‘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 snail’s pace 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.

...for your enjoyment

New GP Surgery in Town...

Suite 3, 71 Maitland Street, Branxton, NSW
Dr T Sasi Sasitharan
MBBS, AMC, DCH (Syd), FRACGP

Opening Hours
Monday - Friday  8.00 am - 5.30 pm
Saturday  9.30 am - 1.00 pm

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

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Richards racks up record ton

See back page for full report
## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS AND COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Decision Date</th>
<th>Property Address</th>
<th>Application Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRANXTON</td>
<td>008/2016/00005890/001</td>
<td>15-Nov-2016</td>
<td>71 Mainland ST</td>
<td>Change of Use - Medical Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRANXTON</td>
<td>009/2016/00001800/001</td>
<td>15-Nov-2016</td>
<td>6 Bridge ST</td>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAST BRANXTON</td>
<td>008/2016/00004870/001</td>
<td>30-Nov-2016</td>
<td>11 Spring ST</td>
<td>Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage and Retaining Walls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELLALONG</td>
<td>008/2016/00005790/001</td>
<td>30-Nov-2016</td>
<td>41 Hamilton ST</td>
<td>Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FERGSON</td>
<td>008/2016/00003590/001</td>
<td>30-Nov-2016</td>
<td>17 Cawthra CL</td>
<td>Shed</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRENATA</td>
<td>008/2016/00001610/001</td>
<td>23-Nov-2016</td>
<td>20 Nelson ST</td>
<td>Demolish Existing Dwelling, Construct Single Storey Dwelling and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRENATA</td>
<td>008/2016/00001600/001</td>
<td>25-Nov-2016</td>
<td>41 Hamilton ST</td>
<td>Detached Garage/Carport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRENATA</td>
<td>008/2016/00006600/001</td>
<td>29-Nov-2016</td>
<td>112 High ST</td>
<td>Advertising Structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRENATA</td>
<td>008/2016/00000800/001</td>
<td>25-Nov-2016</td>
<td>35 High ST</td>
<td>Dual Occupancy (Attached) and 1 into 2 Lot Subdivision</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRENATA</td>
<td>008/2016/00000801/001</td>
<td>25-Nov-2016</td>
<td>46-46A Hunter ST</td>
<td>Construct Drainage Works &amp; Create Drainage Easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRENATA</td>
<td>008/2016/00007160/001</td>
<td>1-Nov-2016</td>
<td>53-57 Wyndham ST</td>
<td>Temporary Event Lovedale Long Lunch involving Allandale Winery, Tatler</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRENATA</td>
<td>008/2016/00007150/001</td>
<td>1-Nov-2016</td>
<td>578 Longford ST</td>
<td>Swimming Pool Wines, Gartelman Wines, Emma’s Cottage, Sandalyn, Wandin Valley and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOVEDALE</td>
<td>008/2016/00003590/001</td>
<td>1-Nov-2016</td>
<td>100 Wilderness RD</td>
<td>Saltire Wines with an Overall Capacity of 25500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOVEDALE</td>
<td>008/2016/00006890/001</td>
<td>10-Nov-2016</td>
<td>77 Wilderness RD</td>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>008/2016/00005530/001</td>
<td>1-Nov-2016</td>
<td>177 Hamilton RD</td>
<td>Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage and Retaining Walls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>008/2016/00006820/001</td>
<td>7-Nov-2016</td>
<td>15 Slattery RD</td>
<td>Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>008/2016/00006800/001</td>
<td>8-Nov-2016</td>
<td>107 Triton BLVD</td>
<td>Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>008/2016/00003590/001</td>
<td>1-Nov-2016</td>
<td>21 Slattery rd</td>
<td>Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>008/2016/00009290/001</td>
<td>10-Nov-2016</td>
<td>9 Kurnavale RD</td>
<td>Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>008/2016/00006830/001</td>
<td>11-Nov-2016</td>
<td>6 Haverty AV</td>
<td>Swimming Pool with Attached Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>009/2016/00001570/001</td>
<td>1-Nov-2016</td>
<td>10 Newham ST</td>
<td>Saltire Wines with an Overall Capacity of 25500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>008/2016/00006640/001</td>
<td>21-Nov-2016</td>
<td>12 Hoban RD</td>
<td>Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>009/2016/00001610/001</td>
<td>21-Nov-2016</td>
<td>7 Slattery RD</td>
<td>Single Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH ROTHBURY</td>
<td>008/2016/00002790/001</td>
<td>24-Nov-2016</td>
<td>10 Bendich DR</td>
<td>Two Storey Dwelling and Attached Garage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT KINSMAN</td>
<td>008/2016/00003290/001</td>
<td>1-Nov-2016</td>
<td>7 Liquid Amber PRV</td>
<td>Swimming Pool &amp; Associated Pool Safety Barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT KINSMAN</td>
<td>008/2016/00005890/001</td>
<td>1-Nov-2016</td>
<td>25 Mahogany PRV</td>
<td>Swimming Pool &amp; Associated Pool Safety Barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT KINSMAN</td>
<td>008/2016/00005900/001</td>
<td>3-Nov-2016</td>
<td>7 Verdale PRV</td>
<td>New Commercial Kitchen for Existing Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORT KINSMAN</td>
<td>008/2016/00005510/001</td>
<td>8-Nov-2016</td>
<td>16 Pokolbin Mountains RD</td>
<td>Pool Cover</td>
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<tr>
<td>PORT KINSMAN</td>
<td>008/2016/00006730/001</td>
<td>14-Nov-2016</td>
<td>18 Ironbank DR</td>
<td>Two Storey Dwelling with Attached Garage</td>
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<tr>
<td>PORT KINSMAN</td>
<td>008/2016/00007080/001</td>
<td>30-Nov-2016</td>
<td>17 Maple DR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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.

