a cheaper trend of up to 8c/kg on the good quality lots. The cow market sold on a firm to slightly cheaper trend although there was not a lot of change.



## EYCI

At the close of Thursday's markets 27/10/16:

- The **Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI)** finished at 665.50¢, up 2.25¢/kg cwt from where it settled the previous day
- **Trade steers** held firm, on 349¢/kg lwt
- **Medium steers** held firm, on 311¢/kg lwt
- **Heavy steers** were back 2¢, on 302¢/kg lwt
- **Medium cows** held firm, on 232¢/kg lwt
- **Feeder steers** remained unchanged at 358¢/kg lwt



ever since he had his first Australian runners in 2007-08 and has twice been champion juvenile sire by earnings and winners. He has also been Champion Australian sire by all runners 2012-13, second 2014-15 and third 2013-14 and is high up among the best European sires from his northern hemisphere use.



### What's on

## Creek restoration techniques on farms

**Details**  
Martindale Creek Landcare and Hunter Councils are hosting a free workshop on creek restoration techniques on farms, with support from Hunter Local Land Services. Come along to hear how to...

- reduce bank and bed erosion of streams
- manage fenced creek lines
- install off stream water
- establish shade off stream and manage weeds
- identify if your creek is healthy; and
- understand the benefits of native vegetation to creek health
- control the major riparian weeds such as Cestrum
- identify weed and native plant look-a-likes
- understand the risks of herbicide use near creeks

Bookings are essential, contact Eva Twarkowski at Hunter Councils on 0411 570 876 or email: [evat@huntercouncils.com.au](mailto:evat@huntercouncils.com.au).

**When:** 4th Nov 2016 9:00am-12:30pm  
**Where:** Kurrajongs, 2181 Martindale Road, Martindale  
**Contact:** Eva Twarkowski 0411 570 876



# Branxton's Pink High Tea for Cancer Fundraiser



Members of Branxton Greta CWA & helpers on the day.

Branxton Community Hall was awash with pink on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October for

a High Tea Fundraiser for women's cancer. The event reflected the amazing community spirit that exists in our region, with local businesses throwing their support behind the High Tea. The 130 guests were treated to pink champagne and delicious treats courtesy of Branxton CWA, Crib Box Branxton as well as The Branxton Bakery and IGA. *Cessnock City Motor Group* donated \$250 to the

Cancer Council on behalf of the Branxton High Tea Committee. *The Branxton Op Shop* provided the vintage items to style the stage, and *Kerrin's Kandles* created the beautiful table centre-pieces. And thanks to *Recommended Resumes* each guest received a gift on arrival. To complement the High Tea the ladies enjoyed a fashion parade courtesy of *Sue's Clothing* from Rutherford, with local

ladies as models and *Lady Franklin's Hats* showcased the latest spring styles. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Helen Scott and Branxton/Greta CWA for coordinating the event and the generosity of the guests, the High Tea was a great success with more than \$2300 raised for the Cancer Council. We look forward to next year's event.



Carole Pyers from Rutherford



Cindy from Recommended Resumes

## REFLECTIONS

### 6 November. Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: In this month of the dead, we celebrate the God of the living, in whom all are alive. We are members of the Communion of Saints, linked with those who have gone before us.

**Gospel: Luke 20:27-38**  
*Belief in the resurrection, since God is a God of the living*  
Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him

and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married and died childless; then the second and the third married her and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her." Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age

marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."

**Gospel Reflection:**  
*Last week's gospel story featured an unnamed toll collector, someone who*

*found devious ways to make a living, yet faced his shortcomings and came before God in openness and humility. This week's gospel features Zaccheus of Jericho who, like the toll collector of the parable, is willing to admit his failings and is unafraid to demonstrate his faith in a very public way. Zaccheus is a chief tax collector, possibly responsible for overseeing the activities of other tax collectors. Whether or not this is the case, he is a wealthy man. Zaccheus is short of stature, we are told, but fairly enterprising in facing the dilemma that this poses. His stature is not an impediment to tree-climbing in a good cause: he wants to see what Jesus*

