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New firetruck & 'Commendation' for local Branxton 'furies'



■ The Minister for Emergency Services David Elliot handing over the keys to new \$195,000 Bushfire & Hazard Reduction tanker to Branxton Captain Paul Scrace as Michael Johnsen MP looks on.

ON Tuesday 22nd November the Branxton Fire Brigade officially received the keys to a new firetruck; a \$195,000 Bushfire & Hazard Reduction Tanker. The NSW Minister for Emergency Services, David Elliot MP, was on hand to present the keys to Branxton Captain Paul Scrace. The new tanker is the result of the NSW Governments decision to upgrade NSW emergency services &, as the Minister said, it is just one way they can thank their emergency services for the sometimes dangerous & important work they do. "When it comes to emergency services you don't get any more front



The Branxton Crew

line than standing face-to-face with fire & flooding," the Minister said. The 'hand-over ceremony' also included the presentation of a 'commendation' to the Branxton Fire crew for their work during the state emergency last April 2015. The commendation, pictured at right, said that all members of Fire & Rescue NSW worked with dedication in dangerous circumstances to save life & property, & protect the environment. There efforts were in the finest traditions of the service. Captain Paul Scrace said that it was a great honour to receive the award & that all the crew should be very proud.



The commendation

237 Station Branxton On the 20 & 21 April 2015 Fire & Rescue crews & other emergency services responded to multiple storm related incidents throughout the Hunter Region. A severe storm cell brought heavy rain, widespread flooding & damage along with strong winds that brought power lines & trees to the ground. Fire & Rescue crews worked tirelessly in difficult & dangerous condi-

tions as they removed and cleared fallen trees from roads & houses & responded to car accidents & flood rescues. All members of Fire & Rescue NSW worked with dedication in dangerous circumstances to save life & property, & protect the environment. There efforts were in the finest traditions of the service.
Greg Mullins AFSM
Commissioner

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Lower Belford CWA News

On the 24th November the Lower Belford CWA held a highly successful cookery day with the intent to give their members a chance to do their Christmas cooking at the same time.

They had 48 entrees. The judge was Mrs Arden Freeman from Muswellbrook.

The winners were:
 First; Boiled Fruit cake Mrs Edith Shearer.
 Sultana cake; Mrs Edith Shearer;
 Moist Coconut cake; Mrs Meredith Hunter;



Lemon sour cream cake; Mrs Meredith Hunter;
 Monty Carlo Biscuits; Mrs Meredith Hunter;
 Boiled Fruit Pudding; Mrs Meredith Hunter;
 These two ladies are their champions; also congratulations to their second and third place getters There were a total of 48 entrees & after the judging they all enjoyed a lovely lunch.

They also had a stall at the Markets the Sunday before selling their cooking [cakes, biscuits, jams and crafts] and their Christmas hamper raffle. Anyone new in our area or someone just retired from the workforce wishing to make new friends or just to get some information please contact Mrs Jill Bowman 4930 4824 or Mrs Agnes Meany 6574 7027

Photo top: (L-R) Mrs Ardell Freeman, Mrs Meredith Hunter, Mrs Jill Bowman & Mrs Robin Renfrew

Branxton Lions Club raising funds for Guide Dogs and the Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children



Branxton Lions club had its recent fund raising event with a sausage sizzle at the Bunnings store At Singleton. Funds raised at this event will be donated to the Guide Dogs and the Royal Institute for Deaf & Blind Children. The Club always have a lot of fun doing this and as we are helping the community. We are always looking for new people to give us a hand and make new friends . For any information please call Lion Bob 49381001 or Lion Alan on 49381654.

Photo (L-R) Lion Brian Thomas, Lion Alan Humphreys, Lion Eddie Barrett, Lion Ken Meany & Lion Tony Ernst

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Remembering Robert, Leila & John

Neil & David Rowlands have had a very hard year with the passing of their brother Robert (Pinki) & parents John & Leila Rowlands. The sad, sudden & unexpected passing of their brother Robert was then exacerbated with the death of both parents within nine days of each other.

Both Leila & John had given a great deal to the local Branxton community with Leila cooking the monthly meals for the Lions Club while assisting John with his many years of committee work for the Branxton Rugby League Club.

John was made a 'Life Member' for the contribution he had made to the club over many years.

Snake warning issued as warmer weather rouses reptiles out of hiding

HUNTER Valley residents are being urged to clean up their properties to reduce the number of hiding spots for snakes.

As the warmer weather sees snakes slithering into the sunshine, the

Australian Veterinary Association is also reminding animal owners of the dangers they pose, not just to humans, but to livestock and pets.

Reptile expert Dr Robert Johnson from The Australian Veterinary Association says there's a few ways to mitigate the threat of snakes.

'Snakes in barns are probably looking for mice, or rats. They're attracted to rodents, as well as rubbish to hide under so it's best to try and keep the place tidy. Cleaning up can make it less hospitable,' he said.

He says some snake bites are so small it's difficult to tell when animals have been bitten, but that the venom from a brown snake could bring down a horse.

'Horses, sheep and cattle are susceptible to snake venom. Signs to look for include muscle tremor, laboured breathing and dilated pupils followed by paralysis.'

They say if you suspect your animal has been bitten to contact your vet immediately.

'The chances of recovery are much greater if treatment is delivered early. If you can't get veterinary attention immediately, applying a pressure bandage over and around the bite site can help slow the venom spreading to the heart,' Dr Johnson said.

Should you come across a snake Dr Johnson says don't panic.

'And leave them alone. Resist the urge to catch it. If it's near a house, or habitation, it's probably a good idea to keep an eye on where it goes and call a wildlife agency or a snake catcher.' Dr Johnson said.

Dr Johnson said snakes were important to the environment and should not be harmed.

He urged people to remember it is an offence to kill snakes unless they are actually posing a genuine risk to you.

"Respect them and enjoy them but leave them alone," he said



'Gone but certainly not forgotten'



Robert 'Pinki' Rowlands



Leila & John Rowlands Rowlands

Tamworth Country Music Festival

Saturday 28th January 2017

Have you all always wanted to experience the Tamworth Country Music Festivalbut don't really want to drive..... here is the opportunity !!

The Rotary Club of Maitland have for many years been organizing a day trip to the Tamworth Country Music Festival. You can take the worry out of having to drive and instead experience a relaxing train trip. The train will depart Telarah, Lochinvar, Greta, Branxton and Singleton early Saturday morning.

Travelers on the day, will be provided with a light breakfast as well as tea, coffee and juice. Enjoy the hassle free train trip and the ever changing scenery as we head north west.

The "Tamworth Rotary Train" is a privately hired train, so interested travelers will need to book and purchase a ticket prior to the day.

Once in Tamworth, you are just a short walk from the busy main street. Buskers can be found on almost every street corner. Free concerts can be found right throughout the Tamworth area. For those wishing to venture to the outskirts, a shuttle bus service (a small fee) is available,

The "Country Music Train" has proven to be a popular choice of many country music followers. If you think you might be interested, contact

Rotarian Doug Perry

Mobile 0407 978 435 or Landline 0249 331 270

Ticket cost \$110 per person

Ticket cost covers return travel to Tamworth; light breakfast; tea, coffee and orange juice as well as tea/coffee on return trip.

Travelers are permitted to take a small esky on-board the train.

Departure times will be released as soon as they become available to the organizers, however, we would expect that the train would depart Telarah on day break.

Full payment can be made via direct transfer into The Rotary Club of Maitland Bank Account or by Credit Card.

Profits made on the day will be directed to Juvenile Diabetes Research (JDRF).



Santa Claus is coming to town!

That's right!

North Rothbury Rural Fire Brigade will be doing our annual 'Santa Lolly Run' on the 10th December 2016, Santa will be leaving the station at 10am and starting at Huntlee then coming thru North Rothbury and on to Hanwood. Make sure you are looking for the Big Red Truck and the Big Fat Man

Council supporting White Ribbon Day



Mayor Bob Pynsent

White Ribbon Ambassador and Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encourages the community to support White Ribbon Day.

“For the past 15 years

women”.
“According to the Australian Institute of Criminology (2015), on average, at least one woman a week is killed by a partner or former part-

ner”.
White Ribbon Australia has been working as part of a global movement to end men’s violence against

ner”.
“Statistics like this are simply unacceptable, which is why I firmly believe this is a conversation we need to be having year round, not only on White Ribbon Day”.

“I am confident this is something we are improving in our local area with so many members of the community and school students taking the White Ribbon pledge this year”, Cr Pynsent said.
Some of the local events this year included the ‘Let’s Break the Silence about

Violence Silent Disco’ held at both Cessnock High School and Kurri Kurri High School, Mount View High School’s White Ribbon Assembly and Cessnock Chamber of Commerce and Business and Professional Women) fourth annual White Ribbon Day breakfast.

White Ribbon is Australia’s only national, male led Campaign to end men’s violence against women. More information about White Ribbon is available from www.whiteribbon.org.au

Community suggestions sought to put a signpost on unnamed Gresford Road bridge in the wake of repairs

Singleton Council is calling on the community to put forward their suggestions to name two bridges on Gresford Road over Glendon Brook.

The bridges have come under the spotlight following the recent repair and re-opening of the unnamed Gresford

Road bridge as a result of damage caused in the April 2015 storm, and embankment and stabilisation works under Brunner’s Bridge over West Brook.

Anthony Egan, Council’s Director of Corporate and Community Services, said the recent repairs had given the bridges a new life, and provided the opportunity to rename the assets.

“It is Council’s proposal to rename the unnamed bridge to Brunner’s Bridge, then rename the existing bridge on Gresford Road over West Brook which is currently signposted as Brunner’s Bridge,” he said.

“As part of the consideration process, Council is asking the community to let us know what they think of the proposal to name the bridge over Glendon Brook Brunner’s Bridge, and make some suggestions for a new name for the bridge over West Brook.

“We have already received some great possibilities for the unnamed bridge and look forward to hearing lots more.

“Council will make a decision on the naming of the bridges based on community feedback after submissions close on 2 December 2016.”

All submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and posted to PO Box 314, Singleton NSW 2330 or email ssc@singleton.nsw.gov.au
For more information, contact Paul Smith, Traffic Engineering and Road Safety Officer on 02 6578 7290.



New local medical practice opens

Dr. Sasi Sasitharan, well known to many locals, has returned to the local area & has opened his own medical practice in Branxton.

The official opening took place last Friday with Dr Sasi’s family & many friends there to welcome him to the new practice. The name of the new medical practice is ‘Good Practice (GP)’ and is situated at Suite 3, 71 Maitland Street, Branxton. Welcome back doctor.



Dr Sasi's father officially opens the new medical practice

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What's Happening

with **Mike Lowing**

THE year has almost gone & the festive season is now almost into full-swing; Christmas get-togethers, school end-of-year activities & of course Christmas shopping. The Branxton Greta Business Chamber has had a very active year & is encouraging local residents to please look local when deciding to spend. The local business community is dependent on local support for their continued existence.

Our last issue for the year is out on the 14th December & will go into our usual hiatus over the holiday period. We expect to be back at the end of January with the date to be determined by when

our printer can fit the printing into their schedule.

Cessnock City Council is reviewing the community's ten-year strategic plan and is inviting the community to provide their ideas about the future needs of the local government area.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this update is an important opportunity to check that our plans and strategic direction reflect the aspirations of the community. He said that Council is really interested to hear your views on what our local government area will look like in the future & that this is a holistic, long-term plan and they are seeking input and direction from local residents, community groups, and local businesses.

There are a number of ways the community can join the conversation:

- * online at your-say.cessnock.nsw.gov.au;
- * by completing a feedback form available at Council's



Administrative Centre and other Council facilities; or attending a listening post at Kurri Kurri Library between 10am and 12 noon on Friday 2 December or Cessnock Library between 10am and

12 noon on Friday 9 Dec. This first round of feedback will be open until the end of January 2017. A draft community strategic plan will then be prepared for public exhibition.

livelihood. The manner in which the shares are allocated, then traded between the industry participants is likely to provide a boon for the small operator at the expense of the larger operator. On face value, the system is arbitrary and shallow, taking nothing of the existing history, traditions or practices into account. Moreover, it will make the lot of the commercial fisherman in most cases

extremely difficult and in some cases totally untenable. As if the work of a commercial fisherman were not difficult enough, the future operator will need to have a weather eye on the fishing quota share market with regard to catch numbers in addition to making a living for themselves and their families. One Nation finds this new approach disruptive,

ill-advised and, judging by the impact it has had already on the industry, totally unacceptable. It is not too late for the new system to be scrapped before it does any more damage. It's a disgrace that a person's livelihood is being arbitrarily ridden roughshod over by a government department. *Senator Brian Burston One Nation Senator for NSW*



Second rate NBN is failing regional Australians

All is not well with the roll out of the second rate Turnbull Government's copper-based National Broadband Network in Regional Australia. The release of the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) 2016 Annual Report confirms the Government has left rural and regional communities behind with the top 10 complaints coming from rural and regional communities. In fact, more than a quarter of new complaints in 2015-2016 to the TIO came from regional and rural Australia, a six per cent increase. Disappointingly, the top ten postcodes for NBN complaints are nearly all in regional Australia. I continue to receive a surge of calls from constituents in the Hunter electorate who

cannot connect to the NBN, have sluggish internet speed and experience extended outages when switching to the NBN. Many are business owners whose livelihoods rely on reliable internet service. This is simply not good enough. According to the TIO, the most common issues consumers have raised are faults, such as slow data speeds, unusable services and drop outs. The TIO recorded 7,480 fault issues for NBN services – making up 38.5 per cent of internet and landline issues recorded in 2015-16 – a massive 147.8 per cent increase on the previous year. In addition, complaints about NBN connections rose by 63.2 per cent. NBN complaints now represent 11.9 per cent of all new

complaints to the TIO. Copper is the most likely culprit here with most of these locations relying on Mr Turnbull's expensive and second-rate Fibre to the Node.

Fibre to the Node relies on copper to get internet services all the way from the node to the home. In regional areas, this copper is often degraded and should have been ditched years ago.

The figures in the TIO report are of deep concern and confirm the myriad issues that are being reported to MPs offices every week.

When a fault arises, people are getting bounced between NBN and their Retail Service Provider and are simply unable to find anyone who will take responsibility for helping them fix their problem.

It is no surprise that there are more complaints about internet problems than in previous years and that the TIO has recorded a rise of 22 per cent in complaints about internet services – the highest level in five years. Many people just give up in sheer frustration in trying to find help.

Malcolm Turnbull could fix this mess by abandoning his second rate Fibre-to-the-Node approach and instead

give regional Australians the modern, reliable and affordable broadband internet they deserve. I encourage constituents in the Hunter electorate experiencing difficulty with their existing services or in getting access to the NBN to get in touch with my office. Phone 49911022, email joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au or call in at 3 Edward Street Cessnock.

Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter

NSW Senator takes aim at changes to NSW commercial fishing

One could be forgiven for thinking the NSW National Party is in self-destruct mode. For a party that should be protecting the rights, opportunities and markets for primary producers in New South Wales, their recent performance leaves a lot to be desired.

I speak specifically to the changes announced last May and planned for implementation at the end of the year with regard to commercial fishing in NSW waters.

The new system – based on the allocation of "shares" has the potential to substantially reduce the ability of commercial fishermen to sustain their

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 Broke..... 6579 1491
 Greta..... 4015 0000

Bishops Bdg 4015 0000
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Emergency Services to be thanked this Australia Day



Cessnock City Council will recognise the efforts of all emergency services who protected the Cessnock community during the recent bush at next year's Australia Day event. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent moved a mayoral minute to formally acknowledge the hard work of emergency services during the two day ordeal. Mayor Pynsent said it is important we make a

special effort to recognise the people that worked tirelessly to control the Race Course Road and Heddon Greta bush fires. "It was a scary time for many residents as the fire fronts crept very close to many homes and in some cases surrounded properties." "Despite tough conditions the highly skilled and well trained emergency service personnel ensured no homes or livestock were

lost, and more importantly no lives." "The civic service on Australia Day 2017 is a wonderful opportunity to thank these people and recognise their contribution to our community", Cr Pynsent said. Cessnock City Council looks forward to the community joining them on Australia Day to celebrate these courageous people. More details of the event will be released shortly.

Swimming pool safety reminder from Council

As the weather heats up, Cessnock City Council is urging residents to be mindful of swimming pool safety for the upcoming summer months. Regrettably, 280 people drowned in Australian waterways and backyard pools between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016.



Health and Building Manager Grant Hamilton reminds residents it is a requirement for all pools, including portable and inflatable pools to be separated from the house and yard by a compliant pool barrier.

"Pool barriers are there to help protect our young kids from accessing the pool area when unsupervised," Mr Hamilton said.

To be compliant with the required standards pool fences must be checked and maintained regularly ensuring there are no gaps greater than 100mm under or between fence panels and the gate is self-closing and self-latching.

"In the end, nothing can replace the constant supervision of children by a responsible adult."

