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WEDNESDAY
14 December 2016



'Christmas spirit' & Santa arrive early

THE North Rothbury Rural Fire Service in conjunction with their volunteers, Oporto Rutherford, The Branxton Greta Vineyards News & a guest appearance by Santa himself brought some early Christmas cheer to the children of North Rothbury last Saturday.

Their annual 'Lolly Run' started mid morning and was at a snails pass finishing at the station house around 1pm. Inside reports have told The News that Santa did a fantastic job but was heard to complain about the hot weather. He was also heard

to say that it was all worthwhile just to see the joy on the many children's faces. "The North Rothbury Rural Fire Service volunteers did a great job helping Santa deliver lollies to the younger generation in North Rothbury.

"It would not have been possible without the support of our volunteers, Mike at The News & Kim & Bruce McWhirter of Oporto Rutherford. We thank you all so much," said Kelly from the Rural Fire Service. Have a Great Christmas & wonderful New Year.

local+caring+service

Hours over Christmas/New Years Period

- Saturday 24th December 9am - 1pm
- Sunday 25th December CLOSED
- Monday 26th December CLOSED
- Tuesday 27th December 9am - 1pm
- Wednesday 28th December 8:30am - 5:30pm
- Thursday 29th December 8:30am - 5:30pm
- Friday 30th December 8:30am - 5:30pm
- Saturday 31st December 9am - 1pm
- Sunday 1st January 2017 CLOSED
- Monday 2nd January 2017 CLOSED

We will then resume our normal hours
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm Saturday 9am - 1pm

We understand that sometimes people miss things. Medications are often very important. If you find yourself missing something you need over this period please don't hesitate to call Lee on 0403665295 and he will do his best to assist you.

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To make appointments please call
Ph. 02 4938 3366
Fax 02 4938 3322

Greta Medical Centre
29 High Street Greta NSW2334
Ph 09387303 fax 09387800
Dr Jivan Jyot
Dr Ravraj Stephen Dr Indra Nanda
X-Mas and New Year Trading Hours

24/12/2016	Saturday	Open 9-1pm
25/12/2016	Xmas Day	Closed
26/12/2016	Boxing day	Closed
27/12/2016	Xmas day	closed
28/12/2016	Wednesday	Open 8-3PM
to		
30/12/2016	Friday	Open 8-3PM
31/12/2016	Saturday	Closed
01/01/2017	Sunday New Year day	Closed
02/01/2017	Monday	Closed
03/01/2017	Tuesday	Normal Trading

Can you please ring GP Access on 1300 130147 or
Maitland Hospital 550 High Street, Maitland - (02) 4939 2000 DR
in Emergency Please ring 000

Staff would like to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New year

Richards racks up record ton

See back page for full report

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

The public are hereby notified pursuant to Section 101 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act, 1979 (as amended) that the following applications have been granted consent during the period from 1 November 2016 to 30 November 2016.

Locality	Reference	Decision Date	Property Address	Application Description
BRANXTON	008/2016/00000589/001	15-Nov-2016	71 Maitland ST	Change of Use - Medical Centre
BRANXTON	009/2016/00000180/001	30-Nov-2016	6 Bridge ST	Swimming Pool
EAST BRANXTON	008/2016/00000487/001	9-Nov-2016	11 Spring ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage and Retaining Walls
ELLALONG	008/2016/00000637/001	2-Nov-2016	41 Hamilton ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
ELRINGTON	008/2016/00000630/001	10-Nov-2016	17 Camellia CL	Shed
GRETA	008/2016/00000603/001	23-Nov-2016	20 Nelson ST	Demolish Existing Dwelling, Construct Single Storey Dwelling and Detached Garage/Carport
GRETA	008/2016/00000716/001	23-Nov-2016	112 High ST	Advertising Structures
GRETA	008/2016/00000666/001	25-Nov-2016	35 High ST	Dual Occupancy (Attached) and 1 into 2 Lot Subdivision
GRETA	008/2016/00000600/001	29-Nov-2016	46-46A Hunter ST & 53-57 Wyndham ST	Construct Drainage Works & Create Drainage Easement
LOVEDALE	008/2016/00000035/001	1-Nov-2016	180 Wilderness RD	Temporary Event Lovedale Long Lunch involving Allandale Winery, Tatler Wines, Gartelman Wines, Emma's Cottage, Sandalyn, Wandin Valley and Saltire Wines with an Overall Capacity of 25500
LOVEDALE	008/2016/00000689/001	10-Nov-2016	77 Wilderness RD	Swimming Pool
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000653/001	1-Nov-2016	15 Moylan VSTA	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000682/001	7-Nov-2016	15 Slattery RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000688/001	8-Nov-2016	107 Triton BLVD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	009/2016/00000150/001	8-Nov-2016	21 Slattery rd	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000692/001	10-Nov-2016	9 Kinnavane RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000683/001	11-Nov-2016	6 Haverty AV	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	009/2016/00000157/001	11-Nov-2016	10 Newsham ST	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000664/001	21-Nov-2016	12 Hoban RD	Single Storey Dwelling
NORTH ROTHBURY	009/2016/00000161/001	21-Nov-2016	7 Slattery RD	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
NORTH ROTHBURY	008/2016/00000720/001	24-Nov-2016	10 Bendeich DR	Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000632/001	1-Nov-2016	7 Liquid Amber PRIV	Two Storey Dwelling and Attached Garage
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000658/001	3-Nov-2016	25 Mahogany PRIV	Swimming Pool & Associated Pool Safety Barriers
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000659/001	3-Nov-2016	7 Verdale PRIV	Swimming Pool & Associated Pool Safety Barriers
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000515/001	8-Nov-2016	16 Pokolbin Mountains RD	New Commercial Kitchen for Existing Restaurant
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000673/001	14-Nov-2016	18 Ironbark DR	Patio Cover
POKOLBIN	008/2016/00000708/001	30-Nov-2016	17 Maple DR	Two Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage

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

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK

STEPHEN GLEN
GENERAL MANAGER

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2016/17.

The following arrangements will apply over the holiday period. Cessnock Council offices and facilities will be closed between Christmas and the New Year. **In case of an emergency please phone 0249 181753.**

Administration Centre, Vincent Street, Cessnock

Closed from 12.00pm, Friday 23 December 2016 until 9.00am Tuesday 3 January 2017.

Libraries at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri

Closed from 12.00pm, Friday 23 December 2016 until 9.00am until Tuesday 3 January 2017.

Swimming Pools at Cessnock and Branxton

Closed Christmas Day only. On all other Public Holidays, pools will be open from 7.00am to 6.00pm.

Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre

Closed on Christmas Day only.

All other Public Holidays & weekends 7.00am to 6.00pm.

Monday to Friday 6.00am to 6.00pm

Cessnock Waste & Re-use Centre

Closed Christmas Day only, otherwise normal operating hours apply 8.45am – 4.30pm daily.

Greta Transfer Station

Closed Christmas Day only. Open as normal thereafter.

Garbage Service/Recycling Service

No change to routine services.

Ranger Services

A Ranger will be on-call during the Christmas period. For any emergencies please call the Police.

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Closed from 2.00pm, Thursday 22 December 2016 until 9.00am on Monday 9 January 2017 Bookings still available on-line.

Hunter Valley Visitors Centre

Closed Christmas Day only, otherwise normal operating hours apply 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday –

Saturday & 9.00am – 4.00pm Sunday.

Cessnock Airport

For urgent enquiries regarding Cessnock Airport please contact 0401 107 557.

Cessnock City Council wishes all in our community a safe and happy holiday season.

Community urged to support Christmas Appeal

Cessnock City Council is delighted to be holding a Christmas appeal which kicks off today aimed at supporting those doing it tough this festive season. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is encouraging the community to support the appeal to help brighten the lives of local families.

“All donations we receive will be given to Jodie’s Place, which is a women’s and children’s refuge for those who have suffered from domestic violence.”

“This is a wonderful opportunity to bring joy to families that are facing the unthinkable”, Mayor Pynsent said.

Jodie’s Place Manager Paula Mudd said often the families leave their homes with very little so they need everything from food to first aid items.

“Anyone looking to make a donation can give everything from non-perishable food to gifts for the children.”

Items to consider include:-

Food (non-perishable), Toiletries, First Aid (bandages, betadine) & Toys

Cessnock City Council hopes the community will show their support and give generously to the appeal before it ends on Tuesday 20 December.

Donation drop off points include; under the Christmas tree in Cessnock City Council’s administration building, over the counter at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri library and at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Christmas Appeal drop off station.

For health and safety reasons, please ensure all donations are new and unwrapped. All donated goods will be provided to Jodie’s Place on Wednesday 21 December bringing happiness to families in need this Christmas.



Photo above: Mayor Bob Pynsent with Jodie's Place Manager Paula Mudd

Successful 2016 'community building partnership' recipients announced

The State Electorate of Cessnock has secured grant funding of \$300,000.00 for a total of 19 projects as part of the NSW Government's 2016 Community Building Partnership (CBP) program. The Community Building Partnership Program, first introduced by the Labor Government in 2009 has provided funding to hun-

dreds of community groups, sporting clubs and councils across NSW to build or upgrade local facilities. The State Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr said he was pleased to receive this State Government funding. The funding will aim to create more vibrant and inclusive communities and deliver positive social, envi-

ronmental and recreational outcomes. The successful Projects in the Cessnock Electorate for 2016 are below. "Congratulations to all the successful applicants. With a large number of applications lodged, I know there are many disappointed groups in the area who continue to work hard for our

community who missed out" said Mr Barr. "This funding allows for much work to be done to improve facilities that all members of the groups can use." Further details of the program and all successful grants funded for the 2016 program can be found at www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au

Abermain Weston Hawks Rugby League Inc.	Seating	\$2,500
Kurri Kurri Rugby League Football Club	Installation of Lighting Pole on Training Field	\$12,000
Branxton Preschool Inc.	Let's Go Outside - Teaching children sustainability in the great outdoors	\$3,100
Kurri Kurri Little Athletics Centre Inc.	Defibrillator and First Aid Kit	\$2,500
Playgroup Association of NSW Inc.	Cessnock LGA Play Trailer	\$4,590
Cessnock City Council	Ayrfield Miners Memorial Park Multi-Purpose Court Renewal	\$12,000
Cessnock City Council	Creation of Youth Centre Hub for Cessnock Local Government Area	\$38,000
Lake Macquarie City Council	Automatic Irrigation System for Edgeworth No.2 Oval, Edgeworth	\$23,200
Kurri Kurri Minor Rugby League Inc.	Storage Building and BBQ Area	\$35,000
Sugarvalley Neighbourhood Centre Advancement Group Inc	Enhancing the capacity and facilities for services and the community	\$15,951
Abermain Bowling & Recreation Club Ltd.	Safety Handrails for all ramps and Stairs	\$11,000
Valley Artists Incorporated	LED stage lighting: a brighter future for Valley Artists	\$4,142
Finding Yellow Limited	Finding Yellow Transport Enhancement Project	\$43,000
Edgeworth Junior Soccer Club Inc.	Edgeworth Junior Soccer Club Canteen Upgrade	\$5,000
Branxton Greta Business Chamber	Additional sheltered picnic table and benches at Branxton Oval.	\$11,175
Cessnock & District Agricultural Association Incorporated	Supply & Installation of 11 Replacement Power Boxes	\$37,000
The Canopy Incorporated	Solar Panels at Cameron Park Community Centre	\$23,443
Richmond Vale Preservation Co-operative Society Ltd.	Installation of solar panels to reduce increasing electricity costs	\$8,899
Cessnock District Aeromodellers Club	Sport field maintenance equipment	\$7,500


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Council committed to working with RMS for the best outcome in bypass design

With the preferred option for the Singleton bypass now unveiled, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said it was now a matter for Singleton Council to work with the State Government to ensure the design incorporated the needs of the local government area. Council wrote to the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) in November 2015 in support of Option B, because it would best contribute to the sustainability of Singleton. Cr Moore said she learned of the preferred route at the announcement by Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen on Tuesday.

"Council is extremely happy that a decision has been made on the route which will allow this much-needed project to progress. The Singleton bypass is a State Government project, and will be funded by the State and Federal governments.

"However, there are implications for our residents as well as Council in terms of our Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and planning strategies. "Council will be looking to work with the NSW Government and RMS to ensure the design meets the needs of our community and provides opportunities for our businesses and the economy."

Cr Moore sympathised with property owners affected by the preferred route, and urged anyone with questions about the project to contact RMS on 1800 991 254. She was also aware of community concerns that the bypass route failed to offer a solution to the number of accidents on the New England Highway at Whittingham. "I can assure the residents of Whittingham that Council has taken close note of options for that section of the road under the New England Highway Draft Corridor Strategy, and we will continue to advocate to the State Government to address road safety issues in that area," she said. If you go to the below website it will give you the preferred option

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We wish all our valued clients a Merry Christmas & a Safe & Prosperous New Year.
Sue, Dave & Staff

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<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/projects/hunter/new-england-highway/singleton-bypass/singleton-bypass-route-options-report-2015-09.pdf>

What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

IT being the last issue of The News prior to Christmas it would be remiss of me not to mention the enormous contribution the sporting club secretaries & publicity officers of all our community organisations make to our publication. Club reports & results are critical to the dissemination of club news & individual achievements. Again, it would be remiss of me not to mention all our other contributors who diligently provide articles for our readers. To mention just a few; Andrew Marsh, John S. Bryant OAM (almost retired), Lester Bootes & Mark Bernini, Annaleize Hambling, Sonya Martin & Denise Harvey at

Cessnock City Council. Daryl Sheppard from Branxton Golf Club, Karen Quilty from Branxton Public School, Shelley Mitchell from Kirkton Public School, David & Sue Peel from HVGC, Anne Lomas & Perri from Clayton Barrs' office, Emily

Dowswell from Joel Fitzgibbons' office, Peter Kersop from MRM Lawyers, Denise McGoldrick from the CWA, Judy Spillard from the VIEW Club, Lee Grundy from Branxton Pharmacy, Peter Hodges from Greta Tidy Towns, Briony O'Hara from Singleton Council, Lisa Peel & Jessica Dougherty from Rosary Park School & last, but by no means least, all our local members & mayors. To all of you 'thank you'. A very special mention to all our advertisers who, have again, made our publication possible this year. The Branxton Greta Vineyards News will be

having a short break over the Christmas and New Year period and will return early in the new year. We will notify our advertisers early in the new year as to the date. Have a great Christmas & may all you wish for in the New Year be yours.

On page 11 you will see an article telling us that from Monday 6 March next year residents in Maitland, Cessnock and Singleton Local Government areas will be supplied with a new bin sporting a lime green lid as part of the roll out of a kerbside garden organics collection service. The roll out of the bins will start in January and will take about seven weeks. The 3 councils obtained a \$2.2million grant from the state government which allows them to provide the service at no extra cost which is good news. The 'Sulo' waste collection system has been a Godsend to garbage services not just in Australia but all over the world for its cost effectiveness & ease of collection. Interestingly one of our wheelie bins at our office is dated 1983; 33 years in use and still has some years



left! The accolade for the first functional wheelie bin, and the one in which most modern plastic wheelie bins are descended from, goes to the UK company, Frank Rotherham Mouldings, which invented the wheeled bin in 1968. Though its use was limited to the transportation of waste across the factory floor, the wheeled bin would have

possibly gone unnoticed, until an eagle-eyed health and safety inspector realised that the bin could improve efficiencies and reduce the amount of injuries to refuse collectors. It wasn't until the 80s where a new type of refuse collection vehicle emerged, which could automatically pick up and empty the bins, that wheelie bins were

able to be introduced as a viable option for waste collection. Going on that I'd say our 1983 bin is a first issue; a relic and quite collectable! Congratulations to Singleton businessman Marcus Kirkwood who owns a 3rd share of last Friday nights Inter Dominion winner 'Smolda'.

