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# The News

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## Cessnock City Council

# FUTURE FUND?

Cessnock City Council is calling on the NSW Government to support the establishment of a \$200 million future fund for the upgrade of local infrastructure. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said a motion was passed by Council to write to the NSW Government to seek to their support to set up the fund. "\$200 million from the NSW Government would be invaluable to our community as we have a vast local road network." "The future fund would see \$20 million per year

allocated to Cessnock City Council for 10 years to undertake a rolling Capital Works Program". "This type of funding would go a long way in upgrading and maintaining our local, regional and state roads into the future. Further it would allow for upgrades and improvements to local parks, buildings and bridges," Cr Pynsent. The motion follows the State Governments announcing the \$16 billion generated by the sale of the partial lease of Ausgrid will be invested in critical infrastructure projects.

Mayor, Councillor Pynsent called it a unique opportunity. "It's not very often opportunities arise to seek additional support from the NSW Government. We've identified the time is right and will work hard to secure what we believe is our fair share," Cr Pynsent said. Liberals for Cessnock councillors have called on their Labor Party counterparts to put political differences aside for the greater good of the community. Following an open letter to NSW Premier, Mike Baird,



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

from Cessnock Liberal Party president Bryce Gibson, Councillor Rod Doherty tabled a motion at Wednesday's Council meeting requesting Council write to the State Government seeking a ten-year, \$100 million future fund for the ongoing upgrade and replacement of local, regional and state roads within the Cessnock local government area. Cr Doherty said generations of Cessnock men and women had contributed to the prosperity of the state and were deserving of a fair

share of the Government's recent \$16 billion windfall from the sale of electricity distributor Ausgrid. However, Cr Doherty said his motion had been "hijacked" at the meeting by Labor Party councillors, who used their majority to amend the requested amount to \$200 million over ten years and set themselves up to the claim the credit for any resulting funding. "While we are flattered that the Labor Party thinks our motions are worthy of stealing, it's not surprising that they are not able to develop ideas of their own," Cr Doherty said. "This is from a group of people who took zero policies to the council election in September. "Our Liberal team saw an opportunity for some money from the royalties through the poles and wires lease to come back to our area with the Cessnock

LGA having been a major contributor over the past century in coal mining and power generation for the State. "But a reckless, delusional group of Labor councillors thought they could usurp our motion for political expedience. Another councillor then went on to suggest we up it to \$500 million over the ten years!". This was absolute stupidity and mockery. It will possibly backfire on Labor. In the end we may get nothing due to Labor's reckless attempt to steal Cr. Rod Doherty's honest approach to a very serious issue of fixing our large backlog of road works and drainage issues across the council area. Following the surprising result of the Orange by-election last Saturday it appears the present state government have taken 'on board' the feelings of their



Cessnock Council Liberal Cr Rod Doherty

country cousins which favours well for Cessnock Councils request for funding of their proposed 'future fund'. Premier Mike Baird says he takes "full accountability" for the NSW Nationals' devastating Orange by-election result. "The community there has sent a very loud message", he said.

## Thank you for keeping our community safe



Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent thanked everyone involved in keeping the community safe as fire's broke out across the local government area recently. "It was a challenging couple of days for the entire community as a number of blazes ignited forcing some residents to evacuate their homes." "Firefighters worked hard on Saturday to ensure all of our residents were able to return to their properties safely." "A huge thank you to the Rural Fire Service and all the Emergency Services for their tireless work, in the face of tough conditions, especially on Racecourse Road." "Crews worked over night to conduct back burning to ensure we are prepared as the bush fire season has arrived." "I'd also like to thank everyone who went above and beyond. The Salvation Army for supporting the crews on the ground, the Cessnock Basketball Stadium for opening its doors and the many other local people and businesses who lent a hand," Cr Pynsent said. Cessnock local government residents are reminded to have a bush fire survival plan in place and to stay informed about how to best prepare for a fire emergency. Find out more <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare>.

## 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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Contact number: 0432 156 661

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all details page 13

**CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC NOTICE – PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS  
AS PER SECTION 418 (3) OF THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ACT.**

In accordance with Section 418 (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, Cessnock City Council advises that the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 16 November 2016 will include the presentation of the audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Reports for the financial year ending 30 June 2016.

A summary of the Financial Statements is provided below:	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Income Statement</b>		
Total Income from Continuing Operations	86,317	79,466
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	74,690	72,004
<b>Operating Result from Continuing Operations</b>	<u><b>11,627</b></u>	<u><b>7,462</b></u>
<b>Net Operating Result for the year</b>	<b>11,627</b>	<b>7,462</b>
Net Operating Result before Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	(5,268)	(3,468)
<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>		
Total Current Assets	40,349	39,212
Total Current Liabilities	(16,569)	(17,184)
Total Non Current Assets	728,335	713,327
Total Non Current Liabilities	(20,440)	(21,234)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u><b>731,675</b></u>	<u><b>714,121</b></u>

<b>Other Financial Information</b>		
Operating Performance Ratio (%)	-2.9%	0.6%
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio (%)	64.1%	65.8%
Unrestricted Current Ratio (times)	3.17x	2.94x
Debt Service Cover Ratio (times)	5.01x	7.92x
Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio (%)	2.5%	2.7%
Cash Expense Cover Ratio (months)	6.65	7.50
Infrastructure Renewals Ratio (%)	160.8%	141.9%

In accordance with Section 420 of the Local Government Act, 1993, any person may make a submission in writing to Council with respect to the Council's Audited Financial Statements or the Auditor's Reports.

Copies of the audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Reports may be inspected at:  
Council's Administration Building  
Or viewed at Councils website [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)  
Submissions close one (1) week after the above Public Meeting has been held.

PO BOX 152  
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN  
GENERAL MANAGER



## Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

The start of summer is just around the corner and it is only six weeks until Christmas! If you considering welcoming a cat or dog to the family this festive season now is the time to start planning to make sure you are prepared and ready. It is important to know all your responsibilities as a pet owner before you choose a new furry friend. Remember, pets must be microchipped and registered. Desexing your new pet will also ensure you don't have any unexpected additions to the family down the track. Setting up a pet profile on the new NSW Pet Registry, now also makes it easier than ever to keep your pets details up-to-date.

A new puppy or kitten is a lot of fun and very cute but also comes with a lot of responsibilities. Our Council Rangers ask you to visit your vet for advice. Regular visits to the veterinarian will make sure your new pet is in tip-top health and is up-to-date with vaccinations. A good veterinarian can be a great source of information and guidance in all areas of your pet's life. It is also important to take the time to socialise your pet properly, particularly during early months when training and interaction with your pet will set up good lifelong habits. Remember the average life span of a dog is 10-13 years and of a cat is 15 years so getting a pet is a long term commitment. Investing the time when your pet is young or new to your family will help them to be a fun, friendly and loving member of the family.

As the weather warms up it is really important to make sure your pets have access to shade and plenty of fresh, clean water. Heat stroke is a very serious condition and if suffering from heat stroke, your pet needs to be checked by a veterinarian immediately. Emergency treatment is aimed at bringing the body temperature down at a steady rate; spray cool water onto your dog's body and use a fan. Don't use ice or ice-cold water as this may cool your dog down too rapidly, causing shock and other complications.

Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle it is not only unsafe but also illegal. Your car can get hot enough to cause death even when the windows are down or the car is in the shade. Also remember not to drive with your dog in the tray of the ute, if they are going to be exposed to extreme weather conditions. Ute trays can get very hot in the sun and dogs can burn their footpads so please take precautions to protect your pet. For more information about caring for your pet visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals>



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



### SECTION 101 NOTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979, APPROVED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 October 2016 to 31 October 2016.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2016/00000506/001	31-Oct-2016	1861 Wine Country DR	Three (3) Advertising Structures
GRETA	008/2016/00000612/001	13-Oct-2016	46 Evans ST	Shed
GRETA	008/2016/00000484/001	18-Oct-2016	2013 New England HWY	Dual Occupancy
GRETA	008/2016/00000608/001	20-Oct-2016	3 Station ST	Storage Shed
LOCHINVAR	008/2016/00000520/001	5-Oct-2016	251 Old North RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000594/001	11-Oct-2016	19 Newsham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000599/001	11-Oct-2016	19 Harkin RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000617/001	14-Oct-2016	4 Newsham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000618/001	14-Oct-2016	13 Moylan VSTA	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000607/001	17-Oct-2016	39 Tuckers LANE	Dwelling Additions & Alterations
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000610/001	20-Oct-2016	28 Mayne ST	Storage Shed
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000631/001	26-Oct-2016	101 Triton BLVD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000635/001	26-Oct-2016	14 Slattery RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000638/001	26-Oct-2016	5 Slattery RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000639/001	31-Oct-2016	15 Newsham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000650/001	31-Oct-2016	23 Moylan VSTA	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000547/001	7-Oct-2016	2144 Broke RD	Construct Advertising Structure - Business Identification
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000574/001	13-Oct-2016	3 Bottlebrush CR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000332/001	19-Oct-2016	13 Verdale PRIV	Change of Use –Tourist and Visitor Accommodation (Serviced Apartment)
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000626/001	27-Oct-2016	21 Barnhill PRIV	Two Storey Dwelling and Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000651/001	31-Oct-2016	7 Angophora DR	Swimming Pool - Inground

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

P.O. BOX 152  
CESSNOCK

Stephen Glen  
General Manager

# Remembrance Day 2016

ACROSS the Hunter, and across the country, Australians have paused to remember the moment the guns fell silent across the Western Front at the end of World War I, 98 years ago. Members of the Branxton RSL Sub Branch & the Greta RSL Sub Branch as well as local school representatives and members of the community attended a Armistice Day ceremony at the Memorial Rotunda in Branxton. This year marks the 100-year anniversaries of the Battle of Somme and the Battle of Jutland, as well as the 25th anniversary of the Gulf War. Branxton RSL Sub Branch President & serving member of the Australian Defence Force, CPO Cath Harvey, gave the 'occasional address' noting the reason for the ceremony. "According to the Australian government's Cultural and Recreation portal, Remembrance Day, which was originally called Armistice Day, commemorated the end of the hostilities for the Great War (World War I), the signing of the armistice, which occurred on November 11, 1918 – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

"On the first anniversary of the armistice, in 1919, one minute's silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony. After the end of World War II in 1945, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day as an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead. The year 2008 marked the 90th anniversary of the Australian attack at Villers-Bretonneux. On April 24, 1918, Australian Imperial Force (AIF) soldiers attacked German forces that captured the French town of Villers-Bretonneux earlier that day. The action was successful, but the fighting was fierce, and many lives were lost on both sides", said Cath. After a number of wreaths were laid & the Australian Anthem played the members & guests of the Greta & Branxton Sub Branch adjourned to the Royal Federal Hotel for a special luncheon. Interestingly, according to the most recent estimates,

the rounded state numbers for killed or fatally wounded in the 'Great War' were NSW, 21,000; Victoria, 19,000; Western Australia, 5,600; South Australia, 5,000; Tasmania, 2,400. There some interesting unknowns. *But no matter — for whatever the figure, we shall remember them.*

Lest we Forget



☰ Branxton Public School students laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service.



☰ Branxton's Joy Bootes reflects on the meaning of Remembrance day after laying a wreath at the service in Branxton



☰ Students from Branxton Public School & Rosary Park were involved in this years Remembrance Day Service in Branxton.

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# What's Happening & other matters

is in the process of preparing a proposal to link the war memorials in Branxton & Greta with a walkway to be completed by November 2018 which is the Centenary of the end of WW1; great project.

Diane Macfarlane is lobbying for 'heat pump' for Branxton

Pool so it can be used 12 months of the year & the Hon. George Souris wants better mobile reception on the Hunter Expressway. Please support these initiatives for the commonweal of our local area.

with **Mike Lowing**

Have a full book of 'Letters to Editor' which has given me little space to write my usual column.

Please read the letters as all are important for our local area.

Local Branxton RSL stalwart Brian Furner OAM



communities to be most impacted by the developments. (<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development/developmentcontributions>)

**"Section 94 Contributions Plans Some developments require a financial contribution to Cessnock City Council to aid the provision of infrastructure, public amenities and services in the local area as a direct result of new development."**

With all of the above in

Heat pump for Branxton Pool I know that you are aware that a group of the Branxton Greta pool users have been pushing to meet up with the Ward C Councillors in an attempt to have them represent the local residents and ask CCC to consider installing a "heat pump" at the Branxton Greta Pool. At the moment the pool does have a solar system in



place. The solar system does warm the water a little but only if mother nature provides the sun!! Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Pools already have these systems in place. It is disappointing to think that "Branxton/Greta/North Rothbury" residents seem to be the forgotten people. The fact that many of us are rate paying citizens doesn't seem to carry much weight. With all the development taking place in our area, and knowing that **substantial** (as said to me BY one of the Developers) money has been paid to CCC for infrastructure, public amenities and services in our community, I along with many other have to question exactly where this money is being used, is the money aiding the

mind, several pool users as well as myself have contacted our local Council representatives to try and arrange a meeting so that "the case for the heat pump" can be put forward. Needless to say we are not getting anywhere. My latest email sent to all three Councillors; Dagg, Sander and Fagg has to date, with the exception of Clr Dagg, gone unanswered. The pool opened early October, the staff have gone about their normal duties in preparing the pool for the season and very few users have been able to support the pool, given the extreme cool water. If of course you happen to live in Kurri or Cessnock, you at least have got "pump heated water" and not relying on "mother nature".



I think it's time that CCC started looking outside their square and start looking at the smaller communities that seemed to be constantly overlooked.

I have included photos from this morning. This is just one group of users that have had to postpone their "aqua class" due to the cool water. The "aqua class" which is held weekly is open to all ages (we have people ranging from 30's to 70's) and is open to both men and women. As well as the aqua class, a group of retired (as well as "shiftworking" men) meet regularly for a coffee and catch up. How disappointing that such a vital community meeting place is not able to utilized to its full potential. I understand that there are many "sporting groups" who also have needs. Surely the amenities already put in place should be updated or operating at their full potential so that they can be utilized daily from the start of the swim season. Money allocated by CCC should be dispersed to accommodate all groups, both young and the NOT so young.