Here are some other important rules for pool owners:

- * once finished using a portable or inflatable pools, empty and store them
- * never prop open pool gates or remove latching devices
- * pool fencing must be a minimum of 1200mm high (1800mm at the property boundary fence)
- * ensure the fence is not climbable—horizontal rails should be greater than 900mm apart and objects from around the barrier that provides a foothold must be removed
- * ensure an up-to-date resuscitation chart is visibly located within the pool enclosure and learn how to perform CPR
- * all swimming pools must be registered—Council may issue fines of \$220 for unregistered pools.

If residents are unsure whether their swimming pool barrier complies, they may apply for a Swimming Pool Certificate of Compliance with Council by way of application and \$250 fee.

Do you REMEMBER when....

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St Mary's & St Brigid's School News



Sharon Plant, Louise Barnes & Tina McClung on the job.

The Branxton/Greta P&F Association recently hosted a Bunnings BBQ at the Maitland store. Many parents volunteered to help cook around 600 sausages on the day! It was a great success, raising over \$1300 for the schools. Special thanks to Branxton Quality Meats for their cheap, reputable sausages – many people came back for seconds! Bunnings BBQs provide a great opportunity for community groups to raise funds for their organisations.

The P&F have had a very successful year, raising over \$15000 for the two local Catholic schools. Many thanks to the school, parish and local community for their support of these fundraising events this year.



AGM 8th February 2017 new members welcome

Elderslie Hall Community Christmas BBQ
December 11th
5pm
 Food, cordial & raffle tickets available to purchase
Santa will visit
 Donations accepted towards Samaritans Christmas lunch

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYORS DESK

Last week I had the privilege as a White Ribbon Day Ambassador to attend a number of events and talk about our community's responsibility in stemming rates of domestic violence as 25 November, 2016 marked White Ribbon Day.

largest congregation of elves. Good luck Project Cessnock! Finally the Carols in the Park have arrived. I very much look forward to celebrating the festive season as a community this Friday. It all kicks off at 4:30pm with the Funky Junk Flea Markets with the carolling starting at 6:30pm.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Mayoral Column

The New England Highway has again come under the microscope in the wake of a fatal accident on 17 November 2016, coincidentally as the NSW Government invites submissions on the New England Highway Draft Corridor Strategy.

Any death or injury on any road is a tragedy, and my heart goes out to the family of the young man who lost his life, and the other man and woman who were injured in the accident at Whittingham.

It is important that we learn from these events so that we can stop them happening again, which is why we continue to keep pressure on the State Government to progress a dual-lane bypass of Singleton as a matter of urgency.

At the same time, Council has made a submission in response to the New England Highway Draft Corridor Strategy, which sets out how the NSW Government will manage road transport along the highway in the short, medium and long term from Belford to Jennings (on the NSW/QLD border).

The Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) has indicated the report will be finalised and distributed in mid-2017. Our submission covers several key points of concern, including consideration of the proposed bypass, and highlights that:

the draft identifies casualty rates higher than the state average between Belford and Singleton;

there is a short term need to increase overtaking opportunities between the Golden Highway and Singleton/Muswellbrook;

planning for the 8km section from the Golden Highway to Singleton should be undertaken within five years; and the \$92 million reserved under the Regional Road Freight Corridor Rebuilding NSW Program for the Singleton Bypass and referenced in the draft report is particularly noted.

Of course, the only short-term measure we can take to ensure our roads are safe is for us all to take a little bit of extra caution, particularly as we launch into the Christmas holiday season.

There's no doubting it's more than beginning to look a lot like Christmas after the Christmas on John Street event in Singleton's main street last Friday, which sent jingle bells ringing with a range of free entertainment and activities, as well as a special visit from Santa Claus himself.

It was also a great opportunity to launch the annual Mayoral Christmas Tree Appeal.

I encourage everyone to come together in the spirit of the season to bring some

joy to those less fortunate by making donations of unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items. Donations can be placed under the Christmas trees at Council's Customer Service Centre, Singleton Visitor Information and Enterprise Centre and Singleton Library until Friday 16 December 2016.

All goods received will be distributed to local support groups and charities to help make sure everyone in our community can enjoy a Merry Christmas.

Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR

YOUR LAND TITLE – AT RISK

I have written about the issue of Land Title previously. It is such an incredibly important issue that I find myself again penning a small brief snippet for all. Land Title "at risk" is quite a difficult idea to grasp, because for so long it has been so good in NSW. It has been certain. It has been assured. It has been definitive. It has been absolute. Today, as you read this, if you have a Land Title in your name you can be 100% certain that you own that land and that nobody can take it away from you (as long as you keep paying your bills).

But the truth is that with the Baird Government's plan to privatise the land title arm of the public service, that your land title in the future might be something less than the 100% guarantee of today. In the future the land title that you hold might be 99% certain, or maybe 98% or maybe even 90% certain. I don't know about you, but I don't want my land title to be 99% certain. I want it to be 100%! But even if we, as citizens, accept that 99% or 98% is still a very good land title system, there is every chance that your bank or financial institution, that has funded your mortgage, will take a different view. You see, their (banks, etc) job is to avoid risk, and, where possible, have absolute certainty. So the view of your bank is likely to be that they would like you to take out "just in case something goes wrong" insurance on your land title. If someone were to challenge your title, or contest your land boundary, or falsify documents to say that you don't actually own your land, then the bank would consider themselves at risk. The way to avoid the risk in this case is to have insurance. Future cost to you – about \$200 p.a. for a \$250,000 home/land title. The money that the Baird Government gets from selling the land title arm is expected to be about \$1billion and will go into sports stadiums in Sydney. So in effect, your \$200 per year, for at least the next 35 years, will be a cost to you, to fund sports stadiums.

* * * * *

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

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Cheers Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

It was extraordinary week in Parliament. The Government held firm on its insistence to impose an internationally uncompetitive tax on backpackers. The decision will be devastating for many of our farmers, growers and tourism operators. Make no mistake; growers can't get all their labour locally. The work is highly seasonal and often remote. They need backpackers at peak times. The irony is that backpackers who don't come here don't pay income tax, GST or excise on the alcohol and cigarettes.

The next extraordinary event was the confirmation that Barnaby Joyce will proceed with his crazy intention to move the Australian Pesticides and Veterinarian Medicines Authority (APVMA) from Canberra to Armidale. Armidale just happens to be in his electorate.

The APVMA approves and monitors crop sprays, animal medicines and the like. It deals not with farmers, but with the big multi-national chemical companies. It does not do research, its regulatory lawyers and scientists check the data provided by the companies.

This work is critically important to both our farmers and all those who consume food after it has been sprayed. The professionals who do this work live in Canberra and have their children in Canberra schools. They have made it clear they have no intention of moving to Armidale. Who will do this work when they all go off to secure a job elsewhere?

It takes years to train these professionals to do this specialised work. It's going to be a disaster. The move will cost the taxpayer \$28 million, that money could help so many elsewhere. The potential cost to human health farm productivity is immeasurable.

The third big shock in Canberra last week was Barnaby Joyce's self-declaration that he will effectively tear-up the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The plan was a long time in the making and both the work and final outcome have enjoyed bi-partisan support.

The only way to keep agriculture sustainably profitable into the future is to properly manage the water flows of the Murray-Darling. Like any worthwhile reform, it brings some pain for some but the benefits are without doubt.

Barnaby Joyce's frolic is a dangerous one for both our farmers and out Country.

The flying fox inquiry kicked off in Canberra last week and I thank our local Councils and residents for their submissions. The inquiry is helping MPs better understand the process for species listing and the circumstances in which they may be

de-listed.

I'm pleased that in addition to submissions received from directly affected residents, the committee has received submissions from expert independent of the Environment Department.

Western Sydney University academic Dr Justin Welbergen is a leading expert on flying foxes and tells me he understands the impact on communities. He undertakes research on strategies for assisting communities while ensuring the long-term viability of flying fox colonies.

The work of academics like Dr Welbergen often receive too little attention and the inquiry will be a good vehicle for learning from his work. Will something come of the inquiry? Well so far it has also highlighted the complexities and challenges in dealing with the bats. This week I'll be speaking with the Committee Chair and other Members about some options. We shall see where it takes us.

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 or you can even sign up to my E-Newsletter. To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753, visit www.joelfitzgibbon.com or by post 3 Edward Street, (PO Box 526) Cessnock, 2325.

Cheers, Joel

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NSW Police Force

Police Report



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PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

Cholesterol is fatty substance that's carried around your body with your blood. Your body produces some cholesterol naturally, and you can also get it from some foods. Having high levels of cholesterol in your blood is a risk factor for heart disease, so it's important to manage your cholesterol.

Types of cholesterol

There are 2 different types of cholesterol:

- High density lipoprotein (HDL cholesterol) is called the 'good cholesterol' because it helps to keep cholesterol from building up in your arteries.

- Low density lipoprotein (LDL cholesterol) is called the 'bad cholesterol' because it is the main source of cholesterol build-up and blockage in your arteries. You may see them listed as HDL-C and LDL-C on your blood test results. Total cholesterol is a reading of your good and bad cholesterol. Triglycerides are another form of fat in your blood that can also raise the risk of heart disease.

When there is too much cholesterol in your blood, it builds up in the walls of your arteries (plaque). Over time, this build up causes 'hardening of the arteries' - your arteries become narrowed and

blood flow to the heart is slowed down or blocked. You may suffer chest pain and a heart attack.

Causes

A variety of lifestyle choices can affect blood cholesterol levels. These are things you can do something about:

Diet: Eating foods high in saturated fat and trans fat make your blood cholesterol level go up. Cholesterol in foods also has a small effect. Reducing the amount of saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol in your diet helps lower your blood cholesterol level. High triglycerides result from eating food high in fat and kilojoules.

Weight: Being overweight is a risk factor for heart disease. It also tends to increase your cholesterol. Losing weight can help lower your LDL and total cholesterol levels, as well as raise your HDL and lower your triglycerides.

Physical activity: Not being physically active is a risk factor for heart disease. Regular exercise can help lower LDL cholesterol and raise HDL cholesterol levels.

Smoking: High triglycerides result from tobacco smoking as well as diet. There are some lifestyle factors that can affect cholesterol levels that you can't do anything about:

- **Age and gender:** As you get older, your cholesterol levels rise. Before menopause, women have lower total cholesterol levels than men of the same age. After menopause, women's LDL levels tend to rise.

Your family history: High cholesterol can run in families. Your genes partly determine how much cholesterol your body makes. For example, **familial**

hypercholesterolaemia (FH) is an inherited condition where your body doesn't remove enough cholesterol from your blood. If you think you may be at risk of familial hypercholesterolaemia, talk to your doctor.

Symptoms

You can have high cholesterol and feel well. So it's important to get your cholesterol checked regularly.

Diagnosis

The best way to find out your cholesterol levels is to have them checked by your doctor. This involves a blood test.

Generally we aim for lower LDL (bad) cholesterol and triglycerides, and higher HDL (good) cholesterol.

Reaching healthy cholesterol levels

Talk to your doctor about the best way to achieve a healthy total cholesterol combination of HDL, LDL and triglycerides.

Lifestyle changes

Your doctor may tell you that the best way to manage your cholesterol is to make some changes like eating less saturated fats and more healthy food, or they may ask you to see a dietician. Lifestyle changes can make a big difference. For many people, changing what they eat and drink is enough to lower their cholesterol. Find out more about what you can do to help your cholesterol.

Medicines

Lifestyle changes are not enough for some people. Your doctor may also prescribe medicines to help control your blood cholesterol. Make sure you take it as prescribed and get your cholesterol levels checked regularly. It's also important to continue with healthy lifestyle choice.

Cheers, Lee

Mid Range PCA/Belford:
LOCATION: New England Highway, Belford.
TIME/DATE: 10:40am, Saturday, 19th November, 2016.
VOI: White Jeep Compass.
DRIVER: Female, aged 30 from Umina Beach,
OFFENCE: Mid Range PCA (0.116).
About 10:40pm on Saturday, 19th November, 2016 the accused drove motor vehicle a white Jeep Compass 4 x 4 bearing east along the New England Highway, Belford. The accused has approached police who were conducting stationary speed enforcement duties near the intersection of Kirkton Road. Police have checked the speed of the accused at 114km/h in a signposted 100km/h zone. Police have stopped the accused a short term later and

issued the accused an electronic penalty notice. The accused was subjected to a roadside breath test which proved positive. The accused was placed under arrest and conveyed to Singleton Police Station for the purpose of a breath analysis. The breath analysis reading being 0.116 grams of alcohol per 210 litres of breath. As a result of this matter the accused has had her driver's licence confiscated by police and has been suspended from driving in New South Wales. She was issued with a notice of suspension of driver's licence. The accused was issued with a Field Court Attendance Notice for "Drive with Mid Range PCA". She is to appear at Singleton Local Court on the 1st December 2016.

The Elf Evolution

Cessnock City Council is helping you transform into an elf ahead of the 2016 Christmas Elf Challenge by holding a free Elf Workshop on Thursday 1 December at 4pm. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the workshop will be held on the eve of the elf invasion, where it is hoped thousands of elves will descend on Cessnock Sportsground. "Please book ahead to take part in the workshop and bring along a red or green t-shirt to decorate, a little creativity, festive cheer and your inner elf." "Last year there was a fantastic turn out of elves at the Carols in the Park event but not quite enough to secure the world record." "This year Project Cessnock are determined to help secure the title for Cessnock so if

you ever fancied a spot in the record books don't forget your elf attire", Cr Pynsent said. Carols in the Park and the Guinness Book of Records attempt will both take place this Friday 2 December. The Carols in the Park festivities include: A chance to do some Christmas shopping at the Funky Junk Flea Markets from 4.30pm. Joining other elves taking part in the world record congregate from 6.15pm. Singing along with Christmas Carols beginning at 6.30pm. A special visit from Santa during the evening. Watching fireworks light up the night sky at 8.30pm. For more information about the Elf Workshop or to make a booking, please contact Cessnock Library on 49934399 or Cessnock Elf Challenge head to www.facebook.com/projectcessnock



Coleslaw recipe

Serves: 6 | Preparation time: 10 minutes | Cooking time: 0 minutes

Ingredients

2 medium red or green apples
2 tsp lemon juice

¾ medium cabbage
3 medium carrots, grated
3 tbs mayonnaise
3 tbs low-fat milk
1 tsp sugar

Method

Chop apples, grate carrots and shred cabbage. Toss apples in lemon juice to prevent browning. Mix together mayonnaise, milk and sugar to form a dressing. Toss dressing through cabbage, carrots and apples.

Recipe from *Deadly Tucker* cookbook (ATSI-FOODcents manual, 2006), North Metropolitan Health Service, Department of Health WA, reproduced with permission.

Variation: Spring onion, red or green capsicum or nuts may all be



added to vary this basic salad.



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Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA

Greta's Police Station

According to the current website of the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, the former Greta Police Station, Lock-Up and Residence, in Water Street Greta, which is now the Greta Pre-school Kindergarten, is 'of historic significance as evidence of the extended role of the town following its rapid growth with the opening of mines in the 1860s, and its use as a government administrative centre during that time and until the decline of the economy of the town after the Second World War... The courthouse and the police station demonstrate the work of two prominent government architects from the late 19th Century - Barnet and Vernon.' The site is listed under Hunter Heritage 1989, Schedule 2, Listing Number No. 1102. The Greta Police Station's story began on Saturday, 13th March 1875, when the Miner's Advocate and Northumberland Recorder printed 'provision will be made in the next estimates for the erection of a lock-up at Greta', and signed as written at Greta on March 3, 1875, author unknown. In August 8, 1876, page 4, the Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser, reported on the public meeting that was held in Branxton, regarding both Branxton's desire for a court house and the plan to petition the government. Mr JA Tulloch was reported as saying that Greta already had a police station that had been established for many

toilets were located in the back two corners of the property, probably one for the prisoners and the other for anyone else). No doubt having the bedrooms in the police building was to allow the Sergeant or Constable in charge to have his family living with him, but can you imagine the noise created by a rowdy drunk locked up for the night while the family were trying to sleep?