**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
- Community urged to support Christmas Appeal

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.

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*
SUMMER STOCK in Your Area!!!!

Clothing Specialist
The Country
Baileys

Abermain Weston Hawes Rugby League Inc.  Seatings $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 Trail $4,390
Cessnock City Council Ayerfield 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 Enhancement of capacity and facilities for services and the community $15,951
Advancement Group Inc. Safety Handrails for all ramps and Stairs $11,000
Abermain Bowling & Recreation Club Ltd. LED stage lighting: a brighter future for Valley Artists $4,142
Valley Artists Incorporated 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 Storage Building and BBQ Area $7,500

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, Councillor 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.

Councillor Moore said she learned of the preferred route at the announcement by Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnson 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,” Councillor Moore said.

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 following website it will give you the preferred option


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 hundreds of community groups, sporting clubs and councils across NSW to build and 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, environmental and recreational outcomes.

“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 more work to be done to improve facilities that all members of the community can utilise. Further details of the program and all successful grants funded for the 2016 program can be found at www.communitybuidlingpartnership.nsw.gov.au

Lotto Lottery tickets

We will be CLOSED Christmas Day

We wish all our valued clients a Merry Christmas & a Safe & Prosperous New Year.

Sue, Dave & Staff

ph: 4938 1296

Maitland Road, Branxton NSW 2335

The Country Clothing Specialist in Your Area!!!!

Classic Country Outfitters

Christmas Christmas Christmassmas

‘One Stop’ Shopping at Baileys of Greta

A large selection of Christmas Gifts for all.

Gift Vouchers available

Drop in a say hello to Brenden or Lyn

Baileys of Greta .... is a family owned and operated store that was formed in 2004. Lyn and Brenden Bailey specialise in providing quality products at a great price.

Check it all out on our website www.baileysofgreta.com.au

Normal Trading Hours: 9am to 5pm Mon to Fri – 9am to 2pm Saturday

108 New England Hwy, Greta 2334  P: 4938 7899

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NEWSPAPERS MAGAZINES STATIONERY CARDS & WRAPPING

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Maitland Road, Branxton NSW 2335
The eight-year-old gelding, which he bought into off-trainer Mark Pardun’s All Stars Stables website after the loss of his son Tom in 2009 has now earned $2.19 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

Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Member for Hunter

The News prior to Christmas 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 Bontes & Mark Bercini, Annaleize Hambling, Sonya Martin & Denise Harvey at Branxton and Greta area to the people in the community organisations secretaries & publicity

Annaleize Hambling, Sonya (almost retired), Lester John S. Bryant OAM

Branxton and Greta area to the people in the community organisations secretaries & publicity

Annaleize Hambling, Sonya (almost retired), Lester John S. Bryant OAM

As our next meeting isn’t health related issues which support not only about information, awareness and

The Branxton Greta Vineyards News will be dated 1983; 33 years in use which is good news.

