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WEDNESDAY
29 March 2017



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Local School News

Thank you IGA

A generous donation of \$500 from Branxton IGA Supermarket is the beginning of some big fundraising plans for the participants of local disability service provider Endeavour Group Australia.

The \$500 donation has purchased a new camera for Endeavour Kurri Kurri participants to use to build their photography skills in a new fundraising project in 2017.

Participants will be learning how to take their own, hopefully, beautiful photos of local

landscapes and then using these shots to create high quality calendars that will be sold as a fundraiser in late 2017.

Janet Standen, from Branxton, says that when Branxton IGA Supermarket owners Lyn and John Unicomb were approached for a donation to kick-start the calendar project Endeavour participants and staff were overwhelmed with how quick John & Lyn were to offer their assistance.

"Lyn and John did not hesitate to offer their help with his donation," said

Janet.

"We are really thankful for all their support". Funds raised through calendar sales will be put towards building an outdoor 'sensory garden' for the Endeavour Kurri Kurri centre.

The 'sensory garden' will be a calming and therapeutic space for participants to socialise in and to build new work and gardening skills.

Photo: Proprietor of Branxton IGA Supermarket, Lyn Unicomb, presents the new 'hi-tech' digital camera to Dwayne Standen accepting it on behalf of the Endeavour Group Australia.



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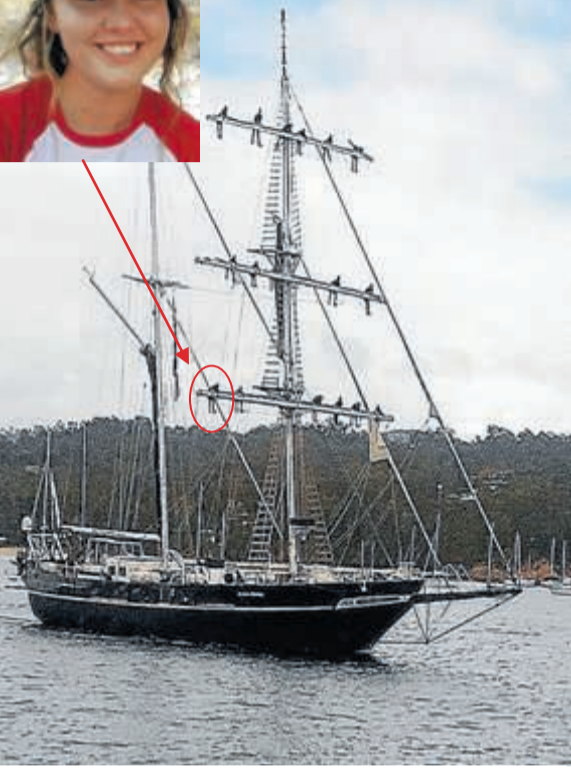


Photo above: The Young Endeavour arriving in Eden on 24 March 2017. Aboard, Kate Thomson, from North Rothbury (bottom left on the lower "Course" yard). 'Man the Yards' is the command for placement of sailors in a formal salute. Kate (23) had taken time from further studies which she completes this year.

Kate Thomson, from North Rothbury, has just completed the adventure of a lifetime, spending 10 days as a crew member of the 'Young Endeavour'. The Young Endeavour, a

gift from the United Kingdom to the Government and people of Australia to mark the Bicentenary in 1988, is the only sail training vessel in Australia; the sail training

Young Endeavour's History

The Young Endeavour was a gift from the United Kingdom to the Government and people of Australia to mark the Bicentenary in 1988. Construction began on the ship in May 1986 in Lowestoft, England and on 3 August 1987 she began the long voyage to Australia with a crew which included 24 young people from Britain and Australia. The official handover ceremony took place on 25 January 1988 in the presence of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales in Farm Cove, Sydney Harbour. In his acceptance speech, the ship was pledged by the then Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, to serve Australian youth. For a land girl by sea, the ship was a reminder of the maritime heritage shared by the two countries. Her arrival heralded the start of a new era of sail training in Australia. The Government decided that the Royal Australian Navy would operate and maintain the ship, and that the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme would be set up to manage the associated sail training program. The Scheme was established in early 1988 with a Board appointed by and responsible to the Minister for Defence. The Scheme's management and administration is undertaken by civilian staff, and is based in the ship's homeport of Sydney. As Australia's sail training flagship, Young Endeavour participates in major events in Australia and around the world.

flagship. Sailors must be between 16 and 23 on the day the ship sails & each voyage can be tracked online to see what the sailors are doing. Kate is in her final year studying a Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management at the University of Newcastle & throughout her time at university, she has been competing in a women's surf boat crew with Stockton Surf Lifesaving Club, along with other sporting teams such as netball and volleyball. Kate is also a very active member of North Rothbury Tidy Towns.



teamwork. "I can honestly assure you that all our followers can be immensely proud of this amazing group of Young Australians. Whilst on board Young Endeavour, each individual has stepped up to the many challenges thrown their way with a smile on their face. They have bonded as friends and shipmates, developed a culture of kindness and generosity, and always

maintained their sense of humour, even in the face of extreme fatigue. In my own experience, and from what I am witnessing here, a journey on Young Endeavour is so much more than an adventure at sea and chance to build friendships that last a lifetime." "I find it encouraging that given the opportunity to extend ourselves, reflect and learn together we can

push ourselves to think beyond our current horizons and genuinely start to imagine what could be. I can only conclude that Young Endeavour allows us the opportunity to dream, and the belief that maybe, we already have what it takes to make those dreams a reality," said Kate. Photo top above: A long way down! Photo below: not all fun and games; some hard work required!



Tocal College celebrates 2017 graduates

Tocal College has recognised the hard work and achievement of its graduates last Friday the 24th of March 2017 at its Paterson campus. DPI Director of Education and Tocal College Principal, Darren Bayley said it was inspiring to see so many students graduate this year. "Tocal College produced 499 graduates in 2016 and had 3,199 participants in its skills training program across 83 locations in NSW. This number is up on previous years and is due to the demand for an increasingly skilled workforce in agriculture and land management" Mr Bayley said. Tocal College is a leading provider of training in agriculture and associated industries. Mr Bayley said "Graduates are drawn from across NSW and we are pleased to celebrate their achievements at a graduation ceremony where our students can attend with their families and receive their nationally recognised qualification". Tocal College is operated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and works closely with the agribusiness and land management sector. This year's guest speaker was former Rabobank Executive and local farmer Sarah Sivyver. Sarah shared her story of working as an agribusiness leader and farmer, and the importance of investing in people – their skills, capabilities and qualifications. Graduates received awards in agriculture, horse breeding, conservation and land management and biosecurity emergency response.

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North Rothbury Home of the Tidy Towns Month ~ Mar 2017



Congratulations to the owners of 18 Scott Street, North Rothbury who are 'North Rothbury Tidy Towns' house of the month for March 2017. Congratulations!

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!



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Report

Muswellbrook Area Command ~ Southern Sector:

Break, Enter and Steal:

Between 19:00 on Tuesday 14 March 2017 and 10:00 on Thursday 16 March 2017 Person/s unknown have gained entry to the ground floor front door at the stated location being a property in Maitland Vale Rd, Lambs Valley by forcing the lock. The person reporting has arrived to find the door open and the front roller door up. Person/s unknown have stolen a ride on lawn mower.

Break, Enter and Steal:

Between 17:00 on Sunday 19 March 2017 and 09:00 on Monday 20 March 2017.

Unknown person/s have gained entry to the stated location being a residence in Bathurst St, Singleton by forcing the padlock on the ground floor front double swing out doors by unknown means. The doors were discovered closed but not secured.

Once inside offender/s have moved through the shed and at time of report it appears large tool carry bag containing various Ryobi battery tools and chain saw stolen.

No persons at the location at time of break and enter.

Property Stolen: chain saw, various power tools in carry bag

Stolen Vehicle:

Between 15:30 on Saturday 18 March 2017 and 05:30 on Monday 20 March 2017 vehicle 729TKK 2000 WHITE TOYOTA LANDCRUISER UTILITY, was parked and secured at the stated location being Kime Rd, Mount Thorley.

Unknown person/s have gained entry to the stated location by cutting a hole in the rear fence and stealing the vehicle by unknown means and method.

Person reporting believes the offender/s decamped the location by driving the vehicle through the rear fence (found knocked down, separate to hole cut).

Attempted stolen vehicle:

At the same date and time vehicle 1999 WHITE TOYOTA LANDCRUISER? PANEL?VAN/WINDOWS/SEATS, was parked and secured at the stated location.

Unknown person/s have attempted to steal the vehicle by jemmying open the nearside front door (found damaged and open) and then removing the ignition barrel by unknown means and method.

Stolen Vehicle:

Between 17:00 on Sunday 19 March 2017 and 06:30 on Monday 20 March 2017 vehicle AL31DL - 2006 BLUE NISSAN TIIDA SEDAN, was parked and secured at the stated location being Greenwood Lane, Singleton. Unknown person/s have stolen the vehicle by unknown means and method.

HRPCA/MVA:

TIME/DATE: 1530hrs, 19/03/2017.

LOC: Macquarie St x George St, Singleton.

RE: MVA / HRPCA.

POI: Male, aged 55 from Singleton
VEHI: Green Ford Falcon Station wagon.

Around 1530hrs on Sunday 19th March 2017, the accused has travelled in his vehicle from Buchan Ave, Singleton to William Street by unknown path. The accused turned left off William Street onto George Street, Singleton and onto the wrong side of the road missing oncoming traffic travelling South bound. This was observed by a passer by who had contacted Police. The accused has travelled roughly 50 metres along George St, Singleton before turning right in Macquarie Street, Singleton. The accused has collided with a turn left only sign on the right hand side of the road.

Due to the impact, several persons opposite the road on George Street at the Shell Service Station have heard the collision. The accused was seen to reverse his vehicle and has driven off along Macquarie Street before turning left onto High Street.

The accused has pulled over on High Street and exited his vehicle to examine the damage sustained to his vehicle.

Whilst examining his vehicle, the witnesses had sighted the accused examining the damage to his vehicle and have pulled up near him. The accused

has re-entered the drivers seat of his vehicle and has attempted to start his vehicle. The witnesses have grabbed the accused keys to prevent him from driving as they believed he was highly intoxicated.

Police arrived on scene and sighted the accused next to his vehicle. Police spoke to a witness who approached Police stating that they had taken the keys off the driver as he was attempting to start his vehicle. The accused was approached and breath tested in which he produced a positive reading. The accused was informed that he was under arrest for the purposes of a breath Analysis. An ambulance attended the location and checked over the accused who had no injuries. The accused was searched before being placed into the back of the Police vehicle and conveyed back to Singleton Police Station.

The accused was introduced to the Custody Manager and was submitted to a breath analysis that returned a result of 0.281 grams of alcohol in 210 litres of breath.

Due to the high range reading the accused licence was immediately suspended. The accused was charged with Drive with High Range PCA – 1st offence. He is to appear at Singleton Local Court on the 13th April 2017.

2016 Darwin Awards

AND THE WINNER IS....



Zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt (Paderborn , Germany) fed his constipated elephant 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally got relief. Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded. The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr Riesfeldt to the ground where he struck his head on a rock as the elephant continued to evacuate 200 pounds of dung on top of him. It seems to be just one of those freak accidents that proves... 'Sh't happens'

Third Place (I think should have won!)

After stepping around a marked police patrol car parked at the front door, a man walked into H&J Leather & Firearms intent on robbing the store. The shop was full of customers and a uniformed officer was standing at the counter. Upon seeing the officer, the would-be robber announced a hold-up and fired a few wild shots from a target pistol. The officer and a clerk promptly returned fire, and several customers also drew their guns and fired. The robber was pronounced dead at the scene by Paramedics. Crime scene investigators located 47 expended cartridge cases in the shop. The subsequent autopsy revealed 23 gunshot wounds. Ballistics identified rounds from 7 different weapons. No one else was hurt.

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IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPORTANT TO THANK THESE PEOPLE FOR REMOVING THEMSELVES FROM THE GENE POOL.

HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR REGIONAL EVENTS Organisers of new and emerging rural and regional events held between July and December this year are being urged to apply for the NSW Government's 2017 Incubator Event Fund, with round two applications now open. The Incubator Event Fund offers one-off grants of up to \$20,000 to event organisers who are staging an

event for the first or second time. Regional events are a wonderful celebration of community culture, run by locals and a fantastic opportunity to showcase local wine and food producers, artists, craftspeople, and musicians. The Incubator Event Fund provides seed funding to innovative new events to help them through their initial establishment phase and assists with elements such as event staging costs, marketing, publicity and research and is focused on getting more events into rural and regional NSW, and increasing overnight visitation and expenditure. Administered by Destination NSW, applications for round two of the 2017 Incubator Event Fund are open until Sunday, 2 April 2017. To lodge an

application and to view the 2017 Incubator Event Fund criteria, visit destinationnsw.com.au/rfep.
UBER ARRIVES IN THE HUNTER VALLEY Tourists arriving in the Hunter Valley will now be able to open the Uber app and order a car when the ride-sharing service expands into our region. Uber, which has about 58,000 drivers nationally, started services in Wollongong, Townsville and the Hunter Valley as well as Cairns on March 16, adding to its existing regional services in Newcastle, Byron Bay, Geelong, Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast. The ride-share group has targeted expansion in NSW and Queensland because it is more affordable for drivers to comply with state regulations.

What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

The following is an editorial from the Courier Mail published on the 22nd March 2017. Worth reading.

FREEDOM of speech has always been a question of balance, with people at liberty to make strong criticism or so-called small slights but not allowed to cause panic by shouting fire in a crowded theatre, strike fear through abuse, or vilify someone with racial hate. Society must find a balance that respects people and gives the greatest freedom possible for expression and creativity. Australia has in recent years had trouble with this balance, with a debate about how the Racial Discrimination Act is used to promote or restrict freedom of speech. At one end of this debate are those who want speech to be as unfettered as possible,

while others want refuge in legal protections that cover such things as "insult, offend and humiliate". For some, these triggers, which were included in the law 22 years ago, are too broad and could catch everything from an ironic Facebook post to a newspaper cartoon. The infamous cases of the late Bill Leak's searing cartoon commentary on parental responsibility in indigenous communities and the Queensland University of Technology students who ridiculed an indigenous-only computer lab have inflamed debate and focused attention on what is regarded as a barrier to free expression. The Turnbull Government has responded to these genuine concerns and decided to take the words "insult, offend or humiliate" out of Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act and replace them with the higher test of "harass or intimidate". As Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said, the previous test was too broad and could easily sweep up "small slights" that were never meant to be harmful and should not be subject to

litigation. When someone throws an insult at another person, more often than not it is a casual reference that is only meant to hurt as a barb, not as an attempt to cause fear and real intimidation. The QUT case has been the standout abuse of these powers under the Racial Discrimination Act, despite the Federal Court dismissing the suit against the students. What really showed was how the Human Rights Commission could lose its grip on reality. Despite the case being thrown out, the students were effectively hounded for four years, had their reputations dragged through the legal and social mud, and had to endure costs of \$30,000. This was an abuse of power in anyone's language and shows why the Act needs reform and the commission needs to be reined in. It should surely be possible for reasonable people to respect not just the feelings of others but the community's expectations about what constitutes real racial offence and hurt. Also, the Human Rights Commission needs to pay more attention to those expectations, gauging swiftly whether something is vexatious or trivial and dealing with it appropri-



ately. The Government's next challenge will be to get these commonsense changes through Parliament. Labor has slammed the proposal reflexively – playing the politics of identity rather than seeking common ground – and the Greens are not going to take any weap-

ons away from the human rights industry. Other crossbenchers look like being problematic because the changes either go too far or are not robust enough. It would be a great pity if the proposals Mr Turnbull and Attorney-General George Brandis have come up with are discarded because of

short-term political game playing. This has been the result of a parliamentary committee, which consulted widely, and a detailed debate within the Coalition parties and the community. We would all benefit if the Government was allowed to get its changes through the Parliament and attention could return to im-

portant economic and budgetary issues. MPs to change their vote. Penalty rates are not are luxury. They're what puts food on the table and pays the bills for so many families. Taking money away from low-income earners is simply wrong. People earning a low wage live from pay-day to pay-day. Their budgets are tight and a hefty reduction in their wage can be devastating. It can also lead to homelessness and helplessness. Malcolm Turnbull's Coalition Government is standing by and doing absolutely nothing while the penalty rates of nearly 11,505 workers in the Hunter could be cut. Malcolm Turnbull has the power to stop these devastating pay cuts to workers, that's why the more people who speak up and add their name, the more pressure we can put on the Government to change their mind and protect penalty rates.