The Australian Town and Country Journal on Wednesday 15 February 1905, page 30, published an article, with pictures, on the town of Greta. At that time Constable A Williams was in charge of the courthouse and also acted as clerk of petty sessions. The Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate reported on Tuesday 12 October 1920, that Sergeant McCrea, who had been in charge of Greta police station for the last



☰ Greta 'Lock-Up' exterior front. The back door was made of strong steel

with a large steel door at the back, was constructed for the use of locking up prisoners in Greta and was obviously named the Lock-up. It was placed at the back of the police property in the left hand corner, next to one of the outside toilets, or WC as it

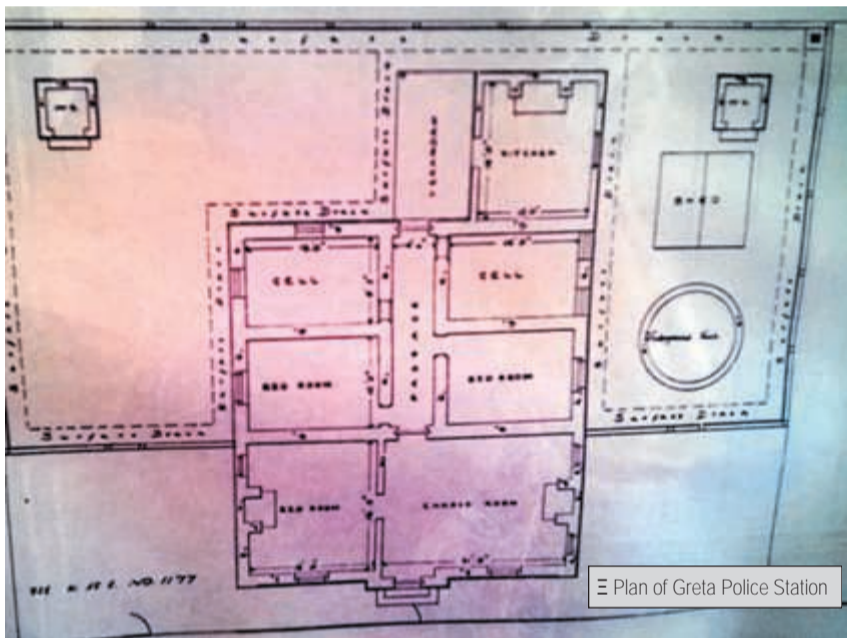
suitably accredited group interested in using it. In The Mercury dated Friday, Saturday, November 6, 7, 1981, a headline on page 3 stated 'Greta keen to get its pre-school underway'. The Greta Pre-school Committee's president, Mrs Jan

corner of Water and Anvil Streets Greta. The Section 130 Order, while in place, forbade the demolition of a building or work which was the subject of such an order. The order was to remain in place for 40 days after notice had been given to the Heritage Council.

The Pre-School opened in 1983 after completing all the necessary paper work and apparently a lot of red tape. On 29th April 1985 a lease was signed between the Council of the City of Cessnock and a business proprietor of Greta, a Maitland solicitor and a Branxton alderman, the latter three being trustees of the Greta Children's Centre. The trustees were joint tenants, known as lessees, with the council as the lessor on the lease and the trustee of Crown Land Reserve No. 95916, notified on the 3rd April 1982 for Community Centre purposes. As the land was Crown Land, the lessors had gained consent from the Minister for Lands for the use of the property for a term of twenty years by the Greta Children's Centre Association. In 1992, the former small separate Lock-Up building, that appears to have been built around 1950, was added to the Greta Tidy Towns Committee's collection of Museum artefacts and placed on display in the former Council Chamber's

grounds (behind the former court house at 98 High Street, but actually in Water Street). The pre-school committee was said to have no objection to this relocation, so it was moved from the back left corner of the property to the front path where it now sits. The big steel door at the back of the building had fallen off/been taken off, by that stage, and was replaced with a small roller door, to be used as a store room. No doubt the bars that would have had to have been on the single window were also removed. Now in 2016, the children of the original attendees of the Greta Pre-school are part of the current community that are walked or driven to Water Street, to have a sociable morning, afternoon or full day with other kids, while having fun and learning, as a great start to their education. The Greta Museum, in the former Council Chambers at 96 High Street, Greta, now includes well-priced ice cold drinks in its nostalgic souvenir shop, the *Old Style New Wares & Sweet Shop*. Come in to reminisce or buy a small piece of memorabilia. Open officially every second and fourth Saturday of each month, as well as most Wednesdays and other Saturdays.

For more information call Neridah on 0427657150 or Peter on 0478896722 or email: gretahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com



☰ Plan of Greta Police Station

eight years, had been transferred at his own request to Newcastle Station. He was to take up his duties at the end of his holidays in November. While at Greta he had filled the position as Acting Clerk of Petty Sessions, registrar and bailiff of the Small Debts Court. Constable Kenning was to relieve Sergeant McCrea during his holidays. It appears that around 1950, a small, separate building,

is marked on the plan. In 1981 an article appeared in a local newspaper stating that the Greater Cessnock Council would be seeking use of the former police station and residence at Greta for community purposes. The Land Board Office had told council the land was no longer needed for police purposes and asked to be informed of any public need in the area that council may be aware of, or any

Wild, said there was a list of over fifty names of three to five year olds who would use the facility. On the 29th January 1982, the Secretary, G. Gaweda, of the Heritage Council of NSW put a notice into a local paper. It declared that an order was made under Section 130 of the Heritage Act 1977, by the Minister of Planning and Environment, in relation to the Former Police Station and Residence, situated at the



☰ Greta PreSchool

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Real News Estate

Register strata by-laws before 30 November

Strata schemes should take urgent action to lodge changes to by-laws (approved by special resolution) for registration before the new strata reforms begin on 30 November 2016.

This advice comes from commercial property law specialists, Massons, who say it will help to avoid complications with the new shorter timeframe for lodgement.

Law currently

Under the current Strata Schemes Management Act 1996 (NSW), a change to the by-laws is effective if the owners corporation lodges a notification with the Registrar-General and the Registrar-General records the notification in the folio of the Register for

the common property.

That notification cannot be lodged in the Registrar-General's office more than two years after the resolution to change the by-laws was made.

New law

However, whilst the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 (NSW) anticipates 'valid' by-laws continuing under the new legislation, and includes similar requirements as the 1996 Act for changes to by-laws to be effective, the new laws prohibit notification of a change in by-laws to the Registrar-General's office "more than six months after the passing of the resolution to make the by-law". Therefore, the lodgement period has been reduced from two years to six months.

Massons Partner Leisha de Aboitiz explained: "This is a significant reduction from the two-year timeframe

which currently exists, and it is unclear whether there will be practical issues for a scheme seeking to register by-laws which were validly made under the old legislation, but which will now fall outside the new six-month window. It makes sense not to wait and find out. Why risk it?"

For more, please refer to section 141 (4) of the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 (NSW).

Professionalism a key focus of Summit

The desire for the real estate industry to lift its standards to be recognised as a profession will be the key focus of the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales' fourth annual Industry Summit next week.

REINSW President John Cunningham said at present, real estate is widely viewed as an industry, not a profession.

"It is time to elevate ourselves and the industry by raising our standards of education and lifting the level and value of the advice and services we provide to our clients," Mr Cunningham said.

"Over the last 20 years, we've allowed our education standards to slip. At the same time, we've seen the complexities surrounding the real estate transaction increase

exponentially and every day we're faced with consumers who have higher and higher expectations."

Mr Cunningham said the Summit will see over 80 industry leaders discuss and review how real estate is at the crossroads with an attempt to answer the question "Is the real estate industry ready willing and able to become a true profession?"

John added: "It's about far more than just starting to call ourselves a profession in the common parlance. The word 'profession' is not just a label.

"These days we throw around lots of words, like 'integrity' and 'transparency'. After a while they just wash over you. 'Professional' is another one. They're words that are just thrown around without understanding the true essence of what it means to be professional.

"Our behaviours matter and need to reflect our standards and values. We're not going to change public perception and lift ourselves to the standard of a profession until we actually all start behaving like professionals.

"There have been significant improvements in the skills and standards of our top echelon in the industry but we need to take on the role of the expert trusted advisor seriously to start the journey."

Key speakers at the event include, Minister for Innovation and Better

Regulation Victor Dominello, renowned real estate and business coach Michael Sheargold and REINSW President John Cunningham.

An expert panel consisting of BresicWhitney Director Shannan Whitney, Morton Real Estate Managing Director, Ewan Morton, Laing+Simmons Managing Director and REINSW Vice President Leanne Pilkington, LJ Hooker Head of Real Estate Chris Mourd and Starr Partners CEO Douglas Driscoll will lead a discussion with attendees regarding the overarching theme "Is the real estate industry ready willing and able to become a true profession?"

The REINSW Industry Summit will be held on Thursday 24 November 2016 at the Sydney Opera House.

Buyer perceptions of real estate agents



Real estate agents can find out what buyers' perceptions of them are in a new report by CoreLogic. The Buyer Perceptions of Real Estate Agents Report surveyed 326 vendors and 524 buyers, and revealed that agents who ignore buyers to focus on vendors can significantly reduce their number of

sales leads. It also added that buyer-care is one of the most powerful and affordable assets agents can own and identifies easy ways to dramatically improve the buyer experience.

Report author Kylie Davis said: "One of the greatest falsehoods real estate agents tell themselves is that buyers and sellers are two different types of customers who need to be treated differently. "Agents who ignore buyers to focus on vendors they can pitch to in the short term could be reducing their leads by as much as 75%."

Some of the key findings of the report are:

- * Only 14% of buyers' experience excellent service, compared to 31% of vendors in a sellers report last year, and 58% of buyers rated their experience of buying a home as positive
- * Only 25% of buyers would definitely use the agent they purchased their property from to sell their property
- * 57% of buyers would recommend the agent they bought from to friends and family, compared to 68% of vendors

The report identified that the behaviours and skills that buyers see as being hallmarks of excellent service are identical to those outlined by vendors.

Both buyers and sellers want good communication, help, empathy, fast response times and a transparent process from end to end that recognises both the emotional and financial enormity of buying and selling property.

Key findings

- * Concerns of buyers are similar to vendors and both want agents to lift their behaviour

- * Buyers are confused why many agents are always on the hunt for their next listing and don't understand that good service creates referrals and new business

- * 33% of buyers said the post purchase follow through of the agents they dealt with was negative, with 22% describing it as poor and 11% claiming it was disastrous

- * 68% of buyers said agents had little to no interest in helping them find a suitable property

- * 9% of buyers claimed the honesty and trustworthiness of agents is excellent, 16% poor and 12% disastrous

- * 18% of buyers said the price guide offered by agents was poor, 10% disastrous and 9% excellent

- * 46% of buyers use property reports to help them understand pricing
- * 57% of buyers would recommend their agent to family or friends

- * 25% of buyers expect to stay in touch with their agent and use them again.

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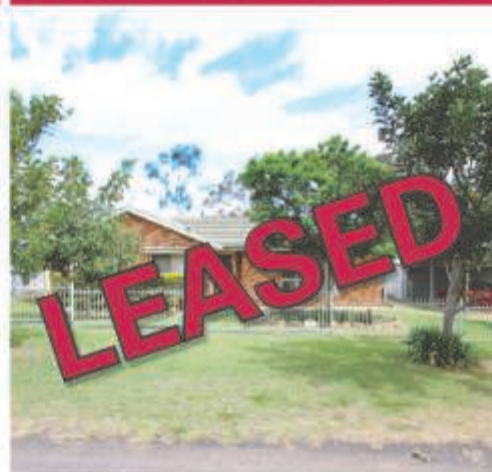


3 1 -
'Character Cottage'

- 3 Over sized bedrooms
- Main bedroom with BIR & ceiling fan
- High ceilings
- Large lounge room with feature fireplace & air conditioning
- Freshly painted separate dining room
- Great kitchen with new galley style cupboards, bench top, sink & freshly painted
- Modernised bathroom with separate WC
- Undercover entertainment area
- Fully fenced yard
- Land size: 521.2 sqm approx

Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836

1740 Wine Country Dr, NTH ROTHBURY



3 1 4
'Pick Me Pick Me'

- Three bedrooms; BIRs
- Air conditioning to main bedroom
- Modern kitchen & bathroom with separate WC
- Internal laundry
- Double garage
- Large double carport off garage
- Queensland room
- Established low maintenance gardens
- Solar
- Pets on application
- Large fully fenced yard

Agent: Taryn Bird 0404 494 482

We have experienced a **HUGE** increase in the amount of enquiry across all of our properties! We have genuine buyers and pre-approved tenants looking for properties now.

If you have been thinking of selling or leasing your home take advantage of the current favourable market conditions and call our multi award winning team on **1300 803 300** for a market update.



Catherine Taylor | 0408 688 836
Director
Agent Licence No: 111 3486



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



The annual Land Cookery/Product Promotion (Blueberries) for 2016 was a warm and friendly atmosphere with old and new friends being welcomed and enjoying a catch up chat before Leanne Bendeich introduced Guest Speakers, Michele and Katrina, Consultants for Your Inspiration at Home, who gave a very informative and interesting talk on a lot of the products of spices, oils and flavoured powders (which they also had on display) to enhance one's cooking. A very appropriate topic for the day. Members had prepared some mini blueberry muffins, mini blueberry pikelets and mini scones to demonstrate some flavoured cream and icings, which were used as toppings and then given to all the guests to taste test, much to their enjoyment. Thank you Michele and Katrina for your time and wishing you both all the best for the future. Thank you also to the members for all the cooking and preparations for the taste testing.



Marie, Katrina, Leanne, Michele and Kerrie at the photo finish.

Whilst everyone was enjoying the taste testing, the Cookery Judge, Allison Mutton had been busy since 9.00am judging all the entries of the Land Cookery Competition with Roslyn Shearer, Cookery Officer, assisting her by passing her the items etc and finally, once Allison made her judgements, writing out the Certificates to present later. Thank you Allison for your time on the day. A delicious salad lunch was enjoyed by all, followed by cakes and slices and tea and coffee or a cool drink. After lunch, Cookery Judge, Allison Mutton, announced the first, second and third places and Roslyn Shearer, Cookery Officer, presented the certificates.

Only first places will be published as these will be going on to Group level for a chance to represent Hunter River Group at the NSW CWA State Conference which will be held in May, 2017 at the Central Coast. Noeleen Bendeich – Boiled Fruit Pudding; Rhubarb & Ginger Jam; Orange Marmalade. Leanne Bendeich – Fruit Cake; Sultana Cake; Moist Coconut Cake; Gluten Free Carrot Cake. Roslyn Shearer – Lemon Sour Cream Cake; Rhubarb Cake; Marie Shearer – Victoria Sponge. Katie Shearer – Monte Carlos; Donna Latter Memorial Chocolate Cake. Martin Shearer – Coffee Cake.

12 – 18 yrs. Declan Shearer – Chocolate Hazelnut Friands. Under 12yrs. Zac Shearer – Giant Anzac Chewy Biscuits. Congratulations to all winners and all the best for State next year. Also congratulations to 2nd and 3rd prize winners. Thank you to all who attended for making it such a great day. Hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Thanks also to all the kitchen



Allison Mutton and Roslyn Shearer - a short pause for a photo.

helpers. This was our last function for the year. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, 13th December which will

be our Xmas lunch also. New members are always welcome and if you are interested please contact Marie on 0402015850 or

email braxtongretacwa@hotmail.com

Denise McGoldrick
Publicity Officer.

Do you REMEMBER when....

THE NEWS Issue No 225 24th May 2007 page 5

Governor presents Honours

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, in an Investiture Ceremony, presented honours and awards to thirty six recipients including John Saxon Bryant, on Thursday 10th May 2007 at Government House, Sydney.

On Australia Day 2007, John Saxon Bryant's Award of the Order of Australia Medal was announced in recognition of his many services to the community, over more than the past forty years. Commencing at Inverell, he was active in Community Radio, fundraising for the Memorial Baths, a Board Member of the Cemetery Trust and a Founding Member of the Inverell Branch of the Road Safety Council. Road and general safety being one of John's particular interests to this day. These activities were mentioned briefly in his Citation, together with his continuing work as a Volunteer in the Lower Hunter District, where, with his wife Shirley and as members of the Maitland City Choir, they regularly visit and entertain at several Homes for the Aged. In addition to this, the couple continue to visit the elderly, sick, War Veterans and the bereaved, writing obituaries, some of which John has delivered at funerals

Community Affairs in which he has served include Tidy Towns, Landcare, Farm Forestry, Greening Australia, Weed Management, Hunter Rail Noise Abatement, Greta Court House Restoration and the proposed Commonwealth funded Rural Transaction Centre, Greta Sports and Multipurpose Centre (now Community Centre) with fundraising by way of Horse Trail Rides and other sporting activities.

John was appointed as a Member of the Hunter Olympic Business Committee, a Member of the Singleton Community Volunteers and publicised the F3 'Link or Sink' Movement.

From 2003 to 2005 John and his wife Shirley concentrated on the "Crystal Appeal" which was for a young child named Crystal, who was suffering from terminal Tay-Sach's disease and needed her own room, special equipment and treatment of the disease.

With the help of Singleton Community Volunteers (President Beverly Dudman) and Maitland Friends of Palliative Care (President Pat Allen) also other volunteers, with generous donations of materials by companies, an extension to the home was erected.

Essential publicity was freely given to all of the above initiatives by *The Branxton Greta Vineyard News* and since its inception in 1997, John has contributed over 600 reports and News items, mostly in relation to the community initiatives mention above.

Radio 2CHR have a weekly Community Program in which John often joins the presenter, Warren Parsons, to inform listeners of the many happenings of interest in the region.

All at "The News" join with the Premier of NSW, Members of Parliament, Mayors, other dignitaries and the community, in offering John our hearty congratulations for this well deserved Award.



Above: Shirley & John with Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales.