*Diane Macfarlane, Bridge Street, Branxton NSW*

Mobile Phone Coverage Hunter Expressway

The Hunter Expressway was completed in 2014, cost of \$1.8billion linking

the M1 Pacific Motorway with the Upper Hunter en route to the Golden Highway and New England Highway west and northbound respectively. The old New England Highway remains in use servicing the local requirements of the towns of Branxton, Greta etc whereas the new Hunter Expressway is the link between the M1 Pacific Motorway and Newcastle to the North.

Whilst the old New England Highway retains its good mobile coverage, the new Hunter Expressway has not yet had mobile coverage and there are numerous dead spots. Some of the route has incidental coverage of one bar emanating from the old New England Highway or the Cessnock area. The Hunter Expressway forms part of the National Highway between Sydney and Brisbane and is important for its commercial traffic. Equally important for the Hunter Valley, it is the gateway to NSW's leading regional tourist destination; Hunter Wine Country. Boasting 139 cellar doors, approximately 3000 table placings, major accommodation, golf resorts and a wide range of tourist activities, it is the destination in significant numbers, for tourists emanating from Australia's

gateway Sydney, the 4 million metropolis and the Hunter and Central Coast of NSW adding another million people. Mobile phone coverage upgrades along the Hunter Expressway are desperately needed.

*The Hon George Souris AM Chairman, Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association*

Please restore Centrelink Services

I delivered a Constituency Statement in Parliament last week about funding cuts to Centrelink and Medicare which have had a detrimental impact on people in the Hunter electorate. My office has recorded an increase in constituents making contact to voice their concerns about a lack of service and difficulty in receiving basic, timely assistance. This is now in a state of crisis. People become so frustrated by the inability to secure the advice, support and help they need at Centrelink. I feel for Centrelink staff, who are doing their very best in very difficult circumstances, but there are not enough of them. They are simply not sufficiently resourced to cater for the demand at the front office in Centrelink, nor indeed on the phones. These are not just the

unemployed; these are elderly residents whose financial situations might have slightly changed, who need to make declarations to Centrelink and, more importantly, secure advice from Centrelink. They are families who have lost an elderly loved one and need to make arrangements and need advice. They are parents with children with severe disabilities.

All these people are unable to receive help from Centrelink. This government needs to start listening to this problem. It needs to start doing something about it. Only money fixes it—that is the reality. You have to give Centrelink the resources it needs to assist people who need their advice and assistance. Medicare is no different. We are closing our Medicare offices all over the place. People on low fixed incomes are waiting long periods to receive recompense for money paid to a GP and for other services.

*Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter*

**PROJECT !! (Proposal) MEMORIAL WALKWAY**  
Our project is to link the towns of Branxton & Greta together by means of a 'Memorial' walkway, cycleway, jogging path. The project of this kind takes considerable funding & effort, but once completed, will be of significant

benefit to both Branxton & Greta communities. The project will require, & meet sound needs, research, & have a strategy of overall community participation. The project outline will involve support of Government, Councils, local groups, individuals, business & members of the Branxton Greta Business Chamber. There will be an opportunity for family & community members to support the project both financially & in kind, to give it a total community feel.

Once started, it will evolve over 2017-18 periods, depending on weather, hopefully culminating in Nov 2018 signifying the end of (100 years of Commemoration 1914-1918 conflict) since the end of WW1 & the signing of the Armistice on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1918.

Further information will follow as things progress, in the first instance if the community requires more information, please ring me Brian Furner on 0429438460 or contact the Branxtonrslsubbranch@gmail.com.au to become involved.  
*Brian Furner OAM President, Branxton RSL Subbranch.*

## Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

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**Police**  
Branxton.... 4938 1244  
Lochinvar... 4930 7209  
**Ambulance**... 131 233  
**NSW Fire Brigade**  
Branxton.... 4938 3396

**Rural Fire Brigades**  
Belford..... 6574 7149  
Broke..... 6579 1491  
Greta..... 4015 0000

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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)

## Broke Road realignment takes a starring role in Singleton Council's Financial Statements



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Statements to go on public exhibition on Wednesday 9 November 2016 and tabled at Council's 21 November 2016 meeting indicate significant improvements in some areas such as the infrastructure backlog. But the Broke Road realignment, carried out by a local mine and donated to Council, is required to be accounted as a capital contribution totalling \$33.32 million which has increased Council's net operating result for the year. Disposal of the old section of the road from Council's assets register presents in the statements as a loss of \$5.848 million. "This entry does have an impact on Council's net operating result before grants and contributions are accounted, which will in

turn have an impact on Council's Fit for the Future indicators," Council's Director Corporate and Community, Anthony Egan said. "But the reality of the situation is that the overall financial result is better than we had anticipated. "Grant funding has significantly improved Council's infrastructure backlog, with projects such as the Singleton Town Centre upgrade, Ryan Avenue upgrade, the Singleton Gym & Swim upgrade and the commencement of the Hermitage and Broke Road in conjunction with Cessnock City

Council. "Suppliers' costs also decreased compared to the previous year, which included additional spending required following the April 2015 storm. "With the special rate variation to take effect in the 2016/17 financial year and restrictions on ongoing operating budgets while retaining the same levels of service, Council is well on track to achieve its long-term vision for financial sustainability." The Financial Statements and Auditors Reports can be viewed during business hours at Council's Administration Building and on Council's website until 22 November 2016. Written submissions must be lodged with Council by 29 November 2016.

## Make a plan to beat the heat this summer and keep your cool when the temperatures rise

It's been a slow start to summer but with forecasts for the weeks ahead predicting a dramatic rise in temperature, it's timely for residents to prepare for the change in weather.

Singleton Council is encouraging the community to join the Beat the Heat campaign and have a plan to combat sweltering conditions as the mercury begins to climb. Mark Ihlein, Council's Director Planning and Infrastructure, said many people didn't realise extreme heat was a major cause of health problems in Australia, with heatwaves causing more hospitalisations and deaths than any other natural disaster. "In addition to heat stress, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, heatwaves can worsen existing health conditions including cardiac disease, mental health and behavioural disorders, asthma and obstructive lung conditions," he said.

"Summer is great fun for water sports and outdoor activities, but people should also be aware of the health risks that come with being out in the heat.

"That's why Council is getting behind the Beat the Heat campaign to encourage residents to have a heat plan in place that includes a designated cool spot and lots of water to protect themselves against heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heat stroke and heat cramps."

### Four actions everyone can take to protect themselves against heat-related illnesses:

1. **Drink plenty of water** and avoid alcoholic, hot or sugary drinks
  2. **Keep Cool** – do less and avoid being outside during the hottest part of the day
  3. **Check on** elderly friends, neighbours and relatives, especially if they live alone
  4. **Have a Plan** for how to stay cool when it heats up
- Early signs of heat-related illness include dizziness, fainting, tiredness, thirst, bright or dark yellow urine.

## Maitland's 'Great Mattress Muster' on again



Council will hold a Mattress Muster on Saturday 26 November from 8.30am to 12.00pm at the Council Depot Carpark on Metford Road, East Maitland. Each household in the Maitland local government area has the opportunity to recycle up to four mattresses as part of the Muster. Cot mattresses, innerspring mattresses and ensemble bases will be accepted, however a mattress with an ensemble base will be counted as two items. Council's Waste Services Coordinator Elfi Blackburn says, 'By participating in this Mattress Muster you will ensure that components of your old mattresses are recycled instead of being disposed of to landfill.' As a result of five mattress musters since October 2014, Council has received a total of 2,506 mattresses as a result of five mattress musters. 'This is an opportunity for residents to really do their bit for the environment by simply recycling something they might not even use anymore, all free of charge,' said Ms Blackburn. To participate in this recycling initiative, proof of residence in the Maitland local government area will be required at the time of drop off. Mattress Muster is just one initiative Council has in place which assists with recycling across the city. Others include Fridge Buyback, coming up on Thursday 24 November, and the Household Chemical Collection, scheduled for Saturday 3 December. Go to [maitland.nsw.gov.au/default.aspx?pageIdentifier=OurEnvironment/CalendarofEvents](http://maitland.nsw.gov.au/default.aspx?pageIdentifier=OurEnvironment/CalendarofEvents) for more information.

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

set up as an evacuation point. The Lions Club and the Salvation Army as usual stepped up for our community to ensure the hardworking firefighters were fed and watered. Finally my sincerest thanks to all the residents who donated food and water. While it was a trying time for our community, we pulled together and looked after each other. I look forward to Cessnock City Council recognising these magnificent efforts on Australia Day.  
*Cheers, Bob*



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

**Opportunities to realise our potential can come from a range of sources**

It's truly inspiring how people in the most tragic circumstances can channel their experience into positivity to benefit the community.

The Upper Hunter Steel Magnolia Award, announced on Friday, highlights the heroes among us every day who do extraordinary things in the most difficult of times, without expectations of rewards or accolades but to simply do good.

Steel Magnolia recognises and honours women for their strength in the face of adversity, and their commitment to the community. There were four equally deserving finalists for the Upper Hunter this year, and I humbly congratulate you all and thank you for the important work you do. Steel Magnolia, and this year's nominees in particular, exemplify the celebration of the strength of humanity, and the potential we all have to contribute to our community and prosperity regardless of our circumstances.

Another case in point is the Huntlee Academy. In a perfect blend of social and economic benefit, the Huntlee Academy targets local disadvantaged people to provide work, skill development and career opportunities, while at the same time providing employees with a pool of dedicated workers managed by the Academy. The Academy has been in place since 2014, and I'm looking forward to catching up with the latest group of trainees at a very special event this week.

Providing avenues for people to realise their potential is one of the major reasons there is so much emphasis on our economy, to ensure the future of Singleton is vibrant, prosperous and most importantly, full of opportunity. This was the very focus of a special event last Tuesday hosted by Singleton Council and the Singleton Business Chamber, which examined a range of topics including accessing new markets and leveraging world-class machinery in the Hunter. Singleton's status as a powerhouse of the NSW economy is about more than coal. It's about our people and their potential for innovation, and we mustn't let the decision-makers in Sydney forget that either.

The General Manager, Deputy Mayor and I met with NSW Minister for Roads Duncan Gay last week to talk about progress on the New England Highway bypass, as the result of a notice of motion by Cr John Martin to

call for a final decision on the route the bypass will take. The meeting was also successful in reminding the Minister, and the State Government more broadly, that Singleton should not be underestimated or overlooked. I will take every chance to advocate why our area should be at the forefront of Macquarie Street, so that we have every opportunity to realise the potential that exists in our community.  
*Cheers, Sue*



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

**Raising the BARR – THE CESSNOCK GAOL EXTENSION INSULT TO THE COMMUNITY**

The proposed extension to the Cessnock Gaol has received mixed responses. In essence it will take the capacity from its current 800, to a whopping 1,800. That is 1,000 extra beds. The size, scale and scope of the build is huge, and it is set to change from the existing 1 single gaol, into a future of 3 separate gaols.

In all of the debate and argument on this topic, it is essential to remember that it was the decision by the Government to change the planning rules of NSW on the Friday, and then announce the gaol expansion on the Sunday. Coincidence? Definitely not! Under the "old" planning rules, the Government would have had to go through a DA planning process, with Council, just the same as Mum's and Dad's building a house or starting a small business would have to. Under the "new" rules, no such DA plan is required. Now think through that – let's take the example of traffic impact; the new gaol which will employ 450 people and receive hundreds of visitors can just about ignore it completely; the Mum and Dad (or Postie Bike Grand Prix) would have to address it thoroughly.

So the community were invited to participate in a consultation process. More than 160 people took the time to write a submission. Hundreds turned out to a community meeting. The Government department are saying that they have "listened" to the concerns and that the community have been "heard". But the net result is no real change to the original plan. Nothing. Zero. Zip. Certainly, for all of the issues outside of the fence; Police, Hospital, social issues, traffic, etc – these are all concerns that are apparently figments of our imagination. Obviously the Government Departments have not read their own reports. I have! And I can say categorically, emphatically, that these issues are incredibly important and under the old planning rules, would have had to be addressed by the gaol expansion development. But under the new rules, arrogance and disregard is king!

I hope that plenty of angry and frustrated residents turned up to next Tuesday night's (November 15) information session, 4pm-7pm, at the gaol, to vent to the Government representatives. You haven't been heard yet, so don't miss your chance.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
*For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My*

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



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

**EMPLOYMENT BOOST FROM REGIONAL JOBS NOW PROGRAM**

NSW Government has launched the Regional Jobs Now package to fuel job creation across regional NSW by assisting local businesses.

Regional Jobs Now, an initiative of Jobs for NSW, offers products which will provide much-needed financial support to help companies accelerate their growth and create jobs. The Regional Jobs Now initiative provides businesses in the Upper Hunter electorate with options for funding at different stages of expansion.

Businesses are invited to apply for the funding through Jobs for NSW who will then help them apply for the most suitable Regional Jobs Now product. Applications will be assessed against all products so if a business is not eligible for one product it might be eligible for another.

- Regional NSW plays a critical role in our economy and that's why the Government is investing a minimum of 30 per cent - at least \$57 million - of the \$190 million Jobs for NSW Fund to support entrepreneurs who can create regional jobs growth.
  - The Regional Jobs Now package provides five different financial products intended to meet the needs of businesses at different critical stages of their development.
  - Regional businesses are encouraged to tell us what they need and we help them apply for the most suitable Regional Jobs Now product.
  - This 'concierge' style approach is a key part of how this integrated package is being rolled out.
  - Applications will be assessed against all products so if a business is not eligible for one product it may be eligible for another.
- Expressions of interest (EOI) for the Regional Solutions financial support product open today and close on 9 December 2016. Further information is available at: <https://www.jobsforNSW.com.au>



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

My Parliamentary Inquiry into our flying fox challenges further progressed last week when the House of Representatives Committee on the Environment and Energy formally called for submissions. I've written to our local councils asking them to consider making a contribution.

I'd also like local residents to do the same. It doesn't have to be anything fancy or technical, just provide a few sentences about how the local bat colonies have affected you. It's important that Members of the Committee hear from real people experiencing real problems.

You can email your submission directly to the Committee at [aph.gov.au/flyingfoxes](http://aph.gov.au/flyingfoxes) by COB Friday, November 18.

The Committee will focus on the impacts on local communities and the State and Federal laws which make the issue so challenging. Let's hope we can find some solutions which both help communities but respect the role the bats play in our ecology.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Last Friday was Remembrance Day. It's now 101 years since our troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula and 98 years since the guns fell silent on the Western Front.

