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WEDNESDAY
15 February 2017

Local area gets through three days of unprecedented catastrophic fire danger unscathed

• In Branxton Saturday 11/2/17 at 2:01PM



A GOOD DEAL of luck & unprecedented preparedness saw our local area escape catastrophic bush fires last weekend. With temperatures in the mid to high 40's Celsius range from last Friday until a relieving southerly late Sunday afternoon, the area was a tinderbox. "It was not another summer day, it was not another bad

fire weather day; it was as bad as it gets," RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said of the weekend conditions. "To put it simply, it was off the old conventional scale. We used to stop our fire danger ratings at 100. We're talking indices of up to & over 150, 160, which is quite extraordinary," he said.

It was the first time the catastrophic level had been reached in the Hunter - and only the second time across NSW - since the national standardised ratings system was introduced in 2009. Prior to the weekend the RFS said it would do everything that it could to prepare for, respond to and prevent destruction. Mr Fitzsimmons had warned

that there were no guarantees. "We simply cannot guarantee that a fire truck will be at every home or at every property under these conditions," he said. "We will not guarantee that a warning, a telephone message or a knock on the door will occur for everyone that comes under threat over the coming days."

40.1C. Previous record 38.4C (Jan 1964) Locations which recorded their hottest day in many years and hottest Feb day on record: Richmond 47.0C - hottest day since Jan 1939 Bathurst 42.1C - hottest day since Jan 1878 Trangie 47.0C - hottest day since Jan 1932. As you would expect all local emergency services were on standby & most spent the weekend waiting & hoping that the area would not need their services. It was not until 9pm Sunday that most emergency services were stood down. Other areas in the state were not so lucky with, at one stage, nearly 80 fires being fought by hundreds of fire fighters with substantial loss of property, stock & equipment. RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said at this stage there had been no loss of life with only one of his volunteers needing medical assistance.



The tiny town of Uarbry, west of Dubbo, was effectively wiped out by a fire that also destroyed properties in nearby Cassilis. Rural Fire Service spokesman Ben Shepherd said it was a matter of pure luck that the worst fires flared in parts of the state that were not heavily populated. "We were extra lucky we didn't see fires through parts of the lower Hunter Valley," Inspector Shepherd said.

Hundreds of thousands of text message warnings were sent to residents across NSW on Sunday, resulting in a level of preparedness rarely seen before. On a lighter note, Kelly Knox, Community Liaison Officer for North Rothbury RFS realised early on that the station needed some help with bottled water for the fire fighters. "With the weekend we were expecting we only had 6 x 24 600ml water (we as a Brigade buy our

own water). So I put the call out for anyone who would like to help out. The response was amazing and not only did we replenish our water but with the help from Hunter Weather my plea went viral and many, many Brigades across NSW have benefited from my water drive," she said. It is an amazing community we live in and I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who so generously donated to our Brigade and all the other Brigades."

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

USE OF COUNCIL'S SPORTING FACILITIES 2017 WINTER SEASON

Applications for the use of Council's recreation facilities by personal trainers, educational institutes, sporting organisations and community groups during the Winter Sporting Season (1 April 2017 to 10 September 2017) are now open. Applications should be submitted to Council by 24 February 2017. Application forms are available via Council's website or from Council's Administration Building, Vincent Street, Cessnock.

Permission must be obtained from Council before organised sporting activities can take place.

Enquiries should be made to Council's Recreation and Community Liaison Officer, Mrs Kate Hicks on 4993 4234.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMITTEE

Cessnock City Council is seeking volunteer community representatives for its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee. The role of the Committee is to provide advice to Council on matters spe-

Bestselling Local Author Captures Romantic Tales of the Hunter

Are you hunting for your next great read? Lovers of Australian historical romantic fiction can meet Australian bestselling author Tea Cooper.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said Cessnock Library is privileged to be hosting the launch of the stunning new novel from the bestselling author of *The Horse Thief* and *The Cedar Cutter*.

"Tea Cooper is an Australian bestselling author who will be visiting Cessnock Library to discuss her work and launch her new novel *The Currency Lass*".

"Drawing inspiration from our stunning landscapes and local history, Tea Cooper's novels beautifully showcase our region," Cr Pynsent said.

The Currency Lass is the story of, Catherine Cottingham, who, as her father's only heir expects to inherit their sprawling property in the Hunter Valley.

What she doesn't understand is why her father is trying to push her into a marriage to the pompous and repulsive Sydney businessman Henry W. Bartholomew.

Join us for this wonderful author talk, book launch, morning tea and opportunity to purchase a signed copy of *The Currency Lass* or Tea's earlier works*.

When: Wednesday 1 March 2017 | 11am -12pm

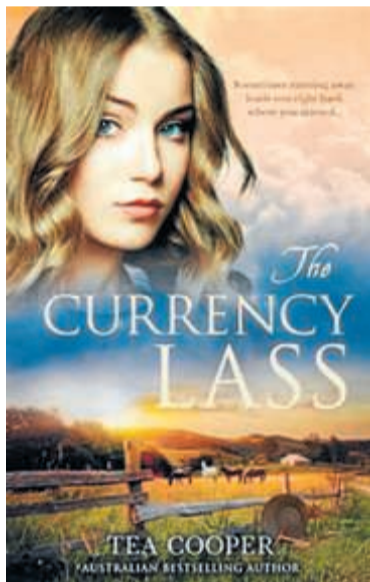
Where: Cessnock Library

Cost: Free, please note *Copies of Tea's books will be available for purchase (\$27 cash only) and signing on the day.

Reserve your place by phoning 4993 4399 or booking at the library desk.

Cessnock Library 65-67 Vincent St | P: 4993 4399

[E: library@cessnock.nsw.gov.au]



Welcome Tamara

Tamara Ward has been appointed by the Branxton Greta Business Chamber's board as their Town Coordinator. The appointment is until 30th June 2017 & her tenure after that date will depend on further ongoing financial support from Cessnock City Council. President of the Business Chamber Brett Wild said he is delighted with the appointment & is looking forward to the coming 5 months.



■ Tamara Ward the newly appointed Town Coordinator for the local business chamber

cific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Nominees must identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and should be a resident of the Cessnock local government area.

The Draft Terms of Reference and nomination form with selection criteria are available on Council's website www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or by contacting Council's Acting Community and Cultural Engagement Manager, Ms Natalie Drage on 4993 4118.

Nominations in writing addressing the selection criteria should be addressed to The General Manager, Cessnock City Council, PO Box 152, Cessnock, 2325. **Nominations close 4.00 pm on Wednesday 1 March 2017.**

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL TREE GIVEAWAY

Have you purchased or built a new home during the 2016/2017 financial year? Did you know you can get up to eight (8) free plants for your property from Cessnock City Council?

There is a range of trees and shrubs available from ground covers like Creeping Boobalia through to shrubs including Murraya, Bottlebrush and Grevillea, which can reach three (3) metres in height.

Application forms are available from Council's Customer Service Officers, Vincent Street, Cessnock or via Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. **Completed application forms must be received no later than 5.00pm Tuesday 28 February 2017.**

Any enquires regarding the application for supply of trees and shrubs should be directed to Council's Vegetation & Civic Spaces Co-ordinator, Mr Lyall Green, on 4993 4100.

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
GENERAL MANAGER



Business Leadership Workshop Series

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- **Become the best employer** - profit through maximizing your staff potential and learning the '10 commandments'.
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The rules and tools that Ian shares are straightforward and can be implemented immediately for measurable results.



Back to Business Week
26 Feb - 4 Mar 2017

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ABOUT IAN ELLIOT

The internationally renowned Ian Elliot is a highly successful businessman with over 30 years in the advertising industry and class valedictorian at the Harvard Business School AMP.

Ian is the creative genius behind many iconic brands including "YES" Optus, Arnotts and VB. He also ran the Communications Strategy for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Retiring at 48, he co-wrote the best-selling "Stop Bitching, Start Pitching" the definitive guide to winning accounts which was published by Murdoch Books.

Back to Business Week is a NSW Government initiative that celebrates small to medium businesses and promotes and supports the critical role they play in local communities.

Back to BusinessWeek

Brought to you by your local chambers of commerce and:



Department of Industry



| | |
|---------------|--|
| Date: | Wednesday, 1 March 2017 |
| Venue: | Cessnock Leagues Club 1 Darwin St, Cessnock |
| Time: | 8.30 registration for 9am start |
| Cost: | FREE Please register names Includes morning tea. |
| RSVP: | C.O.B. Monday, 27 February 2017 |

Please use enclosed registration form.

WORKSHOP DETAILS

Hosted by Advance Cessnock City, a partnership of Council and local Chambers of Commerce

\$14,000 worth of scholarships up for grabs with the 2017 Singleton Mayoral Scholarship Program



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Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

for short courses each to be awarded to residents of the Singleton local government area who are studying or intending to of enrolling to study in 2017 in one of the scholarship categories:

- Major scholarship of \$2000
- University— for a student studying undergraduate, postgraduate, masters and doctorate
- Vocational— for a student currently completing vocational study in any discipline
- Apprenticeship— for a student currently completing a trade or traineeship
- High School — for a student in year 11 or year 12 in 2017
- Minor scholarships of \$500
- Hospitality — for a student attending a short course in a hospitality discipline. Eg: Bar Attending course, RSA & RCG
- Retail — for a student attending a short course in a retail trade discipline. Eg: Customer Service
- Community Service — for a student attending a short course in a community service discipline. Eg: Youth Work, Aged Care

• Agriculture — for a student attending a short course in agriculture. Eg: Rural Operations

The scholarships can be put towards education fees, tools, text books, transport or housing costs.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, says the Singleton Mayoral Scholarship Program, now in its eighth year, is a great way to celebrate and support local students' community contributions and academic achievements. "We are proud to have awarded scholarships totaling over \$130,000 to some truly exceptional local people since starting the program in 2009," she says. "I am a strong believer in supporting education in our community and the opportunities this program

provides all involved. "Recipients enjoy a range of benefits beyond financial assistance, including practical experience at application writing and panel interviewing, recognition of their academic achievement and community spirit, and the opportunity to network with local business and local government staff. "I look forward to being inspired by the outstanding work of our local students and the opportunity to support their future education dreams."

The 2017 Mayoral Scholarship Program is now open for applications at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/scholarship. Applications will close on Friday 31 March 2017.

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Local Singleton students are encouraged to apply for a share in \$14,000 worth of scholarships with the 2017 Singleton Mayoral Scholarship Program. Singleton Council has teamed up with Hunter Resource Recovery, Coal & Allied, Blackwoods, Yancoal and Hunter TAFE to deliver this year's program. Students can now apply for one of four scholarships of \$2,000 each for long term study or 12 scholarships of \$500 each

New-look Frame Drive Bridge in Abermain to serve community for years to come

Much-anticipated replacement concrete bridge opens after original timber bridge damaged in April 2015 storm \$2 million from Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Programme helps funding project

Specialist Coalition Government funding has helped deliver a new Frame Drive Bridge in Abermain, which officially opened to traffic today. Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said \$2 million from the government's Bridges Renewal Programme was used to build the new bridge in partnership with Cessnock City Council. "The original bridge was deemed unsafe after being badly damaged during storms in April 2015, forcing residents to travel through Weston, Sawyers Gully or unsealed Bathurst Street which was time consuming and

inconvenient," Mr Chester said. "This new bridge provides a safe route that businesses and the community can rely on into the future, and is the result of hard work and advocacy from Cessnock City Council, with strong support from the Australian Government."

Cessnock City Mayor Bob Pynsent said the replacement of the old wooden bridge with a concrete structure would service the community for years to come. "Our community have been faced with a very difficult situation; their patience and understanding was appreciated as Council worked hard to secure a long-term, safe and suitable solution," Cr Pynsent said. "The new bridge has an open load limit, two-way travel and pedestrian walkways on both sides. "Cessnock City Council has also reaffirmed its commitment to working with Roads and Maritime Services on road safety issues on surrounding access roads, in particular the Hart Road, Government Road and Gingers Lane intersection."

Funding for the replacement of the Frame Drive structure was set aside in Council's 2015-16 budget to undertake investigation and preliminary design works, ensuring the project was shovel-ready in October 2016.



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What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**



AN initiative of former Maitland MP Robyn Parker, the 'Waste Less Recycle More' program, is on its final legs locally with the introduction of the 240litre domestic organic waste bin for Singleton, Maitland & Cessnock councils. The bin rollout is currently underway & will, at this stage, start the new service on the 6th March. Your new garden organics bin will have a lime green lid and an information brochure containing details of how to use the new service when your new bin is delivered. Collection will be on alternate weeks to recycling, with the green material taken to a facility

at Weston to be sorted, heat treated and shredded, before going to Tea Gardens for processing where it will be turned into materials such as potting mix and mulch. The government's goal is to divert 75 per cent of waste generated in NSW away from landfill. Garden material, such as weeds, grass clippings, prunings and sticks, will be accepted, along with veggie patch materials and backyard fruit droppings. No processed food, treated timber or plastic bags can be placed in the bins. It's very important that you only put accepted materials in the bin.

If contaminated the load can be rejected and sent to landfill, and that cost is sent back to Council. Moving it away from landfill offsets the State Government fee, which funds the service. Council is charged a levy by the State Government for each tonne of waste that goes to landfill. The 'Waste Less Recycle More' program was introduced to provide funding for business recycling, organics

collections, market development, managing problem wastes, new waste infrastructure, local councils and programs to tackle illegal dumping and litter. The government's goal is to divert 75 per cent of waste

generated in NSW away from landfill. The cost of the new service will be included as part of your annual Domestic Waste Management Charge that is paid with your rates. From my understanding there will be a small

increase in this charge in order to cover the cost of providing the new garden organics service. Cessnock, Maitland & Singleton councils have received grant funding from the NSW EPA to purchase all the new bins

and assist with the system set up costs so costs to ratepayers have been minimised. This new service still encourages households who do composting to continue the good habit. Cheers, Mike



I rest my case I see from the latest edition of THE NEWS that good old boy Joel Fitzgibbon is into his propaganda programme, trying to make mountains out of ant hills. GONSKI was always an illusory, unfunded pie in the sky wish list of the Labour Party. It had nothing to do with improving the education results of our children and everything to do with creating an expectation of huge unnecessary and unaffordable spending in the hope that parents would swallow the cynical deception the Labour Party is so fond of. What was the money to be spent on?

a. More Pay for teachers? This would be great if teachers were achieving desirable results in the core subjects Maths, English, Science and History.
b. More divisionary vegetable subjects like gender equality.
c. More electronic gadgetry so that little minds do not have to think or remember anything? Quite frankly GONSKI never specified what the money was for apart from feel good nonsense about equality of spending across different, socio cultural demographics. So, for Joel to say the Abbot/ Turnbull

Government have slashed GONSKI funding in the Hunter Valley is just more of his nonsense. How can you slash something that never was there? This is 'Shamanism' even more extreme than the religious lobby. Sell something that doesn't exist and go laughing all the way back to the Abbey! But wait Ed, there is more. Why are we publishing a letter from some obscure Senator from the ACT (Rich Town)? So he or she has constituents crying about Centre Link overpayments being demanded to be repaid. If your parent dies and you do not notify Centre Link and you continue to receive that person's pension, you are a fraud. You are defrauding the taxpayers of this country. Fraud is a crime and to misstate your

income to Centre Link in order to receive a benefit is a crime. The obscure Senator from 'Rich Town' is, in my opinion an accessory to fraud. I rest my case. Steve Lind, North Rothbury. Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group will meet on 23rd February at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm-4:30pm. Guest speaker-Shayne Connell-Regional Manager - Hunter Cancer Council. Topic: The latest Prostate Cancer research results from Cancer Council researchers and upcoming projects in Prostate Cancer. Meetings are open to all members of the public. Cost FREE. Tea/coffee provided. We are into our 9th year as a

support group and this has only came about because of people like yourself, Mr Editor, giving us that most wonderful support in getting our message out to the people in the Hunter Region, that there is a place where they came come to for information and support for as long as their journey may take. So to you Mike I say thanks. Barry Preston - Chairman, Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group, Bellbird. Woolly thinking It was good to see that Australian wool growers are "Riding high on the sheep's baaack" by selling fine wool for up to \$12.49 a kilogram. But it is disappointing that most of it will be shipped to Italy, Japan or some other smart

country, where it will be converted into clothing, such as jumpers, and sold back to us for at least \$500 a kilogram - some 40 or more times the price for the raw wool. Why don't we convert more of the wool here? These days with automated knitting machines, there should be little difference in the labour component. So what is stopping us? I am sure our clothing designers are up to the task. Jeffrey Newman, Ivanhoe Words' worth of work I was at a meeting the other day and heard that a "job was to start". Actually, the bureaucrat said: "At this point in time the project is shovel ready so it will be rolled out moving forward." Perhaps my four words compared to his 18 words indicate why so many public

works cost four or five times more than they should. Also whilst I have your attention. What about the RV (recreation vehicle) site in Branxton. It is well past the 'move forward' phase having been completed at least 4 months ago but the gates are still shut! Name & address withheld at request of writer

The Branxton Greta Vineyards News
call Mike on **4938 1773**
for all editorial & advertising enquiries

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| Branxton..... 4938 3396 | Singleton..... 6572 2799 |
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| Greta..... 4015 0000 | SES.....132 500 |
| Bishops Bdg | Poisons Info..... 131 126 |
| 4015 0000 | Hunter Water |
| Nth R'bury | 1300 657 000 |
| 4015 0000 | Ausgrid..... 131 388 |
| Rothbury..... 4015 0000 | Gas Emergencies..... 131 909 |
| Pokolbin..... 4991 1733 | Lifeline.....131 114 |
| Rothbury..... 4015 0000 | Mental Health Line |
| Nth R'bury | 1800 011 511 |
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| Rothbury..... 4015 0000 | 4990 9609 |
| Pokolbin..... 4991 1733 | Centrelink Self Service |
| Rothbury..... 4015 0000 | 136 240 |
| Scotts | Medicare..... 132 011 |
| Flat..... 6574 5186 | Native Animal Rescue |
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| (Cessnock)..... 4015 0000 | |

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Branxton Greta Business Chamber on the warpath and is also needing community support for upcoming fundraiser



Long term residents of the local area would remember a decommissioned army 'scout' car that sat peacefully in the park at the traffic lights opposite Miller Park Sports & Recreation Club. It had been in-situ for about 30 years until it was sent, on loan, to the Tamworth Hunter River Lancers 12/16 for refurbishment many years ago.