Above: Shirley & John with Police Commissioner Ken Moroney

Residents of Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton Councils

YOUR NEW GARDEN ORGANICS SERVICE STARTS IN MARCH 2017!

A new bin with a lime green lid will be delivered to all eligible households during January and February 2017.

Your new bin can be used for the collection of garden organics such as grass clippings, weeds, leaves, prunings, flowers and small branches.

To find out more go to YOURORGANICSBIN.COM.AU



WORKING TOGETHER



This project was supported by the Environmental Trust as part of the NSW EPA's Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, funded from the waste levy



VACANT RENTAL PROPERTY?

Is your rental property sitting vacant?

LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton have no vacancies and they are leasing properties **QUICKLY!**

We currently have qualified tenants awaiting properties in the area.

For **HASSEL FREE** property management contact Bernadette Gleeson for an obligation free discussion. **0401296884**



JUST SOLD

Greta
6 Clift Street

We want properties like THIS!

This property has just sold with LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton and we STILL have buyers looking for similar properties in our area.

Why not see the value of your home with a fee Market Appraisal. Contact your local area expert Ben Bridge and ask about our special Spring Campaign **Sold By** Ben Bridge

0404 564 725

LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779
7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Whittingham

472 Mitchell Line of Road

Rural Property with Town Water

Set on 10.13 hectares offering a 4 bedroom home with ensuite, formal lounge & dining, large dining/family off the kitchen, rumpus plus screened Queensland room. Outside there is a timber pergola with BBQ area & double shed. The property carries 8 cows & calves, has its own cattle yards, a large dam.

Price: \$740,000

View: by appointment

Contact Ben Bridge

0404 564 725

LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Market Appraisal

Want to know exactly what your home is worth in today's market?

Up until the **30th November 2016**, I'm glad to offer you this complimentary service which gives you:

1. The **FACTS** on property sales in your area
2. A written report on properties currently for sale in your area
3. The chance to win **\$1,000,000*** to spend on property with LJ Hooker
4. A market update on your home

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

Homes Wanted...

Buyers actively looking in the area included:

- A young couple from the central coast looking for their first home, 3 bedrooms, up to \$380,000
- A recently retired couple looking for a Tree-change, 4 bedrooms, with a rural aspect, wanting to spend around \$800,000
- A growing family who would like a bit more space, looking for 4 bedrooms, in the range of \$500,000- \$550,000

For information on any Real Estate related matter Contact Ben your area expert today!
0404 564 725



North Rothbury
3 & 5 Frederic Street

Two Blocks

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

Price: \$110,000

View: by appointment

Contact Ben Bridge

0404 564 725

LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Belford

Land Sale

3 Lovell Street

Great Opportunity

This two hectare block is located just off the New England Highway in Belford, conveniently located near everything that the Upper Hunter has to offer.

Call Ben Bridge now for a private inspection.

Price: \$180,000

View: by appointment

Contact Ben Bridge

0404 564 725

LJ Hooker Singleton 6572 4930

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Branxton
22 Station Street

4 Bedrooms/Large Shed on 900m²

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

Price: \$375,000

View: by appointment

Contact Ben Bridge

0404 564 725

LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW



Branxton
4/5 Maitland Street

Comfy Unit

Large 3 bedroom unit close all of Branxton's special little features. Open plan living space downstairs & 3 good sized bedrooms with built-ins upstairs. Kitchen has stainless appliances & plenty of cupboard space. Entertain undercover in the rear courtyard. Single lockup garage.

Price: \$310,000

View: by appointment

Contact Ben Bridge

0404 564 725

LJ Hooker Greta/Branxton 4938 7779

7/172 John Street, Singleton NSW

NOTICE ~ This office will be closed this Friday 9 Sept & Monday 12 Sept

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300



EAST BRANXTON

Features include:-

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

Asking \$370,000



BRANXTON

Potential! Potential

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

One to do up at the expected price

Expressions of Interest



NTH ROTHBURY

Just move in ~ no work to be done!

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

Asking \$420,000



New on Market

GRETA

Duplexes

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

Asking 320,000 each



New on Market

GRETA

Oldie but a Goodie

First home or astute investor

An older style 3 bedroom, separate lounge & good sized 'eat-in' kitchen, cottage on a fully fenced block. Excellent buy for a first home, astute investor or someone looking to enter the real estate market.

ASKING \$275,000



GRETA

For the astute investor

Approx. 2000sm (half an acre)

58 High Street, Greta

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

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



BRANXTON

An opportunity not to be missed!

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

Reduced to \$379,000 ono



NTH ROTHBURY

"Jewel box"

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

A must to inspect Offers over \$295,000



New on Market

RUTHERFORD

Almost Brand New

This deceptively large family home in Rutherford features four bedrooms, media room, main bedroom with ensuite and walk in wardrobe. Beautiful quality kitchen with stone bench tops, outdoor entertainment area, double garage, garden shed & split air con. All this on a quality fenced block.



ASKING \$450,000 (Open to All reasonable Offers)



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

There is a strong demand for residential rental accommodation in the local area & our office needs more properties to sate the current demand. If you are contemplation renting your property please contact either Helen or Mike on 4938 3300



"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton ~ Recent sales

SOLD UNIT 2 SOLD UNIT 10 SOLD UNIT 12 SOLD UNIT 18

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300

Hunter Region welcomes new regional plan from NSW Government

The NSW government has the next 20 years pegged for the Hunter Region. The fresh Hunter Regional Plan was launched on Friday 14 October 2016, by Planning Minister Rob Stokes and reveals where new infrastructure and spending is proposed for the region.

The new Hunter Regional Plan will guide development, growth, and jobs in order to generate a leading regional economy and ensure lifestyle choices are maintained across the Hunter region.

For the benefit of the Cessnock local government area, the adopted plan is substantially different to the draft plan that went on exhibition in 2015.

The preceding draft version of the plan included the unpopular concept of 'Hunter City' which omitted Cessnock, Kurri Kurri or Branxton. In the formally adopted new Hunter Regional Plan, a more appropriate 'Greater Newcastle' planning area specifically provides for the strategic centres of Cessnock and Kurri Kurri as well as the growth corridor of Branxton-Greta. The adopted plan mandates that 'Greater Newcastle', including our regional centres is a key element in the future productivity of the Hunter region. 'Greater

Cessnock	
Population	
2016	56,100
2036 (Projected)	69,250
Projected Increase	+13,150
Dwellings	
2016	24,000
2036 (Projected)	+6,350
Projected Increase	+6,350
Employment	
2016	18,905
2036 (Projected)	25,497
Projected Increase	+6,592

Newcastle' is formed in total by the urban areas of Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens local government areas. The Hunter Regional Plan affords our city and townships a higher position and role in the growth and potential of the greater region.

Cessnock local government area's recreational assets are set to be boosted by the plan, which supports implementation of the Richmond Vale Rail Trail. The plan also encourages growth in housing, retail and servicing in the town centres and promotion of wine tourism in the region.

Cessnock Local Government Area is the focal point for the region's wine industry and a significant tourism destination and entertainment node. Opportunities exist to increase its appeal as a major wine and food tourist destination with a national and international reputation. The recent completion of the Hunter Expressway has

improved connectivity to the Greater Newcastle and Upper Hunter area, increasing its attraction for housing and employment. Investigation of infill opportunities and new housing is required in the longer term.

Regional Priorities

- Support the visitor and agricultural economies by conducting a land use assessment across the Viticulture Critical Industry Cluster.
- Investigate the region-shaping potential of the Hunter Expressway.
- Continue delivery of the Branxton

Subregional Plan.

- Protect regionally significant transport corridors, including the Newcastle Freight Rail Bypass.
- Plan for, and deliver regional cycleway links along the Richmond Vale Rail Trail.

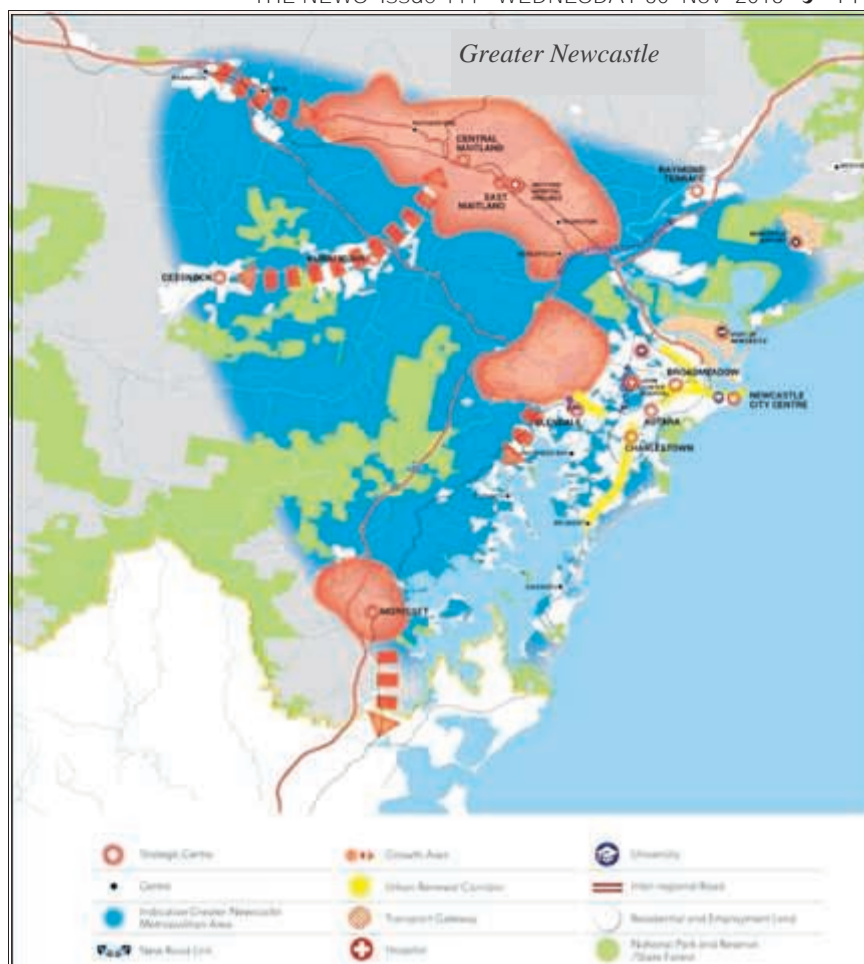
Centres and Employment
Regionally significant centres and employment land clusters:

- Strategic centres: Cessnock, Kurri Kurri
- Centres of local significance: Branxton and Huntlee
- Critical Industry Clusters: Pokolbin viticulture area.

Priorities for strategic centres:

Cessnock

- Retain an administrative, retail and service function for the Local Government Area.
- Investigate opportunities to leverage the heritage character of the centre, and growth in wine tourism in Pokolbin.
- Provide additional housing in the adjoining town.
- Implement the Cessnock CBD



masterplan.

Kurri Kurri

- Retain a retail and service function for surrounding communities.
- Leverage its proximity to the Hunter Expressway and existing significant industrial land.
- Investigate opportunities for urban renewal of the town

centre and new housing opportunities.

- Develop and implement a masterplan for Kurri Kurri CBD.

Housing

Future housing and urban renewal opportunities:

- Deliver existing Urban Release Areas at Bellbird North, Nulkaba, Huntlee, Greta (Anvil Creek), West Street Greta,

Golden Bear, Vintage Balance, Mount View Road, Rose Hill, Cliftleigh and Avery's Village.

- Develop the Kurri Kurri Corridor.

(Excerpt from the Hunter Regional Plan)



Cessnock LGA Noms open for Australia Day Awards 2017

Nominations are now open for Cessnock City's 2017 Australia Day Awards until Friday 9 December 2016.

We are encouraging residents to nominate those doing outstanding work in the community.

Local citizens and organisations are invited to nominate for the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year Award
- Senior Citizen of the Year Award
- Young Citizen of the Year Award
- Community Event Award
- Sports Award
- Environmental Award
- Heritage Award
- Achievement and Appreciation Awards.

Official nomination forms and selection criteria are available from www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries and Council's Customer Service building.

Recipients will be announced on Australia Day 2017 at a Civic Reception. Please contact Gina Radford on 02 4993 4210 for more information.



Australia Day



The Anglican Parish of Branxton Greta and Lochinvar is seeking an Op-Shop Co-ordinator.

This is a part time (6 days per week) role to commence in January 2017. Hours of Opening are currently Tuesday to Saturday, 9am – 12midday.

This is an unpaid position, though a small honorarium may be offered to the successful applicant.

Expressions of interest in this role, can be made to Mother Jane Trigg via email, upon which a Job Description will be issued. The successful applicant will have a passion for people and be willing to uphold the moral and ethical code of the Christian faith, as pertains to the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Newcastle. Applications Close November 30, 2016.

Email: motherjanebg1@gmail.com

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4938 1226

GRETA WORKERS

THE OAKS

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CHINESE & AUSTRALIAN

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SUNDAYS**

Ring the Club for more details

MEAT RAFFLES

FRIDAY 7.00pm

SUNDAY 12.00 Noon

FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

2nd DECEMBER

ROB WILSON

9th DECEMBER

**WHISKEY
BUSINESS**

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

30th NOVEMBER

\$2,400

SUNDAY

4th DECEMBER

\$1,700

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

THURSDAY 1st DECEMBER

\$5,000

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

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

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T.A.B.

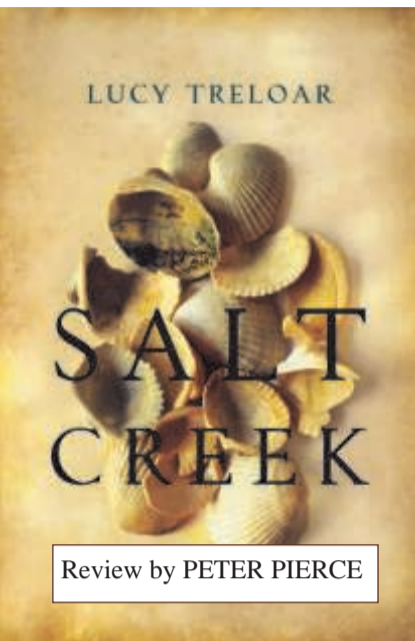
*NOW OPEN
AT MILLER PARK*

HAPPY HOUR

**MILLER PARK
WEDNESDAY 4-6pm**

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

MILLER PARK



so little” — and for the family property “which stretched as far as a person could ride across in a day”. Now she must adapt to the strictures as well as the comforts of English life. Yet her first impressions of Salt Creek had been dark: “the journey to that place was like moving knowingly, dutifully, towards death”. There the Finches had to establish themselves, build a home partly of driftwood, tend to a mother who “had so little of insistence left in her”, seldom encounter visitors, be bound to the drudgery of seemingly hopeless work. This is the antidote to Australian novels of pioneering as triumphs of will over malign natural forces, and domestic discord.

On arrival at Salt Creek, the Finches “boiled over the edge of the dray”. Among Hester’s siblings are the wilful Addie, named for the almost city the family had to abandon, Fred — who would be an artist — and his hulking brothers Hugh and Stanton. Boldly and without strain Treloar introduces into this mix the Aboriginal youth Tully, who “existed in two worlds”. Named for his Irish father, his mother is the implacable Rimmilli, of whom Hester reckons that “anger was the essence of her, deeper than bone”.

What particular grievance Rimmilli may hold, or what is Hester’s father’s part, is one of several crucial matters Treloar dares to leave undecided. The usual momentum

The sardonic epigraphs of Lucy Treloar’s brilliant first novel, *Salt Creek*, reprint official documents that proclaim (in fact “erect”) the colony of South Australia in 1834, then fix its boundaries and guarantee the rights of Aborigines two years later. Treloar’s story takes us into the marginal farming land of the Coorong, where the Finches, a Quaker family, have been forced to remove from their capacious home in Adelaide (“two storeys and a cellar”) because of the father’s fecklessness. His whaling station has failed. His consignment of sheep from Van Diemen’s Land has been lost to shipwreck. Now he finds himself — and those he brings with him, ailing wife and

surviving children — “pitted ... against the land, yet it was impervious to all his learning and efforts and incantatory prayers”. This resigned yet sympathetic judgment is that of his eldest daughter, Hester. She is the complex moral and emotional centre of the novel. For all the harm that her father wreaks, she says, “He has spent most of his life hoping, I think.” The novel begins in 1874. Hester and her son Joss are in possession of her grandmother’s house in Chichester, back in England. The colonial misadventure has been redeemed by the legacy that allows them to return whence her family came. Nevertheless she is keenly nostalgic for the Coorong — “I never felt so alive as then, when we had

of pioneering fiction is undone by backtracking, indeterminacy. A more complex narrative of adaptation and failure is offered instead. Treloar is also attuned to the want of dramatic incident of an outback life in which “there are years that pass in which nothing at all seems to happen”. There is news of the wider world: the American Civil War, and before that the Victorian gold rush. Attracted are not only “the Celestials”, Chinese diggers, but Hester’s older brothers. When they decamp, she is moved to wonder, with her usual acuity, “what it would be like to be a man ... they are solitary creatures for all they work in each other’s company”. Among much else, *Salt*



Lucy Treloar was born in Malaysia and educated in Melbourne, England and Sweden. A graduate of the University of Melbourne and RMIT’s Professional Writing and Editing program, Lucy is a writer, editor, mentor and creative writing teacher and has lived her trades both in Australia and in Cambodia, where she lived for several years. She was awarded an Asialink Writer’s Residency to Cambodia (2011) to undertake research and to work on her first adult novel, then titled *Some Times in Life*. Lucy is the winner of the 2014 Commonwealth Short Story Prize (Pacific), the 2012 Writing Australia Unpublished Manuscript Award and a 2013 Varuna Publisher Fellowship. Her short fiction has appeared in *Sleepers*, *Overland*, *Seizure*, and *Best Australian Stories* 2013, and her non-fiction in a range of publications. Lucy’s debut novel, *Salt Creek* (Pan Macmillan) was published in 2015 to critical acclaim. It has won the Dobbie Award, the Matt Richell Award for New Writer, and the Indie Award for Best Debut, and has been shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction and the Readings Prize for New Australian Writer. Lucy is an Artist in Residence at Melbourne’s Arts House.