The eight-year-old gelding, which he bought into off trainer-driver Mark Purdon's All Stars Stables website after the loss of his son Tom in 2009 has now earned \$2.139 million in prizemoney. I watched the race and also backed it (thank you Markus); what a win. It also broke the track record in doing so. Cheers Mike



Thank you all On behalf of the Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group members I wish to thank your paper for your support over the past year in getting our message out to the people in the Branxton and Greta area that there is a place where they can come too for information, awareness and support not only about Prostate Cancer but also other types of Cancer and health related issues which effects both men and women. As our next meeting isn't until next February I would like to wish you, your staff & the community a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year. Kind Regards. Barry Preston – Chairman- Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group. 49904554- 0439404554

Government hypocrisy Speaking following the funeral of another veteran who recently committed suicide in NSW, I stated that it's all very well and good for politicians to be photographed glad-handing veterans on ANZAC Day, getting their photo taken sitting in a tank, or wearing a flak jacket to be 'one of the boys' at an airbase, in a warship or some other military setting; but they run a mile when it comes to actually doing something of substance to address veteran's issues. We've just heard of yet another veteran suicide where the former soldier presented for treatment for PTSD at Calvary Mater Hospital in Newcastle, only to be jerked around for hours by the bureaucracy, which was putting obstacles in the man's way rather than treat him first

and sort out the paperwork later. In this case 'the paperwork' was a referral from a General Practitioner. After hours of waiting for the GP to turn up at the hospital, the former soldier gave up in frustration and went home, where he took his own life. Each and every one of us in politics and the Department of Veteran's Affairs bears responsibility for how this man – and others like him – are being treated after giving their all for this great country. As citizens we don't expect to lose our life every day when we go to work. To be in such a situation would be absurd. We expect our work environment to be safe and secure. But the men and women of our Defence force, police, fire and ambulance workers face the very real prospect of losing their life every single day they turn up to make our lives better and to help make Australia a better place in which to live and raise our families. We owe them better than this. Senator Brian Burston One Nation Senator for NSW Centrelink cuts hurting I have spoken last week in Parliament House in support of the thousands of people in our electorate who cannot secure

assistance or advice from local Centrelink offices. I rose to give voice to those who cannot speak for themselves: the elderly, the sick, the disabled, the unemployed and families who are dealing with the loss of an elderly parent—people who cannot secure any assistance or advice from our Centrelink offices. I have had constituents in my office literally crying—in tears—because of the way they have been treated by Centrelink. They have been unable to get the assistance they need. It's apparent the Turnbull Government's disgraceful cuts have spiralled the Human Services system into a state of crisis. They have stories of near empty Centrelink offices with not a staff member to be seen, stories about waiting for hours on hold on the phone for advice and stories about being expected to go online to interact with Centrelink—usually, of course, with no success. The Government is promoting a culture of punishment rather than assistance. I have been told by a whistle-blower that Centrelink staff are basically being told by senior

management to tell people to get lost and they are not there to help them. This is the sort of culture that is being developed in Centrelink by this Government. During my statement to the House I acknowledged and empathised with Centrelink staff who have been placed

under unfair and unacceptable pressure due to a growing lack of resources. Those professional public servants who, of course, are overworked because of the cuts but who also inevitably wear the brunt of the anger of people who cannot get the service and advice they require.

I call for the Turnbull Government to reverse Centrelink cuts and to restore vital services to ensure all Australians are treated with the respect they deserve. Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter



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Police		Pokolbin.....4015 0000
Branxton....	4938 1244	Rothbury.....4991 1733
Lochinvar...	4930 7209	Scotts
Ambulance...	131 233	Flat.....
NSW Fire Brigade		6574 5186
Branxton....	4938 3396	Central
		(Cessnock)...4015 0000
Rural Fire Brigades		Electricity
Belford.....	6574 7149	Energy
Broke.....	6579 1491	Australia.....
Greta.....	4015 0000	131 388
		Hospitals
		Maitland....
		4939 2000
		Cessnock... 4991 0555
		Singleton... 6572 2799
		SES132 500

Letters to the editor can be sent to:

**The Editor, The BGV News,
 12 Clift Street, Branxton NSW 2335**

or

fax to
4938 3301

or emailed to
thenews@hotmail.net.au

Successful 'Mens Shed' raffle



THE Branxton Greta Mens Shed Christmas Raffle 2016 was an outstanding success with three whooping prizes gratefully accepted by their lucky winners.

The 'giant' raffle had three prizes with the first prize; a cheque for \$5000. It went to a very good home with a very happy & deserving winner Doug Cameron from Bulga.

Second prize was for a \$1000 meat which went to a Central Coast women who again couldn't believe her luck.

The most interesting of the three prizes was for 'all you could get into a shopping trolley' in two minutes at the Branxton IGA Supermarket.

The winner, Chris Maskey from Singleton, had obviously trained for the event & gorged over \$625 in the allotted time.

Proprietor Sue Unicomb said that a couple of her



Ⓞ Jim Cahill, vice-president (at left) with James King, treasurer (at right) presenting the winner of their Christmas raffle, Doug Cameron from Bulga, with the first prize cheque for \$5000.



Ⓞ From L-R: Chris Maskey from Singleton who was 3rd Prize winner in the Raffle, James King Treasurer of the Mens Shed, Jim Cahill vice president of the Mens Shed &, in front, proprietor of the Branxton IGA, Sue Unicomb

staff had done a sample trial. "The best was just on \$400 so Chris's effort was outstanding," said Sue.

Treasurer of the Branxton Greta Mens Shed, James King, said that the raffle was a major fundraiser for the 'Shed' & that after giving away \$6625 they still managed to raise \$1400.

"On behalf of the 'Shed' I would like to thank all

those people who supported the raffle & congratulations to our

three winners," said James.

Ⓞ Below: Check-out time!



Ⓞ Third prize winner in the 'Mens Shed Christmas Raffle', Chris Maskey from Singleton, gathering as much as he can in the allotted 2 minutes; he ended up with just over \$625

Check & see!

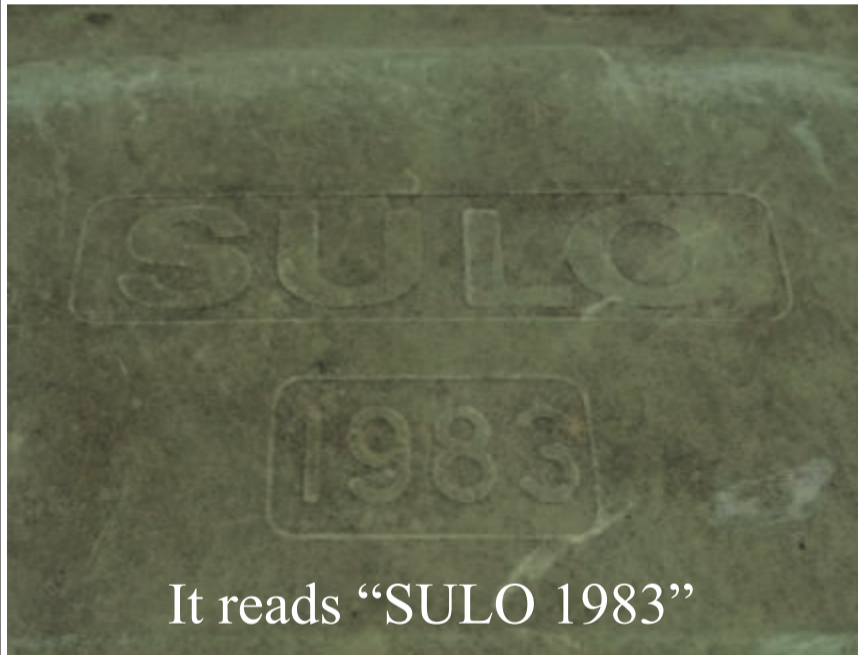
As mentioned in my column on page 4 "What's the Goss" Singleton, Maitland & Cessnock councils are introducing a third 'sulo bin'/wheelie bin from March next year for the removal of organic matter viz., garden waste.

The new bin is not costing ratepayers as it came with a \$2.2million grant from the NSW government & the resultant mulch will help keep associated costs down to a minimum.

While researching the 'wheelie bin. I discovered that they were introduced in the early 1980's & checking the date on our bins at our office I discovered that one of them is dated 1983 (see photo). I did say in my article that it is, most probably, a first issue & very collectible (excuse the pun)!

I would like to know if there are any bins with a date prior to 1983 still being used & if so please send a photo & I will acknowledge the fact.

Maybe the three councils involved can come up with a little prize for the oldest(?).



It reads "SULO 1983"



Ⓞ 12 month old Ava Mitchell with first time Grandmother Sue Mitchell. Sue helped organise the 2-minute third prize raffle scurry. Ava enjoyed the morning & all the attention that she received from the customers & staff.

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

FROM THE MAYORS DESK

It was great to see the community enjoying Carols in the Park which has come a long way since our first event in 2004. The talent was outstanding, the fireworks display was fantastic and Santa touching down in a helicopter is certainly a sight many local children won't forget for a long time. Carols in the Park represents what community events are all about, bringing everyone together and giving families the opportunity to spend quality time together.

I had the pleasure of being involved in a number of community events in early December celebrating International Day of People with a Disability. I congratulate Cessnock PCYC for hosting Come and Try Day, giving those with and without a disability the chance to try sports and recreational activities. It was an absolute success with a huge offering including wheelchair basketball, Yu Gi Oh, Bocce and therapeutic horses. What a wonderful and very important event for our entire community.

I also attended the *Cessnock Includes You* exhibition at the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery featuring the art works of those living with a disability. Meeting and talking with the artists was very inspiring as they shared insights into their pieces. Well done to everyone involved.

The Cessnock City Council Christmas Appeal 2016 is well underway aimed at giving support to those doing it tough this festive season. This year's beneficiary is Jodie's Place, a local refuge for those who are suffering from domestic violence.

Donation drop off points include; under the Christmas tree in our administration building, over the counter at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri library and at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Christmas. Donations can be anything from non-perishable food, toiletries, first aid and toys. Remember all donations must be new and unwrapped for health and safety reasons. We look forward to your support before the appeal ends Tuesday 20 December, 2016.

As this will be my last message of the year I'd like to thank everyone for their support and also contribution to our community over the year. The festive season is a very special time where we can take stock of our achievements and enjoy time with family. This Christmas I encourage everyone to reach out to someone who may be less fortunate, or more vulnerable in our community. I also urge everyone to stay safe, especially those traveling over the holiday season. On behalf of Cessnock City Council, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. *Cheers, Bob*

Raising the BARR SPORT & RECREATION CAMPS – FOR SALE

A really crucial part of a child's school experience is the school camp. In NSW Sport & Rec camps have been a vital cog in the wheel for the past 60 years. The idea of the Government run Sport and Rec camp was to secure beautiful land and wonderful experiences for the children. That's why our S&R Camps are on lakes, rivers, waterways and even down at Jindabyne near the snowfields. For many children, many of the experiences that they have at a Sport and Rec Camp will be the first, and sometimes only, time to do many of these things. Canoeing, archery, campfire, sailing, climbing walls, team building, high ropes, open fire cooking, etc.

Rather than being run as non-profit, Government subsidised, low cost centres, as they have been for 60 years, the Government have now decided that these centres should be sold off to for-profit businesses. Of course, the obvious way to drive a profit would be to raise the cost to each child attending, reduce the staffing and staffing qualifications (rates of pay), cut back on food quality/quantity and reduce maintenance and upkeep of the facility. The other obvious future of a for-profit centre includes high cost high end new accommodation being built on these Crown Reserves so that those with the cash can have the most wonderful of experiences, while those without will be excluded from access. Locally, think to yourself of the beautiful sites at Myuna Bay and Point Wollstonecraft. Imagine how excited developers must be at the idea of owning these parcels of land on our beautiful Lake Macquarie. This is modern Baird-economics.

CROWN LAND – FOR SALE

Because NSW was established long before the Federation of Australian states, when white Europeans first settled in Australia in 1788, the land was declared the property of the Crown and thus became the property of NSW. Don't get me started on the declaration of the land as "terra nullius" which means "nobody's land"! In any case, Crown Land became the property of the state and has long had the condition of "broader public good and use" as a defining term and condition. Two weeks ago the Government moved and passed new Legislation that will allow Crown Land to be sold off, handed over, given away, transferred, etc at the whim of the Government. No longer will "broader public good and use" be a requirement. This will be an enormous problem for local Government, showgrounds and parks and playgrounds across the State that are on Crown Land, for community halls and surf life-saving clubs, for gun clubs and Scout groups – the list goes on and on. Another developers dream come true.

* * * * *

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

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



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Mayoral Column

The State Government's announcement last week about the preferred option for the New England Highway bypass was a fitting end to 2016, and reinforced that there's plenty more hard work to come in 2017.

Singleton Council nominated Option B, between Newington Lane and McDougalls Hill, as its preferred option because it offered all the benefits of a bypass while retaining connectivity between motorists and the commercial centre of our LGA.

Council is now committed to working with the State Government as detailed design work progresses to ensure the best outcomes for everyone in our community, especially those property owners on the path of the preferred route.

No doubt we can draw on the experience of the planning for the Hunter Expressway, and in particular the impact on the people of Branxton. That said, the reality is the Singleton bypass is a NSW Government project, and now the design and construction progresses is a matter for them. I would encourage anyone with questions about the project to contact RMS (Roads and Maritime Services) on 1800 991 254.

As the community also questions what is being done to address road safety concerns on the section of New England Highway at Whittingham, I can assure residents Council has looked very closely at what the New England Highway Draft Corridor Strategy means for that area. A very big item on our to do list in 2017 is to continue to advocate for solutions in the short term. Council already has an established track record when it comes to working successfully with the State Government, and there were plenty examples to celebrate in 2016.

Only two weeks ago we gathered for the opening of the new visitor information bay on Hermitage Road in the first completed milestone in the \$16.7 million upgrade and cycleway for Hermitage Road, a joint project with Cessnock City Council and funded by the NSW Government. In what is a real credit to the Council staff and contractors involved, the information bay looks fantastic and I'm really excited to see how work progresses next year.

But for now, it's a great time to reflect on the year that was and celebrate our achievements, and I was privileged to be part of two very special events in Branxton this week – namely the Lions Christmas Seniors' party and the end-of-year assembly for Branxton Public School.

These occasions were a great reminder of what the festive season is really all about – taking some time out to spend with the people most important to us,

and recharging the batteries. I'd suggest there's no better platform to do just that than Cook Park on Friday nights for the Summer Music Series. In a fantastic partnership between Council and Glencore, people of all ages can set up a picnic, enjoy the live music and simply relax from 6pm to 8.30pm.

An obvious highlight of 2016 for me personally was being elected Mayor of Singleton, and I am committed to working as hard as I can in the interests of our community. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season, and look forward to what achievements we will celebrate next year.

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

JOEL FITZGIBBON COLUMN

This is my last column for 2016 and I thank The Branxton Greta Vineyard News for publishing it and all those who have read it throughout the year.

Christmas is a time to relax, reflect, and spend quality with family and friends. But sadly for some people, the Christmas period can be a time of high stress. Many can experience anxiety and depression, particularly those who have divorced, have experienced a death in the family, or find themselves socially isolated or disadvantaged. The Christmas period can also see a spike in alcohol related violence and family conflict. I encourage anyone who is experiencing difficulty to call Lifeline on 131114 or 1800RESPECT for 24/7 support.

With the year's parliamentary calendar behind us, much time will be devoted to helping the many who will find it difficult to secure any assistance from Centrelink due to Government funding cuts. It won't be a happy festive season for them. In the New Year I plan to further ramp up my campaign to have appropriate levels of resourcing for Centrelink restored.

The year's end is an appropriate time to reflect upon and thank our volunteers. The many who devote much of their time throughout the year to helping others. We are very fortunate in the Hunter to have a strong culture of volunteerism. I thank all those who give their time to assist those less fortunate.

Last week's National Accounts result was a real shock. Our economy went backwards in the final quarter while all our OECD partners grew. Of course, two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth would put us officially in recession, something we avoided during the Global Financial Crisis.

Let's hope things pick up next year but it is clear the Government is holding the economy back. As private sector investment remains flat, the Government continues to spend too little on economy-stimulating infrastructure. For Government money is currently very cheap, it's a time to spend on projects which create economic activity and

in turn, jobs and government revenue.

I've attended many end-of-year school presentations over the course of the last few weeks and I congratulate all those who have been recognised for their academic, sporting, leadership or cultural achievements.

I've seen many justifiably proud parents and I thank all who provide strong guidance and support to their children. Let's hope for a stronger commitment from governments to the funding of our schools in the future. No investment creates a greater return.

My office will close for the Christmas break from 1pm on Friday December 23 and will re-open on Monday January 9. I wish all in the Hunter a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

FREE LEGAL HELP IN UPPER HUNTER ELECTORATE

I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness in the Upper Hunter Electorate about a free service that has helped over two million people with legal problems in NSW in the past 15 years.

LawAccess NSW is a great starting point for anyone in Upper Hunter Electorate with a legal issue - the support they provide will cost you nothing and could save you a lot of time and anxiety.

