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The News

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WEDNESDAY
1 March 2017

New 'Garden Organic Waste Collection' begins next Monday 6th March



The new Garden Organic Waste Collection service will commence in Cessnock, Singleton & Maitland local government areas next Monday, 6th March 2017.

An initiative of former Maitland MP Robyn Parker, the 'Waste Less Recycle More' program, is on its final leg locally with the commencement of the service.

Your new garden organics bin has a lime green lid and, when delivered, had an information brochure containing details of how to use the new service.

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 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.

At this stage the roll-out has been almost faultless. Cessnock Ward 'C' councillor Melanie Dagg said that there has been some feedback from residents, particularly on rural properties, who don't have a need for the extra bin. "Council does allow residents to opt-out of the service, however I've been advised this won't result in any reduction in rates", said Cllr Dagg. It has also been reported that medium density units have been issued with the new bins with very few strata managers seeing a need as most unit blocks have very little gardens & most use contractors who remove the waste as part of their contract. When the new service starts, you should put two bins out for collection each week.

• Photo: Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent with an Organic Waste Bin.

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all details page 13



Cessnock City Council Statutory Notices

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

Landfill Fees and Charges Clean up Australia Day – Sunday 5 March 2017

Council advises, that on Clean up Australia Day, Sunday 5 March 2017, normal fees and charges will be applied to all material received at Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre (Cessnock Landfill) unless from a **registered Clean up Australia Day site**. A waiver from landfill fees will be issued to registered site supervisors and must be produced at the Centre to receive exemption from fees.

To register a site for Clean Up Australia Day go to www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au.

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
GENERAL MANAGER

A belated congratulations to Brenden & Callie



A belated congratulations to Brenden Bailey & his now wife Callie (nee James) on their marriage back in October last year. Brendan is the son of Des & Lyn Bailey who occasionally give Brendan a had at his Baileys of Greta store. Callie is the daughter of Robert and Sandra James from the Central Coast of NSW. Some more detail:-
Bridesmaids: Cheree Crisp, Rene Theo, Sonia Whyburn & Brooke Allan
Groomsman : John McDonald, Maurice Watt, Alex Berry & Chris Gerhig
Married by: Rev Brian Mascord VG and Fr Peter Street



After the nuptials a wonderful reception for family & friends was held at Brendan & Callies' property on Harpers Hill to celebrate the occasion.

CESSNOCK COMMUNITY

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

WHAT'S ON?

GO TO

www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au

The Australian Bee Gees Show
19 May 2017

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!

MOVING OUT SALE

SATURDAY 11 MARCH - 8.30 to 12.30
776 Glendon Rd Glendon

35 years of hoarding needs to be sold before the removalists arrive

Sale items include:

Queen bedhead and side drawers, dressing table, double bed frame, hall table, glass fronted bookcase, old high chair, cupboard, glassware and china – old and new, Wedgwood pieces, books hard and paperback in many genres, kitchen appliances and utensils, desk lamps, standard lamp, filing cabinets – 2 and 4 drawer, teapots, shredder, paper guillotine, electronic items, brazier, BBQs, garden furniture, utensil hanger, School Magazines, gardening and cooking magazines, software, power tools, garden tools, tree planting stakes and ancillaries, linseed oil, PVC pipe fittings, poly pipe fittings, poly pipe, various pressure pumps, solar snake deterrents, suitcases, back packs, gas bottle, Triton work bench, LP records, door furniture, deckchair, ladder, car ramps and stands, fencing wire, gates, compost bin, 55 litre Hardi farm spray with electric pump hose and reel, hand tools, plant pots, battery, files/rasps of various shapes and sizes, motorcycle weather covers, motorcycle jackets and helmets, handbags, belts, A4 binders, battery chargers, oils, old tins, watering system stakes/sprays, telephone, printer, hair drier, cameras, TomTom sat nav, portable CD player, tape player, iPhone4, Toshiba Gigabeat, radios, work lights, pressure cooker, drill press, fishpond pump and aerator, submersible pump, Davey pressure pumps, plumbing fittings, olive harvesting rakes, bentwood chairs, sheet ply bracing, aluminium straight edge, fish smoker, dog beds, spinning wheel, insect screening, Xmas tree, roof racks, croquet set, bicycle, sprays – Starane, Dicamba M, Woody, Garlon, Malathon, Labaycid, Thunderbird electric fencing gear, ceramic tiles

Other items may be added before sale day.



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Kirkton Public School 'Punching above its Weight'



Congratulations to Alex Scott for being picked to be a representative in cricket for the Hunter.

What a great effort Alex and we look forward to hearing all about any upcoming cricket matches.

The cattle judging children also had a fun and exciting day with Audrey Dennis taking out first place and Ethan Standen being awarded a highly commended

They are very proud of Phoebe for entering some delicious looking biscuits in the CWA Cooking Competition.

Yesterday she was awarded with a 3rd Place Certificate for her wonderful efforts.

■ Photo: Phoebe with her prize winning delicious biscuits

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NSW Police Force

Police Report

Mid Range PCA – Greta

Around 10:10 pm on Friday 24 February, 2017, the Accused, drove motor vehicle a white Toyota in an easterly direction along Anvil Street, Greta before turning into the entry of the Greta McDonalds restaurant.

Whilst in the car park area of the business, the Accused was stopped for the purpose of a mobile Random Breath Test.

He was requested to produce his

drivers licence and provided police with a Provisional P2 NSW drivers licence number.

Whilst speaking to the Accused it was noticed that his breath smelt of intoxicating liquor. The Accused underwent a roadside breath test, which proved positive.

He was arrested, cautioned and conveyed to Singleton Police Station.

The accused submitted to a Breath Analysis which returned a reading of 0.083 grams of alcohol in 210 litres of breath.

The Accused was then issued a Field Court Attendance Notice for the matter now before the Court and his licence was suspended. He is to appear at Singleton Local Court on the 24th February 2017.

Libby SIMOS

Sergeant

Crime Co-ordinator

Hunter Valley LAC

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Drop in a say hello to Brenden or Lyn



Baileys of Greta

.... is a family owned and operated store that was formed in 2004.

Lyn and Brenden Bailey specialise in providing *quality* products at a *great* price.

HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HWWTA

Hunter Valley Winners in the prestigious 2016 QANTAS Australian Tourism Awards

Winners were announced at the 2016 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards on Friday 24th February in Darwin with Margan Wines & Restaurant winning Gold for Excellence in Food Tourism.

The QANTAS Australian Tourism Awards are the tourism industry's peak Awards – recognising and promoting excellence in tourism. For both the industry and the consumer an Australian Tourism Award is recognised a mark of excellence in Australian Tourism. A wide and diverse range of tourism businesses enter their state and territory Tourism Awards and over 200 reach the prestigious status of becoming national finalists. This is Margan Wines third

Gold at the Australian Tourism Awards having previously won Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services in 2012, and Food Tourism in 2014.

<http://australian-tourism-awards.com.au/2016-awards/2016-winners/>
2017 Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival

The Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival is back and it's bigger than ever spanning two months to include some of our favourite returning events and some great new additions. The festival showcases the region's unforgettable wine and food culture with more than 70 epicurean events and activities during May and June in 2017, so you're sure to find something to suit your palate.

You can get up close and personal with winemakers at a masterclass, vertical tasting or vineyard tour, unearth hidden gems on a wine and food trail, and take part in hands-on cooking classes or just sprawl beside an open fire with a glass of red and a cheese plate. Plus, Chefs Plate lunches offers foodies the chance to enjoy a set price lunch with a glass of wine at some of the region's

top restaurants.

Treat yourself to a country getaway like no other this May and June, when the region celebrates its exceptional wine and food culture in series of themes activities and events.

Take part in one of the signature events, wine and dine with famous local wine-makers and chefs, take part in hands-on cooking classes, vertical tastings and vineyard tours, or enjoy a set-price lunch with a glass of wine at some of the outstanding restaurants. With accommodation and experience packages for every budget, Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival is the perfect time and place for a winter getaway. Some of the must-do events include: Meet the Growers in Broke Fordwich, Burning of the Barrel at Glandore Estate Wines, Pie & Wine Pairing Experience in Lovedale, Lovedale Long Lunch, Cheese Lovers Festival at Sebel Kirkton Park, Whispering Brook Long Lunch, Meet the Farmer Dinner at Margan Wines, Wine & Food Film Festival in Around Hermitage, Hunter Valley Wine Festival at Crowne Plaza and the Wine Makers Series at Hunter Valley Resort.

www.winecountry.com.au/events

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What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

Over many years I have seen the awful affects that are associated with domestic violence & it has been a passion of mine to see government action to acknowledge its severity & to take positive action to quell it.

As a young child we had a neighbour who used to terrorise his wife and children; I could not understand it then and when I reached maturity it was still something that I could not fathom.

I have learnt that no amount of legislation, no matter how sincere, will stop relationship violence. "Domestic violence" is a euphemism for "criminal assault" & the courts are out of touch with reality. Police hands are tied when

it comes to bail and AVOs. Magistrates hand out probation and bail to some who should be locked up for good! The power struggle in relationships between men and women is played out in every institution in our society. Women and children are vulnerable, as far

as physical strength goes, especially behind closed doors. Like child abuse, often hidden from prying eyes, women who are abused do not always report out of fear.

The onus of proof in a lengthy legal process lies with the vulnerable. Were it a stranger who abused, it would be a criminal offence.

The courts are hesitant to incarcerate partners whose families rely on them. One exception would be the recent Bradford case.

Teresa was at high risk of her husband's re-offending; yet he was set free to kill.

The magistrate who released him needs to learn the lesson about the abuse of power and control in

close relationships. One in six women and one in 20 men have experienced at least one incidence of violence from a current or former partner since the age of 15. However, the national dataset is not able to identify the frequency or severity of victims' experience of violence, a shortcoming that could obscure substantial differences in how men and women experience of domestic violence in Australia.

And while homicide data shows that rates of domestic violence deaths have been falling, reports of domestic violence to state police forces have been rising. Experts say under-reporting of domestic violence could

under-estimate domestic violence and in the same way, improved policing and justice treatment of victims could have the opposite effect. Former Australian of the year Rosie Batty said in her valedictory speech that family violence was an



"epidemic". Former Labor leader Mark Latham has been critical of Ms Batty's characterisation and claimed in a podcast that surveys showed women were safer than ever before and unacceptable incidents of domestic assault were no worse than

they were 20 or 30 years ago (you have completely missed the point). Our male-dominated society must tackle this scourge pro-actively; not just with words on paper. It comes at enormous cost to our society, both human and economic.

infuriated me. It's disgraceful, absolutely disgraceful. They're hiding behind the diplomatic status but it's typical of how the church acts. The Vatican's refusal to provide the commission with files of Australian child sex offender priests held by the Holy See and Cardinal George Pell's failure to return to Australia to give evidence at the royal commission has prompted me to investigate introducing a private member's bill to withdraw diplomatic recognition granted the Vatican in 1973. I will introduce private members to withdraw diplomatic recognition for the Vatican and investigate other parliamentary procedures to do so if a private members bill is not enough. The victims and the families of these heinous crimes deserve every effort and avenue to be examined by their elected representatives to assist the royal commission in bringing these so called men of God to justice.

Sen. Brian Burston, ACT



Lack of funding Hunter Community Legal Centre (HCLC) could be forced to turn away hundreds of local residents from July 1 thanks to the Turnbull Government's harsh cuts to community legal centres across the country.

Community Legal Centres help hundreds of thousands of people around Australia in need of free legal assistance who do not qualify for legal aid. They are on the frontline in the battle against domestic violence and assist people with problems as diverse as Centrelink debt, tenancy disputes and employment issues.

Hunter Community Legal Centre and its dedicated staff has been helping our local community for 26 years. Any

loss of funding will seriously jeopardise its capacity to serve our communities.

In addition to the Centre's base in Newcastle and local court services, the Hunter Community Legal Centre holds a range of face to face outreach clinics throughout the region including regular visits in Muswellbrook, Cessnock, Toronto, Port Stephens and Raymond Terrace.

In the last financial year, Hunter Community Legal Centre provided 4331 people with legal advice, court representation or other legal assistance.

However, 1343 people were turned away, the main reason being a lack of resources.

Cuts to Hunter Community Legal Centre's funding also

means it will be forced to find ways to reduce operating expenses and may result in HCLC reducing travel to outreach advice clinics, court work and community legal education. This negatively affects those in need of legal assistance throughout the Newcastle and Hunter region.

Hunter Community Legal Centre provides a vital service to disadvantaged people in our community based on the important value of equal access to justice. It's fair to say the Government's proposed funding cuts will be detrimental to the centre's operation and will equate to more people in desperate need of help being turned away.

When in Government, Labor delivered Community Legal Centres a funding injection worth more than \$70 million over four years. Now George Brandis is taking that funding

away and trying to blame Labor.

This is an Attorney-General so incompetent, and so out of touch, that he has barely been able to bring himself to visit more than a handful of Community Legal Centres. Labor calls on the Government to reverse these cruel cuts as a matter of urgency. Vulnerable people in the Hunter are at risk, and we will continue to advocate on behalf of our community and the Hunter Community Legal Centre.

Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Member for Hunter

Hunter Valley Multiple Birth Assn

I would like to introduce myself as Secretary of the Hunter Valley Multiple Birth Assn.

Our club is a voluntary non-profit organization supporting families with

twins, triplets and more.

To celebrate Multiple Birth Awareness Week in March 2017 our club would appreciate the following is placed in the February edition of your Social Column please. In celebration of Australian Multiple Birth Awareness Week in March 2017, the Hunter Valley Multiple Birth Association is holding a FREE BBQ picnic lunch on Sunday 19th March 2017.

The club will provide a Jumping Castle and activities for Children's Entertainment at Glendonbrook - 20 mins drive from either Singleton or Branxton.

If you are interested in attending the picnic or would like further information, please contact: Jenny 0417 658033 or email: jets11@westnet.com.au as

soon as possible.

The Hunter Valley Multiple Birth Association is a voluntary non-profit organization supporting families with twins, triplets or more. HV MBA Membership entitles families to receive many benefits including: Complimentary Case of Huggies, Discounts, Information on Parenting twins/triplets, Breastfeeding Multiples. Multiples in School, Twin Feeding Diary, Raising Children DVD. Monthly Newsletters and Socials, library hire and much more.

Jenny Reid, Secretary, Hunter Valley Multiple Birth Assn

Vatican blasted Reports that the Vatican is refusing to comply with requests from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse citing diplomatic immunity has

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Cessnock & Maitland councils gearing up for 'Clean up Australia Day'

BOTH Cessnock & Maitland council's have given 'Clean up Australia Day' a community priority & are confident that the community will support their efforts. Maitland Council has put the call out to residents keen to register for Clean Up Australia Day, scheduled to be held on Sunday 5 March 2017. Individuals and community groups wanting to participate in clean up activities can either nominate a clean up site to coordinate, or register to help out where existing sites will be operating across Maitland by visiting www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au Clean Up Australia Day aims to bring community members together to clean up rubbish and litter around their local environment. Council's Manager Development and Environment David Simm says, 'Litter left on the ground or in local waterways has the potential to cause injury to both people and wildlife, it looks unsightly and it also attracts further littering. 'Whether it be a local park,

bushland, or in your street, each small effort to remove litter will help to create a cleaner environment and that's why Clean Up Australia Day is so important.' In 2016, local Clean Up Australia Day activities saw in excess of 680 kilograms of litter removed from the Maitland local government area for disposal and recycling. If you have already nominated a clean up site but are yet to complete a Rubbish Collection Request Form, please contact Council on 4934 9700. Registration is now also open for Clean Up Australia Day, including a full list of clean-up sites in the Cessnock Local Government Area. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said litter remains a concern in our community and we can all do our bit for the local environment. "Clean Up Australia Day is an opportunity to not only pick up rubbish but also increase awareness about littering and the negative

impacts it has", Cr Pynsent said. On Clean Up Australia Day last year a huge 10.16 tonnes of rubbish was collected across 12 sites across the local area, the aim this year is to surpass last year's efforts.