The ‘Sulo’ waste collection system has been a Godsend where the former soldier

After hours of waiting for 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 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 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 Central West has been quoted as saying: “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 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 help them.

The Government is promoting a culture of contempt rather than assistance.

I have been told by a whistle-blower that Centrelink staff are basically being told to

management to tell people get lost and they are not here 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 emphasised 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 working because of the cuts but who also inevitably bear 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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Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter
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 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 fund-raiser 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.

Check & see!
As mentioned in my column on page 4 “What’s the Goss” Singleton, Mainland & 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”
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

City Council, I wish everyone a very especially those traveling over the more vulnerable in our community. I and safety reasons. We look forward to from non-Christmas. Donations can be anything from non-Christmas. Donations can be anything domestic violence.

beneficiary is Jodie's Place, a local those living with a disability. Meeting I also attended the a wonderful and very important event for an absolute success with a huge offering including wheelchair basketball, Yu Gi- an enormous problem for local "broader public good and use" as a of the land as "terra nullius" which was declared the property of the Crown states, when white Europeans first of land on our beautiful Lake .

Imagine how excited developers must think to yourself of the beautiful sites at experiences, while those without will be a fitting end to 2016, and reinforced .

No doubt we can draw on the community, especially those property owners in our community, especially those property owners on the path of the preferred route. No doubt we can draw on the community, especially those property owners on the path of the preferred route.

We have all been volunteers involved. The Connexx City Council Christmas Appeal 2016 is well underway. I am urging all of us to contribute to those doing it tough this festive season. This year’s beneficiary is Joe's Place, a local shelter for homeless people. Well done to everyone involved. 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 when we can take stock of our achievements and enjoy time with family. This Christmas I encourage everyone to reach out to those who may be less fortunate, or more vulnerable in our community. I also urge everyone to stay safe, especially those travelling over the holiday season. On behalf of Connexx City Council, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cheers, Bob
**Local Trades & Services Directory**

**VISUAL HOME IMPROVEMENTS P/L**

- Rain water Tanks
- Gear box Building Products
- Cupal Aluminium
- Gutters
- We also install roofing & guttering
- Pat’s Ceiling etc., etc.

**McDonald Plastering**

- Gyprock Interior Linings
- Decorative & Suspended Ceilings
- External Coating Systems
- Residential/Commercial

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- All mechanical & electrical repairs
- Rego inspections/Blue Slips
- Vehicle air-con Service/Repairs

**McDonlad & Sons**

- For quality workmanship & competitive quote

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- Plain or Patterned Driveways, Shed Slabs & House Extensions

**Bogalays Painting**

- Quality painting, affordable rates

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- Your Local Turf Grower of:

  - Kings Pride Soft Leaf Buffalo
  - **GRASS SEED**

**FORDY’S**

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- Greens Braintree and Surrounding areas
- Homest and Residential workman
- Phone: 0439 329 654

**Wine Country Alterations & Additions**

- ***local people working locally***

**Local Trades & Services Directory**

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**C & M Edwards Earth-moving Contractors**

- Quality screened gravel & oversized rock.
- Grader, Excavators, BobCat, Roller, Back Hoe, Dozer, 150HP Tractor & Slasher & modern hay making equipment.
- We specialise in Farm Roads & House Slabs & House Extensions

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- Plain or Patterned Driveways, Shed Slabs & House Extensions

**HVB Hunter Valley Building Pty Ltd**

- Domestic & Commercial Work
  - Extensions, Renovations, Decks, Pergolas etc.