They are sure it was a M3 Scout Car. It was refurbished at a cost of around \$13,000 & now appears in Tamworth on ANZAC Day and other memorial service days. The Branxton Greta Business Chamber, led by Brett Wild (ex-army), have decided to make arrangements to have it returned to its rightful resting place back in

Branxton ... well they thought that would be the case! A Lieutenant Colonel at Tamworth has advised that they do not intend to return the scout car. It appears negotiations are continuing. I have scouted the previous

editions of 'The News' & cannot find a photo of the scout car. If anyone has a photo it would be very much appreciated if I could please have a copy. The Branxton Greta Business Chamber is also in the process of organising a

Biggest Morning Tea & Teddy Bear's picnic, to be held on Sunday 21st May 2017 at Miller Park, Branxton. The event is intended to be a fundraiser for the Cancer Council, and the chamber is focused on making it as

family friendly and community minded as possible, which includes involving local community groups as much as possible. They will be hosting a meeting on Tuesday 21st February at 9am in the RSL Hall to discuss how we can

incorporate the various groups into their event. They would welcome attendance from representatives of all local community groups. 'The News' will keep you abreast of all developments concerning the Scout Car.

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MYSTERIOUS MURDER

Prizes for the Best Dressed 1920's Outfit

The year is 1920. The small village is abuzz, as celebrities gather for the much talked about "Celebration Dinner". The dinner is to mark 100 years of successful trade for a local vineyard. What lies in store?? for those gathering at

Camp Clarrie Vineyard

If you believe you are a "Super Sleuth" then don your "glad rags" and put your sleuthing skills to good use!!

Gather a few friends (group bookings welcome) and test your skills!! Guests not included in group bookings will be allocated a group on the night.

| | |
|----------|---|
| DATE: | Saturday 1st April 2017 |
| TIME: | 6pm (pre-dinner drink & interrogate the Cast) |
| VENUE: | Camp Clarrie Vineyard (follow signs) |
| ADDRESS: | 317 Elderslie Road, Branxton |

Bar facilities WILL operate (**No** BYO)


TICKET COST - \$70 PER PERSON

Ticket Cost includes: complimentary "bubbles" or juice upon arrival; pre dinner nibbles; a two course buffet dinner; entertainment by well-known singer, "**Chezz McGee**" and the chance to assist in solving a murder!!!!

Methods of Payment: Cash, Credit Card or Direct Deposit will secure a ticket. Ticket Numbers are limited so do not delay in purchasing your ticket

Telephone: Diane or Peter
0249383491 or 0407383491
or email
dipete6@bigpond.com
to obtain more information.

Profits from the evening will be distributed by The Rotary Club of Maitland to both Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation & Cancer Council (NSW)



BRANXTON, GRETA VINEYARD NEWS

Special Edition

Proprietor Mr Mike Moonie

Edition 288

POLICE NEWS - Local Police Office, Senior Sergeant Reyn is currently investigating allegations that a North Rothbury resident is in fact using another alias. Police will continue to investigate, but word has it that Betty Bigbumps (well known to the Police) is residing in our locality.

Sgt Reyn did press the point home to our Editor Mike Moonie, that he has been having some difficulty in locating Betty Bigbumps. This is mainly due to the fact that he is rarely working out of the Police Station here in Branxton. Police are seeking your help in locating the said "Betty Bigbumps".

Information recently received by the Police is that Betty is a keen "Pole Dancer". If you happen to come across any Pole Dancers in the neighborhood, you might like to pass this information on to Sergeant Reyn.

Branxton, Greta & North Rothbury are abuzz!!!

Our paper has been informed that several well-known Sydney personalities are to visit the Branxton area. Bigus Butt, Ben Biceps & Lucky Draw, major shareholders in the local Camp Clarrie Vineyard will be joining other VIP guests at a Celebration Dinner. Bigus, Ben and Lucky are extremely busy at the moment, but when contacted by our Editor they did say that they would hopefully have their Mardi Gras float ready for the big parade and would therefore be free to attend this most important dinner.

Thinking of Buying Property???

Contact Margie Moonie on 42 998288

CAMP CLARRIE'S VINEYARD

One of Branxton's very successful businesses has just made the decision to expand. **Camp Clarrie Vineyard**, found in the foothills of the Sandhills has just recently opened a "camp facility" for those who wish to enjoy a few wines, relax and experience the *wild side* of the Hunter Valley. For further enquiries contact **Haddie Drinx** at Branxton Travel.



BREAKING NEWS - It is with much regret that BGVN has to report that crime is on the increase in our local communities. Inspector Plonk (well known for his alcoholic tendencies) has recently been informed that two very dubious characters have been collecting money for the Branxton Main Street Beautification (BMSB). When The News contacted BMSB and they were able to confirm that no-one outside of their committee had been given authorisation to collect money on their behalf. Detective Plonk appears to be thrilled to have something to investigate.

If you want more information on any of the stories contained in this 288th edition of the BGVN, then you most definitely should purchase a ticket for the upcoming "Murder Mystery" to be held on Saturday 1st April 2017 at Camp Clarrie Vineyard. Telephone Diane at 0249383491 for ticket sale enquiries.

Now if you believe any of the news presented here in this 288th edition, than you are a bigger April Fool than was first thought. **Cheers Mike**



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYORS DESK

It has been a very busy time for Cessnock City Council with the Australia Day Celebrations, news the Weston Fire Station is remaining open, more bush fires and the opening of Frame Drive Bridge.

I would like to congratulate every person in our community who received an Australia Day Award. It was a wonderful opportunity to shine the spotlight on those who are working hard to support others in our community every day. A special congratulations to Our Citizen of the Year Tara Naysmith, Senior Citizen of the Year Ronald Jackson and our Young Citizen of the year Shae Panormo. These three residents do an absolutely outstanding job in contributing to our community.

The inaugural Mayor's Cup Cricket was a success, with all those participating playing in the true spirit of the game. It was a very close match, however the Cessnock District Cricket Association Representative team were the victors after a hard fought battle by the Mayor's Eleven. Thank you to everyone involved, especially those who took to the cricket pitch. It was a great community day and I look forward to doing it all again next year.

The announcement by Fire and Rescue NSW that Weston Fire Station will remain open is very welcome news for our community. Any decision which involves cuts to fire stations in the Cessnock Local Government Area is extremely worrying, especially in light of recent events that have occurred in the Weston and Kurri Kurri area. I applaud the NSW Government on this very wise decision and for listening to our concerns, as our resident's safety is paramount.

Last Wednesday marked the opening of Frame Drive Bridge in Abermain. While it is good to see this important piece of infrastructure reopened it brings with it changed traffic conditions. Council have been working tirelessly over the last two years to secure a commitment from the Roads and Maritime Service to see vital upgrades to the busy intersections that form part of the NSW Government road network. It is disappointing we have been unable gain support from the State government. However we will continue to urge the NSW Government to make this a priority as these roads deal with increased traffic from the Hunter Expressway.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

If there's one good thing to come from change, it's the opportunity for fresh viewpoints on existing situations. That's exactly the situation for the State Government following the appointment of a new Premier in Gladys Berejiklian, and a new Cabinet including a change in the Resources portfolio to Don Harwin. It has been widely reported that the Premier is reviewing many of the

Government's policies as the new Cabinet navigates the way forward for our State, and I would humbly suggest the Resources for Regions program as another addition to the list.

As the biggest contributor of mining royalties to NSW with \$541.9 million coming from our local government area in 2015/2016, I have also extended an invitation to the new Premier and Resources Minister to visit us here in Singleton to gain a better understanding of the impact of mining on our community.

It would also be a wonderful opportunity for the Premier and the Resources Minister to see first-hand the projects we have delivered under the Resources for Regions program, as well as what we have planned for Stage 2 of the Town Centre upgrade and why it's vitally important that the 6.98 million project be delivered in full.

There's no question the people across our LGA have benefited under the Resources for Regions program, with a total of \$31.5 million for community projects and \$6.5 million for Singleton Hospital since the program began in 2012.

Most recently, Council received \$3.5 million for the second stage of the Town Centre upgrade under the 2015/2016 round of funding.

I've said previously that half the cost was better than no funding at all, and Council is committed to investigating alternative funding sources to be able to deliver the project in full, or else narrow the scope of the project.

But the fact is the best outcome would be to have received the \$6.98million we applied for.

The administration of the Resources for Regions program is indeed a matter for the State Government, but the reality is that our LGA contributes by far the most mining royalties to the State coffers than any other in the State, and the Resources for Regions program should reflect that. I sincerely hope the Premier and Mr Harwin take up our invitation to visit Singleton, so they can see for themselves the place that contributes so much to everyone across NSW

Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

SHARING THE WEALTH

The rich get richer and the poor get the picture, goes the old saying. Sadly, over the past 20-30 years, this has been truer in Australia than at any other time since the late 1800's. Is this progress? Over the past 20 years, the top 20% of wage earners have seen their wages go up by about 45%. At the same time the bottom 20% of wage earners have seen their wages rise by just 14%.

It's all the Unions fault! When Unions were strong and almost half of all Australians belonged to Unions, wages of the bottom, lowest paid, rose at levels almost exactly the same as the top executives. The minimum wage rose. Gaps in pay between men and women, or white and Aboriginal, shrunk. The wealth of our entire country was in its most balanced, some might say "fairest" position, since white settlement.

A balanced wealth across our community in the 50's, 60's and 70's, through wages, allowed our entire economy to grow faster than at any other time. Because it is a well-known fact that almost every cent of wages earned, that goes into a low or middle income household, gets spent into the economy. This then creates more

turn-over for paper shops, hamburger shops, hairdressers, supermarkets, car yards, petrol stations, etc. And when there is more turnover, more spending, more demand for services, then more people need to be employed. And when more people are employed, more taxes are paid and the load is spread more evenly for all wage earners – top to bottom.

But, Unions saw their numbers fall. 49% union membership in 1980, became 40% in 1992, 30% in 1997, 20% in 2006 and is currently at around 15%. While union membership has crashed, the wage gap between top and bottom earners has sky-rocketed. And this is damaging our economy. Because the top wage earners do funny things with their money, like saving and investing, which is not good for employment. They simply don't spend enough of their wage back into the economy, albeit that the one person can only go for so many dinners or haircuts. Inequity in wealth and wages is bad for the economy, but unfortunately it has mostly been the trend for the past 20 years. If only those Unions could get their membership levels back up.

CRYSTAL BALL PREDICTIONS – FOLLOW UP

For those that read my Crystal Ball predictions in this paper 2 weeks ago, and if you have read my crystal ball predictions over previous years, the resignation of Mike Baird as Premier would have come as no surprise. I predicted it. I had a premonition. I foresaw it. Of course my track record speaks for itself given that I had also previously tipped the demise of Barry O'Farrell and Tony Abbott. I am led to believe that Malcolm Turnbull and Donald Trump are incredibly nervous, given that I also predicted that both of their leaderships would come to end before the end of the year. No doubt Trump will soon have my phone tapped, my movements under surveillance and he will no doubt label my claim, that Mike Baird has resigned, as a lie.

PREMIER GLADYS – WHAT WILL THAT MEAN FOR US?

For those that know me and have spoken to me during Mike Baird's time as Premier you will recall that I have always said he was a good bloke, a good human being. But I have also argued that his policies were at odds with the needs of most people in NSW and in some instances, actually quite cruel. I also argued that Mike's desperate sell-off of everything that the State owns was short sighted.

I can assure you that Premier Berejiklian, whom I am sure will become known as Premier Gladys because of her tongue twisting surname, is also a very nice person. Her background story is a terrific one, that her family and Australians should be proud of. But, she has been a very important person at the table for every single decision that the Government has made. She has been a supporter of the State wide sell-off; the deconstruction of TAFE; the privatisation of Hospitals; the cruel demonization of people on workers compensation; raising the GST to 15%; and many more. So the name of the Premier has changed, but essentially the Policies will live on and continue to make the lives of most in NSW worse.

So who is doing better in NSW? Well no doubt the Insurance companies are rubbing their hands together with multi-million dollar glee. Property developers are dancing in the streets. The mega-large construction companies are unable to keep count of the many many zero's that are at the end of each of their taxpayer funded cheques. The consultants that the Government reaches out to, to justify every decision they make, are bathing in champagne. The private health providers and private vocational education providers cannot believe their luck.

Cheers Clayton



Clr Melanie Dagg - Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

Welcome to my first column for 2017! I hope everyone is adjusting back to their school and work routines, and in particular taking care of themselves in this heat.

While we are talking about heat, I'd like to personally offer my thanks to the emergency services and in particular our local guys and girls who have assisted the LGA during this terrible bushfire season. As I sit writing this, emergency services are preparing for the weekend ahead with a severe fire danger warning on Saturday, and catastrophic on Sunday. Hopefully this is the last of the extreme weather we see this year, but at times like this always remember to keep yourself cool and hydrated and keep an eye on your pets and vulnerable people in the community, such as the young, pregnant and elderly.

It has been a whirlwind start to my term as a Councillor with a steep learning curve but I am thoroughly enjoying it. Recently, we saw the opening of the Frame Drive Bridge in Abermain. This bridge was out of service following the April 2015 storm event and it was wonderful to see this major arterial road open to the public again. It's re-opening will no doubt result in increased pressure placed on the surrounding roads and intersections which will require improvements being made to the road network. Mayor Pynsent recently called on RMS to assist with the funding of such improvements, so watch this space.

I was proud to attend Cessnock's Australia Day ceremony and meet the City's new Australian citizens. It was an incredibly moving experience to re-affirm my allegiance to this wonderful country. Following the ceremony was the inaugural Mayor's XI Australia Day Cricket Match. The Mayor's XI took on the Cessnock Representative Team, which included players from our very own Greta-Branxton United Cricket Club such as Brent Watson, Barry Richards, Greg Andrews and Josh Dagg. The game had us all on the edge of our seats with the winning runs claimed with a 6 by Captain Brent Watson off the second-last ball. We had a great crowd turnout with positive feedback so I'm hopeful we can grow the event next year.

At the Council meeting on 1st February, a response was received from the Minister for Lands & Water to the motion I moved on the 19th October regarding the connection of North Rothbury's sewer system. All indications from the Minister point towards moving the connection forward four years to 2020. This timeframe is dependent upon Hunter Water's own priorities for the region. As part of my commitment to the local community, I moved again that Council write to the Minister requesting North Rothbury's connection be further expedited and commenced prior to the 2020 timeline indicated. This will more than likely be a long-term negotiation, simply due to the cost of the required infrastructure. However Council understands this project is necessary and as such recognized it as the LGA's top priority under the State Government's Priority Sewerage Program.

Council meet again Wednesday, 15th February and I look forward to updating you again in my regular

column in a fortnights time. If you have any issue which you need taking up with Council, please make sure you get in contact with me by email melanie.dagg@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or call me on 0409 404 898.

Cheers, Melanie



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Centrelink's inability to adequately service its clients has reached crisis point. You can only squeeze so much from the lemon and funding and resourcing cuts should have stopped long ago.

The people affected are the elderly, the sick, the unemployed, students, and family members with an elderly parent or disabled child in need of support. Imagine going in to Centrelink in terrible need of help or support, only to be sent to the corner to use a computer, or home to phone the 1300 number. Typically, the latter option will result in an hour on the phone on hold, if you're lucky!

The situation has been made worse thanks to the Turnbull Government's terrible debt recovery program. It's not only chewing up so many of Centrelink's limited resources, it's leaving people sick with worry over letters informing them that they owe the agency large amounts of money. These are in most cases, people on the lowest of incomes.

After highlighting these growing problems in the final months of last year, I said I would make it a priority in 2017. Consequently, I marked the first day of Parliament for the year with a speech on the issue in the House of Representatives. I was pleased to find I wasn't alone. Labor MPs from across the country lined-up to highlight the plights of local constituents.

Centrelink resources must be restored, and the debt recovery action must stop until the Government sorts out the failures in its systems. Constituents in my electorate are receiving letters from external debt collectors before being given any opportunity to respond, appeal or have the decision reviewed. Many of these debts actually do not exist and many of them go back so far—in some cases seven years — and people are not in a position to challenge the debt. They no longer have the pay slips and the records they need.

There is another group of victims; those who work in our Centrelink office. Not surprisingly, they too often find themselves on the wrong end of frustrated and desperate clients. They are doing their best, but they are not super-human. Now they're planning strike action and who can blame them?

No one would expect Centrelink clients to be offered a Rolls Royce service, nor would they expect it. But they do deserve to be treated with dignity. No one would suggest that someone who has been over-paid should be allowed to keep the money, but nor should they be receiving debt-recovery letters which not only cause extreme stress, but are often wrong.

I have had more than one constituent visit my office in tears. We are doing our best for them and we have more than a few wins. But the dysfunctional state of the system is making it harder and harder to assist. Where has our compassion gone? When will the Government wake up?

www.joelfitzgibbon.com or you can even sign up to my E-Newsletter. To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753, visit www.joelfitzgibbon.com

Cheers, Joel

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Head lice including symptoms, treatment and prevention

Head lice are small wingless biting insects which live and breed in human hair and feed by sucking blood from the scalp. Outbreaks of head lice are common in children in schools and institutions everywhere. They infest people of all socio-economic positions and age groups. How head lice are spread Spread is by direct head-to-head contact with a person who has head lice, or more rarely by contact with items which have been recently used by someone with head lice, such as:

- combs
- brushes
- hats
- scarves
- pillowcases.