Creek is a subtle study in masculinity. For all his biblical sternness, the patriarch may have corrupted his sons. Given the chance, Fred — like Hester — escapes to England, realising his vocation and there able to express his homosexual desires. Mr Bagshot, touring the district to make records for the colonial government, may have been acquainted with the Brontes back in Yorkshire, but reprehends the education of women and Aborigines, opinions unthinkingly bolstered by scripture. His son Charles seems the morally fine as well as romantically apt person to lead Hester out of her duration and such prejudice, but Treloar admits no simple or painless resolutions. In its larger compass, *Salt Creek* refigures the histori-

cal novel in Australia, compelling us to unfix assumptions about frontier life, domestic and economic, relations between men and women, and generations, European and indigenous people. Line after line of Treloar’s book has an arresting stylistic felicity. Here, for instance, two of the Finch children are feeding chickens: “From this distance, it was as if they were wandering through blossoms.” Or this of a sexual encounter: “It was everything, not only pleasure, and shocking.” *Salt Creek* introduces a capacious talent that is distinguished by a sceptical intelligence about historical sources and how casually they have been used, an incisive ear for dialogue and the ambition to broaden — into elegy and regret rather than celebration perhaps — the boundaries of historical fiction in this country.

Summer Reading Club

Cessnock City Council is encouraging local children to get involved in this year’s summer reading initiative. Every year over the summer break, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries organise a reading competition, whereby children and their families are rewarded for reading. Participants earn tickets for their reading and have a chance to win a prize at the draw at the beginning of the new school year. Reading is an essential skill for everyone; it the foundation of a child’s learning and engagement in their school years and for life. This year’s Summer Reading Club kicks off in December. All you need to do is come into Cessnock or Kurri Kurri Library any time on or after Thursday 1st December, register at the front counter, pick up your Summer Reading Kit, and you’re on your way!



This year’s theme is Heroes and Villains, so keep your eye out for some exciting school holiday activities at the library — who’s your favourite superhero? For more information, please contact Cessnock Library on 49934399 or email library@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or Kurri Kurri Library on 49371638 or Karen.bruce@cessnock.nsw.gov

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

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HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

McGuigan Wines Awarded International Winemaker of the Year

McGuigan Wines has been crowned International Winemaker of the Year at the 2016 International Wine & Spirits Competition (IWSC) in London and in doing so has become the only winery in the Competition's history to win the title four times. Having won the title in 2009, 2011 and 2012, McGuigan Wines saw off competition from the world's wine producing nations including France, Spain, Italy, Germany and the USA to become the first winemaker in the world - let alone an Australian one - to receive the award four times. The win not only reinforces, but enhances, Australia's reputation as a world-class wine producing country. This is not only a

major boost for the profile of Hunter Valley and Australian wines on an international level, but an extraordinary result in, arguably, one of the most challenging wine competitions in the world. Congratulations to McGuigan Wines.

Lack of mobile phone coverage on the Hunter Expressway and NBN implementation in the region

Chairman of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association (HVWTA) the Hon George Souris AM is dismayed by the lack of mobile phone coverage on the Hunter Expressway and NBN implementation in the region and has written letters to Telstra Corporation CEO Andrew Penn and his NBN Co Ltd counterpart Bill Morrow on behalf of the HVWTA. Similar correspondence, as well as a letter of support from Cessnock and Singleton Councils, have also been distributed to Hunter MP Hon Joel Fitzgibbon, Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnson, Hon Scot MacDonald MLC and Cessnock MP Clayton Barr. The letters address the issue of mobile

coverage along numerous spots on the Hunter Expressway and in Wine Country; and the non-implementation of NBN in parts of Wine Country. Mr Souris felt it was necessary to state his concerns, given the importance of the region to locals and visitors alike. The Hunter Expressway forms part of the national highway between Sydney and Brisbane and is important for its commercial traffic and 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 four million metropolis and the Hunter and Central Coast of NSW adding another million people. Mobile phone coverage upgrades along the Hunter Expressway and the implementation of the NBN in most parts of Wine Country are desperately needed.



Tillys Play and Development Centre -Greta is passionate about both 'Loose Parts Play' and advocating for risky play, children participating in safe risk taking challenges. Loose parts provide children with open ended materials that they can play with in any way they like and can be moved, manipulated, assembled, disassembled, combined and re invented in various ways both indoors and outdoors. Children can use, interact with and explore the materials in a variety of ways which then helps to develop motor skills, build confidence, explore mathematic and scientific concepts, provide heavy work and proprioceptive sensory input, encourage relationships, team work,

negotiating, problem solving and language, discover, hypothesise, scaffold each other's knowledge and become curious, confident, creative and have commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, patience and imagination. Risky play gives children the opportunity to learn to look after themselves and their peers and develop their skills and confidence. Good risks



and hazards in play provision are those that engage and challenge the children, and support their growth, learning and development. These might include loose materials that give children the chance to create and destroy constructions using their skill, creativity and imagination, challenging obstacle courses, the opportunity to climb trees or build towers much taller than they are.

These are some of the wonderful play and learning experiences the children and educators have been engaged with when they are at Tillys. The educators are constantly amazed by the confidence, creativity, enthusiasm and imagination the children display as well as their ability to communicate with each other and work together to achieve a positive outcome.



Branxton Golf Club



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2016



Christmas Spectacular

Friday 9th December at 5.30pm

Strictly no BYO

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

Fire Works at 9.00pm (weather permitting)

Membership Deals for 2017

Join now and receive 14 months membership



Friday Raffles

Fruit & Vegie Trays

Schooner Draw

Badge Draw

New Years Eve

Live entertainment

Pat v Cat

click



The Living Room Candidate

The Museum of the Moving Image brings you, The Living Room Candidate, a site where they've collected the campaign commercials for presidential candidates from 1952 to 2016. When you arrive at the site you'll find an introductory paragraph on the right side of the page, and then navigation options on the left. There you can browse by Commercial, Election, Commercial Type, Issue, and Curator's Choice.

My favourite way to browse was by the default method of Election year where you can select the election year you'd like to investigate. Then in the centre of the page, you can either click play on the first video that loads, or you can use the playlists beneath the video area and choose the one you want to watch from there.

This is a really cool way to look back at an aspect of US election history and see how things have changed over time and how some things haven't changed at all.

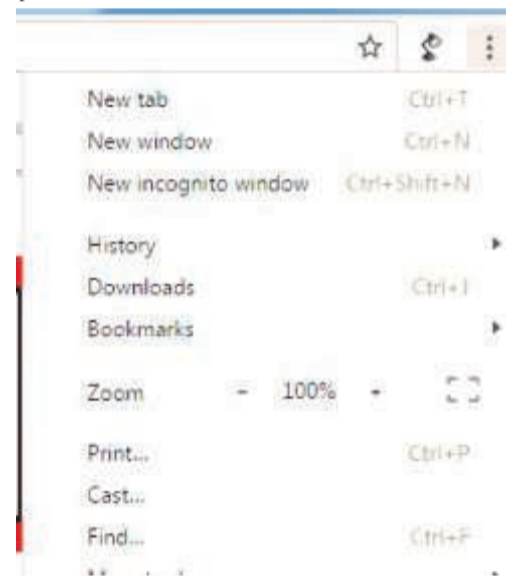
Go check it out for yourself today!

<http://www.livingroomcandidate.org/>

Does Chrome Work With Windows 10?

A reader is having an issue with the Chrome browser. "I have a Microsoft Surface Pro 4. I have been using Google Chrome for years, but now it crashes almost every time I try to connect to it. Is it not compatible with Windows 10 or what? Should I change to another browser?"

Chrome is compatible with Windows 10. Let's try a few things. First, make sure you have the latest version of Chrome. Click the menu button on the upper-right and check the drop-down menu. If there's an option to update Chrome, you'll see it. If not, you're up-to-date.



If updates don't help, I'd suggest checking what types of extensions you have running in Chrome. One of them may be causing the problem. Or, you can try uninstalling and re-installing Google Chrome.

One of these options should take care of the problem.

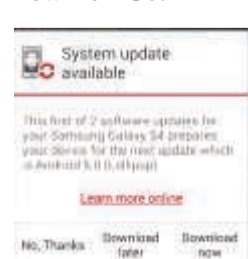
USA County Pays \$28,000 To Hackers

Madison County in Indiana paid \$28,000 to ransom back their computer system after falling victim to a ransomware attack. The county's insurance company offered to pay the demand and the county had to pay the deductible along with an additional \$18,000 to have techs bring their computer system back online.



The attack hits hundreds of PCs and 75 servers. The attack completely shut down the systems, making it impossible for the county to conduct business.

How Do I Get An Android Update?



Want to update your Android tablet or phone to the latest Android operating system? It's not that difficult, but there is a catch. Your device may not be able to upgrade. Since each Android device is different, that manufacturer has to prep a special version of the OS just for that device.

You'll need to go to your device's settings and look for a setting called

About tablet or About phone.

If there's an update available, you'll see either an option for firmware update, system update, or software update. You can also go to your tablet manufacturer's website and check for updates. If it's available, you can download it to your PC and then install.

Hope this helps.

FCC Moves To Protect Your Internet Privacy

The Federal Communications Commission is cracking down on Internet service providers sharing your private information. The agency voted to implement new rules that restrict ISPs from sharing information such as the race or age of users, financial information, browsing history, or any content of communications without first getting permission from the customer.



These rules apply to Internet service providers like Comcast or AT & T, but not to companies like Google, Apple, or Facebook. Is the government doing enough to protect your online privacy?

What To Reinstall After A Windows Refresh

A reader recently did a refresh of her Windows 10 PC. While you can keep personal files like documents and folders, all apps that are not part of the Windows operating system will be removed and need to be reinstalled.

She was curious to know which apps needed to be reinstalled. She writes: "These are the apps that were removed when I reset my windows 10 as instructed, could you tell me what I have to have from this list? I have installed my virus and a few of the others but not a lot of them."

Apps removed while refreshing your PC:

App name Publisher Version
7-Zip 15.14 (x64 edition) Igor Pavlov 15.14.00.0
Adobe Acrobat Reader DC Adobe Systems Incorporated 15.010.20060
Adobe Flash Player 21 NPAPI Adobe Systems Incorporated 21.0.0.182
16.4.3528.0331

(The list goes on ad-finitum!)

That's a heck of a list! I agree that reinstalling your security software is a great first move. Let's look over the list. If you use a card reader, I'd probably suggest reinstalling the software for the Realtek card reader and drivers for other devices that you use. You'll probably want Adobe Reader for PDFs. Adobe Flash may be needed for some websites, but it can be a security risk. You could just wait until a website asks for it to download. You may want to consider Windows Live Essentials, which has Movie Maker, Live Mail and other programs. But the support life is ending for these programs, so it might be time to consider an alternative. Other than that, you can probably just wait until you miss something. Most PCs come overloaded with bloatware that tends to slow things down. In fact, if you've purchased a new Windows 10 PC, I suggest doing a factory reset as soon as you get it home to remove all of the extra stuff.

Why Can't I Get Free E-mail Without Ads?

In response to our article about removing ads in Outlook.com, a reader wrote: "Just wanted to say that AdBlock does indeed remove the ads, but the ad bar is still there and keeps getting bigger and bigger. It now covers half of the mail making it unviewable. You stated that there's no free lunch.. Considering Microsoft and Google are two of the richest companies there is because of us, perhaps they ought to go back to mail being a free service as it costs them nothing. The name change from Hotmail to Outlook did not come with any different or extra special services that I can see. If a user got extra services or storage space a nominal fee might then be in order. This tactic of slowly blocking out the viewing area and asking for money to unblock it seems an awful lot like a hostage/ransom scenario or extortion to me."

It's not really a hostage situation, since hostages are taken against their will and you have voluntarily sign up for either Gmail or Outlook.com. If you don't want to pay for the ad-free version of Outlook.com, you could certainly opt for e-mail provided by your ISP or pay for an e-mail service like FastMail. FastMail costs \$10 yearly for the light version, \$20 for the Full, \$40 for Enhanced and \$70 for Premier. You will need a contract and your mail storage is as little as 250 MB for the lite and up to 60 GB for the Premier level. Also, if you opt for an Office 365 subscription, those ads will vanish from your Outlook.com. Another option might just be to get an e-mail client like Windows Live Mail or Thunderbird and download your messages. When you say that it costs Google and Microsoft nothing to run these e-mail accounts, you couldn't be more off-base. Running the servers and personnel to manage the e-mail accounts of millions and millions of people costs a fortune. Microsoft operates over one million servers, as does Google. Operating costs are in the billions. And you're also off-base about Microsoft not adding any new services as they switched over from Hotmail to Outlook.com. The company added free cloud storage at OneDrive, along with free online access to their Office products like Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Google also offers free cloud storage as well as a free office suite with your Gmail account. And both services are still free, though advertiser supported

MOVIE REVIEW

Nocturnal Animals

ABOUT Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2016 Venice International Film Festival. From writer/director Tom Ford comes a haunting romantic thriller of shocking intimacy and gripping tension that explores the thin lines between love and cruelty, and revenge and redemption. Academy Award nominees Amy Adams and Jake Gyllenhaal star as a divorced couple discovering dark truths about each other and themselves in NOCTURNAL ANIMALS.



Art can make us squirm. That's the theme of "Nocturnal Animals," a theme telegraphed with almost sadistic clarity as we watch, under the opening credits, a series of obese naked women shimmying in slow motion, their folds of voluminous flesh wielded like weapons.

Those videos, as it turns out, are works of art on display in the Los Angeles gallery of Susan Morrow (Amy Adams), a contemporary art dealer who, over the course of writer-director Tom Ford's creepily elegant, enigmatic new film, encounters several others. They include: a hyper-realist sculpture of an animal impaled by arrows; a painting consisting of the word "revenge," writ large; and a photograph of a man aiming a rifle at another man. Message received, loud and clear: Acts of the imagination can unsettle, disgust and frighten us, even wound us — not in the flesh, but deep in the tender psyche — just as surely as actual ones. Occasionally, they also make us think. (But more on that later.)

The most disturbing artifice Susan comes across in this story — which Ford, in his first project since "A Single Man," has adapted from Austin Wright's 1993 novel "Tony and Susan" — is a manuscript. The book is an unpublished novel by Susan's ex-husband, Edward (Jake Gyllenhaal), a struggling writer whom she unceremoniously dumped 19 years ago, when it became clear that his career was

going nowhere. Called "Nocturnal Animals," Edward's book plays out, as Susan reads it, as a film-within-a-film, one that Ford devotes more time, energy and attention to than the framing story, which comes across, in the director's signature high style, as shallow and artificial.

That world — Susan has a handsome second husband (Armie Hammer), an impossibly luxe house and fabulous friends — may look comfortable, but Susan is an insomniac, and her husband is cheating on her. By way of reassurance, a friend (Michael Sheen) reminds her, "Our world is a lot less painful than the real world" — meaning the one not insulated from suffering by money and power. His ironic line, of course is another signal of Ford's intention to tell a meta story about the power of storytelling itself. In "Nocturnal Animals," the plot of Edward's book — unspooling in Susan's head and on the screen in front of us for much of the film — feels at once more real and, paradoxically, less so than the life that Susan leads. Adding to this sense of disorientation is a third story, told in flashback, showing Susan and Edward's history as a couple, the demise of which has left her wracked by guilt over her selfishness and impulsive behavior.

The "Nocturnal Animals" of Edward's novel reads, to Susan, like a nasty revenge fantasy. During a vacation road trip with his wife and teenage daughter, the novel's protagonist, Tony, is forced off the road by a trio of sadistic thugs, who end up doing horrible things to his family. Underscoring the roman

-à-clef nature of that narrative, the wife is played by Isla Fisher, who is a doppelgänger for Adams. Gyllenhaal plays Tony, with Ellie Bamber as their daughter, Michael Shannon as a lawman investigating the aftermath of the crime, and Aaron Taylor-Johnson as his chief perpetrator.