**Mark Samuelson**

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  - Wall & Floor Tiling
  - General Carpentry
  - Extensions
  - Maintenance
  - Swimming Pool

**The Branxton Greta Vineyards**

- News call Mike on 4938 1773

**STANHOPE HANDYMAN SERVICES**

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

**Bragante & Vineyards Real Estate**

- Call Mike or Helen on 4938 3300

**Local Trades & Services Directory**

**Robert Chisholm**

- Earthmoving, landscaping, driveways, road construction, drainage, fencing, water tanks

**Guna Mackay**

- Phone 4938 7754

**C & M Edwards Earth-moving Contractors**

- Fax: 4938 7754

**Bogalays Painting**

- Phone: 0401 066 259

**STANHOPE HANDYMAN SERVICES**

- Phone: Tony 0403 646 230

**Bragante & Vineyards Real Estate**

- Mobile: 0415 389 977

**The Branxton Greta Vineyards**

- News call Mike on 4938 1773

**Sea & Beach Paving**

- Tel: 02 6574 1316

**C & M Edwards Earth-moving Contractors**

- Fax: 0400 041 311 & (02) 6574 1316

**REMOVAL, FENCING, WELDING, CLEANING, DECK STAINING, RUBBISH REMOVAL, FENCING, WELDING, FABRICATION & Lots More**

**Wine Country Alterations & Additions**

- If you are looking to do any home, business or commercial renovations or alterations

**CALL Ross**

- 0428 684 114

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**To enquire about advertising in The Branxton Greta Vineyards News call Mike on 4938 1773**
Paul and Janelle Smyth and their staff take great pride & personal satisfaction in providing a dignified & timeless service, continuing a tradition started more than 90 years ago. Paul was a proud, family owned and operated business. Unfortunately, the sale of the business will mean an end to the family’s involvement. Crime Stoppers operates in the community to anonymously report criminal or suspicious behaviour or activity. You can contact Crime Stoppers using one of the following methods:

- Telephone 1800 333 000
- Internet Enquiries www.police.nsw.gov.au
- Cell phone 1800 333 000

**What’s Cookin’?**

Turkey roulade with quinoa, cranberry and pepita stuffing

**Serves: 8 | Preparation time: 1hr 40 minutes**

**Step 1** Parboil quinoa from 100% 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** Sprinkle a non-stick frying pan with olive oil and set aside over medium heat. Saute garlic, lemon zest and pepper in the olive oil. Add the quinoa and stir to coat. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.

**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 thin, or until it reaches a thickness of 1cm. Remove top layer of turkey 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 at 2cm intervals with kitchen string. To keep cool, cover and refrigerate until required.

**Step 5** Put rolled turkey in a roasting tray and pour hot stock in base. Spray turkey lightly with olive oil. Place in a pre-heated 180°C oven and roast for 40 minutes.

**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**

- 1.25 cup (95g) in-colour quinoa, rinsed, drained
- 1 large red onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 teaspoons lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons sage, chopped
- 2 tablespoons flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 2 tablespoons pepitas
- 1/2 cup baby spinach
- 1 cup gluten-free reduced salt chicken stock, hot

**Quality, Reliability & Value**

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- Slashing & Commercial Mowing
- Trimming Lawns & Acreages
- Clearing
- Other: Degrown Vacant Blocks & Houses

Contact: Phone 0415 477 166

Email: info@acres2mow.com.au

**Pharmacy Advisor**

Liz Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

**Heath and heat-related illness**

**Extreme heat can affect any healthy adult.** Heat and your body. There may be risk of heat illness. People may be at risk of heat-related illness.

**People at risk of heat-related illness**

- Anyone can suffer from heat-related illness, but it is more common in older people, young children, and people with medical conditions.
- 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...
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 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 Top Hotel Award NSW. Just to name a few. “What continues to set us apart from the competition is our focus on delivering what our customers service experience possible. A lot happens behind the scenes and what better way my team, than to award them with such a high honour”.

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. www.chateaulean.com.au @ Photos: Joe Spagnolo General Manager Chateau Elan at The Vintage.

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.

Heat exhaustion – treatment

Treatment for heat exhaustion includes:

* Get the person to a cool area and lay them down.
* If fully conscious, increase fluid intake.

Heat cramps

Treatment for heat cramps includes:

* 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 trying to lose weight.

Heatstroke

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:

* Try using unprefumed 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.