Law Access has launched a Communications Toolkit to help people and organisations spread the word about its services, after Law and Justice Foundation research showed one in five people with a legal problem in NSW don't do anything about it.

Many people don't take action when they have a legal issue because they don't know how to, or think it will be too stressful or expensive. Legal problems rarely resolve themselves and often get worse when ignored so it's vital the community knows about LawAccess and how to find its services.

The LawAccess phone line 1300 888 529 provides free legal information, referrals and - in some cases - legal advice on civil, criminal and family law issues.

Its website www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au contains self-help information on a range of topics including debt, fines, family and neighbour disputes. It also has a guide to representing yourself in a court or tribunal.

LawAccess began in 2001 as a joint initiative of the Department of Justice, Legal Aid NSW, Law Society of NSW and the NSW Bar Association. A recent survey showed more than 90 per cent of LawAccess users were highly satisfied with the help they received.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. **Contact:** My Email address; upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au, phone numbers; 6543 1065, Fax 6543 1416; postal address P.O. Box 493, Muswellbrook 2333.

Cheers, Michael

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Heat stress and heat-related illness

Extreme heat can affect anybody. Those most at risk are older people, young children and people with a medical condition.

Heat stress occurs when our body is unable to cool itself enough to maintain a healthy temperature. Normally, the body cools itself by sweating, but sometimes sweating isn't enough and the body temperature keeps rising.

Heat-related illness can range from mild conditions such as a rash or cramps to very serious conditions such as heatstroke, which can kill. Overexertion in hot weather, sun or bushfire exposure, and exercising or working in hot, poorly ventilated or confined areas can increase your risk of heat stress. Heat can also make an existing medical condition worse, for example heart disease.

People most at risk of heat-related illness

Anyone can suffer from heat-related illness, but those most at risk are:

- * People over 65 years, particularly those living alone or without air conditioning
- * Babies and young children
- * Pregnant and nursing mothers
- * People who are physically unwell, especially with heart disease, high blood pressure or lung disease
- * People on medications for mental illness.

Elderly people are more prone to heat stress than younger people because their body may not adjust well to sudden or prolonged tempera-

ture change. They are also more likely to have a chronic medical condition and be taking medication that may interfere with the body's ability to regulate temperature.

Causes of heat stress and heat-related illness

There are many factors which can cause heat stress and heat-related illness, including:

Dehydration – to keep healthy, our body temperature needs to stay around 37°C. The body cools itself by sweating, which normally accounts for 70 to 80 per cent of the body's heat loss.

If a person becomes dehydrated, they don't sweat as much and their body temperature keeps rising.

Lack of airflow – working in hot, poorly ventilated or confined areas.

Sun exposure – especially on hot days, between 11am and 3pm.

Hot and crowded conditions – people attending large events (concerts, dance parties or sporting events) in hot or crowded conditions may also experience heat stress that can result in illness.

Bushfires – exposure to radiant heat from bushfires can cause rapid dehydration and heat-related illness. Bushfires usually occur when the temperature is high, which adds to the risk.

Symptoms of heat-related illness

It is important to know the signs and symptoms of heat exposure and how you should respond. Symptoms vary according to the type of heat-related illness. Babies and young children may show signs of restlessness or irritability and have fewer wet nappies. Older people may become light-headed, confused, weak or faint.

Some heat-related illness and common symptoms include:

Deterioration in existing medical conditions – this is the most common health problem of heat stress.

Heat rash – sometimes called 'prickly heat', this is a skin irritation caused by excessive sweating. It can occur at any age, but is most common in young children. It looks like a red cluster of pimples or small

blisters. It is most likely to occur on the neck and upper chest, in the groin, under the breasts and in the elbow creases.

Heat cramps – these include muscle pains or spasms, usually in the abdomen, arms or legs. They may occur after strenuous activity in a hot environment, when the body gets depleted of salt and water. They may also be a symptom of heat exhaustion.

Dizziness and fainting – heat-related dizziness and fainting results from reduced blood flow to the brain. Heat causes an increase in blood flow to the skin and pooling of blood in the legs, which can lead to a sudden drop in blood pressure. There can be a feeling of light-headedness before fainting occurs.

Heat exhaustion – this is a serious condition that can develop into heatstroke. It occurs when excessive sweating in a hot environment reduces the blood volume. Warning signs may include paleness and sweating, rapid heart rate, muscle cramps (usually in the abdomen, arms or legs), headache, nausea and vomiting, dizziness or fainting.

Heatstroke – this is a medical emergency and requires urgent attention. Heatstroke occurs when the core body temperature rises above 40.5°C and the body's internal systems start to shut down. Many organs in the body suffer damage and the body temperature must be reduced quickly. Most people will have profound central nervous system changes such as delirium, coma and seizures. The person may stagger, appear confused, have a fit or collapse and become unconscious. As well as effects on the nervous system, there can be liver, kidney, muscle and heart damage.

The symptoms of heatstroke may be the same as for heat exhaustion, but the skin may be dry with no sweating and the person's mental condition worsens. Unfortunately, heatstroke is fatal in up to 80% of cases.

CONT NEXT PAGE

Muswellbrook Area Command SOUTHERN SECTOR: Break, Enter and Steal/Rothbury:
Between 23:30 on Sunday 04 December 2016 and 07:00 on Monday 05 December 2016, person/s unknown have gained entry to the stated location being a premises in Talga Rd, Rothbury by unknown means and method. Victim was asleep at the time of the incident. Nil sign of any forced entry. Once inside, offender/s have moved through to the lounge room and kitchen and stolen victims laptop, handbag and contents. Further enq being

conducted.
Stolen MV/Doyles Creek:
Between 12:00 on Thursday 01 December 2016 and 10:30 on Monday 05 December 2016 unknown person/s have stolen a 2015 blue Grizzly 350 4WD Quad Motorcycle and an unregistered 2000 red Honda CT 200 Ag Motorcycle from an open shed at the stated location being a property on Doyles Creek Road, Doyles Creek.
Steal from Person/Singleton:
Between 11:15 and 11:55 on Monday 05 December 2016 unknown person/s have stolen the victim handbag containing her wallet and

contents and mobile phone from her shopping trolley whilst she was shopping in Woolworths, Gowrie st, Singleton by unknown means. Victim states that she did not leave the trolley unattended and the bag was in the child seat. Further enq being conducted.

When should I call Crime Stoppers? 1800 333 000
Crime Stoppers operates 24hrs a day, 7 days a week and allows members of the community to anonymously report criminal or suspicious behaviour or activity. You can contact Crime Stoppers using one of the following methods:
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Wanted For: Wanted in relation to murder offences



Turkey roulade with quinoa, cranberry and pepita stuffing

Serves: 8 | Preparation time: 1hr 40 minutes

Step 1 Preheat oven to 180°C. Cook quinoa in a saucepan with 1 cup water over medium heat; bring to

the boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 12 minutes, or until water has absorbed. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.

Step 2 Spray a large non-stick frying pan with olive oil and set over medium heat. Sauté onion until soft. Add garlic, lemon zest and sage; sauté for 1 minute, or until fragrant. Remove from heat.

Step 3 Place cooled quinoa, onion mixture, parsley, cranberries and pepitas in a bowl. Stir to combine.

Step 4 Place turkey, skin side down, between 2 pieces of baking paper. Pound turkey with a meat mallet until as thin as possible and an even thickness (about 1–2cm). Remove top layer of baking paper and arrange spinach evenly over turkey. Spoon cooled stuffing over the spinach, leaving a 2cm border. Using baking paper to guide you, firmly roll turkey breast to enclose spinach and stuffing. Tie turkey at 2cm intervals with kitchen string. Use toothpicks to secure and tuck in ends of turkey if necessary.

Step 5 Put rolled turkey in a roasting tray and pour hot stock in base. Spray turkey lightly with olive oil. Cover entire tray with foil.

Step 6 Roast turkey for 30 minutes. Remove foil, then return to oven for a further 20–30 minutes, or until golden brown and juices run clear when a skewer is inserted into the thickest part of the breast. Cover loosely with foil; set aside to rest for 15 minutes.



Serve turkey roulade with Cranberry and orange relish.

Ingredients

- * 1/2 cup (95g) tri-colour quinoa, rinsed, drained
- * 1 large red onion, chopped
- * 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- * 2 teaspoons lemon zest
- * 1 tablespoon sage, chopped
- * 2 tablespoons flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- * 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- * 2 tablespoons pepitas
- * 1.25–1.5kg double boneless, turkey breast
- * 50g baby spinach
- * 1 cup gluten-free reduced-salt chicken stock, hot



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Chateau Elan Wins NSW Tourism Award again and now in Hall of Fame!

Chateau Elan at The Vintage, Hunter Valley has won Gold in the Business Tourism category last Thursday at this year's NSW Tourism Awards. Not only have they won the Gold but it is the third consecutive year placing them in the prestigious Hall of Fame. This is the second

-time Chateau Elan has been placed in the Hall of Fame for the NSW Tourism Awards, with last year's third consecutive win for Luxury Accommodation category saw the Hotel from the Hunter be acknowledged for all its hard work. Joseph Spagnolo, General

Manager, said to receive the Business Tourism is testament to the dedication we have to our Business Events Guests and a wonderful recognition for our fabulous staff. "Indeed, the luxury 100 room property surpassed its much bigger Sydney city venue competitors"



including Star City and Luna Park, also beating a very strong regional contender, the Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains. This latest achievement is yet another milestone in an already impressive collection of Regional and State Awards, along with industry accolades including Winner of Best Australian Golf Resort, TripAdvisor Hall of Fame for Excellence, Trivago

team, than to award them with such a high honour". I am extremely proud and grateful to my staff, for making the Chateau Elan experience second to none" said Joseph. Additional Information: Chateau Elan is a destination in itself, featuring luxury accommodation, restaurant and bar, conference and meeting rooms, a state-of-the-art Spa facility, and the renowned 18 hole Championship golf course designed by Greg Norman.

Photo: Joe Spagnolo General Manager Chateau Elan At The Vintage.

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Heat stress and heat-related illness

Treatment for heat-related illness Treatment options vary according to the type of heat-related illness. Apply first aid and seek medical assistance immediately if you, or someone you are with, shows any sign of heat exhaustion or heatstroke. **Heat rash – treatment** Treatment for heat rash includes: * Move the person to a cooler, less humid environment. * Keep the affected area dry.

- * Try using unperfumed talcum powder to increase comfort.
- Avoid using ointments or creams, as they keep the skin warm and moist, and may make the condition worse.**
- Heat cramps – treatment** Treatment for heat cramps includes: * Stop activity and sit quietly in a cool place. * Increase fluid intake. * Rest a few hours before returning to activity.
- Seek medical help if there is no improvement.**
- Dizziness and fainting – treatment** Treatment for dizziness or fainting includes: * Get the person to a cool area and lay them down.
- If fully conscious, increase fluid intake.**
- Heat exhaustion – treatment** Treatment for heat exhaustion includes: * Get the person to a cool area and lay them down. * Remove outer clothing. * Wet skin with cool water or wet cloths. * Increase fluid intake if they are fully conscious.
- Seek medical advice.**
- Heatstroke – treatment** Heatstroke is a medical emergency and requires urgent attention: * Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance. * Get the person to a cool, shady area and lay them down while you're waiting for emergency medical help. * Remove clothing and wet their skin with water, fanning continuously. * Do not give the person fluids to drink. * Position an unconscious person on their side and clear their airway. * If medical attention is delayed, seek further instructions from ambulance or hospital emergency staff.
- Prevention of heat-related illness** Prevention is the best way to manage heat-related illness. Some tips to prevent heat stress include: * **Drink plenty of water** – you need to drink more during hot weather, regardless of how active you are,

even if you don't feel thirsty (check with your doctor if you are on limited fluids or fluid pills). Avoid alcohol or drinks that contain lots of sugar. Don't have extremely cold liquids, as they may cause stomach cramps. * **Avoid exposure to heat** – stay out of the sun as much as you can, * **Protect yourself outside** – if you must be outdoors, remember to protect yourself from the sun – 'slip, slop, slap' by covering exposed skin with lightweight clothes, using sunscreen and wearing a hat, 'seek' shade and 'slide' on sunglasses. * **Plan ahead** – too much activity on a hot day can lead to heat stress. If you can, restrict activity to cooler parts of the day. Avoid physical activities like sport, renovating and gardening. * **Don't leave kids, older people or pets in cars** – even on cool days, cars can heat up to dangerous temperatures very quickly. People or pets that are left unattended in parked cars for even a few minutes are at risk of serious heat-related illnesses and possibly death. Never leave kids, older people or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are left open a fraction. * **Take it easy** – rest often and, whenever possible, stay indoors or in the shade. * **Stay cool** – and keep air circulating around you. Draw your blinds or curtains and use a fan or air conditioning if possible (if you don't have air conditioning, consider visiting an air-conditioned shopping centre or public library). Keep yourself cool by using wet towels, putting your feet in cool water and taking cool (not cold) showers. * **Keep up your energy levels** – eat smaller meals more often and cold meals such as salads. * **Check in on others** – keep in touch with older, sick or frail family, friends and neighbours who may need help coping with the heat, especially those who live alone. Call them at least once on any extreme heat day.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all! Rest up, eat heartily and enjoy the company of the ones that you love.

Here's where to find us should you need help in 2017: phone 4991-1466, email cessenock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325.

You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au

CLAYTON BARR MP Member for Cessnock

Still plenty of time for residents to donate to the Singleton Mayoral Christmas Tree Appeal

Local Singleton residents are being encouraged to dig deep this Christmas and donate a gift to the Singleton Mayoral Christmas Tree Appeal to help everyone in our community celebrate a merry Christmas. Unwrapped gifts, toys and non-perishable foods can be placed under the Christmas trees at Council's Customer Service Centre, Singleton Library and the Singleton Visitor Information and Enterprise Centre until Friday 16 December 2016. All goods received will be distributed by the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre and the Salvation Army to support local families in need this festive season. Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said donations big and small could go a long way in brightening another

person's Christmas. "We can all do our bit to help by picking up a few extra food items with the weekly grocery shop or buying an extra gift," she said. "There are many families who will appreciate food donations more than gifts so please ensure all food items are non-perishable and suitable for a Christmas meal, and not just treats and snacks." Residents are asked to reconsider donations of gifts with ongoing cost commitments, such as ereaders, iPads and items dependent on internet access, and toys requiring batteries. For more information on the Mayoral Christmas Tree Appeal contact Singleton Council on 02 6578 7290 or visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au

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0466 72 8118



Real Estate News

Fair Trading launches strata hotline

NSW Fair Trading have announced that there is a strata hotline to take consumer calls on the new reforms.

The reforms have taken five years of public consultation, including over 3,000 submissions, and contain more than 90 changes to the law. To help consumers deal with the changes, a hotline has been set up on 1800 214 023. NSW Fair Trading Commissioner Rod Stowe said: "With major updates made to the existing strata laws, our Contact Centre Officers who specialise in strata law have been familiarising themselves with the changes to ensure that they are equipped to provide the right assistance and advice.

"These changes will

improve strata living for over two million people who own, live or manage strata schemes across the state."

Key changes to the reform include:

- Making it easier for owners to complete cosmetic and minor renovations
- Making it easier to hold meetings and vote on decisions using modern forms of communication
- New options for addressing issues of parking, pets and smoke drift
- Ensuring tenants can play a valuable role in the life of their strata scheme
- A new collective sale process enabling owners to jointly sell and/or redevelop their strata scheme, which the NSW Land and

Environment Court must ensure is 'just and equitable' for the owners.

Strata renovations under the new laws

Jane Crittenden, a specialist strata lawyer, states that one of the most significant changes in the new strata reforms is the new method of regulating renovations, additions and alterations to units.

Under the new Act, brought in on 30 November 2016, new categories of works affecting common property have been created.

These include "cosmetic work by owners" (Section 109), "minor renovations by owners" (Section 110) and other works affecting common property (Section 111).

Cosmetic work

Cosmetic work allowed to be carried out in a competent and proper manner, without approval of the owners corporation, includes:

- installing hooks, nails or screws to hang a painting or things on walls
- installing or replacing handrails
- filling minor holes and cracks in internal walls
- laying carpet
- installing or replacing built-in wardrobes,

internal blinds and curtains and other work prescribed by the by-laws passed by the owners corporation.

However it does require an owner to ensure that any damage caused to any part of the common property is repaired.