Some animals have lice, but lice which live on animals will not live on humans. Signs and symptoms Many lice infestations cause no symptoms and probably less than half cause itching, so you have to look at the hair to see if lice are present.

Diagnosis

Use a bright light or sunlight to inspect the hair. You may see small white or brown oblong eggs ('nits')

attached to the shafts, and they are difficult to move. The live lice are more difficult to find as they move rapidly away from disturbances in the hair. Adult lice are 2 to 4mm long and whitish brown in colour. The best way to check for head lice is to apply a generous amount of hair conditioner (any brand will do), then dry the hair and comb through with a coarse comb to detangle the hair. The conditioner stuns head lice for about 20 minutes.



utes. Then use a very fine toothed comb and comb the hair through, wiping it on a tissue regularly so you can check for lice and their eggs.

Incubation period
(time between becoming infested and developing symptoms)

The eggs usually hatch in 7 to 10 days.

Infectious period
(time during which an infested person can infect others)

As long as the eggs or lice are alive. Once hatched, the lice are capable of laying eggs after 10 days and lice live for up to 35 days on the scalp. They do not survive more than 2 days away from a human host.

Treatment

A number of head lice treatments are available without prescription. Follow directions on the packaging. The two most common head lice treatment methods are 'wet combing' and 'chemical' treatment:

- 'wet combing' involves wetting the hair and scalp liberally with hair conditioner

to stun the head lice, then combing the head lice and nits out.

- 'chemical' treatment uses pediculicides which kill the head lice
- Ensure you seek medical advice before using treatments on:

- pregnant or breastfeeding women
 - infants under 2 years old
 - people with sensitive skin or dermatitis.
- Family members may also need treatment.

Re-treatment after 7 to 10 days is necessary because lice in unhatched eggs may not be killed by the first treatment. If head lice are still found after the second treatment, try another technique or another chemical treatment using a different active ingredient. If infestations persist despite correct insecticide use, seek medical advice on alternative methods of treatment.

Prevention

- A child with head lice does not need to be sent home from childcare or school immediately but should be treated on the same day. Children may return to school the day after appropriate treatment has been given.

- Family and close contacts should be inspected for signs of infestation and treated if infested (a contact is any person who has been close enough to an infested person to be at risk of having acquired the infection from that person).

- Concentrate on the head. It is not necessary to treat the house or classroom.

- Combs and brushes should be cleaned with detergent and hot water.

- Bed linen should be washed in hot water (60°C or more), or dried in a clothes dryer on the hot setting for at least 20 minutes.



Police Report



High Range PCA – Rothbury

About 01:25 hours on Saturday the 3rd day of February, 2017, the accused, a female, aged 48 from Aberdare rode a blue Kawasaki motor cycle, in a North-easterly direction upon Wine Country Drive at Rothbury. The accused was stopped for the purpose of a breath test. Whilst speaking with the accused it was noticed that her breath smelt strongly of intoxicating liquor. The accused was subjected to a road side breath test which returned a positive result. The

accused was arrested and conveyed to the Singleton Police Station for the purpose of a breath analysis. In doing so all relevant safeguards pursuant to Section 201 of the Law Enforcement (Powers & Responsibilities) Act 2002 were complied with. The accused was then submitted to a breath analysis which returned a reading of 0.162 grams of alcohol per 210 litres of breath. The accused was issued with Field Court Attendance Notice for High Range PCA and directed to appear before

the Singleton Local Court on the 13th of April 2017.

Mid Range PCA – Branxton

About 6.25pm Thursday 2nd February 2017, Police were travelling upon Nelson Street Greta when they observed a Holden utility stopped at the intersection of Anvil Street. Police had observed this Holden turn south onto Nelson Street. Police stopped this vehicle for the purpose of a random breath test on Filey Street Greta. Police approached the vehicle and spoke with the accused a male, aged 45 from Greta, who was seated within the drivers seat. Police then conducted a random breath test that returned a positive reading. As a result the accused was placed under arrest and conveyed to Sin-

leton Police Station for the purpose of a breath analysis. The accused was submitted to a Breath Analysis which returned with a positive reading of 0.097 grams of alcohol per 210 litres of breath.

The Accused was issued with a Field Court Attendance Notice to attend Singleton Local Court. The Accused was issued a notice of licence suspension.

MVA – Howes Valley

About 10am on the 5th February 2017, rider a male aged 40 from Baulkham Hills was travelling in a northerly on the Putty Road, Howes Valley, riding a Suzuki 750.

Police attended to the accident scene in regards to a single vehicle with one male person with injuries. Upon arrival police observed the rider to be on the side of the road with his motorcycle standing upright on the side of the lane with major damage to the front of the bike. Police attended to the male person and requested Ambulance and RFS to attend the scene. Police continued to update VKG with the status of the rider and directing traffic as there was one south bound lane closed. The rider had major damage to the full face helmet on the right side which occurred when he impacted the sand stone rock on the side of the road. Police observed injuries to the right of his face and possible spinal injuries. Police obtained details of the riders that were travelling with the rider. WESTPAC 1 attended and transported the rider to John Hunter Hospital.



Eggs-in-a-Hole Benedict with Roasted Garlic and Tomato Hollandaise

For the roasted garlic and tomato hollandaise: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Toss the tomatoes and garlic with the oil in a medium bowl and season with salt and pepper. Put on a baking sheet and roast until the tomatoes and garlic are soft and the liquid has evaporated, about 30 minutes. Let cool slightly. Combine the egg yolks and lemon juice in a blender and blend

until smooth. With the motor running, slowly add the melted butter and continue blending until emulsified. Add the tomato-garlic mixture and blend until smooth. Cover and keep warm.

For the sandwiches: Heat the oil in a large cast-iron skillet over medium heat until it begins to shimmer, about 2 minutes. Add the Canadian bacon and cook, turning once, until heated through and lightly browned, about 2 minutes per side. Remove to a small plate and keep warm. Keep the fat in the skillet and the heat at medium. While the bacon cooks, use a 2-inch round cutter to cut a hole out of the centre of each bottom half of the muffins (the bottom is the larger half, usually with cormeal stuck to it). Melt some of the butter in the skillet until foaming and add the 4 halves of the muffins with the holes, cut-side down. Crack an egg into each hole (it's OK if the egg

runs over the muffin), season with salt and pepper, and cook undisturbed until the bottoms are golden brown, about 3 minutes.

Using a flat spatula, flip the muffins and cook until the second side is golden brown, about 2 minutes for runny yolks. Put the bacon on top after the first minute or so. Remove to a work surface, keeping the bacon sides up. Quickly add the remaining butter to the skillet and add the muffin tops cut-side down to toast. Spoon about 1 1/2 tablespoons of the warm hollandaise on top of each egg, then top with a toasted muffin top. Serve immediately.

Roasted Garlic and Tomato Hollandaise ingredients

2 plum tomatoes, halved and seeded, 2 cloves garlic, smashed, 1 tablespoon canola oil, Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, 2 large egg yolks, 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice, 1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, melted

Sandwiches: 2 teaspoons canola oil, 4 slices bacon, 4 English muffins, split, 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, 4 large eggs, Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper



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Cessnock General Manager Guest Speaker at Branxton Greta Business Chamber networking breakfast

A good turnout of members and guests attended a 'networking breakfast' at the Branxton Golf Club on Tuesday 7th February 2017. The breakfast was organised by the Branxton Greta Business Chamber and had two guest speakers; Stephen

Glen GM at Cessnock City Council & Nigel Woolley who is a local businessman from North Rothbury. Nigel spoke about his evolving model engineering business and, how the gamble to leave a very well paid employed

position and concentrate on his then part-time career, has paid off. Nigel now has clients all over the world & has just employed an assistant. He also had some samples of his model work (a scale model steam engine locomotive) & his sign work.

Stephen Glen gave a good overview of council's 2016 highlights & then what he expects from 2017. An abridged version of his presentation is as follows:-

Highlights 2016 Live

- New council made up of five returning councillors and nine newly elected councillors.
- Major infrastructure upgrades including, Broke Road, Lemming Corner, Lomas Lane and Williams Bridge.
- Adopted the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan.
- The draft Cycling Strategy was also adopted.

Play
•The 2016 Youth Week program was recognised as the best in NSW.

- Celebrated Seniors Week and NAIDOC Week.
- We saw the debut of the exciting new STOMP festival.
- A host of family friendly events including Spring Awakening, Jets versus Wanderers A-league match and Carols in the Park.

Grow

- 849 development consents were issued with an average timeframe of 49 days and median timeframe of 23 days which remains below 50 days.
- \$168.4 million of approved development in the LGA for the 2015/16 financial year.
- \$112.4 million of approved development between July to December 2016.
- Commencement of the City Planning Strategy Project.
- Endorsed Branxton Subregional Land Use Strategy and Master Plan.
- Launched the Youth Employment initiative to help young people find full time employment.
- Client satisfaction has also increased every year for last three years to 92% for our building certifiers service and 83% for council's development assessment officers.

Looking Ahead 2017

The success of our community relies on our ability to strategically plan for a positive future which reflects our vision of a thriving, attractive and welcoming community. Throughout 2017 the hundreds of projects and initiatives we will deliver for our



¶ Cessnock City Council General Manager Stephen Glen addressing members and guests at the Branxton Greta Business Chamber breakfast held at the Branxton Golf Club on Tuesday 7th February 2017. Stephen gave an overview of Cessnock Councils 2016 'highlights' & 'Looking Ahead 2017'.

community will have economic, social and environmental benefits. Upgrading community infrastructure, undertaking work on local roads, footpaths, and bridges and supporting the community with services, are all priorities.

Live 2017
•A new kerb side garden organics collection service will commence on 6 March.
•Construction of the new Waste Transfer Station at the Waste Management Centre is underway.
•Hermitage Road works to be complete by the end of the financial year.
•Continuation of the Healthy Oils Program in partnership with the Heart Foundation.
•Ranger School Education Program continues to teach students how to be responsible pet owners.

•Free Microchip Day to be held again in April.
•Ongoing community education from our Ranger team via Pets and Patrols published monthly.
•Applications for 2017 Mayoral Academic Scholarships are currently open. Fourteen scholarship opportunities are available for a range of studies.
•Over 40 events for Seniors Week 2017 including a NSW first, the introduction of Walking Basketball.
•Cessnock Performing Arts Centre 2017 highlights include Boys in the Band, Room on the Broom and Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow.
•Youth Week 2017 program is looking to improve on last years award winning events.
•Over 40 events for Seniors Week 2017 including a

NSW first, the introduction of Walking Basketball.
•Cessnock Performing Arts Centre 2017 highlights include Boys in the Band, Room on the Broom and Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow.
•Youth Week 2017 program is looking to improve on last years award winning events.
Grow 2017
•Cessnock City Planning Strategy Project continues with the preparation of four specialist background studies, Employment Lands, Urban Housing, Rural Lands and Rural Living and Vineyards District to be finalised in early 2017.
•The second phase will be the development of the new planning strategy which
CONT PAGE 20

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Good news for residents of Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton Council areas – the wait is over!

YOUR NEW GARDEN ORGANICS SERVICE STARTS SOON!

By the end of February, all eligible households in the Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton areas should have received their new garden organics bin with a lime green lid.

Collections will start from Monday 6 March. Your new bin will be serviced fortnightly on your usual garbage day, on the alternate week to your yellow lid recycling bin.

If you haven't received your bin, want to confirm your first collection day or want to know what happens to the garden organics we collect, head to:

YOURORGANICSBIN.COM.AU
or call 1800 870 250

WORKING TOGETHER

Solo Resource Recovery, CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL, SINGLETON COUNCIL, maitland city council, ANL

NSW GOVERNMENT, NSW ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST, EPA

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

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Real News Estate

An east-west economic divide suggests interest rates aren't going anywhere

Michael Heath

The Reserve Bank of Australia is setting one policy for two very different economies. In the east, Sydney and Melbourne are seeing booming property prices and spiralling household debt; on the western side of the continent, housing and rental costs in Perth are falling as mining companies retrench. The upshot: interest rates aren't likely to be going anywhere soon. Governor Philip Lowe and his board convene Tuesday for their first policy meeting of the year with markets and economists confident there'll be no change to the 1.5 per cent cash rate — and could well be

none for the rest of this year. Further clouding the picture is a renewed run up in the Australian dollar, reflecting a welcome spike in commodity prices. The RBA has to content with rising house prices in Sydney and Melbourne, and falling prices in Perth. "The bank has always been very careful about setting interest rates for the average conditions of the national economy," said Stephen Walters, chief economist at the Australian Institute of Company Directors. "Things are tough over in W.A. and similarly in Queensland. But in places like Sydney, growth is very firm, there's so much investment going on, unemployment is down and house prices are soaring. I find it hard to make the case for further rate cuts." The RBA cut rates twice last year — in May and August — in response to broad-based weak inflation. When Lowe took over as governor in September, he signalled a willingness to tolerate weak consumer prices



in order to avoid cutting rates further and increasing risks to financial stability. Core inflation in the final three months of last year was still below the 2 per cent bottom of the central bank's target, but in line with its own forecasts. That suggests there'll be little change when the latest estimates are released Friday in the Statement on Monetary Policy. What's likely to be lower is near-term growth after gross domestic product shrank in the third quarter; it's expected to have rebounded in the ensuing three months. Australia's economy showed a starkly different picture at the turn of the decade: it was Queensland and Western Australia that were the centres of growth. But in the past five years, house prices have climbed 73 per cent in Sydney and 52 per cent in Melbourne, pushing private debt to record levels. In Western Australia, the jobless rate rose 2.5 percentage points to 6.6 per cent. Given the RBA doesn't want to push the east higher or the west lower, the appeal of doing nothing is clear.

AAA Angst
Standing pat would bring Lowe into line with developed-world peers who appear to have mostly concluded that monetary policy is nearing its limits of effectiveness. From here, governments will need to

invest in infrastructure or undertake other growth-driving reforms, some economists are urging. Such investment in Australia has been hamstrung by a government trying to curb its budget deficit and keep its prized AAA rating. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's main reform is instead a 10-year plan to lower corporate tax rates to encourage spending and hiring. His concern is that developed-world peers, such as the new U.S. administration, will move to cut their corporate tax and make Australia uncompetitive. It's not all gloom. In the past 12 months iron ore and coal prices have unexpectedly rebounded, delivering the economy a record trade surplus. Normally, higher commodity prices would boost hiring, wages and swell government coffers by encouraging investment and lifting tax revenues. Some of that may still happen, but renewed mining expenditure is highly unlikely. More worryingly for the RBA, the Aussie dollar climbed more than 5 percent in January and has been strong against the currencies of key trade partners like China, Korea and Japan, reducing the economy's competitiveness. That hampers the transition of the economy from a reliance on mining to services like tourism and

education. There's one other major swing factor confronting the central bank this year: Donald Trump. A strong infrastructure program from the new U.S. president could deliver a boost through higher demand for commodities, while a potential trade war with China raises all sorts of risks. Buckle up for a long ride, warns Shane Oliver, head of investment strategy at Sydney-based AMP Capital Investors Ltd. "His belligerent approach, his team's inexperience and fears about trade wars and U.S. isolationism could dominate the pro-growth positives," said Oliver. "Worries about Trump could be with us for a while yet".

This story was first published by Bloomberg.

All at once or bit-by-bit? How to tackle your home renovation

If you're considering renovating your home or investment property, you might be wondering whether to do it all in one go or whether to chip away at it over time. Of course, getting it done all in one hit can be preferable; mainly to minimise the inconvenience a renovation can cause. But renovating over time has its advantages too. The most obvious reason being that financially you can stretch your costs over a period of time without needing all the money up front. Renovating area-by-area can also work well for families or for properties you don't want completely out of action for too long. The problem with renovating



your home over time is that it can end up looking that way. Unless your reno is pre-planned for the entire home before you begin, the risk is that you'll end up with a look that isn't cohesive. Good renovation design and flow generally only happens when the modernising of your whole home is considered and planned right at the beginning. I've seen many examples where homes renovated over a period of time appear a jumble of design styles. The kitchen; reminiscent of one year, the bathroom reminiscent of a few years later. A compelling reason to pre-plan your renovation is to keep your spending under control. The contrast of design styles is even more apparent when the height of the fashion trend is used in each room. For example, the style or pattern of tiles, the taps or the colours. Another compelling reason to pre-plan your renovation is because it's a great way to keep your spending under control. If you can plan from the outset what you are going to do to your home and how

much it's going to cost (even if only an estimate of costs) that is a good way to avoid your renovation spiralling out of control, which often happens when renovating over time. The problem? It's likely you'll over-capitalise on your property without even knowing it. Add that to a possible assortment of incompatible design styles and you can see why so often the renovation dream doesn't quite go according to plan. Many of my clients renovate over a period of time. In fact, I still have a client from nine years ago calling me periodically for advice on the renovation they started back then! I also have lots of clients who renovate all in one go. Both strategies work equally well as long as the pre-planning phase is done well.

My top tip? Create yourself a "Renovation Action Plan" that details what you are going to do in each room and how much those things are going to cost. Articulate your ideas as clearly as you know how and make sure your design gives a cohesive feel to the property so that it flows.