Heat exhaustion – treatment

Treatment for heat exhaustion includes:

* Get the person to a cool area and lay them down.
* If fully conscious, increase fluid intake.

Heat stroke – treatment

Heatstroke is a medical emergency and requires urgent attention:

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* Get the person to a cool, shady area and lay them down while you’re waiting for emergency medical help.
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* 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 trying to lose weight.

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 possible.

Protect yourself outside – if you must be outside, remember to protect yourself from the sun – ‘flip, slip, slap’ by covering exposed skin with lightweight clothing, using sunscreen and wearing a hat, visor, ‘shame’ and ‘shade’ 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 an fraction.

Make it easy – rest often and, whenever possible, avoid direct sunlight.

Stay cool – keep air circulating around you. Draw your blinds or curtains and use fans 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.

A Hunter Valley based Bookkeeping Service

We specialize in Small, Micro Sized Businesses.-

All General Bookkeeping

Full Reporting on MYOB, Quickbooks or Xero Software

Tax Returns Prepared at Your Home or Business at Your Convenience

ABN 19 109 065 983

Huntington Village Bookkeeping Services

We can all do our bit to help by picking up a few extra food items with the money you would spend on 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 that require batteries.

For more information on the Mayoral Christmas Tree Appeal contact Singleton Council on 02 6578 7290 or visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au
These changes will 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 required to carry out minor renovations to common property in co-owned to 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 excluded by the Act or Regulation. The items listed in Section 111 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 report 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 renovation, 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 owner 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 unless 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 the owners corporation or lot owner may seek a declaration from the Tribunal (Section 127). Presumably, it would be established by an owner or group of owners if an owner considered cosmetic or minor renovations were considered by the owners corporation to be a minor renovation. Section 126 of the Act also specifies that an owner corporation or lot owner is permitted to carry out alterations and repairs to common property and other property.

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**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 into effect 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 bookshelves 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. Some items are very general descriptions which could range from limited to quite extensive 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 required to carry out minor renovations to common property in co-owned to 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 excluded by the Act or Regulation. The items listed in Section 111 are:
- renovating a kitchen
- changing recessed light fittings
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- 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.

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**New options for adjudication**

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 have announced that there is a strata hotline to take consumer calls on the new reforms. The hotline has been set up to help consumers deal with the changes, a hotline has been set up on 1800 214 023.

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Cessnock City Council’s Volunteer Celebration Day

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 Pynt 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.

Branxton, 9 December 2016

It thou are 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.

-Henrietta 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

Congratulations to all the recipients.

Arms wide open, chords humming, 2016 has finally come to an end. Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all the recipients of the Volunteer of the Year Awards of the Branxton Greta Community Council. Your dedication and hard work is immense and we are grateful for all you do.

A special thank you to our volunteers who have been absent through the year. This year has certainly been a turbulent one and this is reflected in the number of people who couldn’t be present on the day.

To all our local businesses and enterprises who support us.

We wish everyone a wonderful New Year. Cheers, Brett

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

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 which 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.’

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

TRADING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 24th December</td>
<td>7am till 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<td>Monday 26th BOXING DAY</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<td>Tuesday 27th December</td>
<td>7am till 7pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 28th December</td>
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<td>Thursday 29th December</td>
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<td>Friday 30th December</td>
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<td>Saturday 31st December</td>
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<td>NEW YEAR’S DAY</td>
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<td>Monday 2nd January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3rd January</td>
<td>7am till 7pm</td>
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LAST DAY FOR ORDERS FOR CHICKENS AND BAGGED SALADS 10TH DECEMBER

53 Maitland Road, Branxton - Phone 49382028

How the locals like it
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
NOTICE ~ This office will be closed this Friday 9 Sept & Monday 12 Sept

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300

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.

EAST BRANXTON

Features include:-
- Balcony / Patio / Terrace
- Bath, Block 1145sm
- Built in Wardrobes
- Close to Schools
- Close to Shops
- Close to Transport
- Fire / Quiet Location

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

NTH ROTHBURY

Just move in ~ no work to be done!
Perfect family home in the popular village of North Rothbury. Features include:
- Open plan living room/dining area
- 3 bedrooms, good sized court yard & LU Garage. An excellent opportunity for anyone looking for easy maintenance, quality finish & a great location.

