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# The News

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12 April 2017

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**Local School News**

## The Branxton Greta Business Chamber successfully obtain NSW Office of Environment & Heritage funding for establishment of "Historical Walk"



The Branxton Greta Business Chamber has been granted funding from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage for the development of the Branxton Historical Walk.

of historical significance within the Branxton town centre with the placement of bronze plaques providing insight into the original details and uses of the buildings. A map of the tour and further details regarding the structures will also be developed in

a booklet format. This booklet will be available to our community and visitors for free following the installation of plaques. A community and educational folio will be distributed to schools and community groups. The booklet, folio and

the third edition of "Black Creek to Branxton", soon to be reprinted by Tidy Towns will provide extended historical information. In total, BGBC received \$11181.00 for use on

these works. The project is in line with the Branxton Town Centre Masterplan, adopted 2016, which highlights the need to respond to and embrace Branxton's unique heritage. This is especially focal at this time of social and commercial change to Branxton in light of major developments in our area. "Works will commence shortly. The BGBC in

consultation with Branxton Tidy Towns is proud to present this project to our community in 2017," said Brett Wild, President of the Chamber.



Branxton Railway Station built 1862

**Mid Hunter Palliative Care Volunteers** is a local service which offers free support to people, and their families, who have a terminal or life limiting illness. We are in need of more community members to become volunteers to

continue to provide this non-nursing, support role. For those who are interested and would like to know more, please come along to the Information Session being held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at 10:30am in the Conference Room, Dangar House at Singleton Hospital. Being a volunteer is a rewarding experience and a vital support for families, helping them cope with and participate in as much as they can at this time. The education course provides information, experience and support, and covers many topics to help the new volunteer understand their role. Topics include active listening, death, dying and grieving. Experienced volunteers and members of the medical palliative care team provide information and support. The volunteer takes on the role of a "good neighbour". **Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer please contact the Coordinator, Sue Pope on 6572 2121 or 0407 072 610 as soon as possible.**

**Help needed**  
The Rotary Club of Cessnock is seeking support from a family or families willing to be considered as a host family for an exchange student from Finland. The exchange commences early July 2017 & lasts for 6 months. Those interested could agree to 3 or 6 months as host. A volunteering family is not required to be a member of Rotary. Support of course is provided by the sponsoring Rotary Club, Cessnock.

**Anyone interested should in the first instance contact me via message on Facebook 'Rotary Club of Cessnock'.**

### New Gp Surgery in Branxton...



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all details page 12

## PUBLIC EXHIBITION DRAFT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PLAN 2017-2021

At its meeting of 5 April 2017 Council resolved to place the Draft Health and Well-being Plan 2017-2021 on public exhibition. The Draft Plan provides Council with localised actions that encourage healthy environments, liveable communities and well-being.

**The public exhibition period will be from Wednesday 12 April 2017 to Wednesday 10 May 2017.**  
The document can be viewed at the following locations:

Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section);  
Cessnock Public Library;  
Kurri Kurri Public Library;  
Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 5.00 pm Wednesday 10 May 2017** via email [council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post to: The General Manager, PO Box 152, CESSNOCK 2325.

## PUBLIC EXHIBITION DRAFT DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2017-2021

At its meeting of 5 April 2017 Council resolved to place the Draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 on public exhibition. The Draft Plan provides Council with localised actions to improve inclusion and accessibility for its infrastructure, communications, business systems and services.

**The public exhibition period will be from Wednesday 12 April 2017 to Wednesday 10 May 2017.**  
The document can be viewed at the following locations:

Council's Administration Building (Customer Service Section);  
Cessnock Public Library;  
Kurri Kurri Public Library;  
Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

The Draft Plan is also available in large font print.

Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 5.00 pm Wednesday 10 May 2017** via email [council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au) or post to: The General Manager, PO Box 152, CESSNOCK 2325. Verbal submissions can also be made by telephoning 4993 4118.

## CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Council at its meeting of 7 September 2016 resolved to declare the current community representative positions vacant and invite expressions of interest for public nomination of community representation on the Floodplain Management Committee. A total of four (5) representatives are required, including two (2) from the Greater Cessnock area, one (1) from the greater Kurri Kurri area, one (1) from the Greater Wollombi - Millfield area and (1) from the Rothbury/Branxton/Greta area.



**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!

The primary role of the local community representatives is to form a link between the Committee and the local population in flood prone areas. The representative will also be required to provide historical advice on local problems and perceived solutions, as well as consider in detail implications of matters which may impact on the local community. Representatives will also be required to facilitate formal representations to the Committee on behalf of the members of the public.

**Duties include attendance at up to four (4) Committee Meetings each year held in Council's Administration Centre to provide Community input into the floodplain risk management process across the various catchments in Cessnock LGA. Further information can be obtained from Council's Strategic Flooding & Drainage Engineer, Mr Peter Jennings on 4993 4119.**

**Applications in writing setting out your interest and experience in floodplain risk management should be addressed to The General Manager, Cessnock City Council, PO Box 152, Cessnock, 2325. Submissions will be received at the Administration Centre up until 4.00 pm on Friday 14 April 2017.**

## COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT \$ FOR \$ GRANTS 2016/2017

Local community based organisations involved in arts and cultural activities within the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) are invited to apply to Council's Community Cultural Development \$ for \$ Grants Program. Applications may be for funding assistance for specific arts/cultural projects and/or facilities improvements for amounts up to \$3000.

Community based organisations from outside the Cessnock LGA may apply and be considered for funding only if the project benefits the artistic or cultural development of the Cessnock LGA. Applications will be considered by the Dollar for Dollar Grants Committee.

Application forms and guidelines are available from Council's Customer Service Counter, 62 - 78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, from Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries and also from Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/dollarfordollar](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/dollarfordollar)

Applicants are advised to read the guidelines prior to completing the application form.

**Completed application forms must be received no later than  
5pm Wednesday Monday 8 May 2017  
Late applications will not be considered.**

For further information please contact:

Community and Cultural Engagement Officer

Jo Miller T 02 4993 4258 E [jo.miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jo.miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

PO BOX 152  
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN  
GENERAL MANAGER

## Cessnock City Council push for a common sense location for the proposed Lower Hunter Hospital



Artist impression of the proposed \$400 million Metford hospital

Cessnock City Council is calling on the NSW Government to consider a location along the Hunter Expressway for the proposed new Lower Hunter Hospital.

The new health hub is set to provide residents of the Hunter better access to healthcare and relieve pressure on Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital, however current plans are for the hospital to be built at Metford.

Cessnock City Councillor, Paul Dunn said building the new facility at Metford will not achieve these key goals.

"A true regional hospital needs to be accessible to all residents in our community, including those living in outlying areas".

"Putting the hospital along the Hunter Expressway will provide for the most direct route as the majority of the population boom is on the west side of Maitland".

"The positive benefits of locating a hospital on the Hunter Expressway will not only be felt on the region's healthcare but on our local economy".

"This is a real opportunity to provide a boost to our economy as this facility will no doubt generate jobs", Cr Dunn said.

A delegation of Councillors will seek a meeting with NSW Minister for Health, Hon Brad Hazzard MP to urge him to consider this preferred location.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he looks forward to entering into talks with a number of State Government representatives.

"As a Council we must identify opportunities for our community that will have overwhelmingly positive outcomes and this clearly fits the mould. I welcome more options being put back on the table", Cr Pynsent said.

The proposal has been contentious from the outset with NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association running a concerted campaign to have the new facility kept a public utility.

"The new hospital will be handed to a private operator in a Public-Private Partnership (PPP)."

"This has been done with no consultation and we fear patients and staff will be worse off under a public-private partnership model. A PPP is not a true public hospital. It is an arrangement that gives a profit-seeking entity control over public services. This is the wrong path for Australia.

We object to profits being made from people's health," said a spokesperson for the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association.