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Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

.....GRETA

The Schools of Greta

The first letter found on record, regarding a school for the area, was one written by Edward Dixon, a miner, to the Council of Education in Sydney dated 12th July 1873. He says he felt it his duty to let the Council know that there was 'a great number of children here and there is no school nearer than 3 miles (at Branxton). He had four himself, of school age.' By September 1873 the Maitland District Inspector, Mr J S Jones, reported to the Secretary of the Council of Education that the probable attendance would be 80 to 100 children and a meeting he'd organised of miners and others at Greta had guaranteed to raise at least 100 pounds towards the cost of erecting the school (he had written to John Wyndham the previous June about it). This was after a previous meeting that Edward Dixon had organised where no one turned up! The selection of a site was also settled on, two acres of crown land in Wyndham Street, with application forms filled in to guarantee the children's attendance adding up to a total of 71. Besides Dixon's four, they included the families of Vindin, Bury, Horsfield, Stafford, Knee, Sheddon, Cahill, Purcell, Whitehouse, Gould, Barry, Gellatly, Carroll, Ferry, Farmer, Grimes, Order, Jeffries, Elliott and Hodges, with the latter two contributing six children each. The newly formed school committee recommended having the school and residence built of weatherboard, rather than wood like other public buildings, at an estimated cost of 300 pounds. However, things did not go as quickly as expected.

Branxton, as mentioned above and then called Black Creek, already had schools. First there was a private school run by Mr Charles Harpur from the 1840s until December 1851. Next Mr John Keating took charge of a school in a rent free private residence from February until June 1852, which had its attendance drastically drop when a Catholic Denominational School became operational at Black Creek. The Catholic School must have started then and continued until the end of 1854. The national school closed in December 1853. In late 1854 a private school was open again, with about 35 pupils. Inspector W. McIntyre from the National Education Board recommended that a national school should be re-opened in Branxton, which it did in January 1858. But the teacher

staffing could be assessed. His residence also needed enlargement, as he had three rooms for a family of eight. Before 1880 education was neither free nor compulsory and the Council had no way of planning demographically. Greta was particularly hard to cater to because of the changing nature of the coal mines. The teacher was paid 126 pounds were annum, which was covered by the children's school fees, which were 8 pence PER WEEK for one child in the family, 6 pence each if 2 children were in the family, 4 pence for three children and 3 pence for every additional child in a family. To put it in perspective, if only 70 students attended they might have all had to pay 8 pence each per week to cover the teacher's wage, so it was good thing that there were more. However, for any parent not fully employed it would have been hard to find the money even if only one child attended.

A short-term solution to the over-crowding came in April when the Primitive Methodist Church was rented at 5 shillings a week for a temporary infants' room under a newly appointed assistant teacher, Mrs E. West. Rockliff's son John was also appointed pupil teacher to help with the older children in May, although it was against the Council's normal policy for a pupil teacher to work in a parent's school. Only 98 pupils were noted attending at the end of 1875, as it seems some people were waiting for the school to settle down.

By June 1876 enrolment was back up to 200, with about 150 children in the town not attending at all. At this stage the mines were flourishing and the population was increasing. But before the accepted plans for more school space could get underway Inspector Jones had to report to the Council of Education, in February 1877, that Greta's circumstances had changed. This was due to a depression in the coal trade which made the mining population become either out of work, partly or completely, or feel the need to leave to look for work. This situation stayed the same until early June, when Jones recommended the erection of the larger school building that had already been approved six months earlier. This was because a new coal pit had opened (Mr E. Vickery's) and the government had spent 2000 pounds on a large brick building for railway, postal and telegraphic purposes. These showed the locality of Greta and Anvil Creek was both stable and important and, although the population would not increase at this stage, there were still 171 students attending Greta Public School, with 53 not attending and 60 apparently attending a private school in Anvil Creek with 10 to 15 non-attendants.

In October, the situation was unchanged and Jones recommended again for an extra building to allow 250 students in total to attend. Henry Chapman, a storekeeper and secretary of Greta's local school board, also wrote several times to the Education Council to

complain how unhealthy it was for the crowded children and how any others that wanted to go were put off by the conditions. The full plans were ready in January 1878 for a brick building on stone foundations, with a slate roof, which was occupied on the 4th September 1878 after James Pritchard of Maitland had his tender accepted. The alterations to the older building was completed a month later. The school's average number that was present at the end of the year was 170, out of 225 enrolled, remembering that attendance wasn't compulsory.

In fact, Lawrence Rockliff also noticed that attendance got less towards the end of the week, partly because some miners were so poor their children only had one set of clothes that had to be washed, or because of 'Pay Friday' (pay day). 'Pay Friday' and 'Pay Saturday' were the reason the children were kept at home every second Friday, because 'Pay Saturday' was a holiday in a miner's mind, the children were kept home to prepare for it. Rockliff's request for a transfer was granted and he transferred to New Lambton; on 1st March 1880 James Crosby, the new headmaster, started as his replacement. After some apparent impropriety between Crosby, the infant's mistress, Elizabeth Tooher and a senior pupil, Crosby was replaced by John Middenway.

The Council of Education became the Department of Education in 1880. The Public Instruction Act (1880) set up the new department, abolished state aid to church schools, introduced secondary education and set rules for compulsory education while still setting fees many couldn't afford to pay. The new act set school fees at threepence per child, with a maximum of one shilling a week per family; they also made provision for suing defaulters and free education in 'necessitous circumstances'. One man in Greta applied for the free education for his children when the coal miners were on strike but was refused, despite his known poverty, and was told 'if it was granted, every miner in Greta would make a similar application'. A second

application later by another miner working less than half the time due to poor demand for coal, and who had seven children, was successful. A third application by an equally poor man was again rejected because 'it would be tantamount to granting free education to every miner's family in Greta'!

Greta's enrolment grew well from the mid-1880s although attendance wasn't as good as it could be. Coal mining was full of difficulties which affected the children's presence at school, and it also caused the older boys to be removed too early to start work with their fathers. The girls of the poor went into service. However, in 1880 and 1889, the enrolment was 300-350 in a school officially only able to cater for 230 pupils, so a cheap wooden classroom was built in July 1890 to cater for another 60. On Arbor Day in 1890, the first time celebrated in NSW schools, 33 trees were planted. The two acres of school grounds was



☰ Greta Public School teachers 18th July 1890



☰ Greta Public School students 10th July 1898

doubled in 1892 and stretched down to Anvil Creek because the Department wanted school playgrounds improved.

Also in 1892, the disheartening drop in miners' incomes also showed up in school records because many of the miners couldn't get full time work and were given exemptions from school fees. The Anvil Creek Colliery closed in 1893, in May. Unfortunately, the Department refused the request for free education for all unemployed miners' children, made by Samuel Bird of the Greta Family Relief Fund, but softened up enough to cancel any fees in arrears for those who applied that year. Greta was impoverished for the rest of the decade and then five miners became entombed after a fire in the Greta Colliery, in December 1900, which caused it also to have to shut down. Many of the miners had to leave town to find work and the school's enrolment suffered badly.

Also in 1900 Walter Campbell was transferred to Greta from Tighes Hill where he had happily been headmaster for the last nine years and so resented the transfer. He was soon imboiled in a long dispute with some of the parents but four 'inspectorial inquiries' found him innocent of alleged discourtesy to parents and unwarranted disciplinary habits with the pupils, although it was found he could be tactless and sarcastic at times. However, he was transferred after a few months.

In 1911 the opening of a new colliery, probably Rothbury or Whitburn Colliery, brought families back to town and the school. The last classroom built in 1890, the wood one, which was being used for other training, was taken back in 1912 when enrolment hit 167. It stayed at 230 for a few years but then went up again to over 300 in 1919 when another coal mine opened. CONT PAGE 14

WANTED!

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Training and games at St Philip's Christian College, Nulkaba Training Thursday Nights from 4pm.

The cost of registration is \$50 per player. All ages from under 7

TRY RUGBY FOR FREE!

Register and play the first 3 games and if you decide to continue playing then pay the registration fee!

Rego and Gala Day Sunday 19th February 3pm to 5pm
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First Game April 29th



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Competition starts in April 29 2017

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Do you REMEMBER when....

THE NEWS Issue No 88 26th Apl. 2001 Page 32

Pine Creek Angus Stud, Stanhope, shine at Royal Easter Show



The Pine Creek Angus Stud at Stanhope was judged the most successful exhibitor in the Angus

section at the 2001 Sydney Royal Easter Show just finished. This award is considered

the most prestigious of all awards at Australian shows & was met with great acclaim within the industry.

Looking at the following results you can understand why! Congratulations to the Fuller family on a great

- show. Their results are as follows:
- Pine Creek 365 Stockman U20 (A.I) (E.T)**
Reserve Senior Champion Bull
2nd in Bull class 20-24 months of age.
 - Pine Creek Stockman U65 (A.I)**
1st in bull class 18-20 months of age
1st in the "Pair of Bulls" under 24 months with (U20)
 - Reserve Junior Champion Bull
Pine Creek Max U 138
2nd in bull class 16-18 months
 - Pine Creek Independence V30 (A.I) (E.T)**
4th in the bull class under 12 months of age
 - Pine Creek Ms Matron V32 (A.I) (E.T)**
3rd in the heifer class under 12 months of age.
 - Pine Creek Ms Kruggerand U133 (A.I) (E.T)**
1st in the heifer class 16-18 months
 - Pine Creek Ms Dandaloo T125 (A.I) (E.T)**
1st in cow class 24-30 months
Reserve Senior Champion Female
 - Pine Creek Rusky (Steer entered in the Hoof and Hook competition)**
5th in the lightweight steer class (hoof)
4th in the lightweight carcass (hook)

Most Successful Exhibitor in the Angus Section.
2nd in the Sire's Progeny (3 animals compete as a group).
Best Displayed team over 5 head in the Angus Section.
Runner up to Best Displayed team over all breeds.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:
Husband takes the wife to a disco.
There's a guy on

the dance floor giving it loads - break dancing, moon walking, back flips, the works.
The wife turns to her husband and says: "See that guy? 25 years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down."
Husband says: "Looks like he's still celebrating"!!!



The Branxton Greta Vineyards News
call Mike on **4938 1773**
for all editorial & advertising enquiries

Greta Museum's **Old Style New Wares & Sweet Shop**
SALE now on - **50% off all sweets in the shop**
Great for gifts or just to indulge
Open most Wednesdays & Saturdays
96 High Street, Greta.

For Sale BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE P: 4938 3300



Price reduced!



NORTH ROTHBURY Sophisticated!!!! Jewel Box Bush Cottage
"Airy" & "Open"



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



A must to inspect **NEGOTIABLE ASKING \$290,000**

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE P: 4938 3300

For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



FOR LEASE

Commercial

property in Maitland Street, Branxton

Rent by Negotiation



EAST BRANXTON

Features include:-

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

Asking \$370,000



BRANXTON

Potential! Potential

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

One to do up at the expected price

Expressions of Interest



GRETA

Duplexes

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

Asking 320,000 each



New on Market

GRETA

Oldie but a Goodie

First home or astute investor

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

ASKING \$275,000



GRETA

For the astute investor

Approx. 2000sm (half an acre)

58 High Street, Greta

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

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



BRANXTON

An opportunity not to be missed!

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

Reduced to \$379,000 ono



NTH ROTHBURY

"Jewel box"

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

**A must to inspect
Offers over \$295,000**



New on Market

RUTHERFORD

Almost Brand New

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



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



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4938 3300



**"Branxton Gardens" Senior Living,
Branxton ~ Recent sales**



BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

The Schools of Greta

The Department of Education had a new policy of a standard of ten square feet per child, meaning there was only enough official floor space for 215 pupils, although there was seating for 250. The Greta Parents' and Citizens' Association was formed for the first time and the urgent additions and remodelling of the main building was eventually completed in September 1922. The enrolment stayed steady then at over 300 with a portable classroom also installed in early 1926.

So, the 1920s was generally good for Greta Public School because of the two collieries continued steady operation, and the P&C's hard work to raise funds for the school. Sadly, the

Rothbury lock-out and lower wages meant the end of this period because of the upcoming Great Depression. The town became virtually completely unemployed and the school suffered desperately. After seeking permission from the Department of Education in 1931, the school's Mother's Club established a soup kitchen at the school to feed the children as nearly all the parents were on the dole. When the soup supply had to stop later on, the headmaster reported in the school records on what a difference it made to the pupil's stamina and ability to concentrate. In 1935 the enrolment dropped to 200 because some families left to search for work. The Depart-

ment wanted to reduce the staff from five to four but the P & C and the headmaster asked them to reconsider as the children had been doing it tough, with many of the parents 'on the dole' for over 7 years, and needed the discipline and hope for the future

from their school. Although it was rare for the Department to change from their usual formula they treated Greta as a special case, until the enrolment dropped even further. In 1939 the P & C managed to get the Department's decision reversed in regards to drop-



ping THE NEWS Issue 447 WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2017 14
 The staff to just three when enrolment became only 130. Mr R Cooper, the president of the P & C, placed the school's role as highly important in the community. He pointed out the children lacked most of the 'advantages and opportunities' of wealthier areas, so the school was essential to 'supply the culture and training' their parents had been denied. As a community, Greta raised funds for a library, a radio-gramophone set, a picture projector and PE equipment. As most of the town was living on various relief services at this stage, everything needed to be done for the children at

school. So again the Department made an exception. This was just before the outbreak of the Second World War, when coal was given a boost and the Whitburn Colliery, after being closed for eight years re-opened on a small scale, as well as another colliery half a mile from the school (Central Greta?). As history also tells us, a large Army Training Camp was then built at Greta, when the town's water was first put on. The Migrant Camp then followed this, after the war, and all gave a boost to the town and its population.

Fortunately, most of the Greta school's families and residents of the town don't have the difficulties of the dependency on coal mining as much as they used to, and so the population can stay relatively level. However, now knowing the above

details of life in Greta through its school chronicle it is easy to realise just how tough it was and we should spare a thought for those in the early years.

With thanks to Melita Watson's commemorative book *From Black Creek to Branxton - A History of 175 years (1828-2003)* for information on the Branxton schools. Information also came from the *Greta Public School 1878-1978 Centenary Book*, and *Greta Public School 1873-1878-1978 Information* compiled by Val Randall (2003). All books are available in the Greta Museum for further information and research. The Museum is open 11am-3pm every Wednesday and Saturday unless otherwise informed. Call Neridah on 0427657150 or Peter on 0478896722 or email the museum on gretahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com

St Brigid's Markets @ Branxton

9.00am to 1.00pm
Dates for 2017

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Sun - 19th Feb | Sun - 18th Jun | Sun - 15th Oct |
| Sun - 19th Mar | Sun - 16th July | Sun - 19th Nov |
| No Market for April | Sun - 20th Aug | Sun - 17th Dec |
| Sun - 21st May | Sun - 17th Sep | |

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Maitland Repertory Theatre

Presents STRANGERS ON A TRAIN

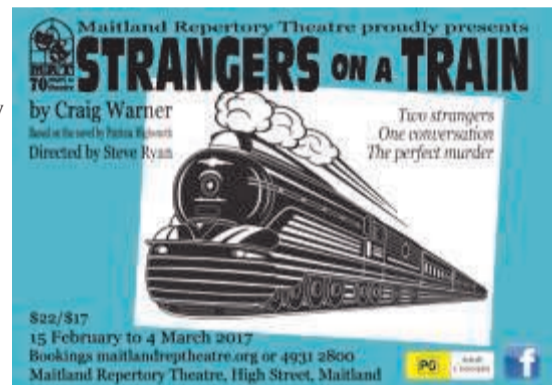
Written by Craig Warner & Directed by Steve Ryan

Two strangers meet on a train and one short conversation sparks a plan by one of the strangers for the perfect murder. A seemingly innocent conversation soon turns into a dangerous reality for Guy Haines (Peter Murray) when he meets Charles Bruno (Eamonn O'Reilly) on a train journey. Ahead lies a lethal nightmare of blackmail and psychological torment that threatens to cost Guy his career, his marriage and his sanity. His choice: to kill, or to be framed for a murder he didn't commit.

Maitland Repertory Theatre's first play of its 70th year of performance is a thriller written by Craig Warner and based on the 1950 novel of the same name by Patricia Highsmith. The novel was famously adapted for the cinema by Alfred Hitchcock in 1951. Director Steve Ryan has brought together an excellent cast of both experienced actors and newcomers to Maitland Repertory Theatre featuring Eamonn O'Reilly as Charles Bruno, Peter Murray as Guy Haines, Aimée Cavanagh as Elsie Bruno, Bree Cunningham as Anne Faulkner, Jakob Campbell as Frank Myers, Robert Comber as Robert Treacher and

Terry Allen as Arthur Gerard. The play opens at Maitland Repertory Theatre on Wednesday Feb 15, and continues until Saturday March 4, on Friday and Saturday evenings with Sunday matinees.

The audience is invited to celebrate on February 15 with complimentary wine and cheese refreshments served from 7:30pm on opening night.
Cheat sheet:
What: *Strangers on a Train* – at Maitland Repertory Theatre
Where: Maitland Repertory Theatre, 244 High Street, Maitland (opposite Maitland Town Hall)
When: Opening at 8:00pm on Wednesday 15 February 2017 - doors open 7.30pm with complimentary wine and cheese refreshments served from 7:30pm on opening night.
 Performance Dates/Times:
 Evenings at 8pm - Feb 15, 17, 18, 24, 25, Mar 3, 4
 Matinees at 2pm - Feb 19, 26
 Doors open 30 minutes before performances
Why: Get on board for Maitland Repertory's first play of its 70th year of performances – it promises to be edge of the seat entertainment.
Bookings: Online at



www.maitlandreptheatre.org or at Maitland Visitor Information Centre on 4931 2800 (10am – 3pm daily)
Free Tickets: Maitland Repertory Theatre is giving away double passes to opening night
Cast:
 Eamonn O'Reilly as Charles Bruno
 Peter Murray as Guy Haines
 Aimée Cavanagh as Elsie Bruno
 Bree Cunningham as Anne Faulkner
 Jakob Campbell as Frank Myers
 Robert Comber as Robert Treacher
 Terry Allen as Arthur Gerard
Behind the Scenes:
 Directed by Steve Ryan
Image Details: Peter Murray as Guy Haines and Bree Cunningham as Anne Faulkner
Ticket prices are \$17 (concession) and \$22 (full). Bookings can be made online at
www.maitlandreptheatre.org or at Maitland Visitor Information Centre on 4931 2800 (10am – 3pm daily).