Cessnock City Council is pleased once again to support registered sites through waste collection and waiving of landfill fees. Residents are reminded normal fees apply for all material received at the Cessnock Waste and Reuse

Centre (Cessnock Landfill) on Clean Up Australia Day unless it is from a registered site. If you, your school, business or organisation is interested in registering a Clean Up Australia Day site, registration can be

made at www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au, or by contacting contact Debbie Kellehear on 02 4993 4167 or email Deborah.Kellehear@cessnock.nsw.gov.au. Cessnock City Council asks that all rubbish at registered sites be bagged

and not exceed 20 kilograms per bag.

A full list of local sites is available at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/initiatives

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People who would enjoy a fundraising event full of laughter, mayhem, good food, music and a

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

The 2017 season at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre is expected to be another wonderful year of entertainment. We have already had international hit show Boys in the Band take the stage and impress local audiences. It is wonderful we are able to secure such fantastic talent and I encourage the community to pick up a 2017 program or visit <http://www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au/shows> to find out what is on.

This summer we have suffered through extremely high temperatures, in fact we have experienced two of the hottest days on record. On Saturday the 11 of February the maximum temperature was 46.8 degrees recorded at the Cessnock Airport weather station. This is the highest since temperature recordings began in 1968. On Sunday the 12 of February we also experienced sweltering conditions with the top measuring 45.6 degrees. These hot conditions brought with them not only catastrophic fire danger but were challenging for residents throughout the Hunter, especially elderly residents who do not have air conditioning. The Salvation Army opened up their Chapel on Saturday giving residents a reprieve from the hot weather. This was a wonderful gesture and I thank the Salvation Army for their unwavering support for our community, always helping when they see a need.

The Mayoral Academic Scholarships have been extended to give local students more time to apply for support. A range of scholarship opportunities are available for students living in the Cessnock local government area who are enrolled in TAFE or University in 2017. The scholarships are for one year and are valued at \$2,500. For more information visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/mayor/scholarships>.

The official launch of the Green Organics Collection service has been held ahead of the service commencing on March 6. The new organics service will consist of a fortnightly kerbside collection, occurring on the opposite week to your recycling. The garden organics service is a welcome addition to the general waste and recycling services currently provided by Council as it will significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. I encourage residents to begin filling up their new lime green lidden bins as we prepare for the first fortnightly pick up

Cheers, Bob

undertake one of the most challenging, yet rewarding roles in life, that of a grandparent. In today's busy lifestyle, expectations on grandparents are forever expanding and our community's Seniors Week celebration is a way to encourage people who do so much for others, to also remember to take time out for themselves. Free entertainment on the day includes the very popular Jack Grainger Band featuring 19 musicians and singers singing some popular old favorites. Local choir, Singleton Singers, will also perform, hear live Bush Poetry readings, take part in some tai chi and yoga or the revolutionary Balance n Bones program. Noel 'Poppa' Riley will also be performing on the day.

And it is people like Noel that have inspired the 'Live It Up' theme of the event. Singleton Historical Museum will screen commercials from Singleton's bygone era, and there'll be some trivia, crossword and Sudoku games with a chance to win a tour around town in a vintage car and a lunch at a local hotel.

The Mens Shed, CWA and other local organisations will be on hand to talk to prospective new members, and a number of service organisations will also be represented.

Seniors Week is all about living your life the way you want to, to keep on doing the things you want to do and finding the services that help you do just that.

Another great opportunity is the Singleton Mayoral Scholarship. Local students are encouraged to apply for a share in \$14,000 worth of scholarships. Students can now apply for one of four scholarships of \$2000 each for long term study or 12 scholarships of \$500 each for short courses. Each is to be awarded to residents of the Singleton local government area who are studying or intending to study in 2017 in one of the scholarship categories. The scholarships can be put towards education fees, tools, text books, transport or housing costs. Scholarship categories and application forms are available on Singleton Council website. This is the 8th year of scholarship awards and is a great way to celebrate and support local students' community contributions and academic achievements

Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR

Where Large Government Funding Goes – So Do the Shonksters I have already been hearing alarming reports of the private corporates ripping millions and millions of dollars out of funding for Aged Care and Disability services, while leaving those in need without service. This has been allowed to happen because Governments have been getting out of the business of providing these services and allowing, instead, the private operators to do (pretend to do) the job. If I had a dollar for every time I heard a politician say "private operators do it better", then I would indeed be a very rich man. Some private operators are very good and can and should be supported, but others, clearly are not.

Let me give you some examples of the worst operators out there, fully funded, operating today. Example A – private operator XYZ has a staff member that attends to elderly and frail people living in their own homes. The private operator XYZ is funded by the taxpayer through the Government. The staff member goes

on holidays and so those poor elderly people normally on his/her route, in spite of the ridiculous and extreme heat, are left unbathed and uncared for, for 2 weeks, because operator XYZ does not replace the staff member while he/she is on leave. But XYZ still claim the service fee from Government.

Example B – operator VWX is paid, by the taxpayer, through the Government, to attend to a young person with a disability, living in Wollombi. Operator VWX has told the staff member that getting from Maitland to Wollombi will only take 40 mins each way (it actually takes 70+ mins) and if it takes longer than 40 mins, then just deduct that from the time that you spend onsite, helping the young person. As a result, the disabled young person only gets 1hr of actual hands on support, instead of the 2 hrs paid for and funded by the taxpayer.

These examples are just the tip of the iceberg. Here is a prediction that you can take to the bank – in the coming months and years you will hear endless horrifying stories about how some immoral private entities are ripping off tens of millions of dollars, paid in taxes and levys by all of us, and rorted out of the system deliberately, knowingly and intentionally, by these greedy corporates, leaving our vulnerable citizens without the help that they need.

In NSW, despite the introduction of the NDIS, the Government have made the decision to eject itself from the business of providing disability services. This leaves every disabled person in NSW exposed to the corporates – some good and some appalling. The corporates have already indicated that they want to do the easy stuff and the things that are close to existing services (ie: towns and cities). They have shown that they don't want to do the harder stuff like getting to people in regional/remote areas or people with high needs – not because those people don't need the help, but simply because helping those people reduces the profit margin. Hello free-market and goodbye public service.

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

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

Cheers Clayton



Clr Melanie Dagg - Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

Everyone should have received their green bin with the Garden Organics service commencing on Monday, 6th March. This is an exciting development in how the LGA deals with its waste and is part of Council's long-term plan to change the way we think about garbage and going to the "dump". I note there has been some feedback from residents, particularly on rural properties, who don't have a need for the extra bin. Council does allow residents to opt-out of the service, however I've been advised this won't result in any reduction in rates. You can find more information about this service on Council's website.

This coming Council meeting agenda lists Branxton Pool's heat pump for consideration. This issue was first raised with me by a group of pool users who spoke passionately about the need for this investment by Council. They insisted that

having an electric or gas pump to heat the water at the beginning of each pool season would result in increased patronage as the temperatures are more pleasant for users. I agree with them wholeheartedly. I will be doing all I can to ensure I have the support of the Chamber to see Council fund this project for our local community. Mayor Pynsent is continuing to keep pressure on the State Government, speaking in his Mayoral Minute at the most recent meeting about the need for funding assistance for feeder roads linked to the Hunter Expressway. If such funding can be secured this would be a win for motorists and residents alike, resulting in improved road conditions and safety, particularly along hot spots such as Gingers Lane, Orange Street and Frame Drive in Weston and through Heddon Greta. We would also see more formalised commuter carparking at the HEX's exit points, including at the Greta/Branxton interchange.

Councillors recently received a report detailing the results of investigations undertaken by Council staff into the compliance of the sewerage systems in North Rothbury (page 97 of Report to Ordinary Meeting of Council 15 February 2017, available on Council's website). As delegate to Hunter Water's Consultative Committee I will be attending a meeting on Tuesday, 28th February and raising North Rothbury's sewer connection with the representatives there. Hunter Water have showed a willingness to shift the expected date of connection from 2024 forward to 2020, however pressure must be maintained to bring that date forward even further, which I will continue to do.

This coming Sunday is Clean Up Australia Day. If you would like to participate you can join North Rothbury Tidy Towns and do your bit for the local environment. The clean up will commence from 8am and volunteers are asked to meet at the intersection of Wine Country Drive and Tuckers Lane.

As always, if you require assistance with any matter relating to Council, you can contact me by email melanie.dagg@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or by phone 0409 404 898. You will also be able to hear me shortly on Cessnock's local community radio station - 2CHR 96.5FM. I hope you can join me then.

Cheers Mel



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

I've had plenty to say lately about energy policy and the need to further progress economic diversity in our region. The two are interlinked. We must build economic diversity and remain a part of the energy production sector while guaranteeing affordable and reliable energy supplies which are crucial to the ongoing existence of our manufacturing industries. One such industry is red meat processing; Australia's largest manufacturing sector and a big employer in the Hunter. While the price of energy is critical, it is not the sector's biggest threat. The biggest challenges are cattle and sheep supplies and prices, government quarantine inspection costs and delays in securing export protocol approvals in new export market opportunities. The supply problem is largely caused by drought. But increasing live exports

is also putting pressure on supply. Abattoirs around Australia are closing or suspending their plants. Job losses are mounting considerably and the Hunter has not been immune.

Is the Government talking about the issue? No. You hear a lot about BlueScope, Alcoa, Holden and Toyota. Our biggest manufacturing sectors are in trouble but few are listening to the plight of our abattoir operators. It's an issue I hope to bring more attention to.

Back on the energy front, we need to rely on gas as a transition fuel. I have said in Parliament and in the media that sadly, "clean coal" will not be the answer to our future energy needs. The technology has not been successful, it's too costly, and the energy companies are not interested in making the investment.

But if gas is to be the transitional fuel, we need more of it. Sadly again, there is no government plan. Here's an idea; most of our gas reserves lay off the coast of Western Australia. Unfortunately, a pipeline does not stack up economically and it would take forever to build. Why not a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility in Newcastle? That would allow us to ship gas from the west coast to the east coast, dramatically enhance our gas supplies, create jobs in our region and provide our manufacturers with the competitively priced and secure gas supplies they so desperately need.

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

Funding Available for Local War Memorials

I am pleased to announce the first round of 2017 funding for the Community War Memorials Fund (CWMF) is now open. The CWMF is designed to protect and repair our local war memorials, which preserves the Anzac legacy in the Upper Hunter Electorate.

I urge our local Councils to apply for the fund, which provides the opportunity for all NSW communities to access up to \$10,000.

Ensuring our local war memorials remain in great condition is an essential part of honouring Australian service men and women who sacrificed so much for our nation, but also ensuring that the service of so many local men and women is properly honoured and remembered by our communities.

The CWMF ensures communities have the opportunity to protect and conserve war memorials, which is why I believe this is such an important initiative. Funding applications can be made by veterans groups, community organisations and councils until Anzac Day and I sincerely encourage all communities who require funds for restoration to apply. Applications will be assessed by the State War Memorial Committee, which is made up of NSW RSL, Public Works Advisory, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and Veterans' Affairs.

Free tickets to the 2017 Premier's Gala Concerts are now available. The Premier's Gala Concerts are a showcase of Australia's best and upcoming musical theatre and recording artists and are the highlight of the 2017 NSW Seniors Festival which will be celebrated throughout NSW from 3 to 12 March. With the theme *Let's do more together*, the festival promotes inclusive communities and provides an opportunity for seniors to try new things, contribute, remain active and engaged in their local communities. The Premier's Gala Concerts are always a sensational event. Free tickets are available www.ticketek.com.au.



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Singleton Civic Centre will be abuzz with entertainment for all ages at the 'Live It Up' Seniors Week celebrations set for 3 March from 10am. The day is about showcasing the many opportunities for leisure, exercise and fun and is a chance to pay tribute to those who

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Calvary Cessnock Retirement Community are hosting a Seniors Week Open Day and Markets on Saturday 11 March 2017 from 10am – 2:30pm.

Seniors Week NSW runs from Friday 3 March – Sunday 12 March 2017 and Calvary Cessnock's Open Day will anchor the celebrations throughout the

Cessnock community. Presented by the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), NSW Seniors Week is designed to celebrate the role seniors play and the contributions they make to the NSW community. For more information on Seniors Week please visit www.nswseniorsweek.com.au. The Open Day will feature markets, a vintage car display and a family and carer's expo. There will be a variety of stallholders including handmade crafts, a BBQ and cake stall. We will also have special guest appearances from Senior Citizen of the Year Ron Jackson as well as

involvement from the local football club, the Cessnock Woodturners and the local fire brigade. The Open Day is a family friendly event with plenty for the kids to do with a jumping castle, colouring in competition, face painting and entertainment. This event is inclusive and easily accessible for those with a disability. **At 10:15am** there will be a presentation including an address from Calvary Cessnock General Manager Kristin Smith, Major Bob Pynsent and Cessnock Senior Citizen of the Year Ron Jackson. **Date:** Saturday 11 March, 2016

Time: 10:00am - 2:30pm
Where: 19 Wine Country Drive, Cessnock NSW



Seared beef with soba noodle salad

Serves: 4
 Time to make: 25 mins
 Total cost: \$22.84 / \$5.71 per serve (at time of publication)

INGREDIENTS
 500g sirloin steak, thinly sliced ~ 270g soba noodles ~ 2 bunches asparagus, thinly sliced lengthways, cut into 3cm lengths ~ 250g sugar snap peas, trimmed ~ 6 small radishes, thinly sliced ~ 100g baby spinach ~ 2 tablespoons mirin ~ 1 tablespoon tamari

Instructions
Step 1 Spray a large frying pan with oil and place over high heat. Cook beef for 2–3 minutes, or until cooked to your liking. Transfer to a plate, cover and rest for 5 minutes.



Step 2 Meanwhile, cook soba noodles according to packet instructions, adding asparagus and sugar snap peas for the last 2 minutes of cooking time. Drain, rinse under cold water and drain again.
Step 3 Place noodles and all vegies into a bowl. Combine mirin and tamari in a small bowl and add to noodles. Toss gently to combine.
Step 4 Divide noodle salad between 4 plates and top with beef. Garnish with fresh coriander, if desired.

- Variations**
- To add a little heat, add a small finely chopped chilli when cooking beef in step 1.
 - Boost the vegie content by adding thinly sliced cucumber or carrots.

A Little Humour..
 19 Irishmen go to the cinema, the ticket lady asks "Why so many of you?" Mick replies, "The film said 18 or over."

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner, talk about Dyson with death.

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed four grave diggers walking about with a coffin, 3 hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!!

I was at an ATM yesterday when a little old lady asked if I could check her balance, so I pushed her over. Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarfs are not Happy.

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Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

How to lower cholesterol
 Eating a healthy diet and regular exercise can help to lower the level of cholesterol in your blood. Adopting healthy habits, such as eating a healthy balanced diet and exercising, will also help to prevent your cholesterol levels from becoming high in the first place. It's important to keep cholesterol in check because high cholesterol levels increase your risk of heart disease and stroke. If you're concerned about your cholesterol, talk to your doctor. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners recommends that you regularly review with your doctor or specialist any medications you are taking for high blood pressure or high cholesterol to assess the ongoing benefits and risks. For further information, visit the Choosing Wisely Australia website.