*is like and he lets nothing get in the way. He runs ahead and climbs the tree. Jesus looks up and tells him to come down quickly, "for I must stay at your house today." The house of a public "sinner" is Jesus' personal choice of accommodation. There are echoes in this story of Mary's haste to visit her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, and of the joy these women share in Mary's pregnancy. Jesus invites himself to the home of Zaccheus who provides hospitality "joyfully". Hospitality, joy, haste to respond to divine visitation: these are constant themes in Luke. In any human group there are the critics. This time everyone who sees what is*

*happening has something to say. They complain that Jesus chooses to stay with a sinner. The critics no doubt consider themselves more worthy hosts for God's prophet than Zaccheus. They have little love in their hearts. Their criticism of Zaccheus echoes that of Simon the Pharisee when Jesus allows himself to be touched by a "sinner" woman (Luke 7:36). Like Zaccheus, the woman's sins have already been forgiven. That is why she knows how to love, according to Jesus. There are clues in the narrative that Zaccheus, though labelled as a sinner, has changed his ways. The future tense of our translation ("I will pay") obscures this*

*important element in the story. He gives half his property to the destitute and if he has cheated anyone, he pays them back four times the amount. In other words, he already goes way beyond what is required of a faithful Jew. Jesus looks at Zaccheus and assures him that salvation has come to his house. He then turns to the crowd and acts to restore honour to Zaccheus in the eyes of those who hold him and his kind in contempt. Like the bent-over woman and Lazarus the beggar at the rich man's gate, Zaccheus is a true descendant of Abraham, his ancestor in faith.*

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# SPORTS RESULTS



## Branxton Ladies

Results for this week, 3rd round of the Club Championships  
 Winner: Robyn Hoffman with 68 nett.  
 Runner up: Jen Salna with 71 nett.

Nearest to the pin: Tracey Miller

Least putts: Carol Miller with 26 putts.

Tracey Miller also had a birdie on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Following golf the AGM was held. Office Bearers for the next year are:-

President: Carol Miller

Captain: Caren Caldwell

Secretary: Trish McMillan

Assistant Secretary: Ruth McCarthy

Treasurer: Audrey Brown

## Results for the Stableford this week

Winner: Nikki Craig with 36 points

Runner up: Tracey Miller 35 points

NTP: Toy Martin

Congratulations to Carol Miller who won the GolfNSW Medal, she now has the great opportunity to play at Stonecutter's Ridge in the State Final.

Carol also is the winner of HRDGA Rosella Medal

## HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

### Sunday 9th October

Brendan Connor turned in a great round of 41 points to win the Weekly Challenge from Grahame Mankelov on 37 points.

### Tuesday 11th October

Ray Hodson turned in another solid performance of 38 points to claim the Tuesday Stableford from Gerry McLaughlin on 37 and Ray Newton in 3rd with 36 points. Ball winners were: Ian Newell 35, Greg Ireland 35, Theo Vandepitte 33, Wayne Cowan 33, Bob Prentice 33, Andrew Fensom 32, John Stewart 32 and Rex Talbot 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Hodson (3rd & 8th) John Stewart (4th) and Graeme Flynn (10th).

### Wednesday 12th October

The Ladies Stroke round has been won by Leesa Robinson with 72 net from Robyn Dunlop who returned 75 net on countback. Next week the Ladies will play Par.

### Thursday 13th October

The Master Builders of Australia held their annual event at HVGC this year with 125 starters from all over the country taking part, the winners were: A Grade George Christopoulos from Mt Osmond GC (SA) 38 points from John Erends Claremont GC (Tas) 37 points, B Grade Edward Potter Coffs Harbour GC (NSW) 38 points from Frank Filippi of Mt Osmond GC (SA) 35 points and C Grade to Frank Hayter of Kooyonga GC (SA) 38 points from Graeme Degnan from Kogarah GC (NSW) with 35 points.