Section 109(5) specifies work not included. This is defined as "minor renovations" in Section 110, and includes work:

- * involving structural changes that affects the external appearance or safety of a lot
- * that affects the fire safety systems, waterproofing or plumbing or exhaust system of a building in a scheme
- * reconfiguring walls, and any other works defined by the Strata Schemes Management Regulation 2016 ('the Regulation') as not being cosmetic work.

Minor renovations

Minor renovations are defined in Section 110 of the Act, and are supplemented by additional items set in Regulation 28. A special resolution is not needed to carry out minor renovations to common property in connection with an owner's lot.

An ordinary resolution at a general meeting is required to approve minor work, and approval may include conditions imposed by the owners corporation.

However an owners corporation cannot unreasonably withhold its approval. Minor renovations are defined non-exhaustively

and there may be items which are not expressly listed in the Act or Regulation.

The items listed in Section 110(3) are:

- * renovating a kitchen
 - * changing recessed light fittings
 - * installing or replacing wood or other hard floors
 - * installing or replacing wiring, cabling, power, or access points
 - * work involving reconfiguring walls
 - * any other work prescribed by the Regulation.
- Some items are very general descriptions which could range from limited to quite extensive work. Regulation 28 supplements Section 110(3) with a number of additional works which are considered minor renovations.

These include removing carpets to expose wooden or other hard floors, installing a rainwater tank, clothesline, reverse cycle air-conditioner, solar panels, solar hot water system, heat pump or ceiling insulation.

Section 110(4) specifies the information which an owner must give to an owners corporation about proposed minor renovations before seeking approval.

This includes details of the work, plans, duration and times of the works, the people carrying out the work and their qualifications, and arrangements for removal of rubbish and debris.

The Act also imposes an obligation on the owner to repair any damage caused to the common property. Section 110(5) reserves the right to an owners corporation to pass a by-law to specify work which it considers to be a minor renovation, and permits the owners corporation to delegate its functions under Section 110 to the strata committee. Excluded from the definition of minor renovations is cosmetic work, waterproofing, structural changes, changes to the external appearance of a lot, work which requires approval of a by-law.

The definition of minor renovations includes reconfiguring walls, but excludes structural changes and this could cause tension and give rise to disputes between owners and owners corporations. Works affecting common property other than cosmetic renovations and minor renovations are dealt with by Sections 111 and 142 of the Act. A by-law approved by special resolution is required for such works.

Common property rights by-law

A common property rights by-law is defined in Section 142 of the Act and discusses the right of exclusive use and enjoyment, or special privileges of the whole or any specified part

of the common property. Section 144 of the 2016 Act requires a by-law to specify whether the owners corporation or lot owner is responsible for the maintenance and serviceable repair of the common property or relevant parts.

Registration of by-laws

Section 141 of the Act provides that a change to the by-laws of a strata scheme has no effect until written notification is registered with the Registrar-General of the Department of Lands. This must be done within six months of the date of the passing of the resolution to make the by-law. The six-month time limit is a significant reduction in time from the present requirement of two years and applies to all by-laws approved.

Tribunal powers

In the event of uncertainty if proposed works are cosmetic or minor renovations, an owner may seek a declaration from the Tribunal (Section 127).

Presumably, it would be necessary to seek such an order if proposed works were considered by the owners corporation to be a minor renovation.

Section 126 of the Act also sets out the Tribunal's powers to permit an owner to carry out alterations and repairs to common property and other property.

TAYLOR

PROPERTY MARKETING

1300 803 300

taylorrealestate.com.au

11 Cruickshank Street, BELLBIRD

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



Merry Christmas

Team Taylor would like to wish you & your family a wonderful Christmas & a very Happy New Year!!!

We hope that you have a relaxing holiday & look forward to seeing you in 2017.



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

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.



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

Celebrating local Volunteers



Cessnock City Council's held as part of International Volunteer Celebration Day held as part of International Volunteers Day was a great

opportunity to thank local volunteers.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said on 5 December communities and organisations across the world come together to recognise the contribution volunteers have made. "We were joined by volunteers from Tidy Towns, Adopt-a-Road and Landcare along with volunteers from both our Libraries and the Performing Arts Centre". "The dedication these individuals have shown has

helped us to achieve so much more than we ever could have without the generous donation of their time, skills and energy". "On behalf of all of Council, I wish to sincerely thank you for your efforts," Cr Pynsent said. Volunteers attending the Cessnock City Council's Volunteer Celebration Day enjoyed touring the Hunter Water recycled water plant, lunch at Hunter Valley Hotel Academy, presentations, a visit to Aboriginal Learning Circle and sampling local produce.

Working together to deliver garden organics service

In addition to general waste bins and recycling bins, residents in Maitland, Cessnock and Singleton Local Government areas will soon be supplied with a new bin sporting a lime green lid as part of the roll out of a kerbside garden organics collection service. The roll out of the bins will start in January and will take about seven weeks. The first collection will commence on Monday 6 March 2017. Residents will be able to use the bins to dispose of a range of garden organics including grass clippings, prunings, weeds, leaves, and sticks and small branches. The material will then be processed into mulch and compost that can be used on local parks, sporting grounds and agriculture rather than using up scarce landfill space.



Council's Manager Development and Environment David Simm says, "Last year it is estimated that 6,500 tonnes of garden organics was disposed of through our garbage bins and there has been a steady increase of this type of material going to landfill over the past few years."

Working together, the three councils were successful in obtaining a \$2.2 million grant from the NSW Environment Protection Authority as part of the 'Waste Less, Recycle More' initiative and it has funded the purchase and supply of the bins, and also means the service will be provided to ratepayers at no extra cost.

Council is also committed to education and spreading the message about what garden organics actually is.

"It is important to only put your garden organics into the new bin as this ensures contamination levels are low and the compost generated from the collected materials is of high quality", Mr Simm said.

"Up to a quarter of household garbage bins in our region are currently made up of garden organics. The service will make a big difference to our environment, increase the lifespan of our landfill sites and provide a cost effective expansion of our waste management services that will take us into the future."

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

We would like to wish all a Happy, Holy Christmas & a wonderful New Year.

Our office will be closed from Wednesday 21st December 2016 & will re-open on Monday 9th January 2017

For all emergencies or enquiries please call

0412 566 041 or 0414 727 826



If thou art a master, be sometimes blind; if a servant, sometimes deaf. --Thomas Fuller

I am still determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may be. For I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions and not upon our circumstances. --Martha Washington

Accomplishing the impossible means only that the boss will add it to your regular duties. --Doug Larson

The trouble with learning from experience is that you never graduate. --Doug Larson

You can stand tall without standing on someone. You can be a victor without having victims. --Harriet Woods

"I can't do it" never yet accomplished anything. "I will try" has accomplished wonders. --George P. Burnham

Being defeated is often only a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent. --Marilyn vos Savant

Open Letter to the Branxton Greta Community From President, Branxton Greta Business Chamber

For those in the community that are not aware the Branxton Greta Business Chamber is an organization of local business, that all work together to promote and enhance the opportunities for local business to grow and provide more opportunity for local employment. The chamber also works closely with both Cessnock and Singleton Council on a range of issues such as:

- * Enhancing opportunities, making it attractive for new business to set up in the area,
- * Ensuring Sec 94 contributions are spent to benefit the community
- * Developer Contributions
- * Work with council on the Miller Park redevelopment
- * Greater/better signage for the towns off the freeway
- * Provide feedback on the future of the main street redevelopment, and
- * Completion of the RV Park at Branxton Oval.

These are just a few items the chamber is working with council on currently & the chamber is fully aware of several local community groups that have a number of individual goals they are working on; you can be assured that your chamber will, if requested and if appropriate, lend support on a case by case basis.

The chamber takes the view that if we support the local community, the local community will support local business & we are very fortunate that we have many local businesses providing goods and services that many other towns are without.

Your chamber hopes in the future to be able to sponsor another event such as the 'Umbrella Festival/town festival. These types of events require a lot of co-ordination and only operate by chamber members giving up their time as volunteers.

The chamber also operates a facebook page where we promote a local business of the month; December will be Thomas Real Estate becoming Richardson and Wrench. Also, visit the webpage www.branxtongreta.com.au/business-chamber/, it's a great source of information regarding upcoming events.

The chamber conducts regular business breakfasts so feel free to participate; it is opened to all not just chamber members.

As this is the last report for 2016 I and the Business Chamber wish everyone a wonderful Christmas & Happy New Year,

Cheers, Brett

Lyn, John and Staff of Branxton IGA would like to wish all their valued customers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Safe New Year.

TRADING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

Saturday 24 th December	-	7am till 7pm
Sunday 25 th CHRISTMAS DAY	-	CLOSED
Monday 26 th BOXING DAY	-	CLOSED
Tuesday 27 th December	-	CLOSED
Wednesday 28 th December	-	7am till 7pm
Thursday 29 th December	-	7am till 7pm
Friday 30 th December	-	7am till 7pm
Saturday 31 st December	-	7am till 6pm
NEW YEAR'S DAY	-	CLOSED
Monday 2 nd January	-	CLOSED
Tuesday 3 rd January	-	7am till 7pm

LAST DAY FOR ORDERS FOR CHICKENS AND BAGGED SALADS 19TH DECEMBER

52 Maitland Road, Branxton - Phone 49382028



How the locals like it™



branxton greta BUSINESS CHAMBER



Greta / Branxton

LIST WITH
LJ HOOKER GRETA/BRANXTON

Buyer activity has recently risen in the
Greta Branxton area.

So if you have been considering selling,
NOW is the perfect time to call Ben Bridge today
and find out exactly what your home is worth in
the current market?

YOUR LOCAL AGENT

Ben Bridge
Sales Consultant



Coming from a family with deep roots in the
Greta Branxton community, Ben has a lifelong
understanding of the community and its people.
Through this love of the area, Ben has a great
knowledge of the real estate market trends around
the community and with his extensive training
through the LJ hooker network, Ben is clearly the
logical choice for buying and selling in
Greta Branxton

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

0404 564 725



Singleton
1684 Mirannie Road
Rural Cedar Timber Cottage
15 minutes from Singleton is this
charming 2 storey Cedar Cottage.
Features include open living area, full
kitchen, front balcony to take in the
rural views, 2 water tanks, verandah,
large pad area plus 2 dams. Ideal for
those who want to escape the hustle &
bustle of town with a character filled
timber home.
Price: \$449,000
View: by appointment
Contact Michael Cruickshanks
0409 362 130
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



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: **UNDER OFFER**
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



ljhooker.com.au

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 contemplating renting your property please contact either Helen or Mike on

4938 3300

"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living, Branxton ~ Recent sales

SOLD **SOLD** **SOLD** **SOLD**

UNIT 2 **UNIT 10** **UNIT 12** **UNIT 18**

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300



Five members of Branxton/Greta CWA attended the 90th NSW Hunter River Group CWA Group Conference at Merriwa in October which had a Roaring Twenties theme. The day was like stepping back in time and the majority of members

that dressed to the theme are to be congratulated. It was a busy day and Mary Bowman from Muswellbrook was voted in as the new Group President. Congratulations Mary. Thank you to Merriwa Branch for being such wonderful hosts and

also thank you to the ladies who provided such a wonderful lunch. A great day. In 2017, the International Country of Study will be Nepal, which should prove just as interesting and fascinating as Mongolia. Our new

Agricultural and Environmental Officer, Pauline Hunt, will be advising on the Fauna (Quoll) and Flora (Quandong), as well as Foes (Fireweed and Foxes)

in 2017. Christmas is fast approaching and this will be our last article until our Branch resumes in February, 2017. With this in mind, we would like to

wish all in the community a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and 2017 and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. *President and Members Branxton/Greta CWA.*

Merry Christmas
Warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season from the Councillors and staff of Singleton Council

CIVIC CENTRE QUEEN STREET, SINGLETON
 (02) 6578 7290 | SSC@SINGLETON.NSW.GOV.AU

Twitter Facebook YouTube Instagram LinkedIn



Leanne, Marie, Noeleen and Pauline ready to kick up their heels at the 90th HRG Conference.

Special event to toast a new Visitor Information Bay



Singleton Council held a special event to mark the completion of a new Visitor Information Bay on Hermitage Road designed to help visitors best plan their stay in the region. The information bay, located just south of the Old North Road intersection, marks Singleton Council's first completed milestone in the construction of the joint \$16.7 million upgrade of Hermitage Road with Cessnock City Council and funded by the NSW Government's Retart NSW Resources for Regions program. The information bay includes a regional map and tourist information, seating, two picnic tables, parking and native landscaping. The Singleton project also includes installation of a new 10.6km cycleway, improvement of the road surface, intersection upgrades, wayfinding signs and new linemarking. Representatives of the NSW Government, both Singleton and Cessnock councils, contractors, local winemakers and property owners all toasted the new information bay at a special opening event on Friday 2 December 2016 at 3pm.

JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUNTER

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK:

FitzHunter
 JoelFitzgibbonMP
 4991 1022
 joelfitzgibbon.com
 joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

3 Edward Street Cessnock. My office will close from 1pm December 23 and will re-open January 9

NOW OPEN

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

Any profit goes back to Greta Tidy Towns
Open most Saturday's & Wednesday's
 High Street, Greta

GRETA WORKERS CLUB
2 WEST ST GRETA
4938 7325

MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB
6 MAITLAND RD EAST BRANXTON
4938 1226

GRETA WORKERS



*Merry Christmas &
A Happy & Safe
New Year
From Staff and Directors
Closed Christmas Day*

**FRIDAY NIGHT
ENTERTAINMENT**

16th DECEMBER
SOLID GOLD
New Years Eve
***“SUMMERLAND
KINGS”***

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

14th DECEMBER

\$2,600

SUNDAY

18th DECEMBER

\$1,900

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

THURS 15th DECEMBER

\$2,500

SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

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

NEW BAR OPEN

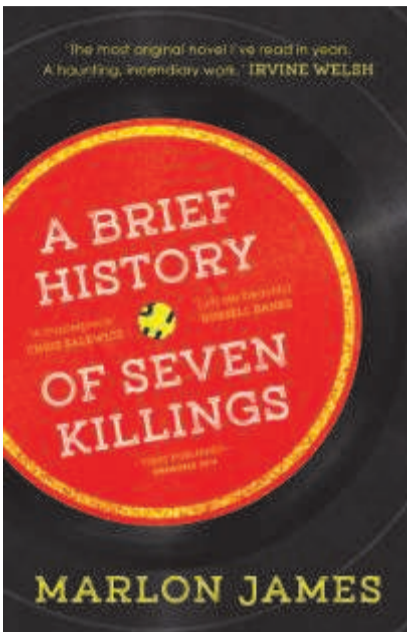
**COME & CHECK
IT OUT**

**XXXX GOLD
PROMOTION**

T.A.B. FACILITIES

T.A.B.

**NOW OPEN
AT MILLER PARK**



tells the story of the attempted assassination of Bob Marley, who is referred to throughout as “the singer”, and its aftermath. But perhaps more importantly, it tells the story of Jamaica in the 1970s and early 80s, when the guns flooded in, CIA agents took up residence, and the island went through one of its most violently defining moments. It is a story worth telling, and a story about Jamaica that doesn't only take place in Jamaica.

If one were to be curmudgeonly, one might say that *A Brief History* is slightly more impressive for its ambition than its accomplishment. In *John Crow's Devil* and *The Book of Night Women*, the ambition and the accomplishment were perfectly matched. *A Brief History*, however, is sometimes more impressive than it is easily enjoyable – a difficult book with a stop-start structure that doesn't quite sweep you up in the way the single narrative voices of the previous novels did.

Bakhtin saw the novel as the genre of polyphony, incorporating and orchestrating several competing voices. James seems to take this philosophy to heart, even extending it, and so in *A Brief History of Seven Killings* we find a novel of cacophony. The cast of characters presented at the beginning of the book totals around 75, several of them jumping in and out to

A Brief History of Seven Killings by Marlon James review – bloody conflicts in 70s Jamaica

Kei Miller

The Jamaican novelist Marlon James has written three books to date – a kind of triple-jump feat, though that metaphor isn't quite appropriate when one considers the extraordinary length of the leap he has taken between each book. His first novel, *John Crow's Devil*, established him as an interesting local writer with an imagination markedly different from

that of other Jamaican and Caribbean writers; he relished the darkness and gore rather than the sunshine and bouncy music. But *John Crow's Devil*, a small novel of hardly 200 pages, did not prepare anyone for what was to come next: *The Book of Night Women*. Easily one of the best Jamaican novels ever written, *The Book of Night Women*, a slave narrative, is an incredible feat of plotting, pace and language. While it embraces a Jamaican dialect, it also established James as an international star. In every way, it is a bigger novel than *John Crow's Devil*; epic in scale, and written with far more narrative power and lyricism. James's new novel, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*,

tell their pieces of the story. The book brings together a variety of Jamaican experiences, which isn't to say that these experiences are local or parochial. James's invented ghetto of Copenhagen City, where many of the book's murders are plotted and take place, is worth a moment's consideration. Though the ghetto's name is an invention, it is reminiscent of actual places within the urban sprawl of Kingston, places such as Tel Aviv, Spain, Gaza and Angola – areas that exist within Jamaica but also refer to a wider world of conflict in which it participates. The names of some ghettos, such as Tivoli Gardens, seem especially ironic, with the inspiration of the original being so far removed from the killing field the place has become.