Fats and cholesterol
 There are two main types of fat: saturated and unsaturated. Eating foods that are high in saturated fat can raise cholesterol levels in the blood. Foods high in saturated fat include: meat pies, sausages and fatty cuts of meat, butter, lard, cream, hard cheese cakes and biscuits, foods containing coconut or palm oil. Eating foods that contain unsaturated fat instead of saturated fat can actually help reduce cholesterol levels. Try to replace foods

containing saturated fats with foods that are high in unsaturated fats, such as: oily fish (for example, mackerel and salmon), nuts (for example, almonds and cashews), seeds (for example, sunflower and pumpkin) & vegetable oils and spreads (for example, sunflower, olive, corn, walnut and rapeseed oils). Trans fats can also raise cholesterol levels. Trans fats can be found naturally at low levels in some foods, such as those from animals, including meat and dairy products. Artificial trans fats can be found in hydrogenated fat, so some processed foods such as biscuits and cakes will contain trans fats. As part of a healthy diet, try to cut down on foods containing trans fats or saturated fats, and replace them with foods containing unsaturated fats. You should also reduce the total amount of fat in your diet. Try microwaving, steaming, poaching, boiling or grilling instead of roasting or frying. Choose lean cuts of meat and go for low-fat varieties of dairy products and spreads (or eat just a small amount of full-fat varieties).

Foods containing cholesterol
 Some foods contain cholesterol. This type of cholesterol is called 'dietary cholesterol'. Foods such as kidneys, eggs and prawns are higher in dietary cholesterol than other foods. The cholesterol found in food has much less effect on the level of cholesterol in your blood than the amount of saturated fat that you eat. The Heart Foundation recommends six eggs a week can be included as part of a diet low in saturated fat for all Australians. If your doctor has advised you to change your diet to reduce the level of cholesterol in your blood, the most important thing to do is to cut down on saturated fat. It's also a good idea to increase your intake of fruit, vegetables and fibre.

Fibre and cholesterol
 There are two different types of fibre: soluble fibre and insoluble fibre. Most foods contain a

mixture of both. Soluble fibre can be digested by your body (insoluble fibre cannot), and it may help reduce the amount of cholesterol in your blood. Good sources of soluble fibre include: oats, beans, peas, lentils, chickpeas & fruit and vegetables. Try to include more of these foods in your diet. Aim to eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables each day.

Cholesterol-lowering products
 There's evidence that foods containing certain added ingredients, such as plant sterols and stanols, can reduce levels of cholesterol in the blood. Plant sterols and stanols are found in nuts, seeds and legumes, vegetable oils, breads and cereals and fruits and vegetables. You need to eat two to three grams a day of plant sterols and stanols to manage cholesterol. To meet this requirement you also need to eat foods that have been enriched such as some margarines, low fat milks, low fat yoghurts and breakfast cereals, lower fat cheese and processed cheese. People who don't have high cholesterol shouldn't eat these products regularly, particularly children and pregnant or breastfeeding women. If your doctor has told you that you have high cholesterol, you can help lower it by changing your diet. If you do eat foods that are designed to lower cholesterol, read the label carefully to avoid eating too much.

Get active
 An active lifestyle can help to lower cholesterol levels. Activities can range from walking and cycling, to more vigorous exercise such as running and dancing. Doing 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity on most days can improve your cholesterol levels. Moderate-intensity aerobic activity means you're working hard enough to raise your heart rate and break a sweat. One way to tell whether you're working at a moderate intensity is if you can still talk but you can't sing the words to a song.

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Local historical photograph ~ opening of C of E Rectory Branxton 1915



This photo was taken on Saturday 30/10/1915 at the foundation-stone laying for the then new Church of England Rectory at Branxton. You will see that some of the surnames are still in the area. From L-R, standing are:- Harry Gibbs, Ray Standen, Frank Hatcher, Walter Taylor, Ed Moore, (?), Dod Ballantyne, John Brown, (?) Wood, Cecil Walker, Ben Faithall, Dan Thrift & Tom Holmes. Seated on the far right is Rev Blake (Hobart) & the far left is Rev H. Hampden.

The occasion was widely reported & the Maitland Mercury ran the following:-

"The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Church of England rectory at Branxton took place last Saturday at 2pm in the presence of a large gathering. The procession, headed by the Branxton Band, singing the processional hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers". The visiting clergy were Very Rev H. K. Archdall MA, Dean of Newcastle, Revs . A. Killworth, MA., LL.B., I. Blake Hobart, Th.L., L. J. Wilson (Methodist) & J. Allison (Presbyterian).

On reaching the new rectory, the opening prayers and lesson were read by the rector, who also thanked the people for their presence. In introducing the Dean of Newcastle, he said he regretted the absence of the Bishop of the Diocese on account of illness. He trusted that Dr. Stretch would speedily be restored to health, and very soon again be able to be about. The Dean had graciously consented to come to Branxton in place of the Bishop. In extending a hearty welcome to him from the church people of Branxton, the rector said he felt under a deep debt of gratitude to the Dean for sacrificing the time the trip entailed just when he was, to the speakers knowledge, very busy and could ill afford to be away from Newcastle.

On behalf of the rector, wardens and parishioners, Mr. John Brown then asked the Dean to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, and presented him with a handsome silver trowel as a memento of the occasion.

The Dean then solemnly performed the ceremony in the name of the Trinity, and, declaring the stone well and truly laid, offered prayer for the continual blessing of God in the place where the home of His ordained servants in the parish would henceforth be. He then delivered a forceful and telling address. Basing his remarks on Psalm 127, verse 1, he said that in erecting a dwelling for their clergyman, the people of Branxton were carrying out the idea of the Anglican Church of a pastor for each parish. He was to take up his abode in the midst of the people that, by visiting them and otherwise administering to them, he might become the known and trusted leader around whom they should all rally. Then he wished them to remember that they were the Church. The priest was only the ordained servant, chosen from the body and ordained to carry out the functions of administering the sacraments and performing other ministerial duties, necessary for the life and worship of the whole body. Then this place was to be the rectory home-the place where the love of God was to be the outstanding characteristic. Only that could bring man and man together and God and man-indeed it was the only power that made homes possible, and social life and brotherhood a reality. So that "Except the Lord built the house, their labour is but lost that built it." That was one of the great lessons this dreadful European war should teach us. Individuals and nations had tried to build a civilisation, a world, without the binding mortar of the Gospel of God. The result was failure, confusion & chaos. The only remedy for this was to build up a national and world wide character pure, just, holy, loving, God-fearing, and then, but only then, would all be well. In conclusion, he congratulated them on the step they had taken, and wished them every success in the future. The Rev. A. Killworth congratulated the people of Branxton on the forward movement & stated that he was pleased to be present at its inception."

RICHEEN

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As Time Goes By

Winners are Grinners!



Above: Our local champions, at back L-R, Tegan Bard, Kristy Harris, Nocole Smith, Rebecca Thrift, Leah Thomas, Kerri-Ann Clark, Annie Bolton & front, Elisa Nevin & Haley Folpp. The photo was taken just after their 'back-to-back' win.

Our local netball team has won their grandfinal for the second year running. The girls went into the semis with only one loss for the season. Most of the team have been together since they played in the under tens with only a few changes along the way.

Under the guidance of their coach, Sue McGregor, the team has shown some great skills, but, as Sue said the most important thing is, they are great friends.

The team has two representative players, Kristy Harris (Goal Keeper) & Haylie Folpp (Goal Defence).

The team was adamant that their success is because of their coach Sue & they would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her time & the effort she put into their team throughout the season.

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!!!



Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

Ranger Kurt and the team are committed to educating the community about responsible pet ownership.

By law, all puppies and kittens must be registered and microchipped by 12 weeks of age. Microchipping and registration is just the first step. If your details change you must update your pet's information so they can be returned to you quickly if they ever get lost.

If you are not a registered breeder, desexing your pet is strongly recommended. Desexing your pet guarantees you won't be accidentally adding to your fur family. It also avoids upsetting a friend or neighbour because they have more than they bargained for thanks to your dog or cat.

In dogs, along with no puppies the behavioural, health and care benefits of desexing include:

- Less aggressive
- Less desire to roam
- More focused
- Reduces the risk of some cancers, infections and hernias
- Removes the need to manage a female in heat

Cats are very efficient breeders. Females come on heat for three to four days every fortnight during the summer months.

As well as no kittens, desexing your cat will help prevent:

- Desire to roam
- Injury from fighting
- Conditions including some cancers, infections and tumours
- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus and Feline Leukaemia Virus
- Marking their territory with urine

Consult your vet about the best time to desex your pet.

Council rangers also work closely with Hunter Animal Watch, who operate a subsidised pet spay/neuter program to financially assist pensioners and the unemployed.

For more information visit

cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals/desexyourpet and awla.com.au



You can contact Council on 02 4993 4300
or www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au



Real News Estate

Fear factor leading to bumper auctions

Fear is leading to more auctions as vendors try to avoid missing out on the peak of the market, according to auctioneer Damien Cooley. Damien, Director of Cooley Auctions says a fear of missing out has led to his company have a personal best of 100 homes to auction on February 25. A total of 926 auctions are scheduled for February 25 according to APM price finder figures, but that number could be higher on the day. Damien added: "Honestly, I think there is a bit of fear about. A lot of vendors are trying to come onto the market as early as they can because there's a lot of talk

of a market correction." He added that he wouldn't be surprised if Sydney cracks 1,000 auctions on February 25 and says it will help gauge how the year's auction season will shape up. "It's extremely important that the day passes the acid test," Damien said. "If the market goes well on a big Saturday with big volumes then the indication will be that the market is in a really good position to continue through the Easter period and most likely well into the first half of 2017." Last February Cooley Auctions firm clocked up 379 auctions and went on to perform more than 6,000 auctions over the 12-month period. Damien said that Easter in mid-April this year is good news for agents. "Agents can capitalise on that time frame. When Easter is a little bit later it

means that we get a couple more weeks of auctions in before the holiday weekend."

Festive season impacts rental market

Residential vacancy rates were again influenced by the summer holidays and festive season, according to the REINSW Vacancy Rate Survey. REINSW President John Cunningham said the January 2017 results saw the Sydney metropolitan market up 0.1 per cent to 2.1 per cent. "Inner Sydney and Outer Sydney saw an increase of 0.1 per cent and 0.2 per cent to 1.9 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively, while Middle Sydney remained steady at 2.1 per cent," Mr Cunningham said. "Activity was limited prior to Australia Day with the desire to search for new rental accommodation low on the agenda during this busy time. "We started to see a recovery in the market as the month progressed," Mr Cunningham said. The Hunter rose 0.1 per cent to 2.3 per cent despite a fall of 0.4 per cent in Newcastle at 2.0 per cent. In the Illawarra, vacancy rates rose 0.1 per cent at 1.4 per cent with Wollongong back up 0.6 per cent to 2.1 per cent. Across regional areas, the Mid-North Coast rose 0.2

per cent to 2.0 per cent, Coffs Harbour saw an increase of 0.5 per cent to 2.6 per cent and Albury rose 0.7 per cent to 4.0 per cent.

response to RTA recommendations

Recommendations for an overhaul of legislation in regard to the state's 800,000 rental properties including breaking a fixed term lease, electronic service of notices and alterations to property have been presented to the NSW government. REINSW President John Cunningham said the NSW Fair Trading Policy Department received the REINSW's Position Statement late last month and a meeting with the new Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation Matthew Kean has been arranged. "We felt it was necessary to take action ahead of any proposed amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 (RTA) being released," Mr Cunningham said. "Our Position Statement specifically relates to the 27 recommendations tabled by the government in their Review Report for change to the RTA following on from their public consultation in 2016. "We look forward to working with the new Minister to ensure that the rights of tenants and

landlords are protected and are in line with the needs of today," Mr Cunningham said.

The Amendment Bill is expected to be passed by government by mid 2017. The REINSW Property Management Chapter Committee and a dedicated Sub-Committee formed in June 2015, to specifically identify those areas in the current legislation requiring reform

Fire safety reforms for NSW buildings

Proposed reforms have been released aimed at improving fire safety standards in NSW buildings. The NSW Government has released a draft regulation in response to a recent Statutory Review of the Building Professionals Act 2005. It would apply to buildings including multi-unit residential, commercial, retail, industrial, health care and public-assembly structures. One of the proposals is for independent random audits of high-risk residential buildings by personnel from Fire and Rescue NSW. Minister Victor Dominello said: "Appropriate fire protection measures in buildings are crucial to ensuring life safety. "These reforms will help to boost standards in the

building industry and could potentially save lives. "NSW is experiencing a construction boom and we need modern laws that strengthen fire safety throughout the building process. "The reforms will aim to ensure that people designing and checking fire safety systems have the necessary skills and competencies." The proposed changes include:

- * Greater involvement of specialist practitioners in relation to certain fire-safety functions, regulated through a new accreditation framework

New requirements around submitting and checking plans and specifications for fire safety systems.

Selling Season

When it comes to deciding which season in which to sell your property, it's useful to know how the property calendar works. There are two main times of year for selling property – spring and autumn. Traditionally, spring has been the favourite time to sell property, as the gardens are looking their best, the weather is usually good and there are plenty of buyers looking to move into their new home in time for Christmas. Autumn is the next biggest selling season, again because of the reasonable weather, and also because buyers

have possibly missed out on properties during spring. Selling a property in either of these seasons will ensure there are lots of buyers coming through the doors, but you do need to be mindful that there are also more properties on the market, meaning more competition for buyers. Some people prefer to sell during quieter times of the year, such as during the New Year period or in the winter months, because of the reduced competition from other sellers and the belief that while there are fewer buyers looking, those who are tend to be more serious about purchasing.

The right strategy

Once you've determined the time is right for you to sell, it's important to have a strategy in place to ensure your sale goes smoothly and nets you a good price. Make sure your strategy considers the following:

- Is the property presented for sale?
- Which type of buyers will it appeal to? Are your price expectations in line with comparable sales?
- Are you comfortable with the method of sale, such as auction or private treaty? Is your agent reliable and experienced?
- Is there a price you will not sell below?

TAYLOR

PROPERTY MARKETING

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7 Dalwood Road, EAST BRANXTON



Blank Canvas

Located in an established street surrounded by quality homes sits this fabulous sized block of land offering your family the opportunity to build their dream home.

The property features:

- Level block
- East Branxton
- Northerly aspect at the front
- Frontage: 13.5m x 14.78m
- Depth: 48.2m x 48.6m
- Land Size: 684.1sqm

Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836

14/14 Kelso Street, SINGLETON



Plenty Of Space

- 2 Great sized bedrooms with built-in robe & ceiling fans
- Large lounge/dining room upstairs
- Huge rumpus room downstairs
- Refaced separate kitchen
- Updated bathroom
- Air conditioning
- Under cover entertaining area
- Single garage with drive through access
- Fully fenced and secure private courtyard
- Large internal laundry
- Pets on Approval

Agent: Taryn Bird 0404 494 482



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

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



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

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

hunter@taylorrealestate.com.au

2/72A Maitland Street, Branxton NSW 2335



community attendance at our fundraising functions. Our four Learning for Life students we sponsor through the Smith Family disadvantaged Australian school children program benefited from our successful ventures.

Please phone our secretary, Evelyn Thrift for information and bookings on 4938 1513. Next meeting, 9th March, a fascinating and informative talk will be presented by Helen Christy RI. Helen will share travel tales and adventures from South Africa and Malta and

New software maps the future of property information



☉ Matt Trappel, Singleton Council's Senior GIS Officer with the new online mapping tool

A new online mapping tool has made it simple to access an abundance of Singleton Council's property information at any time of day with the click of a button. Singleton Council has launched the new online mapping service via its website to allow residents, potential residents and developers to access information about properties across the local government area through an easy-to-use and intuitive platform. The community can now choose property maps to view aerial photography, property information and suburb boundaries; planning control maps to see zonings and other planning guidelines such as

heritage, height restrictions and flood planning; and bushfire prone land maps. Anthony Egan, Council's Director Corporate & Community Services said the new mapping tool was the result of three months of planning and development. The main requirement we had was that the tool had to be easy-to-use and accessible across desktop, tablet and smartphone platforms," he said. "Property and planning information can be quite complex, and we wanted the mapping tool to present this information as simply as possible in a way that was engaging and interactive for the user. "The new mapping tool will be a great resource for

residents, people looking to buy property in Singleton, planners and developers and best of all, it is available 24 hours a day." Mr Egan said the new software also offered opportunities to expand the use of mapping into other Council services, particularly in responding to customer requests. "It has the potential to change the way our community can log requests by clicking on a map, and how we illustrate information about events or capital works projects," he said. To access the online mapping tool, visit www.singleton.nsw.gov.au, click on Property Tools, and Online Mapping Service.