A fair go for all Canada banned foreign investment in housing a few years ago as it disadvantaged the ordinary Canadian citizen. It was obvious back then that Australia would attract these investors, but our government did nothing to protect young Australians who were trying to enter the housing market. So, along with negative gearing and foreign investors, what chance do first home buyers have of getting a property? Governments should remember they were elected to represent the interests of their electorate, not foreign investors or only negative gearers. Helen Lowing, North Rothbury Section 18C: Why must we be told how to relate to each other? Why should the government and the judiciary be the moral arbiters of how we speak and relate to each other? Do we really need to be infantilised by our government in such a way?

Surely regulating how we speak and relate to each other is a matter best left to us. We should rely on our social conventions, rather than on laws and regulations, to set the parameters for such a fundamental right as the right to speak and communicate freely. We should have at least as much, if not more, faith in the good sense of our fellow Australians, than in our politicians and judges. If someone speaks or behaves insultingly or offensively, so be it. Let them out themselves and discredit themselves for all to see. Section 18C may have been intended to protect society against racism. But instead, ironically, it has become a club to silence those who

would seek to support that very objective by promoting free and open debate. We have seen the ill-named Australian Human Rights Commission bludgeon and hound the brave Bill Leak to an early grave. Surely this is ample warning of the dangers inherent when such an illiberal piece of legislation is put into the hands of an authoritarian government. Geoff Bloch, Caulfield No cuts I have launched a petition calling on the Liberal-National Government to reverse their position and stop the cuts to Sunday penalty rates that will see up to 700,000 Australian workers be as much as \$77 a week worse off. Malcolm Turnbull, the Liberals and Nationals voted to block laws that

would stop the cuts to penalty rates. Malcolm Turnbull said, "That was the considered decision of the Fair Work Commission, and we accept that decision. We support the decision of the independent umpire because it is their decision." We all know the Liberals, the party who introduced WorkChoices, have long been campaigning for cuts to penalty rates. Labor is the only party that can be trusted to look after workers and their penalty rates and will introduce legislation into the Parliament to do so. I'm urging all Australians to go to www.ProtectOurPenaltyRates.org.au and sign the petition. I will be campaigning with the community to send a clear message to Coalition

Joel Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter

Wanted If anyone has any information they may have regarding a hit and run on Saturday 25/03/2017 between 7.30pm-8.30pm heading towards Greta, past the pool, not far past the 80km sign but before the T intersection. This resulted in our beautiful chocolate Labrador passing away. She was found on the road by some beautiful people who moved her off the road, stayed with her till she passed, then took her with them. Abby, Felicity & Jess and all who were there, you went over and beyond for our precious family member and for that we are

forever grateful. However, I want to find the person that hit her to ask why they didn't stop and help her, even at the least call a vet. A silver commodore was mentioned being seen in the area? If anyone has info, number plates or a name?.. Please. Having to tell our 3 young children that their best friend is dead is devastating, but knowing that she suffered is heart shattering. So, please anyone who may know something, can you come forward and let us know. Thanking you in anticipation. The Fawell Family, Branxton

Emergency Phone Numbers

Dial 000 FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED	Police Branxton..... 4938 1244 Lochinvar... 4930 7209 Ambulance 131 233 NSW Fire Brigade Branxton..... 4938 3396 Rural Fire Brigades Belford..... 6574 7149 Broke..... 6579 1491 Greta..... 4015 0000 Bishops Bdg 4015 0000 Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury... 4015 0000 Pokolbin... 4015 0000 Rothbury... 4991 1733 Bishops Bdg 4015 0000 Nth R'bury... 4015 0000 Rothbury... 4015 0000 Pokolbin... 4015 0000 Rothbury... 4991 1733 Scotts Flat..... 6574 5186 Central (Cessnock)... 4015 0000	Electricity Energy Australia..... 131 388 Hospitals Maitland... 4939 2000 Cessnock... 4991 0555 Singleton... 6572 2799 SES132 500 Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 Poisons Info 131 126 Hunter Water 1300 657 000 Ausgrid 131 388 Gas Emergencies .131 909 Lifeline.....131 114 Mental Health Line 1800 011 511 Domestic Violence Support 4990 9609 Centrelink Self Service 136 240 Medicare 132 011 Native Animal Rescue 0418 628 483
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Council on a mission to secure the Queen's Baton Relay!



• Photo above: Jan Williams, Councillor Suvaal & Mayor Pynsent

Cessnock City Council is calling for the Queen's Baton Relay for the 2018 Commonwealth Games to go via the Hunter Valley. Councillors unanimously supported an urgency motion put forward by Councillor Jay Suvaal to write to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation and request that the Hunter Valley vineyards be included in the relay. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed the motion and commended Councillor Suvaal. "This is a fantastic idea and a great opportunity for not only our residents, who would no doubt turn out in their thousands to support the event, but also to promote our wonderful region". Councillor Suvaal said he hopes the request is

considered positively, as Cessnock is the perfect backdrop for the iconic relay. "Our proximity combined with our naturally beautiful landscape makes us an ideal location for the Queen's Baton Relay and we know the community would be incredibly excited to host the event", said Cr Suvaal. The 2000 Sydney Olympic Torch Relay stopped off overnight in Cessnock attracting thousands of locals and visitors. Mayor Pynsent said it was a memorable night and great to see so many of the community involved including local torch bearers. Jan Williams a torch bearer in the Sydney Olympic Torch Relay said she'd like to see the Queen's Relay diverted to Cessnock. "It was a once in a lifetime

experience to be involved in the Sydney Olympic Torch Relay and I would love to see the Queen's Relay give special community members that unique experience", Mrs Williams

said. Residents are being encouraged to nominate local batonbearers for the Queen's Baton Relay for the 2018 Commonwealth Games at <https://www.gc2018.com/>.

Caring for Hunter River Reserve, Greta – Have your say !



Residents are invited to have their say at a free public information session on Monday 10 April in Greta about the management and conservation of Hunter River Reserve, Greta. Cessnock City Council together with Hunter Council's Environment Division is requesting the communities input on a number of on-ground activities that will assist with the management of the bushland reserve. These include:

- Reserve access
- Recreational

facilities
Walking tracks
The 8 hectare reserve contains Lower Hunter Dry Rainforest, one of the last remaining forests of its kind on the foreshore of the Lower Hunter. The reserve also contains important local historical and cultural values. The information session will also provide an opportunity to find out about the planned activities over the next three years. These include bush regeneration works to restore three endangered ecological communities,

release of the Madeira Vine Biocontrol Beetle and information on future community events. For more information contact Senior Ecologist Eva Twarkowski on 4978 4029 or 0411 570 876 or Cessnock City Council's Principal Natural Environment Planner Ian Turnbull on 4993 4276 or 0427 489 414.

Where: Hunter River Reserve Lookout, off Orient Street, Greta
When: Monday 10 April
Time: 8am to 9am

If you require assistance please call Mike on
0414 757 826

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

**FROM THE MAYORS DESK
17 March 2017**



The Seniors Festival 2017 has finished after more than two week of events, giving everyone the opportunity to celebrate the senior members of our community. It was encouraging to see the events well attended and a sea of smiles. I attended a variety of events, ranging from the Walking Basketball, the Elders Afternoon Tea, Abermain Concert, the open day at the Cessnock Men's Shed, Kurri Kurri Women's Shed, Seniors Choir Concert, CPAC Concert and the Old Brush Visit.

While the events all differed, one thing was noticeably the same, every person at each activity was clearly enjoying themselves. The partnership with Calvary in a joint Seniors Expo and Vintage Car Display illustrated the value in our community working together. This is what Seniors Week is all about, getting everyone involved and connecting people in our community.

A huge thank you must be extended to the members of our dedicated Seniors Week Committee. Their commitment to community and hard work is imperative to bringing the Seniors Festival 2017 to life. Congratulations, it was a real success and Council certainly looks forward to building on our achievements next year.

We are now gearing up for Youth Week, which commences on the 31 March and runs until the 9 April. Once again the Youth Week Organising Committee has done an exceptional job in working together to coordinate over 30 activities for our young people to enjoy.

There are activities on offer to young people aged between 12-25, and we are proud to announce the 2017 program is our most accessible yet, with every single activity catering to young people with a disability. For a full program of activities, please visit cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/youth-week.

The garden organics service has now officially completed its first two weeks of service and the results are fantastic for our Cessnock local government area. In the first week household collections totalled 107 tonnes which is 25% of the total material collected from households in their two bins. A long standing record was broken with one garbage truck emptying 700 garbage bins in a load compared to 500 before the garden organics service commenced. A brilliant result showing this service is having a real impact on reducing the amount of waste going to landfill in our community.

Residents who have questions about the service should call 1800 870 250 or visit

<http://www.yourorganicsbin.com.au/contact-us/>.

Cheers, Bob



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

It's fitting that as we came together to celebrate Harmony Day at the weekend – an initiative to engage people to participate in their community – Council was preparing to place the draft Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 on public exhibition from today, 29 March.

The strategy is important because it will drive the 10-year vision for the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA) and accordingly, Council's Delivery and Operational plans for the lifetime of the document. Every service, every inclusion on our asset maintenance and improvement schedule, every major project will have its roots in the Community Strategic Plan.

But what is most important about the Community Strategic Plan is that it was written by you, the people of Singleton. The draft is the product of input from more than 2,000 people who attended workshops, filled in surveys or posted a comment online as part of an extensive engagement process last year.

You told us you wanted improved connectivity to the river, a water park or water activities within parks, diverse local jobs, an art gallery and performing arts centre, improvements to Lake St Clair, better business collaborations, more sporting events, a more diverse nighttime economy and more cafes and restaurants, to name a few.

Some of the issues raised, such as progress on the Singleton bypass and other highway improvements, 24-hour policing in Singleton, health services and increased public transport options, will inform Council's role as an advocate to other levels of government.

But many of the suggestions are already being actioned, and will be the targets for Council's direction for the next 10 years.

Funding has already been announced for some major projects, such as the Singleton Regional Livestock Markets Upgrade, Brookers and Cranky Corner Road bridges and the Bulga and Camberwell water supply schemes, and considerable planning and design work is complete. That means construction of these projects are significant inclusions in Council's draft four-year Delivery Plan, which is also on exhibition from today.

The draft Delivery Plan shows more than \$100 million will be injected into the maintenance and improvement of community assets over the next four years to ensure our community has the standard of facilities you deserve, and the realisation of the long-term vision you have for Singleton.

The draft Community Strategic Plan, along with draft Delivery Program 2017-2021 and draft Resourcing Strategy will be on exhibition for one final opportunity for input or feedback before it is adopted by Council. I encourage everyone to take a look at the result of your input and take pride in the contribution you have made to your community. Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

**Raising the BARR –
THE GOVERNMENT IS ABOUT TO
SELL YOUR PRIVATE DETAILS**

It feels like almost every day, every time that I fill out a form, that I have to give away so many of my personal details. Having said that, I can't remember any time when I have had to give out more details and personal information then when I took out a home loan. It felt like there couldn't be a single other thing that could be asked, or known, about my entire life. And you know what, at the time, I really didn't mind that much. It seemed like a small sacrifice for what I considered the ultimate prize – a Title of home ownership.

So for the past 20 years my personal information has been held by my bank and by the Land Registry of NSW. It is difficult to know exactly who holds what, but the personal information is out there and it is attached to my Title and my mortgage. I guess that I have had a trust, or a faith, that the Public Servants that had access to my details really didn't have any interest or need to use my information.

The decision by the Government to privatise, sell-off, outsource the Land Registry completely dismantles the privacy of my details. In the coming weeks, the Government will sign over all of this, to a new private owner, who just quietly, is based in the Cayman Islands and pays almost zero tax to our country or state.

My private details are going to be in the hands of a private company. That private company has a vested interest in going through my details, "farming" my information for any little chestnut that can help them make a dollar. Or maybe they will just sell my information to a 3rd or 4th or 5th company so that they can make money out of me.

Now the Government have said that this won't happen. But that is a load of bollocks! Think for a second about the Russian interference in the US Presidential elections. I can tell you with absolute certainty, written in Legislation and Contract, that the Government has no capacity, no way, no means to prevent the new owner of the Land Registry from doing the information "farming", nor does the NSW Government have any means or rights to investigate whether or not the new owner has "farmed" the information. I guess we will just have to "trust" the new owner to do the right thing.

* * * * *

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



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Parliament is sitting again this week and will then break until May 9 when the Treasurer will deliver his Budget. (Please remember, MPs also work when Parliament is not sitting!) So there is plenty of unfinished business to tidy up this week including the issue of penalty rates. As I write, One Nation is effectively threatening to go on strike in the Senate unless the Government intervenes in a dispute between Queensland sugar cane growers and the companies who mill their product. The Nick Xenophon Team is also threatening to go on strike unless the Government does something about the energy crisis. So things don't bode well for a successful week!

When the Government is so weak its legislative agenda (good or bad) is held to ransom, you know it is in trouble. The sugar dispute has been dragging on for 18 months and thankfully, a resolution is close. Commonwealth intervention at this point only threatens to extend the dispute further but that hasn't stopped One Nation from trying to capitalise on it with a populists call for intervention.

Nick Xenophon is right to blame the Turnbull Government for the energy crisis but it is not going to fix the problems it has created this week. So his threat seems a bit hollow. Senators should vote for or against legislation on its merits. Going on strike to secure demands on other unrelated matters only threatens the national interest.

Having visited the Upper Hunter, the Gonski Bus arrived in Canberra last week. The campaign has been an effective one, but sadly, it appears the Turnbull Government remains determined to impose its funding cuts.

Local teachers will be devastated if the programs they've been able to put into place to improve student outcomes have to be dismantled. The whole community should join them in their disappointment.

The Gonski reforms represent our best chance of breaking youth and intergenerational unemployment. Funding our schools on a "needs basis" is also critical to restoring and maintaining our international competitiveness.

The Prime Minister should take his generous tax cuts to the big end-of-town off the table and fund Gonski on an ongoing basis. It's absolutely in the national interest.

I remain determined to ensure the Hunter continues to play a key role in our energy markets. Only stubbornness stands in the way of us remaining the State's powerhouse. Consolidating our position as the primary provider of affordable and reliable power – coal, gas and renewable – will be good for jobs, our economy and the environment. Let's get on with it!

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

**UPPER HUNTER COMMUNITY
URGED TO MAKE EVERY JOURNEY
A SAFE ONE THIS EASTER**

I urge motorists to make every journey a safe one this Easter in a bid to drive the road toll down Towards Zero on Upper Hunter roads.

Of the 384 lives lost on NSW roads last year, 73 were from the Hunter region. This is 14 more fatalities than in 2015 where 59 people were killed and 1,357 people seriously injured in the Hunter region.

Last year's 2016 Easter road toll saw two fatalities on NSW roads and this year our goal is zero.

The NSW Government has also announced that in addition to targeted Police enforcement to deter dangerous behaviour such as speed, drink-driving and non-seat belt use, people can expect to see more education and awareness campaigns in high-risk locations over the Easter break.

There's no such thing as safe speeding, for every kilometre you're over the speed limit you're not only endangering your own life, but those of all other road users. It's also a reminder that no matter whether you're driving a long or short trip, fatigue can strike at any time. In fact being awake for 17 hours has a similar effect on your performance and reaction time behind the wheel as a blood alcohol content above the legal limit, so if you're feeling tired pull over and take a break.

Double demerits will be in force this Easter from midnight Wednesday 12 April to midnight Monday 17 April and again for the holiday period from midnight Thursday 20 April to midnight Tuesday 25 April.