James was born in Kingston, Jamaica, to parents who were both in the Jamaican police: his mother (who gave him his first prose book, a collection of stories by O. Henry) became a detective and his father (from whom James took a love of Shakespeare and Coleridge) a lawyer. James is a 1991 graduate of the University of the West Indies, where he read Language and Literature. He received a master's degree in creative writing from Wilkes University (2006).

Career

James has taught English and creative writing at Macalester College since 2007. His first novel, *John Crow's Devil* – which was rejected 70 times before being accepted for publication – tells the story of a biblical struggle in a remote Jamaican village in 1957. His second novel, *The Book of Night Women*, is about a slave woman's revolt in a Jamaican plantation in the early 19th century. His most recent novel, 2014's *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, explores several decades of Jamaican history and political instability through the perspectives of many narrators. It won the fiction category of the 2015 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature and the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction, having been the first book by a Jamaican author ever to be shortlisted. He is the second Caribbean winner of the prize, following Trinidad-born V. S. Naipaul who won in 1971. James has indicated his next work will be a fantasy novel, titled *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*. It will be the first in a series.

So too, James's Copenhagen City is no longer a peaceful Scandinavian landscape when it is placed in the hot tropics. James often brings the international within a national space. But most exceptional is his bringing together of a variety of Jamaican and American accents, and not for polite conversations, but to enter into the most brutal and bloody conflicts. In the wonderfully complex character of Josey Wales, we see James managing a range of language not only between characters but within a single character. Josey tells us of his meeting with CIA agents: “I don't tell him that yo tengo suficiente español para concocer que eres la más gran broma en Sudamérica. I chat to him bad like some bush naigger and ask dumb question like, So everybody in America have gun? What

kinda bullet American fire?

Why you don't transfer Dirty Harry to the Jamaican branch? hee hee hee.” If the scope of James's talent has grown from book to book, his imagination is more consistent – that tendency to inhabit the dark and gory places, and to shine a light on them. Despite its title, this isn't a brief novel and neither are there a mere seven killings. Readers will flinch many more times than that. When reading reviews of *Night Women*, James apparently became bored with comparisons to Toni Morrison; and with *A Brief History*, he's got bored with comparisons to Quentin Tarantino. But it is hard not to see the strength of that comparison. This is a novel that explores the aesthetics of cacophony and also the aesthetics of violence.

Going Green in the Lower Hunter

Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton councils are pleased to jointly announce the introduction of the Garden Organics collection for their residents commencing from 6 March 2017.

During January and February 2017, all households with a weekly garbage collection provided by their local council will have a new 240 litre bin with a lime green lid delivered to their homes.

The new bin will be in addition to the red general waste bin and yellow recycling bin currently provided.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this will give residents the convenience of disposing grass clippings and garden prunings through a new fortnightly kerbside collection.

“Currently up to a quarter of the contents of household garbage bins in our region are made up of garden organics”.

“This initiative will reduce the amount of useable material ending in our landfills which are rapidly filling up”.

“The Garden Organics collected from March will be processed into mulch and compost, providing residents with an environmentally sustainable and cost effective service”.

Every tonne of general waste that goes into our landfill, including from our garbage bins, attracts the NSW government waste levy that has to be passed on to residents.

By working together the three councils have been able to obtain a grant from the NSW EPA which has funded the purchase and supply of the bins.

The Garden Organics collection will make a big difference to our environment, increase the lifespan of our landfill sites and provide a cost effective expansion of our waste management services that will support our community for the future. For more information visit our website yourorganicsbin.com.au or www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste/organics. Hotline: 1800 870 250



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HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

Come Play! Hunter Valley Summer Campaign

The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association's (HVWTA) Summer campaign launched last Thursday and has already reached over 75,000 people in digital amplification across Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Our main audience is the short break market targeting Sydney, Newcastle, Northern NSW and the Gold Coast areas. A promotional email was also sent to 14,500 subscribers with content tailored to the family market. The HVWTA will run a TV commercial campaign with NBN Television and was launched last Sunday running for 2 weeks. The commercial will air during the Today Show, Morning News, Afternoon News and 1st Test Australia vs

Pakistan. To view the campaign visit winecountry.com.au

Destination NSW: New Regional Tourism Funding Announced

The NSW Government has announced \$13 million in regional tourism funding, between 2016 and 2019, to support the regional tourism industry in NSW. Up to \$4 million is available in 2016 - 2017 and \$4.5 million will be available during 2017 - 2018 and 2018 - 2019. Any funds unallocated during 2016 - 2017 will be rolled into the following year's program. The funding will be available through two streams: Regional Cooperative Tourism Marketing Program and Regional Tourism Product Development Program. The HVWTA is currently working with Destination NSW, the state's peak tourism body, to maximise our success in accessing funding for marketing activities and product development.

Wine Country's Hermitage Road Information Bay Officially Open

The \$17.1 million new road and cycleway project is funded by the NSW Government through a \$16.7 million grant under the Resources for Regions program, with additional contributions from Singleton and Cessnock councils. There are over 40 businesses along Hermitage Road that will directly benefit from the upgrade of the road and the introduction of the cycleway. An estimated one per cent of the current 2.2 million visitors to the Hunter Valley Wine Country are cyclists, contributing an estimated \$5 million to the local economy. The Information Bay at Around Hermitage was officially opened on Friday 2nd December and was attended by official guests Michael Johnsen MP, Nationals Member for Upper Hunter, Bob Pynsent, Mayor of Cessnock City Council, Sue Moore, Mayor of Singleton Council, Jason Linanne, General Manager at Singleton Council, Vicci Lashmore-Smith from Around Hermitage and Brian McGuigan.

WET Tax Reform - A Win for the Hunter Valley Wine Industry

The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) welcomes the announcement of changes to the Wine Equalisation Tax (WET) rebate, said Chairman of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association Hon George Souris AM.

The Government in the last May budget made significant changes to the WET rebate and the definition of wine producers that would have threatened the viability of many of our small wine producers, and would have had a major impact on the ability of our larger producers to retain employment levels and make further investments in our region.

The Government has reconsidered its decision to reduce the WET rebate cap in two stages from \$500,000 to \$290,000, by announcing it will maintain the cap at \$350,000 and couple this with a \$100,000 grant scheme focusing on investment at the cellar door. These changes will take effect from 1 July 2018.

Mr Souris said "this decision to retain support for direct to consumer wine sales to the current level and to adopt a sensible definition of a wine producer is vital to the sustainability of the medium sized regional producers, and to the small boutique wine producers who make up the rich



the official opening of the new Wine Country's Hermitage Road Information Bay

tapestry of our local wine industry given the market, climatic and cost structure pressures we all face". Further, "this will allow wine producers to continue to invest in their businesses that make the Hunter Valley world renowned from its distinctive wines to its rich tourism facilities including restaurants, golf courses, accommodation facilities, cellar doors and wine tours", Mr Souris said. Mr Souris said the Government chose a fair arrangement vis-à-vis the bulk and unbranded market by harmonising any changes to 1st July 2018. "From this date bulk and unbranded suppliers would not be eligible for the WET

rebate whereas genuine wine producers would continue to attract a rebate up to \$350k (down from \$500k) and also be able to claim a new Cellar Door QET rebate of up to \$100k pa. "This is a great outcome for Hunter Valley Wine producers and cellar door business." Senator Anne Ruston led a responsive investigation into the concerns of the wine industry by visiting many of the wine regions, including the Hunter Valley and for that we are truly thankful. She understands the opportunities we can seize with wine tourism and export, and understands

that the economics aren't the same for everyone given the vast disparity between the cost structures of the largest and smallest producers. The HVWTA would also like to thank Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce for his efforts and advocacy at the highest levels to ensure the sustainability of the wine and wine tourism industry, Mr Souris said. "I also wish to thank the HVWTA and in particular Mr Ian Napier who led the campaign for the enormous effort and time invested." "A great deal of the outcome is to the credit of the staunchness of the HVWTA", Mr Souris concluded.



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MOVIE REVIEW

THE FOUNDER

ABOUT The backstory behind the burger behemoth becomes digestible but unfulfilling drama boosted by its lead performance.

SARAH WARD



It all starts with an order for six multi-spindle milkshake mixers, the kind of item that travelling salesman Ray Kroc (Michael Keaton, *Spotlight*) usually has trouble selling. After calling the Californian eatery in question to confirm — and discovering not only was the purchase correct, but that the buyer would actually like to increase the quantity — Kroc incredulously, excitedly jumps in his car, heads to San Bernardino, spends 55 cents on a burger, fries and soft drink served straightaway in disposable packaging, and experiences the revolutionary-at-the-time fast food experience that is McDonald's circa 1954. Soon, he's taking a tour with owners Mac (John Carroll Lynch, *Miracles From Heaven*) and Dick (Nick Offerman, *TV's Fargo*), discovering their Speedee service system, envisaging expansion potential, and talking franchises. And so, the bustling burger behemoth consumers know and eat at today began to take shape. Stamped with a title cognisant of the role Kroc endeavours to manoeuvre himself into, as well as nodding to the formative years covered in the narrative, *The Founder* is an origin story, but there's no superheroes in sight. Rather, director John Lee Hancock (*Saving Mr. Banks*) and writer Robert D. Siegel (*Turbo*) track Kroc's plan to use the McDonald brothers' business as a launching pad for the success he feels he deserves. Grounding his efforts in

mentions of years spent struggling to spruik different products — and evidence of his strained dealings with banks, the joke-like status he's held in at his country club, and the obvious discontent of his largely neglected wife Ethel (Laura Dern, *Certain Women*) — can't paint Kroc as a battler, though. Here, the rise of the golden arches is mirrored by his ascension, capitalising upon someone else's ingenuity and innovation in meeting hungry customers' needs to spark growth, greed, ambition and ruthlessness. Indeed, Kroc may sit at the centre of the feature; however, other than recognising his determination and never-take-no-for-an-answer attitude, this isn't a flattering tale. It is a familiar one, though, once again taking a corruption-sized chunk out of the American dream — and slathering what's left with desperation and callousness-laced sauce. And yet, while slick editing by Robert Frazen (*The Family Fang*), glossy imagery shot by John Schwartzman (*Jurassic World*) and colouring the visuals in shades reminiscent of the brand at its centre all help shape the largely explanatory, expository script into something engaging enough, the McDonald's-related minutiae, bickering and backstabbing overwhelms any focus on character. In a film intent on using one company and the figure that thinks he's behind it as a case study with wider societal parallels, that might be fitting; however, there's an imbalance in Hancock and Siegel's recipe. Wanting to have their meat, bun, ketchup, mustard, pickle, cheese and lettuce

and eat it too, *The Founder* aims to expose the backstory most people won't know, pick out some of the juicy details, and let audiences gleefully munch away on a shiny piece of entertainment. And, with the assistance of Keaton, who is tasked with jittering his way to conveying Kroc's external perseverance and internal vulnerability, it tries to balance its overt packaging with hints of deeper flavour. In both cases, slickness wins out over texture, and ease over complexity, in a movie uncertain of the right tone or stance to adopt. Keaton fares much better than the film he's in — in fact, any subtleties *The Founder* boasts stem from his performance — but the end result remains lightweight rather than filling. Take a number of small but blatant choices as examples: having Keaton often recite Kroc's spiels to camera, favouring simplistic contrasts between the quality-over-cash mindset of the McDonald siblings and the more-is-more position of their new partner turned corporate hijacker, and trying to bring the feature to an end with a wink rather than any real bite all speak of an effort selling a concept rather than actual contemplation or a statement. Or, perhaps that's the message that Hancock and Siegel are happy to convey, with smooth but empty consumerism pursued at any cost begetting a digestible but insubstantial film offering more of the same. **Rating: 2 1/2 stars out of 5**



Smart TV Update Questions

A reader had some pertinent question about Smart TVs: "You don't mention the downside of smart TVs ... SMART TV's require software to make them "smart". The simple reality is that software is buggy and needs to be FREQUENTLY updated. Can the TV "SMART" software be updated? Does the TV maker provide updates? How long do they plan to provide updates? My last TV lasted 20 years (granted it appears that my new one, NOT SMART, won't last anywhere that long)"



You make some excellent points. And, yes, manufacturers can update smart TVs. A smart TV is really just a really big tablet that runs apps. The makers of those apps can also update them. But just as with a tablet, it's up to the manufacturer how long they will continue to provide updates. Updates are available via the Internet, just like with any tablet. For example, on a Samsung Smart TV, you'll find a Support option on your menu. You can go there and choose a Software Update option. That's why a device like Roku or Fire TV can be a better option. You get apps and Internet access just like a smart TV, but they are fairly inexpensive to replace if they break or if technology changes.

As far as how long your TV will last, only time will tell. A Million Google Play Accounts Hit By Fraud. Around a million Google accounts have been hit by hackers taking advantage of a big Android flaw. They're using a malware called Gooligan to go after Android devices. The Gooligan malware comes hidden in Android apps. Once installed on your device, it steals your account information and then installs apps on your device. The malware was first discovered by Check Point security researchers last year. Check Point says it has informed Google about the issue. This malware can gain access to your email, Google Drive documents and files, and your photos. Why are they doing it? To help increase ad money from those apps. That money goes to the app developers. This malware even leaves phony positive reviews for these apps. The apps get a strong positive rating that helps them look legitimate. Check Point released this graphic to explain how the malware works.



The malware affects devices running Jelly Bean, KitKat, and Lollipop. That makes up around 75% of devices in use. This malware gets onto your device when users install apps from third-party app stores. Often times these third-party stores will offer free versions of paid apps that look legitimate. They can also be installed when hackers use phishing scams to trick you into downloading.



Check Point provided a list of some of the fake apps carrying the Gooligan malware. They include: Perfect Cleaner, Demo, WiFi Enhancer, Snake, gla.pev.zvh, Html5 Games, Demm, memory booster, Memory Booster, phone booster, SettingService, Wifi Master, Fruit Slots, System, Booster, Direct Browser, FUNNY

DROPS, Puzzle Bubble-Pet Paradise, GPS, Light Browser, Clean Master & YouTube Downloader

Apple Offers To Replace iPhone Batteries

A lot of iPhone 6s users started experiencing an annoying shutdown issue after updating to iOS 10.1. Their phones kept shutting down with plenty of battery life left. Now, Apple is offering free replacement batteries for phones with a certain range of serial numbers. Apple points out that this is not a safety issue, just an annoyance.

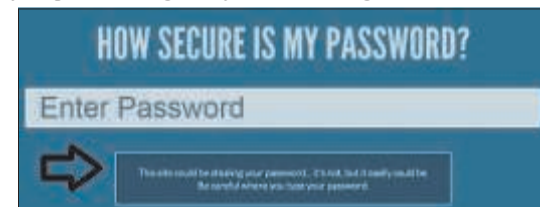
iPhone 6s Program for Unexpected Shutdown Issues



If your phone is eligible, you can take it to a local Apple authorized service provider or an Apple Store for battery replacement. You need to deal directly with Apple, wireless providers aren't taking part in the battery replacement. You will need to check with the Apple service provider or store and make an appointment for the replacement. Apple also reminds you to backup all of your data first and to turn off Find my iPhone.

Test Your Password Strength

Someone tipped me off to a great little site that checks the strength of your password. The aptly named "How Secure Is My Password" will let you check the strength of your password and estimate how long it might take to crack it. When you head over there, the first thing you'll probably notice is this warning telling you that any site that asks for your password might very well be stealing it.



The interface is simple, you just type in a password and it judges the strength and tell you how long it estimates it would take to crack your password on a PC.



For example, let's pretend my password is named after my dog Kevin. According to the site, that could be cracked instantly.



If I click on show details, the site explains why it's not a good choice. My password is short, common and contains only letters.