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)

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)

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

NEW ON MARKET

“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
- Outdoor deck
- Large fenced block
- Double garage

An excellent opportunity for anyone looking for easy maintenance, quality finish & a great location.

ASKING 320,000 each

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
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

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 thankyou 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.

Singleton Council hels 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 Restart 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.

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**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

**Merry Christmas & A Happy & Safe New Year**

From Staff and Directors

Closed Christmas Day

**T.A.B. FACILITIES**

**NEW BAR OPEN**

COME & CHECK IT OUT

XXXXX GOLD PROMOTION

**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 does’t only take place in Jamaica.

If one were to be curmudgeonly, one might say that A Brief History is slightly more impressively ambitious. John Crow.....

Bahtin 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 have 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 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.

So too, James’s Copenhagen City is no longer a peaceful Scandinavian landscape where it is placed in the hot tropics. James often brings the international within the national space. But most exceptional is his bringing together of a variety of Jamaican and American influences, and not for polite conversations, but to enter into the most brutal and bloody conflicts. From 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 you tengo suficiente espulado para conquistar que eres la más gran broma en Sudamérica. I chat to him bad like some bush lawyer 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? Hoe hoe hoe.”

If the scope of James’s talent has grown from book to book, the 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, I often think to Toni Morrison, and with A Brief History, ‘he’s got bored with comparisons to Toni Morrison’.
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 family market. The promotional email was also sent to 14,500 subscribers with content tailored to the family market.

The HVWTA will run a TV family market.

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 Linaanne, 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 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 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-a-vis the bulk and unbranded market to harmonising any changes to 1 July 2018. "From this date bulk and unbranded suppliers would no longer 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 given the vast disparity between the cost structures of the largest and smallest producers. 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.

Funding Announced - A Win for the Hunter Valley Wine Industry
Destination NSW: New Destination NSW: New 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 family market. The promotional email was also sent to 14,500 subscribers with content tailored to the family market.

The Hunter Valley World Renowned 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 family market. The promotional email was also sent to 14,500 subscribers with content tailored to the family market.

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A reader had some pertinent question about Smart TV’s. “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 what you should do for 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 hides in hidden 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 inferred 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 increase ad money from those apps. The apps get a strong positive rating that helps increase ad money from those apps. That money goes to the app developers. The apps get a strong positive rating that helps them look legitimate.

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 tells you how long it estimates it would take to crack your password on a PC.

It all starts with an order for six thousand milkshake mixers, the kind of item that travelling salesman Ray Kroc (Michael Keaton, Spotlight) usually has trouble selling. After calling the California 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 $5.50 on a burger, fries and soft drink served strangely in disposable packaging, and experiences the revolution — 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 tinge of the腐败 of the role Kroc endorses to manoeuvre himself into, as well as nodding to the formative years covered in the narrative, The Founder is an original 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 straightening out the flimsy different products — and evidence of his strained dealings with banks, the John-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 barrier, though there’s a rise of the golden arches is mirrored by his ascension, capitalising upon uphill battle and the 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 taking 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 out of 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, buckering and backstabbing over-whelms any focus on character. In a movie that’s focused 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, ketchup, mustard, pickle, cheese and lettuce and eat it too, The Founder seems to expose the backstory most people won’t know, pick out some juicy details, and let audiences gleefully munch away on a shiny piece of entertainment.

And, with the assistance of Keaton, who is tasked with jering his way to convincing Kroc’s external perseverance and internal vulnerability, it tries to balance its overt package 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 pretensions The Founder boasts stem from his performance — but the end result remains lightweight rather than filling.

Take a number of small but blatant choices: for example, having Keaton often recite Kroc’s slogans to camera, favouring simplistic contrasts between the quality-over-totality 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 of 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 begging a digestible but insubstantial film offering more of the same.

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

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under other legislation, are being considered as part of the current development application. This means that additional approvals, required

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:

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.
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)
Capital Hunter Pty Ltd
8/20165571
Hunter and Central Coast Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) Assessment by Cessnock City Council.