Drivers are encouraged to stay informed and for the latest updates on NSW road conditions visit:

www.livetraffic.com

Moving right to stay upright: April Falls Day ~ Elderly members of the community and their family members are reminded to find out how they can prevent the risk of a fall in the lead up to this year's April Falls Day, after more than ninety-five thousand people in NSW had a fall last year serious enough to require an ambulance.

Ninety thousand people in NSW were admitted to hospital for treatment of their fall-related injuries, which can include concussion, spinal damage, broken limbs, and head and facial injuries.

This year's April Falls Day – 3rd April 2017 – is a state-wide initiative aimed at reducing the number of falls. The month of April is Falls Month, when best practice is promoted as part of the effort for falls prevention among health and residential aged care service providers and across the community.

A common cause for falls is the loss of muscle mass and strength (sarcopenia), which can sometimes occur with age, and in turn affects balance, gait and overall ability to move around safely. Other causes of falls in the elderly are side effects of medication, and confusion or dementia that can both have an effect on balance.

A summary of state-wide initiatives is compiled in

www.fallsnetwork.neura.edu.au/news/

Cheers, Michael

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



sustainable future.

We have fresh fruit and veg boxes being delivered to preschool for our families who want to order. The fruit and veg company then donate \$5 from every box back to preschool and we are using this money to regenerate our existing veggie gardens. So far we have raised \$300 over the past 5 weeks. Thank you to all our families and Educators who are supporting this fundraiser each week.

Our Easter Raffle prizes are coming in and tickets are being sold. All money raised is going towards further work in our veggie gardens. We are hoping to get a shade sail over part of this area to allow us to maintain different herbs and produce that requires some shade.

We have been celebrating different cultures for the last few weeks of this term. We have had a local Henna Artist come in to show her traditional Indian culture to the children. We hope to continue this relationship with Meenu and have her come and share more of her culture with the children through cooking, painting and traditional customs and dress. We also

have a visit from Benji performing African drumming next week and in our last week of Preschool we have Aaron from Bob Turner Wildlife coming in to show the children lots of Australian reptiles and insects.

Harmony week promotes a sense of belonging for everyone. If anyone in our community would be willing to share some of their culture with the children at preschool through story, song or even cooking please give us a call we would love to connect with our local community.

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 8th March and we welcome all our new Committee Members 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 work. Two of our Educators also attended a workshop called Managing



Challenging Behaviours at Maitland on 13th March. Both Shay and Anne gained some new ideas and perspectives on how to support not only the child but the families who are dealing with some challenging behaviours. A special thank you to Hunter Prelude for including us in this training opportunity.

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.



PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

IMMUNISATIONS FACTS

Vaccines will help keep you healthy. It is recommended you have vaccinations throughout your life to protect against many infections. When you skip vaccines, you leave yourself vulnerable to illnesses such as shingles, pneumococcal disease, influenza, whooping cough and other diseases.

Vaccine-preventable diseases haven't gone away. For 2015 the Australian National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System reported that 60782 people got sick from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Viruses and bacteria that cause illness and death still exist and can be passed on to those who are not protected by vaccines. In a time when people can travel across the globe in just one day, it's obvious just how easily diseases can travel too.

Vaccines are as important to your overall health as diet and exercise. Like eating healthy foods, exercising, and getting regular check-ups, vaccines play a vital role in keeping you healthy.

Vaccines are one of the most effective and safest preventive care measures available.

Vaccination can mean the difference between life and death.

Vaccine-preventable infections are dangerous. Tens of thousands of deaths of Australian children were prevented during the 20th century, by immunization and the benefits have been supplemented by the introduction of newer vaccines. Rotavirus vaccine has reduced hospital admissions and deaths from infant diarrhea, hepatitis B and human papilloma virus vaccines have protected thousands of adults from liver and cervical cancer respectively, and many others have prevented



infections in travellers or people who are at risk of exposure to exotic infections.

Vaccines are safe. Safety research and testing underpin every aspect of vaccine development and manufacture in Australia. Before vaccines are made available for use, they are rigorously tested in thousands of people in progressively larger clinical trials that are strictly monitored for safety. The results of these trials form the foundation for an ongoing process of testing and monitoring that lasts for the lifetime of each vaccine. All vaccines registered in Australia by the Therapeutic

Goods Administration (TGA) are evaluated to ensure they are effective, comply with strict manufacturing and production standards, and have a strong safety record. This includes stringent testing for each vaccine component, including preservatives, additives and vaccine adjuvants. It can take up to 10 years for a vaccine to be approved for use. Vaccines are among the safest products in all of medicine.

Vaccines won't give you the disease they are designed to prevent. You cannot "catch" the disease from the vaccine. Some vaccines contain "killed" virus, and it is impossible to get the disease from them. Others have live, but weakened, viruses designed to ensure that you can not catch the disease.

Young and healthy people can get very sick, too.

Infants and the elderly are at a greater risk of serious infections and complications in many cases, but vaccine-preventable diseases can strike anyone. If you're young and healthy, getting vaccinated can help you stay that way.

When you get sick, your children, grandchildren and parents are at risk, too.

A vaccine-preventable disease that might make you sick for a week or two could prove deadly for your children, grandchildren, or parents if it spreads to them. When you get vaccinated, you're protecting yourself and your family. For example, adults are the most common source of pertussis (whooping cough) infection in infants, which can be deadly for them.

As term one slowly draws to an end we are busy putting the finishing touches on what has been a great start to the year.

We have hosted a parent morning tea meet and greet to introduce parents to each other and begin to make friendships with families within our community. Building positive supportive relationships with our families. Special thanks to Greta McDonalds for hosting these morning teas for us.

We also supported Clean Up Australia Day and had the crew from McDonalds come in to talk to the children about looking after our environment and the need to recycle, reuse and reduce waste. The children took part in cleaning up their preschool grounds and learnt how to care for their environment for our



Anzac biscuits

The recipe for these iconic biscuits was designed to have maximum nutritional value (hence the oats) and to be able to stay



fresh on the long sea journeys to reach soldiers in Gallipoli (hence no eggs in the mix). Their lovely, dark flavour comes from using treacle or golden syrup as a binding agent. Bake a batch, store them in a decorative old tin, just like they were sent over in, and spare a thought

Ingredients:

- 125g (1/2 block) fairy margarine
- 3 tablespoons golden syrup
- 1/2 teaspoon bicarb soda
- 2 tablespoons hot water
- 150g (1 cup) plain flour, sifted
- 110g (1/2 cup) caster sugar
- 90g (1 cup) desiccated coconut
- 90g (1 cup) rolled oats

Tips & Hints:

- Store in an airtight container.

Method:

1. Pre-heat oven to 150°C. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper
2. Melt fairy and golden syrup in a small saucepan over a low heat. Add the bicarb soda mixed with water
3. Combine the dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl, pour melted fairy mixture into the centre and mix together
4. Roll heaped tablespoons of the mixture place on the prepared trays. Flatten the mix down with the palm of your hand until approx. 1cm
5. Bake for 10 -12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a cooling rack



overview of what will be available at Greta Medical Centre when the new extensions are complete. At the completion of the talks, blood pressure and blood sugar levels were taken with Dr JJ arranging follow-ups if she thought it necessary.

Contacts:
 President Kevin Bell
 P: 4938 6089 or 0467 314 211
 47A Branxton Street, GRETA
 NSW 2334
 Email:
bgshed@gmail.com or
kevinbell.2@bigpond.com
 All welcome.

■ Photo: (L-R) Vice President Jim Cahill, Student Ryan Barton, President Kevin Bell, Nurse Ellen More, Dr JJ, Paul Pal



The members of the Branxton Greta Men's Shed would like to thank very much the staff of the Greta Medical Centre for attending our shed on Wednesday 22nd March. Dr Jiwan Jyoti or Dr JJ, spoke on aspects of men's & women's health and things that we can do to

maintain our health in older age. Sydney University Student Ryan Barton then spoke about several matters including cardiovascular disease and diabetes and the effects of life style changes in us affecting the outcomes. Paul Pal then gave an

HUNTER SENIORS FORUMS

Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon MP invites all local seniors to join him at his Hunter Seniors Forums to be held in Cessnock and Morisset on April 6. The forums are free, informative events that aim to educate locals on the range of services available to seniors. Guest speakers from the local police, My Aged Care and the Department of Human Services will be on hand to answer questions. There will also be information packs and resources available on a range of topics including Centrelink, Telstra and the NBN. All are welcome.



THURSDAY APRIL 6

MORISSET

Where: Morisset Country Club
 Dora Street Morisset
When: 9am-11am

CESSNOCK

Where: Cessnock Leagues Club
 1 Darwin Street, Cessnock
When: 1-3pm

Please RSVP by calling Joel Fitzgibbon's electorate office on **4991 1022** or email joel.fitzgibbon.mp@aph.gov.au

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Real News Estate



Real Estate Sleep Out targets \$500,000

Auctioneer Damien Cooley is calling on real estate agents to sleep out on Bondi beach on 24 July 2017 to help raise \$500,000 for Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets. Last year Damien, Director of Cooley Auctions and REINSW Board Member, organised the first ever Real Estate Sleep Out event. A total of 104 people slept

out on Bondi beach and helped raise over \$134,000 for Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets, but this year Damien is targeting 500 agents to sleep out and wants to raise \$500,000. Damien said: "Youth Off The Streets is an incredible organisation and a charity that take kids off the street and gives them a brighter future. "We have an opportunity to make a huge difference but we need the support of 500 agents to go out to their

networks and raise money which will help make a big difference in young people's lives." On any given night in Australia over 44,000 young people are homeless. Youth Off The Streets offers care to young people aged 12 - 22 who are homeless, abused, suffering from addiction or in general need of help. Anyone interested in sleeping out can register for \$55 here. Alternatively you can donate.

Father Chris Riley said: "The Real Estate Sleep Out was amazing because we have been looking for something magic to raise money but have never been able to nail it. "The donations which come to us are really crucial. We keep opening new services and people believe in us because we do that. "I hope the Real Estate Sleep Out will change the landscape of our fundraising."

Problems with the new strata laws

Over 90 new strata law changes began on 30 November 2016, but how is the new legislation working in practice and what needs changing? REINSW Strata Management Chapter Committee members, Gary

Adamson and Carolynne Pitt shared their thoughts on the laws and what needs improving. For more information on the new laws, visit REINSW's strata Hot Topics page where you can access the new legislation, find an updated strata agency agreement, Proxy Appointment Form, summary document of the main legal changes, and more.

Gary Adamson, Managing Director of Strata Management Services NSW

"A lot of the new legislation is what we wanted for over a decade, however there are some idiosyncrasies which have created more work and don't provide benefits to anybody.

'Statement of key financial information'

"There is also a new form called 'statement of key financial information' in a prescribed format which the average person simply cannot understand.

"The majority of people are untrained in accounting and only understand the basic format of a profit and loss account and balance sheet, and are completely lost with this new format. I am a qualified chartered accountant and even I have difficulty understanding it."

New animal by-law

Gary added that the new Schedule 2 model by-laws of the 2016 Regulations automatically apply to

strata schemes registered before 1 July 1997, with an option to accept the new animal's by-law. This excludes the former by-laws of 'no animals' and the no smoking option, which is included in the new optional Schedule 3 model by-laws.

"The former 2010 model by-laws provided an indication of the type of animal which could be kept, but the new model by-laws provide no indication on what type or size of animal is acceptable - so someone could apply for an elephant and still comply with the new model by-law.

"This new model by-law needs to be amended to be clear, and this clarification needs to be drafted separately now by each strata scheme prior to being passed and registered. This is somewhat inefficient and could be resolved by including an indication about size and type of animal."

Unnecessary admin work

Gary added that parts of the new Act have also resulted in a substantial amount of additional and unnecessary administration work. This includes the requirement to convene tenants' meetings, provide a copy of the strata schemes records each year, keep records for seven years instead of five, and keep records of every delegated authority.

"These matters have

increased strata managers' workloads significantly, which is increasing strata owners' levies to cover the cost with no perceivable benefit."

Carolynne Pitt, Strata Manager at Gilbey Strata Management Pty Limited

"The new legislation has created a phenomenal amount of extra work."

Minor renovations

"The new legislation surrounding minor renovations that can be approved by the owners corporation in a general meeting without the need for a by-law, creates issues.

"We have been reliably advised by a solicitor that any conditions imposed by the owners corporation on the approval will transfer to any successor in title.

"This effectively means that a minor works register must be maintained that runs parallel with the by-laws because those conditions, even though they are minuted, will not be remembered in 10-15 years' time when a property is sold and the inspection on the books and records is only done for the past seven years."

Tenant meetings

"I agree with tenant meetings for commercial, industrial and retail properties where most tenants are on a 5x5 lease with options and therefore have a vested interest in how the property is run and what is being done to maintain or

improve the property. "However from our experience on the residential side there is complete apathy. Tenant meetings are being convened and minutes completed (at expense to the strata scheme) where there are no tenants attending." Carolynne has also called for clarification from NSW Fair Trading on statutory warranties to be discussed at each AGM on if they are to be associated with new buildings only, or all buildings.

Proxies

"The new proxy rulings are creating issues because owners and agents are only able to hold 5% of the total units worth of proxies and owners are increasingly frustrated that their vote may not count.

"This will prove very difficult when a controversial motion is placed on an agenda and a person is sent multiple proxies and can only use one. Which one do they use if the proxies are voting differing ways?"

"There are many other areas of the new legislation that are creating a lot of extra administration work for strata managers and others that work with the strata industry (solicitors, insurers etc).

"It will not be apparent how some sections of the legislation are to be interpreted until there are tribunal cases that owners and managers can rely on. Until then we will do the best we can to keep our owners happy and well informed."

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The News



Where to get your copy.....

THE Branxton Greta Vineyards News is now in its 20th year of publication with this edition being the 450th. In that time we have evolved from mono print (black & white) on a A4 format to a tabloid print in full colour & our own website.

In that 20 years the evolution of the 'world wide web' has changed the newspaper industry's methodology of the distribution of 'news' & at the same time journalism is going through an existential crisis. Facebook has become the biggest media platform in

information on devices ranging from desktop PCs to tablets to smartphones, We now break news, add commentary and interact with audiences on social networks like Twitter and Facebook. Google has put access to an unimaginable collection of knowledge at our fingertips. The iPhone

and Android have put a virtual newsroom—with writing, photo, video, Web research and communications capabilities—into our pockets. We gasp at the inexorable decline of the business models of once-mighty traditional media corporations, hollowing out newsrooms and throwing thousands of people out of once-secure jobs. In short, we're living through one of the most remarkable revolutions in history, the complete remaking of how we cover and consume news and information. It's difficult to remember things the way they were. Trust in media and journalism is at an all-time low. All of which means

that independent "accountability journalism" is more important than ever before. Here at The News we are very proud of what we have achieved in the past 20 years & it is our intention to continue as a local 'parish pump' publication &, with the help of modern digital technology, to stay abreast with the times. The News is now not delivered to households in Branxton & Greta but still delivered house to house in the outlying areas such as Elderslie, Stanhope, Pokolbin, Rothbury & North Rothbury. In Branxton you can get your copy every fortnight at the Branxton Newsagency, The IGA Supermarket, at our office 12 Clift Street,

Branxton, the Branxton Greta Lochinvar 'Op Shop' in Cessnock Road, Branxton, Taylors Property Marketing in 2/72A Maitland Street, Branxton & Branxton Pharmacy. In Greta it is distributed from the Greta Newsagency, The BP Servo, Greta Workers Club, Greta Bakery, Baileys of Greta & the Hilltop Garage, Shop & Motel. As well as these distribution centres we have also extended our distribution area to Lochinvar with Lochinvar Post Office & the Twisted Sisters takeaway being the main outlets. You can also pick up a copy at all service stations

from here to Maitland, from there to Kurri Kurri, from there to Bellbird & all servos on Wine Country Drive & through to Singleton. In addition to these distribution points you can also pick up a copy at the Kurri Kurri Newsagency the Abermain Newsagency, the Aberdare Newsagency, Cessnock Tourist Centre at the Cessnock Airport, Cessnock Newsagency, West Cessnock Newsagency, Kirkton Public School, Singleton Tourist Centre & Singleton Newsagency in John Street. Thank you to all those businesses that are helping with our distribution.

thebranxtonnews.com.au/



"Bank some Travel Memories"

By Sarah Fenton
Mobile Travel Agent

Why do you travel? To escape work? No, just turn off the phone. Shop for exotic keepsakes? No, you can use eBay. Travel is an investment. A deposit in your memory bank that will last forever. It is an experience that opens your mind, gives you

stories to tell, and creates lasting impressions on you. One of my favourite stories to tell is about my pink scarf decorated with tulips. To everyone else its just a scarf. To me it is hours of stories. I bought it at Keukenhof Tulip Fields in Amsterdam 3 years ago. I was escorting a group of 15 people on a tour of Europe. My scarf is the story of that

trip. It reminds me of the people I travelled with, and my first river cruise. I reminds me of everything I experience on my first trip back to Europe in 10 years. The beauty of Paris and Versailles, and my visit to London to see elderly relatives for possibly the last time. It reminds me of the Chelsea Flower Show were

I was awestruck for 2 whole days with the creativity and blooms on display. My scarf reminds me of my generous, amazing husband who worked, ran the house and cared for our two young children solo for three weeks in my absence. Everyone deserves to own something that is full of amazing stories that are meaningful to them and no one else. Something that makes you smile when you see it, something that makes you feel special.