What, we're meant to wonder, is Edward's purpose in writing this? At times, Susan appears tortured by the vicarious anger it seems to express and also titillated by it. Or maybe, just maybe, she is happy to experience a weird catharsis at the hands of the book's punitive plot, which can come across as Edward's crudely lurid and violent attempt to teach his ex-wife a lesson.

Those are less interesting questions than the ones that "Nocturnal Animals" raises about Ford's goals, and whether he in fact achieves them. The story-inside-the-story is as hard to watch at times as those slow-motion videos that Ford opens his film with, and that can be read as fat-shaming or as critiques of fat-shaming. Similarly, the "Nocturnal Animals" of Ford's movie is as slippery a read as Edward's book. It's a tale bluntly told that arouses intense, evanescent emotion and then leaves you haunted, long afterward, by provocative but arguably answerable questions





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



I was saddened by the news that Nestle have decided to cease making its iconic chocolate bar, the Polly Waffle. Polly Waffles have been around forever and cemented their ever-loving goodness across a wide band of generations. Of course, I had never actually tried a Polly Waffle until the other day, when I read of its impending demise. Now, although I don't really care much for commercially processed, confectioned and over-grossly sweetened goo which is intended to be known as a 'marshmallow' centre, covered in deliciously and overly sickening lavishes of cheaply made chocolate – the point here is that another product we've all grown up with is making its way into the retro books and onto café walls as part of a conglomerated archive. I guess the circumstances by which it is making its exit is akin to an older celebrity passing away. You read the newspaper or hear it on the nightly news and before you know it, there is just a whimper of a tear in your eye, as the sentimental pathways from your sympathetic nervous system open your colloidal cognitive synapses, allowing a release of adrenaline and lactic acid, which in turn puts your mind and body into a state of mild shock. That is actually not how it works at all but it sounds convincing and I'm sure it's how you feel.

My grandmother used to stock Polly Waffles in her pantry. My family, for those of you who don't know, are cursed with a kind of 'one's too many – a hundred's not enough' mentality. Whether it's sport, work, hobbies or in this case Polly Waffles, the family creed is 'Go hard or go home!' Strangely enough, we were never really allowed to eat chocolate as kids; nor lollies, cakes or soft drink. Maybe my parents did not wish to trigger the compulsive genes which lay dormant, just waiting to surface at the right time (they eventually did – alcohol – enough said!). It comes then as no surprise to hear that the very first book I ever read was Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and my favourite movie (ever!!) is the movie based upon the book starring Gene Wilder, titled Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. The interesting thing is that I never witnessed my grandmother eating Polly Waffles, nor do I recollect her giving us a Polly Waffle at any stage.....but they were always there.

And that is the point. They've just always been there. You don't have to necessarily partake but just knowing of their existence keeps our world on an even kilter. I look around my winery laboratory, where I am currently sitting. There are several bottles of weird and wonderful chemicals which have been here on display since the seventies and of which we do not use in the industry anymore. Every time I do a mass clean of the place, I go to throw them out but the sentimental notion of discarding these things which have been gracing the lab shelves since I was a young kid is too strong. I will never use them as long as I live but they are a part of the deal – they keep things in order! There is also a 500 ml glass storage container holding a clear liquid of some sort with the label 'EPG 741 – 1976'. I have no idea of its contents and frankly, I don't need, nor care, to know. Just knowing it is there and has been since I was a kid proves beyond reasonable doubt that its existence is as credible as yours or mine.

Ever since I can remember, I have subconsciously aligned with the collective gender narrative that Mars Bars were for men and Polly Waffles were for women and men who fancied other men. It's funny how we come to those conclusions. There was a time when red wine was a man's drink and white was for the people who ate Polly Waffles. Social perceptions are an interesting subject. Put it this way, if I was with a group of blokes doing blokey stuff and one of them pulled out a Polly Waffle, I'm unsure if I would continue to trust him. Of course, vice versa, if a group of women were to be at a Tupperware party, for example, and one of them pulled out a Mars Bar and began to munch away, ideally I would instantaneously pigeon-hole her being a rampant Ellen Degeneres fan. In fact, I would be inclined to further my observation that she would be the type of woman who would sit there drinking beer from a bottle and smoking a cigar or pipe, whilst her husband was a Polly Waffling wimp who sits down to do a wee-wee. To prove my point, the other day whilst sampling my first ever Polly Waffle, my attention turned to a lifestyle program my wife was watching. Halfway through, I make a comment on the flower arrangement in the kitchen of the cooking show.....

“What?” she sparked.

“I said, I'm not so sure those azaleas suit that redwood base in the forefront.....” And the penny dropped! I had only taken two tiny bites out of a Polly Waffle and I was talking like an interior decorator on speed. If I had been eating a Mars Bar I'm sure the conversation would be along the lines of..... “What is this crap? You know the rugby's on Fox Sports 2!!!”

Polly Waffles are by no means in a class of their own. The Bounty is the Polly Waffle's first cousin, with its wispy-white coconut centre. Cherry Ripes sit in this demographic as well, with their polite hints of cherry and non-vasive chocolate coating. Make up your mind – are you a cherry or a chocolate? What else is thereah yes.....the Flake! The creeping Jesus of chocolate bars. Flakes stand on neutral ground, but they stuff with your head. They retain amazing texture and an amazingly delicious mid-palate but their delicate makeup resembles a tree, ring-barking. Bits crumble off, leaving you either peeling off fine pieces and allowing them to melt in your mouth or simply trying to eat it as quickly as possible before it falls apart in your hand. The thing with Flakes is that they are almost criminally moreish. One is not enough, so you devour two. Ten minutes later you are feeling the effects as you wallow on the couch thinking to yourself..... “Why the hell did I go and do that.....f***ing Flakes!”

Kit Kat's are the worst. With all good intention, you break two fingers off and before you know it, you're opening your third family block. What a con! Kit Kats are con artists! Half an hour after a Kit Kat binge, you're down on all fours with your head in the toilet, when someone notices your open Kit Kat on the coffee table. “Oh wow, a Kit Kat.....” as they go to pick it up. “Do...don...don't you...don't you touch.....” you yell as you begin to break out in a cold sweat and orally discharge. The thing is, when you're done, you want to go back for more. Complete con, Kit Kats!

Then there are the big boys of the game. Mars, Picnic, Chikito, Whip and Boost! The engine room of the commercial chocolate bars. So often you see the larger fraternity, sitting in McDonald's, gulping down a super size meal, only to walk out and finish it off with a Picnic or Boost bar. “I'll show my stomach whose boss!” You can sit on the couch with a Caramello Koala relatively guilt free, with the justification “but he's only a cute, little koala.....he won't hurt.....” or you can go hard by downing a bucket of KFC and throwing down a Chikito or two just for good measure and justifying it by “what else do I feel like.....Rrrraaaaaaa!!!”

You see, everything has a place. For the majority of us, commercial chocolate bars take on a bewitching air of novelty. The ease, convenience and giddy abundance of them creates an unidentifiable yet wondrous temptation which we so readily crave. One day, you can walk straight past them and barely acknowledge their presence. Other days, you are helplessly hypnotised, lucidly loitering with a dazzled, yet rueful lust. They seem to proliferate and mutate with bounteous variety yet we pick and stick. There is little chance I will ever find myself in a moment of effeminate leaning and strike the urge to purchase another Polly Waffle but I do not wish for them to dissipate into oblivion either. They are a part of the crew. They stare at each and every one of us as we visit the corner shop, newsagent or video store and grace the supermarket aisles. Just knowing that there is an horrendously over-sweetened, over-refined, gelatinous and sickly, fatty commercial confection inside a colourful poly-plastic wrapper, almost vindicates the essence of freedom of choice and a right to live. Polly Waffles make a statement. They do not pretend to be a Mars Bar or a Picnic but they stand tall and are counted. To all Polly Wafflers world-wide, my condolences. This is indeed a sad day. As the earth spins slightly off kilter, we will all remember the Polly Waffle with great affection. Excuse me now whilst I rush to the bathroom.....I'm not feeling very well.....whatever you do.....do not touch the rest of my Kit Kat or I'll.....
Cheers, Andrew



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

To the 'local resident of 70 years' who objected to the installation of the sewer in North Rothbury. It would help if you were more transparent about your investments. Just because you're looking at having to connect all your rental houses to sewer, doesn't allow you to hold others back. Check your sour grapes as they may well be covered in \$h!t in the near future.

To the Branxton Public school for their school article every paper. I haven't any children attending but do have 2 grandchildren attending & what a great school. What they get up to is far different to my days at school; it wasn't much fun, as they say, but looking and hearing what they do, particularly the extra curricular, is far removed from my days at school ~ keep the great work up!



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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: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
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: this Saturday 3 November at 3 Thomas Street, North Rothbury 8am – 2pm. Lots of great stuff; something for all.
Guitar Lessons: Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.
Microchipping: Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.
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8am – 10am Tue & Thur at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class.
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Position Vacant: Experienced Medical Receptionist. Please send CV to goodpracticegp@gmail.com
Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton; off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067
Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866
Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing; best rates – large or small area. P: 0459 123 397
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601

Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards – rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538
The pick of.....
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For Sale: Brand New Australian Quality made 2 horse straight load float. Manufactured in the Hunter Valley by engineers with over 30 years experience building quality custom trailers in the UK,NZ and Australia. Nearing completion and ready for a lucky owner is one 2 horse straight loading float - 2.8M in length with 2M internal bays -1.65 wide- 2150 high. All Australian parts no Chinese steel or components built to last. Fully removable internals. All new light truck tyres, light weight easy to use tail gate. Float shown is almost ready to go and we have 2 further floats of the same measurements ready for your personal touch to be available this side of Christmas, also happy to discuss opinions for larger floats or Angle load floats customised to your specifications. **Phone Tara on 0406 418 015**



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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

Thur 1 Dec – Christmas Elf workshop Cessnock City Library 65-67 Vincent St, CESSNOCK NSW 2325 @ 4pm
Fri 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 – Branxton Lions Club meeting 4pm Branxton Golf Club
Thu 8 Dec – Branxton Public School P & C Carols by Torch-light
Fri 9 Dec – Branxton Golf Club Christmas Spectacular
Fri 9 Dec – Branxton Public School Year 6 Big Day Out
Sat 10 Dec – Santa Claus is coming to town! That's right North Rothbury Rural Fire Brigade will be doing our annual Santa Lolly Run on the 10th Dec, Santa will be leaving the station at 10am and starting at Huntlee then coming thru North Rothbury and on to Hanwood. Make sure you are looking for the Big Red Truck and the Big Fat Man
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 – Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigids old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room, followed by Christmas Lunch.
Tue 13 Dec – Branxton Public School Presentation Day 2016 @ 9.30am
Tue 13 Dec – Greta Public School Presentation Day 2016

Tue 13 Dec – Branxton Public School Year 6 Dinner 6pm start
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 Performing ARTS Centre

Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licence-in-Charge

BRANXTON & VINE-YARDS REAL ESTATE

12 Clift Street
BRANXTON NSW 2335
P: 4938 3300



Branxton Public School

Congratulations to the Year 5 students who presented leadership speeches in Week 7. They all did an excellent job. The school have voted and we will find out our school leaders at the Presentation Day on Tuesday 13th December.

Stage 2 students entered the Greater Bank Jets Learn competition to win a training session with the Jets. Students were encouraged to decorate the school front gate to show their support and love of the Newcastle Jets and soccer. If the school wins we get to participate in a Jets training session at school. Students worked hard to make posters and decorations to decorate the gate.

We are grateful to Mrs Jane Tickle and Mrs Jane Wilkinson who did the photography.



Stage 1 students dipnetting

Stage 1 went to the Hunter Wetlands in Week 6. They had a wonderful time learning about the wetland environment and the creatures that live there. They were complimented on their excellent behaviour on the day by the teachers at the centre. Thank you to the parents who went along to assist on the day.

In Week 7 we had Mr Hamilton come to teach Kinder and Stage 1 students how to look after their ears. The main way we can do this is to blow our noses correctly. All the students practiced blowing

their noses with the help of Roger, the puppet.

Ruby, Joel, Lily and Alec Stafford represented our school in a trampolining competition at Belmont HS on Thursday 24th November. All performed at their personal best with Ruby and Joel winning gold medals in their respective sections, and Lily and Alec winning silver and bronze.

The P&C are now taking orders for our new sports shirt through the clothing shop or on Flexischools. They should arrive at the beginning of the 2017 school year. Cessnock Sports Power will support our school with sporting equipment when school shoes are purchased through them. They have also donated \$100 of vouchers to the school. The Carols by Torchlight will be held on Thursday 8th December. There will be a sausage sizzle and stalls from 5pm and the music will begin at 5:30. Santa will be making a guest appearance early in the evening so don't be late! This year the P&C have an iPad as their lucky door prize so remember to purchase your program to be in the running for this awesome prize. Entry is \$5 donation per family. Bring along your rug or chairs and your best singing voice.

Dates for the Calendar

Thursday 8th December – P&C Carols by Torchlight

Friday 9th December – Year 6 Big Day Out

Tuesday 13th December – Presentation Day 9:30am

Tuesday 13th December – Year 6 Dinner 6pm

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



School Leader Candidates



The Stafford family



Roger showing us how to blow our noses properly

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!

St BRIGID'S

TWILIGHT MARKET FUNDRAISER

FOR BEYOND BLUE AND PROSTATE CANCER

St Brigid's Old School Grounds

Branxton NSW

Fri 2nd Dec from 4.00pm to 8.00pm

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

Helen 0427 047 024 & Julie 0427 381 250 – check out our facebook page

Attention all Greta Residents with Christmas Lights



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

Presentation of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Encouragement Prizes will be given on the 18th 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.



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.

Restore Regenerate Revegetate

Details

Registration for the Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate Conference is now open.

Over five days in February 2017, you are invited to the University of New England to contribute to our joint understanding of the challenges and successes in restoration, revegetation and reintroduction in a fast-changing world, with some of Australia's and the world's leading practitioners, scientists, consultants and advisers working restoring ecological processes, ecosystems and landscapes.

Register online to attend the Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate conference. There is a special field day program for landholders as follows:

Tuesday 7 February – Single Day

- Admission to the landholders symposium and other sessions
- Admission to the industry demonstrations and trade exhibition
- Morning and afternoon tea and lunch

Wednesday 8 February – Single Day

- Plenary presentations prior to excursion
- Admission to field excursion sites including transport
- Morning and afternoon tea and lunch

NB: Delegates registering as landholders are welcome to purchase tickets to the social functions via the registration form

Please direct registration enquiries to New England Conference Company 0408 668 664 or info@conferencecompany.com.au

Whole farm planning workshop - part 1

When ~ 9th Mar 2017 - 10th Mar 2017

Details

Hunter Local Land Services is seeking registrations of interest for a four-day Whole Farm Planning workshop in the Manning and Great Lakes region.

The workshop will focus on farm management and farm resource management covering various topics, including:

- Understanding the farm landscape
- Setting landscape goals
- Assessing your farm's resources
- Identifying issues and setting targets
- Strategies for farm improvement
- Developing your farm plan

David Hardwick and his team from Soil Land Food will be presenting the workshop.

The four-day farm planning course is designed for managers and landholders of medium to large properties, requiring detailed information to develop whole-farm plans for their business needs.

A workshop cost of approximately \$50 will include learning resources and an A1 colour map of your property showing contour lines which will assist with your farm plan.

The four day workshop will be delivered in two separate two-day blocks on 9-10 and 30-31 March 2017.

The workshop will only run if there is sufficient landholder interest. To register your interest or for further details or please contact Mitchell McGrath mitchell.mcgrath@lls.nsw.gov.au or phone 0428 867 142.

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 23 NOV 2016

Yarding 710 ~ **Change -460** (Comparison Date 16/11/16)

Numbers slipped sharply and quality on average was plainer, as the good runs of younger cattle presented at the previous market were absent in the competition. The bulk was younger cattle, with the export weights limited in supply. The usual buyers competed in a firm to cheaper market; however quality did contribute to most price variations. Vealer steers to the restockers slipped 7c, as a line of well-bred light weights topped at 470c/kg. The over 200kg pens returning to the paddock averaged 377c after reaching 401c/kg. Vealer heifers to the restockers and backgrounders trended 20c cheaper, again breed and quality contributed, with the over 200kg pens ranging from 329c to 390c/kg. Yearling steers and heifers showed only breed and quality related price changes, as the medium weight steer portion made from 340c to 367c/kg, with the lot feeders securing the bulk in the penning. The better bred end of the lighter yearling heifers to the restockers averaged 344c, as a good quality selection of the heavier drafts made 350c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers remained firm to top at 380c; however overall yield was lower compared to the last market. The reduced number of grown steers to slaughter sold at 270c, as good quality older heifers made 275c/kg. Cows sold at similar prices, with the plainer 2 scores averaging 223c, while the better covered heavy weights ranged from 228c to 230c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 240c/kg.