**SOME BACKGROUND FROM <http://www.hinfra.health.nsw.gov.au/our-projects/New-Maitland-Hospital~Project-Status-Planning>**

*In August 2013 the preferred site for the new Maitland Hospital was identified in Metford. The preferred site best met the extensive list of more than 50 selection criteria. In March 2015 the NSW Government announced more than \$400 million for the New Maitland Hospital project. The new hospital will be both the rural referral hospital for the Hunter Valley and the major district hospital for local residents of the Lower Hunter. The range of services at the new hospital will include emergency care, surgical care, acute care, maternity care, paediatric care, inpatient medical and surgical beds, rehabilitation, mental health, palliative care, chemotherapy and ambulatory care.*

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## Military Clearance/Garage Sale

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WW2 Woollen Jackets, Battle Dress Jackets and Trousers, Service Dress, Boots, shirts, trousers, wet weather gear and some other foreign countries.

Hats, berets and some helmets. New WW2 Navy, Army socks and elbow pads, field jacket liners.

Buttons, badges and many sundry items too many to list.

Personal Field equipment new and used all eras and wars, including large quantity of Pat 37, right through to current surplus, belts, packs, webbing straps and sets, DPCU pouches, blankets, sleeping bags, tools.

Weapon cleaning kits – Bren Gun, Owen Gun and SLR. Signaller Pouches, vehicle collapsible stretchers (Austin). Water bottle carriers, water bottles, bum packs, pliers and wire cutters.

Equipment such as timber and plastic boxes, tripods, radio's both Army and Navy, antennas, and various military electrical equipment including WW2 Tank and Bren Gun Commanders headsets (some new), mapping (plotting equipment), books, training manuals.

Other collectables such as di cast trucks and cars, videos and DVDs

Landrover series 3 Short wheel base, no gearbox – IF NOT SOLD BEFORE

No 4 Australian Army 1/2 TN Trailer with Cover – IF NOT SOLD BEFORE

Landrover used parts, bonnets rims etc

The entire collection is to be cleared out, many years of collecting and buying has come to an end, this is an opportunity to buy a piece of Military history, or perfect for re-enactors.

Over 90% of the items are all genuine and not REPRODUCTIONS.

Very small quantity of reproduction gear will be sold separately, and not mixed in with genuine equipment and uniforms.

No prior sales, all reasonable offers on the day will be considered. No bags allowed in the building on the day.

**Cash, EFTPOS, Debit and Credit Card – available on the day ONLY WITH Driver's license. NO AMEX or Diners**

## Super idea ahead of the V8 Supercars hitting the streets of Newcastle



Cessnock City Council wants to take full advantage of the Newcastle 500 this November and show off the Hunter Valley wine country to the influx of spectators the V8 Supercars event is sure to attract. V8 Supercars will be receiving a call from Cessnock City Council and the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Alliance about getting a motor racing team out to Cessnock while they are in the region. Cessnock City Councillor, Jay Suvaal is excited about the opportunity the event

presents for Cessnock's tourism industry. "We know this event is going to be absolutely huge, attracting thousands of people from across Australia, what a fantastic chance to showcase our region and promote ourselves as a must see and do during peoples visit", said Clr Suvaal. Clr Suvalls' Notice of Motion, which went to council on the 5th April & which was unanimously supported, said ... that Council, in consultation with the Hunter Valley

people travelling from all over the country to attend the V8 Supercars race in Newcastle and we should be trying to promote our region and maximise the economic benefits of this event. Council has previously done this through events like the Asian Cup which was a great success and I think we should be looking to expand this into other sports.

Cessnock City Council and Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Alliance will work alongside local accommodation, transport and tourism operators to promote Hunter Valley wine country as the place to stay for those travelling to watch the race. Cessnock Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said the Cessnock local government areas is a perfect location, spectators can relax after a day of excitement on the track and enjoy the beautiful landscape we have to offer.

"It is a fantastic idea that could reap real reward for our tourism operators and tourism industry now and into the future. We really do live in a beautiful place and one visit to the Hunter Valley is enough to see people making a return trip", Cr Pynsent said.



Wine and Tourism Association, contact the V8 Supercars about the possibility of hosting one or more teams in the Cessnock LGA while they

are in the Hunter region for the Coates Hire 500 race in Newcastle this November. 2. That Council work with the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association and local accommodation, transport and tourism operators to promote our LGA as a place for visitors to stay and travel to the race instead of staying in Newcastle. There will be lots of



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# What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

AS you will see from the front page (*The Branxton Greta Business Chamber successfully obtain NSW Office of Environment & Heritage funding for establishment of "Historical Walk"*) the Branxton Greta Business Chamber is a very active local organisation that has taken on many issues since its reformation a number of years ago. Just to name a few matters that they have organised and/or lobbied for: The very successful Umbrella Festival, the acquisition of land that abutted Miller Park for active/passive recreation, the \$60,000 provision of RV facilities at Branxton Oval & the funding of a town co-ordinator. The inaugural President, after reformation, was Mick Starkey who held the position

for, using my sometimes very bad memory, eight years (I think). The current President, Brett Wild, has certainly stepped into some very big shoes and is doing a wonderful job. He has some very good support at board level & is a driving force. Coming events are, in conjunction with LWP

property, a community BBQ & Teddy Bears Picnic on the 25th June & with great help from Belford Land Corporation a Movie Night on the 14th October. Those who know Brett would know he's no 'shrinking violet'! He's latest project is the provision of a better garbage tip utility we have at Greta. The first shot was fired just a few weeks ago to Cessnock Council. In Bretts words:-

"As you are all aware we have a tip at Greta, it's my understanding that its operated on behalf of CCC by a contractor. A number of residence's have voiced their disapproval at the inability to use the annual CCC Tip Voucher supplied to residence's who pay rates in

the LGA. I would ask the question as to what the position is of the Ward 'C' Councillors regarding the provision of garbage and tip services &, moving forward, has the council a plan for the expected growth in Branxton/Huntlee. If so when will this occur. Also, will CCC expand the provision for recycling at Greta Tip. And when/why can't residence use the vouchers; why are Branxton Greta residents again denied council services that are readily available in Cessnock. This is a substantially community issue that needs to be resolved, and we are looking to you." CCC's answer:- *The site referred to in Hollingshed Road has previously been used as a landfill disposal site and was closed after reaching capacity. Since that time the site has operated as a transfer facility where material is collected via bulk roll on roll off containers and transferred to Cessnock for landfill. The site is the only other site providing a waste related service in the LGA. Operationally, the site presents a number of opera-*



tional challenges including: Operational hours, Security Cost of transfer, General use (residents and non-residents) Available Council resources In an effort to provide some control over the operation of the site, and minimise the operational costs, the vouchers are not accepted due to: the capacity to weigh each transaction & the additional cost of transferring the extra

material that would be received from voucher transactions. It should be recognised that waste management is expensive and the costs are ultimately born by the ratepayer. Additionally, economic viability, the environment and service equity should be considered when introducing new services or facilities. Council has taken the view that whilst

the transfer of materials is provided the use is minimised by excluding the vouchers. Similarly, vouchers issued to all residents of the LGA are redeemable at the Cessnock Waste Management Facility only. With Cessnock LGA covering around 2,000 sq kms it is not possible, practical or economically viable to operate landfill or waste collection systems for every

town or village. The growth of the LGA will present a number of operational demands and challenges and changes to the services provided, however at this point in time the waste management focus is on providing increased kerbside service, reducing the need for visits to the landfill facility, reduction of waste to landfill and a modern facility with future capacity for the entire LGA. Construction is currently underway to upgrade the Cessnock facility to meet the future demand. I'll leave it to our readers to decide(?). Cheers, Mike



Casual labour Just when I thought Joel Fitzgibbon MP was on the right track when he expressed support for the Hunter Valley Coal Industry, he steps on it with his proposed petition. Joel this is the ugly truth. The 700,000 odd casual workers who may miss out on a part of what they came to expect for working on Sundays will never vote for the Coalition so you will be talking to deaf ears in pursuing this. I was a small business owner for just over 8 years and was able to grow the business sufficiently to sell it as a going concern. That was despite having to pay interest rates of 24% and up

to 17% on the overdraft. To survive this situation I had to go into more debt to pay out my employees' accumulated leave entitlements, sick leave and long service leave and place them on as casual employees. In this way all costs associated with employing were up front by paying casual rates which were loaded to compensate for loss of permanent employment. The business therefore did not accumulate the open ended debt of employee entitlements which in the past almost bankrupted GM Corp in America, and led the demise of Pan

American Airways, TWA, Ansett, TAA, and almost sank Qantas. This boils down to paying staff to work when they are needed and not time-serving. The advantage of this was both ways, for the employer and the employees. Staff were able to arrange their domestic situation around the peak times when the shop required them. The rates of casual pay were more than a Corporal in the Regular Army received on an hourly basis. They were briefed to understand that not all their pay was disposable income and that they had to provide a saving plan to cover holidays etc. The employer superannuation contributions were still made on their behalf.