Epic Youth Week from Start to End



The Cessnock Youth Week Organising Committee is proud to present Youth Week 2017, featuring a program bigger and better than ever. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is wowed at how many events are on offer for young people. "A busy week of events kicks off on 31 March with Take the Stage and wraps up on 8 April with the ever popular YouthFest." "Take the Stage is a brilliant opportunity for young people to showcase their talents in front of

family and friends at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre". "Performances can be anything from drama acts, circus acts, comedy acts and dance. Musical performances may include an instrumental or song performed by a solo, duet or band." "All the fun and excitement of Youth Week culminates at YouthFest at the end of the week." "This free event includes live music, a bike, skate and scooter competition, art workshop, Zoro balls and fun for the entire family," Cr Pynsent said. This year the Cessnock

Youth Entertainment Committee was successful with an Indent grant that will fund the music component of YouthFest. The committee is excited Brisbane band "Columbus" will be the headline act supported by a handful of awesome young bands from the Hunter Region. Highlights of YouthFest include:

- Headline performance Columbus
- Local bands
- Bike, skate and scooter competition, open to competitors of all skill levels

For more information or full program of activities, please visit cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/youth-week or follow CessnockCity-Council on Facebook.

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

BRANXTON GRETA LOCHINVAR

NIGHT TIME BINGO

Greta Workers Club
7.00pm (start)

Tues 7th Mar & Tues 9th May
Tues 8th Aug & Tues 10th Oct

ALL WELCOMED

Money Prizes
Supper provided

More Information ring
Cynthia 0249 381703
Dell 0249 387783

You are invited to
Branxton's Pink
High Tea
Fashion Event
featuring
Sue's Clothing
Rutherford
With local models

Wednesday 11th October @ 10.00am
Branxton Community Hall
Tickets \$15 to be prepurchased
to Women's Cancer

Catering by Branxton Greta CWA Ladies
Helen 0427 047 024
Proudly supported by
Cessnock City Motor Group & Recommend Benames

Spring Fling

ANGELICAN OP SHOP
CHARITY FASHION SHOW

JOIN US FOR
AN AFTERNOON
OF
FUN, FASHION
WITH FRIENDS

SATURDAY 26
AUG 2017
@ 2.00PM
WITH
REFRESHMENTS
AT
BRANXTON
COMMUNITY
HALL

TICKETS \$10

For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

NORTH ROTHBURY

Price Reduced



“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.

~~\$295,000~~ \$280,000



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

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For Sale

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P: 4938 3300



FOR LEASE

Commercial property in Maitland Street, Branxton

Rent by Negotiation

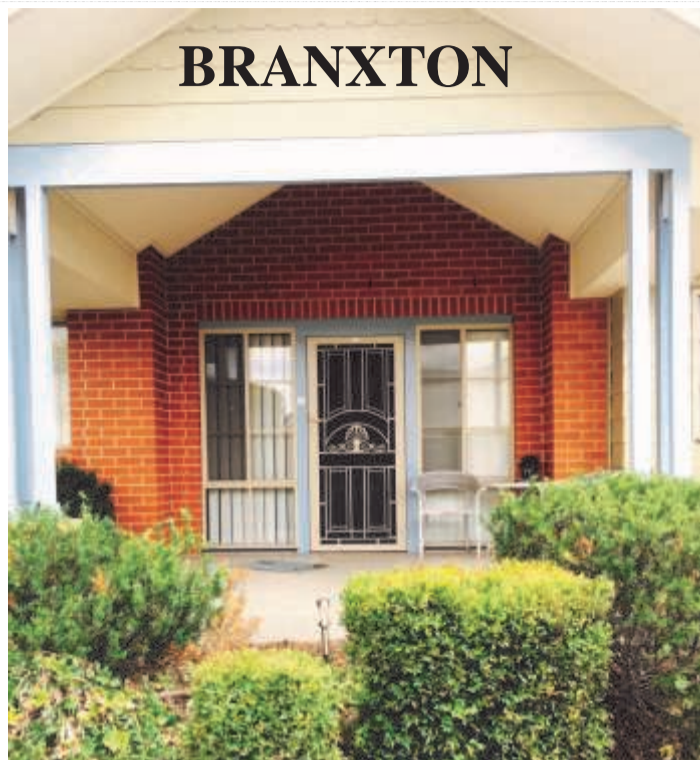


EAST BRANXTON

Features include:-

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

Asking \$370,000



BRANXTON

Senior Living

This heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit has an ensuite to the main bedroom, a lock-up garage & your own private courtyard. It is totally landscaped & also feature security gating. The site surrounds Branxton Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just 5 minutes drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.

\$315,000



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)



Just listed

BRANXTON

Low maintenance living

Spacious two bedroom home with large living areas; all tiled. Split air con, internal access garage & auto roller door.

Modern kitchen with ample bench space.

Lovely courtyard for entertaining.

Asking \$290,000



Just listed

BRANXTON

Modern 3 bedroom Townhouse

Modern three bedroom townhouse of brick & tile construction. Split air con.

Ensuite to main bedroom. Open plan living with modern kitchen, separate lounge room. Double lock-up garage with internal access. Private & secure back yard

Asking \$320,000



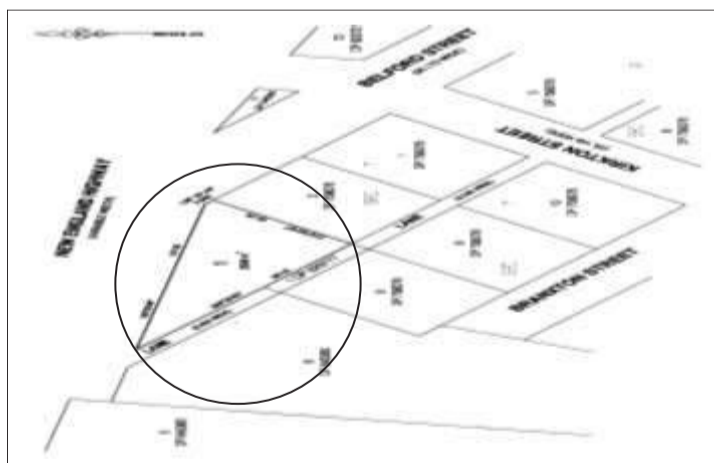
BRANXTON

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



BELFORD

Vacant Land ~ 2559m²

**Vacant Land with building approved
Lot 1 DP 1205549**

Well over half an acre of good level block.

PRICE \$160,000 ONO



Just listed

EAST BRANXTON

AN ideal opportunity to renovate one of the oldest homes in Branxton! This home is on approx 1100sm corner block. The house needs extensive work but the core is there to rejuvenate this wonderful example of a Federation home back to its original glory. Three bedrooms, separate lounge, fireplace, wooden kitchen. The work has already commenced with a new power board & extensive plumbing renovation. 6 X 8 shed with power at rear.

PRICE \$300,000

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

Flood mitigation options- Flood in!



Cessnock City Council considered a number of reports last week addressing the challenges major flood events have on the most flood affected areas in the community. Council adopted the Draft Swamp Creek Property Management Plan which outlined the various property management options available including voluntary house raising, voluntary house purchase and voluntary flood proofing for residential properties adjoining Swamp Creek in Abermain and Weston. The Property Flood Management Plan for Black Creek was also adopted by Council to assist flood affected properties in South Cessnock, Cessnock and Bellbird. The plan also provided information on property management options including voluntary house raising and voluntary flood proofing.

Council also endorsed the submission of grant applications under the NSW Floodplain Management Program 2017 which could provide vital funding for these flood mitigation options. Each plan will be submitted to NSW Office Environment and Heritage (OEH) for approval ahead of Council contacting priority residential property owners eligible for assistance. Council also supported the draft Voluntary House Raising Policy, which outlines the criteria and administration of the schemes for eligible high risk homes for both the Swamp Creek and Black Creek Flood Risk Management Plans. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed the most recent flood mitigation developments as a step forward for our community. "The best flood mitigation

options vary from location to location but it is pleasing to see we are working towards minimising the impact of flood water on our community", Cr Pynsent said. Council is continuing to investigate and develop other options to mitigate the impacts of flooding including

- Work on the design of a flood diversion wall for the South Cessnock Area following an OEH grant in 2016.

- Council will apply for a NSW Floodplain Management Grant to design a flood warning system in the highest risk locations in Cessnock, Abermain and Weston

Targeting tossers to stop littering and keep Cessnock clean

Cessnock City Council is ramping up its anti-littering campaign crack down on littering and encourage residents to register with the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to Report a Tosser littering from vehicles. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the campaign sends a clear message, littering is unacceptable and those caught in the act will be, reported and fined. "Roadside litter is one of our region's most unnecessary and preventable environmental problems."

"Council have been involved in a number of initiatives to manage local litter including the clean up the basin initiative with Mount View High School. This campaign goes a step further by empowering every resident to do something about the problem by making a report", Cr Pynsent said.

The campaign is expected to see real results as research shows people are less likely to litter if they think someone is watching. It also aims to help raise awareness, change behaviour and reduce clean-up costs.

In the Cessnock local government area last year Adopt a Road groups collected 14.4 tonnes of waste, in NSW alone over 25 000 tonnes of litter is tossed annually. Residents are being asked to join the effort and register with the NSW EPA to Report a Tosser.

The EPA can issue fines of \$250 for an individual and \$500 for a corporation for littering from a vehicle, based on reports from members of the public. Residents can register on the NSW EPA website, www.epa.nsw.gov.au/reporttoepa Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce residents will be able to collect FREE car tidy bags from Cessnock Library, Kurri Kurri library and the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre, to help keep vehicles and our community litter free.

The car tidy bags are financed via the Environment Protection Authority's Better Waste & Recycled Fund



THURSDAY August 25, 2005

ISSUE 188

North Rothbury tip put on notice



The tip on fire.

2005-8/10

LEAWAY Pty Ltd, the owners of a local tip in North Rothbury have been issued with a notice of intention to suspend their licence by the EPA.

"This is only the second time a notice of intention to suspend has been issued by the Department to a waste licensee. This is obviously not an action that the DEC takes lightly and it shows that we have a number of serious concerns surrounding the operations of the Leaway premises," said Mr Joe Woodward, Acting Deputy Director General Environment Protection & Regulation, Department of Environment and Conservation.

Mr Woodward said that the DEC believed that Leaway Pty Ltd did not have sufficient controls in place to manage waste, leachate (*polluted waste waters*) and fire at the premises and had shown an apparent disregard for its licence conditions.

"To date the DEC has issued Leaway Pty Ltd with ten penalty notices, five formal warning letters and Leaway has failed to respond to five formal notices to produce information and records.

Some of the reasons for issuing penalty notices have included:

- * Failure to install fencing around the active tipping area
- * Failure to monitor dust
- * Failure to install an adequate leachate barrier
- * Failure to meet licence requirements around air quality and weather monitoring

A number of fires have also been reported at the premises.

"DEC is prepared to work cooperatively with Leaway, but our first priority is to look after the environment.

"Waste disposal is a serious business and there are long term environmental consequences if landfills are not correctly engineered and managed. Leaway needs to change its operations to bring the landfill up to an acceptable standard," said Mr Woodward.

Leaway Pty Ltd will have 18 days to respond to the intention to suspend their licence notice and may appeal the suspension.

If an appeal is lodged then the case would be brought before the Land and Environment Court.

A delegation of North Rothbury residents have asked the Member for Cessnock, Mr Kerry Hickey MP, to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister Mr. Bob Debus to express their local concerns.



TWO Queensland Police Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on the Cunningham Highway, just west of the Amberley Air force Base at Ipswich. The officers were using hand held radar devices to check speeding vehicles approaching the crest of a hill. The officers were suddenly surprised when their radar guns began reading 500 kms per hour.

The officer attempted to reset the radar guns, but they would not reset and then turned off. Just then a deafening roar over the treetops revealed that the radar had in

fact locked on to an RAAF F/A-18F Super Hornet which was engaged in a low flying exercise near the location. Back at the QLD Police Headquarters the Patrol Sergeant fired off a complaint to the RAAF Base Commander.

The reply came back in true RAAF style:

Thank you for your letter. We can now complete the file on this incident.

You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down. Furthermore, an Air-to-Ground missile aboard the fully armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment location. Fortunately, the Senior Pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status and was able to override the automated defense system before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position.

The pilot also suggests you cover your mouths when cursing at them, since the video systems on these jets are very high tech. Sergeant Johnson, the officer holding the left radar gun, should get his dentist to check his left rear molar. It appears the filling is loose. Also, the snap is broken on his holster.

Thank you for your concern. *Wing Commander*, [redacted] SFO, RAAF. Amberley. Ipswich, Qld.



GRETA WORKERS CLUB
2 WEST ST GRETA
4938 7325

MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB
6 MAITLAND RD EAST BRANXTON
4938 1226

GRETA WORKERS

RESTAURANT

NEW CATERERS

ALL NEW MENU
AUSTRALIAN CUISINE
COME IN AND TRY
THE GREAT FOOD

FRIDAY 31st MARCH

“ROCK OZ”

FRIDAY 7th APRIL

“MARRIAH”

RAFFLES

**FRIDAY
SELLING**

6.00pm

DRAWING 7.30pm

SUNDAY

SELLING 11.00am

DRAWING 12.00Noon



MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

29th MARCH

\$4,000

SUNDAY

2nd APRIL

\$3,300

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

MILLER PARK

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

THURSDAY 30th MARCH

\$3,900

SUNDAY 2nd APRIL

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

**“THE PARK”
RESTAURANT**

WEDNESDAY —

SUNDAY

LUNCH & DINNER

CLUB PRICES

RAFFLES

FRIDAY

SELLING 6.00pm

DRAWING 7.00pm

SUNDAY

SELLING 5.00pm

DRAWING 6.00pm



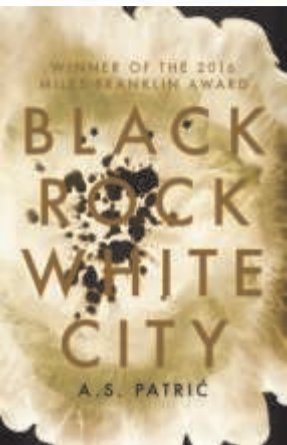
HAPPY HOUR

MILLER PARK WEDNESDAY

GRETA THURSDAY

4.00—6.00pm

\$3.40 a Schooner



Black Rock White City, A. S. Patric

SYNOPSIS

During a hot Melbourne summer Jovan's cleaning work at a bayside hospital is disrupted by acts of graffiti and violence becoming increasingly malevolent. For Jovan the mysterious words that must be cleaned away dislodge the poetry of the past. He and his wife Suzana were forced to flee Sarajevo and the death of their children. Intensely human, yet majestic in its moral vision, *Black Rock White City* is an essential story of Australia's suburbs now, of displacement and immediate threat, and the unexpected responses of two refugees as they try to reclaim their dreams. It is a breathtaking roar of energy that explores the immigrant experience with ferocity, beauty and humour.

Brutal and yet beautiful. Readings' St Kilda bookseller A.S. Patric's haunting debut novel *Black Rock*

Has your phone stopped ringing?