Branxton VIEW Committee 2017 Back row-Left to right - Cathy Lindsay, Yvonne Bell, Margaret Wilson, Evelyn ThriftFront row L-R Judy Spillard, Denise Hungerford, Bethany Oldfield, Sandie Smith. Seated- Jan Travis

Branxton VIEW Club held its first meeting of 2017-how quickly time flies- on 9th February at Greta Workers club. On this memorable sultry summer day our Annual General Meeting took place and a vibrant enthusiastic committee was elected. Inaugural member, Jan Travis kindly took control of the election and results were as follows: President-Bethany Oldfield, Vice President-Margaret Wilson, Secretary-Evelyn Thrift, Assistant Secretary-Cathy Lindsay, Treasurer-

Yvonne Bell, Assistant Treasurer-Sandie Smith, Delegate-Denise Hungerford, Publicity Officer-Judy Spillard. Sandie Smith will look after the Newsletter and Joan Nightingale the trading table. Congratulations everyone! We were pleased to hear the reports for the previous year which showed just how much we appreciate

Special thanks also to our VIEW club members who give freely of their time and talents for this wonderful not for profit charity.

Adam Lindsay Gordon wrote
"Life is only froth and bubble
Two things stand like stone
Kindness in another's' trouble
Courage in your own."

New members are always welcome. We meet at Greta Workers Club on the second Thursday of the month-10.30 am for 11 am start, then lunch at 12 noon and often an interesting guest speaker.

Christmas in England followed by New Year in Scotland. Come and join us-just ring Evelyn on the above number-everybody is welcome to attend. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those folk on the land who experienced the ravages of the recent bushfires. May there be better days ahead, and hope for rain for the parched earth. Blessings to all those brave volunteers!
*Peace and love to everyone,
Judy Spillard*

Lower Hunter launches garden organics kerbside collection service

Cessnock City Council, Maitland City Council and Singleton Council are excited to launch the kerbside garden organics collection service which starts from Monday 6 March 2017.

The garden organics service is a welcome addition to the general waste and recycling services currently provided by each Council as it will significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent says 'This is a great joint initiative that will have a really positive impact on the environment in the Lower Hunter. The convenience of kerbside collection of garden material will also make keeping yards and gardens neat and tidy far easier.'

Many residents have already received their new 240 litre bin with a lime green lid, which will be collected fortnightly, alternating with the recycling collection. So far more than 55,000 bins have been delivered to residents across the Lower Hunter with the final roll out of bins expected to be completed by Friday 17 February.

Maitland Mayor, Cr Peter Blackmore says 'People have been so excited to receive their new garden organics bin, and the roll out has been very smooth. Waste is a very important issue for our communities and this is a step in the right direction that provides a cost effective addition to the waste services available to residents and will keep an estimated 20,000 tonnes of waste out of our landfills.'

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore says 'This is a service that many of our urban residents have been requesting for some time, and is a win-win for the community and the environment. Garden organic waste such as grass clippings accounts for a significant proportion of our kerbside collections and this new service will not only keep that volume of waste out of landfill, but transform organic material into mulch and compost.'

The start of the kerbside garden organics service is a little over two weeks away and residents can now begin to fill their new garden organics bins with the lime green lids in preparation for the first pickup during the fortnight commencing Monday 6 March. Materials that can go into the bin include: Grass clippings, Prunings, Weeds, Leaves. Flowers, Plants, Palm fronds, Bark, Sticks and branches & Untreated timber For more information about the new service or to check when your organics bins will be serviced visit

yourorganicsbin.com.au



Positions available BRANXTON GIRL GUIDES

Have FUN & MAKE NEW FRIENDS, EXPLORE the OUTDOORS, HELP the COMMUNITY& lots more.

Junior Guides 7-10yrs Tuesdays 5-6:30pm

Guides 11-14yrs Monday 6-8pm

All units meet at Branxton RSL hall.

Contact: Chris Bray (District manager) 0418230305

Or christinebray@hotmail.com for more details.

WANTED!

All Junior
RUGBY PLAYERS

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
Potters Brewery Nulkaba or register at training from
Thursday 23rd February
First Game April 29th

For further information please call President
Melissa Meyers 0419 611 437 or
Website: www.pokolbinrugby.com or
Email: admin@pokolbinrugby.com
Competition starts in April 29 2017

[Find us on Facebook.](https://www.facebook.com/pokolbinrugby) Pokolbin Junior Rugby Club

Do you REMEMBER when.....

THE NEWS Issue No 98 13th Aug 2001 Page 40

Greta-Branxton Under 11's Grand Final win



■ Standing at rear: Mick Martin (Coach), Eileen Gracie (Manager). Back Row: Kenneth Wilkinson, Matthew Hammond, Joshua Gregory, Matthew Gracie, Mitchell Stewart, Blake Martin. Front Row: Stuart Moylan, Maxwell Crutch, Jessica Holz, Jacob Meredith, Stacey Katte, Christophe Guilbaud-Oulton

A great way to end the season. Greta-Branxton Under 11's taking out the Grand Final 4-0 against Kotara South at Adamstown on Sunday September 2nd.

Our team excelled with a wonderful display of teamwork and determination. On the day everyone doing their job. Forwards Kenneth, Jacob and Stuart combining well as they have all season. Midfields Jessica, Stacey, Maxwell, Christophe and Shannon strongly supporting their forwards. Defenders Mitchell, Joshua, Matthew and Blake improving and growing stronger every game. Goalie Matthew Gracie saved his best 'til last, nothing getting past him.

Goal scorers: Kenneth Wilkinson - 1 (13 for the season), Blake Martin - 1 (14 for the season) and Jacob Meredith - 2 (17 for the season). Well done team!

The kids would like to thank a few people. Firstly, A very special 'thank-you' to our coach Mick Martin. With his quiet manner and dedication he has taken his team to a wonderful victory.

A big thanks to our parents for their support and encouragement which has always been positive. Special thanks to Ross Hammond and Ian Gracie for helping out when Michael was unavailable. To Simon Loadsman, from Under 10's, who did an excellent job when we needed reserves.

Finally, I would like to say what a great time I have had being part of this team. Till next season. Yours in sport, *Eileen Gracie, Manager.*



OPEN DAY

Hospitality
Healing
Stewardship
Respect

Calvary Cessnock Retirement Community are hosting a Seniors Week Open Day and Markets on Saturday 11 March from 10am to 2:30pm.

Join us for a tour of the site or come and browse through the many market stalls. There will be a variety of stands including handmade crafts, a BBQ and cake stall.

The Open Day is a family friendly event with plenty for the kids to do with a jumping castle, colouring in competition, face painting and entertainment. This event is inclusive and easily accessible for those with a disability.

If you would like more information on the event please call **4993 9000**, email retirement@calvarycare.org.au or view our Facebook event page - **Seniors Week Open Day and Markets.**

Continuing the Mission of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary



Cessnock Retirement Community

For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE
P: 4938 3300

RUTHERFORD

New on Market



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)



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

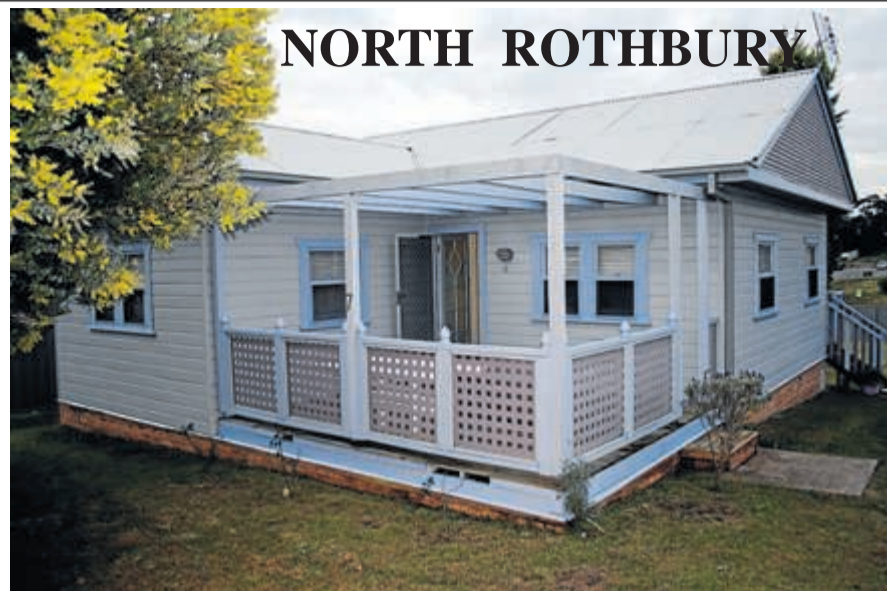


EAST BRANXTON

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



NORTH 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

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)



SOLD

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



SOLD

NTH ROTHBURY

A Little TLC Required

Solid three bedroom home.

Open plan.

All this on a large 809sm fenced block in popular North Rothbury

Asking \$245,000



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



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LEASE

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

4938 3300



“Branxton Gardens” Senior Living, Branxton ~ Recent sales



SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

UNIT 2

UNIT 10

UNIT 12

UNIT 18



SOLD

SOLD

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300



their families are settling into our Preschool well. We welcome all our new families and thank them for enabling us to be a part of their child's first educational journey. This year marks a huge celebration for Branxton Preschool as it is our 30th Year of service to the community. We have printed a beautiful cookbook to mark the occasion and will be selling

these at the St Brigid's markets each month as our fundraising event for 2017. We also will be expanding onto our history path. This is the path that leads into Preschool. Pavers are able to be purchased with your child's name or your family name and the year you attended preschool. If you would be interested, simply see the ladies on the stall at the markets and fill in a form.

The exciting news for 2017 is that the State Government funding increase for all 4 year old children. This boost in funding has drastically reduced our daily fee and also enabled us to extend our operating hours from 8.15am – 3.45pm. Enabling all children to access 15 hours of preschool per week (2 days). **Fees have not been this low since 2004.** This does mean that all 4 year old children must attend preschool for 2 days, as per the government funding agreement. We are currently running at capacity, however if you are considering enrolling your child for 2018, we would encourage you to place your child's name on our waiting list. You can join our list by simply filling in a form which is available on our website or pop in and visit the preschool to fill this form in.

We have our **AGM scheduled for Wednesday 8th March at 6.30pm.**

Everyone is welcome to attend. You must be a member to vote or be nominated for a position within the Management Committee for 2017. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our outgoing Committee Members for 2016. They have worked hard all year to ensure our community based organisation runs smoothly and also go above and beyond to make our workplace an enjoyable place to be. The many changes and continuous improvements are a testament to each and every one of you lovely ladies. Thanks to Lucy White, Alena Pople, Amie Wright, Rebekah Somerville, Melissa Franklin, Rachel Furner, Marie Shearer, Claire Michell, Kerrie O'Brien & Melanie Dagg.

If you would like to know more about Branxton Preschool, please do not hesitate to contact us on

Ph: 49381990 or follow us on Instagram or check out our website www.branxtonpreschool.com.

What's Been Happening at Branxton Preschool.....

The new year has begun and all the children and

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	

Helen 0427 047 024
www.facebook.com/stbrigidsmarkets



Cessnock City Seniors Festival

GET INVOLVED! Friday 3 – Saturday 18 March 2017
Programs available at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries and Council Customer Service

Clubs and Special Interest

Fri 3	Come and Try Croquet 10am Calvary Retirement Grounds
Mon 6	Cessnock Men's Shed and Garden 9.30am Calvary Retirement Grounds
Tue 7/Thur 9 & Sat 11	Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club 1pm Tue/Thur, 10am Sat Stephen St
Wed 8	Kurri Kurri Men's Shed Open Day 9.30am 18 Bruncker Rd
Thur 9 & Fri 10	Kurri Kurri Women's Shed Open Day 10am Maitland Rd
Fri 10	Hope Valley Church Morning Tea 10am 169 Vincent St, Cessnock
Sat 11	Rugby League 12pm Cessnock Toyota Stadium

Health and Well-being

Fri 3/Fri 10	Tai Chi 10am Northend Hall
Mon 6/Wed 8 & Fri 10	Aqua Aerobics 9.30 & 10.30am Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre
Mon 6	Petanque 10.30am Potters Brewery, Nulkaba
Tues 7	Walking Basketball 10am Cessnock Toyota Stadium

History and Heritage

All week	Kurri Kurri Historical Photo Exhibition Kurri Kurri Library
Sun 5/Wed 8 & Sun 12	Sir Edgeworth David Museum 11am Kurri Kurri High School
Thurs 9	Voices of the Hunter 10am Cessnock Library
Fri 10 & Sat 11	Richmond Vale Railway Museum 10am 262 Leggetts Dve Kurri Kurri
Sat 11	Vintage Car Display 10am Calvary Retirement Grounds

Learning

Fri 3	The Weatherman 10am Kurri Kurri Library
Mon 6	Intro. to the Internet 10am Kurri Kurri Library, 2pm Cessnock Library
Tues 7	Newcastle Museum Outreach - Toys! 10am Calvary Retirement Grounds
Wed 8	Coding 10am Cessnock Library
Sat 11	Seniors EXPO 10am Calvary Retirement Grounds

Arts

Fri 3	Elders Afternoon Tea 2pm CPAC
Tues 7	Writing Workshop 10am Kurri Kurri Library, 2pm Cessnock Library
Tues 7	Seniors Choir Concert 10.30am CPAC
Tues 7	Young at Art 4pm CRAG
Wed 8	Sing-A-Long 10.30am Black Hill Uniting Church
Thurs 9	Uniting Church Art Group 9am Cumberland St Cessnock
Thurs 9	Abermain Eisteddfod 10am Abermain Plaza
Thurs 9	Ukulele Lessons 10am Kurri Kurri Library, 1pm Cessnock Library
Fri 10	Old Brush Studio 10am Brunkerville
Fri 10	Music with Bill Parkes 10am Kurri Kurri Library
Tues 14	CPAC Concert
Sat 18	Cessnock Harmony Day 10am TAFE Park

Cessnock City Council would like to thank **Bellbird Workers Club, Wine Country Lions, Cessnock Lions Club, Samaritans Foundation, Cessnock Toyota and Coalfields NeighbourCare.**

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THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:
A lawyer calls his largest client to his office for an important meeting. When he arrives, the lawyer says to the wealthy art collector client, "I have some good news and some bad news." The client: "I've had an awful day. Tell me the good news." "Your wife invested \$5,000 in two pictures today. She believes they are worth at least \$3 million." "Well done!" the tycoon says with a big smile. "Good news indeed! You've made my day. So what's the bad news?" "The two pictures are of you with your secretary."