### Friday 14th October

Wayne Drayton did best of the Veterans to claim the win with 38 points from Ray

Hodson who survived a countback for 2nd with 36 points. Ball winners were: Ken Harris 36, John Carmody 36, Mark Barrow 35, Eric Smith 34, Dale Macklinshaw 33, Ray Newton 33, Doug Wand 32 and Wayne Cowan 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Eric Smith (3rd) Ray Hodson (4th) David Peel (8th) Graeme Flynn (10th) and Ken Harris (17th) Next week the Vets will play a 4BBB Par

### Saturday 15th October

Despite excellent conditions only Peter Puerta in C Grade was the only player in the field to beat his handicap from the testing Blue Tees, A Grade went to Rod Nyman with 34 points from David Preece on 33, B Grade to Troy Wallis with 35 points from Adrian Kent 34 on countback and Brian Rooney finished runner up to Peter in C Grade with 34 points on countback. Ball winners were: Jaye Stevens 34, John Barbour 34, Roy Hurn 33, Scott Jones 33, Colin Mills 33, Darren Crear 32, Ray Tickner 32, Greg Morgan 32, Nathan Nancarrow 31, Nick Nancarrow 31, and Don Bradley 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Brendan Connor (3rd) John Parish (8th) Andrea Connor (10th) and David Preece (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley 4BBB Stableford.

**Sunday 16th October** The Weekly Challenge has been won by Craig Sharp with an even Par 36 from Phillippe Byron who returned 34 points. **Tuesday 18th October** Mark Barrow had a great round of 43 points to clearly win the Tuesday Stableford from Ash Mundie on 40 and Hieu Le with 38 points surviving a countback for 3rd place. Ball winners were: Greg Amlöh 38, Ray Hodson 37, Grahame Sheldon 37, Quin McClintock 37, Bob Prentice 37 Jackson Roe v35, Peter Payne 35, Jeff Richardson 35, John Stewart 35 and Greg Ireland 35. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd & 10th) Dale Macklinshaw (4th) and Dennis Allen (8th) **Wednesday 19th October** The Ladies Par event winner was Robyn Dunlop with +2 from Jeanette Irwin who had +1. The Ladies will play a 4BBB Stableford next week. **Thursday 20th October** The vets 4BBB Par event has been won by Grahame Sheldon and Ken Springbett with +11 from Ian Newell and Heinz Kestermann on +10. Ball winners were: Bob Campaign and Ken Wright +9, Gerry and David Irwin +9 and Greg and Paul Ireland +8. Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Ireland (3rd) David Peel (4th) Ray Hodson (8th) Dave Fury (10th) and Mark Barrow (17th). Next Week the vets will play individual Stableford. **Saturday 22nd October** Saturday morning rain has kept the field at home this week. Competition next week will be a Medley Stableford This years Presentation night will be the 26th November at 6PM in the Lovedale with RSVP required by all attended before the 18th November, further details contact [hvgcboard@gmail.com](mailto:hvgcboard@gmail.com)

**Sunday 23rd October** The Weekly Challenge has been won by Luke McCann with an amazing 44 points from Geoff Gruzynski on 37 and Muree visitor Shayne Mul-larvey who carded an even Par 36 points. Ball winners were: Grahame Mankelov 35, Scott Ling 35, Josh Knott v34, Phillippe Byron 34 and Brad Burgess 33. **Tuesday 25th October** David Irwin had to survive a countback to claim top spot in the Tuesday Stableford after he and Rex Talbot had 44 point returns, Bob Prentice had to settle for 3rd prize money after his 43 point effort. Ball winners were: Benn Corbett 40, Kane Goodchild 40, Dale Macklinshaw 39, Ray Newton 39, Grahame Sheldon 39, Trent Wrigley v38, Garry Marsden 37, Greg Amlöh 37, Nathan Sweeney 36, Michael Young 36 and Ray Hodson 36. Nearest-the-Pins went to Greg Amlöh (4rd) John Stewart (4th) Ray Hodson (8th) Nathan Sweeney (10th) and Wade Attewell (17th). **Wednesday 26th October** Mother and Daughter combination of Sue Williams and Leesa Robinson blended very well to claim the 4BBB Stableford with 47 points from Jenny Chambers and Dale Hamilton with 43 points. Ball winners were: Lynette Russell and Janelle Jurd 41, Robyn Dunlop and Merrilee Campbell 40 and Jill Slatter and Carol Horton 37. Next week the Ladies will play Stableford.