Last Friday we paused to remember all those who have served, particularly those who paid the ultimate price. It's for all of us to ensure we never fodder their deeds, courage and sacrifice. This year I did something a little different. Rusher than attend one of the many Services organised by our local RSL Sub Branches, I participated in a solemn Service at Cessnock's Calvary nursing home. There I planted a Lone Pine in honour of Bert Ferres, recently passed resident who was also a Rat of Tobruk. It was a great honour.

I purchased the Lone Pine plant from the Australian War Memorial and donated it in the name of my recently deceased father-in-law Allan McKay who was also a Calvary resident. As I addressed the gathering, I was conscious of the fact that most of the elderly residents gathered, would hold a greater appreciation of the carnage and sacrifice of war than me. Thank you to Calvary, our RSL Sub Branches and all those who ensured we paused last Friday to thank, respect, honour and say thank you to all who have served in the uniform of the Australian Defence Forces.

Why not go the extra step by following me on my Facebook page "Joel Fitzgibbon" or on Twitter and type in the search bar "fitzhunter". Or by regularly checking my website at [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or you can even sign up to my E-Newsletter. To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753, visit [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or by post 3 Edward Street, (PO Box 526) Cessnock, 2325.

Cheers, Joel

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**Break, enter and steal: Belford**

Between 12:30 on Saturday 05 November 2016 and 06:00 on Monday 07 November 2016 unknown person/s have forced the lock on the ground floor front entry to 2 site offices and a lunch room at location being a property on Hermitage Road, Belford.

On entering the buildings offender/s have rummaged through property in the buildings. Offender/s have stolen 2 x Two Way Radios from the buildings. Offender/s have attempted to gain entry to a shipping container. No person on premises at time of break and enter.

During the stated times Vehicle 2014 Isuzu tipper was parked in front of the shipping container at location. Offender/s have smashed the front side window on the vehicle to gain entry and then moved the

vehicle away from the front of the shipping container they have tried to break into.

**Break, Enter and Steal/East Branxton:**

Property Stolen - 1 x Black Kawazaki zx1000 motorcycle - registration MGN04

1 x Certek motorcycle battery charger

LOC: Middle Street, East Branxton

About 6.00pm on Saturday 5 November 2016, the Victim left the residence. About 8.00pm on Sunday 6 November 2016, the Victim returned home and saw that the small chain that locks his double gates to his back yard was broken and the left hand roller door was opened from the ground. The Victim went into his garage and saw that the small padlock that attaches to the back of the roller door lock was broken. It appeared this was from the door being forced open. The Victim saw that his Kawasaki motorcycle and battery charger it had been plugged into were gone. He

immediately contacted police and reported this.

**Accused arrested and charged re Break, Enter and Steals in Rothbury/Pokolbin.**

Accused: Male, aged 46 from Singleton

Offences: Break, Enter and Steal x 2

Goods suspected of stolen in/on premises

Custody of knife in public place – first offence

About 16:15 on Sunday 6th November 2016, Police

observed a White Kia Rio Hatch at a premises in

Wentworth Avenue Singleton Heights.

Police have stopped and the accused upon sighting Police

has ran from the location. Police have conducted a search

of underneath the property where the accused was found

to be hiding under the stair case at the front of the

property in an attempt to avoid apprehension.

When Police located the keys for the vehicle, Police found a

large amount of property they believed was stolen property

from two separate break and enters that had occurred a

couple of days prior at North Rothbury and Pokolbin.

Police advised the accused that he was under arrest

relating to outstanding matters.

Police have at this time cautioned the accused and

placed him in to the rear of the caged Police vehicle

where the accused was conveyed back to Singleton

Police Station. The accused's vehicle was

returned to Singleton Police Station where it was searched

in the company of the accused. Police upon searching

the vehicle have seized property that they were aware

of that had been stolen from numerous incidents.

Police have also located a hunting knife that was

located in the front passenger door underneath a drink

bottle. The Accused was bail refused

to appear at Muswellbrook Local Court on the 28<sup>th</sup>

November 2016.

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**Spicy prawn and quinoa lettuce wraps**

**Serves:** 4 **Time to make:** 30 mins (Hands-on time: 15 mins, Cooking time: 15 mins) **Total cost:** \$22.60 / \$5.65 per serve

**Ingredients** 1 cup quinoa, 200g snow peas, trimmed, thinly sliced, 2 medium carrots, peeled, grated, 1/4 cup chopped coriander leaves, plus extra to garnish, 1/4 cup chopped unsalted roasted peanuts, 1 long red chilli, deseeded, finely chopped, 2

tablespoons lemon juice, 1 tablespoon gluten-free reduced-salt tamari, 2 teaspoons caster sugar, 8 iceberg lettuce leaves & 400g large peeled cooked prawns, deveined

**Instructions**

- Step 1** Rinse quinoa well then place into a large saucepan with 2 cups cold water. Bring to the boil then reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for about 12–15 minutes, or until all the water has evaporated. Transfer into a large mixing bowl, set aside to cool.
- Step 2** Meanwhile, place snow peas in a large heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water and set aside for 30 seconds. Refresh peas under cold running water, then drain well.
- Step 3** Place cooled quinoa, snow peas, carrot, coriander, peanuts and chilli into a large bowl. Place lemon juice, tamari and sugar in a small bowl and stir to dissolve the sugar. Add to quinoa and toss to combine.
- Step 4** Divide quinoa between lettuce cups. Top each with some prawns and extra coriander leaves. Serve immediately.



**PHARMACY ADVISOR**



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

**Antibiotics in Cold and Flu**

Colds and flu are caused by viruses. Viruses are a type of tiny organism that can cause illness. When you have a cold, you may sneeze and have a blocked or runny nose, a sore throat and a cough. Colds rarely cause serious harm, but they can still make you feel unwell. Colds usually get better in 7–10 days, but the cough can last up to three weeks. Influenza, commonly known as 'the flu', is different to a cold although both are caused by viruses. Flu symptoms usually start suddenly with a high fever and you may feel unwell and need to rest. You may have a dry cough, shivering, sweating and severe muscle aches. Antibiotics are medicines used to treat diseases and infections caused by bacteria. Bacterial infections can affect the throat, lungs, skin, bowel, and many other parts of the body. While some infections are severe, many are mild. These diseases can be treated with antibiotics. Antibiotics interfere with the vital processes in bacteria, killing the bacteria or stopping them from multiplying. However, they do not work against viruses. Therefore, not all

illness and disease can be treated with an antibiotic. People who have a cold or the flu may think that antibiotics will help them get better faster. This is not true. Antibiotics do not kill viruses so will have no effect on viruses such as those causing colds or the flu. If you are normally healthy and well, your body can usually clear the viral infection causing the cold or flu by itself. Antibiotics will not help people get over a cold or flu faster, they won't stop the infection from get-

other people. According to the World Health Organization, antibiotic resistance is the third biggest threat to human health. Therefore, it is very important to only use antibiotics when appropriate. Do not expect doctors to prescribe antibiotics for viral illnesses such as colds and flu. This will encourage the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Certain people may be more likely to develop complications from respiratory tract infections. Complications are often bacterial infections

**Taking antibiotics for colds and flu?**

**There's no point.**

ting worse, and won't prevent the infection being passed onto other people. In some cases, antibiotics may cause side effects such as diarrhoea, stomach upsets, thrush or allergic reactions. The yearly flu vaccination is recommended for people who are at risk of serious complications. However, the flu vaccine will not prevent someone from getting colds, as these are caused by different viruses. If you use antibiotics when you don't need to, such as treating colds and flu, it could make the antibiotic less effective when they are needed. This is called antibiotic resistance. When bacteria become antibiotic resistant, the antibiotic will no longer work against that infection. This can make infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria difficult to treat, last for a long time and spread to

that need antibiotics. People with chronic conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes, immune problems) are also more likely to need an antibiotic to treat respiratory tract infections. There are illnesses that need to be treated with antibiotics. Pneumonia is a serious lung infection that can be caused by bacteria. Antibiotics will be prescribed if pneumonia is caused by bacteria. World Pneumonia Day is on 12 November and it aims to raise awareness about pneumonia, promote interventions to protect against, prevent and treat pneumonia, and generate action to combat the illness. If you have a cold or the flu, speak with your local pharmacist. Pharmacists are medicines experts. Your pharmacist can give you detailed information about colds and flu and suggest treatment options.

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## Cessnock City Council bitterly disappointed

Cessnock City Council has been left bitterly disappointed after the NSW Government revealed access to the Cessnock Correctional facility will remain the same despite the 1000 bed expansion. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent slammed the decision which will see Lindsay Street, Cessnock, continue to be used as the main entrance point to the prison. "The Review of Environmental Factors in no way addressed the increased traffic that will

inevitably be generated by the expansion of the facility, which will make Cessnock home to the largest prison in New South Wales". "I know local residents will share my outrage. At the community meeting held in August the sentiment of the community was resoundingly in support of closing the Lindsay Street entrance". "Not only is it concerning the major entrance for such a large facility is in a residential area but that Cessnock rates payers are being forced to foot the bill of road wear and tear which is a direct result of a NSW Government facility". "The report held Lindsay Street is sufficient to

handle the additional traffic. It is hard to believe the increased traffic will have no impact on local roads", Cr Pynsent said. Following Cessnock City Council's overwhelming objection to the report, which failed to address traffic concerns, a commitment was sought from Corrective Services NSW. Cessnock City Mayor, Cr Pynsent said he has secured a commitment from Corrective Services NSW that Lindsay Street will not remain the major access road to the complex. "Until this commitment is honoured Council will continue to stand up for the Cessnock community to ensure we get our fair share".

"Why should our ratepayers pay for roadworks for a state facility, State roads should service state projects", Cr Pynsent said.

## Cessnock Council endorses Black Hill Planning Proposal

Cessnock City Council is committed to growth endorsing the Black Hill Planning Proposal at Wednesday night's Council meeting. Council's decision to support the rezoning of the site located on John Renshaw Drive and Black Hill Road, Black Hill will allow planning to proceed for the establishment of industrial development on the site.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed the determination by Council. "The planning proposal has undergone multiple changes and improvements since 2012". "As a community we must plan for the future, this is about creating jobs and promoting growth within our local government area", Cr Pynsent said. The planning proposal includes approximately

195 hectares of land for industrial use while 40 hectares of the site is set to be environmental conservation lands. A further 64 hectares of environmental living lands could allow for the establishment of four large lots fronting onto Black Hill Road. As compensation for the development

Cessnock City Council will enter into a Planning Agreement with the proponent. This agreement will involve the protection of high value environmental lands both on and off site. Cessnock City Council will now provide the Planning Proposal to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to formally rezone the land.

## Be Asbestos aware this November

During National Asbestos Awareness month, Cessnock City Council is urging homeowners, renovators, tradies and handymen to get informed about asbestos and learn how to protect themselves and families from exposure. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said Council is always pleased to be involved in

Asbestos Awareness month, as at least one in three homes in Australia contain the dangerous fibres. "Anyone in the community doing home renovations, maintenance or demolition could be putting their family's health at risk. I encourage anyone undertaking works to refer to the 20 point asbestos safety checklist," Cr Pynsent said. Chair of the Asbestos Education Committee, Peter Dunphy praised Council's participation in the campaign. "While many Australians believe that only fibro homes contain asbestos, this couldn't be further from the truth." "Because Australia was among the highest consumers of asbestos products in the world, asbestos-containing materials are common in

many homes built or renovated before 1987 with a broad range of products still commonly found in and around any brick, weatherboard, fibro or clad home", Mr Dunphy said. "Without knowing where these products might be found in homes, people are playing 'Renovation Roulette' and putting their health and the health of their families at risk. Asbestos can be anywhere. Under floor coverings such as carpets, linoleum and vinyl tiles, behind wall and floor tiles, in cement floors, internal and external walls, ceilings and ceiling space (insulation), eaves, garages, roofs, around hot water pipes, fences, extensions to homes, garages, outdoor toilets, backyard and farm sheds, chook sheds and even dog kennels. Visit [www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au) for more information



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## Tocal Australian Stock Horse Sale Breaks Record

This year's annual Tocal stock horse sale was a record breaking event, showcasing the skills and talent of students and the horse breeding program at Tocal College. Principal Mr Darren Bayley said that the sale provided great encouragement to all the staff and students at Tocal College.



Seventeen horses were offered for sale resulting in a gross sale value of \$133,400. The average for the sale was \$7,850, a record since the first sale in 2007. The mare 'Tocal Northern Gem' brought the top price of \$12,500 closely followed by the mare 'Tocal Never Mirror Me' who sold for \$12,300. The Tocal breeding program was bolstered by the particularly pleasing \$10,050 average paid for the nine Tocal bred horses on offer. Horses were purchased by buyers from Victoria and NSW including Braidwood, Moree, Dungog and Bulahdelah. "Successful sales like this are only possible through the hard work and commitment by many people, but I pay particular tribute to the students as well as the supervision Mr Warwick Lawrence and Simone Harvey, Tocal staff members" Mr Bayley said. "Warwick and Simone's dedication and contribution are second to none and this is reflected in the results we get. The support of everyone involved in the sale makes it a most successful and enjoyable event". "The Tocal Stock Horse Sale is a unique event in the College's calendar that students and staff work towards virtually all the year," Mr Bayley said. "We are, once again, very pleased with the result of the sale as it provides direct feedback from the market that our staff and students are producing a type of horse which is sought after. In addition it gives real purpose to student efforts and is an opportunity for them to showcase the range of skills that they need to develop to make this event successful". Mr Bayley said, "Tocal's reputation for providing quality education and training is well known and that encourages enrolments each year. We will be fully enrolled in 2017. The Horse Sale was, once again, a significant success, with attendance estimated at 130 people for the parade, 250 for the sale."