You need to advertise your business

Call Mike at 'The News' 4938 1773

The Miles Franklin Literary Award

The Miles Franklin Literary Award is an annual literary prize awarded to "a novel which is of the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases". The award was set up according to the will of Miles Franklin (1879–1954), who is best known for writing the Australian classic *My Brilliant Career* (published in 1901) and for bequeathing her estate to fund this award. As of 2016, the award is valued A\$60,000. In 1957, the first winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award was announced: Patrick White, for his novel *Voss*. Over the years, the prize has been awarded to novels describing life in suburbia, compulsive gamblers, Australians abroad – but always true to the terms of Miles Franklin's will: "[the] prize shall be awarded for the Novel for the year which is of the highest literary merit and

which must present Australian Life in any of its phases ...".

The list of winners since 1957 includes some of the greatest writers of the past 50 years – often more than once. Thea Astley and Tim Winton share the honour of having received the award four times apiece.

2016 Shortlist

- Hope Farm, Peggy Frew
- Leap, Myfanwy Jones
- **Black Rock White City, A. S. Patric**
- Salt Creek, Lucy Treloar
- The Natural Way of Things, Charlotte Wood

White City scooped Australia's premier literary prize, the Miles Franklin Award, in 2016.

A haunting evocation of the lives left behind by new arrivals to Australia when civil war shatters their home country, *Black Rock White City* is a strange and unusual novel that grapples with the major moral dilemma of our time: the refugee crisis. It mesmerises with its emotional complexity and then leaves you bereft once the final page is turned.

Set in Melbourne's Bayside suburbs, Jovan and Suzana's marriage is collapsing, haunted by their sacrifices as Serbian refugees, including the loss of their young children in a war-torn tragedy that hangs heavy over all.

While their lives are a mess, she cleans house and he cleans the local hospital. But strange things are afoot as the mysterious Dr Graffito leaves a macabre message scrawled on the hospital walls that Jovan, once a poet, must scour from existence.

Black Rock White City is much harder to remove from your mind. Rich with complicated characters, it's a tale of heartfelt family drama, of class, of multiculturalism and also a dark and twisted thriller of sorts. Patric's poetic manipulation of language sings, deftly switching from a melancholic beauty found in all the small things, to horror and back again in a heart-beat. Christos Tsiolkas, author of *Barracuda* and *The Slap*, dubs it, "bold, mature and compassionate," on the cover, and it's well deserved praise.

Patric, whose parents migrated from Serbia in the '70s, says the idea behind the book was to, "represent parts of Australian culture that hadn't been really represented in Australian literature, the working class immigrants from various parts of the world that have come to contribute their lives as well as their energies to Australian culture and society." He also said that if he won, he'd feel that he had been brought into the literary



Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin, best known for her first book, 'My Brilliant Career'.

About

A. S. Patric

A. (Alec) S. Patric is an Australian novelist and short story writer who was born in Zemun, Serbia and migrated to Australia with his family when he was still a child.

He won the 2016 Miles Franklin Award for his debut novel *Black Rock White City*.

He is also the author of two short story collections, *Las Vegas for Vegans* and *The Rattler & other stories*, and also a novella called *Bruno Kramzer*. His second novel *Atlantic Black* will be published by Transit Lounge in 2017. Alec lives in Bayside Melbourne with his wife and two daughters.

In his own words:-

1. **I was born** at the confluence of the Danube and the Sava, in Zemun. Details that now sound to me like something from a lullaby since it was so shortly after birth that I was living in Melbourne.
2. **When I was a child I wrote** poetry. A few short stories a little later on. I even attempted the novel, a Sci-Fi space epic, but pretty girls turned me back around to poetry.
3. **The person who encouraged/inspired/mentored me to write was...** no one in particular. Many a musician dedicates him/herself to playing an instrument because they heard music and it blew open their soul/heart/mind. For me it was (and is) literature.
4. **I write** in my study, at my desk. I can scribble a few notes in a café but the only place I can really write is at my desk.
5. **I write whenever** I can. Kids and work means I don't get to choose my writing time. And yet I write every day. In between daily bursts of writing I'm always preparing to write.
6. **Research is** crucial if you're going to write beyond your immediate experience, but the essentials are already present before work starts on a story or novel.
7. **I keep my published works** on my bookshelves with authors like Proulx, Poe, Paley, Perlman, Petterson, Pavić, Pynchon, Proust, Packer, Pushkin... the first letter of our surnames being the only thing in common.
8. **On the day my first book was published I** was wondering what it would feel like to finally have a book published. Turns out, not much difference (after an initial thrill).
9. **At the moment, I'm writing** another novel. It's called *Atlantic Black* and is set on the Aquitania, an ocean liner sailing to Europe—over the course of one day and one night, new year's eve 1938.
10. **When I'm stuck for an idea/word/phrase, I** remind myself that I'm always stuck for an idea/word/phrase and being 'stuck' is part of the process, and what makes getting un-'stuck' and flowing for a few hundred words every day so damn liberating.

conversation Australia is having with itself. Mission accomplished. His name will be on the tip of every Australian literary lover's tongue in this now. It's a wonderful success for his first novel and for small, independent publishing house Transit Lounge. The novel garnered high praise from Christos Tsiolkas.

The judging panel acknowledged on the night that *Black Rock White City* was a, "powerful and raw," account of the migrant experience in Australia that "envelops the reader in one of the great issues of our time."

Stephen A Russell

Poets & Cafes invited

Can poetry make the world a better place? As part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) World Poetry Day today, Council is launching an initiative that calls for both established and budding poets to team up with enthused café owners. The program, called 'Verses', will see metaphors and similes blossom along with Maitland's growing café culture.

The Verses 'writers in residence' pilot program, part of Council's Cultural Plan, connects volunteer poets with local cafes for a three to six month part time placement. From 1 May, Poets will be given space to write and create poetry based on the hustle and bustle of café life, the local area and their own experiences. The idea is for poets to enrich the cultural life of the cafe through conversations, connections and performances.

The purpose of holding the program in cafes is to immerse poets in a wealth of everyday material that focuses on the excitement surrounding café life.

Maitland Mayor Cr Peter Blackmore says, 'The Verses initiative is a great way to connect local people with the power of poetry and with each other. Verses will provide opportunities for connection between people, as well as creative expression.'

Readers Café and Larder is one business that's jumping on board the program. Owner Amorelle Dempster says, 'People come to cafés to enjoy the delicious aromas of coffee and food and to share time, ideas, laughter and tears. Cafes are actually a great source of material for poets.'

World Poetry Day, held last Tuesday 21 March, recognises the unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind.

Local Hunter poets and Maitland cafes are invited to participate in the Verses project by completing an EOI at surveymonkey.com/r/MBZCHPL, with applications closing on Friday 21 April.



Open 7 days
8am - 8pm

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202 Wollombi Road, Cessnock
(opposite ALDI)

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- ✓ Sheds built
- ✓ IKEA and other flat pack units built and installed
- ✓ Repairs and maintenance
- ✓ Renovations, painting and decorating
- ✓ Landscaping, paths, steps, pergolas, arbours, gardens, fire pits etc.
- ✓ High pressure water cleaning
- ✓ Clean-up and rubbish removed
- ✓ Firewood cut, split and stacked

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

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

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

For a **FREE** quote, call Peter on: **0419 441 257**



Another busy year lined up for Branxton/Greta CWA members and friends (and we wouldn't have it any other way), starting with 6 members attending the Hunter River Group Land Cookery/Handicraft Day at Singleton where all the judging was done for the State Level and all winners are to go onto the State



Conference being held this

year at Tumby Umbi at the Central Coast (great location and very close). Cookery 1st prize winners are Leanne Bendeich – Fruit Cake; Martin Shearer – Coffee Cake; Declan Shearer – Chocolate Hazelnut Friand. 2nd prize winners are Roslyn Shearer – Lemon Sour Cake; 3rd prizes – Leanne Bendeich Gluten Free Orange Cake, Sultana Cake; Marie – Victorian Sponge; Katie – Monte Carlos; Zac (Junior section) Giant Anzac Biscuits. Congratulations to all and all the best to 1st prize winners who will be baking again for the State Conference. Results for Handicraft are pending. The next event will be the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea which we will be hosting and it will be

held on Tuesday, 16th May, at the Branxton Community Hall 10.00am for 10.30am. \$10 per person. All proceeds to the Cancer Council. Bookings are essential (for catering purposes) to Marie on 0402015850 or email branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com Our Birthday Lunch will be held this year on Tuesday, 18th July. There will be a lot to see with a display of Handicraft that members have been doing over the past 12 months, a possible skit for Cultural, hopefully a Poster Competition for International, Pauline Hunt will have a display for Ag/Environment and a Guest Speaker. Venue etc TBA.

We will also be participating in the Branxton/Greta Business Chamber of Commerce Community Day at Miller Park on Sunday, 25th June. Will be discussing that at our next meeting, so will have more details about that in our next article.

The rain that everyone has been wishing for has been a blessing for some and a curse for others. Our thoughts are with all those who have suffered any damage and our prayers have been answered for all those who have got it where they needed it.

- Photo above: HRG President, Mary Bowman lending a hand at the lunch.
- Photo at left: A selection of handicrafts from various Branches ready for judging.



Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

It is now easier than ever to keep your beloved furry family member's registration details up-to-date thanks to the NSW Pet Registry.

This means you can easily register your pet, update your contact details, report your pet missing/found, transfer ownership and pay lifetime registration fees straight from your computer, tablet or smart phone device.

All cats and dogs in NSW are required to be microchipped and this information placed on the registry before twelve weeks of age. This means your cat or dog's details should already be on the registry ready for you to access. If you are not sure of your pet's microchip number, you can contact your local vet to see if they have it on file. If they don't have a record, you can attend your local vet and have them scan your pet, at which point they will be able to confirm you are the owner and provide you with the microchip number for your records. If your pet is not microchipped, the vet can do this for you or you can contact Council to book an appointment for microchipping before adding your pet to the NSW Pet Registry.

Once you have your pet's microchip number, go to www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au. On the home page you will be given the option to set up your 'Pet Owner Profile'. Once set up, you can enter your pet's microchip details and 'claim' them, which links them to your profile. Now that your pet's details are linked to your Pet Owner Profile you can update their status (i.e. home/missing), name identifying marks and your home address. You also have the option to transfer ownership online whereby you nominate the new owner of the animal and they 'claim' the animal as their own.

In a few simple steps your mate's registration can be kept up-to-date to ensure they can be reunited with you quickly should they ever become lost. Jump online now and keep your mate safe – www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au.

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



Branxton Golf Club



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

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



Friday-7th April – Easter Raffle



Donnies Disco

1st Sunday of each Month 4.00pm-6.00pm



MR JS KIDDIES GOLF
TUESDAY AFTERNOON WEATHER PERMITTING

NRL Footy Season is back

Every Sunday 1/2 price

Schooners during 1st half of 4.00pm game

Win (17) Schooners
Badge Draw \$1100
As at 24/2017

Saturday Nights

\$13.00

Roast Dinners

Thursday

Badge Draw \$1400_{as at 23/3/2017}

Seafood Raffle

MTA Travel Expo!

At Branxton Golf Club
Sunday 2nd April 11am-2pm

Trivia



click



Computers 'to match human brains by 2030'

Science Editor in Boston, Steve Connor

TAKEN FROM <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/computers-to-match-human-brains-by-2030-782978.html>

Computer power will match the intelligence of human beings within the next 20 years because of the accelerating speed at which technology is advancing, according to a leading scientific "futurologist".

There will be 32 times more technical progress during the next half century than there was in the entire 20th century, and one of the outcomes is that artificial intelligence could be on a par with human intellect by the 2020s, said the American computer guru Ray Kurzweil.

Machines will rapidly overtake humans in their intellectual abilities and will soon be able to solve some of the most intractable problems of the 21st century, said Dr Kurzweil, one of 18 maverick thinkers chosen to identify the greatest technological challenges facing humanity.

Dr Kurzweil is considered one of the most radical figures in the field of technological prediction. His credentials stem from being a pioneer in various fields of computing, such as optical character recognition – the technology behind CDs – and automatic speech recognition by machine.

His address yesterday to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) portrayed a future where machine intelligence will far surpass that of the human brain as they learn how to communicate, teach and replicate among themselves.

Central to his thesis is the idea that silicon-based technology follows the "law of accelerating returns". The computer chip, for instance, has doubled in power every two years for the past half century, which has led to an ever-accelerating progression – and miniaturisation – in all chip-based technologies.

Dr Kurzweil told the annual meeting of the AAAS in Boston: "The paradigm shift rate is now doubling every decade, so the next half century will see 32 times more technical progress than the last half century. Computation, communication, biological technologies – for example, DNA sequencing – brain scanning, knowledge of the human brain, and human knowledge in general are all accelerating at an ever-faster pace, generally doubling price-performance, capacity and bandwidth every year."

Computers have so far been based on two-dimensional chips made from silicon, but there are developments already well advanced to make three-dimensional chips with vastly improved performances, and even to construct them out of biological molecules that can be miniaturised even more than metal-based computer chips.

"Three-dimensional, molecular computing will provide the hardware for human-level 'strong artificial intelligence' by the 2020s. The more important software insights will be gained in part from the reverse engineering of the human brain, a process well under way. Already, two dozen regions of the human brain have been modelled and simulated," he said. Although the brain cannot match computers in terms of the straight storage and retrieval of information, it has an unrivalled capacity of associating different strands of information, to look ahead and plan, as well as performing the imaginative creativity that is at the heart of human existence. But Dr Kurzweil is one of several computer scientists who believe that computers are well on the way to creating a "post-human" world where a second, intelligent entity exists alongside people.

"Once non-biological intelligence matches the range and subtlety of human intelligence, it will necessarily soar past it because of the continuing acceleration of information-based technologies, as well as the ability of machines to instantly share their knowledge," Dr Kurzweil said.

"We are understanding disease and ageing processes as information processes, and are gaining the tools to reprogramme them. RNA interference, for example, allows us to turn selected genes off, and new forms of gene therapy are enabling us to effectively add new genes. Within two decades, we will be in a position to stop and reverse the progression of disease and ageing resulting in dramatic gains in health and longevity," he added.

Rise of the machines

The history of "artificial" intelligence goes back to classical times, although of course it was never called by that name. The Greek myths of Hephaestus and Pygmalion incorporate the idea of intelligent machines that take on human form. We would call them robots.

Mary Shelley took up the theme of man trying to create a living image of himself in her story of Frankenstein's monster, but the word "robot" did not enter the English language until Karel Capek's 1923 play R.U.R., which stood for Rossum's Universal Robots. The idea of a machine being able to match the intelligence of humans was explored in the 1940s by the great English mathematician Alan Turing, below, who devised his test of artificial intelligence. In a

seminal scientific paper published in 1950, Turing came up with a practical solution to the problem – the Turing test. Turing said that a machine would be deemed to have passed the test if human beings could interact with it as they would with another person.

The term "artificial intelligence" (AI) was first coined by the computer scientist John McCarthy in 1956, and the concept was explored in the 1950s and 1960s by the likes of Marvin Minsky, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The science fiction writer Arthur C Clarke drew on the concept of AI in his book *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which featured an intelligent computer called HAL that was an intellectual match for man.

By the mid-1970s the financial backers of the AI industry became disillusioned over its inability to match the human brain. But then, on 11 May 1997, the IBM computer Deep Blue became the first machine to beat a reigning world chess champion. This was soon followed by other "intelligent" feats such as the robot car driver which drove 131 miles along an unrehearsed desert trail. AI, portrayed in films such as *Blade Runner* and *The Terminator*, was on a roll again.

Could You Spy With A Microwave?

A reader had a question based on recent news reports. He wanted to know if it was actually possible for your microwave oven to spy on you. I'm going to set aside the possibility of kitchen devices outfitted with special spy equipment. Obviously, you could build anything to be a spy device if you wanted.

The answer is, yes. As long as that appliance is a smart appliance. If you can control that microwave with an app or it can "talk" to other appliances, someone else can control it and talk to it.