The union movement and hence the labour party are ideologically opposed to pay for effort because these people are not unionised and therefore make no contributions to unions and therefore the labour party. Well Joel, too bad mate. Suck it up. Steve Lind., North Rothbury NSW

The Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group The Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group will meet again on the 27<sup>th</sup> April at Cessnock Leagues Club at 3pm. The Guest Speaker is Jenny Noblet from The Hunter Melanoma Foundation & her topic will be on melanoma prevention & why early detection is so vital. So, come along and ask your questions knowing that you will receive the

correct answer. Because we are affiliated with Cancer Council NSW and The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and because of our Affiliation with those two groups we include not only Prostate Cancer, but other types of cancer and health related issues into our meetings which effects both genders. Our meetings are open to all members of the public. Cost - FREE. Contact- Barry\ Rose 49904554. 0439404554. Barry Preston- Co Convener- Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group, Cessnock NSW Wine or music? On Saturday night (1/4/17) my wife and I attended Bimbaden Estate for a 'Day on the Green' event to see two grand old ladies of

popular culture Deborah Harry and Cyndi Lauper. As this was our first time at such an event, my wife and I were appalled at the levels of intoxication among mid-aged individuals, and the general lack of respect paid to these well-renowned artists, and other music lovers who had gone along to see this international act, not to mentioned had paid a lot of money. Whilst my wife and I are far from prudent, and did enjoy a few bottles of Bimbaden's wine, to see the progressive demise of a large amount of concert-goers due to the consumption of alcohol to a point whereby they missed the main artists was completely beyond belief. You have to ask the question did they go to the concert to get smashed on alcohol and

catch up with friends, or go the concert with friends to see two international artists? I fear the first. In any event, these uncivilised individuals and their antics only somewhat dulled an amazing event which included three very different bands, and of course the two grand old ladies of popular culture. Deborah Harry and Cyndi Lauper are still amazing especially at 71 and 63 years of age respectively. Rock on ladies. Adam Walton, Toronto

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 emailed to  
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## 2017 Easter Message from Bishop Bill



The ancient Hebrew people, like every other human society, had to try to make sense of their world. And like every society, part of what they saw around them was a certain prevalence of greed, selfishness, violence and all the things we collectively call 'evil'. Like our own indigenous people, the Hebrews used to explain their world to themselves by telling stories of the things that had happened to the ancestors long, long ago to make things the way they are now. So it was they told stories around their campfires of how the first ancestors had had it good but had broken God's rules and a world of troubles had flowed from that.

One significant part of that Adam and Eve story is what happens after the first sin. All we're told is that Adam and Eve feel shame. They hide, they literally cover themselves up, and then they start blaming each other and the wretched serpent. That's shame. It's not feeling proper guilt, the pangs of conscience when you recognise and take responsibility for the wrong you've done. And neither of these, shame or guilt, measures up to the Christian idea of repentance. Repentance is deep sorrow for the wrong done, a decision to do whatever you can to make it right and, above all, a determination to change. 'Repentance', as the Latin root of the word suggests, is a 're-thinking' of the direction of your life, of how you're living, of what you're on about.

Our church in these past years has been living through a period of experiencing all these reactions to our wrongdoing. Great evil has been done by some of our people and leaders. Sexual abuse of children. As this has come to light, there has certainly been shame. But as always, shame is an utterly inadequate response, what with its hiding, its covering up, its looking for excuses and its blaming others. There has been proper guilt too in many quarters, with its sorrow for the harm done and acceptance of responsibility. Of course most Catholics, most of you, have no personal responsibility for the crimes or cover-ups. But many of us are still deeply uneasy, to say the least, that perhaps there was something in our Catholic way of doing things, in our habits of mind, our ways of relating, in the way we put value too much value on some things and not enough on others – in what the Royal Commission calls 'the Catholic Culture' – that first allowed abuse to go undetected and then allowed it not to be exposed, punished and stopped. Some of us feel a sort of community guilt about that, a communal responsibility. But where we need to get to is repentance.

We're just finishing Lent, the time each year that calls us to repentance. Let's recall: Repentance is beyond feeling shame, it's beyond feeling sorry, it's beyond feeling guilty. Repentance is taking a good hard look at what we're on about as Christians, it is about real sorrow for the harm we cause, and it is absolutely about being determined to change, or rather to let the grace and Spirit of God into our lives to change us.

Now in our calendar we are coming to Easter. But there is no Easter morning without its Good Friday afternoon; there is no rising to new life without the pain of giving up the old life on the cross, there is no salvation from our sins without repentance and changing.

'Repent and believe the Good News' was Jesus first and fundamental preaching. I hope and pray that each of you will experience the hope that is in the Good News of Jesus' resurrection again this Easter 2017. And I hope and pray that, in the months, years and decades ahead, we will as a church observe an extended Lent of getting beyond shame and guilt to genuine repentance. On the basis of real sorrow, desire to make amends and determination to change, may we come, together, in time, to a new Easter dawn: a new life as a better, gentler, humbler, more caring and holier church. We still have some dying to do, but we are a people who see, in the dying to old ways, the promise of new life. We are an Easter people.



### ANZAC DAY

TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2017

*Lest We Forget*

Branxton & Greta



### GRETA

The Day will commence at 5.30am with the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the Old Courthouse. The March will commence at 9.30am leaving the corner of the New England Hwy and Nelson St, and finishing at the Cenotaph.

The Main Service being held at the Cenotaph at approximately 10am.

**GO TO PAGE 23 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANZAC DAY IN GRETA**



### BRANXTON

**Dawn Service:** 0515 for 0530 At Rotunda John Rose Ave.

**March & Main Service:** 1100 at Branxton Inn (please note change from previous years)

**Service:** 1145 at Rotunda Branxton Oval

**Occasional Address:** Cmd Neill Bell MCDO RAN (Retired)



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**Friday \*16th May 2016 \* 10.00am**

**BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL**

**Entry fee is \$10pp**

May is the month that Australia hosts **"BIGGEST MORNING TEA"**, a fundraiser for the Cancer Council. Australia's top cancer researchers depend on the Cancer Council for financial support to continue building a cancer-free future for us.

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RSVP:- 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016, essential for catering

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

A man went into a Birmingham supermarket asking to buy half a cauliflower. The young greens produce assistant told him that they sold only whole cauliflowers. The man persisted, and asked to see the manager; so the boy went to find him. Walking into the stock room, unaware that the customer was following him, the boy said to his manager, "Some idiot out there wants to buy half a cauliflower." As he finished his sentence, he turned and was horrified to find the customer now standing right behind him so, quick as a flash, he added, "And this gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half." The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way... Later, the manager said to the boy, "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people here who think on their feet. Where are you from, son?" "Cardiff, sir," the boy replied. "Why did you leave Cardiff?" the manager asked. The boy replied, "Sir, there's absolutely nothing there but prostitutes and rugby players."

"Really?" said the manager, "My wife is from Cardiff." "You're kidding!?" replied the boy.

"What position did she play?"