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3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2016	Hunter Valley Gardens Xmas lights \$55 Adult, \$50 concession or U15
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016	Rosehill Santa Spectacular \$90 Adult, \$85 concession or U15
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	Australia Day Lunch Cruise \$200pp
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Daniel O'Donnell ADS\$140 Concession \$130
8 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour ft Carmen. B reserve tickets \$175 pp
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Sydney Royal Easter Show \$100 Ad, \$85 Concession or U16
13 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 or 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Body Guard – Witney Houston Musical Lyric Theatre, \$165pp
27 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 or 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	VIVID, Sydney Harbour dinner cruise \$170pp or VIP top deck \$185pp

**Extended Tours – Home Pickup**

16 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	9 Day Norfolk Island \$3050
24 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	13 Day Central Australia \$4190
5 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017	8 Day Kimberley Tour \$3690
13 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017	11 Day WA Tour \$4840
26 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017	9 Day Margaret River \$3690
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	5 Day Stanthorpe Tour \$1050
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	11 Day Tassie Tour \$3480

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# Real News Estate

## Retail lease reforms support SMEs

The retail leasing industry and small businesses throughout NSW will benefit from reforms introduced into State Parliament last week. REINSW CEO Tim McKibbin said amendments to the Retail Leases Act 1994 (NSW) will make doing business easier for tenants, agents and landlords on the retail strip. "Some 44,500 retail businesses throughout NSW are set to benefit from reforms," Mr McKibbin said. "For agents, simplifying and streamlining the Act in how it deals with issues like assignment, will make leasing easier. Introducing steps to improve certainty for all players in the market is a good thing.

"REINSW have been heavily involved in an extensive consultation process, driven by the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner, which led to the draft bill." Mr McKibbin said this was a major step for the industry and more could be done to further simplify and strengthen the retail leasing environment. "Introducing a standard mandatory lease for retail tenancies, similar to residential leases, would make doing business quicker and easier for tenants, agents and landlords on the retail strip by improving certainty and keeping costs down," Mr McKibbin said. The Residential Tenancy Agreement is a mandatory standard document that is easily understood. The landlord and tenant enter into the agreement without delay with an

understanding of their rights and obligations. "This model could and should be adopted for retail leasing saving the parties time and money. Most retail leases in the current market are often deliberately and unnecessarily complex and therefore parties to the lease do not know of their rights and responsibilities," Mr McKibbin said. Looking at the most basic obligation of paying "rent", common industry terms for "rent" include:

1. Face rent
2. Base rent
3. Current rent
4. Effective rent
5. GST inclusive rent
6. Gross rent
7. Turnover rent
8. True rent
9. Net rent
10. True gross rent.

"A mandatory, standard readable lease will go a long way to solving many of the problems in this important sector of our economy," Mr McKibbin said.

## REINSW supports education and training reform paper

REINSW says the NSW Government's focus on raising training standards and increasing transparency and accountability for the

property industry, as part of its newly released reform paper, is a giant step forward for the Real Estate profession.

REINSW President John Cunningham said REINSW played a key role in working with the government to produce the Real Estate and Property Services Industry Reform Paper that outlines the Government's vision for the state's \$15 billion real estate and property sector. "We have been lobbying the government on reforms for the industry in particular around education and training for many years," Mr Cunningham said. "For too long people have been able to enter the profession with a minimum level of education that is totally inadequate for the important role real estate professionals play in people's lives.

"We will be making a submission of support on all of the reforms and look forward to the reforms coming into effect in 2017. "We encourage the public and other industry bodies to get behind these reforms which will undoubtedly help to improve what is the most significant industry in the NSW economy," Mr Cunningham said.

### What are some of the key reforms?

- Increasing the certificate of registration qualification from the current four units of

competency to seven units

- A mandatory practical experience component for certificate holders and licensees
- The creation of a new licence category of Licensee in-charge. These agents will be required to oversee trust accounts, properly supervise agents and ensure the agency remains compliant with the law. Applicants will need two years' practical experience and the completion of a diploma level of qualification
- New fraud prevention measures which will require agents to transfer rental income out of trust accounts at the end of each month
- Giving NSW Fair Trading greater investigative powers to tackle rogue agents.

The paper is available for feedback until 5 December 2016, with submissions preferred by email at [policy@finance.nsw.gov.au](mailto:policy@finance.nsw.gov.au). Legislation to implement these reforms is expected to be introduced to Parliament in the first half of 2017.

## RBA fails to deliver Cup Day winner

The Reserve Bank of Australia has kept interest rates steady at 1.50 per cent

at its Melbourne Cup Day board meeting. REINSW President John Cunningham said the RBA didn't deliver a winner to mortgage holders. "As expected the RBA made the decision to keep interest rates at the record low of 1.50 per cent at its second last board meeting of the year," Mr Cunningham said. "We have seen a strong start to spring season auctions and expect volumes to lift slightly over the coming weeks," Mr Cunningham said. The official cash rate has fallen 325 basis points since the downward trend commenced in November 2011 and twice in 2016, in August and May. The RBA will next meet on Tuesday, 6 December 2016.

## Low CPI is good news

According to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA), the September 2016 quarter Consumer Price Index (CPI) figure continues to be good news for home buyers and renters.

"The All Groups CPI, increased by 0.7% in the June quarter giving an annual increase of 1.3%. This is marginally higher than the annual increase to the June quarter of 1.0% which was the lowest annual changes since June 1999", the President of the

REIA Mr Sanders said. "The annual changes for the analytical series of trimmed mean and for the weighted median were 1.7% and 1.3% respectively - the same as for the previous quarter and the lowest annual increase since the two series were introduced in June 2003. This is well below the RBA's target zone of 2-3% and suggests the continuation of historically low interest rates."

"The Housing Group increased by 1.0% for the quarter and 1.8% for the year to September 2016 with rents increasing by just 0.3% for the September quarter and 0.7% for the year. The major contributors to the increase in the Housing Group were electricity costs and property rates and charges." "From 2013, when investment in housing started to pick up, we have seen the rate of increase in rents slow down in Australia. The annual increase in rents to September has been the lowest since December 1994."

"The latest CPI figures provide further evidence that the current taxation arrangements which provide many Australians with the opportunity to invest in property adds to the housing supply and keep rents lower than they would otherwise be."

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**NTH ROTHBURY**

**"Jewel box"**

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## Hunter Residents get a grip on recycling

Planet Ark's National Recycling Week (7th – 13th November) was an opportunity to highlight the success of Hunter region residents in improved waste reduction and recycling. Figures compiled by the Environment Division of the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils show that during 2015/16 Hunter residents recycled an amazing 136,645 tonnes of materials including mixed materials in the yellow lidded recycling bins and garden organics in the green lidded recycling bins. According to Bradley Nolan, Director of the Environment Division, the figures indicate a real community success story in that recycling is now the norm for most households. He said, "Recycling has many benefits to the community and the environment. To put it into perspective the amount recycled in the Hunter during the last financial year equated to 19,720 cars being permanently removed from our roads and energy savings equivalent to 64,700 average household's annual electricity usage." He added, "These aren't the only savings. Other benefits include water savings equivalent to 900 Olympic swimming pools of water and 3.7 million wheelie bins of waste that didn't go to landfill." One of the best ways to keep resources out of landfill is to make sure you're not only recycling, but buying recycled products back to help close the recycling loop. Good examples are choosing Australian-made recycled office paper and 100% recycled toilet tissue which helps create an economic incentive for businesses to use materials with recycled content and are easy options for any household or workplace. For more information on what you can recycle please contact your local Council or visit [RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org](http://RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org) website or call the **National Recycling Hotline on 1300 733 712**



## Branxton Lions News



Photo Above (L-R) District Government & Branxton Lions Vice President Ken Meany

## Carols in the Park bigger than ever



Cessnock City Council's Carols in the Park is set to go off with a big bang on Friday 2 December 2016 from 4.30pm at Baddeley Park. After last year's overwhelming success the well-loved Christmas carols will be back with markets, music, fireworks and Project Cessnock's Elf

Challenge. Cessnock City Council's Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is a fantastic event for the entire community. "It is very special to be able to celebrate the festive season as a community and a good opportunity to spend time with family and friends enjoying great

entertainment", Cr Pynsent said. After just falling shy of breaking the world record for having the most Christmas Elves congregated in one place, Project Cessnock will be attempting to break the record one last time. Project Cessnock's Nicole Spears said they are asking all of the community to get involved in the spirit of Christmas and help break the record.

This annual event has become the heart of the Cessnock local government area's Christmas celebrations with an array of entertainment for the whole family. Country music star and local resident Tara Naysmith is welcomed back to the stage as MC. While Santa's Little Helpers are expected to put on a wonderful performance, the 14 piece big band is made up of talented musicians from across the Hunter. This year's event will also include the Funky Junk Flea Markets from 4.30pm and a fireworks display to conclude the evening. For more information of the Great Cessnock Elf challenge head to [www.facebook.com/projectcessnock](http://www.facebook.com/projectcessnock) The event is proudly sponsored by Newcastle Permanent Building Society and Cessnock City Council. For more information visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)



Photo Above (L-R) Lion Alan Humphries, Lion Alan Beckley, Lion Eddie Barrett & District Governor Roselea Sellers

On the 16.10.16 Lions district Governor Roselea Sellers and Lion Chairman Jeff Kilmurry attended Branxton Lions meeting and welcomed new members Eddie Barrett and Alan Beckley to Branxton Lions Club. We hope they will enjoy their stay with Branxton Lions. Lions Branxton are always looking for more new members to make new friends and help the community. Please contact President Bob 49381001 and Lion Alan on 49381654 for further information.

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### 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.

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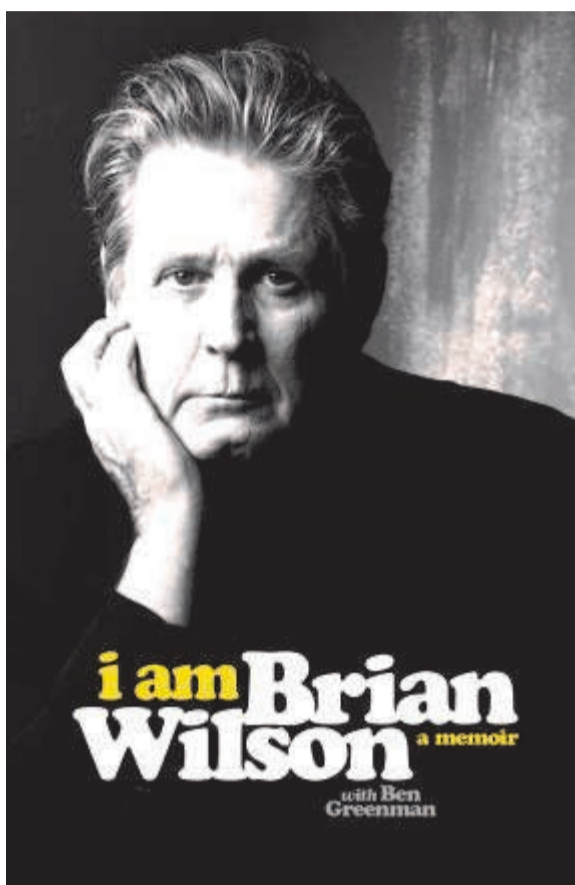
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*i am Brian Wilson* is worth it. Buy it if you are a Beach Boys fan or interested in mental illness, creativity, music and American pop culture. It's a fascinating story — and unlike many celebrity ghost written autobiographies — a rare treat to read too. The Beach Boys are one of popular music's longest standing icons. Emerging around 1961 in Southern California, the band consisted of the three Wilson brothers: Brian (chief writer and producer), Carl and Dennis, their cousin Mike Love, a couple of long term buddies Al Jardine and Bruce Johnston, plus a moving crew of professional musicians, including Glen Campbell. They have as many top charting songs as any act in US music history ranging from 1964's *Surfin' USA* which set the scene for a type of Californian based surf music. It stretches from their high period complexity of *Good Vibrations* and *Heroes and Villains* in 1967 through to their later period sugar pop such as *Kokomo* in the late '70s. They're still touring today, having been in Australia earlier this year. *i am Brian Wilson's* writer Ben Greenman has done a fine job in communicating Brian Wilson's own words. The language has a simplicity and naivety that allows the subject's personality to shine through. Two things have dominated Brian Wilson's life: music and mental illness.

It feels as if Wilson is sitting at his favourite diner, or a chair at home recounting stories to his friends as he tries to explain what's going on inside his head — as complex and disorienting as that can be. He talks of being unable to leave the house, his favourite chairs, favourite meals, good days and bad days and of needing constant support to keep the bad days at bay. The book is structured in a similarly haphazard manner. Stories come and go and then resurface. They bounce off each other like billiard balls. It's not a chronological telling of Wilson's story but is thematically arranged with chapters including: Time, America, Echoes and Voices, Fear and Fathers and Sons. There are pivotal years that he returns to while other periods seem to go by in a blur. But two things have dominated Wilson's life: music and mental illness. This book covers both without glossing over the unpleasant or the unflattering and reveals how music and his mental state have influenced each other. Wilson addresses many of the myths and legends that have evolved around his rise to become one of the most famous musicians of the late 20th century. He recalls the sandbox in his living room, the doctor who dominated his life for two long periods of time, the chaos around recording *SMiLE*, competition with

The Beatles, Phil Spector, weight gain and why he quit touring.

He tells how he saw things. He says the alleged competition with The Beatles was really about mutual inspiration. He did not throw *SMiLE* away after hearing *Sergeant Pepper's* — there were far too many other things going on in his head for such a simplistic explanation. *SMiLE* was the aborted follow up to *Pet Sounds* (widely acknowledged as the Beach Boys peak achievement), coming in the aftermath of the hugely ambitious *Good Vibrations*. It fell to pieces amidst rumours of mental health issues, drugs and enormous piles of tapes of half-completed songs. It's demise haunted Wilson for the rest of his career until he finally returned to it in 2004 under his own name.

Wilson's age (he's now 74) and his survival of a tumultuous life has allowed him to quietly reflect on past events. He is anxious to be fair to those with whom he has had issues — his father Murry, his brothers, Mike Love — and he recognises that they too have had their own demons.

Wilson is at pains to understand, and perhaps forgive, his father. He has come to a kind of peace with Murry Wilson's tyrannical behaviour. Murry Wilson looms large. He was a dominating father and early-career band manager with his own unrealised ambitions. He drove his children to success and that led to myriad issues within the family. There are some obvious, albeit tamer, parallels with the Jackson family saga.