We've all seen those smart appliances that have a camera in the oven or one inside the fridge to let you check the contents. If someone hacked it, they could take over that camera. They might only be able to see you using the fridge or oven, but that could still provide valuable info about your habits and when you're home and even who is using your fridge. For example, a grocery store chain could use that information about what you keep in stock to target advertising.

Those refrigerators with the built-in tablets on the door that respond to voice commands, they're capable of both seeing and hearing what's happening in your kitchen. Remember that anything you can activate by voice, can hear you and record you if it fell into the wrong hands. That doesn't mean that Google or Microsoft or Apple is doing it, but it's possible bad actors could take control of any device.

We've all heard about the spying involving smart TVs. Hackers even managed to use the computing power of smart home thermostats to pull off an attack. And speaking of your smart thermostat or lighting system, it would be easy for criminals to use data from those devices to figure out when you're home and when you're gone.

There's even a recent case of a Canadian manufacturer of... how do I put this delicately... marital aids, that illegally took data from smartphone controlled couple's devices. Data including when and where the items were used. They recently had to pay \$10,000 Canadian to every user of the app for violating their privacy.

Basically, any device with a connection could be used to spy on you in one form or another. If it doesn't have a camera or a microphone, it can't see or hear you. But it still collects other valuable data about your life. Remember, even if a device has a camera and a microphone if it's not connected to the Internet, it can't be remotely controlled to gather data.

I want to make it clear, that doesn't mean your devices are spying on you. You can have windows in our house, that doesn't mean someone is currently standing on a box peering in.

Can I Install Office 2007 In Windows 2010?

A reader wants to know if she can install an older version of Office on Windows 10. "I have Windows 10 and an older, unopened version of Office. Can I install it? It is Office 2007, but it has Windows 7 with it (it's called "Professor Teachers Office 2007 & Windows 7") I can't run both 7 and 10 at the same time, can I? I don't have an activation key; it just tells me to install it, and then play it. I don't mean to be a pest; I just don't know and I know that you do!"

If you did have an older version of unopened office with an activation key, you could install it on Windows 10. Any version of Office from Office 2007 on will work with Windows 10 (with the exception of Office Starter 2010). And you're correct in that you couldn't run

MOVIE REVIEW

MOONLIGHT

A timeless story of human connection and self-discovery, *MOONLIGHT* chronicles the life of a young black man from childhood to adulthood as he struggles to find his place in the world while growing up in a rough neighbourhood of Miami. At once a vital portrait of contemporary African American life and an intensely personal and poetic meditation on identity, family, friendship, and love, *MOONLIGHT* is a groundbreaking piece of cinema that reverberates with deep compassion and universal truths. Anchored by extraordinary performances from a tremendous ensemble cast, Jenkins's staggering, singular vision is profoundly moving in its portrayal of the moments, people, and unknowable forces that shape our lives and make us who we are.



"Moonlight" is a film of rare grace — a tender, compassionate, restrained look at a life lived in the shadows.

Adapted from Tarell Alvin McCraney's play "In the Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue," writer-director Barry Jenkins' tale of identity and sexuality is one of the year's finest films and one of the decade's most important works.

It gets everything right, from its sombre mood to its simmering cinematography to its remarkable soundtrack. And it features across-the-board outstanding performances from its ensemble cast, several members of whom may have Oscar nominations in their future. "Moonlight" is the story of one Miami boy, Chiron, told during three stages in his life: as a child, a high school student and an adult. Those stories are separated into chapters, each marked by what he's called during that period in his life: Little, Chiron and Black.

One central question, posed late in the film, sums up "Moonlight's" theme and intent. "Who is

you, Chiron?" he is asked. It's an answer he's been looking for his entire life. Backing up, the film opens with young Chiron (Alex R. Hibbert) being chased through a Liberty City neighborhood by kids taunting him with homosexual slurs. He hides out in a dope house where he's found by Juan ("Luke Cage's" Mahershala Ali in a breakout role), a neighborhood drug dealer who takes him home, offers to feed him and becomes somewhat of a mentor to him.

Juan and his girlfriend, Teresa (singer Janelle Monae), become a surrogate family for Chiron, whose mother Paula (Naomi Harris, electrifying) is an abusive drug addict. A scene where Juan takes young Chiron to the ocean and teaches him to float on his back is indicative of the raw beauty of Jenkins' film, brought to life by James Laxton's intimate cinematography.

"At some point you gotta decide for yourself who you gon' be," Juan tells Chiron, addressing an issue that eats at Chiron for most of his life. Flash forward to high school, and Chiron (now played by Ashton Sanders) is a skinny kid still picked on and teased

by bullies at school, his timid nature illustrated by his pursed lips and hunched shoulders. Mom is still a junkie and he's just as confused by his identity, but a sexual encounter with Kevin, a classmate (Jharrel Jerome), opens him up. Yet his neighborhood, gender politics and everything he's ever known teach him to suppress and hide his feelings, so he buries them deep within himself.

The final chapter finds a grown-up Chiron (Trevante Rhodes, a revelation) returning to Miami after relocating to Atlanta. He's now buff, tough and wears a set of gold grills in his mouth, but on the inside is the same scared, confused boy searching for himself. He gets a call from Kevin (now played by Andre Holland, who is startling), who cooks him a meal at the diner where he's a cook, and the two reconnect over a meal in a scene as elegant as a ballet. That scene in the diner is "Moonlight": a delicate dance around the unspoken, a heart-ripping meditation that is all internal. Credit Jenkins, who with his second film establishes himself as a major talent and visionary storyteller.

This is a major story told in minor keys, a quiet film that sticks with you long after the credits roll. See it now, remember it forever. "Moonlight" glows. **4/5**

Windows 7 and 10 on the same PC without creating a dual-boot system.

But you actually don't have a disc for Office 2007 for Windows 7. You have a piece of educational software called "Professor Teaches Windows 7 and Office 2007." It's a learning software that you use in conjunction with those programs when they are installed on your PC. Unfortunately, that won't help you get Office on your PC

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



Once again, to Cessnock City Council; I am a resident of North Rothbury and I am very concerned over safety issues associated with some of the septic systems in the village. Some residents have been discharging treated effluent from the septic systems onto the verge and the side of the roads, especially various areas along Wine Country Drive, Olivia Place and Rothbury Street. I am worried about the health and safety of all of our residents, especially people walking. Some residents have gotten infections from walking through these areas in the past and other residents walk on the road with the traffic rather than on the verge. Is it possible to get the Environmental Health Officer out to check these areas please? This is the second time I have used this forum & hope it won't be third time lucky!

The members of the Branxton Greta Men's Shed would like to thank of the Greta Medical Centre (Dr Jiwan Jyoti or Dr JJ, Sydney University Student Ryan Barton & Paul Pal) for attending our shed on Wednesday 22nd March.

To Lyn & John at the Branxton IGA Supermarket for their very generous donation of \$500 to purchase a camera for the Endeavour Group.



Classified's

Cost:- For one-off domestic advertising The News will not charge you. Otherwise it is \$2/line.

Classified's

Classified's ~ Cost:- For one-off domestic advertising The News will not charge you. Otherwise it is \$2/line.

Cleaner Wanted: Reliable, trustworthy, efficient cleaning lady with attention to detail for weekly cleaning in Lambs Valley (5 hours). Travel will be paid. Please contact: 0407 278 465.

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908

Computer Services: Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128

For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460

For Sale: Black mesh security door \$50 & sandstone letterbox \$30 P: 0423 366 977

For Sale: Bar Fridge: Kelvinator 170L ; 90cms high x 50 cms wide x 54cms deep \$50. Chest Freezer: Haier 185L with pull out draw compartment: 84cms wide x 85 cms high x 63 cms deep \$100. Both good working order. P: 49387906

For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809

Giveaway - Dorper Sheep: for free (as lawn mowers) to a good home. (3 wether, 2 ewes). Please contact: 0407 278 465.

Guitar Lessons: Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.

Housekeeper Wanted: Housekeeper required to assist with domestic duties while recuperating from surgery

Microchipping: Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.

Mobile Travel Agent: 20 yrs experience. Will come to you for expert holiday planning. Obligation free appointments. P: 1300 365 68 (ext 595) M: 0404 831 867
W: www.mtatravel.com.au/sfenton
E: sfenton@mtatravel.com.au

Fitness Classes: 'Core & Strength'. Get fit for summer. Classes are 6am and 10am Tuesday, 6am and 8am Thursday, at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478

Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494

Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton: off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067

Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866

Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826

Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 sl70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292

Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397

Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601

Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701

Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567

Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081

Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.

Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804

Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153

Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

Work Wanted: Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936

Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

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

FOR SALE: 2 Horse straight load float in excellent condition. Always keep in shed. No rust. Only selling due to upgrading to bigger float. Please call Gregg on 0429389473



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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

Sun 2 Apr - Travel Expo - hosted by Sarah Fenton MTA at Branxton Golf club 11am-2pm FREE

Mon 3 Apr 2017 - The World of Musicals @ Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Cessnock ... The new musical gala with an international cast brings London's 'West End' and New York's 'Broadway' to Australia

Wed 5 Apr 2017 - Branxton Public School Easter Hat Parade and Book Fair

Thur 6 Apr 2017 - Branxton Public School - School photo day

Fri 7 Apr 2017 - Branxton Public PBL Assembly 9:20am & last day of term

7-9 April 2017 - A Little Bit of Italy in Broke

TUES 11/04 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

Wednesday 26th April - first day of Term 2 for students

1 May to 30 June 2017 - Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival

TUES 09/05 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

TUES 16/05 - Aust. Biggest Morning Tea hosted by B/G CWA, Branxton Community Hall, 10.00 for 10.30am, Scones, Cakes and Slices, \$10 per person, Bookings Essential for catering purposes. Marie 0402015850

Fri 19 May 2017 - The Australian Bee Gees Show. The Saturday Night Fever 40th Anniversary tour; The Australian Bee Gees Show are digging out their flares and dusting off their platform shoes in preparation for the Australian leg of their 2017 world tour - so let the party begin! Cessnock Performing ARTS Centre

Sun 21 May 2017 - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

TUES 13/06 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

Sun 21 Jun 2017 - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

TUES 11/07 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

Sun 16 Jul 2017 - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Tue 8 Aug 2017 - "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start

TUES 08/08 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

Sun 20 Aug 2017 - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

TUES 12/09 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

Sun 17 Sep 2017 - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Tue 10 Oct 2017 - "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start

TUES 10/10 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

Sun 15 Oct 2017 - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

TUES 14/11 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

Sun 19 Nov 2017 - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

TUES 12/12 - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

Sun 17 Dec 2017 - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Hunter Valley Vineyards Concerts
April 1st Cyndi Lauper & Blondie
April 8th Barry Gibb
21 October 2017 Opera in the Vineyards

Wines & Vines

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

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



tall poppy syndrome. We are sensitive to criticism. Not only are we sensitive to criticism but we become defensive in the face of it. Many Australians believe we are like the British where we can have a jolly good laugh at ourselves but that is not always the case. We are fast becoming more tainted toward the American psyche where we find humour in taking the piss out of others. That is not having a laugh at ourselves, it's having a laugh at the expense of others. We should be aware of this. People in my game should be desensitised to criticism as we are constantly showing the fruits of our labour to the general public. One person may make a remark such as 'this is the best wine I've ever tasted' while half an hour later another person whispers under their breath to an accomplice, 'no, that wine's foul! There's an old saying in life... 'You can't please everybody.' It is only when the slur is unintentionally delivered in the current surroundings, however, that the faux pas is made and the damage control needs to take effect.

I ran into an ex- girlfriend of mine the other day in Sydney. Don't you just love it when this happens? To be honest, the longer between these types of impromptu meetings, the more civil and adult the conversation seems to become. I remember running into her not long after we went our separate ways and had I not pretended I was in a hurry, it was surely going to turn into 'You bastard! How could you leave me at the altar like that!' It didn't quite pan out that way but you get my drift.

No, this time was different. The conversation still started out a bit as you would expect though. "I thought you were going to the gym?" "Is it that obvious I stopped? You had such pretty hair, why did you cut it all off?" Instead of meandering down this road too far however, the 'I'm so over you and I'm a better person because of it' attitude tapered off relatively quickly. For the first time since I have known this person, I had no idea how interesting she was. Just quietly, I didn't particularly pay much attention to things like that at that stage in my life, there seemed to be more pressing thoughts going on. The fact that she was a successful lawyer and had three beautiful and healthy looking kids with her, whilst holding a set of car keys with a big 'BMW' logo got me thinking..... "Why did we break up again? Oh, that's right. I preferred drinking with my rugby mates than spending time with her hhhmmmm"

"I saw you in the newspaper a few weeks ago", she said. I looked to the ground and humbly shuffled my feet. I then responded. "Actually, I saw you in the newspaper about a year ago...some case involving that dodgy Jim Smith (not his real name) guy, who was always a cheating, no good scoundrel who thought the world of himself.....rumour has it he and his side-kick, Fred Fortescue (not his real name - I don't think) were running a brothel in the city without a licence and got busted supplying drugs to a bikie gang...." The kids looked up at me in horror, their little pained faces then turned to their mother. She threw me a look of distaste and replied, "I don't discuss cases outside of work!" The conversation ended pretty abruptly and I wondered what I had said that had offended her so badly. Maybe she had lost the case? A few days later, I was talking to a friend and mentioned that I had run into the girl.

"No way! Did you hear she broke up with her husband to be with that Jim Smith guy who she was representing?" Cheers Andrew

A few years ago, I entertained a group of businessmen in our cellar door in the obvious hope of selling them lots of wine and creating a lasting impression. Everything seemed to be going swimmingly (I love that word, swimmingly, it's meaninglessly descriptive but without provocation) when one of the chaps looked up and noticed the large panels lining the ceiling containing row after row of those small halogen lights. He studied them row by row and looked down and exclaimed, "So how do you like the halogen lights?" "Sorry?" I queried. "The halogen lights" he repeated, pointing along the panels, "how do you like them?" I assumed he was being facetious. I have always detested the damn things yet I have more of them in my life than dollars in the bank. The majority of them are still in the old casing where you have to use a tiny screwdriver to unscrew four tiny screws which secure two of those exposed copper wires, which needless to say, have to be shaven back off their plastic covers each and every time you have to change them. Confusing? Try it! You wouldn't wish it upon your worst enemy. The fact that most of them are located 20-30 feet high poses another problem of balancing yourself on a rocky ladder whilst you proceed with this highly annoying ritual. I liken the old halogen lights with attempting to dislodge a deep splinter with a table spoon or perhaps locating the control for the back windscreen wiper in a new car(they seem to turn on by themselves, back windscreen wipers, but you can't turn the bloody things off. When I die, I wish to come back as a back windscreen wiper.....in George Bush's car). "They're bloody awful things aren't they, halogens? Not only are they a pain in the backside to change but the light they omit is too invasive.....terrible bloody things!" I ranted. The chap's face seemed not to change; all the while his associates looked slightly bemused. "Whoever invented them should be tortured as much as the people who use them!" I continued. The chap joined the rest of the men, acquiring an almost recognisable smile, hidden within his bushy beard. He stood up and offered his hand and exclaimed with kind sincerity..... "Please.....go easy on me then!" Not long after that I gave Gosford City Council an absolute hammering to an unknown entity, as we had an application sitting with them for over a year. One guess who the chap I was ranting at was? That's right-head of that particular department. The list goes on. The French refer to these social blunders as a 'faux pas'. We've all fallen victim to these kinds of mishaps, whether it be on the giving or receiving end. Some of them can be shaken off with no real malice in effect; however, others are bestowed at a heavy price. I attended a wedding many years ago with several winemakers from around the country. A large group of us were standing around in a large circle sampling a wine from a reputable producer who just happened to be with us. One of the group commented negatively on the wine, not knowing the identity of the producer and continued to express his distaste for the wine and the company's other ranges while the rest of us stood, open-mouthed, wanting to dig a hole to bury ourselves in. Trying ever so hard to see the funny side to this conversation, one of us introduced the winemakers. The chap who was ranting looked as if he had seen a ghost and thought for a second before coming out with "But s***, you've done a better job with the wine than I could ever do!" Just while we're on the subject, it amazes me how critical human beings can be. From a single cup of coffee to the architecture of a large building, everything and everyone seems to be in the firing line. Australians, although generally laid back and conveying a reasonably good sense of humour, love a good old dig and notoriously suffer from the



Kirkton Public School News

Disco And Harmony Day Breakfast

Two really wonderful events. A big thank you to Kim, Kevin, Julie, Rebel and Kylee for assisting with the promotion and set up of our Harmony Day breakfast and Disco. The children had a wonderful night dancing away to the sounds of the DJ Friday night. We then got to enjoy a wonderful Tuesday morning with everyone enjoying an egg and bacon sandwich or two. It was also wonderful to see our beautiful neighbour across the road join us with some wonderful insights into the

Kindergarten classes, who have settled into school life beautifully. They are about to join in their first Easter Hat Parade and have almost completed their first term at school. Well done Bilbies, Koalas and Wombats. Our Easter Hat Parade will be held on Wednesday 5th April at 2pm. There will also be a Book Fair in the library all day. Any purchases benefit our school and you are also able to buy and donate



String Art Masterpieces

history of our school.