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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

### Raising the BARR GREYHOUNDS REVIVAL

Last week in Parliament the State Government finally introduced the new Legislation to allow for greyhound racing to continue beyond June 30, 2017. I am ever mindful that not everyone agrees with greyhound racing, so it is more important to focus on the process that has taken place, instead of the topic. Last July the Government suddenly announced that they were shutting down an industry (greyhounds) that existed in NSW for almost 200 years. This was announced in the knowledge that people's livelihoods and financial investments would be shattered. Based on this announcement, people started to change their breeding, investment and future decisions. Three months later, in September, in the face of widespread criticism of the decision to destroy an industry, the Premier confirmed that the decision was "locked in" and that there would be no back-down. Two weeks later, early in October, there was a bi-election in Orange that saw swings of 40% against the Government. One week after that bi-election, when the Government felt the full brunt of public opinion, the Government said that they had changed their mind and that they would reverse their decision and that the industry would in fact be allowed to continue. Since October last year, and the decision change, the industry has had nothing more than words and a promise. And let's face it, who believes Politicians and who believes a political promise? So for 6 months, 4,000+ people, their lives, their finances, their passion and their hobby have been in suspended limbo. Endless nights have been spent wondering "will they or won't they live up to their promise?" It's been quite a cruel and painful journey for people in the banned industry. So last week, we welcomed the new Legislation which provides a Clayton's certainty, for the industry. Why a "Clayton's" certainty? For those of us old enough, we would remember the TV advertisements for a non-alcoholic drink brand called Claytons that said it was "the drink you have when you're not having a drink". You see the Government could wake up tomorrow and declare that same industry, or another industry, to be banned. So whether you are a butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker or a greyhound owner, breeder or supplier, you will sleep better with the Legislation having gone through, but you will no doubt sleep a little nervously after the happenings of the past 12 months.

Cheers Clayton



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP, Upper Hunter

**State Matters**  
**MENTAL HEALTH INNOVATION**  
**FUND ROUND 2 NOW OPEN**  
I urge our local organisations with

innovative ideas to apply for a share in the \$1.5 million Mental Health Innovation Fund.

The NSW Government's Mental Health Innovation Fund is a way to find new, local initiatives that improve mental health services and outcomes across NSW.

This Fund provides an opportunity for the best minds in business, the community sector and government to develop and deliver new and creative ways to help people living with mental illness. Collaborating partners may include start-ups, non-government organisations, the private sector, local businesses, carers or individuals working alongside all levels of government.

The Nationals in Government are committed to seeing more people living well in the community. We know fresh approaches like these lead to better outcomes for those living with a mental illness while also reducing admissions in our public hospitals.

By funding these ideas, we can enhance the way we deliver person-centred care that focuses on consumers, particularly at the community level.

Expressions of interest for the second round are now open, with target innovation areas including:

- Mental health and intellectual disability/cognitive impairment
- Aboriginal mental health
- Mental health and youth homelessness
- Adult education
- Child and youth mental health

The Innovation Fund aligns with the Government's commitment to *Living Well*, the Mental Health Commission's 10-year road map to transform mental health services.

The first round of the Innovation Fund has been finalised and the projects will be announced shortly. Expressions of Interest for Round Two of the Innovation Fund close on 9 May 2017.

For further information on how to apply, visit the NSW Government e-tendering website: <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/>.

### FREE SAFER DRIVERS COURSE FOR LEARNER DRIVERS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS

Roads and Maritime Services provides 1000 free places each year for youth from Aboriginal communities and disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in the Safer Drivers Course.

The Safer Drivers Course is a combined theoretical and practical course for learner drivers under 25 years of age who have completed 50 log book hours. This fee exemption allows those who are financially disadvantaged to benefit from the road safety outcomes of the Safer Drivers Course which is typically valued at \$140. The course helps young drivers on their L-plates prepare for driving solo when they graduate to provisional licences. Key aspects covered in the course include how to reduce road risks, how to cope with distractions and potential dangers and how to develop safe driving behaviour. The course is a valuable tool which improves the understanding of speed management, safe following distances and hazard awareness which parents or supervisors may not have covered.

To be eligible for a free place you need to hold a valid learner licence, be aged below 25 years, have completed a minimum of 50 log book hours and hold a current Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Department of Human Services - Centrelink. Once you have confirmed your eligibility, visit the Roads and Maritime website to find a Safer Drivers Course provider to speak about the free places and fill in a Safer Drivers Course Concession Application form to complete on enrolment.

For more information visit

Cheers, Michael



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

United States President Donald Trump's missile attack on a Syrian air base is a reminder that world peace cannot be taken for granted. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is a key ally of Vladimir Putin and any talk of regime change will invite an aggressive response from the Russian President and his key ally in Iran.

History tells us that strategic competition can often escalate to strategic tension and then, miscalculation. You can be sure that this week, the Eastern Mediterranean and other key water ways are full of naval assets from the various military players. It's an environment in which mistakes can be made which lead to confrontation.

The US actions were probably justified given the horrors of the chemical weapons attack on innocent men, women and children. It appears to have been both well calculated and designed only to prevent future chemical attacks. More importantly, the Americans appear to be sending the message that regimes change in Syria while desirable, is not their goal. On the other side of the equation, a military strike on the sovereign soil of another nation-state without United Nations sanction by a US President who is considered unpredictable is fraught with danger.

Let's hope common sense and cool heads prevail. But while the rise of Trump, Brexit and other unexpected global outcomes suggest people are tiring of the status quo, it's a good time to remember that the rules-based global order we've lived under since the end of the Second World War has allowed us to avoid global conflict for the last 73 years. Over that same period the world has become a wealthier place, poverty has declined and health outcomes have improved markedly. Change is not always for the better.

Last week Cessnock Council resolved to lobby the NSW Government for a re-consideration of the location of the proposed so-called Lower Hunter Hospital. The Government plans to build the hospital in Metford but Cessnock Councillors are arguing it should be on the Western side of Maitland and I agree. I happen to know that is also the view of health planners.

A new hospital on the edge of the Hunter Expressway makes sense. Metford as a location makes no sense. This is an issue which should be of interest to all residents in the Upper Hunter. It would put a new state-of-the-art hospital within close range. Cessnock Councillors also resolved to argue that the new hospital should be a public facility. That I agree with too.

I wish all readers a safe and happy Easter break. Please take care on our busy roads.

Cheers, Joel



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

April may well be a seasonal turning point when we notice temperatures start to drop, the leaves on our trees start to shed and footy season well and truly take hold. But while most of us are dragging out the winter woollies and enjoying the Easter break, April is proving to be a month of high activity for Singleton Council. At the top of the list is of course the public exhibition of the draft Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027, which will set the course of Council's activities for the next 10 years and steer us towards a vibrant, progressive, connected, sustainable and resilient community.

What is most important about this document is that it is based on input from you, the people of Branxton, about what was important to you and what you wanted to see for your community come 2027.

That input will feed into Council's priorities for the next four years under our Operational Plan 2017-2021, which is also on exhibition.

But what you told us also highlighted what you value across all levels of government for our community, and what we as your local government representatives should be advocating for at a State and Federal level.

Nothing on the list is particularly surprising: we will continue to work with the State Government on the progress of the Singleton bypass and other New England Highway improvements, and we'll keep calling for quality health care services and increased policing and public transport options.

Council is particularly proud of the relationships we have with all levels of government, which is backed by our track record in receiving funding for a range of projects to deliver better infrastructure to support people across our LGA, including Branxton.

The Singleton Town Centre is an obvious example, and we'll also see work commence on the \$7.73 million Singleton Regional Livestock Market upgrade when the contractor moves onto the site later this month.

But it's not always the projects with the biggest price tags that mean the most. Council recently received \$3,500 to replace the picket fence at the Bulga Memorial Gates, just in time for ANZAC Day. The money came from the NSW Government through the Community War Memorials Fund, and will ensure the memorial continues to serve as a reminder to us all of the sacrifices the people from our area made to make the freedoms possible that we enjoy today.

I wish everyone a wonderful and safe Easter break, and urge those who are travelling especially to take care on the roads. And please take a look at the draft Singleton Community Strategic Plan and let us know any comments by Friday 28 April.