NSW Rural Fire Service

APPLICANT:
APPLICATION NO: 78 Vincent Street, Cessnock.

CONSENT AUTHORITY: Cessnock City Council.

APPROVAL BODY(S): Cessnock City Council.

Council is in receipt of a Development Application for the abovementioned property, which seeks

Additional Approvals Required as an Integrated Development

Bushfire Safety Authority (Section 100B of the Rural Fires Act 1997) NSW Rural Fire Service

Any person may, during the exhibition period, make a submission in writing to Council in relation to

should you make a donation or gift to a Councillor or Council employee during the two (2) years prior to the submission. Please also note

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 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.

Cessnock City Council

PO BOX 152

STEPHEN GLEN

GENERAL MANAGER
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 $36m. Among his 30 stakes winners have been Poms And Partners Streama (10 wins include ATC Australian Oaks, Flight Stakes, George Main Stakes, BRC Doomben Cup), Stratum Star (5 wins, MRC Rupert Clarke Stakes placed MRC Futurity, VRC Stakes, second VRC Newman Cup, MRC William Reid Stakes, SAJC Goodwood Handicap) and Southern Lord (unplaced at Doomben, won Levin Classic NZ). Stratum himself won only two of 18 starts, but they were the Golden Slipper and Pago Pago Stakes at Rosehill, and he was named Champion of the group. He also showed top ability at 3, but was withdrawn from the Golden Slipper. He was a dual Group winner in the Sword Dancer (1400m) and Sebring (1200m). The other Slapper winning sires mentioned, however the Slapper 2 scores averaged 220c, with the better covered 3 and 4 score heavy weights running from 218c to 236c/kg. Widden's golden image enhanced by Slapper The system and land use underlined with a Whole Farm planning workshop in the Manning and Great Lakes region. Details Registration for the workshop, Regenerate, Regenerate 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 suc- cesses in the re-envisaged and reintroduced in a fast-changing world, with some of Australia’s and the world’s leading practitioners, scient-ists, consultants and advisers working restoring ecological processes, eco-systems and landscapes. Register online to attend the Regenerate, Regenerate workshop 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: Delegating registrants as landholders are welcome to purchase tickets to the social functions via the registration form Please contact the Regenerate, Regenerate Conference Conference 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 re-gion. The workshop will focus on farm management and farm resource manage-ment 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 landholder-ment of medium to large properties, requiring detailed information to develop strategies. A workshop cost of approximately $50 will include learning resources and an A1 colour map of your property showing contour lines which will assist in the workshop. The four 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 or for further details or please contact Mitchell McGrath mitchell.mcgrath@lls.nsw.gov.au or phone 0428 867 142. Tools On The Blood The Australian National Blood Service. Formerly Racing & Breeding. Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Bloodstock Media What's a QT? Handicapping...for the serious racehorse enthusiast. The real professionals of the industry. The Blood on the Track Newsletter - 7 Dec 2016 Widdien Valley section of the historic Widden Stud in the Manning region. Through his sire career to date, Stratum has supplied nearly 400 winners of 1150 races and $36m. Among his 30 stakes winners have been Poms And Partners Streama (10 wins include ATC Australian Oaks, Flight Stakes, George Main Stakes, BRC Doomben Cup), Stratum Star (5 wins, MRC Rupert Clarke Stakes placed MRC Futurity, VRC Stakes, second VRC Newman Cup, MRC William Reid Stakes, SAJC Goodwood Handicap) and Southern Lord (unplaced at Doomben, won Levin Classic NZ). 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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 fulfill 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 Emmanuel, 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. 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 announcement 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 dreams. The angelic announcement in today’s gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God’s people. Joseph trusts the word of God’s messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God. If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the 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!
2nd Tuesday November 30th

The weekly Challenge has been won by Byron Phillips (28 nett) with a magnificent 3rd round to clearly win the Tournament. Runner up was 2nd round countback to Stuart Robinson with Simon Beaumont on 39. Ball winners were: Simon Ceglie 38, Hele 34, Alex Howard 35, Jeanette Irwin 35 and Kerry Charmosini 32 c/b. 