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GRETA WORKERS

FRIDAY 3rd MARCH
“DEFACED”

FRIDAY 10th MARCH
“SOUND ABOUT”

RAFFLES

**FRIDAY
SELLING**

6.00pm

DRAWING 7.30pm

SUNDAY

SELLING 11.00am

DRAWING 12.00Noon



MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

1st MARCH

\$3,600

SUNDAY

5th MARCH

\$2,900

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

MILLER PARK

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

THURSDAY 2nd MARCH

\$3,500

SUNDAY 5th MARCH

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

**“THE PARK”
RESTAURANT
WEDNESDAY —
SUNDAY**

**LUNCH & DINNER
GREAT FOOD
CLUB PRICES**

RAFFLES

FRIDAY

SELLING 6.00pm

DRAWING 7.00pm

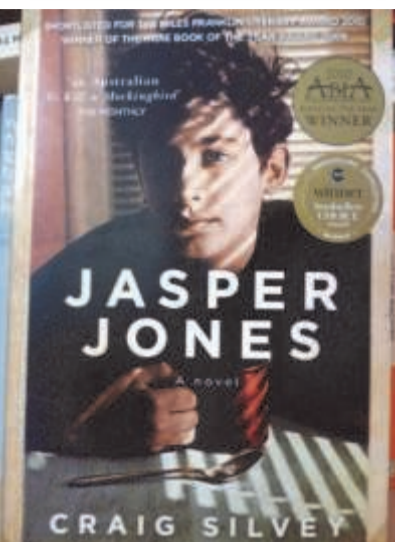
SUNDAY

SELLING 5.00pm

DRAWING 6.00pm



*TAB NOW OPEN
AT MILLER PARK*



Jasper Jones

by **Craig Silvey** (Allen & Unwin, 2010)
first published in 2009

JASPER JONES is an Australian classic novel that appears in most reviewers top 10 all-time best Australian novels. The reason I have decided to a review is because it has been screen-played and the movie is to be released in early March 2017. Great read & would hope the movie captures its remarkable essence.

Jasper Jones is a 2009 novel by Fremantle-based writer Craig Silvey. It has won and been shortlisted for several major awards, and was selected by the University of Canberra as its inaugural UC Book of the Year for 2013. Protagonist Charlie Bucktin is a thirteen-year-old boy living in the rural mining

town of Corrigin in Western Australia. On a summer evening in 1965, Charlie has an unexpected visit from fourteen-year-old Jasper Jones, an outcast in Corrigin due to his mixed White-Aboriginal heritage and rebellious lifestyle. Jasper begs for Charlie's help, and leads him to his private glade in the bush. Here Charlie is horrified to find the dead body of a young girl, Jasper's girlfriend Laura Wishart, battered and hanging from a tree. Jasper, aware that he is likely to be blamed for Laura's murder, convinces Charlie that they should hide the body, so they throw it into a nearby pond, weighted by a large rock.

A search for the missing girl is soon organised, focused on the idea that she may have run away. Jasper is interrogated roughly by the local police, but they soon release him. Meanwhile tension builds in the town, as parents fear more disappearances, and townspeople search for someone to blame. Charlie spends his days with his best friend Jeffrey Lu, a Vietnamese boy who shares Charlie's love of intellectual banter, and deals stoically with the constant race-hate inflicted on him and his family.

Jeffrey is passionate about cricket, but his attempts to join the Corrigin team are thwarted by the racism of the coach and other players. Eventually fortune goes his way, and he finds himself batting in a game against a rival town, watched by Charlie, who has befriended Eliza, Laura Wishart's younger sister. As Jeffrey wins the game on the last ball, Charlie and Eliza hold hands and share their first kiss. Jasper believes that Laura's murderer is Mad Jack Lionel, a reclusive old man who is rumored to have done terrible things in the past. Jasper determines to confront Lionel, and together with Charlie, goes to his house. Lionel manages to defuse Jasper's aggression,

and the truth comes out: Lionel is actually Jasper's grandfather, and when Jasper was a baby, Lionel had crashed his car while racing Jasper's mother to hospital, causing her death. The incident has left him broken, and ostracized by the townspeople. Late one night, Eliza comes to Charlie's window. They go to Jasper's glade. Here Eliza tells Charlie what she knows of Laura's death: after a violent argument with her abusive father, Laura came looking for Jasper. Eliza followed her to the glade. Finding Jasper away, in despair Laura killed herself, and Eliza could not save her. Charlie then confesses that he and Jasper had thrown Laura's body into the pond. Jasper leaves Corrigin. Charlie finds a new assertiveness that helps him overcome the local bullies, and remains close to Eliza, who exacts revenge on her father by setting fire to their house, injuring him. The secret about Laura's death remains with the three of them.

Characters
Charlie Bucktin: The 13 year old protagonist and narrator of the novel. He is intellectual rather than athletic. This makes him somewhat of an outsider in Corrigin, where sporting ability is highly valued. He aspires to become a writer, and reads notable books during the course of the novel, including Pudd'n-head Wilson and *To Kill A Mockingbird*. These books are the source of much of Charlie's inspiration and guidance. Atticus Finch from *Mockingbird* is a father figure whom Charlie looks up to for support when times get difficult in the struggle of Jasper's tangled web.

Jasper Jones
Half Aboriginal, half white, Jasper is an outcast. He is fourteen, but Charlie states that Jasper looks much older. He is the town's scapegoat, the first person to be blamed for any kind of trouble. Hence he has a bad reputation, and is blamed for crimes he does not commit. Jasper's alcoholic father is physically abusive, prompting Jasper to steal for food, as there is no money left in the house. Jasper's mother died when he was young, and Jasper tells Charlie he doesn't remember anything about her.

Eliza Wishart: Charlie's romantic interest. Eliza is described as intelligent and slightly resembling Audrey Hepburn. She is Laura's younger sister.
Laura Wishart: Eliza's older sister and Jasper's love interest. It is her death being investigated.

Jeffrey Lu: Charlie's best friend. He is a year younger than Charlie but has skipped a year in school because of his intellect. Because of his Vietnamese heritage, Jeffrey often experiences racial discrimination from



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Craig Silvey (born January 1st 1982) is an Australian novelist and musician.

Silvey grew up on an orchard in Dwellingup, a small town in the south-west of Western Australia. When he was 12 he wanted to become a palaeontologist. He currently lives in Fremantle

His debut novel, *Rhubarb*, which he wrote when he was 19 was published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press in 2004. Silvey received the Sydney Herald Young Author of the Year in 2005. *Rhubarb* was selected as the inaugural book for the 'One Book' series of events at the 2005 Perth International Arts Festival, and was included in the Australian national 'Books Alive' campaign. In 2007 Silvey authored a children's book entitled *The World According to Warren*, a picture book starring the guide-dog from *Rhubarb*, illustrated by Sonia Martinez and published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press.

In early 2008, Silvey completed his second novel *Jasper Jones* with the aid of an Australia Council New Work Grant. *Jasper Jones* was published in 2009 by Allen & Unwin Australia, Knopf Books in the United States (in 2011), Windmill Books in the United Kingdom, Seix Barral/Grupo Planeta in Spain, Neri Pozza/Giano Editore in Italy, Calmann-Lévy/Hachette in France and Rowohlt in Germany (2012). The novel was shortlisted for the 2011 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. It also won a Printz Honor award from YALSA, a division of the American Library Association, which was announced 23 January 2012 in Dallas, Texas.¹

In 2010, Silvey was named one of The Herald's Best Young Australian Novelists of the year.

Director Rachel Perkins started filming a movie adaption of *Jasper Jones* in October 2015. The film stars Toni Collette (as Ruth Bucktin), Levi Miller (Charlie Bucktin), Aaron McGrath (Jasper Jones), and Angourie Rice (Eliza Wishart).

Silvey says of his literary influences that "I've always been attracted to Southern Gothic fiction. There's something very warm and generous about those regional American writers like Twain and Lee and Capote, and it seemed to be a literary ilk that would lend itself well to the Australian condition."

The Australian authors Silvey admires are Shaun Tan, Markus Zusak, Christos Tsiolkas, Tim Winton and Gail Jones who "write such distinct, brave and beautiful books that simply render me awestruck".

Silvey is also the singer/songwriter for the indie/pop/rock band *The Nancy Sikes!*. Perth Wildcats guard Adam Caporn plays guitar in Silvey's band

the other cricketers despite his exceptional cricket abilities. Often makes sassy comments about Charlie's crush on Eliza.

Mad Jack Lionel: An elderly recluse scapegoated by the township. Kids regularly steal from his property to prove their bravery. Taking a peach from his tree is the highest achievement. Jasper blames him for Laura's murder after discovering the word "sorry" carved into a rusted car on his property. Lionel often calls out to Jasper, trying to get his attention. It turns out Jasper and Lionel are related.

An opinion
The book tackles issues of race, indigenous relations and xenophobia, all through Charlie's eyes, something which drew the initial comparisons to the great American book.

"I think all those parallels are spot on really. I mean Craig himself in the book

references *To Kill A Mockingbird* and those great American gothic novels, and the book definitely has that sense of Australian gothic to it. In the coming movie Hugo Weaving plays the part of Mad Jack Lionel, the town recluse who has his own secrets, much like nearly every one else in Corrigan.

He's joined in the film by Toni Collette who plays Charlie's mum while Charlie is played by the in-demand, young, actor Levi Miller (Pan, Red Dog True Blue). Director Rachel Perkins (Redfern Now, Bran Nue Dae) admits she was inspired by the classic American novel herself, and its subsequent film version, when approaching Jasper Jones. *To Kill A Mockingbird* is an iconic book of our lives and the adaptation is said to be one of the most successful film-to-book adaptations ever made.

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and friends. Hope all the community enjoyed their Christmas/New Year also. Our thoughts and prayers are with anyone in hospital or not well, or affected by the recent fires and all the men and women fighting the fires. Due to everyone leading such busy lives these days, it was discussed at the meeting and unanimously decided to cut back on our functions, the result being that our Birthday Lunch on the 18th July will be our main function of the year,

incorporating Handicraft, International, Cultural and Ag/Env. which is what a lot of our Branches are doing. Venue and other details to be advised. Nepal is the country of study for International for 2017 and will be very interesting and the Poster Competition and a new Powerpoint Competition will be available for students to enter and letters will be sent out to schools soon. Agricultural/ Environment section is studying fauna (quolls) and

flora (quandong), as well as foes (fireweed and foxes). The Land Cookery/Product Promotion Day will be held as usual later in the year (venue and date to be advised). Members are busy at the moment getting all their handicraft and cooking ready for the Group Handicraft/Cookery Day which is being held in Singleton on the 13th March at Singleton. All the best everyone.
Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer

Branxton/Greta CWA members held their first meeting for 2017 on 14th February, after a well earned break over Christmas/New Year with family

North Rothbury Home of the Tidy Towns Month ~ Feb 2017



Congratulations to Tracey and Peter Scherff of 30 Rothbury Street who have been awarded February 2017 North Rothbury Tidy Towns 'Home of the Month'.

Let's do more together



Join us this Cessnock City Seniors Festival.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent launched the extended Cessnock City Seniors Festival 2017 that will be held from Friday 3 March to Saturday 18 March 2017. Councillor Pynsent said it is wonderful the Seniors Festival continues to grow each year giving our community an opportunity to do more together and celebrate seniors. "It is my absolute pleasure to launch another fantastic program for our Seniors Festival and I invite the community to get involved in the huge range of events we are offering." "The variety is brilliant, with sports, arts, learning, history, special interest and social events all a part of the program. Many of our favourite activities from previous years will return but we are also excited to debut some new activities this year," Cr Pynsent said. In 2017 we are proud to announce the inclusion of walking basketball and a vintage car display. Councillor Pynsent emphasised the importance of the Seniors Festival for our older residents. "Staying active, connected and engaged is so important for everyone's health and happiness. We are very fortunate in our community that there is so much on offer for our seniors", Cr Pynsent said. Why not enjoy the Old Brush visit, discover a new club or group, learn something new, get creative, take a trip down memory lane, try a new sport, spend time with friends and even make new ones. The Cessnock City Seniors Festival 2017 boasts over 40 events. To find out more visit cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/senior This event has been supported by a NSW Seniors Festival Grant and sponsorship from Bellbird Workers Club, Wine Country Lions, Cessnock Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Cessnock.



Branxton Golf Club



Phone 02 4938 1421 or Email us at Branxtongolfclub@westnest.com.au

Clubsafe@clubsnsw.com.au 1800 997 766 www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au 1800 858 858



Friday Night Raffles

Donnies Disco

1st Sunday of each Month 4.00pm-6.00pm



Meat Trays
Fruit & Vegie Trays
Seafood Tray
Win (47) Schooners
Badge Draw \$900

As at 24/2/2017

MR JS KIDDIES GOLF

TUESDAY AFTERNOON WEATHER PERMITTING

Branxton Mens

Open

Saturday 4th March

There is still a couple of time slots

Don't miss out

A great day with plenty of prizes

Thursday

Badge Draw \$1200 as at 23/2/2017

Seafood Raffle

Trivia

Darts every

Saturday afternoon

3.00pm



Twilight Golf

Wednesday 4.30pm



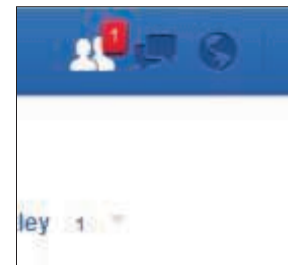
click



Facebook Friend Requests: The Devil You Know & The Devil You Don't

If you want to steer clear of scammers on Facebook, there are two rules to follow.

1. Don't accept friend requests from people you don't know.
2. Don't accept friend requests from people you do know. (At least, folks you're already friends with.)



A friend of mine got tricked recently by a friend request from an account that featured a picture of a professional-looking older gentleman. Since he was listed as a mutual friend of her aunt, she assumed that maybe he was a relative or a family friend. That was a mistake. It wasn't long before this guy started asking inappropriate questions. A quick check of his profile showed he was brand new to Facebook and all of his friends were seemingly unrelated women all over the world.

His photos all appeared to be screenshots from someone's modelling portfolio. Needless to say, she unfriended him ASAP. Always make a quick check of the profile for anyone you don't recognize. Look at how long they've had a Facebook account and how many mutual friends you have. Ask your mutual friends who this person is. If they don't know, it's likely they just accepted random friend requests.



The second mistake to avoid is accepting a friend request from someone who is already your Facebook friend. Someone who is already your friend cannot send you a friend request. If you aren't sure if this person is already your friend, check your Friends list. If that person is already on there, it's likely that request is coming from a scammer who has stolen the picture and name of your actual friend. So make sure to report that account as fraudulent and notify your actual friend as to what's happening.

What Are Keyloggers?

When you think of malware and viruses, what kind of activities do you imagine them doing? Perhaps you think of them as software that destroys the computer it infects. Maybe you think of them as opportunistic, taking the time to perform actions such as using the PC on a botnet or looking through files for sensitive information. You may even think of ransomware, which locks away a PC until the victim pays the developer a sum of money.

But what about a piece of malware that simply sits, quietly, on your system and watches everything you do? Not so much what you're doing on your monitor, but keeping strong tabs on what you're typing. This is the sneaky nature of the keylogger, a nasty piece of kit that can threaten your private data and accounts if left to its own devices.

What Is A Keylogger?

So what's the point of keyloggers? It gets on your system, it watches your keyboard inputs — so what? Who cares about what you type so badly that they'll go through great efforts to smuggle software onto your system?

First, realise there are plenty of non-malicious uses for keyloggers. For instance, a parent can install a keylogger onto their child's computer to make sure they're not visiting inappropriate sites or chatting online to bad people. Harsh bosses may even use them to monitor their employee's workflow. So, those have their obvious uses. But what about our malware keyloggers?



Think of it this way; there's a keylogger developer who has managed to get keylogging software onto someone's computer. They can see everything typed onto that computer,

which includes everything from typing up a report to chatting to a friend on Facebook. Not very exciting, right? Then, the keylogger developer notices one string of information come in from the keylogger. It reads:

`www.kemptonbank.com77439920pensesame233`

Intrigued, they go to the Kempton Bank website and look at what's needed to log into an account. It asks you for two things; first, a 7-digit user ID, and then a password to go with it. Looking at the above data and matching it with what you know, what do you think happened here?