**Thursday 27th October** Kurri visitor Kevin Coleman has had a happy first visit to HVGC by taking the Vets event with a solid 40 points from Ryan Wilson 39 and Ken Springbett who 'shot the lights out' on the back nine to take 3rd place in a four way countback with 38 points. Ball winners were: Wayne Berry 38, Graeme Flynn 38, Robyn Dunlop 38, Brian Doherty 37, John Stewart 36, Garry Marsden 35, Ken Wright 35 and Heinz Kestermann 34. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Newton (3rd) Graeme Flynn (4th & 10th) and John Carmody (17th) Next week the Vets will play Quota. **Saturday 30th October** The Medley Stableford turned out to be a tough affair for A Grade with no players able to break Par, Darren Green from Toronto did best with 35 points from Matt Killick on 34, B Grade produced some fine golf from a couple of the 'elder statesman' with Ken Springbett claiming the day with a fine 42 points from Grahame Sheldon on 41 while C Grade went to Ken Smith with 41 points from Kerrie-Anne Skinner with 38 points. Ball winners were: Jai Lawrence 39, Tracy Morison 37, Tony Butler 37, Shawn Parish 36, Troy Wallis 36, John Brown 35, Brad Duncan 35, Bruce Chambers 35, Hieu Le 34, Michael Booth 33, Angello Korlevic 33, Reece Green 33 and Andrew Nichols 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Mark Faulkner (3rd) Lorraine Clack (4th) David Peel (8th) Tony Butler (10th) and Russell Calderwood (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford.

**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB - SUN 29<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2BBB MULTIPLIER STABLEFORD + SINGLE IN CONJUNCTION 2BBB WINNERS**



2016 Branxton Golf Club Champion Mark Hale putting on the 17th during the last round of the club championships.

PETER MATHEWS / ERROL MUNZENBERGER 78 PTS

2BBB RUNNERS UP CHRIS O'BRIEN / RICHARD ALLEY 75 PTS

2BBB THIRD PLACE TONY SEAMER / LEE JACKSON 74 PTS

INDIVIDUAL WINNER TONY SEAMER 42 PTS

INDIVIDUAL RUNNER UP DAVID KINCH 40 PTS

INDIVIDUAL THIRD DAREN MATHERS 39 PTS

C/B BALL COMP 31 PTS C/B

NTP'S D MATHERS 74 CM

N JORDAN 62 CM

L JACKSON 128 CM

D KINCH 277 CM

Saturday's event was a 2BBB stableford multiplier event which can be very difficult when your score can affect your team's score so markedly. The winning team of Peter Matthews and Errol Munzenberger experienced this feeling very early in the day when Peter started the day by scoring no points on the first three holes, meaning his team's score was also no points as 0 times anything is zero! However, they somehow put it all together to compile 78 pts and win the day's event—a remarkable effort. Chris O'Brien and Richard Alley finished runner up with Tony Seamer and Lee Jackson third with their 74 pts. Tony Seamer had a real day out as he won the singles event with an excellent 42 pts, with David Kinch runner up with 40 pts and Darren Mathers 39 pts good enough for third. These scores were even more impressive considering only 31 pts was needed to win a ball. The shot of the day was difficult to pick with many sharp shooters on display. Neil Jordan's shot to the 4<sup>th</sup> finished the closest, only 62 cms from the pin, with Darren Mather's shot to the 2<sup>nd</sup> only 74 cms away. There were no sponsors for this event but the ever popular Gary Walsh KCE Day will be played in a few weeks time.