Brian Wilson is at pains to understand, and perhaps forgive, his father. He has come to a kind of peace with Murry Wilson's tyrannical behaviour and to understand how devastated he must have felt when the Beach Boys fired him as their manager in the mid '60s. His voice, however, never left Brian's mind. His father was just one of many voices who continue to hound Wilson. The voices that tell him he'll never be any good, who scream at him before a show, who question his talent and abilities or tell him to stay in bed all day. The voice of producer Phil Spector is one of these. Wilson was inspired by, and even copied many of Spector's recording techniques in the studio, aiming for the big "Wall of Sound" that was evident on *Be My Baby* by the Ronettes — one of his big early hits as producer. That song and style influences Wilson to this day. One of the pleasures of reading a musician's biography is revisiting the music while you're reading about its creation. I've always had a soft spot for The Beach Boys, despite the throwaway lyrics; *Surfing USA*, *Little Deuce Coupe*, *I Get Around* and so on. *Good Vibrations* however is a high point in mid-'60s popular music and culture and ranks as one of the top pop songs of any era. Wilson's use of double

tracking gave the songs their signature smoothness and minimised the differences between their voices.

Wilson talks about the making of these classics and you realise his musical genius. He heard music and sounds fully formed in his head and used the recording studio to extract them faithfully. He went on a hunt to find the exact foot pump organ that will sound right in the end piece of a song, and hired a Theremin session muso to play the wail on *Good Vibrations*. He talks of often having 20/40/50 takes on some songs to get the vocals right.

If The Beach Boys are unique, it's for their phenomenal use of multi-tracked harmony vocals. That was pretty much all of Brian Wilson's work even if the main lead vocals were shared across the group. His use of double tracking gave the songs their signature smoothness and minimised the differences between their voices.

There is a lot of focus on the band's lyrics too. Van

Dyke Parks' efforts aside, many of their songs have been about teen obsessions: cars, surfing, girls. These topics aren't what one equates with depth or insight, but it's plain that Wilson cared greatly and agonised at times over the lyrics.

There are insights into the commercial machine that the Beach Boys was, and continues to be (these days it's mainly Mike Love and Al Jardine from the original line up with Wilson occasionally participating). *i am Brian Wilson* is a sprawling memoir but succeeds in painting a detailed picture of what it's like to be a genius and tortured man.

I think that more than any other major act of the modern era, except perhaps KISS, The Beach Boys had a financial savvy and saw their music as a commodity as much as an art. It may be why they're still performing today when deaths and departures would've killed lesser bands.

*i am Brian Wilson* is a sprawling memoir but

succeeds in painting a detailed picture of what it's like to be the genius, tortured man, singer, producer, family member and visionary. It's a

worthy addition to the growing corpus of literature on The Beach Boys.



Greenman was born in Chicago, Illinois and raised in Miami, Florida. He attended Miami Palmetto High School and then graduated summa cum laude from Yale University, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *The Yale Herald*. After Yale, he worked as a film critic at the *Miami New Times*, attended but did not complete a doctoral program in literature at Northwestern University, and then moved to New York City to work as a freelance writer and editor. His journalism has appeared in such magazines as *Rolling Stone*, *Mother Jones*, *Time Out New York*, *The Jewish Daily Forward* and other publications. In 2000, he joined the staff of *The New Yorker* magazine. He edited the magazine's "Goings On About Town" section until 2014, when he became a contributing writer.

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## Huntlee Town Centre taking shape



Work has commenced on Stage One of the Huntlee Town Centre. Located on the north western side of Wine Country Drive, just off the Hunter Expressway, Stage One comprises civil works for approximately 10ha of land, including 1.5km of new roads and services.

Stage One will be home to the Coles development (4.9ha) and eight additional lots earmarked for retail/commercial purposes.

Coles will be constructing a shopping centre consisting of a major, full-line supermarket as well as a range of integrated specialty stores. The company has mapped out its requirements for sufficient additional space to allow for the inclusion of other key group brands in years to come, so the retail offering will grow alongside the township. Other ventures confirmed for Stage One of the Huntlee Town Centre include a:

- \* medical centre with associated dental, acupuncture and pharmaceutical facilities
- \* childcare facility catering for approximately

- 150 children
- \* family-friendly tavern complete with bistro, TAB facilities and garden/outdoor dining area

The site works, which are being undertaken by local firm KCE, are due for completion in late 2017. It is expected construction of some of these exciting new facilities will commence by September 2017.

Commenting on the announcement, Huntlee Project Director, Stephen Thompson, said it is great news not only for the future residents of Huntlee but also those who currently live in surrounding townships such as

Branxton, Greta and North Rothbury.

“For the first time, residents in those towns will have access to a major supermarket in close proximity to their homes,” said Stephen.

“The other facilities already announced, as well as a number we expect to announce in coming months, will further enhance the local retail and services offering, making life more convenient for those living in and around Huntlee.

“Every aspect of Huntlee will be entirely new and master-planned and that includes the town centre. We will continue to work closely with the retailers

and service providers to ensure our town centre is tailored to meet the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century lifestyle,” added Stephen.

As well as the Stage One Town Centre site works, work is also expected to commence before Christmas on Stage Two of the major upgrade of Wine Country Drive. This upgrade starts at the existing roundabout at the Branxton end and joins into the recently-completed Stage One upgrade works.

It will include a signalised intersection for the main street into the Huntlee Town Centre, a central median strip and widening to provide two lanes in each direction.

## HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVVTA

Tulloch Wines 2016 Cellar Door Release Sangiovese Rose - Trophy for **Best Light Red**  
 Tamburlaine 2015 Reserve Malbec - Trophy for **Best Young Other Red Varieties**

Pokolbin Estate 2014 "Phoenix" Shiraz  
 Tempranillo - Trophy for **Best Young Red Blend**  
 Tamburlaine 2015 Reserve Malbec - NSW DPI Award for **Best Organic Wine**  
 De Iullis 2011 Sparkling Chardonnay - CiSRA Canon Trophy for **Best Sparkling Wine**  
 Tyrrell's 2009 Vat 1 Semillon - Trophy **Best Dry White of Show**

**Blondie and Cyndi Lauper hit the Stage Together at 'a day on the green', Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at Bimbadgen Estate.**

They're two of music's most iconic artists, the wondrous BLONDIE and the bewitching CYNDI LAUPER. In a world first, these two amazing artists are teaming up to co-headline an absolute cracker of an Australian tour in April 2017. Cyndi Lauper and Blondie will play 'a day on the green' at

Bimbadgen Estate on April 1<sup>st</sup> and will draw a big audience to the Hunter Valley winery and will have a positive impact on the local Wine Country economy boosting visitation and overnight visitation to the area.

### Call for better mobile coverage ~ Hunter Expressway

Our Chairman, The Hon George Souris AM, has written to the CEO of Telstra Corporation expressing his concern at the lack of mobile telephone coverage along the Hunter Expressway & asking for upgrades as it is desperately needed.

Whilst the old New England Highway retains its good mobile coverage, the new Hunter Expressway has not yet had mobile coverage and there are numerous dead spots. Some of the route has incidental coverage of one bar emanating from the old New England Highway or the Cessnock area.

Cessnock Council have also supported the request & have written to Telstra Corporation giving good detail reasons.



Friday

# Branxton Golf Club

Phone 02 4938 1421 or Email us at [branxtongolfclub@westnet.com.au](mailto:branxtongolfclub@westnet.com.au)



## Membership Deals for 2017

Join now and receive 14 months membership

2016

## Christmas Spectacular

Friday 9th December at 5.30pm



Ham & Toy Raffle

25th November

Tickets on sale from

6.30pm

Bucking Mad Cow Ride + Snow cones +Rides +Face Painting+ Sky Diving Santa Live Entertainment The Coconut Trio

Fire Works at 9.00pm (weather permitting)





# MOVIE REVIEW

## THE ACCOUNTANT

### Google Drive Drops XP & Vista Support

Google will be ending support for the Google Drive desktop app for Windows XP and Vista on January 1st of 2017.

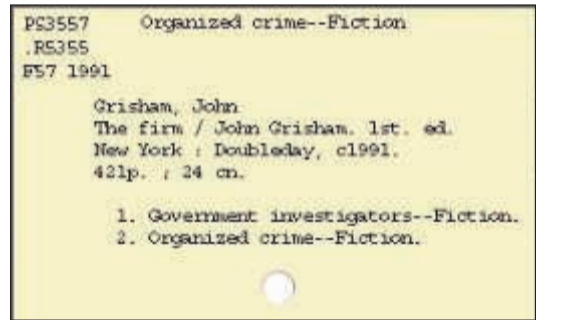


Microsoft stopped supporting Windows XP back in 2014 and MS support for Vista will be ending in April. In a statement on their blog, Google said that the Drive desktop app would still continue work for these platforms, but the company would no longer actively test or maintain the product. Users will still be able to use Google Drive by going directly to the website for the product.

### What Is Metadata?

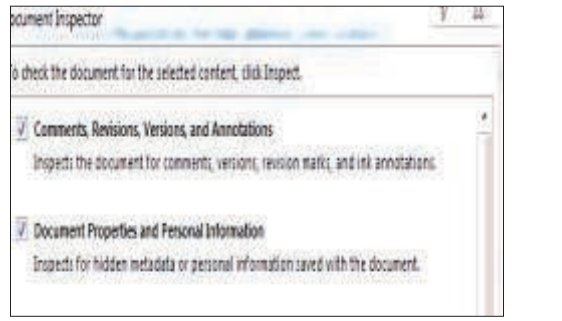
I received a very interesting question today from a reader: "Could you please explain to us what metadata means? The term has been in the news lately and I've looked it up, but don't really understand it. Your explanations are easy to understand."

I hope I'm up to the challenge of making the term easy to understand. Probably the best way to explain it is to say it's data about data. An example of metadata is the information contained about a book on a card in an old-school library card catalogue. (I hope I'm not dating myself here.)

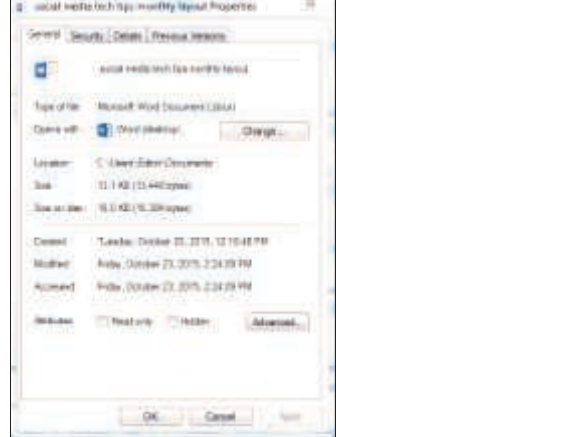


This type of information makes it much easier to decide where to place a book on a shelf and where to search for a book if you need it. It works the same way for electronic information like documents or emails or images. Except in the case of electronic files, this metadata is embedded in the file instead of typed on a card.

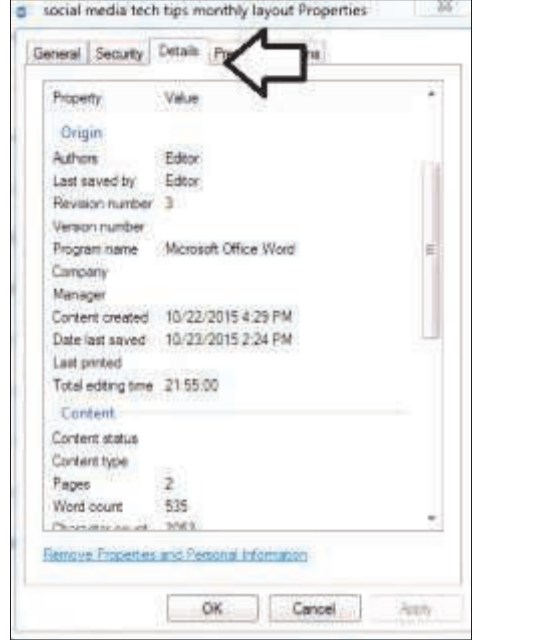
- The basic types of metadata you can expect to see are:
  - How the data was created
  - Date and time of creation
  - Who created the data
  - Where it was created
  - What kind of file it is
  - The size of the file.
- For example, let's go to File explorer, find a document, right-click on it, and select **Properties**.



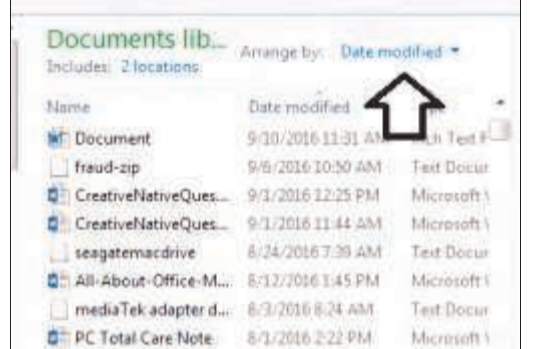
You can see the size of the file, what program was used to create it, when it was created, when it was last modified, and when it was last accessed.



When I click on the Details tab, there's even more information about the file. Like how many times it's been revised, when it was printed, how much time has been spent editing it, and more.



That's a lot of data. Which is why individuals and companies need to be careful when sharing things like images and documents. Sometimes there could be information on there that you don't want anyone to know. Now let's look at the most common way your PC uses the metadata. One of the most commonly used bits of metadata is the date an item was created or modified.



Another would be file size.

Tags	Size	R
	1,688 KB	
	1,098 KB	
	1,077 KB	
	796 KB	
	775 KB	

Metadata is how your PC knows to put images in the picture library and documents in the documents folder. Just like that card in the card catalogue helped the librarian decide where to put a book on the shelf.

### Can A WiFi Adapter Serve As My ISP?

I had an interesting question about a USB WiFi adapter from a reader. He wanted to know if the device could serve as a replacement for an Internet service provider since he lived in an area where you couldn't get cable or DSL service. A USB WiFi adapter is a device that plugs into the USB port of your laptop or desktop. It can give your device the ability to receive a WiFi signal if doesn't have a built-in receiver or sometimes improve the device's ability to pick up a WiFi signal. But there already has to be a WiFi signal for it to pick up. So you do need an Internet service provider and a router already in place.

There is a USB device that can connect you to Internet service, it's called a USB modem. You will have to either pay for a data plan with a wireless carrier or buy a pre-paid broadband device.



You'll also need to have a good wireless signal available in your area. You'll need to check with the available wireless carriers to see what they offer where you live.