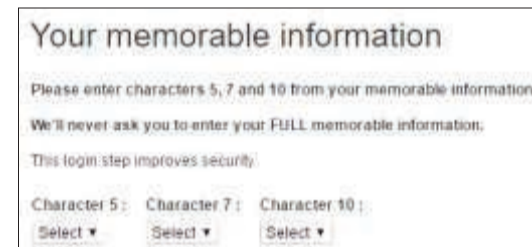
It looks like the person being watched accessed the Kempton Bank website, then typed in their ID and password to log into their bank account. Of course, the keylogger just watched this in real time, which means its developer now has their victim's bank account details; their user ID is 7743992, and their password is opensesame233. Now they can log in and access their victim's bank account!

How To Stop Them

So now you can see how deadly a keylogger can be in the wrong hands. But how do you go about making sure your PC is clear of keyloggers? After all, if they're silent, there's no tell-tale sign to let you know that there's one on your computer.

The solution, therefore, is to install protection on your computer. Have an antivirus running which can pick up on keyloggers, so it can squash them if it detects any. Also, using malware scanners can help pick up on any that may have slipped through the net.

Also, you can use two-factor authentication on websites that use it. This will confirm a new login by sending a message to your mobile phone, meaning anyone else trying to login will get stopped by this restriction. This halts keyloggers in their tracks, as even though they have your username and password, they don't have your phone in order to complete the process!



This is also the reason why some login pages ask you to manually input specific characters from your password using drop-down boxes. A keylogger would be able to tell if you typed a key, but by using this method, a logger would have to see what website you were on, read each field, and see what character you clicked on, which would be incredibly hard to pull off. Even then, when they go to log on with your details, the system may ask for a *different* set of characters from that password, making the whole process redundant!

The Key To The Problem

While keyloggers are very scary, there are ways you can avoid having your details gleaned from what you type. Even better, some websites and services have set up their own precautions against keyloggers; now you understand why those measures are there and what they mean.

Headset Helps Legally Blind See

If you were a fan of Star Trek: The Next Generation, you probably remember the special visor worn by Geordi La Forge that enabled the blind crew member to see. Well, just like communicators and tablets and being able to talk to a computer, and all that other good stuff that came to pass, the headset made by eSight helps the legally blind regain their vision.



A camera captures everything in the user's field of vision and enhances the feed, displaying it on two OLED screens in front of their eyes. The screens can be adjusted to a precise position to take advantage of whatever amount of vision the user has while maximizing side peripheral vision. It can help users read and write, view a board in a classroom, and make walking and taking public transport safer. Users can control the device with a handheld remote

MOVIE REVIEW

Jasper Jones

In the dead of night during the scorching summer of 1969, Charlie is startled when he is woken by local mixed-race outcast Jasper Jones outside his window. Jasper leads him deep into the forest and shows him something that will change his life forever, setting them both on a dangerous journey to solve a mystery that will consume the entire community. In an isolated town where secrecy, gossip and tragedy overwhelm the landscape, Charlie faces family breakdown, finds his first love, and discovers what it means to be truly courageous.

RELEASE DATE: 02/02/2017

RUNNING TIME: 105 mins

DIRECTOR: Rachel Perkins

CAST: Toni Collette, Hugo Weaving, Levi Miller, Angourie Rice, Dan Wyllie and Aaron McGrath



Belvoir's Jasper Jones proves the enduring appeal of coming-of-age stories

Craig Silvey's 2009 coming-of-age novel, Jasper Jones, has enjoyed a recent renaissance, with Kate Mulvany's stage adaptation seeing three separate productions in as many years: at Perth's Barking Gecko in 2014; at Sydney's Belvoir Theatre earlier this year; now at Melbourne Theatre Company, where it runs until 1 September. But it was a feature film adaptation that premiered to an enthusiastic home field audience on Wednesday night at the opening of Western Australian film festival CinefestOz, in Busselton.

Set in the fictional town of Corrigan, the film, directed by Rachel Perkins — who previously made Bran Nue Dae — was shot in the WA town of Pemberton with funds from ScreenWest, and is projected for release in early 2017.

With its child's eye view of small town racial prejudice, publicity for Silvey's book was quick to label it the Australian To Kill a Mockingbird — but it is hat-tips to Harper Lee's friend Truman Capote that dominate the film's opening stretch. Moved to investigate the death of a local girl, 13-year-old protagonist Charlie Bucktin (Levi Miller) picks up In Cold Blood at the library, and minutes later is slipped a copy of Breakfast at Tiffany's — mysterious note inside — by local Holly Golightly-in-waiting Eliza Wishart (Angourie Rice), the sister of the dead girl. Charlie finds out about the

death over Christmas 1965, when he is summoned from his bed in the dead of night by Indigenous kid and town scapegoat Jasper Jones (Aaron L. McGrath), who has found his white girlfriend hanging from a tree in the woods. Convinced that he'll be blamed for her death, Jones enlists Charlie to help him hide the body, and to find information on alternative suspects. As Charlie plays kid detective he begins to see the town with new eyes, and the hypocrisies — both petty and monstrous — of his family and neighbours come into focus.

An ongoing debate about the relative virtues of Batman over Superman between Charlie and his friend Jeffrey Lu (Kevin Long) sets out the stakes of the film in crystal-clear terms: Charlie is headed for a reckoning with the true meaning of heroism. If that sounds a little schematic, it is, but the story is a good one nonetheless — and that the screenplay, by Silvey and Snowtown's Shaun Grant, can offer this level of thematic clarity suggests the strong grasp the film-makers have on their subject.

Though Charlie at first seems awfully close to a white saviour figure — he is positioned as consigliere to a troubled black kid, a girl in danger, and Lu, who suffers from the town's suspicion of Vietnamese migrants — the story has a smart sense of his ability to combat Corrigan's dark side. By the time Lu announces, right before his triumphant and unlikely performance at a cricket match, that "this town needs a hero", it's starting to become obvious that Charlie's reckoning will be a hard one; that the best he can do is to be a witness and staunch ally to his friends as the iniquities around him churn onward. The setting is the late 60s, but the atmosphere of bike rides,

questionable adult supervision and small town secrets (along with its distinctively American literary antecedents — Lee, Capote, even Mark Twain gets a shout out) could well appeal to nostalgic fans of Netflix's Stranger Things, though the conspiracies here are rather more personal than governmental. Perkins, finding the sweet spot between childish goofiness and adult drama, keeps things fleet, funny, and just the right side of suspenseful; tonally, the film is a match for any Spielbergian 80s coming-of-age classic. She's aided by the rich wide-screen cinematography of Mark Wareham, and a persuasive score by Antony Partos.

The cast is uniformly good, especially McGrath and Miller, who gives a remarkably sustained lead performance as Charlie — although he's frequently upstaged by scene-stealer Long. As the decrepit old hermit on the edge of town, Hugo Weaving continues his transition into the Grand Old Man of the Australian screen.

But it's Toni Collette, impossibly vivacious as always, who registers most strongly. As Charlie's mother — bee-hived, eye-shadowed, and straining at the bonds of a dissatisfying marriage — she switches from tenderness to frustration on a dime. One charming scene has her transforming a mini-tantrum in the kitchen into an opportunity to twist and bop to the radio. Shimmering around in a mustard dress, she almost dances away with the film.



3.8/5



Branxton Public School

Congratulations to our Zone Swimming representatives who competed at Maitland Pool in Week 5. The team upheld the school expectations of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best throughout the day, with Matthew Wenham being named Zone Senior Boy Champion. He will soon compete in the Regional Swimming Carnival. Everyone will now be reminded of the BPS expectations as they walk into our school. Our Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best Power Pups are now in place to greet our students, staff and community members as they enter our school. The P&C invite you to join the 2017 Footy Tipping Competition which will start soon. Half of the funds raised will go to our school and the other half will go out as prizes. For more details see the Branxton P.S. website and check out the latest newsletter. The P&C AGM takes place on Monday 27th March at 6pm and the usual meeting will follow. All welcome. We welcome back Mindy, Basia and Paul to our school for the



Power Pups



Matthew, Zone Senior Boy Champion



Zone Swimming Team



1-2T Doing their motorbike shapes

Sport for Life gymnastics program. Students have enjoyed their first session and are very enthusiastic for the weeks ahead.

Dates for the Calendar

Friday 3rd March – PBL Assembly 9:20am
 Monday 27th March - P&C Annual General Meeting 6pm in the Library
 Wednesday 5th April – Easter Hat Parade and Book Fair

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

Greta Branxton Wildcats 'Club of the Year' & a very successful 2016 Season

A big congratulations must go to Greta Branxton Football Club who have been awarded the overall 'Club of the Year' by Hunter Valley Football Association. This award is an excellent achievement and one that all players and parents of the club should be proud of. This award tells us that the club is running smoothly and continually improving on all levels both on and off the field. The club also hosted final series very well, continually has volunteers putting in a great deal of time and effort, and above all players have represented the club well, playing as Wildcats with great pride and a high level of sportsmanship that the club is proud of. Well done to everyone in the club- players, parents and supporters.

Greta Branxton Football Club on the field had an extremely successful year and growing year after year with 7 senior, 27 junior teams and 324 players overall. Teams are looking smart with their new playing strips thanks to all of the clubs sponsors. Cessnock City Motor Group, The Royal Federal Hotel Branxton, IGA, Greta Workers Club, McDonalds, Gold Cobra, A Plus Contracting, Brauntell, TGE Engineering, Branxton Pharmacy & Nova Distributors have all joined as partners of the club and have helped to make the club what it is today! Club members and locals please frequent these businesses, they are helping within your clubs and community and the Wildcats can't thank them enough for their support.

The club has had great success on the fields in 2016 with 11 competition teams of which 8 went into semi finals, with the majority of those landing in finals. The club had great Grand Final Results with the 12-1s and over 35s being the minor premiers and the U12-2s, Women All age 1's, Over 35 mens & All Age Friday Mens winning their Grand Finals. Thats some really great results that not many clubs achieve -Congratulations to all.

There were some nail biting finals with some hotly contested penalty shoot outs from the under 12 & 14's and many parents on the side lines almost needing defibrillation. As if one week of penalty shoot outs wasn't enough the U12-2s decided to go back and do it again the following week winning their grand final.

The over 35s and mens Friday teams had exceptionally well all season, finishing off with wins that were great games to watch. The whole club got behind the womens team on fathers day, taking a bus to their grand final at warners bay, even with the wildcat mascot in tow doing summersaults and flips on the sideline. The crowd's cheering and culture of this club certainly helped the girls bring home another grand final win.

Greta Branxton's Mens All Age 1 team have continually moved up the ranks from 'D' Grade as major premiers in 2015, jumping two grades higher into B grade for 2016, with the team still playing very competitively, making it through to the final series. This in itself is a great achievement for our mens football at this high level.

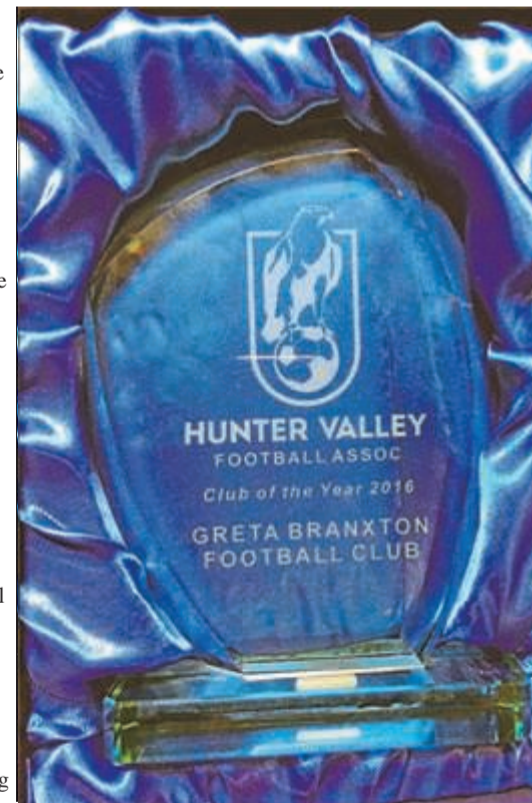
They will be a team to watch over the coming few years with them creeping further up that ladder, aspiring to reach the top!



Wildcat in cheer mode



The Trophy Cabinet



HUNTER VALLEY CLUB OF THE YEAR Trophy



Wildcat doing hand stands at womens Grand Final

2017 is going to be an even bigger & better season for the wildcats.

- A Glencore grant was secured with \$2500 worth of state of the art football training equipment purchased, that all junior & senior teams will have access to at training throughout the season. This will help players with some great new football skills and keeping kids enthused with training sessions becoming more varied with a lot of fun to be had whilst learning new skills- The kids will be super excited with this training gear.
- The club have some great new training programs in place for junior and senior coaches to help improve coach and players skills, with their coaching coordinator on hand for training.
- A brand new 2 day holiday coaching clinic is available for 10 -12 year olds, being held in the April school holidays with an elite coach to build the skill level of these young players.
- The Moyle Family Hotels First Annual Clash of the Cats will be held on 19th March - an Interclub events between Greta Branxton and Mayfield Juniors.

President Luke Thrift said 'We are all looking forward to a great season both on and off the field. Our club is growing from strength to strength and we hope you will be joining us for the best season yet. We have a lot of plans in the works to make our facilities even bigger and better. A facility that most clubs could only dream of having.'

Registrations are still open this week with spots still available in all age groups. The club has Mini Roos teams for all ages. Children can start playing if they turn 5 in 2017. The club has mixed junior teams from Under 6s right through to Under 17s. There is also an option for girls only teams to play a full girls only comp in the younger age groups. The Under 6s- 11s play Mini roos with modified field sizes and rules whereas the Under 12s through to senior teams play a full field competition. The Seniors have Men's teams on both Friday night and Saturdays as well as Over 35s. The club also has numerous Womens teams. It is a club that has a team for everybody.

If you are interested in playing jump on the website for all the information and to register www.gretabranxtonfc.com. Dates for players to remember: Meet the Coach: Thursday 9th March U6-7s 4pm, U8-9s 5pm, U10-11s 6pm, U12-17s 6.30pm. Coach & Managers Meeting: 14th March 7pm Miller Park Bowling Club Clash of the Cats Gala Day for all teams: Sunday 19th March 9-4pm Season Kick Off: 22nd April



Upcoming events

- Whole farm planning workshop (part 1)** - 9-10 March, Manning and Great Lakes district
- Managing stock in dry times workshop** - 10 March, Dungog
- Hunter Estuary Marine Debris Kayaking Challenge** - 12 March, Ash Island
- Free PROfarm course - faecal egg counts for worms** - 15 March, Scone
- Cattle weaning and disease management workshop** - 16 March, Scone
- African Love and Coolatai Grass management field day** - 20 March, Glendon Brook
- Floodplain farming evening** - 22 March, Millers Forest
- Managing our creeks workshop** - 30 March, Murrurundi
- Whole farm planning workshop (part 2)** - 30-31 March, Manning and Great Lakes district
- Throsby Creek Action Station** - 2 April, Newcastle
- Ewe management workshop** - 6 April, Merriwa
- Soil health field day** - 12 April, Scone
- Community planting day** - 19 April, Ash Island
- Thinning your forest for production or conservation** - 22 April, Main Creek

Have your say on weed management in the Hunter

The draft Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022 is currently on public exhibition for community feedback feedback. The plan will guide resource allocation and investment in the region over the next five years, as part of a new approach to weed management across the state.

The consultation period is an opportunity for farmers, organisations and interested community members to provide feedback on the management of weeds in our region and across the state.