Cheers, Sue

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### FROM THE MAYORS DESK

Youth Week 2017 commenced on Friday with a huge range of events on offer for our young people up until the 9 April. Over 30 fantastic activities have been coordinated for young people aged between 12 and 25. I had the pleasure of attending a number of events including the Silent Disco and Family Day at Great Arts and Sports Hall on Saturday. It was a great day with some choosing to hit the dance floor while others enjoyed the art station, face painting and barbeque lunch.

It was terrific to see families spending time together and having fun. There are a number of workshops and activities being held over the next few days. Youth Week 2017 will culminate with YouthFest at Margaret John's Park, Kurri Kurri. To find out more and download the full list of events head to <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/youth-week> or visit our Facebook page @CessnockCityCouncil. Congratulations to the organisers of the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival, it really is a wonderful, unique event. Your hard work and dedication should be commended. Applications for the Mayoral Scholarships have now been received and review is underway. It is great to see so many people in our community striving for success. Over 30 applicants have now been through the interview process as they look to further their education in varying areas. Those successful will be announced in early May at the Mayoral Scholarships Ceremony. Thank you to all that applied and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Congratulations to the Kurri Kurri Rugby League Club for winning the Charity Shield and too Mulbring for taking out the cricket competition over Bellbird. Cessnock City Council is ramping up an anti-littering campaign as part of NSW Litter Enforcement Month. The state wide campaign sends a clear message, littering is unacceptable and those caught in the act will be, reported and fined.

Residents are encouraged to register with the NSW EPA Report a Tosser to report members of the public littering from their vehicle at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/reporttoepa](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/reporttoepa). Residents can also 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.

Cheers, Bob

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**Southern Sector:**

**Stolen MV – Branxton:**  
Between 16:00 on Sunday 26 March 2017 and 08:15 on Monday 27 March 2017 vehicle TB85KR - 2015 WHITE

**OTHER CARAVAN TRAILER,** was parked and secured at the stated location being Russell St, Branxton. Unknown person/s have stolen the vehicle by unknown means and method.

**Break, Enter and Steal – North Rothbury**  
Between 13:00 on Saturday 08 April 2017 and 06:00 on Monday 10 April 2017 Unknown person/s have gained entry to the stated location being a business in Chapel St, North Rothbury.

Once inside the offender/s have stolen a large amount of construction equipment including a concrete port-a-vibe, generator, hammer drill and a steel saw on hire from Coates Hire. Two fuel drums were also stolen. A Site office was also entered into and office drawers

**North Rothbury**

Between 22:30 on Thursday 06 April 2017 and 08:30 on Friday 07 April 2017 vehicle MWL71 - 1995 PURPLE YAMAHA MOTOR CYCLE, was parked and secured at the stated location being Scott st, North Rothbury. Unknown person/s have stolen the vehicle by unknown means and method.

**Suspended Driver – Singleton Heights**

The accused in the matter is a male, aged 40 from Singleton Heights. The accused is currently endorsed as a suspended driver relating to a demerit points fine that he received on the 31st October 2016. The accused is a holder of a Class C New South Wales Drivers Licence and is suspended from the 23rd February 2017 until 22nd August 2017. About 12:20 on Monday the 27th March 2017 Police have observed the accused to be driving the vehicle as he was travelling along Lachlan Avenue Singleton Heights. Police have at this time, stopped the accused for the purpose of a breath test.


and cupboards rummaged through but nothing stolen. **Stolen MV –** Police have approached the drivers side window and observed the accused to be the only occupant within the vehicle. Police have subjected the accused to a breath test which has returned a negative result. Police have conducted a check on the accused licence through the RMS system which indicated the above stated suspension period. The accused was issued Field Court Attendance Notice for the offence of drive suspended (not fine default) - 1st offence to appear at Singleton Local Court on the 27th April 2017.

**House Fire – Greta:** 25/03/2017 - House Fire at a residence in Clift St Greta. At about 3.20am on Saturday 25th March 2017, Police were called to a residence in Clift St Greta in relation to a house fire. All emergency services attended and found the house well alight. It took about 40 minutes for fire brigade to completely extinguish

the fire. The premises was a white weatherboard, timber framed house with corrugated roof. Police confirmed all occupants of the house were accounted for. Police spoke with the occupants. They stated that they had returned home at 12pm and decided to cook some food in the deep fryer. They then decided to cook them in the oven. They went to bed around 1.30pm. They were awoken at about 3.20am by the smoke alarms. They immediately got up and remembered the deep fryer. They could not see any flames at that time. The fire took hold of the kitchen and spread throughout the house. All occupants managed to get out of the premises. 2 occupants were conveyed by ambulance for observations however had no serious injuries. The house was completely destroyed. The house was not insured. There are no suspicious circumstances.

☞ Photo above: the Clift Street house in Greta that was completely destroyed by fire on the 23rd March 2017. The property was not insured

**PHARMACY ADVISOR**



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

### Seasonal Influenza Vaccination 2017

The annual National Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program will commence this month. Annual seasonal influenza vaccination is recommended for any person aged 6 months and over who wishes to reduce the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza. Vaccine strains

The quadrivalent influenza vaccine for the Australian 2017 season contains the following four virus strains:

- A (H1N1): an A/ Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09\*\* - like virus
- A (H3N2): an A/ Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2) - like virus
- B: a B/ Phuket/3073/2013 - like virus
- B: a B/ Brisbane/60/2008 - like virus\*\* new strain (differs from strain in 2016 vaccine)

**Influenza vaccines**  
Four free vaccines are available under the National Influenza Vaccination Program:  
FluQuadri™ for people 36 months of age and older  
Fluarix Tetra® for people 36 months of age and older  
FluQuadri™ Junior for children aged 6-35 months  
Afluria Quad® for people 18 years of age and older  
An information sheet that explains which groups should receive which vaccine is included with every delivery of influenza vaccine.  
Free influenza vaccine  
Free seasonal influenza vaccine is available for the following people:

- all people aged 65 years and over
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to 5 years
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over
- pregnant women
- people aged 6 months and over with medical conditions predisposing to severe influenza, namely:
  - cardiac disease, including cyanotic congenital heart disease, coronary artery disease and congestive heart failure
  - chronic respiratory conditions, including suppurative lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and severe asthma
- other chronic illnesses requiring regular medical follow up or hospitalisation in the previous year, including diabetes mellitus, chronic metabolic diseases, chronic renal failure, and haemoglobinopathies
- chronic neurological conditions that impact on respiratory function, including multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, and seizure disorders
- impaired immunity, including HIV, malignancy and chronic steroid use
- children aged 6 months to 10 years on long term aspirin therapy

**Latex in vaccines**  
In 2017, all of the quadrivalent influenza vaccines available under the National Immunisation Program are latex-free.

**Recommendations for children**  
Eligible children aged 6-35 months should receive FluQuadri™ Junior while children aged 36 months and older should receive Fluarix Tetra® or FluQuadri™.

An information sheet that explains which groups should receive which vaccine (including children) is included with every delivery of influenza vaccine. Two doses of influenza vaccine at least one month apart are recommended for children aged less than 9 years who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time.



**Feed a crowd with this sticky Portuguese-inspired roast chicken served with crispy potatoes and caramelised onion.**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 long red chilli, seeded, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground paprika
- 1 tablespoon oregano, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon sea salt flakes
- 2kg Extra Large Whole Chicken, cut into

**Portuguese chicken**



- portions
- 1kg baby Red Royale potatoes, halved
  - 2 red onions, cut into wedges

**METHOD**

**•Step 1**  
Combine the garlic, chilli, vinegar, oil, sugar, paprika, oregano and salt in a bowl. Add the chicken and toss to combine. Cover with plastic wrap. Place in the fridge for 2 hours to marinate.

**•Step 2**  
Preheat oven to 200C. Place chicken in a roasting pan. Arrange potato and onion around chicken. Cook, turning occasionally, for 1 hour or until cooked through.