NIGHT TIME BINGO

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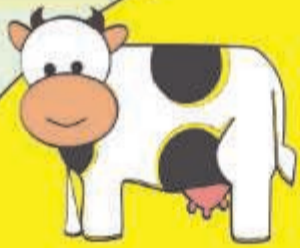
GRETA WORKERS

FRIDAY 17th FEBRUARY

“SOLID GOLD”

FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY

“ROB WILSON”



RAFFLES

FRIDAY

SELLING 6.00pm

DRAWING 7.30pm

SUNDAY

SELLING 11.00am

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MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

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19th DECEMBER

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MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

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MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

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SUNDAY 19th FEBRUARY

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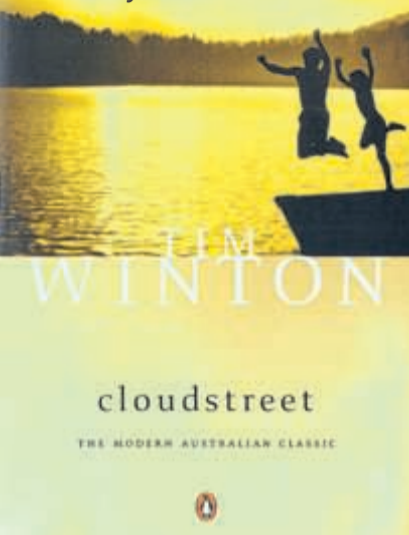


TAB

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Cloudstreet by Tim Winton



IN 2011 'Booktopia', by popular vote, gave Tim Winton's classic novel number 1 in their survey of the 50 Must Read Australian Novels. It is a MUST READ!

Cloudstreet is a 1991 novel by multi-award winning Australian writer Tim Winton. It chronicles the lives of two working class Australian families the Pickles and the Lambs who come to live together in a large house called Cloudstreet in Perth over a period of twenty years, 1943 - 1963. It was the recipient of a Miles Franklin Award in 1992.

Plot summary ~ Precipitated by separate personal tragedies, two poor families flee their rural homes to share a "great continent of a house", Cloudstreet, in a suburb of Perth. The two families are contrasts to each other; the devoutly religious Lambs find meaning in hard

work and God's grace, while the Pickles hope for good luck and don't share the Lambs' appetite for hard work.

"Over 20 years, their lives become entwined and the shared family experiences, birth and death, marriage and adultery, joy and loss, bind them together in ways they could not have anticipated."

Major themes ~ Winton's novel is a celebration of community and how people search for connection within family, with the past and the environment within which they live. Peter Garrett talked about the use of landscapes in the book but he writes about the physicality of our landscapes and whether it's sort of, you know, railway cuttings, or bits of the desert, or the coast, or the estuaries where they go fishing occasionally, and he casts that landscape across the top of the lives that people are leading and their emotional

landscapes are sort of contrasting against the landscapes of things they're doing at different times. Australian author Mem Fox writes

of *Cloudstreet*, " ... If you have not read *Cloudstreet*, your life is diminished, it's diminished. If you have not met these characters, this generous community, these tragedies, the humour. It is so funny. Every so often, there's a sentence where you just burst out laughing. And it could be in the middle of a tragic paragraph and you just howl, you just literally laugh aloud. It is so wonderful."

Historical context ~ *Cloudstreet* is framed by many key events in world history, including World War II, the Korean War and the assassination of John F. Kennedy., where Australia was, for the most part, comfortable and conservative, characterised by backyard barbecues, by wives - who were no longer needed for the war effort - consigned to the home, and by the growth of the Australian dream of owning a new home. World events influence the Lambs and Pickles, but distantly, like an echo that sends ripples across the surface of their lives. The novel focuses on the domestic, and this serves as the filter through which history is measured. The most prominent historical character within *Cloudstreet* is the Nedlands monster, whose real name is Eric Edgar Cooke, a serial killer. The Australian Dictionary of Biography writes that Winton's novel *Cloudstreet* embodied the social impact of Cooke's crimes. There was a change in personal and household security and a loss of the relaxed style of living.

Recognition ~ In 2003, members of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) voted *Cloudstreet* as their favourite Australian novel. That same year, *Cloudstreet* came out on top in a readers' poll organised by the ASA and ABC Radio National. *Cloudstreet* was the "overwhelming favourite" in the 2010 "ABR Favourite Australian Novel" poll conducted by the *Australian Book Review*. In 2012, viewers of *First Tuesday Book Club* voted *Cloudstreet* #1 on a list of "10 Aussie Books You Must Read Before You Die".

Awards
1991 Miles Franklin Award
1991 NBC Banjo Award for Fiction
1991 Western Australian Premier's Book Award Fiction
1992 Deo Gloria Award

Related to Cloudstreet
1999 AWGIE Award (for playwrights Nick Enright & Justin Monjo)
2002 Helpmann Award (Best Direction of a Play : Neil Armfield)
2002 Helpmann Award (Best Play)
Theatrical and television adaptations
Adapted for the stage by Nick Enright and Justin Monjo, the theatrical adaptation opened in Sydney in



ABOUT

Tim Winton has published twenty-eight books for adults and children, and his work has been translated into twenty-eight languages. Since his first novel, *An Open Swimmer*, won the Australian Vogel Award in 1981, he has won the Miles Franklin Award four times (for *Shallows*, *Cloudstreet*, *Dirt Music* and *Breath*) and twice been shortlisted for the Booker Prize (for *The Riders* and *Dirt Music*).

LIFE

Tim Winton was born in Karrinyup, Western Australia, but moved at age of 12 to the regional city of Albany.

Winton has been named a Living Treasure by the National Trust and awarded the Centenary Medal for service to literature and the community. He is patron of the *Tim Winton Award for Young Writers* sponsored by the City of Subiaco, Western Australia.

He has lived in Italy, France, Ireland and Greece but currently lives in Western Australia. Winton met his wife Denise when they were children at school. When he was 18 and recovering from a car accident they reconnected as she was a student nurse. They married when he was 21 and she was 20 and have three children. His younger brother, Andrew Winton, is a musician and a high school chaplain. His younger sister is Sharyn O'Neill in 2007 assumed the position of Director General of the WA Education Department.

As his fame has increased Winton has guarded his and his family's privacy. He rarely speaks in public yet he is known as "an affable, plain-speaking man of unaffected intelligence and deep emotions."

January 1998 under the direction of Neil Armfield, produced by Company B and Black Swan Theatre for the Sydney Festival. Seasons followed in Perth, Melbourne, London, Dublin, New York and Washington DC, with the Company B cast touring the production until 2001 with minimal recasting. A lengthy adaptation at 5 and a half hours, the play attracted rave reviews around the world. The adaptation is published by Currency Press. It

received the Helpmann Award for Best Play and Helpmann Award for Best Direction of a Play in 2002.

The six-episode television miniseries *Cloudstreet* is an adaptation of the book, filmed in Perth in 2010. Winton worked on the script making changes to the characters and the timeframe.

In May 2016 an operatic version with music by George Palmer was premiered in Adelaide by the State Opera of South Australia.

Energy efficient appliance discounts on offer

The New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage is currently running an appliance replacement program. The program offers eligible residents discounts on a range of new energy efficient fridges and televisions to replace older inefficient models.

To be eligible you must be a NSW resident and hold a Department of Human Services Concession or Health Care card or a Gold Department of Veterans Affairs Card.

The discounts will run until 30 June 2017 and provide eligible residents with the opportunity to upgrade inefficient appliances with the following discounts available.

· Receive a 40% discount on the cost of a new energy efficient fridge. The fridge being replaced must be at least six years old.

Receive a 50% discount on the cost of a new energy efficient TV. The TV being replaced must be a plasma or cathode ray tube TV.

All new appliances will be delivered and installed in resident's homes with old appliances taken away for recycling. To find out if you are eligible, what appliances are available under the program and to apply for the discount visit

environment.nsw.gov.au/applianceoffer



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HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

QANTAS LAUNCHES NEW SAFETY VIDEO FEATURING HUNTER VALLEY WINE COUNTRY

Qantas has just launched its new safety video for 2017 featuring the best tourist spots in Australia and includes the Hunter Valley in the first 30 seconds of the 3 minute piece. The aim of the video is to provide an entertaining instructional

piece for passengers, showing basic safety measures during an emergency situation. The video also doubles as a tourism ad covering the beautiful and stunning landscapes of Australia, including Hot Air Ballooning over Wine Country. The film was created in 12 days in collaboration with Qantas, Tourism Australia and state tourism organisations and will be screened on both domestic and international flights. The video has numerous versions that come with eleven languages and will reach tens of millions of consumers. The video showcased more than 15 locations that are expected

to attract international passengers as well as remind locals about the beauty of key destinations including the Hunter Valley. To view the video visit Qantas.com
Spicers Vineyard Estate WINS Number 1 Hotel for Romance in Australia
The Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association is very excited to share the recent win for Spicers Vineyard Estate located on Hermitage Road in the Hunter Valley in Trip Advisor's 2017 Hotel Travellers' Choice Awards. They have been named the Number 1 Hotel for Romance in Australia for the second year in a row! Congratulations to the team.

Work commences on Hermitage Road following the completion of Broke Road upgrade



Work on the upgrade of Broke Road west has finished and construction has commenced on Hermitage Road as part of a \$17.1 million upgrade to the road link connecting the region's wine country. The upgrade, which is being delivered by Cessnock City Council as part of their contribution to a joint project with Singleton Council, includes safety improvements, intersection upgrades, construction of on-road cycleways and installation of tourist facilities including signage and rest areas. Cessnock City Council's Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said this is a key achievement in the multi-million dollar project which will bolster the regions tourism industry. "The upgrade of the important road link will no doubt have far reaching benefits for the Hunter wine industry, providing better access for visitors and also for cyclists," Mayor Pynsent said. Glandore Owner and General Manager, Duane Roy, said he looks forward to the opportunities the upgrades will

generate. "As a small business owner, it is fantastic to see an investment which will invite people into our region -- the high-quality road now fits our premium wine growing destination," Mr Roy said. The Hermitage and Broke Road Upgrade project received \$16.7 million in funding under the NSW Government's Restart NSW Resources for Regions program. Member for Upper Hunter, Michael Johnsen MP, said he was proud the NSW Government has been able to significantly contribute to the delivery of this important upgrade and many other projects in the Upper Hunter Electorate. "Through Restart NSW funding, we have committed over \$110 million towards projects in the Hunter, demonstrating our commitment to increasing the attractiveness of the Upper Hunter Electorate and regional NSW as a place to live and do business," Mr Johnsen said.

PHOTO ABOVE: Back Row: Cessnock City Council's John Latter, Michael Cornish, James Estate GM Shelley Mitchell, Cessnock City Councils Sam Mackie, Cessnock City Council Mayor Pynsent, Cessnock City Council GM Stephen Glen - Front Row: Josia Skewes - Pokolbin Venue Manager, Singleton Council's Director of Corporate and Community Anthony Egan, Cessnock City Councils Katrina Kerr.

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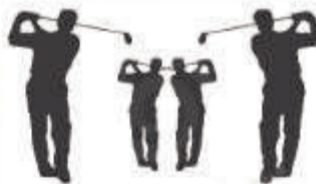
Friday Night Raffles

Darts every Saturday afternoon

3.00pm



Great Prizes - Everyone welcome



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Wednesday 4.30pm

MR JS

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Fruit & Vegie Trays
Seafood Tray
47 Schooner Draw
Badge Draw \$800

As at 10/2/2017

Thursday

Badge Draw \$1100 as at 9/2/2017

Seafood Raffle

Trivia

click



In The NEWS

You Worry About Your Data & Do Nothing To Protect It

According to a new survey by the Pew Research Center, we are really worried about the security of our personal data. Half of us don't trust the government or social media sites to protect our data. A full 64% of us have actually experienced a data breach. 41% have had fraudulent charges appear on their credit cards.



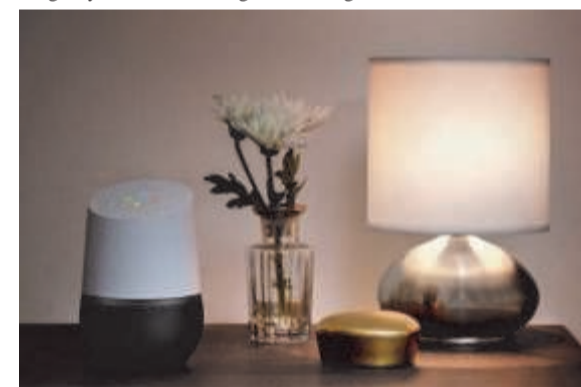
So what are you doing about it? Not much. A lot of us admit to some big security no-nos. 41% have shared their password with a friend or family member. 39% use the same or similar passwords for multiple online accounts. More than a quarter of smartphone owners don't lock their screens or activate other phone security features. A whopping 54% admit to accessing public WiFi with many using it to perform banking transactions. Security seems to fall into the same trap as eating a healthy diet and getting plenty of exercise. We know what we should be doing, but we just don't.

Exploding Phones Didn't Stop Samsung's Profit

Despite a rocky quarter due to exploding Galaxy Note7 phones and a massive recall, things are looking pretty good for Samsung. The company earned \$7.9 billion in operating profits for the last quarter of 2016. That's up 50% from the previous year. A large portion of that profit came from their manufacturing of chips and displays for mobile phones.

OK, Google!! Where Are My Keys?

You may have heard the old joke, "I wish Google would tell me something useful like where my keys are." Well, now it can. As long as you have the Google Home digital assistant.



Just say OK Google, "Remember that I'm putting my keys on the side table." And this doesn't just work for keys, you can tell Google where you're putting the leftover Christmas cards or which drawer you're storing your shorts in for the winter. Then when you need the item, you just say "OK Google, where are my keys?" or "OK Google, where did I put my shorts?"

TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

7 Steps To Take For Better Cyber Security

In a world that increasingly relies on technology to get things done, cybersecurity has never been more important. Your home network is likely to be the most vulnerable to attacks, but you can take steps to safeguard it and keep your information private.

Be Careful Where You Share Your Information

With most of us regularly making purchases online, the number of websites that have our sensitive information adds up fast. When signing up for any type of online account, always make sure you check the little box indicating you don't want your information shared with third parties, if such an option is available. You should also delete any accounts with sites you no longer use, especially those with your credit card information. Always check that a site is secure (shown by the little lock symbol next to the web address) before making a purchase through it.

Make Your Passwords as Strong as Possible

It's easy to keep using the same password you've had for various accounts for years, but chances are, that password is not as secure as it should be. For every additional letter or character, your password contains, its strength increases significantly, so if in doubt, make it longer. A good tip for creating passwords is to

string together random words. Two-factor authentication is also vital for security, but it does not make up for weak passwords, so always have both a strong password and two-factor authentication in place.

Create a new password

Strengthen the security of your account with a new password.

New password:

Enter new password: show password

Never Procrastinate Security Updates

If you routinely click "Remind Me Tomorrow" when your computer alerts you to a necessary update, you may compromise your cyber security. Always keep your software up to date to minimize the threat of a virus or malware attacking your system, and don't neglect updates for handheld devices such as tablets, which can also be vulnerable to hacking.

Change Your Router's Name

Not only is it a great comedic opportunity, but changing the name of your home network also makes it harder for hackers to know what type of router you have. Not knowing the manufacturer of your router means hackers won't know what specific vulnerabilities it may have, which puts you in a more secure position.



Enable WPA2 AES Network Encryption

WPA2 AES is the safest encryption setting for your Wi-Fi, and it's compatible with all networks. Other encryption types, such as WEP and WPA, are outdated and therefore fairly easy for hackers to get around. Check your router's settings, and make sure you select WPA2 AES encryption for your home network.

Change Your Router's Location

Placing a router in the middle of your home will ensure your Wi-Fi coverage is even throughout different rooms, while also lessening the likelihood of a hacker being able to



access it from outside. A router placed by a window, for example, can be especially vulnerable to attacks, as the signal will travel outside your home. It's also a smart idea to disable your router when you go on vacation, as this will also reduce the chance of hackers being able to access it.

Have a Plan in the Event of a Cyber Attack

It's important to keep an eye on all your online accounts to ensure there are no signs of hacking activity. Check for unauthorized purchases on your credit cards, suspicious-looking files appearing on your computer, increased disk activity, and unusually high outgoing network traffic. As soon as you notice an issue, contact your internet service provider (ISP) for help. When you first set up service, make sure you choose a provider with a solid reputation for customer service, especially if you have satellite internet in a rural area where it's difficult to have a tech visit. In addition to calling your service provider, always contact your bank if you see any confusing charges on your account. Speed is important when it comes to tackling a security threat, as is having a backup of your data in case it's compromised. Taking these simple steps will improve the security of your home network significantly, so make sure you've followed all of them for maximum protection, and always remember to install those security updates as soon as they become available.

MOVIE REVIEW

LION

Five-year-old Saroo gets lost on a train which takes him thousands of Kilometers across India, away from home and family. Saroo must learn to survive alone in Kolkata, before ultimately being adopted by an Australian couple. Twenty-five years later, armed with only a handful of memories, his unwavering determination, and a revolutionary technology known as Google Earth, he sets out to find his lost family and finally return to his first home.