The draft Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan will be on public exhibition until 8 March 2017. Submissions can be made online, or by attending one of three drop-in consultation sessions being held during the exhibition period:

Maitland: Friday 17 February, 10am - 1pm Maitland Town Hall, High St
 Taree: Monday 20 February, 10am - 1pm Hunter Local Land Services office, 98 Victoria St
 Scone: Tuesday 21 February, 10am - 1pm Upper Hunter Shire Council, 135 Liverpool St

The plan outlines strategies and actions to achieve improved weed management and lists the priority weeds for the region. It has been developed collaboratively with Hunter Local Land Services and the Hunter Regional Weeds Committee, which includes representatives from major stakeholder groups. Weeds are managed under the Biosecurity Act 2015, which adopts the concept of a general biosecurity duty. It means that anyone who is aware of a potential risk should take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise or eliminate that risk. The plan is a direct response to this legislative reform. The primary outcome of the weed reform process will be the integration of weed management efforts across the state. For the first time in NSW, there will be a set of agreed priorities and actions which apply across both public and private land. Increased collaboration in the management of weeds will improve biosecurity outcomes and increase agricultural productivity. Copies of the plan are available on the Local Land Services Open website at open.lls.nsw.gov.au or from any Hunter Local Land Services office.

Blood On The Track

Formerly Racing & Breeding Brian Russell
 Bloodstock Media Service

Arlington's The Lion pounces in historic maiden

ONE of NSW's most historic country races, the Ron Martin memorial maiden, a 1000m event run annually on the opening day of the two day Walcha Cup carnival, was held on February 10 and won smartly by The Lion. He is a 3-year-old gelding in the first crop of Arlington, the Red Ransom stakes performed half-brother to New Zealand super sire Savabeel who stands at Bruce McHugh's Tamalee Stud at Tamworth. Raced by five owners, including McHugh, the Michelle Fleming (Tamworth) trained, Mollie Partridge ridden The Lion was having only his second start when he won this 14-runner \$35,000 race. He had been a promising debut

second at Tamworth on January 20, a fortnight after a trial win on this track. Bred by A.B. and Mrs M.R. John, The Lion is the first runner for Lion Belle, a winner twice at 1200m by Lion Heart, a Group 1 winner and Kentucky Derby second who, like his sire Tale of the Cat, was a Coolmore shuttler from America, and from Lion Bell, a Sydney winner by the Kaoru Star Oakleigh Plate winner Mighty Avalanche. The major highlight of the opening day of the Walcha carnival was the win in track record time of the Tim Martin (Rosehill) trained, Greg Ryan ridden Hunter Jack in the \$35,000 Cup. It was the 7-year-old Stratum gelding's fourth win, preceded by successes at Canterbury (on debut at three), Randwick

and Armidale (the 2016 Cup), and in his last two appearances before his Walcha Cup win a second (nose) and third at Rosehill Gardens. Raced by his breeder, R. C. Kemester (President Bloodstock), Hunter Jack is from Takeiteasyedye (USA), a non stakes money earner successful in ten up to 8 1/2 furlongs in America. She is by Opening Verse (USA), a American Breeders' Cup Mile winner by The Minstrel, and from Jungle Dawn, a WA produced Railway Stakes and Sunspeed Champion Stakes winner in Perth and stakes placed in America. **World's richest race winner's Australian connections** ARROGATE, the 4-year-old grey colt who romped to a 4 3/4 lengths victory at Florida's Gulfstream Park on January 28 in the world's richest race, the US\$12million inaugural Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes (dirt circuit, 9 furlongs -

1800m), was produced in Kentucky on a cross of two sires who shuttled briefly to Australia. An April 11, 2013 foal inbred 4x4 to Mr. Prospector, Arrogate is by Unbridled's Song (grey, 1993 - 2013, by Unbridled - Trolley Song, by Caro), a Breeders Cup Juvenile and Florida Derby winner, and is the first foal of Bubbler, a multiple Listed winner by Distorted Humor (chestnut, also 1993, Forty Niner - Danzig's Beauty, by Danzig), a two times each Group 2 and 3 winner and a seven furlongs track record setter Churchill Downs. Unbridled's Song left 170 foals from use in the Hunter Valley in 1997, 98 and 99 and Distorted Humor 120 from visits to Victoria in 1999 and 2000. He is still active at stud in America, standing the 2017 season on US\$80,000 at Winstar Farm, Kentucky and being the source to date from American and Australian use of 876 winners (130 SWS) of 2862 wins and \$135.2 million. In Australia he has had

winners of 318 races (15 stakes) and \$7.7million. Distorted Humor's spread in the current edition of the Blood-Horse American Stallion Register credits him with 18 Group 1 winners in six countries, 12 millionaires, two American Classic winners, 136 black type winners 55 of them in Group races. An Australian Group 1 winner was Rinky Dink, a filly foaled 2000. One of Distorted Humor's American Group 1 winners, Any Given Saturday, was used at Darley's Northwood Park, Seymour, Victoria in 2008, 09, 010, 011, leaving 260 foals. So far 96 have won, including Listed winners Saturday Skies and Casino Wizzard and Saturday Affair, a Will Clarken Morphetville trained winner of seven races, including impressive victories on the home track on January 28 and February 11. Bloodhound Pedigree Service statistics have Arrogate's sire Unbridled's Song on 844 winners (111 SWs, 22 at Group 1 - all America) of 2408 races and

\$150.797million. His Australian bred progeny included ten stakes winners up to Group 2 (Grey Song). Unraced at two and endorsed as the World Champion for his efforts at three, Arrogate has won six of seven outings and earned US\$11,084,600, including three Group 1s, the Breeders' Cup Classic, Travers Stakes (new 10 furlongs - 2000m track record time) and the Pegasus World Cup Invitational (first prize US\$7million). Earlier, he won claiming races at Del Mar and Santa Anita and he is now nominated for the \$10million Dubai World Cup on March 25. Arrogate is the first foal of Bubbler (six wins to nine furlongs in Texas, three Listed). She is out of Grechelle, a Deputy Minister Group 3 placed

product of Meadow Star, the Champion 2YO Filly in USA 1990 and a winner of 11 races, six of them Group 1, including the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies. Meadow Star is bred on the same cross as Tokio Beauty, the dam of Real Impact, the Deep Impact Japan and Australia Group 1 winner who looked after 134 mares on debut as a sire at Arrowfield last season. They are by Arlington-Washington Futurity winner Meadowlake (by Success Express's sire Hold Your Peace) and from daughters of influential In Reality (Man o'War male line). The bottom line of the pedigree of Arrogate traces back to Mrs Butterwick (1890), a St. Simon English Oaks winner.

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 22/2/17

Yarding 1050 ~ **Change -110** (Comparison Date 15/2/17)
 Consignments slipped, however still maintained good numbers with the quality remaining mixed. The bulk yarded was younger cattle, as the cows lifted marginally in number week-on-week. The market trend was mixed, with the vealers maintaining firm prices, as the yearlings slipped in value. The vealer steers over 200kg and returning to the paddock made from 330c to 410c, as the lighter end reached 432c/kg. The same weight vealer heifers, also to restocker orders, sold from 320c to 380c/kg. Yearling steers to the restockers and lot feeder orders struggled in the competition and slipped 11c, with the medium weights ranging from 299c to 345c/kg. The yearling heifers also to the restockers lost 4c to average 310c after topping at 330c/kg. Prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold to strong competition with the best reaching 365c/kg. Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter lost 15c, with prices around the 240c to 265c/kg range. The better selection of cows remained close to firm, with the plainer 2 scores averaging 204c/kg. The better finished heavy weight cows ranged from 220c to 238c/kg.



Scone report date 7/2/17

Yarding 1080 ~ **Change -439** (Comparison Date 31/1/17)
 The continuing dry conditions experienced around the supply area produced larger numbers, with the quality very mixed and on average plainer than the previous market. The bulk was younger cattle, with the grown steers and heifers limited in supply, as around 160 cows were penned. The market trend overall was cheaper, with quality contributing in places. There were also good percentages of younger cattle purchased for the bush fire appeal. Vealer steers (over 200kg) returning to the paddock remained firm at 340c to 430c/kg. The equivalent weighted heifer portion to the same orders slipped 4c, making from 330c to 383c/kg. Medium weight yearling steers to restockers eased 8c, ranging from 290c to 354c/kg. Yearling heifers lost 8c to 10c, with prices from 298c to 364c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 370c/kg. The few grown steers and heifers to slaughter slipped 6c to 10c, with the steers selling from 258c to 260c, as a single heifer topped at 296c/kg. The plainer 2 score cows averaged firm at 208c, while the better finished heavy weights lost 2c to 5c and ranged from 212c to 234c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 255c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date 20/2/17

Yarding 1375 ~ **Change 255** (Comparison Date 13/2/17)
 Numbers lifted with a large consignment of cows, yearlings and vealers. There were limited supplies of grown steers and heifers. The quality and condition of the penning was mixed with some high quality vealers and yearlings suitable to restock and feed. There was also a large line of joined cows in store to forward store condition. The full field of buyers were in attendance, however demand for many classes was weaker. An improvement in the quality of the vealer steers saw heavy weights to restock up to 8c/kg dearer, with that improved quality lifting average prices further. Yearling feeder cattle saw demand weaker with the majority of feedlots at or near capacity. The heavy weight yearling feeder steers were significantly cheaper. The light and medium weight yearling steers to restock and feed saw quite a variation in price, with both weight and quality contributing factors. Heifer yearlings to restock and feed were 8c to 15c/kg cheaper and more in places, for much the same reasoning as the steers. There was little in the way of domestic trade competition apart from the usual local butcher orders. Heavy grown steers attracted competition from most of the usual processors with the market trend remaining firm. Cows to process experienced little but quality related price change on an otherwise firm market trend. The large line of joined cows in store condition attracted strong restocker competition, selling at prices well above the plain condition cows to process.



Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

4938 3300

SPORTS RESULTS



Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 16-2-17 Stableford
 Div 1 Winner R Brooks 31 pts (c/b) R/u G Wilton 31 pts
 3rd R Hebbe 30 pts
 Div 2 Winner R Showman 28 pts (c/b) R/u J Flynn 28 pts (c/b) 3rd J Black 28 pts
 Ladies Winner R Friis 32 pts
 R/u N Craig 21 pts 3rd R McCarthy 20 pts

Ntps Ladies R Friis
 Gents R Hain
 Members draw - Won (J Black)
 The prospect of lower temperatures drew 32 players to the "Ultimate 9" golf course at Branxton, for a round of golf. Congratulations to Robyn Friis on winning the Ladies Division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all other winners and placegetters

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 17-2-17 Stableford
 "Away Day" - Hawks Nest
 1ST R Brooks 37 pts (c/b)

2nd L Hunt 37 pts
 3rd A Cannon 36 pts
 4th R McCarthy 35 pts
 5th G Scobie 34 pts
 NTPs - Not Contested
 Members draw - Not drawn
 Pleasant weather conditions greeted the 30 odd players who, gathered by 'Dawns early light' for round of golf, on a course that was in very good condition. Congratulations to Robert Brooks on winning the event, with a well done to other placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 23-2-17 Millennium Trophy - Stableford
 Winner G. Gazzard 32pts
 Second R. Friis 29pts c/b
 Third M. Ryan 29pts c/b
 Fourth R. Brooks 29pts
 Ntps Ladies R. McCarthy
 Gents P. Tracey
 Members Draw - Not Won
 Today we had a nice turnout for our Millennium Cup day - the weather was warm but

not violent so the game was enjoyed by all. The tankard trophy was duly presented to Gary Gazzard who had a fine 32pts and balls were distributed to all subsequent scorers. Our away trip to Hawks Nest last week was a great success - as always, and the weather smiled upon us there, too. Well done to all participants'.
 A. Brown - Treasurer

Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 5th February
 The Weekly Challenge has been won by Phillippe Byron with 41 points from Grahame Mankelow who returned 38 points.
Tuesday 7th February
 Brad Heuchan survived a countback from Ken Scott-MacKenzie to win the Tuesday Stableford after both had 40 point returns, Ray Newton took 3rd place with 39 points. Ball winners were: Rex Talbot 38, David Peel 38, John Stewart 38, Eric Smith 37, Jodie Dunn 37,

Rick Turnchini 36, Simon Clegg 36, Chris Taggart 35 and Bob Prentice 35 c/b.
 Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Smith (3rd) David Peel (4th & 10th) Bob Prentice (8th) and Chris Taggart (17th)
Wednesday 8th February
 Much needed early morning rain has kept the Ladies at home today, normal Summer Stableford will continue next week.
Thursday 9th February
 John Carmody smashed his handicap by 10 shots to clean up the Vets Stableford and record the 'round of the week' with his 46 individual points with Grahame Sheldon returning to form with a solid 40 points and Darrell Preston in 3rd place with 39 on countback. Ball winners were: Greg White 39, Ryan Wilson 39, Greg Amloh 38, John England v37, Ray Hodson 37, Kevin Smith 37, Brian Doherty 36, John Pascoe 36, Ken Harris 35 and John Stewart 34 c/b. Nearest-

the-Pins went to Ken Harris (3rd) Ryan Wilson (4th) John Stewart (8th) Eric Smith (10th) and Greg White (17th). Next week the Vets will play Stroke.
Saturday 11th February
 The Saturday field has been cut in half with the searing heat keeping many away. A Grade went to Steve Piggot with 40 points from Rob Flanagan with 38, B Grade to Lachlan Peacock with "round of the day" an excellent 43 points from John Parish on 38 c/b and C Grade to Julie Van Den Berg on countback from Greg White after both had 38 point rounds. Ball winners were: Michael Rogers 38, Rex Talbot 37, Hieu Le 36, Andrew Nichols 36, Angello Korlevic 35, Nathan Sweeney 35, Garry Ackers 34, Jeff Morton 34 Kire Nacakovski 34 Chris Connolly 33, Brian Doherty 33, Tom Relf 33 and Paul Bullock 33. Nearest-the-Pins went to Todd Mitchell (3rd) Ken Smith (8th) John Parish (10th) and Rob Flanagan (17th)

Branxton Golf Club -Sat 11th Feb Stableford

A grade winner Mark Moylan 41 pts
 A grade runner up Riley McClung 39 pts c/b
 A grade third Rodney Wilton 39 pts
 B grade winner Noel Hughes 41 pts
 B grade runner up Barry Turner 39 pts
 B grade third Ronald Hebbe 38 pts (I know a Ronny Hebbe!)
 C grade winner John Martin 44 pts
 C grade runner up Kim Howard 43 pts
 C grade third Michael Carling 38 pts
 Ball comp 35 pts c/b
 NTP
 R Wilton 188 cm
 D Mathers 12 cm
 Y Kwon 94 cm
 N/A

Saturday's scorching hot weather didn't daunt the Branxton players with a good field producing some excellent scores in the Stableford Competition. 35 pts was needed to win a ball with a DSR of 68 making everyone honest. Mark Moylan produced another excellent round of 41 pts to easily win A Grade from local junior Riley McClung's 39 pts with long time top liner, Rod Wilton, third with the same score. Rod also recorded a nearest the pin on the 2nd. The veterans dominated B Grade with Noel Hughes the best with 41 pts, followed by Barry Turners 39 pts and Ronnie Hebbe's 38 pts The C Graders were literally hot scorers on the day with John Martin's 44 pts an outstanding winning score, with Kim Howard's 43 pts only good enough for second. Michael Carling's 38 pts gave him third place. The shot of the day certainly belonged to D. Mathers shot to the 4th which finished only 12 cms away. Sunday's Pennants were also cancelled due to the extremely hot weather with all grades resuming their competitions next weekend. A Grade will play Singleton at Singleton, B Grade play The Vintage at Branxton, C Grade play Singleton at Cessnock whilst

the Seniors play Cypress Lakes at Denman.