**ABOUT** Christian Wolff (Ben Affleck) is a math savant with more affinity for numbers than people. Behind the cover of a small-town CPA office, he works as a freelance accountant for some of the world's most dangerous criminal organizations. With the Treasury Department's Crime Enforcement Division, run by Ray King (J.K. Simmons), starting to close in, Christian takes on a legitimate client: a state-of-the-art robotics company where an accounting clerk (Anna Kendrick) has discovered a discrepancy involving millions of dollars. But as Christian uncovers the books and gets closer to the truth, it is the body count that starts to rise.



There are many insightful films about autism. *The Accountant*, which stars Ben Affleck as the on-the-spectrum numbers man of the title whose services extend to making an *actual* killing is not one of them. To expect this to be would be anything but exploitative of autism would be like hoping Affleck's visually impaired Daredevil might lead to wider understanding of blindness or his Batman might expound on the sad life of orphans. *The Accountant* is basically an Asperger's Syndrome superhero movie disguised as a crime thriller. It's ludicrous fun and care of Affleck's deliberately wooden performance, frequently deadpan funny. And it's an original. Though it eventually squanders its intriguing premise of a math savant underworld forensic accountant who is also a sociopathic killer. Having teased out a few puzzling plotlines, it delivers some data-dumps of plot explanation towards the end. And having started out feeling fresh, *The Accountant* reverts to seen-it-before hitman thriller. Still, this Rain Man vs Henchmen is certainly more exciting than *Batman Vs Superman*. And Affleck is also much

better in this, as Christian Wolff he gets to play a bit of both Clark Kent (geek in glasses with double life) and Bruce Wayne (brooding rich bloke scarred by parental tragedy). Wolff's path to becoming lethal bookkeeper, we learn in some hefty flashbacks, involved a less-than-protective brother, an extreme tough-love dad, an absent mother and a prison cellmate mentor in underworld accounting practice (Jeffrey Tambor, causing *Arrested Development* flashbacks). Christian lives and works alone, apart from a mysterious PA only ever heard on the phone. His work has made him rich. Among the non-liquid assets he's stored away alongside paintings by Pollock and Renoir, is an original Superman comic. It might be the wrong fit for an inside joke but it's fitting because the film itself feels like a comic book adaptation. It's not. Though the script by Bill Dubuque (*The Judge*) was turned into a graphic novel last year to help launch the film to the Comic-Con crowd. On screen, there's something very speech-bubble about the dialogue. Especially among the supporting characters who get big back stories like JK Simmons as the head Treasury Agent who ropes in a promising junior to find out the true identity of the shadowy Accountant.

Meanwhile, Christian has taken a break from uncooking the books of drug cartels and weapons dealers, and has taken a legit assignment at Living Robotics, a prosthetics firm run by a brilliant tech entrepreneur (John Lithgow) and from which millions have been siphoned, the discrepancy discovered by junior financial exec Dana (Anna Kendrick, cute, again). As Christian spends his days trying to crack the fraud, covering whiteboards and glass or the company's meeting room with his equations (as maths must always be done in movies), Dana tries to crack his implacable face. But the budding romance is interrupted when Christian finds both the authorities and a contract killer hired by an unhappy client are on his tail, putting Dana in danger too. By which time Affleck's character has transformed from cold-blooded crook to gawky good guy and we're on our way, via rising body count, to a deeply groan-worthy finale. No, the ending of *The Accountant* doesn't quite add up. But as a puzzler-thriller with pretensions to smartness, it still does the business, just.

# Wines & Vines

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

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



Over the weekend I was doing extremely well in a wine options game, which formed part of the annual "Pokolbin Games Cup" comprising golf, tennis, poker, wine options and Sale of The Century. The last wine was presented and I looked over to my opponents sporting a big smile. The wine was a Wynn's Ovens Valley (Burgundy) Shiraz from the very early 90's – the very same wine my university mates and I would devour in copious quantities due to its reasonable price and quality (we lived on 2 minute noodles and Wynn's Ovens Valley). This was the only Australian wine of the night and when asked if it was a 1990 or 1991, my brain stopped short. I lost by a question. I lost the golf by a shot, the poker by a hand and the tennis by a game. There was an uncanny mysteriousness surrounding these close results.

Later in the day I called in to the winery to grab some wine for my opponents (and maybe a few Cyanide tablets) when I noticed the short chap with the scar sitting with his wife tasting my wines. His face lit up as I approached and he stood up to shake my hand.

"Love your wines" he exclaimed.

"Thanks...arrrr... look, I have something to tell you" I expressed, my serious face setting the scene.

"That scar of yours...did you know the kid who actually did it?" I asked.

"No, I didn't, but I'd like to!" he laughed.

"Things said in jest" I thought.

"That poor bloke has probably felt bloody terrible ever since" I said.

"Hopefully" he replied, with a nervous smile.

I started sweating a little, ready to blurt it all out.

"It's funny, your father just passed through here a few minutes ago and asked what rugby position I played, looking directly at my scar" he piped, "just as you did the other day." "Genetics....the great paradox" I suggested.

"I told him the history of it" he went on, "and he asked me if it happened filming an ad for Tab cola."

I almost choked, sweat pouring down my face on a wintry 15C degree day.

"And was it?" I bluntly asked.

"Yes" he calmly replied.

"Did you know that essentially, the contract with any of those enterprises stipulates that you delegate all decisive power to them, except in the case of accidents?" I added with a long suffering look of defeat.

"Of course" he buoyed in an attempt to keep our spirits up- "I drank free Tab for years!" "I'm sorry" I replied sticking my hand out.

"Accidents happen" he sympathised, shooting his hand back "I would have preferred free wine, though!" he laughed. That night I went back to join the others for our final task ...Sale Of The Century. The very last turn came with three of us vying for the title. The question was "What low joule cola was firstly presented to the world as having less than one calorie?"

I pressed the buzzer with a big smile on my face and yelled "Tab!"

I could not quite believe that this question had come up, considering the recent events. I have sung the Tab ad song to myself so often and threw my hands in the air to claim my victory, only to be buzzed incorrect. Although initially protesting, I quickly rehashed the song out loud to come to the line "...and every can has less than two calories..."

Tab had had its ultimate revenge!  
Cheers, Andrew

This article was firstly published in 2005.....

When I was a kid I featured in some television commercials (yes, my fifteen minutes of fame over at age twelve!). One particular ad was for the low joule soft drink, "Tab" cola. A group of us were to play cricket in the street and on the ad you see one of us being bowled out and the rest of us jumping for joy, holding cans of Tab. What you don't see, however, is me hitting the ball directly into another kid's face as he tried to catch it with one hand, his other holding a can of Tab. Result – 25 stitches in the forehead. Reason – why the hell would you field at second leg holding a can of bloody soft drink? Once the kid was taken to hospital I never saw him again. To this day I have felt terrible for him but it was an unfortunate accident.

The other day I visited a winemaking mate of mine unannounced at work and found him giving a winery tour for a group of people around our age. I quietly joined the group and pretended to be interested whilst asking him those typically annoying questions, such as pointing to a stainless steel tank and asking "What's that thing?" and "How many bottles do you get out of it?" I then pointed at the tank sitting next to it and repeated the questions once again. After a few minutes the crowd began to catch on and a short chap with a massive scar on his forehead pointed to an oak barrel and began, "What's that thing?" "And what does it do?" "How many bottles do you get out of it?"

After our tour I was chatting to this guy and we seemed to be getting along really well. I couldn't help but ask what football position he used to play whilst pointing to his scar and at the same time showing him an old but severe surfing scar of my own – call it a moment of macho exchange if you will. He responded by exclaiming it was the result of a very nasty cricketing injury when he was eleven years old.

"Some dickhead just whacked it straight into me while I was drinking out of a can," he rolled his eyes as if to divulge that drinking out of a can on a cricket field takes precedence over continuing the game.

"How many stitches?" I then eagerly asked.

"Twenty Five!" he proudly replied.

I suddenly remembered how bad I felt the time something similar had happened to me.

"I hate to tell you this but when I was about the same age some dickhead who I was playing against was holding a can of soft drink when I smashed a ball – next thing I knew he's lying on the ground covered in blood. It's haunted me to this day so I know how the poor guy feels" I sympathetically appeased.

My face was expressionless from shock as he rehashed the finer details of his mishap.

"Yeah, it probably happens a fair bit" he poised, "But I was made to hold the can because it was part of a television commercial, so I really didn't have much choice."

My jaw dropped slightly and I knew straight away that this was not the first time we had met. This was the opportunity I always hoped for to apologise for that accident. I have told the story so many times in my life, which has progressed somewhat from a slight mishap and a sore and sorry little boy sporting a small cut, to a major catastrophe where several ambulances, rescue squads and plastic surgeons frantically rallied to save the kid's life. Yet here I was, face to face with my past and I couldn't find the right words.

The next few days was full of this strange Karma.



I would like to thank all of the supporters for their help in the fundraising for Cancer in the past two years. We have raised over \$7000 in Braxton, with Cancer Biggest Morning Tea for 2016 - \$2000, Braxton's Pink High Tea for 2015/2016 was over \$3700, Royal Federal Lunch for 2016 was \$1500. Thank you.

Happy to help Joel; when posing a question on military history your first source is Dr Brendan Nelson.

To the Braxton RSL Sub Branch for their Remembrance Day ceremony at the rotunda/memorial in Braxton; a reflective solemn reminder of what our forebears did to give us the freedom we enjoy today. The involvement of the local schools will help continue this legacy. To Cath, Brian and all members Well Done

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

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

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**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:** Braxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460  
**For Sale:** Solid timber King size bedroom suite. Bed, mattress, 2 x side tables, large chest of drawers, 2 x brand new set of sheets, electric blanket & dooner cover set. \$1700 ono. Phone Fay on 0428 057 253  
**For Sale:** BBQ with hood & temp gauge, large gas bottle, 4 x burner, electric ignition. In good condition \$25.  
 Westinghouse oven 60mm wide, fan forced, separate grill, clock & timer. Excellent condition \$25  
 Oven Hood, Westinghouse. 600mm wide. Good condition \$10. Phone 4930 7671  
**Garage Sale:** 15 Filey St, Greta Sat 19 Nov 8-12 only. Great stuff eg Electric Generator, Electric Mulcher, Elvis memorabilia + much more  
**Guitar Lessons:** Braxton. 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 Braxton \$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 Braxton: 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 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841  
**Work Wanted:** Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292  
**Work Wanted:** Lawn Mowing: best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397  
**Work Wanted:** Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring &

general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601  
**Work Wanted:** HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701  
**Work Wanted:** Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567  
**Work Wanted:** Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081  
**Work Wanted:** 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/braxtonandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/>

**Reward for return:** Stolen GO Nissan Patrol last Sunday morning from Kurri Kurri. If you can help please call me on 0403 721 910

**For Sale:** Bobcat CT440 tractor for sale. 6 foot bucket, a 5 foot Howard slasher and a grader. Easy to operate (much like a ride on mower). 450 hours on the clock, regularly serviced and in excellent condition. \$25k firm. Contact Andy Wright on 0416 250 72



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

**Dates for your diary >**

**Dates for your diary >**

**Fri 18 Nov** - Maitland Repertory Theatre and Maitland Musical Society present **NUNSENSATIONS! The Nonsense Vegas Revue**.  
**What:** NUNSENSATIONS! *The Nonsense 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  
**Sat 19 Nov** - 9am. Handmade in the Hunter. Kevin Sobels Wines, CNR Broke Rd and Halls Rd, Pokolbin  
**Sat 19 Nov** - Wollombi Sculpture in the Vineyards - indoor sculptures exhibition. Old Fire Shed Gallery Wollombi  
**Sun 20 Nov** - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds  
**Mon 21 Nov** Braxton Public School P & C Meeting 6pm in library  
**Thu 24 Nov** - 5pm. Art After Hours. Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, 16 Vincent St, Cessnock  
**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 27 Nov** - 10am Kids Meditation Workshop- Cessnock Cessnock Yoga Centre, 182 Vincent Street Cessnock 2325

**Sun 2 Dec** - Twilight Market (4.00pm to 8.00pm) - Proceeds to Prostrate Cancer & Beyond Blue  
**Fri 2 Dec** - Carols in the Park from 4.30pm at Baddeley Park, Cessnock  
**Tue 6 Dec** - Braxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Braxton Golf Club  
**Thu 8 Dec** - Braxton Public School P & C Carols by Torch-light  
**Fri 9 Dec** - Braxton Golf Club Christmas Spectacular  
**Sun 11 Dec** - Hunter Valley Dance Centre. Half a World Away. Cessnock Performing Arts Centre  
**Mon 12 Dec** - Greta Public School 'Angels'  
**Tue 13 Dec** - Braxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigids old School, Station St., Braxton, 9.30am, Staff Room, followed by Christmas lunch.  
**Tue 13 Dec** - Braxton 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  
**Fri 20 Jan 2017** - LENNON: Through a Glass Onion Starring John Waters @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Cessnock  
**Sat 25 Mar 2017** - Damien Leith 10th Anniversary Tour @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Cessnock  
**Fri 19 May 2017** - The Australian Bee Gees Show. The Saturday Night Fever 40th Anniversary tour: The Australian Bee Gees Show are digging out their flares and dusting off their platform shoes in preparation for the Australian leg of their 2017 world tour - so let the party begin! Cessnock P ARTS Centre



## Branxton Public School

Our last Kindergarten Orientation Visit is on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November. We have had successful visits with our pre-kindergartners enjoying activities with their friends and also with the Year 5 Buddies. Having just as much fun were the current Kinders and their Year 6 buddies, doing activities with Ms Towns and Mr Foster.

Branxton Public School leaders and Mrs Ballenden attended the Branxton Remembrance Day Service organised by the RSL. At school our SRC Presidents ran the Remembrance Day Assembly where we observed a minutes silence at 11am to remember those who have served their countries.

Week 5 was our PBL Assembly with over two hundred students receiving a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Principal's Award. Students then participated in a reward afternoon to celebrate their achievements.

Week 10 will be our last PBL Assembly for 2016 and a Water Fun Afternoon is planned. Certainly something to work towards!

The P&C have introduced an exciting new system into the school next term called FlexiSchools. This will support the canteen and uniform shop. Parents and carers are now able to order lunches and clothing ahead of time without sending cash to school. Many families have already signed up and love the convenience of the system.