RELEASE DATE: 19/01/2017
RUNNING TIME: 118 mins
DIRECTOR: Garth Davis

CAST: Rooney Mara, Nicole Kidman, Dev Patel

Everyone says that modern GPS and digital technology are wiping out jeopardy and making storytelling impossible. Well, that is very much not the case with Lion, the extraordinary true story of how a founding Indian boy, estranged from his home village by the cruellest of fate and growing to adulthood far from home, used Google Maps to find his mother. Screenwriter Luke Davies and first-time feature director Garth Davis (known before this for Jane Campion's TV drama Top of the Lake) have responded to this incredible situation with a heartfelt film combining intelligent attention to detail with a necessary sense of their story's simplicity and strength. Dev Patel brings his

A-game to the leading role, newcomer Sunny Pawar is wonderful as his character's younger self and Nicole Kidman gives a very decent performance as the adoptive mother. Pawar plays Saroo, a little Indian kid who roams the streets with his brother; they get split up at the railway station as night falls; not knowing his way back, Saroo decides to get some sleep on a stationary train. He wakes up to find to his horror the train has started up and is now thousands of miles away in Calcutta, where he cannot speak the language

and cannot remember the official grownup name for his village. He is placed with kindly adoptive parents in Tasmania (Kidman and David Wenham) but is haunted by the need to find his mother, and finally discovers that his laptop can help him. This big-hearted film does full justice to the horror, the pathos and the drama of his post-modern odyssey. 4/5



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

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



salespeople. Not many industries can make a claim to be primary, secondary & tertiary. Growing grapes to make wine is extremely difficult. Not only must you keep on top of everything from the vines to the trellis systems to the soil, but you are constantly at battle with the weather. Drought is one of the worst experiences a grower can have. My only experience with drought since I was a child was in 1994. Much of the state was declared dry and many areas received government assistance. No, we were not included as the government did their usual trick and saw us as a leisure industry having a good run and

THE NEWS Issue No 118 18th July 2002 page 34

Rain, precious rain

Have you ever been in a situation you have no control over and asked for a higher being to help you or just let you know they were looking over you?

When I was very young I would sometimes, when alone, ask the biblical God to show me a sign that he actually existed. It would normally be along the lines of "if you are there, close that door, move that cup, blow a gust of wind, make a book fall off the shelf; just a sign please".

This type of behaviour didn't happen very often. Sometimes I did it out of boredom or mere curiosity, but mostly in a desperate time of need. My brothers and I would often get into trouble and be sent to our rooms, (where it would simply just continue), or I would have been in a fight, probably over a girl, at the ripe old age of six. My memory recalls that I would be crying and asking God to let me know that everything was really in his control as it was not in mine. Nothing ever happened; ever. A lesson I learnt relatively quickly when I was young.

A few years passed and in the early eighties, the Valley experienced one of the worst droughts on record. Coming out of the brilliant 1979 vintage into ongoing years of dry weather played havoc on the minds of vignerons. I remember it vividly.

A church service was arranged in order for everyone in the wine industry to pray for rain. So, up we went as a family to attend this congregation at Broke. Just about everyone I knew was in attendance.

The service began with one of the older vignerons explaining that this was a crisis situation and encouraged all of us to concentrate when asking God to give us rain; "ask Him with all your heart & all of your mind" he pleaded. There was silence in the church. I looked around and saw people with their eyes shut whispering their prayers. Some were looking up at the ceiling and some were crying, faces buried in their hands. I sat there and simply observed how completely desperate these people were, my own parents included. The seriousness of a situation like this however, to me didn't warrant this type of behaviour. I had done it years before, "don't bother, I've already tried for a sign from this guy, he doesn't fall for it". The drought continued throughout the many months that soon turned into years. Although I was confident that the rain would not come if it was asked for, it was quite daunting to see my parents and their friends so desperate. Some of the heavies of the Valley reduced to tears, begging to something or someone they may never before believed in, for water. I will never forget that day as long as I live.

There were many of these congregations over this period although I was only to attend the first. I am not trying to pinch a nerve with anyone having faith in Christianity, just pointing out how far a farmer will go in times of need.

We are farmers. Then we are winemakers. Then we are

disregarded the fact that we are actually, basically farmers. The drought in 1994 however affected the 1995 vintage and most vignerons suffered huge losses in terms of quantity. At Marsh Estate we were 60% down on the previous vintage. The fruit was fantastic and one of these years, every now & again, we can absorb, but frequent drought could prove devastating. I understand how people can be drawn to prayer in order to receive water; we need it to survive. The problem is that weather seems to do what it likes and no amount of prayer is going to change that; ever.

As you may be aware, the short & long term forecast is for dry weather. This is not good.

Already farmers further north and west of the Valley are experiencing drought conditions. We can only hope that rain will fall soon for these people. It doesn't take very long without rain before our area starts to brown-off and looks starved for water. It looks like that now. Fortunately, the vines are dormant but available water for them is essential for budburst in September.

Irrigated vineyards are, as of a few years ago, in a much better position in dry times as they are able to utilise water from the Hunter River. Previously they would have had to rely on enough rain to fill their dams for water use. Drought would not allow this to happen. Even if you have this water available, a text book season with rain at the right time is still preferred.

Hopefully, if we do experience drought this year and into vintage next year, it will break soon after. Pray all you like, it doesn't work. Have a thought, however, for all the farmers of our state; these are the people who put food on your plates (and wine in your glasses)!

On a lighter but just as serious note; at the time of writing, the Australian Wallabies had yet to take the field for the first Tri-Nations Rugby clash against the All Blacks, which also incorporates the Bledisloe Cup. If we are not victorious in the miserable conditions at Christchurch we will win in Sydney. We will win the Bledisloe. We will win the Tri-Nations. We will receive rain.

Cheers, Andrew

THE NEWS No.447 WED 15 FEB 2017 19

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

and

To the Branxton Golf Club for hosting the Branxton Greta Networking breakfast last week. The breakfast itself was delicious with ample to eat; also, to Stephen Glen for giving his time & providing some very interesting reflections on 2016 & his want list, predictions, for Cessnock Council in 2017. Thank you.

A not so well done to a long time local member of an emergency service who, in full uniform and in front of customers, abused, threatened, yelled, pointed fingers and swore at a Manager claiming rights to any fundraising whilst saying that Greta is "your town". Your behaviour was appalling and you set a very poor example of the Service you represent. Greta does not belong to you neither nor should you dictate who a business can and can not legitimately fundraise for. Maybe look at how your behaving and the example you set and you might know why you miss out. Hang your head in shame!

To the dirty, horrible, disgusting grubs who litter the entrance to our local tip ~ it would take no effort to clean your tracks!

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Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908
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For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
Guitar Lessons: Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.
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Fitness Classes: 'Core & Strength'. Get fit for summer. 8am - 10am Tue & Thur at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478
Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton; off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067
Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866
Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable. P: 0458 606 804

Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3753
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons. P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

The pick of
 GO TO FOR FURTHER DETAILS
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/branxronandsurroundsbuysellswapandfreebies/>

Mitsubishi Pajero 4WD 2004. - \$12,900
 2004 Mitsubishi Pajero GLX turbo diesel AUTO 26700kms. Set up for towing & camping.
 * Air off road suspension
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 * Running boards
 * Fuel water traps
 * Steinbauer power module on turbo
 * Alarm & disabled
 * Roof basket
 * driving Dash cam
 * 40 channel UHF
 * Towbar 2500kg cap
 * Towing brake booster



The winners of the Christmas Raffle from the Anglican Op Shop of Branxton
 1st - Lorraine Noonan
 2nd - Rosemary from Woollongong
 3rd- Helen Brooker
 We would like to thank all those who purchased raffle tickets in our 2016 Christmas Raffle.

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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

Sun 19 Feb 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
 Thur 23 Feb - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group met at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm- 4:30pm. Guest speaker- Shayne Connell-Regional Manager- Hunter Cancer Council. Topic: The latest Prostate Cancer research results from Cancer Council researchers and upcoming projects in Prostate Cancer. Meetings are open to all members of the public. Cost FREE. Tea/coffee provided. Contact: Barry- 49904554- 0457073852.
 Tue 7 Mar 2017 ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start
 Tue 9 Mar 2017 ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start
 TUES 14/03 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 Sun 19 Mar 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
 Sat 25 Mar 2017 - Damien Leith 10th Anniversary Tour @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Cessnock
 Mon 27 Mar - Branxton Public School P&C Annual General Meeting 6pm in the Library
 Mon 3 Apl 2017 - The World of Musicals @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Cessnock ... The new musical gala with an international cast brings London's 'West End' and New York's 'Broadway' to Australia
 TUES 11/04 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 TUES 09/05 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 Fri 19 May 2017 - The Australian Bee Gees Show. The Saturday Night Fever 40th Anniversary tour; The Australian

Bee Gees Show are digging out their flares and dusting off their platform shoes in preparation for the Australian leg of their 2017 world tour - so let the party begin! Cessnock Performing Arts Centre
 Sun 21 May 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
 TUES 13/06 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 Sun 21 Jun 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
 TUES 11/07 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 Sun 16 Jul 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
 Tue 8 Aug 2017 ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start
 TUES 08/08 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 Sun 20 Aug 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
 TUES 12/09 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 Sun 17 Sep 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
 Tue 10 Oct 2017 ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start
 TUES 10/10 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 Sun 15 Oct 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
 TUES 14/11 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 Sun 19 Nov 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
 TUES 12/12 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
 Sun 17 Dec 2017 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm



Greta Public School

Welcome back to the 2017 school year. I am very excited to introduce myself as the relieving principal at Greta Public School. I would like to acknowledge the warm welcome that I have received from all staff, students and parents. I hope to get out into the Greta community in the next few weeks to meet as many people as possible. It's a return to the ancient past for me, as I started my own schooling at Greta Public School as a very excited kindergarten student and spent my first couple of years here before moving away. I have been very impressed with the confidence, friendliness, and wonderful manners of the students. Many students of all ages have taken the time to chat to me before school and

during breaks and they have helped me to feel at home already. I met with our 2017 student leaders and they demonstrated their passion for the school through their ideas for programs to implement this year. Our kindergarten students had a wonderful start to the school year and are now settled in and working well in their classrooms. Their year four buddies have been a great support and students in all grades have helped our new kindies to learn school routines and rules. This year we have a new program running called Early Action for Success. A specialist teacher will work with the K-2 staff and students on ensuring they achieve the best possible results in literacy and numeracy.

We have certainly hit the ground running. Our swimming for sport program started in week 2 and 45 of our primary students are very much enjoying the opportunity to stay cool and learn some new swimming skills each Friday morning at Branxton Pool. Primary students also attended the school swimming carnival recently and quite a number of them have qualified to compete at the zone carnival in the near future. We are looking forward to a visit next week from the Principal and other staff from Rutherford Technology High School who will speak to our year 5 and 6 students about what to expect when they move on to year 7. We also have our drumming program and a mindfulness program commencing for all students K-6.



I look forward to keeping the community up to date with school news in future editions of the Greta Branxton News.

Sarah-Jane Hazell, Principal



Kirkton Public School News



Welcome to our Kindergarten students for 2017 and also to our relieving Principal Mrs Janice Clack. We all hope you enjoy your time at Kirkton Public School.



School Leaders
 Congratulations to Connor being elected School Captain of Kirkton Public School. Congratulations also to our School Leaders Alexander, Audrey, Ethan and Ethan, Jaci, Jordan and Max and to our Student Council Corey, Drew, Willow and Zara.
School Leaders (absent Alexander)



School Council



FLORA
 FRIENDSHIP LEARNING OPPORTUNITY RESPECT ACHIEVEMENT

Welcome



Branxton Public School

back to a new year at Branxton Public School. Our **Kinder Koalas**, **Kinder Wombats** and **Kinder Bilbies** are quickly learning our school routines and expectations. They are getting to know their Year 6 Buddies and look forward to working with them every week. We hope that our new families will get involved in the school and contribute to all the great things we do.



2017 School Leaders

Joining the **P&C** is a great way to do that! The next P&C meeting is the AGM and will take place on Monday 27th March at 6pm and the usual meeting will follow. All welcome. The P&C have introduced a



Kinder Bilbies all smiles on their first day

sport shirt this year and they look fantastic! We can't wait to see students in them for sport days and carnivals. They can be ordered through Flexischools. In 2017 we say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Denise Bagley and welcome Mrs Sharyn Baker as Canteen Coordinator. We look forward to seeing some yummy healthy menu items.



New Sports Shirts

Congratulations to our 2017 **School Leaders**. These positions were announced at the Presentation Day last year and the students took on their roles on Day 1 this year, running our first morning Assembly. We know they'll be great role models for our younger students by being Respectful, Responsible and always doing their Personal Best.

We are very lucky to have the Sport for Life coaches back again to teach our students **Gymnastics**. It is a great program with students developing many skills to improve strength and coordination and will continue over the term. It is also lots of fun!

Dates for the Calendar

Tuesday 14th February – Primary Swimming Carnival
 Monday 27th March - P&C Annual General Meeting 6pm in the Library

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

FROM PAGE 9
 Cessnock General Manager Guest Speaker at Branxton Greta Business Chamber networking breakfast will be supported and informed by the background studies.
 •We are building on the Branxton Subregional Land Use Strategy and Master Plan.
 •Preparing a Development Control Plan, Public Domain Plan and a Section 94 Plan for the area.
 •These plans will help guide the future urban environment in Branxton.
 •Thank you for your feedback to date and we look forward to your continued engagement.
 •Building certification team meet with current and potential clients at their places of business to discuss how we can assist them in achieving their business objectives.
 •ePlanning is transforming the traditional paper-based interactions to an online environment.
 •Development Consultation Forums continue to focus on providing relevant information to the development industry and stakeholders.



Whole farm planning workshop - part 1

When ~ 9th Mar 2017 - 10th Mar 2017

Details

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell
Bloodstock Media Service

Australian horses recognised as best in the world

A PANEL of experts, a group considered among the most astute in the world in assessing the quality of racehorses, for the past nine years have consistently each year evaluated Australian bred horses in the four and up group at the highest level. They are the compilers of the Longines sponsored World's Best Racehorse Rankings and their assessments of the best 2-year-olds (Europeans runners only), 3-year-olds and older performers of 2016 were released in late January.

Predictably, they have ranked the current queen of Australian racing, Winx (bay, 2011, Street Cry (Ire) – Vegas Showgirl, by Al Akbar (Success Express), the best race mare in the world for the year with a rating of 132. It made her the second best performer four and up in the world, headed only by America's record earning stallion California Chrome (chestnut, 2011, Lucky Pulpit – Love The Chase, by Not For Love) on 133.

Bred in the Hunter Valley by John Camilleri's Fairways Stud, the Chris Waller trained Hugh Bowman ridden Winx treated her rivals with disdain in winning all he eight races, 1500m-2040m, six Group1, during the year. She was considered so good, the next highweights under her in the 2016 World Rankings are two on 127, the Japanese 2011 foaled stallions A Shin Hikari (Deep Impact (Jpn) – Catalina (USA), by Storm Cat (USA) and Maurice (Screen Hero (Jpn) – Mejiro Frances (Jpn), by Carnegie (Ire). Maurice, a six times Group1 winner booked to visit Arrowfield this year, has

two Australian used sires in pedigree, Grass Wonder (USA) (160 foals), the sire of Screen Hero, and Carnegie (380 foals).

Also, Winx's 132 is the same as that awarded the Rick Jamieson, Nagambie, Victoria bred mare Black Caviar (2006, Bel Esprit (Royal Academy) – Helsing, by Desert Sun (GB) when she was assessed the world's best racehorse of 2011. The gelded Cirrus des Aigles (Fr) (2006, by the Ahonoora grandson Even Top) was second highweight on 128.

Black Caviar (130) was denied the top honour for 2012 because of the presence of the extraordinary English galloper Frankel (a record rating of 140), but headed the 2013 assessments with 130 again. She had the honour of being accoladed the World Champion Mare and Sprinter for three successive years.

For the next three years, 2014, 15 and 16, after Black Caviar's retirement, Australian bred horses continued to receive recognition as the best in the world. Besides Winx, a stand out has been Able Friend, third highest for 2014 and 2015 for his efforts in Hong Kong in the stables of John Moore.

The gelded chestnut Able Friend was bred by Stuart Ramsey, Turangga Stud, Scone using the Giant's Causeway shuttled champion European 2yo and miler Shamardal (USA) and Ponte Piccolo (NZ), a mare by the Green Desert sire Volksraad (GB).

In addition to Able Friend, the three in the 2014 World Rankings recognised as the best sprinters were the Australians Lankan Rupee (2009, bay gelding, bred by

Teeley Assets Ltd, Redoute's Choice – Estelle Collection, by Stravinsky (USA) and Terravista (2009 chestnut gelding bred by M. Ryan NSW, got in NZ, Captain Rio (GB) – Parfore (NZ), by Gold Brose) on 123 and Chautauqua (2010 grey/bay gelding, bred by the Throsby's Woodbury Pty Ltd, Hunter Valley, Encosta de Lago – Lovely Jubly, by Lion Hunter) 122.

For 2015, Lankan Rupee and Chautauqua shared the World Sprint title on 123 and for 2016 Chautauqua (122) the sprint honour with Ireland bred Limato (2012, bay gelding, Tagula (Ire) – Come April, by Singspiel (Ire). A son of the Sadler's Wells sire In The Wings, Singspiel left 70 foals from a visit to Australia in 2001.

The top four in the World Rankings for best juveniles of 2016, Churchill (Ire) (bay colt, Galileo (Ire) – Meow (Ire), by Storm Cat (USA) from Airwave (GB), by Air Express (Ire) 122, Lady Aurelia (USA) (bay filly, Scat Daddy (USA) (by Johannesburg (USA) – D' Wildcat Speed, by Forest Wildcat (USA) 121, National Defense (GB) (bay colt, Invincible Spirit (Ire) – Angel Falls (GB) by Kingmambo) 118 and Thunder Snow (Ire) (bay colt Helmet (Aust) (Exceed and Excel) Eastern Joy (GB), by Dubai Destination) 118, are significant to Australia. Galileo, Air Express, Johannesburg and Invincible Spirit have all shuttled to Australia and Helmet is a Godolphin bred, raced and dual hemisphere used Australian.