Score report date 22 NOV 2016

Yarding 1222 ~ **Change 44** (Comparison Date 15/11/16)

Quality remained fair to good, with the bulk entering the younger categories.

Consignments lifted marginally and on average there was more weight presented, week-on-week. Vealer steers were reduced in number, as good runs of the vealer heifers and the yearlings were in the penning. There were around 140 cows, along with extra heavy weight grown steers suitable for the processors in the offering. The usual buyers were joined in the competition by extra restocker activity; this helped maintain a higher price for some categories, which would have otherwise trended considerably cheaper. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock sold close to firm at 370c to 440c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to restocker orders slipped 12c to average 371c, after topping at 403c/kg. The yearling steers sold to variable trends, with the lighter end easing 12c, as the medium weights sold to solid competition, while the few heavier weights trended cheaper by 9c to 14c/kg. Yearling heifers to the restockers and lot feeder orders remained firm for the lighter end to range from 320c to 366c/kg. The medium weights also showed little change to sell from 309c to 340c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers carried extra weight, week-on-week, as averages slipped up to 20c/kg. Grown steers to slaughter eased 7c, making from 265c to 280c/kg. The cows slipped 7c, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 219c, with the heavy weight 3 and 4 scores ranging from 222c to 250c/kg. Heavy weight bulls trended cheaper to reach 250c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date 21 NOV 2016

Yarding 1285 ~ **Change 190** (Comparison Date 14/11/16)

There was a small increase in numbers. A large percentage of the offering were yearlings while all other categories had a small to fair representation. The overall quality of the offering was fair to good with all buyers catered for. There was a full field of the regular processor and feedlot buyers in attendance. The market for young cattle to restock and feed was solid throughout the good quality lots with the light and medium weights mostly firm. The heavy feeder steers sold firm to slightly dearer with increased competition. There was a bit less demand for the secondary quality young cattle showing lower weight for age with the market for those cattle slightly cheaper. Well finished medium and heavy trade yearlings saw a firm to slightly dearer market trend. Heavy grown steers remained firm with odd lots showing a small improvement in quality. Plain condition medium weight cows sold to a cheaper trend, some of that was quality related. The well finished heavy weight cows sold to a dearer trend, up to 5c/kg with some improved quality lots showing a greater price increase. The best of the heavy bulls remained firm.



At the close of Tuesday's cattle (22/11/16) markets:

The **Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI)** settled at 650.50¢, up 2.25¢/kg cwt from where it settled the previous day. **Trade steers** were back 4¢, at 339¢/kg lwt. **Medium steers** were up 1¢, on 301¢/kg lwt. **Heavy steers** gained 1¢, at 299¢/kg lwt. **Medium cows** held firm at 234¢/kg lwt. **Feeder steers** held steady at 354¢/kg lwt.

Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell
Bloodstock Media Service

Hunter Valley stud's \$7.5million American splurge

NEWGATE FARM, Aberdeen, the youngest major stud in the Hunter Valley, splurged over US\$7.5million in acquiring females at breeding stock sales in Kentucky in partnership with S F Bloodstock. The latter is a group headed by American based Australians Gavin Murphy and Neil Bowden along with Newgate managing director Henry Field. They started their buying spree when they acquired four lots at the Fasig Tipton sale on Monday and followed with the acquisition of ten more at the first two sessions of the

massive Keeneland Bloodstock November Bloodstock Sale. It is covered by seven catalogues aggregating 4762 lots and runs from November 8 to November 20. The most expensive purchase for the S F Bloodstock – Newgate partnership was US\$1,500,000 for 2011 foaled My Conquestadory, a Group1 winner at two and a Group1 Del Mar Oaks third at three. Served by champion sire Tapit, she is a daughter of Artie Schiller, a shuttler who has had good results in America. He is currently looking after his tenth Australian book, one which is being served at Emirates Park, Murrurundi, Hunter Valley.

The mares are destined join Newgate's big quality band of mares and could be among those chosen for use with their elite band of sires. Their could be at least a dozen in their stallion yards in 2017, including newcomers Flying Artie (by Artie Schiller), Capitalist, Extreme Choice and Russian Revolution..

More winning foreigners by shuttled sires

TWO of the trio of northern hemisphere bred horses who won at the Sandown meeting on November 12, Qewy(Ire) (the Sandown Cup, 3200m) and Beautiful Romance (GB) (the Zipping Classic, 2400m), are among the imposing collection of imports with shuttled sires in their immediate pedigrees who were successful in Melbourne in recent weeks.

Both flown in for the spring racing and trained at Newmarket in England for Godolphin, Qewy (Charles Appleby) and Beautiful

Romance (Saeed Bin Suroor) are both in fact bred on sire crosses that can be achieved in Australia.

Qewy, winner of the Geelong Cup on October 19 and fourth in the Melbourne Cup, is by Street Cry, the 2015-16 champion Australian sire, and from Princess Nada, a Listed winning half-sister by Baratheo to super sire Dubawi. Now deceased, Street Cry was a Darley visitor in nine years, pumping more than 750 offspring into the Australian thoroughbred pool, and Baratheo, a Sadler's Wells sire, left about 250 from five seasons at Widden.

Beautiful Romance, on the other hand, has Darley wisdom on both sides, being produced on a cross of two of their shuttled sires, New Approach (Ire), a Galileo English Derby winner, over Mazuna, a Group 2 winner by Cape Cross (Ire) (by Green Desert). New

Approach (220 foals) was here in 2009, 10, 11 and 12 and Cape Cross (about 200 foals) visited New Zealand in 2000, 02 and 03 and the Hunter Valley in 2005 and 2006.

Also inbred 3x4 to Ahonoora, a sire who visited Arrowfield in the Hunter Valley in 1988 and 1989 (died after serving eight mares in the latter season), Beautiful Romance has raced twice in Australia for a luckless seventh in the Melbourne Cup, after knuckling over early, and the Zipping Classic victory. She had won at Group 2 over 2100m at York in May.

Ahonoora also appears in the pedigree of the other imported winner at the Sandown meeting, the Hayes – Dabernig trained Redkirk Warrior (GB). This winner at the meeting of the Group 3 Yarramalong Racing Club Stakes over 1500m, his second Australian outing, and earlier successful in England

and Hong Kong, is in the first crop of Notnowcato, a top class English miler by the Ahonoora sire Inchinor.

Notnowcato stands at Stanley House Stud, the one at Newmarket conducted by generations of Lord Derbys over more than three centuries. One of the Lord Derbys bred, raced and stood immortal thoroughbred Hyperion and an earlier one played a role in the establishment of the English Oaks (1779) and Derby (1780).

Adding to the collection of imports who have Australian used sires in their pedigrees is to be Ventura Storm, a winner in the northern hemisphere of six of 12 outings, including the Milan Gran Premio del Jockey Club-G1 (2400m) and Deauville Prix de Reux-G3 (2500m), and second in the English St Leger-G1. Set to join the Hayes – Dabernig stables, he is by Coolmore shuttled Zoffany (Ire), a grandson paternally of Danehill

through Dansili.

BALLARAT CUP: Hayes – Dabernig also train Pilote d'Essai (GB), the 5-year-old gelding who was a dominant winner on November 19 of the \$300,000 Ballarat Cup. He is a half-brother by the Green Desert sire Oasis Dream to Planteur (won Longchamp Prix Ganay-G1, second French Derby-G1, Grand Prix de Paris-G1, third Dubai World Cup-G1 twice. They are from Plante Rare, an unraced daughter of Giant's Causeway (USA), a Coolmore Storm Cat sire who after a stint visiting Australia, 2002 – 2005, became as champion sire in America. Pilote d'Essai's grandam is a half-sister to the dam of Peintre Celebre, a Nureyev winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in new course record time and a Coolmore visiting sire in five seasons, 1998-2003. The family also produced Melbourne Cup winner Protectionist.



Summer has arrived-complete with a super moon and now the days are filled with anticipation of Christmas events. We extend our sincerest sympathy to our member, Shirley Waters whose dear

husband Bob passed away. May your beautiful memories sustain you, Shirley.

At our last meeting we welcomed a new member Helen. We trust that you will have many happy

times with us.

Our special friend, Grace Brown from Lower Belford paid us a visit to hear about Joan's trip.

Joan Nightingale regaled us with photographs and tales of her holiday in Indonesia. This entailed a seven hour train trip through the country, a visit to a Hindu temple, an interesting "coffee experience" when told the source of the coffee beans, and a one day visit to Bali on what Joan described as "the hottest day ever". In Singapore Joan and her husband experienced having their feet cleaned by many little fish!

Thank you, Joan for an interesting talk. President Margaret presented Joan with a thank you gift.

Sometimes we are asked "What is VIEW all about? We are proud of being members of VIEW club as this wonderful organisation formed by the Smith Family allows us the opportunity to meet regularly with women from all walks of life and help disadvantaged Australian school children through the Learning for Life program. We financially support four students by raising much needed funds by holding our annual Fashion

Parade, our Birthday Lunch and many other friendship functions. VIEW clubs are the Smith Family's single biggest community sponsor of the Learning for Life program.

Membership of VIEW is fun, establishes lasting friendships and contributes to community. As a valued member one benefits from the satisfaction which comes through providing essential support to disadvantaged Australian school children, by enabling them to make the most of their educational and learning opportunities. New members are always

welcome. Please contact our secretary, Bethany for further details on 4938 7597. Yes, we have lots of fun and social outings! Don't be lonely-come and meet our friendly group.

Thank you to all the people who attend our functions-we look forward to your continuing support. Special thanks to super editor, Mike for publishing our reports. Greta Workers Club, the restaurant, Thomas Real Estate and Hunter Laundry-your support is very much appreciated, Thanks must also go to all our VIEW members who give so freely of their time

and talents. Thank you, Sandie for you great photos.

Our last meeting will be at the Old Maitland Inn for Christmas lunch on 11th December. I can hear the Christmas carols as I write this. May everyone have a peaceful, blessed Christmas and good health and happiness in 2017.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life, makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

*Peace and love to everyone
Judy Spillard*

REFLECTIONS

SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2015=6

Gospel - Matthew 24:37-44

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two

men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming

at an hour you do not expect.'

Gospel Reflection:

"Where is the Life we have lost in living?" asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot's The Rock. The Jesus of Matthew's gospel is implicitly asking much the same question as Eliot's Chorus. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, "Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them." We are invited to find Life in our living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the inevitable round of daily activities that have preoccupied humans from time immemorial.

As we begin a new liturgical year, Matthew's Jesus invites us to contemplate the ultimate realities even as we attend to the demands of the present. He tells us to be "awake", to be "ready" all the time, not because death or the end of the world are around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple "advents" or arrivals of the Christ, the Human One, who calls us beyond self-absorption to Life. He reminds us that we are no different from our forebears who from earliest days have gone about their daily business without being sufficiently attentive to what really matters.

In our times, we have allowed thieves to break in and plunder our planet, our

common home, because thieves come in guises that we fail to recognise. They so often look just like us and do the things we do. It may be that we must first be attentive to our own ways of plundering the house that is home to all of God's creatures.

We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place, since our history informs our present and helps us in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that '[t]he past is foreign country: they do things differently there'. Advent invites us to look forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. It invites

us to be awake, to be ready for any eventuality.

Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-giving change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of God's

ways. We seek the grace to "see" God's word as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isa 2:1-5). We need to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

New Years Eve 2016

SAT 31ST DEC FROM 9.30pm

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR IN WITH **TROY KEMP**

ROYAL FEDERAL HOTEL BRANTXTON 49381335

DEC

music

FRI 2ND HUMMINGBIRDS
SAT 3RD OUTLAW AVENUE
FRI 9TH EVERGREEN
SAT 10TH KRISTY JAMES
FRI 16TH ROCKET
SAT 17TH FORMULA
FRI 23RD ALIAS
SAT 31ST TROY KEMP

FROM 8.30PM

SPORTS RESULTS



BRANXTON GOLF CLUB -SAT 19TH NOV 2BBB AGGREGATE + SINGLE IN CONJUNCTION GARY WALSH - KCE SPONSORED DAY

2BBB WINNERS
MARCUS RYTER/LEE HEUSTON 85 PTS
2BBB RUNNERS UP
MICHAEL SIMPSON/ ED GARLAND 78 PTS
2BBB THIRD
MARK MOYLAN/ MICK CARLING 77 PTS
2BBB FOURTH
PETER WILTON/ PAUL BUSH 77 PTS C/B
2BBB FIFTH
JOHN VASSAR/ GARY WILTON 75 PTS
SINGLE WINNER
MARCUS RYTER 43 PTS
SINGLE RUNNER UP
LEE HEUSTON 42 PTS
SINGLE THIRD
ED GARLAND 41 PTS

Local Golfing Professional, Marcus Ryter, who has been instrumental with improving many member's golf game showed that he can play as well! Despite bogeying the last two holes, he finished with a 3 under par score of 67 to win the day's individual event with a very impressive 43 pts. He combined with Lee Heuston to win the Gary Walsh—KCE Sponsored day, a regular event on the Branxton Calendar, with an incredible 85 pts. Lee also had a real day out, scoring 42 pts himself from his single figure handicap. These two didn't give anybody else a chance, playing such great golf together. Mick Simpson and Eddie Garland finished runner up with an excellent 78 pts, with Eddie's 41 pts good enough for third place in the individual event. All place getters recorded scores better than their combined handicaps—a very impressive effort all round. The DSR for the day was a 67, one of the lowest for some time as the course becomes a little shorter as the weather becomes warmer. The club Has enjoyed the KCE Day for some years now and we sincerely thank this company, through Gary Walsh, for their strong support for our club.

HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

Sunday 13th November
The Weekly Challenge has been won by Geoff Gruszynski with 37 points from Garry Clarke with 35 points.

Tuesday 15th November
The Tuesday Stableford field were treated to superb conditions and the scoring matched the day, 2 players who matched or beat their handicap were cut from the ball comp as a result of some great rounds. Graeme Flynn stood tall on the day with a great 43 points from his 8

handicap, Dean Morison with 42 had to survive a countback for second from Mark Barrow. Ball winners were Chris Taggart 41, Greg White 41, Dale Macklinshaw 40, Steve Piggot 40, John Stewart 39, Grahame Sheldon 38, Lindsay Self 38, Garry Marsden 37, Greg Ireland 37 and Paul Smith 37. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd, 4th and 8th) Graeme Flynn (10th) and Dale Macklinshaw (17th)

Wednesday 16th November
Di Atton was the only Lady to beat her handicap in the Stableford event on Wednesday with a great 38 point round, Robyn Dunlop was runner up with 35 points and Kerrie-Anne Skinner took 3rd with 34 points on a 3 way countback. Ball winners were: Kerry Choromanski 34, Dianne Oakes 34, Carol Horton 31, Jill Ramsden 30 and Melita Watson 29. Next week the Ladies will play American Foursomes.

Thursday 17th November
The vets Stroke event turned out to be a very tight affair with Ken Wright producing his best round for some time to claim the day with 65 net from David Peel who survived a 3 way countback for second spot with 66 net and Greg Ireland 3rd also on countback with 66. Ball winners were: Col Bradley 66, Ray Hodson 67, Darrell Preston 69, Ian Newell 69, John Carmody 70, Doug wand 70, Brian Doherty 70, Wayne Berry 70, Rex Talbot 71 and Heinz Kesterman 71 on countback to 3 others who matched handicap on the day to miss the cut! Nearest-the-Pins went to John Carmody (3rd) Ray Hodson (4th) Kevin Smith (10th) and David Peel (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 19th November
Early summer like conditions greeted the field today with many showing a liking for the heat. A Grade went to John Stojanovski with a great 66 net from Peter Tierney on 69 net, B Grade to Newcastle visitor Thomas Blomley with 65 net from Brian Doherty 68 and C Grade to Ken Smith with 66 net from in form Kerrie-Anne Skinner on 68 net. Ball winners were: Brad Burgess 69, Andrew Bozinovski 69, Russ Calderwood 69, Jaye Stevens 69, Angello Korlevic 70, Greg Morgan 70, Bruce Chambers 71, Mal Hammond 71, Adrian Russell 71, Dean Morison 71, David Peel 71, Sue Peel 71, Brian Rooney 72, Graeme Flynn 73, Joel Nichols 73, Garry Turner 73 and Kevin Smith 73 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Colin Mills (3rd) Jaye Stevens (4th) Bruce Chambers (8th) Russ Calderwood (10th) and Tracey Morison (17th).

Sunday 20th November
Andrew Campbell had a great 42 point round to win the Weekly Challenge from

Benn Corbett who survived a countback to Grahame Mankelov after both had 41 point returns. Ball winners were: John Pascoe 40, Mark Fullbrook 39, Simon Bellette 38, Phillipe Byron 38, Gunther Shilko v38, Jamie McWilliams v37, Brendan Connor 37, Shawn Parish 35 and Victor Matt 34 c/b.