**GET THE FLU SHOT BEFORE THE FLU GETS YOU**





# Fishing club 'up & going'



for the 2017 season will be \$30 for an adult or \$50 for a family (this can be paid at the bar of the Tatts)," said President David Hodges.

Tatts Hotel Greta on the Sunday of the event at 4pm. Mick at the Tatts has generously stated that at all fishing club meetings and functions he will be providing schooners of beer at middy prices. Our first fishing outing is an Open event which means you can fish outside, beach, river, lake or dam." "It will be held from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April through to the 4pm weigh in Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. There will be more information (rules, ineligible species etc.) displayed at the Tatts hotel in the coming weeks," said David.

Please note that you must be a member prior to the fishing weekend to be eligible to weigh-in and hold a current fishing licence. We will also be running a 'Fishing Club Raffle' at approximately 7pm every Thursday night at The Tatts Hotel with succulent seafood trays to be won, and tickets can be purchased prior to the night each week. Any enquires about the Club please forward to [Steven.nevin@riotinto.com](mailto:Steven.nevin@riotinto.com) or call/text Nevo on 0402762199.



Finally, after a number of years without a fishing club, The Tattersalls Hotel Social Fishing Club at Greta has opened 2017 with a bang. There is a new Committee consisting of former fishing club members & local fishing legend David Hodges has

taken the chair as President. They have Aaron (Rex Hunt) Holz as Vice President, Steve (The Lucky Kingfisher) Nevin as Secretary and, new blood & financial guru Ian Foulstone, as Treasurer. "The best part about this club is we are running it as

the "people's club" and women and children are encouraged to sign up. There are no secret agenda's, and plenty of consultation with the members that we agreed are all general committee members. Membership cost

"We are aiming at having one outing a month so there will be plenty of opportunities to catch fish to weigh-in and be in the running for end of year prizes. The weigh-ins for each event will be held along with a BBQ at the

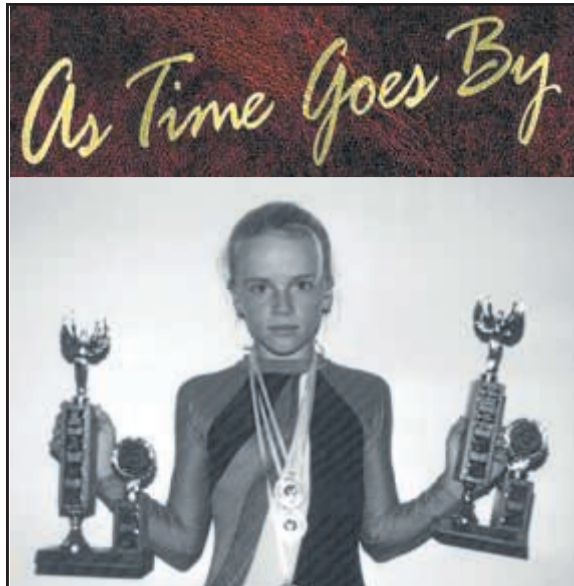


Photo: Peta with her hard earned winnings!

## Congratulations Peta

Greta Trampolinist Peta Peters competed in the N.S.W. Age Championships at Gosford on 14th November. Peta is now the State Champion in both the Trampoline and the Synchronised Trampoline in the 11-12 years women's division, with her partner Peta Bartlett from Central Coast Youth Club. Peta also won the bronze medal in the Double Mini Trampoline event. This excellent result will help Peta qualify for the national championships in 2000 to be held at Gosford. Peta will also be aiming to qualify for the world titles later next year.

Peta is coached by Louisa Roberts at the Greta School of Gymnastics and Trampolining at Greta RSL Hall. Scott Findlay also represented Greta at the championships and took out fourth position in the 9-10 years Men's Trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline.

Photo: Members of the newly reformed Tattersalls Hotel Social Fishing Club.

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### Cowan's Bus Service Day Tours

<b>15<sup>th</sup> April 2017</b>	<b>Sydney Royal Easter Show</b> \$100 Ad, \$85 Concession or U16
<b>13<sup>th</sup> May 2017 or 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b>	<b>Body Guard – Witney Houston Musical</b> Lyric Theatre, \$165pp
<b>27<sup>th</sup> May 2017 or 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b>	<b>VIVID, Sydney Harbour dinner cruise</b> \$170pp or VIP top deck \$185pp

#### Extended Tours – Home Pickup

<b>24<sup>th</sup> July 2017</b>	<b>13 Day Central Australia \$4190</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017</b>	<b>8 Day Kimberley Tour \$3690</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017</b>	<b>11 Day WA Tour \$4840</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017</b>	<b>9 Day Margaret River \$3690</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017</b>	<b>5 Day Stanthorpe Tour \$1050</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017</b>	<b>11 Day Tassie Tour \$3480</b>

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## CATHOLIC PARISHES of BRANXTON & SINGLETON

Easter Mass Times are

Holy Thursday	7pm St Brigid's Church Branxton 7pm St Patrick's Church Singleton
Good Friday	10am Stations of the Cross, St Brigid's Church Branxton 11am Stations of the Cross, St Patrick's Church Singleton 3pm Passion of the Lord, St Catherine's Greta 3pm Passion of the Lord, St Patrick's Singleton
Holy Saturday	6pm St Brigid's Church Branxton 6.30pm St Patrick's Church Singleton
Easter Sunday	8am St Catherine's Church Greta 10am St Patrick's Church Singleton 6pm St Patrick's Church Singleton

## CATHOLIC PARISH BRANXTON & SINGLETON

BRANXTON-GRETA PARISH MASS TIMES

Wednesday	9.20am Mass St Catherine's Church Greta
Thursday	9.20am Mass St Brigid's Church Branxton
Saturday (during daylight savings)	5.30pm Reconciliation and 6pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton
Saturday (outside daylight savings – from 6 May 2017)	4.30pm Reconciliation and 5pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton
Sunday	8am Mass St Catherine's Church Greta

SINGLETON PARISH MASS TIMES

Tuesday	7pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
Wednesday	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton
Thursday	6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
Friday	9.20am Mass (4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Anointing Mass)
Saturday	9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	6pm Mass Broke (5pm outside daylight savings)
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	6pm Mass Glendonbrook (5pm outside daylight savings)
Sunday	7am, 10am and 6pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton

# Real News Estate

## Creative housing affordability solutions



By John Cunningham – REINSW President

Outdated taxation and planning laws are stifling the property market in NSW. Now is the time for come up with creative solutions to the housing affordability issue, which is hindering both buyers and sellers. Many countries have found creative ways to increase supply and affordability through institutional investment, equity growth sharing schemes and government incentives for low cost housing strategies.

However in Australia we get bogged down in red tape, ideological differences, the three tiers of government, and people being uncooperative. We urgently need an equitable housing model for first homebuyers, retirees and essential service personnel. The old-fashioned taxation systems are preventing growth and the free flow of people in the property market. The planning laws are also causing developers to lose money and waste energy whilst they wait for vague planning laws to be argued over. In the end the property consumer gets forgotten and

clever design, appropriate housing styles and much needed infrastructure get defeated by archaic thinking. We need a serious policy that is not focused on a singular solution, but takes a creative view on what Sydney and the premier state of NSW can achieve. The focus needs to be on creative solutions, including:

- Transfer duty tax reform to address bracket creep and assist first homebuyers and retirees to move, freeing up the severely clogged supply lines
- New planning laws that reflect the housing needs of 2020, not 1950, which require developers to think of new solutions to living in Sydney and realise what it takes to build density that is palatable to the consumer. This is zoned environments with easy access to transport, shops, and recreation facilities
- Our ageing population needs new housing which enables a vibrant lifestyle in mixed age communities, in familiar localities
- A new means test is needed for pensioners who are financially disadvantaged by low interest rates if they sell their property to downsize, forcing many to stay put out of fear of loss.
- A rethink on inequitable taxation involving property sharing and multiple occupancies. Currently if one equity investor leaves a shared home ownership scheme, the other party is hit with a secondary transfer duty in the buy-out.