The highest rated performer in the World Rankings for 2016 is American 3-year-old Arrogate (134), a grey colt bred on a cross of two sires who have shuttled to Australia, by Kentucky Derby



Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 8/2/17

Yarding 1470 ~ **Change 790** (Comparison Date 1/2/17)

With the continuing hot dry conditions in the local districts numbers lifted considerably. The bulk of the yarding was made up of young cattle suitable for the restockers and feeders along with a fair selection of prime vealers throughout. Cows were also well supplied along with a few pens of grown steers. Young cattle to the trade were 10c dearer with the steer vealers selling from 360c to 378c/kg. The prime heifer vealers sold from 350c to 387c while the best of the yearlings to the trade sold to 369c/kg. Light weight calves to the restockers were firm while the heavier weights over 200kg were 15c to 20c/kg cheaper. Young steers to the restockers sold from 320c to 455c with the calves weighing between 200-280kg averaging 400c/kg. Young heifers returning to the paddock sold from 300c to 429c/kg. Feeder cattle sold at similar rates with the feeder steers selling to 365c and the feeder heifers to 347c/kg. The better selection of grown steers were 6c dearer with the medium weights selling from 240c to 265c/kg. Cows were 8c to 12c cheaper with the 2 scores selling from 185c to 224c/kg. The better 3 and 4 scores sold from 208c to 240c with the 4 score heavy weights averaging 225c/kg. Bulls sold to 240c/kg.



Score report date 7/2/17

Yarding 1080 ~ **Change -439** (Comparison Date 31/1/17)

It was a fair quality yarding with the bulk of the yarding made up of young cattle suitable for the backgrounders and feeders with odd pens to suit the trade. There was a reasonable selection of cows and a limited supply of grown steers. Young cattle to the trade were firm to 3c cheaper with vealers selling to 377c/kg. Prime steer yearlings sold to 343c while the prime heifer yearlings to the trade sold from 318c to 370c/kg. Young steers to the restockers were 10c cheaper as the hot weather continues, while the young heifers were 2c cheaper. The young steers going back to the paddock sold from 344 to 454c, while the young heifers to the restockers sold to 414c/kg. Feeders sold at similar rates with the steers making from 304c to 367c, while the feeder heifers sold to 342c/kg. The few grown steers were 15c cheaper and made from 250c to 275c/kg. Cows were 5c to 9c cheaper with the 2 scores making from 170c to 217c/kg. The better 3 and 4 scores sold from 210c to 244c with the 4 score heavy weights averaging 230c/kg. Bulls sold to 250c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date 6/2/17

Yarding 1267 ~ **Change -7** (Comparison Date 30/1/17)

Overall the numbers remained steady. Young cattle suitable to restock and feed were well supplied along with greater numbers of heavy grown steers and full mouth bullocks. Quality was generally good, there was an extra processor in the market for heavy steers and bullocks, however there was reduced feedlot competition. Demand varied throughout the young cattle resulting in mixed trends. Steer vealers to restock sold on a firm to cheaper market trend with the heavier weights least affected. There was little change in the market trend for heifer vealers to the trade, an isolated sale slightly dearer. Medium and heavy yearling steers to restock and feed saw a firm to slightly cheaper market trend with most price change quality related. Breed accounted for some positive price change in light weight yearling heifers to restockers. The medium and heavy yearling heifers to restock and feed sold on a slightly dearer trend. There were limited supplies of well finished heavy heifers suitable to the trade. The majority of the heavy grown steers and bullocks were 6 teeth and more. Despite the extra processor operating the market trends were cheaper with the age factor a major contributor to the lower average prices. Weaker demand and a drop in quality contributed to a cheaper trend of 5c to 7c/kg in the cow market.



winner Unbridled's Song (USA) and from Bubbler (USA), by Distorted Humor (USA).

In order of Assessment the next best are Almanzor (Fr) (b/br colt, Wootton Bassett (GB) (by Zafonic sire Iffraaj (GB) – Darkova, by Maria's Mon) 129, Nyquist (USA) (b colt, Uncle Mo (USA) – Seeking Gabrielle (USA), by Forestry (USA) 123 and equal on 122 Minding (Ire) (b filly, Galileo (Ire) – Lillie Langtry (Ire), by Danehill Dancer (Ire), Ribchester (b colt, Iffraaj (GB) – Mujarah (Ire), by Marju (Ire) (Last Tycoon (Ire), Satono Diamond (Jpn) (b colt, Deep Impact (Jpn) – Malpensa (USA), by Orpen (USA), Songbird (USA) (b/br filly, Medaglia d'Oro (USA) – Ivanavalot (USA), by West Acree (USA) and The Gurkha (Ire) (b colt, Galileo (Ire) – Chintz (Ire), by Danehill Dancer (Ire). Everyone of these horses has sires in their breeding who shuttled to Australia or New Zealand.

The leading Australians in the 3-year-old division are Flying Artie (b colt, Artie Schiller (USA) – Flying Ruby, by Rubiton) 120, Extreme Choice (ch colt, Not a Single Doubt – Extremely, by

Hussonet (USA) 119, Astern (Medaglia d'Oro (USA) – Essaouira, by Exceed and Excel) 118, Star Turn (ch colt, Star Witness – Golden Delicious, by Made of Gold (USA) 118.

Gunsynd's breeder's posthumous Order of Australia

JOHN CLIFT, a former Liverpool Plains, north-western NSW farmer, grazier and horse breeder who passed away a year ago at 91, gained fame as the man whose JC brand was carried to glory on Australian race-tracks on the side of a horse named Gunsynd, akka the Goondiwindi Grey. John bred him half a century ago on the family's historic property, The Dip, Breeza, half an hours drive away Tamworth.

Gunsynd was a great joy in John's long life, but was not the reason for his receipt posthumously in the Anniversary Day Awards of the Order of Australia (OAM). The notation said that it was for his service to thoroughbred breeding and racing, but a stellar caring servant, he contributed much from a young age also to Local Government, Tamworth Show Society and the community in general.

In breeding and racing he served for over seventy years on race club committees and also had a long stint on the board of directors of the NSW Breeders Association. He made a big contribution to racing as Tamworth Jockey Club president, a service recognised by the opening at the racecourse in 2013 of the John Clift Grandstand and Function Centre.

The grand old man of racing gallops off into the sunset

EDGAR BRITT, the grand old man of racing, passed away at the age of 103 at the Gold Coast on January 28. An Australian born jockey, he rode winners of more than 2000 winners in the thirty years 1929 – 1954, succeeding in Australia, America, Great Britain, Ireland, France and India.

In 1934 he won the Sydney Cup on Broad Arrow and finished fourth on him in the Melbourne Cup. Another Australian success was on Winooka in the Futurity at Caulfield and later on him in America.

After a ten year stint in India, a country in which he was eight times leading rider, he went to England where

among the owners he rode for were King George VI and the Maharajah of Boroda. He won the English St Leger, Oaks, Two Thousand Guineas, One Thousand Guineas and Irish Derby.

Two horses who won under Edgar Britt and later stood at stud in the Hunter Valley were Kerry Piper (GB) (Trigo) a winner of the Newmarket Cesarewitch (3600m) used alongside Star Kingdom (Ire) at the Baramul Stud, Widden Valley, and Rego (Ire) (Nasrullah), "a good welter horse." Rego stood at the Brooklyn Lodge Stud, now Newgate Farm, and included in his progeny Wiggle, Baguette and Reising.

John Harris, then of Holbrook Stud, Widden Valley, but now of Denman, used the Kerry Piper mare Spring Frolic to breed two good horses by Persian Book (GB) in Castanea (won Villiers, Rosehill Guineas, QTC Stradbroke) and Even Better (won Epsom, All-Aged, Rawson, Newcastle Newmarket). In retirement in Australia, Edgar Britt at one time had a very informative column in a Sydney newspaper. He was awarded the Order of Australia for services to horse racing.

Greta Greyhounds Going Great



The Greta branch of the G.B.O.T.A. has kicked off the year with 13 winners in January, 12 bred by club members.

Chris Kedwell's bitches MAD MANALISHI and TESS VELLA produced winners in SCOTT NO IDEA, KYLE'S REVENGE, MISS BINDI and ZOOM RAH. Helen Pullman's bitch SKYELA TOKAAM had winners with TIGER TOKAAM and RIELY TOKAAM whilst Bradley Sabotic's KEIRA'S CHARM and SHE'S A HUMMIN were successful with BOSSY CALEB, HUMMIN GUN and WAR AT MIDNIGHT.

The 2017 'Broodbitch of the Year' will be hotly contested with 6 bitches having 8 litters hitting the tracks.

Last month the branch held its 2016 presentation night

at the Greta Workers Club with heaps to eat and drink, and good time was had by all.

The awards for 2016:- Greyhound of the year: TANGA TOKAAM (Helen Pullman), Broodbitch of the year: SHE'S A HUMMIN (Bradley Sabotic), Trainers of the year: Tom and Helen Pullman, TAB 'dog of the year': TANGA TOKAAM (Helen Pullman), Country 'dog of the year': MID-NIGHT MYSTIC (Bradley Sabotic), Metro 'dog of the year': RECO MARLOW (Frank Cini) 1st Quarter. COSMIC JACKPOT (Chris Kedwell) 2nd Quarter. TANGA TOKAAM (Helen Pullman) 3rd Quarter, HIGH BALLING (Frank Cini) 4th Quarter. SILVER GRACE (Frank Cini)

Branch meeting are held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the Greta Workers Club & by joining you get the opportunity to have a say and have your opinions heard, as well as enjoying a drink and a chat with other greyhound owners, trainers

and breeders. Our next meeting is on Sunday 12th March, 7:30 pm at the Greta Workers Club.

COME ALONG. JOIN UP. HAVE A GOOD TIME.

Dreaming of the Perfect Hunter Valley Wedding?

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is encouraging brides to be and their helpful future husbands to visit the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre Wedding Display throughout February and March. "The 'Love is in the Air' display will showcase the very best of the Hunter Valley wedding industry, making planning the perfect day a breeze".

"Those who choose the Hunter Valley for their nuptials are truly spoilt for choice, with so many picturesque venues complemented by beautiful accommodation, fantastic suppliers and talented service providers", said Cr Pynsent.

Economic Development Manager, Jane Holdsworth said we are fortunate to have such a well-established wedding industry, where small and large businesses work collaboratively to create unique and unforgettable experiences.

"The wedding industry is a significant contributor to the Hunter Valley economy and employment.

"Cessnock City Council's Business Capability Study determined there were 121 businesses operating in the Cessnock local government area that provide direct services or products for weddings".

"Brides to be visiting the 'Love in the Air' display are sure to be impressed by the depth, diversity and dedication of our wedding industry," Ms Holdsworth said.

'Love is in the Air' is your chance to discover:

- * our local & passionate celebrants,
- * experienced event planners,
- * exquisite cakes,
- * romantic venues,
- * vintage cars and transport, and so much more.

Cessnock City Council welcomes decision to keep Weston Fire Station open

Cessnock City Council welcomed the announcement by Fire and Rescue NSW that Weston Fire Station will remain open.

Fire and Rescue NSW had recently announced the Weston Fire Station's doors would be closed and the service would be replaced by Abermain Fire Station, once the new building becomes operational.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he is pleased common sense has prevailed on this occasion. "I am relieved to hear our communities concerns have been heard and Weston Fire Station will remain."

"Any decision which involves cuts to fire stations in the Cessnock Local Government Area is extremely worrying for the community, especially in light of recent events that have occurred in the Weston and Kurri Kurri area."

"The bush fires that have ripped through our community during this bush fire season are proof of just how important this service is in protecting residents".

"A decrease in staffing levels may result in longer response times which could have devastating ramifications. Our community's safety depends on all our local stations remaining open and manned fully," Cr Pynsent said.

During the first Council meeting of 2017, a Mayoral Minute was put to Council which acknowledged the decision by Fire and Rescue NSW and reiterated the importance of these services in the community.





ROYAL FEDERAL

Hotel



FRI 17TH - XYZ

SAT 18TH - ALIAS

FRI 24TH - BIG NIGHT OUT

SAT 25TH - HUMMINGBIRDS

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SPORTS RESULTS



38, Chris Taggart 36, Gary Arnold 36, Brendan King 34, Andrew Cawsey v34, Ray Hodson 34, Ben Enright 34

and Steve Piggot 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Angello Korlevic (3rd) David Peel (4th) Chris Taggart (8th) and Ray Hodson (10th)

Wednesday 25th

January The Ladies Summer Stableford event has been won by Jenny Chambers with 35 points from playing partner Dale Hamilton with 33. Ball winners were: Jill Ramsden, Jeanette Irwin, Sue Peel and Kerrie-Ann Skinner.

Thursday 26th January

The Vets Quota event went to Eric Smith with 45 points from Toronto visitor John England on 44 and Dave Irwin 3rd with 42 points on countback. Ball winners were: Garry Hedges 42, Ray Hodson 42, Maurice Peters 42, Wayne Berry 41, Greg White 41, Ian Newell 41, Greg Ireland 40, Geoff Sweetman 40, John Carmody 40, Wayne Cowan 40, Christine Harrison 40, David Peel 39, Doug Wand 39 and Ken Wright 39 c/b.

Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Cowan (3rd) Geoff Sweetman (4th) David Peel (10th) and Paul Ireland (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 28th January

Great scores dominated the Individual Stableford once again on Saturday. A Grade went to Jason Mould with 44 points from Angello Korlevic on 39 points, B Grade to Peter Hogg with 42 points on countback to Bruce Chambers who also survived a countback and C Grade to Michael Tsakissiris with 40 points from Greg White with 39 points on countback. Ball winners were: Lachlan Peacock 42, Andrew Nichols 40, Greg Ireland 39, Steve Balks 39, Adrian Kent 39, John Stewart 39, Steve Piggot 38, Stephen Kemp 38, Tim Lonergan 37, David Preece 37, John Brown 36, Mark Harry 36, Dale Macklinshaw 35, Adam Pratten 35, Wayne Cowan 35, Ken Springbett 35, Regan Powell 35 and Jeff Shanahan 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Troy Wallis (3rd & 4th) Adrian Kent (8th) Hieu Le (10th) and Angello Korlevic (17th)

Sunday 29th January Benn Corbett finished 1 shot the better of John Stojanovski to win the Weekly Challenge when they shot 42 and 41 respectively.

Tuesday 31st January

Ben Freeman Claimed the Tuesday Stableford with 43 points from playing partner Brad Bell who returned 41 points and Ray Hodson taking the minor placing after surviving a 3 way countback with 38 points. Ball winners were: Greg Ireland 38, Chri Taggart 38, Gary Arnold 37, Brad Petherbridge 36 Rex Talbot 36, Wayne Cowan 36, Ken Wright 36, Scott Conti 35 and Simon Nicholspn 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Smith (3rd) David Peel (4th) Ray Hodson (8th & 17th) and Graeme Flynn (10th) **Wednesday 1st**

February The Ladies Summer Stableford has been won by Jill Ramsden with 35 points with Dale Hamilton runner up on 34 points. Ball winners were: Sue Williams, Kerry Choromanski, Sue Peel and Jenny Chambers. **Thursday 2nd February** The Vets Stableford has been won by Rex Talbot with 41 points from Paul Ireland and John Carmody 3rd after both returning 40 points and surviving countbacks. Ball winners were: Ray Hodson 40, Dave Fury 39, Garry Marsden 39, Ken Harris 37, Dale Macklinshaw 37, Wayne Berry 37, David Peel 36, Brian Doherty 36 and Ian Newell 35 c/b.

Saturday 4th February The Monthly Medal Stroke round was contested on Saturday and a 3 way countback was needed to declare Jeff Shanahan the Medal and C grade winner on the day with 65 net. A Grade went to Jarrod Smith with 65 net from Brad Burgess on 67, B Grade to David Peel with 65 net from Russ Calderwood 66 and the C Grade runner up was Mark Fawcner with 67 net. Ball winners were: Steven Balks 67, Craig Sharp 69, John Brown 70, Andrew Nichols 70, Andrew Zok 70, Ray Newton 71, Troy Wallis 71, Andrew Bozinovski 71, Steve Piggot 71, Ben Bradley 71, Adrian Kent 71, Bruce Chambers 71, Tony Butler 71, Chris Connolly 73, Kevin Smith 73, Conner Walton v73, Mick Brooker 74 and Brian Doherty 75 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Andrew Zok (3rd) Julie Van Den Berg (4th) Ray Hodson (8th) Russ Clderwood (10th) and Michael Tsakissiris (17th)

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB SAT 28TH STABLEFORD

A GRADE WINNER Mark Moylan 43 pts
A GRADE RUNNER UP Chris Zawirski 42 pts
A GRADE THIRD Kyle Mounser 38 pts
B GRADE WINNER Stephen Ross 38 pts c/b
B GRADE RUNNER UP Troy McCaw 38 pts
B GRADE THIRD John Vassar 37
C GRADE WINNER Col Hughes 38 pts
C GRADE RUNNER UP John Martin 36 pts
C GRADE THIRD Michael Armstrong 35 pts
BALL COMP 33 pts
NTP G Noble 304cm R Caldwell 173cm S Ross 211cm
Mark Moylan played beautifully to win A Grade on Saturday with an outstanding 43 pts on a day where only the A Graders broke 40 pts. Chris Zawirski has hit a purple patch of form unluckily finishing runner up with 42 pts, with Kyle Mounser bouncing back to form to finish third with his 38 pts. Steve Ross celebrated his return to school by winning B Grade with 38 pts, recording his best ever score off the stick around Branxton. He is currently half through his series of lessons with local maestro, club professional Marcus, and his is now playing off his lowest handicap ever. His nearest the pin in the last, his nemesis hole, is even more significant as he has regularly

visited the out of bounds in the gardens. He celebrated by birding it! It sounds like there are more good things to come, although being back at work may stall things. Troy McCaw finished runner up with his 38 pts just ahead of John Vasser's 37 pts. Col Hughes returned to the winner's list in C Grade winning with his 38 pts, with John Martin and Mick Armstrong next in line. Reece Caldwell's shot to the 4th finished up being the shot of the day while 33 pts was needed to win a ball. Sunday's Pennants saw the Seniors open their campaign with a 1.5 all draw against last year's winners Dungog at Stonebridge while the C Grade team suffered a 3-0 loss to Dungog at Kurri.