^c/b = Count Back

2nd Tuesday November 30th

The Ladies Stableford competition produced another great round to clearly win the Tournament. The 3rd round points from Paul Smith on 42 and Gary Armstrong on 41 produced 2 ball winners were: Tony Wallis 39, Jennifer Macklinshaw 38, Scott Goldman 38, Clinton Moloney 38, Clarkie 38, Dean Morrisson 38, Dave Peel 37. Dale Macleod 37. Simon Talbot 36, Simon Peter 35, Peter Payne 35 and John Sargood 35 from the nearest PIns went to Ray Hodson (3rd & 8th) David Peel (4th) and Dave Mackay (4th & 17th). 

Wednesday 30th November

The Ladies Stableford evening competition was won on countback by John Stojanovski from Brett Baldwin after both players had produced 34 out 33 points. 

John, Harris, Chambers, Brenda Mannix and Kay Dunn. The Dress up competition went to the Quanne Macklinshaw for the 3rd year running. The best dressed couple was Anne Skinner, Sue Peel and Kerry Charmosini run-ner up. The Ladies will now start their Winter Stableford competition with Tee times available from November 1st.

Friday 8th December

The Vets 2 Person Stableford went to Dave Malcolm and John Airs with 2 points ahead of John Stojanovski. Dave Payne and Gary Clarke with 58 points from Steve Rawlings and Greg Amold and Ian & Barry Newell (50), Dave & Jerry Irwin (49) and Ian & Barry Newell (49), Ray Talbot & Greg White (47), Dave & Jerry Irwin 45, Rob Smith 45, Clarkie 45, Kim Foster 45 and Kerry Charmosini 45 and Ray Hodgson 45. Nearest-the-Pins went to Graeme Flynn with 45 points. The 4th round went to Graeme Flynn with 45 points. The 4th round went to Graeme Flynn with 45 points.
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 branded his four-pair to all parts of the Allandale arena. It took him just 18 overs to reach his century, and he was the only other batsman to make a score of over 50. Richards 172 in the 2006-07 season.

Greta/Branxton jumped into second spot on the first grade ladder on the back of Richards’ record breaking century. Surprisingly sent in to bat, Greta/Branxton amassed 47-3 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 couldn’t be cut to all inside 29 overs for 134. Skipper Brent Watson led by example again after coping a passing century with 125. He was well supported by the young brigade of Bryce Element (20-2), debutant Alex Walkling (20-0 of 3) and Martin Shearer (2-16 of 4) who took a brake of a century. Skipper Paddy ‘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 Millfield. Greta/Branxton posted 144, with Nathan Velti hitting the ball crisply for 58. Ben Lopano (21), new recruit Anthony Brunsden (17) and Hayden Regan (12) were the other batsmen to make an impression. Wine Country reached the target in the 38th over with Velti completing a fine all-round game with 2-23 off 10. Hayden Regan (1-26 off 6) and Andy 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 4.4), Jarrod Wilkinson (4-40 off 10) and Paul Walking (1-56 off 9). Greta/Branxton were bowled out for what they thought was 175 in reply, but when adding the bat-ting up again it read 176, how-ever 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 Lahay (53), Craig Gillings (29), Will Young (22) and Stewart Ison (19) all contributing to the total. Fourth grade White went back to third grade after they were hammered by Denman Hotel at Turner Park. Denman Hotel batted first and made 9-228, with Daniel Minchin (4-42 off 10), Jesse Minchin (2-35 off 9) and skipper James Salmon (3-34 off 6) taking the wickets. Greta/Branxton were all out for 78 in reply, with Minchin brothers Jesse (27) and Daniel (24) the only pairs 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, Bellbird 44, Hotel by 5 wickets at Turner Park.
Third Grade Bellbird 69, Greta/Branxton 58, Mulbring 56, Denman Hotel 53, Peden’s Hotel 49, Wine Country 48, Mulbring 47, Peden’s Hotel 44.
Fourth Grade Greta/Branxton Blue 63, Paxton 63, Greta/Branxton White 59, Supporters 44, Wine Country 55, Peden’s Hotel 44, Supporters 44, Bellbird 41, Peden’s Hotel 46.

Cheers, Mark Bercini