If I change it up a little to something like BoxerKevin2012, it becomes much more secure.

Realize that these calculations are for a human using a PC, not for some super-fact program designed to break passwords, but this password is still much more secure. Though I would caution against using your dog and his birth year for passwords. That's the kind of information that people can find out rather easily and pet's names and family birth years are among the first things a hacker would try when guessing your passwords.

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

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

When I was growing up, one of my father's greatest past-times was reflecting upon his rugby career. Considering he hung up his boots at the age of 41, there were literally thousands of memories and stories to match. We endured these stories so often that in the end we would anticipate the next sentence and finish the story ourselves. You know how it is.



Andrew is on holidays & has asked to re-print this article which was first published in 2007. Len Evans passed away in 2006

Anyway, Dad's favourite stories always centred around a familiar scenario, the fact that he played with a chap by the name of Ken Catchpole. Dad was a star player yet this affiliation with "Catchy" somewhat propelled his own ability into another dimension.

As time went on, I began to notice that many people Dad's age played with Ken Catchpole. As time continued, I began to notice that everyone Dad's age who had ever touched a football played with Ken Catchpole. Nowadays, even people who didn't play rugby in those days have miraculously played with Ken Catchpole.

Let's be honest, Australians excel in the art of attaching themselves to a famous face. Forget six degrees of separation - let's make it one. If you're into golf, you've met Greg Norman. In fact you've played with Greg Norman. He's actually really a friend. Well, a really good friend. When Greg Norman passes on he was one of your best friends and you can't believe that someone so close to you has gone.

My grandfather used to play cricket with Don Bradman. When he was a kid he rode Phar Lap around the stables in Kensington. In fact, he hit a six playing with Don Bradman while riding Phar Lap if my memory serves me correctly. Sydney University must have enrolled 30 times the average intake of students during the years in which Clive James attended. Presently, Andrew Johns has more "good mates" than anyone I know.

Mel Gibson isn't far behind. Russell Crowe, Kylie Minogue and Nicole Kidman seem to be related to a surprising number of people and Hugh Jackman attended more schools than are actually registered in Australia.

The wine industry, you can appreciate (or perhaps not) attracts all types. Let's just say that the social implications involving anything to do with good bottled wine is extremely appealing to many. From the growing of the grapes through to the appraisal and consequent ingestion of wine, it is an exciting journey for all of us to explore. Again, this need for an attachment to a famous face appears in memories and myths and stories alike. Within the industry, there are a handful of wine identities who certainly command respect for their chosen strengths. One man, however, stands alone when Australian wine drinkers strike a motion to tell the world the stories of their mystic journey with the magical nectar of the vine. The chap I speak of lives in our area. He even reads the Branxton-Greta News as you are doing now. He is without doubt the most celebrated wine identity in Australia and one of the top wine figures in the world.

From a male point of view, Len Evans is an easy guy to dislike. He is confident. He is smart. He has an extremely well modulated speaking voice. He is one of Australia's best golfers. He is one of Australia's best fisherman. He is one of Australia's most talented architects and interior designers. He is an expert in antiques and art and music. He is a world class chef. His knowledge and palate with regards to wine is unparalleled. He is good looking and women absolutely adore him..... oh my, I think I'm going to be sick with envy. Not a day goes by in my life when Len's name is not mentioned. From a very young age, I can recall a million and one Len Evans stories being told in the Marsh Estate cellar door.

Len Evans, you see, has amazing appeal to modern mankind and while we attach his famous face to wine, Len is busy attaching wine to his food, his art, his antiques, his architecture and the like. Len Evans' vision for his endeavours is unparalleled. Len is not famous for throwing or kicking a piece of leather around a ball park and exclaiming that "The boys played good - you played hard" after the game before shooting an advertisement for a pool company or menswear store. Far, far from it. It is refreshing to know that there is truly someone out there who can venture in from a round of golf, open a bottle of the world's finest wine, cook a five star meal while listening to an appealing array of music in the comfort of a room which resembles a European palace, while casually letting the answering machine take a phone call from

the Prime Minister. I am not trying to feed Len's ego, there are enough people doing that already. I'm trying to paint a picture of a figure with whom people want to associate themselves. My point is this - Len Evans makes James Bond look like a red-necked hick from Wilcannia.

So, every week in our cellar door or wherever I may be, I will be exposed to someone or other mentioning Len's name or reshaping the first time they met him or some story they yarn every time they open a bottle of wine. I politely nod and smile as if it's one of the all time great stories. The narrator

then sits, feeling the importance that he has rubbed shoulders with the best. I understand this mentality and even as a winemaker, I often drop Len's name to lift the Hunter's profile (why would the king of Australian wine live in the Hunter if it wasn't the best?).

Occasionally, however, I strike someone who struts into the cellar door with the sole intention of impressing a female accomplice. They do not intend to fork out a cent to buy any wine yet they taste everything twice and hammer the Len Evans stories around the room for hours on end. I remain polite until I sense they feel in complete control of the situation at hand - that of impressing - and then I enthusiastically announce that I will be seeing Len a bit later and promise to relay their regards as soon as I see him. It's amazing how many people forget their own name upon this request. They almost stutter as their face turns to beetroot. Odd, very odd.

When I was in Singapore last week, I was guest speaker at a wine dinner for about 45 people at an exclusive golf club. The majority of the crowd were younger than 40 or 45 and of Asian background. During my delivery I dropped Len's name and rambled on how good the Hunter was etc, etc. I got the feeling that everything I was talking about was so foreign to them I had to try and say something familiar. I went on..... "This wine here is a classic Hunter Semillon" I preached. They picked up their glasses and smelt and tasted the wine without a facial expression altering throughout the room. "This is one of my best mates Russell Crowe's favourite wines" I added, "he's a big fan of Hunter Semillon". The whole room "oooohhhhh" and "Aaaahhed" at his familiar name and they picked up their glasses smelling and tasting the wine with a renewed zeal.

....."And Russell has always wanted to meet Len Evans" I keenly added. Cutting a long story short, I sold more Semillon in one night than I would in a month and Russell Crowe and Len Evans then became the talking piece for the night. During the closing stages of the night an Australian chap turned up late to the dinner and approached me to apologise as he was stuck in meetings at work. I quickly summed up what the night had entailed when he announced without prompt that he was very familiar with Australian wine and started reshaping a Len Evans story. It went on for a while until his wife (who had been at the dinner the entire night) interrupted us and exclaimed that I was best friends with Russell Crowe. His face lit up and he excitedly told me that he and Russell's wife, Danielle, were great family friends. "What's your name again, I'll tell Russell I met you" he enthused. I went a slight shade of red and curiously couldn't for the life of me remember my own name. "I'll tell you what" I said with a wink "If you don't tell Russell I was here, I won't tell Len you were here".

Cheers, Andrew



As a resident of North Rothbury I have discussed this question with my friend a master-plumber in NSW several years ago and just recently and I'd like to share the good news with you. I was advised (by my plumber) if the water board has decided to put sewer into North Rothbury and put a connect point at your property [at there cost] you do not have to connect to it [by law] as you have already a system you have paid for and approved by council. The council can not force you to connect to a reticulated sewer system, but you can elect to be connected if you desire. Please check it out for yourself.

To the gentleman on Kirkton Road Lower Belford for your time and effort while on your morning walk to pile up all the rubbish from the side of the road that others continue to throw from their cars as they drive along. The pride you take in the side of our road is amazing and very much appreciated. You have done an amazing job, big thumbs up. This guy is amazing and it's not the first time I've seen him do it, I just wish I knew his name so he could be thanked personally. Thank you!



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Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton: off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067
Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866
Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 sl70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 707
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567

Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

The pick of
 GO TO FOR FURTHER DETAILS
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/branxronandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/>
FOR SALE: Jayco Swan Outback 2013
 Glendon - Karen Patton

Electric up and down and electric roll out awning, we have the stereo in and out which is awesome, it has an extra fan fitted To the fridge for when you travel up north, (which we haven't done yet) it has the windup booster Tv aerial, we get reception when most people don't it's great, it has the solar panel fixed to the roof, I also have a full annex which we bought second hand which you can also have, but the electric roll out is just so easy and convenient, we have the coast to coast privacy screen for the back side and one that slides into the roll out as a wall which you can also have. \$29,000



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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

Tue 13 Dec - Branxton/Greta CWA Meeting, St Brigid's old School, Station St., Branxton, 9.30am, Staff Room, followed by Christmas lunch.
Tue 13 Dec - 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 - Branxton Public School Party Day, Year 6 Service Awards
Wed 14 Dec - Greta Public School Y6 Farewell
Thurs 15 Dec - Branxton Public School Sport's Presentation
Fri 16 Dec - Branxton Public School Last day for students 2016
Fri 16 Dec - Greta Public School End of Year Movie Day
Sat 17 Dec - Wollombi Sculpture in the Vineyards - indoor sculptures exhibition Old Fire Shed Gallery Wollombi
Sun 18 Dec - Hope Valley Church is pleased to present "A Play In A Manger", a FREE family event for the whole Cessnock LGA community to enjoy @ Performing Arts Centre Cessnock
Sun 18 Dec - St Brigid's Markets in the old school grounds. TIME: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 LOCATION: Old School Grounds, Branxton NSW
Branxton's only monthly market, with over 60 stalls. Something for everyone! BBO and cold drinks available, fresh fruit and vegies, delicious coffee and Hunter macrons, entertainers from our

local area, antique and vintage items, candles, jewellery, kids and ladies clothing, Miche handbags, sweets, olives, goats milk soap, jams, marmalade, pickles, hair accessories, tupperware, gift packs for babies, fishing rods and other beautiful crafted items. Great Christmas shopping!
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

The P&C Carols by Torchlight was a great success with family and friends coming together to enjoy an evening of fine BBQ and fabulous singing. Our hard-working P&C executive were on deck all day to make the night run smoothly and to create another opportunity for our students to shine. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the night so special. Congratulations to the Stage 2 students involved in the Greater Bank Jets Learn competition. They have won a training session with the Jets. Well done! We look forward to having the Jets at our school.

You can hear a pin drop as you enter 5-6T's classroom! They have been creating Christmas tapestries under the watchful eye of Ms Towns and have created some stunning results. Week 10 will be a busy week with Presentation Day, Sports Presentation, Year 6 Dinner, Party Day and Year 6's last walkout of Primary School. We wish all our Year 6 students the very best of luck for high school and hope they'll come to visit us from time to time.



Some 5-6T Tapestries

We wish our students, staff and community a Merry Christmas. We have had another excellent year and 2017 will be even better! Have a safe and relaxing holiday.

Dates for the Calendar
 Tuesday 13th December – Presentation Day 9:30am at Community Hall
 Tuesday 13th December



Year 6 performing at Carols by Torchlight



Carols by Torchlight



Stage 2 performing

– Year 6 Dinner 6pm
 Wednesday 14th December – Party Day, Year 6 Service Awards
 Thursday 15th December – Sport's Presentation
 Friday 16th December – Last day for students 2016

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



Cessnock City Council Statutory Notices

Phone during working hours 4993 4100
 After Hours Emergency 4940 7816

Address all communications to:- The General Manager,
 PO Box 152, Cessnock 2325 NSW

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL "INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT"

PROPOSAL:

Staged Development - Integrated Tourist Development in Seven (7) Stages:
Stage 1: Four (4) Lot Community Title Subdivision,
Stage 2: 18 Hole Golf Course,
Stage 3: 50 Room Hotel & Club House including ancillary Function Centre and 50 Residential Lots,
Stage 4: 70 Serviced Apartments, 70 Residential Lots Spa & Recreation Facilities,
Stage 5: 65 Serviced Apartments and 65 Residential Lots,
Stage 6: 60 Serviced Apartments and 60 Residential Lots,
Stage 7: 55 Serviced Apartments and 55 Residential Lots.
 Masterplan Approval and Stage 1 - Four (4) Lot Community Title Subdivision

LAND:

Wine Country Drive LOVEDALE (LOT: 2 DP: 869651), 1058
 Wine Country Drive LOVEDALE (LOT: 3 DP: 869651), 1054
 Wine Country Drive LOVEDALE (LOT: 4 DP: 869651), 1184
 Wine Country Drive LOVEDALE (LOT: 11 DP: 1187663)

APPLICANT:
APPLICATION NO.:
CONSENT AUTHORITY:

Capital Hunter Pty Ltd
 8/2016/557/1
 Hunter and Central Coast Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP). Assessment by Cessnock City Council.

APPROVAL BODY(S):

NSW Rural Fire Service

Council is in receipt of a Development Application for the abovementioned property, which seeks consent for the masterplan and Stage 1: Four (4) Lot Community Title Subdivision. The Development Application may be inspected during normal office hours at Council's Customer Service Counter at 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock. All comments or objections should be made in writing and addressed to the General Manager within the notification period commencing on 07 December 2016 and finishing on 21 December 2016 (inclusive).

The proposed development is Integrated Development as defined under Section 91 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. This means that additional approvals, required under other legislation, are being considered as part of the current development application. The other approvals are as follows:

Additional Approvals Required as an Integrated Development

Bushfire Safety Authority (Section 100B of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>)	NSW Rural Fire Service
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Any person may, during the exhibition period, make a submission in writing to Council in relation to the Development Application. Where a submission is made by way of an objection, the grounds for objection must be clearly specified. The views expressed in written submissions will be considered by Council before a determination is made. **An acknowledgement of your submission will be made no earlier than one (1) week after the notification period ends.** Submissions are NOT kept confidential. Council releases submissions when a request is made in accordance with privacy laws and the relevant provisions under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. When a submission is released by law, Council routinely withholds contact numbers, email addresses and signatures. Should you wish for all personal details or any information that may identify you to be withheld from the public, please advise Council of this in your submission. Should you intend to make a submission to Council on any planning related matter, your attention is drawn to your statutory obligations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 regarding disclosure of political donations and gifts. You are required to complete a Political Donation and Gifts Declaration if you or an associate made any political donations or gifts to a Councillor or Council employee during the two (2) years prior to the submission. Please also note that should you make a donation or gift to a Councillor or Council employee in the period between the date of your submission and the determination of the application, you are required to submit a Declaration within seven (7) days of the donation. Further information regarding Political Donation and Gift Declarations and the Declaration Form can be obtained from Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or from Council's Customer Service Centre. If the application is approved, a person who makes a submission by way of objection does not have a right of appeal to the Land and Environment Court unless a matter of law arises. For further information, please contact Mrs Sarah Hyatt of Council's Planning and Environment Department on 4993 4206.
 PO BOX 152
 CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
 GENERAL MANAGER



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.

Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell
Bloodstock Media Service

Widden's golden image enhanced by Slipper winning sires

SADLY, one of Australia's top sires, Stratum, died this month just as he was poised at the age of 14 to look after his eleventh book of mares at the Thompson family's historic Widden Stud in the Hunter Valley section of the Hunter Valley. His first ten seasons should result in just on a thousand foals, including those to be produced this year.

Stratum's premature death also comes not long after the completion of the 2015-16 racing year, one in which this Reavill Partnership, Hawkesbury Valley bred son of Redoute's Choice and

Bourgeois, an unraced daughter of Brave New World, a Listed winner by a Widden former champion Australian sire Vain, supplied 106 winners (98 Aust) of 165 races (151 Aust) and \$7,804,935 (\$6,052,166 Aust).

Through his sire career to date, Stratum has supplied nearly 400 winners of 1150 races and earners of over \$46million. Among his 30 stakes winners have been Group1 winners Streama (10 wins include ATC Australian Oaks, Flight Stakes, George Main Stakes, BRC Doomben Cup), Stratum Star (5 wins, MRC Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes placed MRC Futurity, VRC

Australian Guineas, Toorak Handicap, Memsie Stakes), Crystal Lily (Champion 2YO, won STC Golden Slipper, Sweet Embrace Stakes, second VRC Newmarket, MVRC William Reid Stakes, SAJC Goodwood Handicap) and Southern Lord (inbred to Danehill, won Levin Classic NZ).

Stratum himself only won two of 18 starts, but they were the Golden Slipper and Pago Pago Stakes at Rosehill at two, a year he was named Champion of the age group. He also showed top ability at three with four Group seconds and a VRC Newmarket third.

He is one of five Golden Slipper winners used as sires at the Widden Stud who added gloss to their golden image by siring winners or placegetters in this jewel of

juvenile racing. The others are inaugural Slipper winner Todman, a Star Kingdom colt bred and originally stood a Widden's neighbour, Baramul, Vain (by Wilkes), Marscay (by Biscay) and current incumbent Sebring (More Than Ready).