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB -SAT 4TH FEB MONTHLY MEDAL STROKE

MEDAL WINNER- JOSH WILLARD 65 NETT C/B
A GRADE WINNER KYLE MOUNSER 65 NETT
A GRADE RUNNER UP- CAMERON JOHANSON 67 NETT
A GRADE THIRD DAVID MATT 68 NETT
B GRADE WINNER ROGER YANDLE 65 NETT
B GRADE RUNNER UP- TROY MCCAWE 67 NETT
C/B B GRADE THIRD RONALD HEBBE 67 NETT
C GRADE WINNER RICHARD TURNBULL 69 NETT
C GRADE RUNNER UP TED ZAWIRSKI 70 NETT
C GRADE THIRD GEOFFREY WIESE 72 NETT
BALL COMP 73 NETT
NTP D MATT 242 CM
G GILLARD 38 CM
G WALSH 110 CM
T MCCAWE 317 CM
Josh Willard tamed the Branxton course on Saturday to win the Monthly Medal with an outstanding 65 nett score on a day where a 73 nett was good enough to win a ball and the DSR was a 68. The hot humid conditions would have made scoring a chore for all players so those playing better than their handicap deserved their rewards. Kyle Mounser won A Grade with an excellent 65 nett score as well, only losing the overall monthly medal on a count back. This mid 70 s score off the bat was a testament to Kyle's overall stroke play. Cameron Johanson showed how it is done recording a nett 67 score from his one handicap to finish runner up in A Grade. Cameron has come of age in the last 12 months, regularly recording sub-par rounds, as he did with his 2 under par score on Saturday. Davis Matt returned to form to finish third with his pleasing 68 nett, which included a nearest the pin on the 2nd. Local veteran Roger Yandle shoed how it can be done winning B Grade with another 65 nett score, also losing the monthly medal on a count back. He finished two points clear of Troy McCaw's 67 nett and another local long time vet, Ronnie Hebbe with the same score. Richard Turnbull, who doesn't really like playing the monthly medal, won C Grade

with his 69 nett, showing that stroke play does suit him. The ever consistent Ted Zawirski finished runner up with his 70 nett with Geoff Weise, the 2015 C Grade Club Champion, third with his 72 nett. The shot of the day belonged to Greg Gillard's shot to the 4th which finished only 38 cms away. On Sunday the Seniors suffered a close defeat to Scone at Cypress Lakes, losing 2-1 despite two teams drawing. Scone managed to nail their win with an excellent downhill putt on the last to square their game—a win in this game would have secured Branxton an overall draw. Branxton's A Grade team defeated the Hunter Valley Team 3-2 at Cessnock, B Grade defeated Cessnock 3-0 at Hunter Valley, whilst C Grade defeated Hunter Valley 2-1 at Singleton.

Congratulations to all players.

Keep Calm and say "It's only February"

"The best laid plans of mice and men / often go awry."
- Robert Burns

We hear people say it all the time – this year is going so quick! Well, I can't believe it is February already. It seems like only yesterday that the new year stretched before me like a blank canvas, and I was taking a deep breath, ready to start afresh with my goals. Thankfully I have learned from previous experience that the "silly season" can have a negative effect on New Year resolutions, so I planned ahead and I started on some of my 2017 goals back in October last year.

Some of you may know I am a runner (Well, I run, very slowly, that not may be the same thing as being a runner!) and this year I am doing the Ultra Trail Australia 50km event in the Blue Mountains for a fourth time.

In previous years, I have followed (or not) my own training plan. Now I should point out that even though I am a Personal Trainer with a Certificate IV in Fitness, I am relatively new to running and I am not a running coach! While it is generally a case of putting one foot in front of the other, once you start training for and racing long distances there can be a lot more to it than that. I've learned that the hard way so this year I decided to take my preparation more seriously and signed up for training with Squadrn.

This has had immeasurable benefits. Firstly, I have a properly designed training plan suitable for my level of fitness and my race goals. Secondly, I have one-on-one support when I need it. Thirdly, I have been introduced to a "virtual" team of people entered for the same event, so I have a peer support group with similar interests and goals.

Now, instead of being 12 weeks out from race day (which is in mid May) and only just starting my training, I am running regularly and increasing my mileage each week. I have mini-goals which are achievable, and which boost my confidence. And that after all should be the basis of any training plan, whether your goal is fitness orientated or not.

How are you going with your New Year resolutions? Are you feeling a bit daunted by the fact that it is February already? Are you afraid the year is getting away from you and you don't know where to start? Did you start with a bang and find yourself running out of puff already?

Well, don't worry, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that February (not January) should be the month to start your New Years resolutions (unless of course you plan to run an ultramarathon in May). This is because in February the kids are back at school, most of your work colleagues have returned from their annual holidays, and you have gotten over the shock of Christmas and the associated bills! Also, once Australia Day has passed, there is a feeling that summer is winding down, and you can get control of your routine again.

With that in mind, there are some simple ways to get your New Years resolutions (back) on track.

Have a plan - the saying "fail to plan, plan to fail" is very true, regardless of the goal. Make time – delegate household chores to other members of the family so you can get out of the house and go for a walk, or attend a fitness class, or just spend time on your specific goal. Or check your diary for other engagements you can cancel or say no to. Enlist some help – get an exercise buddy, or join a group of like-minded people. If there isn't a group near you, why not start one? You will be more likely to stick to your goal of getting fit or learning a new language if you have other like-minded people around you.

Take it easy on yourself – the habits you have now have, in some cases, taken years to establish. You won't change them overnight. If you slip up, accept it, and start again tomorrow.

Track your progress – I like to keep a diary and write down what I do each day. There are also plenty of apps that will log this for you. It is always nice to remind yourself how far you have come.

Celebrate your success – each time you reach a milestone, acknowledge it! Post it on social media, or do something nice for yourself, like go for a massage or a manicure.

If you feel you are still struggling to get started towards your goals, and you would like help getting your personal or professional goals (including your fitness goals) on track, please contact me. I can help you put a plan together.

What else is happening this month? My classes at Branxton are continuing. The 6am classes have proven very popular, with some fun-loving ladies working hard to reach their fitness goals. All the exercises can be modified to suit your own fitness level, so come along and find out how fun getting fit can be!

My Rider (or not) Fitness classes at Windella are continuing with a strong core (pun intended) of dedicated ladies exercising with me every Monday and Friday evening. A huge thank you to Nic Chipperfield for providing the venue. Anyone is welcome to join us, so if you would like to improve your fitness while strengthening your core and balance, contact me and I will give you the details.

The hot weather has really affected a lot of people who want to get started on an exercise plan in 2016. No matter how dedicated you are, it can be hard to head out the door to train when it is 25 degrees at 6am and getting hotter by the minute! Keep an eye out for my next article on ways to keep your cool while exercising!

Until next time, look after yourself and be Fit for Life.

Louise Cairns Fit for Life

Louise Cairns is a Personal Trainer and Motivational Coach based in Branxton. Twelve months ago Louise retired from a twenty year career with the Australian Government to set up her own Fitness and Coaching business, Louise Cairns Fit for Life. Louise runs regular fitness classes at Lochinvar and Branxton, as well as PT sessions in Branxton and Kurri Kurri. You can find out more at www.louisecairns.com.au



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Just call in, or contact Neridah on 0427657150, or email gretahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com. Museum opens Wednesdays & Saturdays 11am-3pm, 96 High Street, Greta (in former Council Chambers).

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The News **SPORT**



with Mark Bercini

Cricket Report – Week 16

Week 16 of district cricket saw Greta/Branxton's first and fourth grade white teams record victories, third grade was washed out, meanwhile second grade and fourth grade blue were abandoned at Miller Park late in the afternoon due to lightning. First grade remain locked in a showdown with Bellbird for that all-important home semi-final following a convincing seven-wicket victory over Peden's Hotel at East End.

Peden's won the toss and elected to bat, with regular wickets to the Greta/Branxton seamers seeing them dismissed in the 26th over for 135. Martin Shearer was again the pick of the bowlers with 3-21 off 5, with skipper Brent Watson (2-13 off 5), Bryce Element (2-16 off 3) and Nathan Holz (2-16 off 2.1) picking up a brace of wickets each.

Greta/Branxton achieved the modest target in the 23rd over after losing just the three wickets. Josh Dagg continued his stellar year with 34, Dylan Lipscombe made 20, Holz clubbed a quick 14, with Mark Bercini surviving a few early chances with an edgy 53no.

Second grade's match at Miller 1 was fairly evenly poised when lightning brought proceedings to a half late in the contest. Greta/Branxton posted 7-140

batting first. Veteran Darren Holz was at his productive best with 40, Shane Franklin made 34, with Anthony Brunson (19) and Mitch Fallon (18) also making handy contributions. Supporters were 4-64 after 20 overs

in reply when lightning struck, with Mark Peace (3-23 off 7) and Alex Walking (1-13 off 6) claiming the wickets. Fourth grade blue's match at Miller 2 was also abandoned due to lightning with the match also fairly evenly poised. Batting first Greta/Branxton posted a healthy 8-203 from their forty overs, with Jamie McNamara leading the way at number nine with an unbeaten 52.

Aaron Stephenson (51) also notched a fine half century, with Neil Bird (44) and Connor Thomson (22) contributing to the total. Paxton were 4-95 after 18 overs in reply before lightning brought proceedings to a halt. Thomson (2-22 off 5) and Steve Daunt (2-17 off 4) were the wicket takers.

After five losses on the trot fourth grade white picked up a much needed victory to remain in third place by defeating Peden's Hotel by 7 wickets at Turner Park.

Peden's batted first and were skittled for 83, with Jesse Minchin the main destroyer with 6-30 off 7. He received good support from brother Dan who took 3-25 off 8.1, with Stewy Ison chipping in with 1-15 off 3. Greta/Branxton wasted no time reeling in the target, achieving it after just 13 overs after losing just the 3 wickets. Skipper James Shoulders jnr led by example

with 43, with Sam Hines (19no), Dan Minchin (14no) and Will Howden (12) all getting things over and done with in a flurry before the afternoon storms hit. Week 17 was cancelled due to the extreme weather conditions. Updated points tables as follows:

Points Tables
First Grade Mulbring 82, Greta/Branxton 69, Bellbird 66, Wine Country 54, Peden's Hotel 51.

Second Grade Bellbird 100, Greta/Branxton 84, Mulbring 77, Supporters 73, Peden's Hotel 72, Wine Country 69.

Third Grade Bellbird 109, Greta/Branxton 94, Laguna 92, Peden's Hotel 87, Denman Hotel 85, Wine Country 77, Mulbring 71, Supporters 63.

Fourth Grade Greta/Branxton Blue 99, Paxton 99, Denman Hotel 88, Greta/Branxton White 87, Wine Country 77, Bellbird 73, Supporters 73, Peden's Hotel 63.

Club Championship
Bellbird 586.50, Greta/Branxton 561.40, Mulbring 519.70, Wine Country 449.40, Peden's Hotel 448.20.

Cessnock District Rep Cricket McDonalds Plate Campaign

Round 1 vs Singleton at Miller 1

Team – Joshua Dagg (capt), Matthew Tomlinson, Robbie Sidebottom, Drew Olsen, Greg Andrews, Barry Richards, Cameron Ross, Steven Able, Jason Orr, Martin Shearer, Bryce Element

Cessnock 276 – (Greg Andrews 96no, Steven Able 61, Josh Dagg 29, Drew Olsen 20) def Singleton 111 – (Matt Tomlinson 6/29,

Martin Shearer 2/17) Strong start to the representative season for CDCA. After winning the toss, captain Joshua Dagg had no hesitation in batting first on a beautiful cricket wicket.

A reasonably strong start had Cessnock at 4/92 in the 24th over. Enter Greg Andrews and Steven Able (61) to take the game away from Singleton. Cessnock were eventually dismissed in the 49th over for 276 with Andrews stranded on 96 not. Singleton were never in the chase due to explosive Bellbird opening bowler, Matt Tomlinson (6/29) who ripped apart the top order, eventually being dismissed 165 runs short of the target.

Round 2 vs Upper Hunter at Scone

Team – Barry Richards (capt), Jason Varoxis, Jason Orr, Cameron Ross, Steven Able, Greg Andrews, Robbie Sidebottom, Matt Tomlinson, Nathan Holz, Martin Shearer, Bryce Element

Upper Hunter 130 – (Robbie Sidebottom 5/23, Matt Tomlinson 2/16, Cameron Ross 2/39) were defeated by Cessnock 7/131 (Barry Richards 50, Greg Andrews 41, Nathan Holz 10no) After losing the toss, Cessnock were in the field trying to restrict Upper Hunter to an achievable total. Wine Country opening bowler, Robbie Sidebottom, was ruthless early and had his five wicket haul in the bag before the 20th over was bowled.

Cessnock were great in the field and were able to dismiss Upper Hunter for 130 in the 39th over.

Having an awkward period to face before the lunch interval,

Cessnock were in dire straights at 4/19 and staring down the barrel of an early exit from the competition. Again enter Greg Andrews (41) and Greta/Branxton team mate Barry Richards (50) to wrestle the ascendancy back in the favour of the men in red.

A late collapse sent some nervous times through the camp, but Greta/Branxton young guns Nathan Holz and Bryce Element steadied the ship to help their team progress to the next round **Round 3 vs Inverell at Tamworth**

Team – Brent Watson (Capt), Jason Orr, Matthew Hopley, Joshua Dagg, Greg Andrews, Steven Able, Cameron Ross, Martin Shearer, Matt Tomlinson, Bryce Element, Nathan Holz, Patrick Andrews

Cessnock 239 – (Barry Richards 68, Matthew Hopley 58, Joshua Dagg 29) defeated Inverell 224 (Matthew Hopley 2/23, Brent Watson 2/38, Cameron Ross 2/49).

After deciding on a mutual ground in Tamworth, Cessnock took off to play the star studded Inverell side. After choosing to bat in perfect conditions, Cessnock's openers were faced with 130km+ bullets from NSW under 19 representative, Tom Scoble.

This did not faze Peden's hero, Matthew Hopley (58), who took the wind out of the bowling teams sails. With help again from Greta/Branxton duo, Barry Richards (68) and Joshua Dagg (28), CDCA were able to post a competitive total of 239.

Early struggles with the ball saw Inverell cruising at 2/135 in reply but a spirited bowling and fielding performance saw them dismissed 15 runs short in the 49th over.

Special mention to 18yo Greta/Branxton bowler, Bryce Element, who broke



■ The McDonalds Plate comp rep team which included 7 of our local boys represented throughout the state wide McDonald's Plate competition. The Greta/Branxton representatives: Brent Watson (Capt, back fourth from left), Josh Dagg (front far left), Bryce Element (front second from left), Greg Andrews (front fourth from left) Martin Shearer (front fifth from left) & Absent Barry Richards and Nathan Hol

the crucial partnership to give Cessnock the lift they required.

Quarter Final vs Lower Clarence at Port Macquarie

Team – Brent Watson (Capt), Joshua Dagg, Jason Orr, Jason Varoxis, Greg Andrews, Steven Able, Robbie Sidebottom, Drew Olsen, Martin Shearer, Bryce Element, Matthew Hopley, Matt Tomlinson

Lower Clarence 108 (Robbie Sidebottom 4/27, Bryce Element 2/14) were defeated by Cessnock 6/109 (Joshua Dagg 36no, Greg Andrews 22)

After losing what looked like a crucial toss, Cessnock were sent into the field on what looked like a belter. Again, Robbie Sidebottom (4/27) was destructive early and put Lower Clarence on the back foot from the start.

Helped by Bryce Element's bowling (2/17) and also a crucial run out, CDCA dismissed Lower Clarence for 108 in the 34th over. In a slow run chase, Joshua Dagg (36no) and Greg Andrews (22) guided Cessnock into the Semi Finals of the statewide competition, the furthest any Cessnock side has progressed in the history.

Semi Final vs Yass at Grafton

Team – Brent Watson (capt), Drew Olsen, Jason Varoxis, Matthew Hopley, Greg Andrews, Andrew Carmichael, Barry Richards, Steven Able, Robbie Sidebottom, Martin Shearer, Bryce Element, Matthew Hopley

Cessnock 176 (Barry Richards 42, Jason Varoxis 36) were defeated by Yass 7/177 (Matthew Hopley 3/26, Steven Able 2/17)

Cessnock progressed to the final four teams of the statewide McDonalds Plate to take on Yass in the Semi Final in Grafton (other match between Bowral and Temora).

In hot conditions, Cessnock chose to bat on a ground possessing a lightning outfield.

Constant wickets halted any momentum for the Cessnock side who at one stage were 6/100. A late tail wag gave CDCA a total that could be defended in 176.

Yass were diligent in their run chase, not throwing their wickets away in the pursuit of Cessnock's small total. Cessnock were always just one or two wickets away from taking the ascendancy at numerous stages of the run chase but Yass eventually passed the total in the 48th over for the loss of 7 wickets.

This proved the end of the 2016/17 campaign for Cessnock but also marked a season where they progressed further than any other representative team in years passed. Bowral would eventually beat Yass in the final 177 to 143.

The side also breezed through the Hunter Valley John Bull Shield undefeated and will now take on Maitland at Miller Park in the final this Sunday 19th February after the match was postponed due to the extreme conditions last Sunday.




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



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