## Properties to get energy ratings

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

The cost of utilities for a home, such as electricity and gas, is becoming a significant consideration for purchasers.

Many people however are unaware of the costs involved which is why a number of online tools have been designed to assist purchasers.

Australian properties will soon have their own energy efficiency rating for the first time giving buyers and tenants an indication of how energy efficient their next home could be.

Property rating data is clearly important information and a factor to be considered when purchasing a property which may have high ongoing energy costs. The costs of heating and cooling a home can be substantial. The more efficient a property is the less costs that are incurred

## Property prices reflect state economies

The median house price across Australian capital cities has increased by 4.1 per cent for houses and 2.1 per cent for other dwellings, according to the latest research from the Real

Estate Institute of Australia. The REIA Real Estate Market Facts for the December quarter 2016 saw the weighted average median house price for the eight capital cities at \$743,496.

REIA President Malcolm Gunning said over the year, the median house price increased in all capital cities except Perth and Darwin, reflecting the differing fortunes of state economies.

“At \$1,134,075, Sydney’s median house price is the highest among the capitals whilst Hobart retains the lowest at \$430,000 - the figure is 42.2 per cent lower than the national average,” Mr Gunning said.

“The median price for other dwellings increased to \$572,254 as median prices increased in Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart and Darwin.

“Whilst Hobart and Adelaide had the lowest median prices compared to other jurisdictions, over the quarter, Hobart had the largest increase in both the median price for houses at 6.0 per cent and 11.7 per cent for other dwellings.

“Over the quarter, median rents for houses remained steady or increased in all capital cities except Darwin. In Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth median rents remained steady. Canberra had the largest increase at 9.5 per cent

followed by Hobart with an increase of 6.1 per cent. Median rents for other dwellings remained steady or increased in most capital cities except for Sydney, Perth and Darwin. In Melbourne and Canberra median rents for other dwellings remained steady. “The weighted average vacancy rate for the eight capital cities decreased to 2.9 per cent during the December quarter, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points. In most capital cities, the vacancy rates dropped by between 0.1 to 0.2 percentage points. In Hobart the vacancy rate remained steady while in both Darwin and Canberra it increased. Darwin and Perth continue to have the highest vacancy rates at 7.8 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively.

“Over the quarter, both investor finance and owner-occupied housing finance (excluding re-financing) showed strong increases of 8.8 per cent and 11.1 per cent respectively, after small decreases in the previous quarter.

“The level of investor activity is not unexpected when you consider that ten year average annual returns for residential investment property range from a low of 6.5 per cent for houses in Perth to 10.5 per cent for two bedroom units in Sydney with most returns being around 8 per cent.



## RBA keeps interest rates steady

The Reserve Bank of Australia has decided to leave interest rates on hold at 1.50 per cent at its April 2017 board meeting. REINSW President John Cunningham said keeping rates as they are is the right choice.

“Ultimately it is the best policy at the moment,” Mr Cunningham said. “There is an interesting dynamic

occurring and the decision by the major banks to lift interest rates has meant that the RBA has had some of its work done for it.

“Higher interest rates will act to dampen the market, which will help stabilise the sector and the flurry of activity that can create volatility and the infamous idea of a housing bubble,” Mr Cunningham said.

The RBA cut interest rates in by 25 basis points in August and May 2016. The RBA will next meet on Tuesday, 2 May 2017.

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# Things You May Not Know About

with Neridah Kentwell

## .....GRETA

organised well-designed medals for their returned soldiers, a similar idea to the Greta medal for Private C. Smith. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be any mention in Greta's local papers of him, on the Trove website, perhaps because the right papers have still to be uploaded or were not kept, or Greta did not have a local paper at the time. On researching his army records it was discovered that Charles Smith came from Greta and enlisted on 3/9/15, at 21 years and 8 months, when he swore to serve 'our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1915 until the end of the War and a further period of four months thereafter unless sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed or removed therefrom; and that I will resist his Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained; and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law. SO HELP ME, GOD.' After a medical examination on 13 April 1915 and training at the Liverpool camp, he embarked from Warwick Farm NSW on 13 September 1915, then from Sydney on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1916, for fighting overseas. The service number he was given was No. 4884. The ship he sailed on was HMAT Star of England A15. His trade was

filled in as miner and labourer, his religion was C. of E, and he wasn't married or an apprentice per his application. He had already spent two years in the Militia (citizen soldiers), so was obviously keen to serve his country. His role title was 2 Infantry Battalion - 13-23 Reinforcements (December 1915- November 1916), although his unit was the 54<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Charles was a slightly built man. His height was recorded as 5 feet 6½ inches, and his weight was just under 8 stone, with a chest measurement of 34-37 inches. With a dark complexion and black hair his eyes were suitably brown. He had put his mother, Margaret Lawson Smith, as his next-of-kin, which may have meant she was the one he got on the best with, out of his two parents. Charles eventually arrived in France with his fellow soldiers and began to fight.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1916, Private Smith was killed in action at Poziers in France, aged just 22½ years old, less than one year after enlisting. His mother 'was duly notified ... by the Military Authorities in Melbourne (no doubt by telegram) and it was also published in the press'. On the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1916, Margaret sent a letter to a Major Lean at Base Records in Melbourne asking for a military certificate of death. It was so she could obtain a 'funeral donation', the insurance payable from the GUB of Oddfellows of which her son had been a member, as it could not be paid until the certificate arrived. The reply to her request had apparently said that 'As there is no official record of the death, the certificate cannot be issued'. On the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1916, a letter was (unusually) sent by the boarding-out officer of the Offices of the State

On the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1916, the secretary of the War Service Committee from Greta wrote to Mr W M Fleming MHR, at Federal Parliament House in Melbourne on Margaret's behalf. On the 7<sup>th</sup> November, Mr Fleming then sent a letter again to try to obtain the certificate needed, to the Secretary of the Department of Defence. This finally produced a result, as on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 1916, an unnamed major, the Officer in charge of Base Records, replied to Mr Fleming to say a certificate of report of death had that day been issued to Mrs Smith. At the same time, he denied the statement contained in the secretary's letter which read 'as there is no official record of the death this certificate cannot be issued.' He said Mrs Smith was informed, on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1916, that the necessary official confirming documents had not been received. But at last Margaret Smith was able to properly say goodbye to her son with a memorial service. On 9<sup>th</sup> June 1917, nearly one year after Charles's death, his mother signed a receipt for one package of his effects which had been collected. Included in this were his identity disc, wallet, letters, vestment, a pendant, a ring and a photo, and the receipt was then sent back and received at Base Records, date stamped 13 June 1917. More than five years later, two years after the war was over, Margaret received a letter, obviously Photostatted and filled in where appropriate, dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 1921. It said:

'Dear Madam, It is noted that you are registered on the records of the late No. 4884 Private C. SMITH, 54<sup>th</sup> Battalion, as next of kin, but, in order that the instructions under the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" may be properly complied with when disposing of War Medals (which appeared to include a Star, a Victory and a British War Medal), &c., I shall be glad to learn whether there are any nearer blood relations than yourself to the above named, for instance, is his father still alive, if so I shall be much obliged for his name and address at your earliest convenience...' The letter went on to say that the distribution of medals had a certain order of preference regarding the

deceased person's relationships and were as follows: 'Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister, eldest surviving half-brother, eldest surviving half-sister.' Margaret obligingly wrote back to say that her deceased son's father was alive and that he lived at their address at (the corner of) Wyndham and Branxton Streets, Greta. On 7<sup>th</sup> April 1921, Margaret signed a receipt for three copies of a photograph of her late son's grave, buried at Plot 2, Row C, Grave 12, in the Rue Petillon Military Cemetery in France, the country in which he had died, from the Officer in Charge of Base Records, Department of Defence. An undated letter was also sent to Mr William Louis Richardson Smith, Margaret's husband, regarding his late son's burial and the work of re-constructing the Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, by the Imperial War Graves Commission. It was said that to conform with the uniform layout some amendments to former grave registrations had been necessary. In consequence, the site of the late soldier's final resting place had since been allotted: Plot 1, Row K, Grave 17, where a permanent headstone would shortly be erected. Notwithstanding the above alteration, however, they said the actual place of burial remains unchanged. Margaret's request for her son's headstone, made with a cross in the centre of the stone, said 'In Memory of Dearly Loved Son of Mr and Mrs M L Smith of Greta.' It is unclear whether the headstone was included in the photograph she received. On the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1922, Margaret's husband William signed for a Memorial Plaque and King's Message (the Memorial Scroll?), and a Victory Medal at some stage, from the Officer in Charge of Base Records, Army Head-quarters. On a form required to be completed for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum for Charles Thomas Pickering Smith, it was revealed Charles was born at Merewether in Newcastle, his calling was one of being a motor mechanic (possibly his mother's interpretation of the question regarding his work, so it was what he wanted to do but did not get



The Greta cenotaph in High Street, on the side facing the bandstand, second batch of names down from the top, listed as CTP Smith.