Todman supplied two Slipper winners, Eskimo Prince and Sweet Embrace, but they were sired at Baramul. The nearest he got to this honour after he moved to Widden at sixteen was the mercurial Blazing Saddles, the third placegetter behind Luskin Star and Lloyd Boy in 1977.

The other Slipper winning sires mentioned, however,

all achieved their Slipper success from use at Widden, Vain supplying Inspired (dam by Todman; won 1984) and Sir Dapper (1983), Marscay represented by Bint Marscay (1993), Stratum by Crystal Lily (2008) and Sebring has included in his early offspring, now six, the Slipper contenders Bring Me the Maid and Believe Yourself (third and fourth 2014),

A versatile sire whose progeny have included two sons now being heavily supported as sires at Newgate Farm, Aberdeen, Hunter Valley are Criterion (7 wins, \$7.3million, 1100m - 2400m, Group1 ATC

Queen Elizabeth, Australian Derby, Rosehill Guineas, MRC Caulfield Stakes, 5 Group1 seconds including the Cox Plate, 5 Group1 thirds including the Melbourne Cup and Hong Kong Cup; first season at stud) and Dissident (7 wins 1000m-1600m, \$2million, Group1 ATC Randwick Guineas, All-Aged Stakes, MRC C.F. Orr, MRC Memsie, VRC Makybe Diva, second ATC Golden Rose, MRC Sir Rupert Clarke, third MRC Futurity; looked after 197 mares first season, 2015.

The Widden Stud bred Dissident collected the 2014 -15 titles of Australian

Horse of the Year and Champion Sprinter and Older Horse and Criterion was assessed Equal Leading Older Male World Rankings (extended) for 2015.

In 2015-16, himself from a mare bred on a sire cross of two Golden Slipper winners, Flying Spur and Luskin Star, Sebring consolidated his eminence as one of Australia's top sires by 131 winners (119 Aust) of 210 races (184 Aust) and earners of \$11,887,088 (\$8,471,705 Aust). Contributors included 16 2yo winners, 9 stakes winners and 15 stakes placegetters. He is very much fancied to supply a Slipper winner in the future.

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 7 Dec 2016

Yarding 905 ~ **Change 135** (Comparison Date 30/11/16)

Consignments lifted by 16%, with the quality offered remaining very mixed. There were well bred younger cattle, along with a selection of the plainer lower muscled lots.

The younger drafts made up the bulk in the penning, with around 90 cows presented for sale. The overall market trend was firm, with breed and quality the only contributing factor with any price variations. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers ranged from 353c to 433c, as the lighter end topped at 471c/kg. The equivalent weighted heifer portion also to restocker interests made from 321c to 386c/kg. Yearling steers trended firm, as the medium weights sold from 325c to 354c/kg, with the restockers securing the bulk in the competition. Yearling heifers also sold at similar prices, week-on-week. The prime conditioned younger drafts to the butchers topped at 380c/kg. Lot feeders and restockers purchased the younger grown steers at 279c to 310c, as the heavier bullocks to slaughter reached 280c/kg. Cows overall maintained firm prices, however the plainer 2 scores lifted 8c to average 214c/kg. The better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights ranged from 218c to 236c/kg.



Score report date 6 Dec 2016

Yarding 748 ~ **Change -489** (Comparison Date 29/11/16)

Quality overall was very mixed, with a greater percentage of the plainer younger cattle offered compared to the last market. Consignments slipped, with the bulk in the penning comprising the younger drafts. Vealers were reduced in number, as good numbers of the yearlings were in the offering. There were around 103 cows, with some high yielding pens offered. The usual buyers competed in a generally firm market; however the vealer steers went against the firm trend and eased 15c/kg. The over 200kg vealer steers returning to the paddock ranged from 335c to 392c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to the restockers and backgrounders remained firm at 330c to 378c/kg. The yearling steers all sold to a firm trend, with the medium weights to the restockers and lot feeders making from 310c to 350c/kg. The yearling heifers sold to solid competition, with prices remaining unchanged week-on-week. The prime conditioned young cattle to the butchers improved in yield and quality and these topped at 379c/kg. The heavy weight grown steers to slaughter showed little change in price and ranged from 250c to 278c/kg. The best heavy weight heifer topped at 270c/kg. Cows maintained firm prices, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 220c, with the better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights making from 205c to 240c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 235c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date 5 Dec 2016

Yarding 1341 ~ **Change -489** (Comparison Date 28/11/16)

Significantly hotter conditions over the weekend saw the numbers reduced by almost 500 head this week. Yearlings made up the bulk of the offering, with a fair supply of well finished heavy grown steers and some good cows. The quality and condition of the cattle overall was mixed, with very few straight lines available. The usual buyers were in attendance. Demand for feeder cattle remained strong, with both the yearling steers and heifers remaining firm. Although quality driven, there were a few odd sales that finished slightly dearer, as the heat combined with drying feed stocks saw demand from restockers a little weaker. This resulted in medium and heavy yearling steers selling to a slightly cheaper trend, of which continued into the light and medium weight heifer yearlings returning to the paddock. The well finished yearlings suitable to the trade also sold to a cheaper trend. There was little but quality related price change for the heavy grown steers and heifers. Medium weight cows (2 score) sold to a slightly dearer trend, with quality and yield potential a little higher. There was little change in the market for the balance of the cows.



Cattle projections

The Australian cattle market will find itself battling conflicting forces for the remainder of 2016.

From a cattle supply point of view, numbers over the coming two years will fall to levels not seen in more than twenty years. This alone will more than likely stimulate strong competition between restockers, feedlots and processors for the limited availability.

The national herd is estimated to fall to 26.2 million head by 30 June 2016, before rising slightly again in 2017, to 26.3 million head.

Working to partly offset the projected 18% year-on-year decline in adult cattle slaughter for 2016, at 7.4 million head, will be the expectation that average carcass weights will increase considerably. This assumption is based on much lower stocking rates, a greater proportion of lighter northern cattle exported live, a higher proportion of cattle on feed and fewer female cattle processed.

Beef and veal exports are expected to fall as a result of lower production, not due to waning demand. The prediction of the A\$ to average between 66-69US¢ is a significant positive, but needs to be balanced against the heightened competition from Brazil in many markets, the expectation of high US poultry and pork production, higher year-on-year US beef production and significantly weaker US beef markets compared to 12 months ago.

REFLECTIONS

Gospel, Matthew

1:18-24

This is how

Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being an upright man and wanting to spare her disgrace, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has

conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

Now all this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

Look! the virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom they will call Immanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home;

Reflection on the Gospel-Advent 4A, 20 December 2016 (Matthew

1:18-24)

Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive and, thankfully, "being-with" is not restricted to physical presence, writes Mercy Sister Veronica Lawson.

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. "Nothing", was my immediate response. "I just want to spend time with community and friends and family". And that's what I'll be doing, simply "being with". Being -with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that "being-with" is

not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are "with-us" even in our absence and "being-with" in spirit or in person is closely allied with "being-for". Today's gospel affirms "being-with" as God's Christmas gift to us. The first chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is "God-with-us", Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the

coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into Matthew's story of God-with-us in the person of Jesus and to live out the pattern of that story more fully in our own lives. There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of



birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our

presence or "being-with" as a precious Christmas gift.

Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living.

Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life.

Tis the Season for Fun and Plenty of Reading

The Christmas holidays are fast approaching and Cessnock City Library has a great range of fun and affordable activities on offer, with something for everyone!

The Summer Reading Club is in full swing again. Read for your chance to win prizes, it's as easy as that! Come on in to register and find out what it's all about.

The theme for this year's Summer Reading is "Heroes and Villains", so keep your eye out for superheroes, robots and aliens at the library over the summer months.

We've put together a jam-packed program of fun for you!

Summer Reading highlights include:

Meeting the library's new robots.

Creating alien masks.

Experimenting with the scientific principles behind super powers.

As Christmas approaches:

A special visitor from the North Pole will be bringing his Christmas cheer to library story time.

Christmas Craft sessions will help you make your own beautiful cards and decorations to spread the Christmas cheer.

For a full program of what's happening at your library these holidays, drop into Cessnock or Kurri Kurri Library and pick up a brochure. Alternatively give us a ring on 4993 4399 for Cessnock, 4937 1638 for Kurri Kurri, or visit our website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

Numbers are limited, and booking is essential, so don't miss out, come and find out what's happening at your library over the holidays now!



New Years Eve 2016

SAT 31ST DEC
FROM 9.30pm



CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR IN WITH

TROY KEMP

ROYAL FEDERAL HOTEL BRANXTON

4 9 3 8 1 3 3 5



Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 1-12-16

Stableford
 Div 1 Winner K Anderson 32 pts R/u G Gazzard 31 pts 3rd J Flynn 29 pts
 Div 2 Winner P Anderson 37 pts (SOD) R/u P Hocking 34 pts (c/b) 3 rd
 A Cannon 34 pts
 Ladies - Insufficient number to form a division
 NTP Gents only - P Anderson
 Members draw - Not won
 The weather forecast seemed to have had an effect on the numbers attending, nevertheless the 23 players who turned up, enjoyed the round.
 Congratulations to Paul Anderson who won his division and achieved the 'Score of the Day'. Well done to other winners and placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 8-12-16

Stableford
 Division 1 Winner I Harris 30 pts (c/b) (SOD) R/u E Barrett 30 pts (c/b) 3rd R Yandle 30 pts
 Division 2 Winner R Friis 30 pts R/u P Hocking 29 pts (c/b) 3rd P Tracey 29 pts
 Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form a division
 NTPs Ladies N Craig
 Gents P Hocking
 Members draw - Not won
 A overcast morning turned into quite a hot Summers day, however the 35 players who gathered for a round of golf enjoyed the day.
 Congratulations to Ivan Harris on winning his division and achieving the 'Score of the Day'. And a well done to all winners and placegetters.

LN Boots.
BRANXTON GOLF CLUB - SAT 3RD DEC STROKE - MONTHLY MEDAL WINNER
 John Parr 62 nett
 A GRADE WINNER
 Greg Gillard 67nett c/b
 A GARDE RUNNER UP
 Tom Foster 67 nett c/b
 B GRADE WINNER
 Tony Seamer 66 nett c/b
 B GARDE RUNNER UP
 Joseph Bereza 66 nett
 C GRADE WINNER
 Michael Armstrong 64 nett
 C GARDE RUNNER UP
 Ted Zawirski 67 nett
 BALL COMP 72 nett
 NTP'S
 D Turner 376 cm
 E Garland 280 cm
 G Wiese 99 cm
 D Matt 78 cm
 John Parr excelled on Saturday, taking out the Monthly Medal with an excellent 62 nett score, 8 shots better than his handicap—a score that is always very hard to beat. In A Grade, Greg Gillard

recorded a very pleasing 67 nett score, to win on a countback from Tom Foster with the same score.

Young 13 year old, Riley McClung just missed out after also having a 67 nett score from his 9 handicap, equivalent to a 76 off the stick. He played beautifully, displaying some enormous potential as he matures into his teenage years. Tony Seamer, representing the veteran's brigade, won B Grade with an impressive 66 nett, on a countback from Joe Bereza's 66 nett. Mick Armstrong, another veteran, had a day to remember by winning C Grade with his 64 nett, well clear of Ted Zawirski's 67 nett score. The shot of the day belonged to David Matt, whose Tee Shot finished only 78 cms away on the very difficult 13th—this was even more impressive as "yours truly" witnessed the shot—there was certainly no luck about it, just a quality shot on a long par three! Geoof Weise's shot to the last is certainly worth mentioning, finishing less than a metre from the cup. A 72 nett score was all that was needed to figure in the ball competition.

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB SAT 10TH DEC PRESIDENTS VS CAPTAINS DAY 2BBB STABLEFORD + SINGLE IN CONJUNCTION

2BBB WINNERS
 LENNY PORTER/MICK LUTOVAC 51 PTS /CB
2BBB RUNNERS UP
 GRAHAM BULL / JOHN BURGESS 51 PTS
2BBB THIRD PLACE-
 GEOFF JONES / ERROL MUNZENBERGER 49 PTS
2BBB FOURTH PLACE
 REECE CALDWELL / ERROL MUNZENBERGER 49 PTS
INDIVIDUAL WINNER
 LENNY PORTER 44 PTS
C/B
INDIVIDUAL RUNNER UP
 GEOFF JONES 44 PTS
INDIVIDUAL THIRD PLACE
 EDDIE BARRETT 42 PTS
INDIVIDUAL WINNER
 D HOLLIS 40 CM
 T FELAN 152 CM
 E BARRETT
 K MOUNSER 48 CM
 Saturday's beautiful weather and dry conditions were certainly conducive to excellent scores on Saturday. Local legend, Lennie Porter, had a day out to remember. He won the individual event with an amazing 44 pts, and then teamed with his good mate, Mick Lutovac to win the 2BBB event with 51 pts. His day was made more outstanding as his first bet for the day won at 50 to one—way to go Lennie! Graham Bull and John Burgess can feel a little unlucky finishing runner up

with 51 pts, only losing on a countback with such an excellent score. Third and 4th places were shared with 49 pts—all scores good enough to win most 2BBB events. Geoff Jones finished runner up in the individual event with his 44 pts—it's not often that you can play 8 strokes better than your handicap and not win an event! Local veteran, Eddie Barrett played beautifully, having a 75 off the stick with his 42 pts. The NTPins were all hard to beat with Kyle Mounser's shot to the 13th the shot of the day—only 48 cms away although Dave Hollis's shot to the 2nd finished only 40 cms away. Club Captain, Murray Johanson, enjoyed his golf last weekend, playing a round with the Killara Captain in Sydney—a club where his son, Cameron, is currently employed. I'm sure he was using his best etiquette at this prestigious north shore golf club! Friday night's Carols on the Course event at Branxton was a wonderful night with around 1000 people in attendance. All members should be proud of this event which was so well organised including some magnificent fireworks and the arrival of Santa, by plane. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the evening.

Branxton Golf Club Ladies

Results for 9 hole
 Stableford played
 Wednesday 30th Nov.
 Winner Kerrie O'Connell 22 points. Runner up Trish McMillan 22 points
 No NTP

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 27th November
 The Weekly Challenge has been won by Byron Phillippe with 40 points on countback to Stuart Robinson with Simon Bellette 3rd with 39 points. Ball winners were: Simon Clegg 38, Hieu Le 34, Craig Rhodes 33, Jan Hovey 33 and Kerry Choromanski 32 c/b
Tuesday 29th November
 Inform Ken Wright produced another great round to clearly win the Tuesday Stableford with 44 points from Paul Smith on 42 and Gary Arnold 41 points for 3rd place. Ball winners were: Troy Wallis 39, Jennifer Macklinshaw v38, Scott Goldman v38, Chris Edwards 38, Garry Clarke 38, Dean Morison 38, David Peel 37, Dale Macklinshaw 36, Rex Talbot 36, Simon Newton v36, Peter Payne 35 and John Stewart 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Hodson (3rd & 8th) David Peel (4th) and Dale Macklinshaw (17th).
Wed 30th November
 The Ladies Stableford event once again saw Leesa Robinson get the better of Mum, Sue Williams on a countback after both had 36 point returns. Sue survived another countback with Janelle Jurd also returning 36 points to take 3rd place. Ball comp unavailable at

this time
Thursday 1st December
 The Vets Bisque Par needed a countback to separate John Harrison and Ray Newton after both had +10 rounds, John got the nod for the win, Greg Ireland also survived a countback on +7 for 3rd place. Ball winners were: Rex Talbot +7, Dave Fury +6, Wayne Berry +6, Geoff Sweetman +6, Ken Wright +5, Kevin Smith +5, John Carmody +5 and Eric Smith +4. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Newton (3rd) Ken Springbett (4th) Dale Macklinshaw (8th), Ray Hodson (10th) and Dave Fury (17th). Next week the Vets will play 2 Person Stabrose with an 8am Shotgun start with the AGM to follow.