Branxton Golf Club -Sat 18th Feb Stableford

A grade winner Chris Zawirski 37 pts
 A grade runner up Alex Hannah 33 pts c/b
 A grade third Lee Heuston 33 pts
 B grade winner Lee Hunt 40 pts c/b
 B grade runner up Robert Hale 40 pts c/b
 B grade third Gary Wilton 40 pts
 C grade winner John Martin 43 pts
 C grade runner up Richard Turnbull 40 pts c/b
 C grade third Troy Hunt 40 pts
 Ball comp 33 pts
 NTP

B Turner 210 cm
 G Wilton 243 cm
 J Parr 185 cm
 J Martin 155 cm
 Chris Zawirski has continued his recent good form clearly winning Saturday's A Grade Stableford with his 37 pts, 4 pts ahead of runner up Alex Hannah and third place getter Lee Heuston, who both had 33 pts. Lee Hunt won a very competitive B Grade with his 40 pts, winning on a countback from Robert Hale and Gary Wilton. Gary also had a nearest the pin on the 4th. John Martin had the best stableford score of the day recording 43 pts, which ncluded a nearest the pin on the difficult 13th, which also earns him the shot of the day. Richie Turnbull finished runner up with a very pleasing 40 pts with Troy Hunt finishing third with his 40 pts. 33 pts was needed to win a ball with the DSR for the day being 68. The Pennants resumed on Sunday after last week's extreme heat cancellations. A Grade lost 4.5-0.5 to Singleton at Singleton (it was much closer than it looked with two loses looking like winners near the end); B Grade won 2-1 against The Vintage at Branxton; C Grade losing 2-1 to Singleton at Cessnock and the Seniors having another draw 1.5-1.5 against Cypress Lakes at Denman.

Branxton Lady Golfers 15/2/17

Nine Hole Stableford played this week. It was the last week of the summer competition. Winner: Kerry O'Connell 18 points
 Runner up: Carol Miller 17 points on count back from Caren Caldwell and Ruth McCarthy.
 Nearest to the Pin: Caren Caldwell.
 Upcoming events include Aberdeen Ladies Open Day and Muree Open Day.
22/2/17
 This week was the first 18 hole event for 2017. There was a great turnout with 11 ladies playing. A Stableford was held and the results are as follows: Winner: Ruth McCarthy 34 points
 Runner-up: Caren Caldwell 33 points
 Third: Jen Salna 30 points
 Nearest to the Pin: Tracey Miller.



ROYAL FEDERAL HOTEL

GIG GUIDE

march

FREE LIVE MUSIC

FRI 03
SAT 04

GRAND THEFT AUDIO
EVERGREEN

FRI 10

OUTLAW AVENUE
Shave 4 a cure



SAT 11

STATE FX

FRI 17
SAT 18

SUNDAYS RECORD
SUN HILL DRIVE

FRI 24
SAT 25

LOKO
RECHARGER

FRI 31

MARK WELLS TRIO

50 MAITLAND RD BRANXTON

49381335 E: ENQUIRIES@ROYALFEDERAL.COM.AU

SPORTS RESULTS

D Gilroy /
K Mounser /
J Tracey /
M Tracey 88
pts

Single winner
L Porter 43
pts

Single runner

up E Barrett 42 pts c/b
Single third place G Wilton
42 pts

Saturday's John Martin sponsored 6x6x6 Teams event is an excellent concept where all players are required to contribute to the final score, especially in the last six holes. The quartet of Tony Seamer, Lee Jackson, Lennie Porter and Mick Lutovac combined beautifully to easily win the day with 99 pts, 8 pts clear of runners up Eddie Barrett, Dave Kinch, C. Callingham and Mick Carling with 91 pts. Third place went to Col Hughes, John Parr, Geoff Weise and Danny Muncaster on 90 pts with the A Grade team of Darren Gilroy, Kyle Mounser, Mick and Joshua Tracey doing very well, without too many shots to play with, finishing 4th with 88 pts. Lennie Porter certainly made a dynamic contribution to his team's final score by winning the individual event with an excellent 43 pts. Local

veteran Eddie Barrett played some great golf to finish runner up with 42 pts just ahead of another local veteran legend, Gary Wilton, also with 42 pts. In the Pennants on Sunday, A Grade lost 3.5 to 1.5 to Cessnock at The Vintage; B Grade had a bye, C Grade won 2-1 against Kurri at Branxton and the Seniors had a 1.5 draw (their third draw this year) against Denman at Dungog.

HVGC

Sunday 19th February
Sam Cashman has won the Weekly Challenge with 39 points from Darren Newton from the Corowa GC who returned 38 points.

Tuesday 21st February
Early Autumn conditions greeted the Tuesday competition to the delight of those who turned out. Grahame Sheldon showed a liking for the conditions with an excellent 42 point round to win the day from David Peel on 41 and Ray Newton 3rd with 39 points. Ball winners were: Steve Rawlings 37, Ray Hodson 37, John Pascoe 35, Peter Payne 35 and Garry Marsden 35 on countback.

Wednesday 22nd February
Julie Van Den Berg continues to show the benefit of some recent tuition from Brent Watson to again take

out the Ladies Summer Stableford event with 37 points from Zelma Powell on 36 and Kerrie-Anne Skinner in 3rd spot with 34 points on a 3 way countback. Ball winners were: Karen Baillie 34, Sue Peel 34, Dale Hamilton 33, Melita Watson 33 and Chris Tancred 32 c/b. The Ladies will begin their Winter Comp next week with a Two Person Ambrose.

Thursday 23rd February
Ray Newton has won the Bisque Par event in Thursday's Vets with a solid +8 surviving a countback to Grahame Sheldon who alsomie finished +8, Greg White completed the placings with his round of +7. Ball winners were: John Harrison +6, Wayne Cowan +6, Ray Hodson +5, Kevin Smith +5, Doug Wand +5, Dave Fury +5, Geoff Sweetman +4, Ken Wright +3, Eric Smith +3, Wayne Berry +3, David Peel +2 and Ryan Wilson +2. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd & 10th) Ray Hodson (4th) Grahame Sheldon (8th) and Eric Smith (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 25th February
Excellent playing conditions in Saturday's Medley Stableford were enjoyed by members and visitors with

some great scoring across the grades. A Grade went to current Vets Champ Ray Hodson who shot 2 strokes under his age (70 scratch) to record 42 points from his 5 handicap, a great round of golf, runner up went to Steve Piggot with 40 points, B Grade to Jeremie Morton with 42 points from Paul Bullock on 41 and C Grade to Neil Bates with 'round of the day' 44 points from Kane Goodchild on 40. Ball winners were: Ray Newton 40, Dale Macklinshaw 38, Lachlin Peacock 38, Colin Mills 38, Angello Korlevic 37, David Peel 37, Adam Kerry 37, Mark Harry 37, David Preece 37, Scott Jones 37, David Langlands v37, Adin Ramos v37, Greg White 36, David Ragg 36, Joe Fazio 36, Andrew Nichols 36 and Rex Talbot 35 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) Adrian Kent (4th) Troy Wallis (8th) Remy Morello (10th) and Dale Macklinshaw (17th).

Next week's event will be a Medley Tiger Tee Stableford.

Cricket Report – Week 18

Week 18 of district cricket saw victories to Greta/Branxton's third and fourth grade Blue teams, with second grade abandoned due to lightning and first grade had the bye.

With second grade still without inspirational veteran skipper Peter "Putty Road" MacKenzie, Trent Fuller won the toss at East End against Peden's Hotel and elected to bat. Greta/Branxton posted a healthy 3-183 from their forty overs, with the Holz combination of Nathan (81) and Darren (48no) providing the majority of the runs. Anthony Brunson also scored freely with 29. Peden's were 4-60 in reply when play was abandoned due to lightning. Nathan Holz capped a fine all-round game with 2-11 off 5.

Third grade picked up a fairly comprehensive 8-wicket victory over Mulbring at picturesque Miller 1. Mulbring batted first and were dismissed for just 80, with Jarrad Wilkinson (3-13 off 9), Paul Walkling (2-18 off 5) and Dave Seabrook (2-4 off 2.4) combining well for Greta/Branxton. The home side completed the rout in fairly comfortable fashion, with skipper Sean Wright carrying his bat with an unbeaten 63. Ben Lahey was next best with 12.

The fourth grade grudge match between Greta/Branxton Blue and Greta/Branxton White ended in a fairly convincing 115-run victory to the Blue side. Batting first the Blues made 181, with Jamie McNamara making 90 batting at number 9. Will Regan was next best with 15, while for the White side Minchin brothers Jesse (4-34 off 10) and Daniel (4-38 off 10) combined to claim the majority of wickets. The Whites were all out for 66 in reply, with Jesse Minchin (12) and Daniel Minchin (11) the only batsmen to reach double figures. Cory Stephenson (5-33 off 8) and Connor Thomson (3-23 off 5) took wickets for the Blues.

Cricket Report – Week 19

Week 19 and the penultimate round of district cricket saw Greta/Branxton's first grade side defeated. Second, third and fourth grade blue recorded good victories, with fourth grade white receiving a forfeit.

First grade's last ditch bid for a home semi-final went begging at the hands of their 4-wicket loss to Bellbird at Miller Park. Greta/Branxton batted first and posted what was a sub-par 189 on what was really 250+ conditions considering someone dropped the barrel mower a couple of notches on the Chris Charnock "WACA" type pitch. Nathan Holz posted his maiden top grade half century with 55, with Greg Andrews (31), Josh "Bradman" Dagg (26), and Dylan Lipscombe and Martin Shearer (18 a-piece) all making starts. The match looked to be in the balance at the drinks interval with Bellbird at 6-133 in reply, but a couple of sharp dropped chances cost Greta/Branxton dearly, with Bellbird reaching the target in the 29th over without further loss. Ben Braiding (2-37 off 6), Martin Shearer (2-49 off 9) and Craig Brook (1-34 off 6) were Greta/Branxton's wicket-takers. Bellbird will now host Greta/Branxton in the second vs third semi-final at Bellbird's Carmichael Park in a fortnight's time despite what happens in this weekend's final round of the regular competition. Second grade imposed just Bellbird's second loss of the season with a hard fought 2-wicket victory at Carmichael 1. Bellbird made 134 batting first, with Alex Walkling being Greta/Branxton's best with the two-piece with 4-19 off 8.2. He received great support from Mark Peace (3-22 off 10), Rob Delforce (2-32 off 10) and the multi-talented Hayden Regan (1-15 off 5). Greta/Branxton reached the target in the 36th over after losing 8 wickets. Mick Regan remained unbeaten on 41, with Anthony Brundson (34), Darren Holz (23) and Patrick Andrews (16) doing enough to get Greta/Branxton across the line. It was a timely win for the Greta/Branxton side against the minor premiers, as this locked up second spot and a home semi-final.

Third grade won a 2-run thriller against Supporters at Miller 2. Batting first Greta/Branxton posted 119, with skipper Sean Wright hiding down the order at nine once again leading the way with 44. Murray Wilkinson was the only other batsman in double figures with 21. Supporters were all out for 117 in reply in what was an exciting finish, with a final wicket run out handing victory to Greta/Branxton. Jarrad Wilkinson (3-25 off 10), Murray Wilkinson (3-16 off 7.5), Ayden Wilkinson (2-18 off 7) and Steve Peace (1-30 off 7) shared the wickets. Fourth grade Blue had an early afternoon against Supporters at Baddeley 2 courtesy of an outstanding individual performance from 16-year-old Cory Stephenson. Stephenson took 3-40 off 9 as Supporters were all out for 142. Aaron Stephenson (2-28 off 5), Shaun Daunt (2-18 off 5) and Reuben Andrews (2-34 off 5.3) were the other wicket takers. Greta/Branxton reeled in the modest target inside 23 overs after losing just the two wickets, with Cory Stephenson blasting 13 boundaries and 9 maximums on his way to his maiden century. He was eventually dismissed for 122, with Mitch Bird (13no) watching the carnage from the other end.

Points Tables

First Grade Mulbring 90, Bellbird 80, Greta/Branxton 72, Wine Country 58, Peden's Hotel 58.
Second Grade Bellbird 107, Greta/Branxton 95, Mulbring 88, Supporters 81, Peden's Hotel 79, Wine Country 79.
Third Grade Bellbird 120, Greta/Branxton 108, Laguna 99, Denman Hotel 99, Peden's Hotel 97, Wine Country 84, Mulbring 77, Supporters 70.
Fourth Grade Greta/Branxton Blue 113, Paxton 113, Denman Hotel 98, Greta/Branxton White 97, Wine Country 87, Supporters 83, Bellbird 76, Peden's Hotel 66.
Club Championship Bellbird 662.70, Greta/Branxton 616.00, Mulbring 576.80, Peden's Hotel 498.90, Wine Country 496.40.

with Mark Bercini



Winners are grinners! Branxton Saturday

Branxton Golf Club – Sat 25th Feb 6x6x6 teams event + single in conjunction

Winners T Seamer / L Jackson / L Porter / M Lutovac 99 pts

Runners up E Barrett / D Kinch / C Callingham / M Carling 91 pts

Third place C Hughes / J Parr / G Wiese / D Muncaster 90 pts

Fourth place

Greta Branxton Wildcats

'Club of the Year' & a very successful 2016 Season



All Age Mens Friday Grand Final Winners



12-2 Grand final winners



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Womens AA1 Grand Final winners

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The News **SPORT**

Branxton's Elaina McClung now number 3 in the world

by Louise Cairns



Photo courtesy of "Timbertop Photography"

Branxton's Elaina McClung is now ranked No. 3 in the world after she won the Junior Girls division in the Asia Oceanic Barefoot Water Skiing Championships in New Zealand. Elaina has been skiing since she was two and half years old, but started learning to barefoot in 2010. She is

coached by her father, Peter, who is also a champion skier. Elaina attributes her success to her confidence on the water. Skiing at speeds up to 67km/hr, Elaina says she must be in the right position and have very good timing to attempt jumps and tricks.

Travelling to Sydney every weekend to train on the Georges River, and skiing at least once a week at Raymond Terrace, Elaina agrees that it is a big commitment, especially when you consider that she is also an accomplished dancer. When asked how she fits it all in, Elaina says she "Just has to make time. Somehow it all just fits. Dancing is after school, and I fit that in around working

part time 6-7 hours per week". Elaina also does cross training with her sponsor Louise Cairns Fit for Life to improve her strength and fitness. Elaina says the highlight of her career so far has been skiing in different locations and meeting people around Australia and the world (in 2016 she travelled to Wisconsin in the United States to compete in the World Titles), but the

moments she is most proud of were learning to get up backwards and learning to jump barefoot. When asked what her advice would be to people wanting to try barefoot water skiing, or wanting to compete, Elaina said "Just give it a go". The NSW Barefoot Water Ski Club offer regular "Come and Try Days" and no experience is necessary. Elaina's next big competition will be the National Titles in Perth at

the end of April, where she will again be competing in the Junior Girls (Under 18) division. Elaina hopes to consolidate her position as No. 1 in Australia, and after that will be preparing for the World Titles in Canada in 2018. Elaina would like to thank her major supporters The Royal Federal Hotel, IGA Branxton, Guardian Pharmacy Greta, the Greta Medical Centre, and Hair at Greta, as well as Thomas Real Estate, Branxton

Quality Meats, Branxton Fish and Chippery, Baileys at Greta, Icebox Liquor and Branxton Pharmacy who all supported her in the lead up to the 2016 World Titles.

- Photos above: (L-R)
1. Elaina with her medal after winning the Junior Girls division in the Asia Oceanic Barefoot Water Skiing Championships in New Zealand.
 2. With her Australian tracksuit
 3. Doing what she does best!




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



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