Assembly Awards 22nd March

The recipients of awards are:

K/1/2: Taymin * *Excellent progress in sounds and reading* . Willow * *Always using beautiful manners*
Georgia * *Improvement in writing* . Imogen * *Excellent spelling activity tasks*. Zara * *Being a great role model*

Ms Maxwell Alyssa }

Felina }

Millie }

Excellent school community members.



Branxton Public School

Branxton Public School News



Playground Leaders 2017

Our PBL Celebration Day had to be postponed due to the weather and will now be held early in Term 2. All students will be involved in the day to celebrate the positive effect PBL has had at our school.

Stage 3 have been very busy with sport, leadership opportunities and excellent creative art results.

Many of our Stage 3 students have represented our school for sport recently in the areas of basketball, touch football and cricket.

Our cricket team

lost narrowly to Greta Public School in Week 9

but showed great team work and good sports-

manship throughout the game. Stage 3 are also

participating in some exciting creative arts

groups at school. During Semester 1 they will

each have the opportunity to create a string art

masterpiece, do pottery, weave and make a stop

motion film. We can't wait to see more of their

efforts.

Year 6 students are also

leading our Positive Playground Program

which involves them taking turns to run

games and activities for students at lunch time. It

is a great way for our students to further de-

velop their leadership and problem solving

skills. It also gives our other students more

options for the lunch break.

At the other end of our school are our three



Cricket Team



Kinder Wombats



Kinder Bilbies



Kinder Koalas

a book to the school library. Parents are welcome to join us.

Dates for the Calendar

Wednesday 5th April – Easter Hat Parade and Book Fair

Thursday 6th April – School Photo Day

Friday 7th April – PBL Assembly 9:20am and last day of Term 1

Wednesday 26th April – first day of Term 2 for students

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



Upcoming events

- 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

Nominations for local board members

Ratepayers in any Local Land Services region are eligible to nominate a candidate, including themselves, for election in that region. Anyone 18 years of age or older can be nominated for elections provided their normal place of residence is within the region.

Nominations for candidates are now open and close noon 12 pm 10 April 2017.

Nomination forms, a candidate information package and detailed candidate guide are available to download or can be mailed by phoning 1800 224 420. Australian Election Company is the first point of contact for enquiries relating to the election process, including candidate information. They can be contacted by:

- phoning 1800 224 420
- visiting the Australian Election Company website
- email rkidd@austelect.com or whadley@austelect.com.

Nominations extended

Nominations now close at **12 noon on 10 April, 2017**, and that any references in any materials or documentation to the close of Nominations of 27 March 2017, should now be read as 10 April, 2017.

How to nominate

In May, enrolled ratepayers will vote for three local board members or four in the Western region to join their local board.

Step 1: Read through the Local board member candidate information package and the detailed Australian Election Company Candidate Guide, which includes further information about the election process, making sure you understand the role and responsibilities and legislative requirements of being a local board member, and how the election will be run.

Step 2: We recommend visiting the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet website and taking advantage of a wide range of resources available on the role and responsibilities of being a local board member.

Step 3: Complete a nomination form and candidate information sheet.

Step 4: Nomination forms and candidate information sheets should be scanned, emailed, faxed or posted to:

Australian Election Company

PO Box 3056

Caboolture QLD 4510.

Email: rkidd@austelect.com or whadley@austelect.com

Faxed: (07) 5428 1355

The closing date for nominations is noon 12 pm Monday 10 April 2017.

Racing review



It seems the more she wins the easier it gets for Winx but the harder it is for her trainer.

The mare made light work of the heaviest track possible in her defence of the Group I George Ryder Stakes at Rosehill on Saturday 11 March, while her trainer Chris Waller watched in awe like everyone else as she claimed her 11th Group I win and 16th successive victory.

There were suggestions she could be vulnerable over 1500 metres with Chautauqua and Le Romain given some support in the lead-up. But the seven and a quarter lengths she put on

runner-up Le Romain told a different story.

Waller watched the race away from the crowd which cheered her home and quietly shook his head. "She is unbelievable," Waller said.

"I can't explain it. We try to do our part to make sure she is ready on the day. "It's a huge responsibility and one we take seriously." Winx was at \$1.15 early in the week but jumped at \$1.26 with Chautauqua \$9 and Le Romain \$10. Having his first start at 1500 metres, champion sprinter Chautauqua finished one and a quarter lengths behind Le Romain as the two struggled to make any

impression in the straight as Winx set sail for home. The champion mare's jockey Hugh Bowman is among her biggest fans. "She's just so special. I'm at a loss to explain it," Bowman said. "There is a great deal of responsibility to be involved with her but with that comes a great deal of confidence.

"My only worry is am I going to get on her, canter to the gates one day and feel that engine just isn't there." Winx will head to the \$4 million Queen Elizabeth Stakes on April 8 at Randwick while it is back to the drawing board for Chautauqua's connections who had hoped for a performance good enough to try him over 1600 metres in the Doncaster Mile. "He won't be going to the Doncaster," senior trainer John Hawkes said. "If he comes through all right we'll look at the options but he could also go to the paddock." Chautauqua's jockey Tommy Berry was

forgiving. "He probably got a bit keen because they didn't go that quick," he said. "I was never in the race at the top of the straight but once he got to about the 250 metres he really knuckled down. "But the race was over and done with by the time he warmed up. I think he will be better back to sprint trips as well," Berry said. On a lighter note; what does a jockey do when their horse is levels above its rivals? Sledge the opposition of course. Top Australian jockey Hugh Bowman, who was riding one of the best horses in the world, could not resist the chance to send a bit of lip the way of fellow jockey Glyn Schofield when he breezed on by him on Saturday. Winx won her 16th consecutive race with a mammoth seven and a quarter length demolition of the field. Bowman knew Winx was travelling way too good for the rest of the field in the heavy

conditions, so when she strode on by second favourite Le Romain, he could not resist a quick dig at Schofield. "Alright son, cheerio," Bowman said as Winx swept by Schofield and Le Romain. Hours after the race, Schofield was able to laugh off the "cheeky" sledge as Bowman revealed where his inspiration had come from. Damien Oliver directed a similar sledge to his fellow jockeys when Lucia Valentina charged out of the pack to win last year's Queen Elizabeth Stakes and Bowman was keen to dish out a bit of banter himself. Schofield was beginning to think he was some chance of pulling off one of the biggest upsets in Australian racing when Le Romain kicked for home as he entered the Rosehill straight but seconds later Winx and Bowman cruised alongside them.

"Unfortunately she's too good," Schofield said.

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 15/3/17

Yarding 880 ~ **Change +160** (Comparison Date 8/3/17)
Numbers climbed up by 160 with a very mixed quality yarding, especially for young cattle. The yarding consisted of mainly young cattle in predominately secondary condition, however well-bred and well-shaped vealers were well sought after by restocker and butcher orders, while heifers sold dearer for both vealers and yearlings. The usual export buyers were present and prices improved slightly for grown steers and cows. The majority of the calves returned to the paddock ranging from 324c to 416c averaging 403c, after reaching a top price of 424c/kg. The bulk of the vealer steers returned to the paddock ranging from 300c to 401c, averaging close to 368c/kg, unchanged on last week. The 200-280kg heifers to restock sold dearer by 11c averaging 324c/kg. Yearling steers to feeder orders averaged close to 311c, after reaching a top of 325c, while the majority of the yearling heifers returned to the paddock ranging from 283c to 317c to settle on 300c/kg. Grown steers to feed averaged 270c up 25c on last week, while the medium weight D2 cows averaged 204c after topping at 227c/kg. Heavy D2 cows lifted 4c week-on-week to finish on 214c/kg. Light weight bulls to restockers sold from 200c to 350c/kg.



Scone report date 14/3/17

Yarding 1464 ~ **Change -48** (Comparison Date 28/2/17)
Numbers eased slightly with the majority of the yarding consisting of young cattle, with quality back across all grades. There were fewer cows and bulls yarded, while heavy yearling steers and heifers were few in number. The usual buyers were present however demand continues to be subdued, especially from restockers, while processor demand eased on export types. Vealer steers sold cheaper across the C2 lines returning to the paddock by 18c to 30c and more in places with prices reaching 408c for light weights, however most averaged between 300c and 380c/kg dependant on quality. Light vealer heifers sold 14c to 19c cheaper, with light weight 2 scores returning to the paddock averaging 347c, while the 200-280kg C2's averaged 333c/kg. Medium weight yearling steers to restock ranged from 300c to 337c, while those to feed averaged closer to 314c/kg. Yearling heifers to restock sold dearer across all weights with the majority selling between 284c and 315c/kg. The cow market was quite mixed with light weight D1 cows averaging 190c, up 20c while the heavy beef cows averaged close to 219c/kg for both D2 and 3 score lines. Heavy weight bulls ranged from 215c to 235c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date 20/3/17

Yarding 11290 ~ **Change -504** (Comparison Date 14/3/17)
Consignments fell by around 500 head. The quality of the offering was very mixed with few good lines of young cattle available. There were some good runs of well finished cows while plain condition cows suitable to restockers saw supplies almost non-existent. A similar buying group were in attendance and there was increased restocker and feedlot activity. Market trends through the young cattle saw weaner steers to restock dearer, averaging 7c to 8c/kg despite a fall in quality. Heifer weaners to restock sold to a cheaper trend, down 10c to 11c/kg and more in places, again there was a quality component. Increased restocker and feedlot demand resulted in stronger competition for medium and heavy weight yearling steers. This resulted in those weight categories recording strong price gains. Feeder heifers also sold to a dearer trend, while the well finished trade heifers were up to 14c/kg dearer on the better quality lots. Various factors including breed, quality and buyer preference played a role in price variations in the young cattle. Demand for heavy grown cattle increased with the well finished heavy grown steers and heifers selling to a dearer trend, up to 4c/kg. Cows to process also attracted increased demand, this resulted in a dearer trend of 4c to 7c/kg. In some cases there was an increase in estimated dressing percentages.



Blood On The Track



MM March Sale Day-2: \$160K for Sizzling Colt

It took until the third last lot of the sale, but a new sale topper was achieved at the 2017 Magic Millions Gold Coast March Yearling Sale when a son of Sizzling sold to Gary Moore for \$160,000. Consigned by Gleeson Thoroughbred Connections as Lot 398, the striking chestnut is the fourth foal of a lightly raced Red Ransom three-quarter sister to Group winner and \$932,000 earner Crimson Reign. "He was the colt of the sale," a delighted Gary Moore said. "I really like Sizzling - he was a great Magic Millions graduate and I'm hoping this colt will run as well as he looks." Moore added: "The colt looks a natural early two-year-old and he will be set for the \$2 million Magic Millions 2YO Classic in January." The second top seller was lot 301, the Monashee Mountain x Tolart (Show a Heart) colt who is a full brother to Gr1 winner Miss Cover Girl. Consigned by Kenmore Lodge, the colt sold to Dave Mee's Pinhook Bloodstock in conjunction with leading trainer Tony Sears for \$130,000. Over the two days of selling some 298 lots changed hands at a gross of \$8,587,000, average of \$28,815 and impressive clearance rate of over 81 per cent. All figures were up slightly on last year's corresponding auction. "Uncannily this sale is a mirror image of the 2016 version," Magic Millions Managing Director Vin Cox said. "For three years running the gross of the sale has been sitting over \$8 million... The breeders have had the benefit of the 30 per cent increase for three years now and it would be assumed that their windfall will lead to increased investment of bloodstock across the board."

a signal was given to the pool attendants to turn the fountains on and thus our Branxton VIEW club had their required fountain photo shoot!

Many thanks to the Branxton pool attendants and to Bill Smith-well done! We can now enter the competition!

We have had an eventful month beginning with the VIEW Zone meeting held at Greta Workers Club.

At our last meeting President Bethany thanked Helen Christy Rix for her talk on her latest overseas journey. Helen and her husband, Leyland are avid experienced travellers who delight in exploring new places and visiting friends.

In December 2016, they

travelled to South Africa, Malta, England and Scotland. Helen spoke enthusiastically about their adventures which began with their flight to Johannesburg being diverted due to bad weather via Tasmania and the

Antarctic. Ice in the water? Where were they going?

Christmas was spent in England and a memorable New Years Eve spent in Scotland. Helen recalls having to walk back to their hotel at 2.30 am in the morning-“very cold-minus



Yes, we have fun! ■ Photo: From left back: Jan Bennett, Yvonne Bell, Denise Hungerford, Bethany Oldfield, Sandie Smith. Front row: Shirley Waters, Judy Spillard (holding sign), Judy Groves and Evelyn Thrift.



■ Photo: President Bethany and Helen Christy Rix

Branxton VIEW members really do have a lot of fun! While many VIEW clubs in NSW have access to fountains, we were wondering how we could enter a competition-the requirements being that we hold umbrellas and stand near a fountain to publicise our VIEW club. Yes, we did have umbrellas but where would we find a fountain?

Denise suggested that we approach Branxton Swimming pool to enquire whether they would allow

us to use the children's wading pool for our photo shoot. The colourful mushrooms which spray water like fountains could be activated! Result-our problem solved!

Our local heroes, Branxton Pool attendants, happily obliged and an assorted array of our members arranged themselves in the children's pool. Patient photographer, Bill Smith, spent a great deal of time waiting for the final arrangement of members -

2 degrees!”

Thank you, Helen-a most interesting and informative talk.

Our next friendship day will be held at the old Greta Masonic hall on 30th March for morning tea. Great coffee, antiques and old wares. Meet there for 10.30 start.

Easter is the theme for our next meeting day at Greta Workers club-13th April, 10.30 am for 11 am start. Visitors welcome-ring our

secretary, Evelyn on **4938 1513**.

Lots of promises to wear Easter hats, duck and rabbit costumes-come ready to have some fun!

Laughter really is the music of the soul-come along and join us. New members always welcome!

*Peace and love to everyone
Judy Spillard*



LIVE MUSIC NIGHTS & SAT NIGHTS

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- * Receive a 25% discount off everything for sale in the museum.
- * Light refreshments are provided at each meeting (last Wednesday of the month 11am - 1pm, no school holiday meetings.)

Cost is just \$2 per meeting, no joining fee.

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

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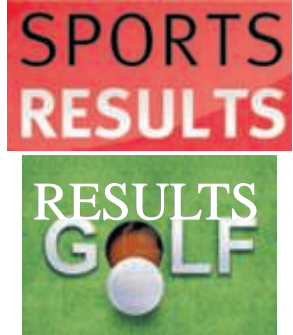
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the Ladies will play Stableford.

Thursday 16th March
Rain put an end to the Vets golf on Thursday, the Vets will resume this Thursday with a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 18th March
Once again rain depleted the Saturday field with many 'Scratchings'. The Toronto connection struck the winners circle again with A Grade going to Brett Porter with 37 points on countback to club mate, Troy McAllister. B Grade went to Breakers GC member Guy Lang with 39 points from Paul Bullock (HV) 38 points and C Grade to Trevor Hargreaves nalso from the Breakers GC with 38 points from Colin Mills (HV). Ball winners were: Bruce Chambers 37, Lucas Jones v35, Graeme Charles v35, Justin Ely v34, Craig Sharp 33, John Stewart v33, Tim Stephenson v33, Steve Piggot 33, Anthony Bower 32, Darren Green v32, Ray Newton 32 and Clarke Sturman 32. Nearest-the-Pins went to Anthony Bower (3rd) Wayne Thompson (4th & 8th) and Shannon Atwell (17th). Next weeks event will be a Tiger Tee Medley Stableford.