☞ School Leaders ready for Remembrance Day



☞ Kinders & their Buddies

### 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.**



## Kirkton Public School News

### PBL FLORA Bronze Award Recipients

We were delighted to have 11 recipients of the Bronze FLORA badge at our assembly last Friday! Many of these students are well on their way to earning their silver badge. The students earn their cards and badges by displaying the qualities of Friendship, Learning, Opportunity, Respect and Achievement throughout their school day. Congratulations to Swae, Alyssa, Felina, Darcy M., Indigo, Georgia, Imogen, Gracie, Riley W., Matilda and Zara.



☞ Swae was absent on the day on the day photo was taken.



## Attention all Greta Residents with Christmas Lights



The judging for Greta residents' outdoor Christmas decorations will begin on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016. Please have your lights up and running by then if you want to be in the running for an award.

Presentation of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Encouragement Prizes will be given on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Greta Workers Club.

With many thanks to Greta Workers Sports and Recreation Club for their support of this competition.

If you can't attend the club on the day your prize will be delivered to your home.



## 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

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, Mische Handbags, Sweets, Olives, Soaps, Goats Milk Soap, Jams, Marmalade, Pickles, Cakes, Slices, Hair Accessories, Tupperware, Gift Ideas & other beautiful crafted items



- Bringing back the forests - ecological restoration field day**  
 Bingleburra  
**19 November 2016**  
 Come along to this half-day field day at Bingleburra and discover some of the principles and techniques behind the process, and get some ideas for restoring your own land.
- Mid-Coast Adaptable Farming Systems Project Open Day**  
 Oxley Island  
**22 November 2016**  
 This is your opportunity to experience first-hand how the foundations for the project have been laid and the process which will transpire over the next two years, facilitated by leading farm business advisor, Phil Shannon of Shannon Farm Consulting.
- Feeding pastures for profit**  
 Tocal  
**23-24 November 2016**  
 Lower Hunter dairy farmers have an excellent opportunity to engage with an industry expert in the field of profitable grazing and improved nutrient management. Phil Shannon of Shannon Farm Consulting, who developed the nationally recognised program Feeding pastures for profit, will lead a series of workshops over the next 12 months.
- Marine discovery series night**  
 Salamander Bay  
**23 November 2016**  
 Come along and hear about some of the fascinating citizen science activities being conducted by organisations and community groups in and around our local marine environment.
- Facebook for farmers**  
 Gloucester  
**29 November 2016**  
 Get to grips with Facebook and learn how to keep up with developments in your industry and connect with and create your own groups.
- Whole farm planning workshop**  
 Manning Great Lakes  
**February or March 2017**  
 Hunter Local Land Services is seeking registrations of interest for a four-day Whole Farm Planning workshop in the Manning and Great Lakes region.

## Tocal College the place to bee



Tocal College was a hive of activity last Saturday when it hosted the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day, with a record breaking attendance of approximately 600 people from hobbyist to commercial bee keepers. The event is the longest running Beekeepers' Field Day in Australia and now the largest in NSW. It is jointly coordinated by the Hunter branches of the NSW Amateur Beekeepers' Association and NSW Apiarists' Association with support from NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Principal of Tocal College, Mr Darren Bayley said it was great to see the growing interest in beekeeping across all ages. "Bee biosecurity, monitoring for pests and diseases of honey bees, honey quality assurance, Certificate III in Beekeeping, basic beekeeping skills, the Flow™ Hive, and the newly released AgGuide on Australian Native Bees were standouts on the day delivered by industry experts," Mr Bayley said. There were plenty of practical demonstrations with hives opened, bee brood inspected for disease, queen bees spotted, honey extracted, and a native stingless bee hive split." Mr Bayley said another successful element of the

Field Day was the Industry trade show encompassing many of NSW's beekeeping equipment suppliers, there will be plenty of bee themed presents under Christmas trees this year. The Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day has been the pinnacle of Tocal College's '2016 Year of the Bees' and plans are unfolding for a super Beekeepers' Field Day in October 2017. To purchase a copy of the new Australian native bees AgGuide or to get up-to-date information on short courses, factsheets and other information for beekeepers from NSW DPI visit [www.tocal.nsw.edu.au](http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au).

**Blood On The Track**  
 Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

The sequence puts her in second place as the most successful performer by successive wins in Australian metropolitan racing history bred in NSW, surpassed only by Ajax with 18. Also, she is by successive wins solely in Australian quality racing, headed only by unbeaten Black Caviar (25 wins), Ajax (18), Bernborough and Carbine (15 each) and Phar Lap (14). Australian bred, but New Zealand based Gloaming and New Zealand produced Desert Gold each won 19 in succession, but their achievements included victories in both countries. In addition country performers with big winning sequences are Miss Petty (22), Picnic In The Park (21), Shackle Bar (20), Gay James (16) and Stylish Lord (14). Mainbrace won 17 straight in New Zealand and New Zealand bred Carbine took out 15 in a row in Australia. Tulloch won 12 in succession and Kingston Town 11. Kingston Town was sired by Bletchingly at the Widden Stud, the one in western Hunter Valley which produced superstar Ajax in 1934. This son of 1920s champion racehorse and in the 1930s seven times champion sire Heroic was involved in one of the greatest shocks in the history of racing. It was one which saw him beaten at 40-1 on after his 18 successive wins in a three starter Rawson Stakes at Rosehill in late March 1939, finishing a half length second to Spear Chief after being taken on by third placed Allunga. As he won his next four starts, victory in the Rawson would have meant that Ajax was successful in 23 races in succession. Raced 46 times all told for 36 wins, seven seconds and two thirds, he won the 1938 Cox Plate by two lengths and in Australasian record time as a 2-1 on favourite and finished a half neck second in 1940 at his only other attempt at the race. Retired to stud in a partnership that saw him stand in alternate seasons at Widden and St Aubins, Scone, Ajax was such a brilliant success as a sire, it was a tragedy when he was sold to America at 14. He was installed as a sire at the Binglin Stud and Racing Stable at Moorpark, California owned by entertainer Bing Crosby and champion polo player Lindsay Howard. Howard's father raced the immortal Seabiscuit. Cheers, Brian

## Detailed saleyard report



## Saleyard report - cattle

### Singleton report date 9 NOV 2016

Yarding 680 ~ **Change -40** (Comparison Date 2/11/16)  
 Quality was plainer, with numbers easing, as the bulk in the penning entered the younger categories. Light weight yearling steers, along with the lighter heifer portion were well supplied, with fair numbers of vealer heifers also presented for sale. The export weighted older cattle were limited in supply. The usual buyers competed in a firm to dearer market. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock improved 6c, making from 388c to 451c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to restocker orders gained 9c to range from 347c to 404c/kg. The lighter end of the yearling steers to the restockers lifted 4c, with the pick selling from 352c to 422c/kg, depending on breed. The heavier drafts also sold to solid competition, with the best topping at 392c/kg. There was only breed and quality related price variations for the yearling heifers, as prices for the unfinished pens to the restockers ranged from 341c to 380c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 393c/kg. Grown steers to the restockers ranged from 280c to 359c, as heavy weights to slaughter reached 295c/kg. The heifer portion sold from 267c to 301c/kg. Cows remained close to firm, with the plainer 2 scores averaging 208c, with the better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights making from 225c to 242c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 250c/kg.



### Scone report date 8 NOV 2016

Yarding 881 ~ **Change -193** (Comparison Date 25/10/16)  
 Consignments eased, with the quality overall very good, as breed quality and finish is improving every week. The better presented prime younger cattle were grain assisted and high yielding, with lot feeders, restockers and the butchers competing strongly to secure numbers. The bulk was younger cattle, with all weights and grades well represented, while there were around 170 cows in the penning. The market trend throughout was fully firm to a shade dearer, however the cows on average did lift in quality and yield, week-on-week. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock ranged from 374c to 465c/kg, depending on breed. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers made from 310c to 410c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to lot feeders and restocker orders realised from 327c to 389c, as the heavier drafts reached 370c/kg. The lighter end of the yearling heifers returning to the paddock ranged from 280c to 363c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 388c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter sold from 272c to 293c, as the heavy weight heifers reached 277c/kg. The plainer cows averaged 222c, with the better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights selling from 222c to 246c/kg.



### TRLX Tamworth report date 7 NOV 2016

Yarding 1190 ~ **Change 100** (Comparison Date 31/10/16)  
 There was a small increase in the overall numbers. Young cattle were well supplied with a few more vealers penned. There were a few well finished heavy grown steers and a fair supply of cows. The quality of the offering was generally good and plain condition cattle scarce. The full field of processors were in attendance however some of the regular restocker orders were absent. Market trends varied through the young cattle with light weight restocker vealers and yearlings recovering some of last week's losses to show a dearer market trend. There was also an improvement in quality, particularly in the vealers. Medium weight yearlings to restock and feed saw a firm to slightly cheaper market trend, however odd better quality lots were a little dearer in places. Heavy yearling feeder steers saw a cheaper trend of 4c to 5c/kg. The well finished medium and heavy yearlings suitable to the trade sold on a firm to cheaper market trend. Heavy grown steers saw little change in the market with the younger milk and 2 tooth lots attracting both domestic and export trade competition. Medium weight cows sold to a cheaper trend of 12c to 20c/kg with quality also a factor. The good quality well finished heavy weight cows sold to a slightly cheaper trend of 3c to 6c/kg.



### At the close of Tuesday' cattle (8/11/16) markets:

The Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) settled at 654.75¢, down 2.75¢/kg cwt from where it settled the previous day. Trade steers were back 6¢, at 340¢/kg lwt, Medium steers were up 5¢, on 303¢/kg lwt, Heavy steers eased 2¢, at 298¢/kg lwt, Medium cows were back 3¢, on 230¢/kg lwt, Feeder steers settled 2¢ lower, at 351¢/kg lwt

# LAMBS VALLEY COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS EXPERIENCE FIRST AID, FIRST HAND, AT AROLYN GROVE



The Lambs Valley community and friends literally flocked (no pun intended) to Arolyn Grove in Lambs Valley Road on Sunday the 6 November 2016 for the bi-annual olive tasting with a twist. Alongside the Arolyn Grove extra Virgin Olive Oils, Plain & Spiced Olives, Dukkah and Caramelised Balsamic Vinegar were the new 'PRESERVING SECRETS' their great array of Chutneys, Pickles & Relishes. The usual theme for these

bi-annual events is a charitable cause. Ross and Lynn Williams the owners of Arolyn Grove have raised monies for a number of worthy charities including the Nepal earthquake victims on the very last occasion. The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service (WRHS) were the chosen organisation. Representing the WRHS was Senior Paramedic and Westpac Training Coordinator David Wells. David and his most

able assistant demonstrated first hand many contemporary first aid practices. David answered numerous questions from our sixty odd residents and guests. The session was extremely informative and very professionally conducted. Many of those present have already nominated to undertake the next level of formal First Aid training by David and his team in order to attain their First Aid Certificate. A most grateful community

thanks Mr Richard Jones CEO for WRHS and David Wells and Jackie for their most informative and potentially life-saving demonstration. A total of \$1000 was raised at Arolyn Grove for the WRHS. The Lambs Valley community urge those small rural areas to make an effort in this regard so that they may experience this excellent First Aid information session available through the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

## REFLECTIONS

### SUNDAY 20 – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

Gospel: Luke 23:32-43  
The crucified Jesus is the King who leads into paradise

Two criminals, were led away to be put to death with Jesus. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other

rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**Reflection on the Gospel-Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Luke 23:35-43) -Veronica Lawson RSM**  
Sadly, there have always been those who scoff at others or make fun of them, generally because they themselves feel threatened in some way. Those who

suffer such bullying behaviour often feel powerless and demeaned. There may be some comfort for such people in today's gospel. We find here a serious case of bullying and two dignified responses that undermine the destructive power of the bullies. The first response is that of Jesus who refuses to retaliate when the soldiers mock him or when another convicted criminal ("one of the criminals hanging there") derides him. Another dignified response comes from "the other" criminal. This man has the insight to recognise that Jesus is innocent. He also has the courage to challenge the injustice of what is going on around him. Having offered his

challenge, he then turns to Jesus and addresses him by name: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." His request reveals his faith in Jesus as the human face of God. It also reveals his knowledge of Jesus' mission, first announced in Galilee: "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God ..." Jesus points to God and God's reign or empire. Jesus' criminal companion points to the reign or empire of Jesus. The reign of God and the reign of Jesus are one and the same. In turning to Jesus and putting his request, this criminal becomes a disciple and receives the assurance of a share in Jesus' life with God: "Today you will be

with me..." "Jesus, remember me" is a fitting prayer in the face of all life's struggles. It is a prayer for mercy. Next time we sing these words or pray them in our hearts, we might spare a thought for the one who first uttered them, a convicted Jewish criminal who had the courage to rise above his own suffering and challenge the unjust oppression of an innocent neighbour. Like Jesus, he was and continues to be an instrument of God's reign. His capacity to challenge the injustice of Jesus' execution might be a source of inspiration for us as we struggle to find mercy and justice for the Earth as well as for the innocent ones who seek

asylum in our midst only to find themselves subjected to the torture of exile and hopelessness. The title of today's feast reminds us of the boundless nature of God's rule or reign: we celebrate Christ Jesus as ruler of the universe, of all that is and of all that will be. As our understanding of the universe expands, we find ourselves caught up in the ever creative and saving presence of a merciful God. This feast might serve as a reminder that every year needs to become a year of mercy and of justice.



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# SPORTS RESULTS



## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 3-11-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner T Seamer 30 pts R/u I Harris 29 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> J Vassar 28 pts

Div 2 Winner S Condran 30 pts (SOD) R/u W Smith 28 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> L Bootes 28 pts (c/b) Ladies Winner R Friis 28 pts R/u N Craig 26 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> T Martin 26 pts

NTPs Ladies R Friis Gents J Vassar

Members draw - Not won. 35 players gathered, on a glorious Spring day, for a relaxed round of golf at the "Ultimate 9" Golf course, Branxton. Congratulations to Steve Condran on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day".

A well done to all other winners and placegetters.

## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 10-11-16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner K Anderson 32 pts (SOD) R/u I Harris 30 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> L Hunt 30 pts

Div 2 winner P Hocking 29 pts R/u A Hackett 27 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> S Condran 27 pts

Ladies Winner R McCarthy 30 pts R/u M Hunt 29 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> N Craig 28 pts

NTPs Ladies C Hocking Gents B Hain

Members draw - Not won. A balmy, with slight breeze, Spring day greeted the 34 players who turned up for a round of golf. A day that can be enjoyed whilst playing golf. Congratulations to Keith Anderson on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day".

A well done to all winners and placegetters.

## HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

**Sunday 30th October** The Weekly Challenge has been won by Tim Dunn with a great round of 42 points from Janette Montgomery with 39 on a countback to Michael Young in 3rd spot also on 39 points. Ball winners were: Christine Harrison 37, Shayne Leigh v37, Margaret Trler 36, Robert Wonnacott 36, Rhonda Wright v35, Adele Taylor 34, Shanlee Melverton 33 Stan Jakubowski v33 Carol Post 32 and Steve Crowe 32 c/b

**Tuesday 1st November** Lindsay Self with an outstanding 44 points claimed the Tuesday Stableford from Greg Ireland, unlucky to be second, with 43 points and Gerry McLaughlin 3rd with 40 points. Ball winners were: David Peel 37, Grahame Sheldon 37, Peter Payne 37, Mark Barrow 37, Dean Morison 36, Ian Newell 36 and Garry Marsden 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Greg White (3rd & 17th) David Peel (4th)

**Wednesday 2nd November** The Ladies Stableford was won by Brenda Mannix with 36 points from Dianne Oakes 34 and Kerrie-Anne Skinner 33 on a countback. Ball comp details as yet not released. Next week the Ladies will play Par.

who also survived a countback for 3rd place. Ball winners were Garry Marsden 41, David Peel 38, Geoff Sweetman 37, Rick Turnchini 36, Chris Taggart 36, Michael Young 36, Lachlan Peacock 35 and Lindsay Self 35 c/b. \* No NTP's as competition was played over 2 days.

**Wednesday 9th November** The Ladies Par event has been won by Kerrie-Anne Skinner continuing her great form with +4 from Brenda Mannix +3 and Jenny Chambers +1. Ball winners were: Carol Horton -1, Lorraine Clack -1, Dale Hamilton -1 and Jill Ramsden -2. Next week the Ladies will play Stableford.

**Thursday 10th November** The Vets 5 club Stableford event has shown many of the field carry far too many clubs when they can score as they did! Ryan Wilson smashed his handicap with an outstanding 48 individual points to claim the day from Paul Ireland handing in an impressive 44 point return and Phil Durie taking the minor placing with 41 points. Ball winners were: Wayne Berry 39, Eric Smith 38, John Carmody 38, Ken Harris 38, Ian Newell 37, Keith Dunlop 36, Rod Campbell 35 and John Harrison 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dave Fury (3rd) Grahame Sheldon (10th) and Mark Barrow (17th) Next week the Vets will play Stroke

**Saturday 12th November** Saturday's field was once again depleted by the early morning storm with only diehard's taking the morning on and a few making up the field after the weather had cleared. John Barbour took full benefit from a late start recording 40 points to win the day from Mark Harry 38 and Justin Preece 3rd with 36 points. Ball winners were: Carolyn Pierce 35, Simon Nicholson 35, Dane Walton 35, Craig Hetherington v33, Brad Nicholson 33, Steve Pryke 32 and David Preece 32 c/b. Next week will be the Monthly Medal Stroke rounds.

**Note:** Hunter Valley Golf Club are holding a Charity Day for Breast and Prostate Cancer on Monday 21st November. Interested players should contact:- Melita Watson on 0402247599 for further details.

**Branxton Lady Golfers** This week we played an 18 hole Stableford Event (2/11/16) Winner : Nikki Craig with 36 points Runner Up: Carol Miller with 35 points NTP Caren Caldwell. *Trish McMillan*

## BRANXTON GOLF CLUB- SAT 5<sup>TH</sup> NOV STROKE- MONTHLY MEDAL MEDAL WINNER – Steve Ross 68 nett c/b

A GRADE WINNER Michael Tracey 68 nett A GRADE RUNNER UP- Michael Simpson 70 nett B GRADE WINNER Trent McGee 69 nett B GRADE RUNNER UP Peter Mathews 72 nett C GRADE WINNER Ted Zawirski 68 nett C GRADE RUNNER UP Oliver Barrett 69 nett BALL COMP 75 nett NTP'S

*J Matt 135 cm G Wiese 94 cm T Zawirski 102 cm M Butler 307 cm*

The Marcus Ryter Golfing Academy produced another winner with Steve Ross taking out the Monthly Medal with a fine 68 nett. Last week Steve was struggling with his game and sought out Marcus for a lesson—and the results speak for themselves. The ever consistent Mick Tracey used his low ball flight ability to win A Grade with a very impressive 68 nett score in the blustery, near cyclonic conditions that greeted the golfers at Royal Branxton. continued Mick Simpson continued his excellent form of late to finish runner up with a nett 70 from his new 8 handicap. Trent McGee won B Grade with his 69 nett, with Peter Matthews enjoying a good run of form, finishing runner up with his 72 nett. Ted Zawirski won C Grade with a fine 68 nett score, just missing out on the overall monthly medal on countback, with Oliver Barrett runner up with a 69 nett. A 75 nett was needed to figure in the ball competition, indicating how difficult the conditions were. The shot of the day belonged to Geoff Weise's shot to the 4<sup>th</sup>, finishing only 94 cms away.

## MOTIVATION MYTHS BUSTED?

A good friend of mine sent me a message recently and suggested I write a blog about motivation (or, as she put it, "how to give yourself a kick in the butt"). Some Personal Trainers would say motivation is a myth. Other people would say the size of your butt should not be an issue (I tend to agree – as my comments after seeing the film "Embrace" would indicate). What I do know, is that once the size of your butt (or anything else about your physical dimensions) starts hindering what you love doing (eg riding horses, running marathons, playing with the kids, walking up stairs, doing the gardening) to the extent that YOU want to do it, then you KNOW you need to do something about it. So what stops us?

We all know that eating well is good for us. Regardless of the effect on our waistline, there are positive benefits for our health, such as better blood pressure, lower blood glucose levels, lower risk of heart disease, the list goes on. The same with exercise – moderate levels of exercise can help everything from your mood to your memory, as well as your weight and stamina. So again I ask, what stops us doing the things we know are good for us, or better still, doing the things which will actively move towards our goals?

My friend confided in me that she has just bought a new set of "tails". For those of you who are non-horsey, "tails" are a type of coat worn by equestrians who are competing at a certain level in dressage (as in "top hat and tails"). While top hats are less common now (due to safety considerations when riding), the "tails" are still considered a rite of passage, or a symbol of a goal attained. Everyone remembers their first set of tails.

I am sure my friend looks great in her "tails". More importantly, I am just as sure she wants to keep feeling that way while giving herself and her horse the best chance of success. Which is why she wants a "kick in the fat butt".

"Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right." - Henry Ford. And what stops many of us from starting towards a goal, even though we know what we need to do to get there, is two things – the fear of failure, and the knowledge of how hard we have to work to succeed! The latter is usually reserved for those who have tried and succeeded before – they know what it takes to "get there", and they wonder if they have the energy or the determination to do it again, or maybe they tell themselves the circumstances are different this time, so they are not likely to succeed. Either way it is what they THINK that matters.

Take me for instance, my weight has always been up and down, despite eating relatively well and being quite active. The first time I remember being REALLY over weight and actively doing something about it was after the birth of my son. I spent the first few months after he was born in a haze of hormones, then I started back riding and doing other activities, and I was NOT happy with my weight OR my fitness (and nor were my horses!). So I did something about it – I signed up for Weight Watchers, started a regular exercise program, and I felt great!! I maintained this for a few years, then went through a mid-life crisis (aided by a few "life events") and I put on 20kgs. I kept telling myself It was ok, the weight would come off when the crisis was over. But it didn't. The weight stayed, My riding suffered, my self esteem suffered (anyone who helped me zip up my riding boots during that period will know just how bad it was, lol). So why didn't I do something about it? Why didn't I go back to what had worked before? Weight Watchers and exercise? It was because there was one crucial factor which was different, and that was breast feeding. The first time I had done weight watchers I had been breast feeding, and rightly or wrongly I had attributed my success to the extra kilojoules consumed in the production of breast milk for my baby.

Fast forward a few years (yes, years) and I finally convinced myself that what had worked before COULD work again (and if it didn't, I wouldn't be any worse off). I learned pretty quickly that I had to get serious. I had to stop kidding myself about how much I was eating, how much exercise I was doing, and how good my routines were. I also had to smash the negative self-talk on its head. And the first step to doing that was recognising it. WRITE IT DOWN. Think of every excuse you make for not exercising/not eating right/not being organised/not getting your project done, and make a list. And when you think the list is finished, keep adding to it.

Now for EVERY excuse, write at least ONE "counter spell". And if you think of something that is an excuse for doing the "counter spell", then write a counter spell for that too!

Now, whenever you think of that excuse, immediately think of the counter spell and how to implement it.

Second, GIVE YOURSELF A POWER SURGE. And I'm not talking about the ones you get at THAT time of life. Remind yourself that YOU are the one in charge. The sense of power which comes with doing what you say you will do, when what you think and what you say and what you do are aligned, is powerful.

NEXT, enlist support. You DON'T have to do it alone. You CAN ask for help. There is nothing more motivating than knowing that someone else is relying on you to show up and do your bit. And they will kick your butt in return!

FINALLY, fake it until you make it. Like many other things in life, you don't need "motivation" to succeed – you just need to keep showing up. Do it once, then just keep doing it, even if you don't want to. Before you know it, the thing you were most scared of will be a habit you can't live without.

**Louise Cairns 'Fit for Life' ~ (Louise Cairns is a Personal Trainer and Motivational Coach who has lived in Branxton for 20 years, she has recently retired from a career with the Australian Government and set up her own Fitness and Coaching business, Louise Cairns Fit for Life)**



☞ Dan Rogers putting on the 17th on the final round of the Club Championships

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# The **News** SPORT

## Local Cricket Results



with Mark Bercini

### Cricket Report – Week 5

A successful afternoon to complete round five of district cricket, with first, second and both fourth grades all recording comfortable victories, while third grade never struck a blow as their scheduled match at Baddeley 1 was abandoned due to the nearby bush fires. First grade recorded a comfortable 7-wicket victory against Wine Country at Miller 1. Wine Country

batted first and were restricted to 8-136 due to some very tidy bowling from the Greta/Branxton seamers. Craig Brook in his return game from equine duties was the pick with 3-41 off 10. Jake Goodyer on his Western Australian visa took 2-19 off 6 in a cameo appearance, with Martin Shearer (2-37 off 10) and skipper Brent Watson (1-24 off 10) both bowling economically. Greta/Branxton reached the target in the 31st over in reply after losing just

the 3 wickets. Mark Bercini made a scratchy 29 at the top of the order, with opening partner Josh Dagg carrying his bat for the third time already this season with an unbeaten 44. Meanwhile Barry Richards brought up his half century in style with a four and a maximum to finish unbeaten on 52. Second grade also picked up a fairly comfortable victory when they disposed of Wine Country by 5 wickets at Allandale Oval. Wine Country batted first

and were all out for 104, with Ben Hogan (3-15 off 7), Mark Peace (2-15 off 7), Pat Andrews (2-16 off 3.2), Hayden Regan (2-11 off 5) and skipper Peter “Teethy” MacKenzie (2-28 off 5) all sharing the workload. Greta/Branxton achieved the target in the 29th over in reply, with Trent Fuller continuing his good early season willow form with his team high 37 to go along with his 3 catches behind the sticks earlier in the afternoon. Pat Andrews made 28 in a fine all-round performance, with Mitch Fallon (15) and MacKenzie (13no) cutting the ribbon on the good work achieved by his team mates. On top of the good performances mentioned he also paid tribute to Rueben Andrews who was called in at short notice and took a great catch low to the ground diving forward at cover point, as did Mick Regan, and Sam Dagg for filling in to make a full side after dislocating his knee cap the previous week. Fourth grade Blue continued their unbeaten start to the season with an easy 7-wicket victory over Supporters at Miller 2. Supporters batted first and made victory 130, with Will Young 3-14 off 4 the pick of the Greta/Branxton attack. He was well supported by Dion

Charnock (2-23 off 5), Jamie McNamara (2-30 off 10), Cory Stephenson (1-12 off 3), Aaron Stephenson (1-34 off 10) and Damien Andrews (1-4 off 2.1). Greta/Branxton had little trouble reeling in the modest target in reply, passing it in the 20th over with plenty of ammunition left in the sheds. McNamara finished unbeaten on 66, with Dion Charnock (30) and Cade Bradley (14) timing the ball nicely. Fourth Grade white were too good for Bellbird at Carmichael 2 by 6 wickets. Bellbird made 136 batting first, with Greta/Branxton’s Jesse Minchin (3-7 off 5.3), Dan Minchin (2-25 off 8), Sam Hines (2-31 off 10) and Kyle Bullen (1-44 off 9) all contributing with the two-piece. Greta/Branxton passed the target after losing 4 wickets, with skipper James Shoulders junior leading from the front with an unbeaten 83. He received good support from Jesse Minchin in a fine all-round game with 44, with Dan Minchin making 14. Week 6 scheduled to be played last Saturday was completely washed out.

**Points Tables**  
**First Grade** Bellbird 25, Mulbring 25, Greta/Branxton 24, Wine Country 21, Peden’s Hotel 17.  
**Second Grade** Bellbird 32,



Greta/Branxton 32, Peden’s Hotel 32, Mulbring 28, Supporters 24, Wine Country 20.  
**Third Grade** Bellbird 36, Denman Hotel 30, Greta/Branxton 29, Peden’s Hotel 26, Laguna 25, Wine Country 25, Mulbring 24, Supporters 21.  
**Fourth Grade** Greta/Branxton Blue 36, Denman Hotel 32, Greta/Branxton White 32, Paxton 28, Supporters 28, Wine Country 25, Peden’s Hotel 21, Bellbird 17.  
**Club Championship** Bellbird 199.20, Greta/Branxton 198.20, Mulbring 170.30, Peden’s Hotel 63.20, Wine Country 153.00.

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



**For all Earthworks needs please call 49383425**