## Cricket Report – Week 4



with Mark Bercini

After a full round of washouts the previous week, round four of district cricket was played last Saturday, with Greta/Branxton winning two of the five grades in what were all low scoring affairs. First grade were trounced by 9 wickets against Bellbird at Bellbird. Sent in to bat Greta/Branxton were bowled out inside 30 overs for just 88, with Barry Richards (41) and Greg Andrews (12) the only pair to reach double figures. Bellbird achieved the target inside 18 overs in reply after losing just the one wicket. New recruit Ben Braiding looked promising with the new ball and took the only wicket (1-22 off 4). Second grade also found run-scoring difficult as they were edged out by 3 wickets at the hands of Bellbird at Miller 1. Batting first Greta/Branxton managed 97, with number 9 willowman Mitch Fallon pushing for a promotion with his team's high score of 28. Darren Holz (19) and Trent Fuller (16) were the only other batsmen to make an impression. Bellbird reached the target in the 30th over in reply after losing 5 wickets. These belonged to Pat Andrews (2-22 off 4), Nathan Velt (1-21 off 5), Jacob Frew (1-8 off 5) and skipper Peter MacKenzie (1-21 off 4.1). Third grade had an early afternoon at the office when they disposed of Mulbring by 4 wickets at Miller 2. Mulbring were skittled for just 39 batting first, with Jarrad Wilkinson responsible for the majority of the damage with 6-14 off 10. He received good support from brother Ayden Wilkinson

(3-16 off 8) and Alex Walkling (1-7 off 2). Greta/Branxton reached the target although not without a struggle in reply in the 18th over after losing 6 wickets. Zac Watkins continued his recent good batting form with 17, with Paul Walkling making 12.

The local derby "grudge" fourth grade match between Greta/Branxton Blue and Greta/Branxton White was won by the Blue side by 33 runs in a low scoring affair.

The Blue side batted first and made 83, with Cory Stephenson making 40 of these. James Shoulders senior took a remarkable 8-31 off 10 for the Whites, with James Shoulders junior (1-9 off 5) and Sam Hines (1-8 off 2) picking up the remaining wickets. Greta/Branxton White capitulated in reply and were all out for just 50, with openers Dan Minchin (14) and Shoulders senior (12) making starts in what was an otherwise dismal batting card. Not to be outdone by Shoulders senior's achievement earlier in the day, Jamie McNamara was equally impressive with the ball by taking 8-23 off , with Dion Charnock (2-6 off 2.2) also bowling well.

**Points Tables**  
**First Grade** Bellbird 18, Mulbring 18, Wine Country 14, Greta/Branxton 13, Peden's Hotel 13.  
**Second Grade** Bellbird 25, Greta/Branxton 21, Peden's Hotel 21, Supporters 17, Mulbring 17, Wine Country 13.  
**Third Grade** Bellbird 25, Denman Hotel 22, Greta/Branxton 21, Peden's Hotel 18, Laguna 17, Mulbring 17, Wine Country 17, Supporters 13.  
**Fourth Grade** Greta/Branxton Blue 25, Denman Hotel 21, Greta/Branxton White 21, Paxton 21, Supporters 21, Wine Country 17, Peden's Hotel 13, Bellbird 10.  
**Club Championship** Bellbird 145.50, Greta/Branxton 123.10, Mulbring 115.70, Peden's Hotel 114.10, Wine Country 101.80.  
 Cheers, Mark



# The NewSPORT

## Number 18 Club Championships for Hale

**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB –SAT 22ND OCT STABLEFORD**  
**A GRADE WINNER**  
 David Hollis 43 pts  
**A GRADE RUNNER UP**  
 Greg Gillard 38 pts c/b  
**A GRADE THIRD**  
 Riley McClung 38 pts  
**B GRADE WINNER**  
 Robert Hale 35 pts c/b  
**B GRADE RUNNER UP**  
 John Vassar 35 pts  
**B GRADE THIRD**  
 Ian Barnes 34 pts  
**C GRADE WINNER**  
 Geoff Jones 37 pts  
**C GRADE RUNNER UP**  
 Michael Carling 36 pts  
**C GRADE THIRD**  
 Troy Hunt 34 pts  
**NTP'S**  
 D Matt 311 cm  
 C O'Brien 215 cm  
 M Tracey 145 cm  
 D Muncaster 540 cm  
**BALL COMP**  
 31 pts

**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB –SUN 23RD OCT STABLEFORD**  
**A GRADE WINNER**  
 Chris Zawirski 39 pts  
**A GRADE RUNNER UP**  
 Mark Moylan 38 pts c/b  
**A GRADE THIRD**  
 Tony Lamb 38 pts  
**B GRADE WINNER**  
 Gary Walsh 39 pts  
**B GRADE RUNNER UP**  
 John Vassar 38 pts  
**B GRADE THIRD**