Tuesday 21st March
Several players found the soft conditions to their liking in the Tuesday Stableford with Gary Thomas doing best with 42 points, 2nd went to Dale Macklinshaw with 40 points on a countback to Hieu Le. Ball winners were: Garry Clarke 39, Ray Newton 38, Scott Archibald 36, Steve Piggot 36, Chris Taggart 36, Garry Hedges 35, Peter Payne 35, Rick Turnchini 35, Chris Edwards 35 and Mick Reynolds 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Peter Payne (3rd) Mick Reynolds (4th) David Peel (8th) and Graeme Flynn (17th)

Wednesday 22nd March
Jenelle Jurd had a great round to win the Ladies Stableford with 38 points from Christine Tancred 33 and Kerrie-Anne Skinner 32 on countback 3rd. Ball winners were: Pam Snaddon, Sue Peel, Robyn Dunlop, Karen Baillie and Lorraine Clack. Next week the Ladies will play Par

Thursday 23rd March
Ryan Wilson produced a fine round of golf to win the Vets Stableford with 44 points from David Peel 42 and Grahame Sheldon 3rd with 40 points. Ball winners were: Wayne Berry 39, Kevin Smith 38, Doug Wand 37, John Harrison 37, Ray Newton 36, Darrell Preston 36, Ray Hodson 36, David Irwin 36, Geoff Sweetman 35, Ken Harris 35 and John Stewart 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Hodson (3rd) Doug Wand (4th & 10th) Ray Newton (8th) and Wayne Berry (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 25th March
Finally a 'dry' Saturday greeted players in the Tiger Tee Challenge at Hunter Valley Golf Club which was most welcome by all. A Grade went to Stephen Kemp with 37 points from Brad Burgess 36, B Grade to Michael Booth with 38 on a

countback to Mark Hollis and C Grade to Christine Boyd with 'round of the day' a magnificent 44 points with Nick Hain runner up with 38 points. Ball winners were: Paul Davies 37, Colin Leung 36, Sue Peel 36, Ben Pickering 36, Adam Pratten 36, John Parish 36, Angello Korlevic 36, Jeff Shanahan 36, Julie Van Den Berg 35, Steve Piggot 35, Scott Smith 33, Glenn Hamilton 33, Kerrie-Anne Skinner 33. Colin Mills 32, John Stewart 32, Bruce Cahmbers 32 and Adam Baxter 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Adam Baxter (3rd) David Peel (4th) and Scott Smith (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford.

****Away success for Hunter Valley Veterans**
Oetogenarian Geoff Sweetman has covered himself in glory last week claiming a win in the 2017 Orange Vets Week of Golf, taking out C Grade, a great result, congratulations Geoff Melita Watson and Julie Van Den Berg travelled for the 2017 GolfNSW Senior Championship on 19th – 22nd March at Mudgee Golf Club with Melita progressing through to the Final of Division 1 (handicap 0-19) where crucial putts failed to drop and alas led to a loss. Congratulations on a huge effort in going so far.

Branxton Lady Golfers Results for Wednesday 15th March.
Stableford Event. Winner: Ruth McCarthy 35 points
Runner Up: Trish McMillan 34 points.
Nearest to the pin: Karrie O'Connell.

Results for Wednesday 22nd March, 2017
Stableford event. Winner: Carol Miller 33 points
Runner-up: Kerrie O'Connell 30 points
Nearest to the Pin: Caren Caldwell
Birdie to Caren Caldwell on the 9th.

Branxton Golf Club Sat 18th March STABLEFORD
A grade winner Simon Elsom 40 pts
A grade runner up Troy Felan 36 pts
A grade third David Matt 35 pts
B grade winner Ian Barnes 40 pts
B grade runner up Robert Miller 33 pts
B grade third Ed Garland 33 pts
C grade winner Col Hughes 38 pts
C grade runner up Lennard Porter 37 pts
C grade third Geoff Jones 37 pts
NTP ~ Simon Elsom 25cm
Tony Seamer 515 cm
R Caldwell 164 cm
Dave Hollis 625cm
Simon Elson enjoyed his day of golf after the recent poor weather winning A Grade with an impressive 40 pts, 4 pts clear of runner up Troy Felan with David Matt third with his 35 pts. Simon also had the shot of the day with his tee shot finishing only 25 cms away on the 2nd. Ian Barnes returned to form in winning B Grade with a fine 40 pts as well. He also won very easily with Robert Miller finishing runner up

with 33 pts and Eddie Garland third with the same score. Col Hughes' 38 pts was good enough to win C Grade, just ahead of Lennie Porter with 37 pts and Geoff Jones' 36 pts. On Sunday, the Seniors were unfortunately knocked out in the semi-finals against Aberdeen at Muswellbrook 2-1 in an extremely close match, with the last pair only going down on the last hole. This team did very well this year making it this far after only losing one match but having 3 draws and many close finishes. It was typical of them to be fighting to the finish in this match. The C Grade team's final Has been postponed until next week and the undefeated B Grade team has now reached the final with one round to go after last weekend's washout.

Branxton Golf club –Sat 25th March Stableford

A grade winner Riley Mcclung 39 pts
A grade runner up David Kinch 37 pts c/b
A grade third Joshua tracey 37 pts
B grade winner Raymond Chenery 40 pts
B grade runner up Cody Chappell 36 pts
B grade third Richard Crooks 35 pts
C grade winner Lee Jackson 34 pts
C grade runner up Darren Mathers 33 pts
C grade third Mick armstrong 32 pts
BALL COMP 31 pts
NTP

L Hunt 280c m
E Barrett 74 cm
D Mathers 173 cm
R McClung 109 cm
Local promising junior, Riley McClung, displayed his capabilities by winning Saturday's A Grade Stableford with an impressive 39 pts, a round which included a nearest the pinon the very difficult 13th hole, with his tee shot finishing only 109 cms away. Dave Kinch finished runner up with his 37 pts, a pleasing round after his recent busy and quite successful Senior Pennants season. Joshua Tracey, fresh from his outstanding win in the recent Branxton Open finished third with his 37 pts, an excellent par round. Ray Chenery, a blast from the past, won B Grade with the day's best score of 40 pts. showing his has lost none of his golfing prowess. Cody Chappel finished runner up with his 36 pts just ahead of former Club President Richard Crooks with 35 pts. Lee Jackson's 34 pts was surprisingly good enough to win C Grade, just ahead of Darren Mather's 34 pts and Mick Armstrong's 32 pts, on a day where only 31 pts was needed to win a golf ball. The shot of the day belonged to the local veteran and ever consistent iron player Eddie Barrett whose shot to the 4th finished only 74 cms away. Congratulations to our C Grade Pennants team who won a very tense battle with Hunter Valley at Cessnock on Sunday 2-1. The B Grade team will play their final against Maitland at The Vintage next Sunday, 2nd April starting at 11.40am. WE wish our undefeated team all the best on Sunday.

Do your beliefs hold you back?

“You begin to fly when you let go of self-limiting beliefs and allow your mind and aspirations to rise to greater heights” – Brian Tracy

We all have that little voice in our heads when we want to do something. For some of us, that voice is positive, telling us to do things, to sign up for that fun run, or apply for the new job, or start going to fitness classes. It's a “yes, I can do that” kind of feeling. We jump at the new ideas and experiences with confidence, not a doubt in our minds, happy to be taking action.

For some people, the little voice in their head is the doubter, the nay sayer. The one who says running isn't fun, or tells you not to apply for the job because you won't get it anyway, or not to join the new fitness class because everyone else will be fitter than you and you will look silly. This voice keeps us safe, in our comfort zones.

But where do these voices come from? Why are some people always looking on the bright side, or seemingly not caring what other people think, while others are full of self-doubt and coming up with all the reasons something won't work? Is it nature or nurture? Are some people born naturally optimistic, with their glass half full? Or is it learned? And can you change it?

Maybe your belief that it is harder to lose weight as you get older comes from hearing your mother or aunt saying it as you were growing up. Now it is something you believe without question. Perhaps your belief that you can't run comes from when you were at school and you always came last in the sports carnival. Wherever these negative (or limiting) beliefs come from, think of at least one reason for each why they are complete garbage!

For example, a few years ago I had to do a fitness assessment which included running one kilometre and timing it. I didn't want to do it. I had been telling myself for years I hated running. I told myself I couldn't run to save my life (and I believed it). But because running was part of my assessment, and I didn't want to fake the result or tell someone I couldn't do it, I psyched myself up for it, telling myself it was only one kilometre, how hard could it be? Well, I had to stop three times, and I was so out of breath when I finished that I could barely talk. I told myself it was ok, running was overrated anyway, why run if no one is chasing you? I told myself I just wasn't a runner (the result even proved it), and I was fit in other ways. But it bugged me. I'm a little bit competitive, and I started telling myself it was only one kilometre, so if I was so fit why couldn't I run it without stopping? It was a challenge.

Running one kilometre became my goal. It took me a few months, and all that time the limiting beliefs were still in my head, but I was determined, so I kept at it. And eventually I did it. You have never seen anyone so excited to run one kilometre without stopping! And now I run marathons! If you had told me when I couldn't run one kilometre without stopping that one day I would willingly run 10km just for fun, I would not have believed you. But 10km is just one kilometre, ten times in a row. And I tell myself now I can run one kilometre (although it still surprises me when I do it without stopping). That is my positive belief.

Think about your own goals. They may be related to health and fitness, or they may be related to other aspects of your life, such as your work. Perhaps your goal is to travel overseas? Some goals are specific, such as “lose 10kgs by June” or maybe your goal is more of a dream, such as learning to SCUBA dive “one day”.

Now think about what you believe in relation to your goals. Beliefs are the things you know, deep inside. The things that you don't question, they just are. For each of your goals, think of three beliefs that **support** you in reaching each goal. For example, if your goal is to learn a new language, you could think back to a time when you did that successfully, such as French classes in Year 7. Or if your goal is to change jobs this year, think about the other times you have been successful in getting a new job. If you plan to lose weight, think about the times when you have lost weight before, the people who supported you, and how good you felt.

Now think about the beliefs that **don't** support you. For most people making a list of negative (or limiting) beliefs will be a lot easier than thinking about the positive beliefs. If you plan to lose weight, your negative beliefs might go something like this – “It's harder to lose weight as you get older”, “I can't join the fitness class, I'm so fat I won't be able to keep up with the exercises”, or “Now is not a good time, I'll wait until after my (holiday/birthday/Christmas etc ...)”.

If you have limiting beliefs, you will have limited expectations, and you will behave in a way that contributes negatively to the outcome, which in turn reinforces your limiting beliefs.

On the other hand, if you have positive beliefs (such as “surely I can run 1km”), you will have positive expectations, and you will behave in a way that moves you towards your desired outcome. When you successfully reach your goal, you will reinforce your positive beliefs, and the cycle continues.

Next time I will talk about the hidden costs (and benefits) of not reaching your goals.

Until then, if you would like help setting and reaching your goals, or identifying your beliefs and how they are helping or hindering you, contact me via my website www.louise Cairns.com.au.

What else is happening at “Fit for Life”?

I am busy putting the finishing touches on my 10 week “Health and Fitness Challenge” which will kick off in the first week of April. If you would like more information please contact me via my website.

By the time you read this I will be in Japan for my annual ski trip. We are going a bit later than usual as my son broke his arm just before Christmas and we had to wait until he could snowboard again!

I am ramping up my training for the UTA50 in May. For those who don't know this is a trail running event in the Blue Mountains. This is my fourth time running in this event and I am hoping for a PB. I'm not sure how I will go running in the snow ... I will let you know when I get back! When I return from Japan I will be going to a running clinic/workshop at Katoomba, so I need to keep up my fitness while I am away.

Louise Cairns Fit for Life

Louise Cairns is a Personal Trainer and Motivational Coach based in Branxton. Louise retired from a twenty year management career with the Australian Government to set up her own Fitness and Coaching business, Louise Cairns Fit for Life. Louise runs regular fitness classes at Lochinvar and Branxton, as well as PT sessions in Branxton and Kurri Kurri. Louise also helps people set and achieve their own goals at work and home. You can find out more at www.louise Cairns.com.au



BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

GRETA GREYHOUNDS GOING GREAT



"Midnight Mustang" gets an ice cream at McDonalds after every race

New members James Porter and Sharee Robertson have enjoyed a good time at the Gardens in the last few months with 9 winners and a stack of placings. Amongst the winners were OBSERVANT, ROCK-STAR ROY, IN THE QUE, NEW ENGLAND and CHUNKY BUT FUNKY. The long hours and hard work paying off. Also enjoying success was Helen

Pullman with her DON'T KNOCKA HIM x SKYELA TOKAAM litter, RIELY, TIGER, BUDDY, BOBBY, REAGAN, TINY and JOSIE with 13 wins and 16 placings. The star of the litter TIGER TO-KAAM took his tally to six wins on Saturday night at Wentworth Park. Intending members Tracey Miller had a good win at the

Gardens with HILLBILLY JO whilst Robbie Neville was unlucky with BLACK BUCKET BOY. The Kedwell's were very quite this month with only one winner, SCOTT NOTHING for Chris Kedwell. They do however have a kennel full of promising young pups just waiting to be unleashed.

Bob Sabotic said the cancellation of meetings due to the heat waves in February and the heavy rain in March was the reason he and son Bradley went without a winner, they had 4 favourites at meetings that were cancelled. The Bradley Sabotic bred WAR AT MIDNIGHT did however win 3 races at Grafton for Reg Gardoll and his wife. Gary Ernst (big Gazza the hare driver) is hoping to return to the winner's circle with the beautifully bred Barcia Bale x Keira's Charm pup



AUSSIE Infrared defeated one of the best fields the Hunter Valley has ever seen when capturing Thursday night's Group 2 Maitland Cup (450m). Trained in Victoria by Geoff Collins and Ros Hume, Aussie Infrared was only fairly away from box eight, but got plenty of room to muster speed, drawing level with fellow Victorian Pantera Nera (box three) around the turn

Coco. Last Thursday saw a great night of racing at Maitland with the feature race being the P.P.K. \$54,000 Gold Cup over 450m. The \$2.40 favourite AUSSIE INFRARED in box 8 didn't let the punters down taking the \$40,000 first prize for Wattle Flat trainer Rosalyn Hume. The following race was won by GRID LOCK, a black dog by Barcia Bale and trained at Reedy Creek by Jennifer Barnett. Jenny and husband Graeme took a little break

from the club last year but returned last month and have kicked off with a winner. The Gold Cup Consolation saw Greta G.B.O.T.A. members Jonny Sledzinowski and Tony Pullman filling the placings with DJANGO'S MATE and RILEY TOKAAM. The highlight of the month was the Jonny Sledzianowski owned and trained DJANGO'S MATE winning in fine style at Maitland, paying \$38.00. In all the excitement Sledge

forgot to shout his dog an ice cream at McDonalds but didn't forget to shout himself and his handler a beer at the pub. Anyone wishing to join the G.B.O.T.A. are welcome to attend our next meeting which will be held at GRETA WORKERS CLUB, Sunday 9th April commencing at 7pm. Rock up early and enjoy a meal, hope to see you there.

SAM.

Vale Eddie French; a Horseman and a Gentleman.

It is hard to imagine Greta Branxton Gymkhana without him..... Eddie's smiling face and witty demeanor has been part of the culture for over 25 years as president, as well as time on the committee. A commitment that is very rare in this day and age. A selfless man that enjoyed giving to others, he loved to help the tiny tots and beginners enjoy their chosen horse sport but most of all encouraged them to have fun.

As a committee I feel, we were very lucky to work with him and call Eddie our friend. Being a small committee we worked hard on making everything right for Eddie as to us as others I am sure: he was one in a million. He's inspiration and dedication is what we aspire to when we were with Eddie.....

Those boots are going to be hard to fill.... God Bless - Eddie French.... You will be sadly missed.

Alan, Jodie, Colin and Des




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



For all Earthworks needs please call 49383425