Saturday 3rd December
 Excellent playing conditions helped the field to return some great results in the Monthly Stroke rounds. A grade went to Dan McLeod with a fine 66 net from Tanilba Bay GC visitor Neil Harding with 68 net , B Grade to Ken Springbett with 66 net from playing partner Andrew Nichols with 69 net and C Grade to Marek Bartczak 69 net from Scott Jones with 71 net. Ball winners were: Steve Piggot 69, Gerry McLaughlin 71, Troy Wallis 71, Angello Korlevic 71, John Parish 71, Ben Pickering 71, Paul Bullock 71, Rex Talbot 71, Bruce Chambers 71, John Brown 72, Garry Clarke 72, Tim Lonergan, Wayne Thompson 73, Peter Puerta 73, Matt Killick 74 and Julie Van Den Berg 74 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Graeme Flynn (3rd), Grahame Sheldon (4th & 10th), David Peel (8th) and Chris Edwards (17th). Next Saturday's event will be a Medley Bisque Par.
Sunday 4th December
 The Weekly Challenge has been won on countback by John Stojanovski from Brett Baldwin after both players had carded 43 point rounds.

Tue 6th Dec The Tuesday Stableford has been dominated by Nick Stojanovski with an 11 under handicap round of 47 points, runner up went to inform Paul Smith with 42 points to just nudge John Stojanovski in 3rd place with 41 points on countback. Ball winners were: Garry Marsden 41, Lindsay Self 40, Rex Talbot 40, Andrew Palozzi 40. Greg Ireland 39, Col Bradley 38, Scott Archibald 38, Grahame Sheldon 37, Angello Korlevic 37, Ray Hodson 37 and Gery McLaughlin 36 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dan Taylor (3rd) Ray Newton (4th) Col Bradley (8th) Angello Korlevic (10th) and Ben Freeman (17th)

Wednesday 7th Dec
 The Ladies Dropout Ambrose was won by Robyn Dunlop, Mary Fortey, Isabel Skeates and Jill Slater, 2nd to Melita Watson, Janelle Jurd, Christine Tancred and Jeanette Irwin and 3rd to

Is it True you have to Use it or Lose It?

"If you want to retire happy, great health is important. The foundation for all happiness lies in health. Physical, mental, or spiritual health - you must use it or lose it!"
 - Ernie J Zelinski



"Use it or Lose It". How many times have you heard that popular saying? Henry Ford said it about money, Richard Bach referred to perspective, and even health funds tell you "use it or lose it". But as we get older for some reason applying this cliché to our health and fitness seems to get harder and harder. Is this an inevitable part of the ageing process? Or is it all in our head and "it gets harder as you get older" is just a saying to make us feel better for not doing as much as we get older? As I have gotten older (I'll be forty eight next year) I have pondered this question a lot. My weight (and my fitness) have gone up and down over the years, and each time I have gotten fed up enough to do something about it, it just seems harder, and takes a little longer to see results. Perhaps it is because as I get older I forget how hard it was last time. Or maybe it is because as we get older we have so many more responsibilities and activities vying for our attention? Or maybe it really IS harder. Just like younger adults, there is a wide range of health and fitness in people over 45 years of age. You may have been training for quite some time and because of this your health may be excellent. Other people the same age may have quite low levels of fitness. Either way, the effects on health which result from a low level of mobility or fitness are very similar to the effects on other (younger) age groups. These include postural challenges brought on by tight muscles, poor balance from a lack of core stability, heart problems or high blood pressure, and diabetes. As with all age groups, one of the easiest ways to address or prevent these health conditions is with regular exercise, including cardio exercise (which raises your heart rate) as well as resistance training (for example strength exercises using light weights). But even if you have been exercising your whole life, as you get older there are definite physical changes in your body which increase the challenge of maintaining your fitness. For example, as you get older your maximum Heart Rate (HRmax) decreases. My HRmax (calculated by using the formula 206.9-(0.67x47)) is 188, a full 7 beats per minute less than it was 10 years ago. This does not sound like much, but when I am trying to make sure I exercise safely for weight loss, or when I am trying to improve my cardio vascular fitness by working within a certain heartrate "zone", it is important to know. And it explains why working at a certain level can be harder as I get older! Changes to your lungs and the muscles around your lungs also means it takes more effort to breathe in and out, and your respiration rate increases as you get older, affecting the amount of air which moves in and out of your lungs when you exercise. This in turn affects the amount of oxygen available to go into your blood stream. Another effect of getting older is a reduction in blood flow and along with it a decreased ability to dissipate heat via sweat as blood flow to your working muscles is reduced. Your metabolic rate also changes as muscle mass decreases so yes, you may be putting on body fat even if your diet hasn't changed! These challenges are all in addition to the more commonly known health conditions such as osteoarthritis (where the cartilage in your joints breaks down), osteoporosis, and rheumatoid arthritis (inflammation of the joints). Your muscle tone also changes (affecting the stability of your joints), and reflexes and movement can become slower due to natural changes in your nervous system. I can now hear you all asking "well, what's the point?". Aging is inevitable, so if a gradual deterioration in muscle tone, joint movement and flexibility is a natural consequence, why should I bother exercising? The answer is that exercising regularly can help counteract the natural effects of ageing. Exercise can prevent physical setbacks, and improve your mental health as well. In fact, it can be argued that exercise becomes MORE important as you get older. Keeping your muscles strong helps your joints, keeping your heart and lungs working decreases your risk of cardio pulmonary disease, and there are many studies which show that regular exercise can reduce your blood glucose levels and minimise your risk of diabetes. Staying (or becoming) active as you get older can also be a great social outlet. It can also be a great way to "switch off" the worries of the day, if only for thirty minutes. You are not imagining it when you think that exercising is getting harder as you get older, even if you have always been reasonably active. The most important thing to remember is to take into consideration the physical changes occurring in your body as you get older, and that you really do have to "use it or lose it". More information is available on the Victorian government website <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/ageing-muscles-bones-and-joints>

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)

Dale Hamilton, Jenny Chambers, Brenda Mannix and Kay Dunn. The 'Dress up' competition went to the Dianne Oakes, Lorraine Clack, Lynette Russell and Helen O'Meara team with Pam Snaddon, Kerrie-Anne Skinner, Sue Peel and Kerry Choromanski runner's up. The Ladies will now start their 'Summer Stableford' competition with Tee times available from 6:30 am.

Thursday 8th December
 The Vets 2 Person Stabrose went to the team of Peter Payne and Garry Clarke with 58 points from Steve Rawlings and Greg Amlah 53 and Grahame Sheldon and Ken Wright 3rd with 52 points on countback. Ball winners were: Dale Macklinshaw & Ray Newton 52, John Stewart & Graeme Flynn 52, Eric Smith & Heinz Kestermann 52, John Harrison & Brian Doherty

51, Wayne Berry & Mark Barrow 51, David Peel & Kevin Smith 51, Ken Harris & John Carmody 50, Wayne Cowan & Doug Wand 50, Dave Fury & Geoff Sweetman 49, Greg Ireland & Garry Marsden 49, Ian & Barry Newell 49, Rex Talbot & Greg White 47, Dave & Jerry Irwin 45, Robyn Dunlop & Lorraine Clack 43, Keith Dunlop & Kerry Choromanski 41 and Ray Hodson & Jenny Macklinshaw 41. Nearest-the-Pins went to Graeme Flynn (3rd & 17th) Kevin Smith (4th) Ray Hodson (8th) and John Stewart (10th). Next week the Vets will play individual Stableford
Saturday 10th December
 Teenager Corey Lamb once again showed a liking for the course recording 41 points from his 2 handicap to win A Grade, Graeme Flynn took runner

up with 39 points, Ken Springbett claimed B Grade with a fine 41 point round from Club President Adrian Kent on 38 points on countback and C Grade went to Lachlan Peacock with 40 points from Kevin Smith who returned 38 points. Ball winners were: Mark White 38,Clarke Sturman 38, Ben Bradley 38, Mark Faulkner 37, Michael Armstrong 37, Brian Doherty 37, Colin Mills 37, Andrew Nichols 36, Justin Preece 36, Grahame Sheldon 36, David Peel 36, Russell Lightfoot 36 and Aaron Duffie v35 c/b.
 Nearest-the-Pins went to Jeff Morton (3rd) David Peel (4th) Grahame Sheldon (8th & 10th) and Paul Bullock (17th). Next weeks event will be 2 Person Stabrose.

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

Branxton wins Dixi Duggan Shield in tight finish

The Greta/Branxton United Cricket Club's Dixi Duggan Memorial day was held at Miller Park on Sunday 11th December, with Branxton taking the honors by 5 runs in an exciting finish.

The annual event commenced way back in 2002, with Branxton claiming the shield for the eleventh time in fifteen years.

Losing his Branxton visa after moving away from the 2335 postcode five years ago, Brent "Hillary" Watson took charge of the Greta side, meanwhile club president Sean "Donald" Wright took the reins for Branxton.

Branxton batted first and posted 6-141 in the T20 format, with local first grade debutant Bryce Element leading the way with a retired 40 in the modified rules. Pat Andrews (34), Andrew "Vertigo" Bercini (20no) and Mark Bercini (scratchy 14 retired) were the other batsmen to make an impression, while for Greta Dion Charnock was the pick of their attack with 2-7 off 2.

After a steady start Greta clawed their way back into the contest, and with two overs to play they needed 28 to snatch victory. Down to the last over and 2 wickets in hand they needed 15, and off the last ball they needed 6 to tie the game. Skipper Watson was the man taking strike and disgusted in some of the rulings from controversial umpire Peter "Putty Road" MacKenzie, Watson failed to hit the final ball off the square, handing Branxton victory in a nerve-racking finish. Jamie McNamara was Greta's best willowman with 41 retired, with Nathan "Sea Legs" Holz glad to be back on solid ground with 22. Damien Andrews was the pick of the Branxton attack with 2-8 off 2, with Neil Bird (2-16 off 2) also taking a brace of wickets. **Bryce Element** was named man of the match.



(L-R) Brent Watson (Greta Captain), Peter MacKenzie (Umpire) and Sean Wright (Branxton Captain) with the Dixi Duggan Memorial Shield.



Branxton and Greta Teams

Cricket Report – Week 9
Week 9 of district cricket saw first grade win convincingly while all the other grades were defeated.

First grade jumped into outright third with a convincing seven-wicket victory over Bellbird at Miller 1. In a complete turn-around from their nine-wicket thumping earlier in the season, Greta/Branxton gave their top two aspirations a real boost in the import win. Bellbird batted first and managed a modest 165, with Greta/Branxton skipper Brent Watson continuing on his fine form with the new ball by taking 4-38 off 8.5 overs. He was well backed up by Martin Shearer (3-43 off 10) and Andrew Basil Bercini (2-31 off 5). Greta/Branxton achieved the target without any trouble in the 29th over after losing just the 3 wickets. Former skipper Josh Dagg continued on in his career purple patch with an unbeaten 72 at the peak of the order. Dylan Lipscombe timed the ball as good as he has since migrating to the area in 2012 with a crisp 57. Second grade were hammered by 194 runs by Bellbird at Carmichael 1. Bellbird batted first and amassed 5-290, with Ben Hogan (4-82 off 10) and Phil Aughey (1-50 off 6) taking the wicket for Greta/Branxton. Greta/Branxton were bundled out for 96 in reply, with Mitch Fallon caressing 46 against his former club. Sam Dagg was the only other batsman in double figures with 14.

Third grade were beaten for the first time since round one, this time by 25 runs at the hands of Laguna at Miller 2. Laguna made 7-146 batting first, with Paul Walkling being the pick of the Greta/Branxton bowlers with

3-35 off 6. Jarrad Wilkinson (1-19 off 7) and Adam Holmberg (1-30 off 10) were the other wicket takers. Greta/Branxton were all out in the final over of the contest for 121, with Ayden Wilkinson top scoring with 27. Walkling completed a fine all-round game with 21, with Holmberg also keeping the home side in the match with 20no. Fourth grade Blue suffered their second consecutive defeat, this time at the hands of Paxton by 1 wicket at Millfield. Greta/Branxton batted first and made 155, with Neil Bird blasting 70. He received good support from Jason Stephenson (70), Daniel McCann (17) and Jamie McNamara (15). In a tight finish Paxton reached the target with an over and a wicket to spare.

Greta/Branxton's wickets were shared between Dion Charnock (2-30 off 10), Will Regan (2-15 off 5), Jamie McNamara (2-8 off 5), Aaron Stephenson (1-52 off 10) and Will Young (1-31 off 6). Fourth grade White also went down at the hands of Peden's Hotel by 5 wickets at Turner Park. With just 8 players Greta/Branxton batted first and made 125, with Jesse Minchin scoring a hard-hitting at the top of the order. Jason Varley was next best with 13no, while skipper James Shoulders jnr made 11. Peden's Hotel reached the target in the 29th over with 5 wickets in hand. James Shoulders snr was the pick of the Greta/Branxton attack with 2-8 off 6, with Jesse Minchin (1-31 off 10), Jason Varley (1-29 off 6) and Shoulders jnr (1-25 off 4) all taking a wicket each.

Cricket Report – Week 10
Richards Racks up Record Ton
Greta/Branxton first grade number three batsman Barry Richards broke a Cessnock

District first grade one-day record after he blasted an unbeaten 172 against Wine Country at Allandale Oval to complete round ten of competition.

Striding to the crease at the fall of the first wicket, like his famous South African namesake Richards bludgeoned the four-piece to all parts of the Allandale arena. It took him just 18 overs to reach his century, and he really made the home side pay dearly for a dropped catch when he was on 41. His second top grade century since migrating to the area from the North Coach seven years ago consisted of 27 boundaries and three maximums, eclipsing Mulbring all-rounder Greg Sheehan's former stand of 163no back in the 2006-07 season.

Greta/Branxton jumped into second position on the first grade ladder on the back of Richards' record-breaking century. Surprisingly sent in to bat, Greta/Branxton amassed 4-283 from their forty overs, with former skipper Josh Dagg (69) continuing his stellar season with the bat in a 219-run second wicket stand with Richards. In pursuit of the big total Wine Country got out of the traps nicely but crumbled to be all out inside 29 overs for 134. Skipper Brent Watson led by example again after copping a pasting earlier on with 3-48 off 7.1. He was well supported by the young brigade of Bryce Element (2-20 off 7), debutant Alex Walkling (2-10 off 3) and Martin Shearer (2-16 off 4) who took a brace of wickets each.

Peter "Putty Road" MacKenzie's second grade side suffered their third defeat in four weeks, this time going down by 5 wickets to last-placed Wine Country at Miller 1. Batting first Greta/Branxton posted 144, with Nathan Velt timing the ball crisply for 58. Ben Hogan (21), new recruit Anthony Brunnsden (17) and Hayden Regan (12) were the other batsmen to make an impression. Wine Country reached the target in the 38th over, with Velt completing a fine all-round

game with 2-23 off 10. Hayden Regan (1-26 off 6) and Pat Andrews (1-27 off 5) were the other wicket takers.

Third grade were involved in a controversial tie with Bellbird at Carmichael 2. Bellbird batted first and made 175, with Greta/Branxton wickets belonging to Ayden Wilkinson (5-39 off 9.4), Jarrad Wilkinson (4-40 off 10) and Paul Walkling (1-56 off 9).

Greta/Branxton were bowled out for what they thought was 175 in reply, but when adding the batting up again it read 176, however skipper Sean Wright and the Bellbird skipper decided to declare the game a tie. Wright himself top scored with 43 at the top of the order, with Ben Lahey (33), Craig Gillings (29), Will Young (22) and Stewart Ison (19) all contributing to the total. Fourth grade White went back to third place after they were hammered by Denman Hotel at Turner Park. Denman Hotel batted first and made 9-228, with Daniel Minchin (4-52 off 10), Jesse Minchin (2-35 off 8) and skipper James Shoulder jnr (1-34 off 6) taking the wickets. Greta/Branxton were all out for 78 in reply, with Minchin brothers Jesse (27) and Daniel (24) the only pair to reach double figures. Fourth grade Blue received a forfeit from Bellbird.

Points Tables

First Grade Mulbring 53, Greta/Branxton 41, Bellbird 38, Wine Country 34, Peden's Hotel 26.

Second Grade Bellbird 60, Greta/Branxton 48, Mulbring 48, Peden's Hotel 44, Supporters 44, Wine Country 44.

Third Grade Bellbird 69, Greta/Branxton 58, Laguna 56, Denman Hotel 53, Peden's Hotel 49, Wine Country 48, Mulbring 47, Supporters 36.

Fourth Grade Greta/Branxton Blue 63, Paxton 63, Greta/Branxton White 59, Denman Hotel 55, Wine Country 48, Supporters 44, Bellbird 41, Peden's Hotel 40.

Club Championship Bellbird 348.50, Greta/Branxton 333.80, Mulbring 333.30, Wine Country 283.40, Peden's Hotel 252.40.

Cheers, Mark Bercini




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



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