Robert Miller 37 pts  
**C GRADE WINNER**  
 Daniel Rogers 43 pts  
**C GRADE RUNNER UP**  
 Peter Mathews 37 pts  
**C GRADE THIRD**  
 Geoff Jones 35 pts  
**NTP'S**  
 R Wilton 150 cm  
 D Matt 510 cm  
 C Lamb 147 cm  
 T Seamer 700 cm  
**BALL COMP**  
 32 pts  
**Overall Club Championship Results**  
**A Grade:** Club Champion and Winner: Mark Hale- 286  
 Runner Up: Corey Lamb 295  
 3<sup>rd</sup>: Josh Tracey: 300  
**B Grade:**  
 Winner: Greg Gillard: 329  
 Runner Up: Phil Carter 345  
 3<sup>rd</sup>: John Vasser 348  
**C Grade:**  
 Winner: Daniel Rogers 36  
 Runner Up: Peter Mathews 374  
 3<sup>rd</sup>: Douglas Muncaster 379  
**Juniors:** Winner: Corey Lamb; Runner Up: Riley McClung  
**Seniors:** no result as of this report  
 The final two rounds of the Branxton Club Championships were played over the weekend with Mark Hale again victorious as the A Grade Club Champion.

This remarkable player has now won 18 club championships, including winning 16 of the last 18 championship events. As a plus 2 player, he is still playing at the highest standard, displaying a game of golf that cannot be matched at Branxton. Local very promising junior, Corey Lamb finished runner up, only 9 shots behind, thoroughly earning the respect of his playing partner, Mark Hale, and in turn easily winning the Junior Championship. Josh Tracey, finished strongly to claim third place after two indifferent rounds last week. Greg Gillard played beautifully to easily win B Grade by 14 shots, with an overall score of 329. Greg was once a single marker at Branxton many years ago and his comeback, after only playing a lot of social golf over the last 30 years, has been remarkable—despite using the same clubs he used in his younger days—he is not sure if there is more rust on his clubs or on himself! Phil Carter, a previous winner in B Grade finished runner up with John Vasser, one of the tireless committee members finishing third, another 5 shots back.

Daniel Rogers has culminated the unbelievable improvement after a series of lessons from Marcus, the club 'Pro', by easily winning C Grade with an impressive 365, 9 shots clear of runner up Peter Mathews, with the early leader, Doug Muncaster third, 5 shots back. Daniel finished it in style by recording 43 pts on the last day, an 84 off the stick. Saturday's event was deferred for some time, after an early morning downpour. The last green resembled a waterfall for some time before play began an hour later. Dave Hollis must be a mudlark as he won A grade with a remarkable 43 pts, well clear of runners up Greg Gillard and Riley McClung, both with 38 pts. Robert Hale played some excellent golf to win B Grade with his 35 pts, just ahead of John Vasser and Ian Barnes. Geoff Jones won C Grade with his 37 pts, with Michael Carling and Troy Hunt filling the placing's. 31 pts was needed to win a ball in these wet conditions. On Sunday, with the pressure on the leading players, Chris Zawirski snuck through the pack to win the



day's event with 39 pts, just ahead of Mark Moylan and Tony Lamb. B Grade was won by the evergreen Gary Walsh with 39 pts, showing he still has the skills to compete. John Vasser finished runner up once again with 38 pts, with Barney Walsh's playing partner of old, Robert Miller, third with 37 pts. It has been some time since

we have seen these two players play well at the same time! Dan Rogers won C Grade, setting up his championship result, with his 43 pts, with Peter Mathews and Geoff Jones filling the placings. The shot of the day belonged to Corey Lamb (as I witnessed it!) hitting a beautiful short iron over "Rex's Tree"

finishing just 147 cms from the pin, just after our club champion hit a very similar shot—these two showed their class hitting such crisp irons to this tricky hole.  
 @ Photo above: Corey Lamb (Junior Champion and A Grade runner up) with Club Champion Mark Hale before hitting their shots to the last hole.



  
**Summer is here ~ It's time to clean out that dam**



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