Monday 21st November
Hunter Valley Golf Club held their annual Charity Day with 90 players turning out in the 4 person team event with Breast and Prostate Cancers being beneficiaries of the day. The 2 best scores of the group led to some excellent results from the field who relished the course and weather conditions. The winners on the day were Tom & Maree Hannah along with Ian & Gwenda Cook from The Vintage with 97 points, 2nd went to Jan Scaina, Tracey Miller, Trish McMillian & Sharyn Baker from Branxton on 96 points, 3rd to Trevor McMullen, Ken Hathaway, Graham Rawlins & Steve Holmes from the Vintage with 95 c/b, 4th Helen Topp, Helen Routh, Tania Davis & Donna Goddard from the Vintage 95, 5th Andrew Cooper, Nick Connaughton, Warwick Sinclair & Mike Hayward from Royal Sydney 94 c/b, 6th to Ian King, Ken Blackett, Pat Stafford & John Tancred 94, 7th to Jill Ramsden, Kerrie-Anne Skinner, Kerry Choromanski & Jill Slatter HVGC with 89 c/b, 8th Ken Harris, Phil Durie, Ryan Wilson & John Carmody HVGC 89 & 9th to Melita Watson, Jeanette, David & Jerry Irwin with 88 points. Nearest-the-Pins Mike Hayward RS (3rd) Ken Harris HVGC (4th) Pam Snaddon HVGC (8th) Ken Hathaway TV (10th) & Graham Rawlins TV (17th).

Ladies Straightest Drive to Helen O'Meara HVGC & Men's Straightest Drive to Rod Williams Branxton. Days such as these are not possible without the splendid support of players and sponsors from far and wide. The organising committee would like to thank all who took part as well as our generous sponsors listed, The Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley Golf Pro Shop, The Australia Hotel, Cypress Lakes Golf Club, Cessnock Golf Club, Balloons Aloft, Leaves and Fishes, Adina, Cottages on Lovedale, Rothbury Escape, PK's Ye Ole General Store, Aussie Maitland & John Lecher Art, Hunter Valley Wine Tours, Kelman Wines, Petersons Winery, Saddlers Creek Winery, Sandalyn Winery, Ballabournene Winery, Sovereign Hill Winery, Reflections Day Spa, Midnight Promise Winery, Black Wattle retreat, Capercaillie Winery, Gartlemann's Winery, Audrey Wilkinson Winery, Bunnings and the many Ladies who also provided prizes and morning tea.

Tuesday 22nd November
Brad Bell returned his best for some time to claim the Tuesday Stableford with 43 points from Rex Talbot 40 and Grahame Sheldon 3rd with 39 points. Ball winners were: Bob prentice 38, Dale Macklinshaw 38, Chris Taggart 38, Tim Lonergan 37, Graeme Flynn 37, Michael Young 36, Paul Smith 36, Goeff Sweetman

36 and Rick Turchini 36 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Lidsay Self (3rd) Paul Smith (4th) Jay Dunn v(10th) and Ben Freeman (17th)

Wednesday 23rd Nov
The Ladies American Foursomes event has been won by Jill Ramsden and Jill Slatter with 74 1/4 net from Sue Peel and Kerrie-Anne Skinner on 75 1/4. Next week the Ladies will play individual Stableford.

Thursday 24th November
The Vets Stableford event was won by 'in form' Brian Doherty with a solid 43 point round from Dale Macklinshaw with another great round of 41 points, both Brian and Dale will be under the handicapper's notice with solid rounds of late. Wayne Berry took the minor placing with 40 points. Ball winners were: Eric Smith 38, David Peel 37, Grahame Sheldon 37, Geoff Sweetman 35, Mark Barrow 35, Garry Clarke 35 and Ken Springbett 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Berry (3rd) Ken Harris (4th) Ray Newton (8th) Dale Macklinshaw (10th) and Ray Hodson (17th). Next week the Vets will play Bisque Par.

Saturday 26th November
The Saturday Medley Stableford provided great scoring across all grades in ideal weather, A Grade had 2 visitors fight it out with Keith Shaw from Maitland taking the win on countback to Corey Lamb of Singleton after both had 40 point returns, B Grade to Brian Doherty with the 'round of the day' an amazing 46 points with John Brown runner up with 38 and C Grade to Mathew Merlo 41 points with Greg Morgan in 2nd place with 39 points. Ball winners were: Peter Callingham 39, Craig Sharp 38, Brendan Smith v38, John Stewart 37, Chris Connolly 37, Jaye Stevens 37, Tony Lamb 37, Sue Peel 36, Ken Smith 36, David Peel 36, Brendan Connor 35, Ben Pickering 35, Ben Bradley 35, Bruce Chambers 35 and Wayne Thompson 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ben Pickering (3rd) Wayne Thompson (4th) John Parish (8th) Ben Bradley (10th) and David Peel (17th). Next week will be the Monthly Stroke rounds.

BRANXTON LADY GOLFERS

Results for 16/11/16.
18 Hole Stableford Event. Eleven players competed. Winner Tracey Miller with 39 points on a count back Runner up Kerrie O'Connell 39 points
3rd Nikki Craig 36 points
4th Jen Salna 32 points
NTP Carol Miller
The results for **Wednesday 9th November** 2016 were as follows:-
There were six ladies playing the 18 hole Stableford Weekly competition. Kerrie O'Connell was the winner on 39 points with Caren Caldwell taking the Nearest The Pin.

Results for Wednesday 23rd November
18 Hole Stableford Event held in very hot conditions. Winner : Jen Salna 41 points Runner-up: Trish McMillan 40 points
Nearest to the pin: Kerrie O'Connell.
Birdies to Helen Vandenbruggan and Trish McMillan

HOW S.M.A.R.T. ARE YOUR GOALS?

"Every single life only becomes great when the individual sets upon a goal or goals which they really believe in, which they can really commit themselves to, which they can put their whole heart and soul into."

- Brian Tracy

As the year draws to a close, many of us will reflect on the year that was, and the things we planned to do when it was January and the New Year stretched ahead of us with clean pages. Before you groan and say "oh no, not another story about New Year resolutions", bear with me. This story is about ALL goals. You don't have to wait until 2017 to start working towards your goals. In fact, depending on when you are reading this, there are still plenty of days left in 2016. Waiting for January is like waiting for Monday – if it is a goal worth pursuing, then there is no time like the present to get started!

Are you one of the people who achieves everything you set out to do (if so, well done, you can probably stop reading now J). Perhaps you are a person who sets some really good goals, ticks some of them off, makes it part way with others, then somewhere in the middle of the year you run out of energy (or accidentally lose the list!). Or maybe you have simply stopped making New Year resolutions because you never ever achieve anything you put on the list? Time/money/kids/parents/spouse/ the universe conspire against you in your effort to lose weight, get fit, get that new job, or even just go for a massage once a month. If you fall into either of the latter categories, please keep reading, this story is for you J

The most important thing about setting a goal is to have a really good goal! I don't mean it has to be a big goal, it just has to be really good. A goal that is important to YOU. On a scale of 1 to 10, where "1" is "that would be OK" and "10" is "hell yeah", your goal needs to be at least a "9". It needs to be so good that you will invest the time and energy to succeed. At this point it helps to write down at least ten reasons why it is important for you to achieve your goal. This will help you think about why you really want to do it.

Once you have your really exciting, juicy goal in mind (eg lose 5kg, run 1km without stopping, get back into your skinny jeans, or go for a massage once a month), it's time to make your goal S.M.A.R.T.

Specific
Measurable
Accountable
Realistic
Time based

Specific – how explicit is your goal? For example, have you only said you want to lose weight, or have you said "I want to lose 5kg" (or 6kg, or 4kg, or 20kg, whatever the number is for you? Similarly, have you said "I want to go for a massage once a month", or have you said "On my day off each month I want to go for a massage at (insert your favourite place)". Make your goal specific.

Measurable – How will you know when you have reached your goal? A weight loss goal is easy to measure, others (such as decluttering your house) may be more difficult to measure. What will your goal look like when you have achieved it? Write it down.
Accountable – Some people say "A" stands for attractive or achievable, but I prefer accountable. What or who is going to help you stick to your goal? Are you going to announce your goal to the world, and post regular updates on Facebook? Or will you enlist the support of a few close friends and family? Maybe you will join a support group, such as Weight Watchers or a running club? This year I have joined Coalfields Cross Country Running Club and it has been great! Knowing that I have told people I am going to show up has really motivated me to stick to my training program and do a long run each week.

Realistic – How practical is your goal? If you are not currently able to run 5km and you want to run a marathon in a months' time, how likely is it you will be able to do it? Don't set yourself up for failure (or worse, injury!). Set realistic goals which you can plan to achieve.

Time-based – does your goal have a deadline? It's OK saying you want to lose 5kg, but by when? Do you have a special event coming up? Do you want to learn a new language before your overseas holiday? Set a time limit on your goal.

Now your goal is S.M.A.R.T., how do you feel about achieving it? Is it still a 9 or a 10 out of 10? If not, go back to the drawing board and rework it until it really works for you. Otherwise, maybe you need a different goal? One that you can really put your heart and soul into and think "I did it".

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. You can find out more at www.louisecairns.com.au)

Next week will be the start of the summer competition with hit off between 8am-8.30am and nine holes to be played.

Trish McMillan

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 17/11/16 Stableford

Div 1 Winner R. Brooks	
35pts	
R/up T Seamer	31pts
c/b	
3rd M. Ford	31pts
D1v 2 Winner	
J. Atton	29pts c/b
R/U P. Hocking	29pts
3rd W. Benton	29pts
Ladies Winner	
C. Hocking	33pts
R/Up M. Hunt	31pts
3rd R. Friis	28pts
NTPs Ladies	
P. Threlfo	
Gents E. Barrett	
A reasonable day again, the rain kept away and it didn't become too hot so golf was enjoyed. Some good scores in - but Bob Brooks was not really challenged for the Score of the Day, although Cathy Hocking came close with a brilliant 33pts. There	

was a good turnout and almost all players stayed behind to attend our A.G.M. The President & Treasurer gave their reports and the election of officers gave us some new committee members for 2017. We will surely go from strength to strength when we have so many members willing to put up their hands and take positions. Thanks to everyone who took part in the days proceedings.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 24/11/16 9 hole Stableford

Overall Winner:-	
T. Martin	26pts
Runner Up	
G. Anderson	23pts
3rd ~ G. Gaz-	
zard	22pts
4th ~ S. Condran	22pts
N.T.Pins Ladies	
F. Oakes	
Gents K. Ander-	
son	
22 Balls distributed to other winners.	
Today was Vets Christmas Lunch Day and we were	



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Local Cricket Results



with Mark Bercini

Cricket Report Week 7

Week 7 of district cricket saw losses in the top two grades, while third and the two fourth grade sides recorded important victories in the "double points" round. First grade blew a golden opportunity to inflict premierships favourites

Mulbring's first defeat of the year. Mulbring won the toss and elected to bat in fairly favourable conditions, but excellent bowling and fielding from Greta/Branxton restricted their star-studded line up to 8-175 on what was really a 200+ wicket. Suffering some back problems earlier on in the season skipper Brent Watson returned to his best with 5-37 off 10, with Craig Brook (2-34 off 10) and Andrew Bercini (1-32 off 8) the other wicket

takers. The Blues caught well, with the fielding highlight being Nathan Holz's great outfield catch where he ran 20 metres in the same direction the ball was travelling and made a very difficult catch look easy. The match looked evenly poised with Greta/Branxton 4-108 with 12 overs to go in reply, but when Barry Richards (27) was caught napping run out going for the third this proved to be a major turning point. Partner in crime Greg Andrews fell

shortly after 37 and the tail followed in fairly quick succession. Greta/Branxton were all out in the end for a disappointing 126. Josh Dagg (19) and Nathan Holz (15) were the other batsmen to make starts. Second grade's topsy turvy season continued when they were humbled by 8 wickets at the hands of Mulbring. Batting first Greta/Branxton managed just 78, with Trent Fuller in career best form flying almost solo with 41 at the top of the order. Nathan Velt looked good for 14 before he was tragically run out, with the remainder of the batting card resembling that of the Australian team of late. Mulbring cruised to victory in reply, passing the target after losing just the 2 wickets. These belonged to Mark Peace (1-8 off 4) and Mick Regan (1-20 off 4). Third Grade made it 3 wins from their last 3 starts with a 10 wicket thrashing of Peden's Hotel at Miller 2. Peden's batted first and were skittled for just 41, with Ayden Wilkinson responsible for the majority of the damage with 4-9 off 5. He was well supported by Steve Peace (2-6 off 3), Jarrad Wilkinson (1-8 off 6), Alex Walkling (1-0 off 1) and Dave Smith (1-7 off 3). Greta/Branxton wasted no time reeling in the small

target in reply, passing it in the 10th over without losing a wicket. Skipper Sean "Donald Trump" Wright led the way with 27 retired, along with opening partner Ben Lahey who also put the cue in the rack with 10 retired. Fourth Grade Blue kept their unbeaten start to the season in check and had an early afternoon at the office when they easily accounted for Peden's Hotel by 7 wickets at Turner Park. Peden's batted first and some excellent bowling from the Greta/Branxton attack saw them dismissed for just 49. Dion Charnock (3-19 off 10) and Jamie McNamara (3-0 off 2.2) took a treble each, with Will Young (2-0 off 4) and Aaron Stephenson (1-17 off 8) also bowling tidily. Greta/Branxton reeled in the small target after losing 3 wickets, with Will Young capping a fine all-round game with 39no. Fourth Grade White jumped into outright second behind Fourth Grade Blue with a comfortable 55-run victory over Wine Country at Baddeley 2. Batting first Greta/Branxton made a healthy 155, with Dan Minchin leading the way with a well-timed 45. He was well supported by Connor Thomson who made 31, with Jesse

Minchin (22), Damien Hogan (16) and Will Howden (14) all scoring freely. Wine Country were all out for 89 in reply, with Dan Minchin completing a fine all-round game with 3-20 off 9. Connor Thomson also had a fine all-round day at the office with 3-18 off 6, while Jason Varley (2-28 off 8), Jesse Minchin (1-17 off 7) and Sam Hines (1-4 off 2) picked up the other wickets.

Cricket Report Week 8

Week 8 of district cricket saw wins to second and third grade, with fourth grade blue going down for the first time this season. Fourth grade white received a forfeit, meanwhile first grade enjoyed the week off with the bye. Second grade remained in second position on the ladder following a 61-run win over Peden's Hotel at East End. Batting first Greta/Branxton compiled a healthy 181, with "Gold Cobra" himself Adam Curnuck blasting an unbeaten 40 batting at number 10. Most other batsmen made starts, with Darren Holz (27), Mitch Fallon (23), Shayne Franklin (22), Dylan Lipscombe (17),

Mick Regan (14) and skipper Peter "Putty Road" MacKenzie (12) all scoring freely. Peden's were all out for 120 in reply, with Greta/Branxton's wickets shared between MacKenzie (3-18 off 4), Curnuck (2-25 off 7), Lipscombe (2-5 off 2), Mark Peace (1-15 off 6), Hayden Regan (1-16 off 4) and Pat Andrews (1-0 off 0.1). Third grade are building nicely and made it four wins from their last four starts with a 9-wicket thrashing of Denman Hotel at Miller 1. Denman Hotel batted first and were skittled for just 52, with Alex Walkling the prime destroyer with 4-15 off 8. He was backed up by Jarrad Wilkinson (2-29 off 7), Nathan Velt (2-10 off 4.2) and Steve Peace (1-4 off 3) who all bowled tidily. Greta/Branxton reached the target in the 12th over with nine wickets in hand. Jordan Burton remained unbeaten on 31. Fourth grade Blue were inflicted their first defeat of the season when they went down by 6 wickets to Denman Hotel at Baddeley 3. Greta/Branxton batted first and posted 126, with Mitch Bird leading the way at the top of the order with 27. Brendon Jones (18), Neil Bird (16) and skipper Steve Daunt (12no) were

the other batsmen to make starts. Denman Hotel reached the target after losing four wickets. These belonged to Dion Charnock (1-20 off 7), Aaron Stephenson (1-39 off 5), Brendon Jones (1-25 off 4) and Andrew Ernst (1-15 off 2).

Points Tables

First Grade Mulbring 39, Bellbird 32, Wine Country 31, Greta/Branxton 27, Peden's Hotel 23.
Second Grade Bellbird 46, Greta/Branxton 42, Mulbring 38, Peden's Hotel 38, Supporters 34, Wine Country 30.
Third Grade Bellbird 57, Greta/Branxton 50, Laguna 42, Wine Country 42, Denman Hotel 39, Peden's Hotel 39, Mulbring 37, Supporters 30.
Fourth Grade Greta/Branxton Blue 53, Greta/Branxton White 53, Paxton 49, Denman Hotel 45, Wine Country 38, Bellbird 34, Supporters 34, Peden's Hotel 30.
Club Championship Bellbird 282.60, Greta/Branxton 259.20, Mulbring 253.30, Wine Country 232.50, Peden's Hotel 214.30.




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



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