'He answered his Countries Call. Presented to Pte C Smith by the Citizens of GRETA 14-1-16'.

the chance) and that he had only been to public school. This form was filled in by Margaret at an unknown time. On the nominal roll, he is listed as being in the 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Charles' name is located at 160 in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, at Campbell, ACT. He is also on the Greta cenotaph in High Street, on the side facing the bandstand, second batch of names down from the top, listed as CTP Smith with a cross next to his name to indicate he did not make it home alive. Post Script- After further research, it was found that Margaret had also given birth to, and lost, four other children, with her husband William. Mary J was born first in 1886 and died last in 1919 at Greta, only 33 years of age,

William L was born in 1890 and died in 1891, Florence A R was born in 1892 and died in 1892, and Violet R was born in 1896 and died in 1896. Charles, their soldier, was born in 1894 and died in 1916. In memory of all the people who fought, and fight, in all the wars necessary to keep Australia safe, including the Vietnam War and the ones serving now. And the families that sacrifice their loved ones for them to do so. To see the medal given by Greta to the Smiths, or to learn more about this subject and anything else you are interested in regarding the history of Greta, come in and visit the Greta Museum.

Open every Wednesday and Saturday, from 11am to 3pm.



Children Relief Board and Children's Protection Act and Infant's Protection Act, regarding the official confirming documents covering the report of Private Charles Smith's death, to Major J W Lean, Officer-in-Charge, Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

## NIGHT TIME BINGO

Greta Workers Club

7.00pm (start)

Tues 7th Mar & Tues 9th May

Tues 8th Aug & Tues 10th Oct

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Money Prizes  
Supper provided

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Sun - 19th Mar	Sun - 16th July	Sun - 19th Nov
No Market for April	Sun - 20th Aug	Sun - 17th Dec
Sun - 21st May	Sun - 17th Sep	

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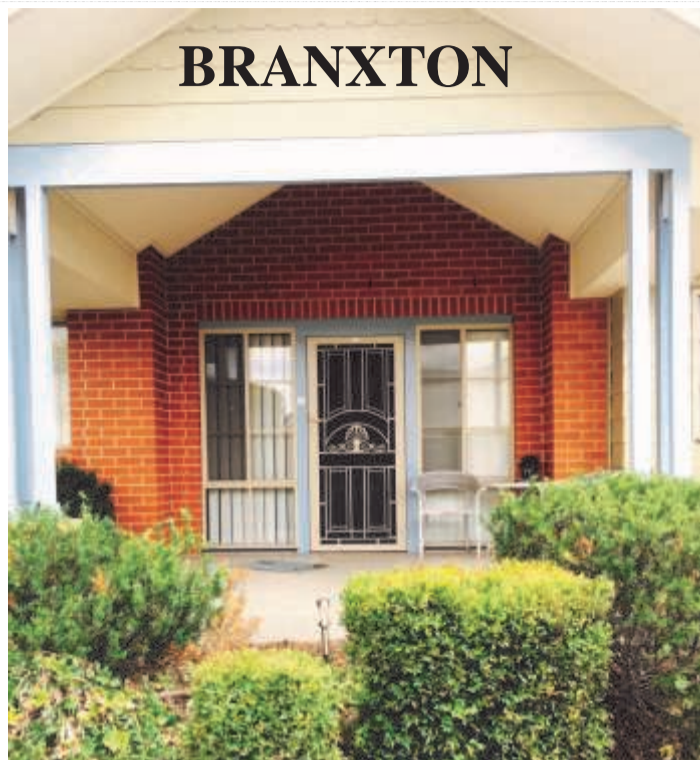


**EAST BRANXTON**

**Features include:-**

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**Asking \$370,000**



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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.

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**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)**



**FOR LEASE**

**BRANXTON**

This 3-bedroom family home is on a 1000sqm fully fenced block. Includes open plan living plus sep lounge, ensuite, builtins, slow combustion fire, split aircon, good shedding, dog yard & covered BBQ area.

(AVAILABLE 23/4/17)

**\$410/week**



**GRETA**

Cute 2 bedroom home on large fenced block. Features include:- Builtins in both bedrooms, Sep lounge-room, Air con, eat in kitchen, slow combustion fire. Great Block, Great shedding & Carport + Your own chook run.

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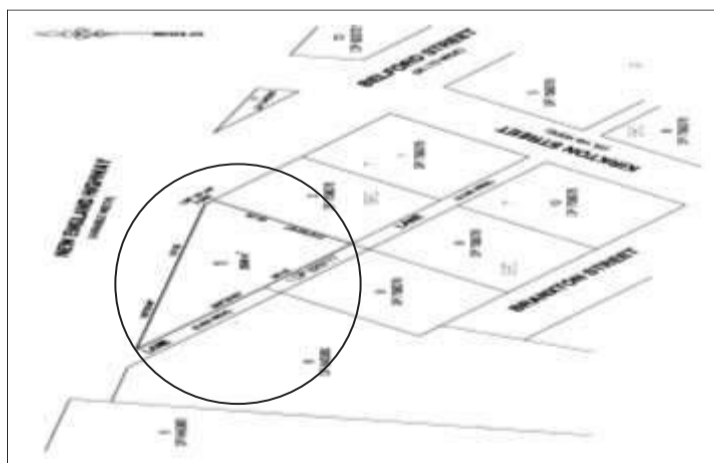
**BRANXTON**

**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 ~ 2559m<sup>2</sup>**

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**

# An Open Letter from Bishop Bill Wright regarding the 50th Case Study of Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse



Australia between 1950 and 2010 in terms of the numbers of clergy, religious and lay people against whom allegations of abuse had been made and, for the priests and religious, what proportion of all priests and religious had been reported for child sexual abuse.

Francis Sullivan, speaking for the *Truth, Justice and Healing Council*, which has been authorised by all the bishops and almost all religious congregations to represent them before the Commission, later spoke of the horror, dismay and deep shame that must be felt by all Catholics at the extent of the evil and corruption in our church that is revealed in these data. 'The figures are shocking, they are tragic and they are indefensible', Mr Sullivan said. Of course the reality is that each of the 4,444 allegations represents not just a statistic but a child whose life has been blighted by utterly undeserved abuse. We have now heard many of them tell how their lives were devastated, how their struggles continue to this day and how the abuse has also affected their families past and present. Statistics are statistics, but these are people, they were children. The church does have to answer for what was done to them.

In the last 60 years there have been 1,880 'alleged perpetrators': 597 religious brothers, 572 priests, 543 lay people and 96 religious sisters and 72 others whose status is uncertain.

According to the information supplied by total numbers, these alleged perpetrators represent 7% of the priests who were around during this period. The figures for religious are broken up by congregations, and there are considerable differences between them, as there are for the various dioceses. The detailed figures can be seen in the Royal Commission's paper on its website.

For the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, the Commission's data indicates that 7.9% of our priests over the last 60 years have had claims of abuse made against them, which is also the national average for diocesan priests. In both cases, it is a figure that is shocking to those of us who, for most of our lives, had never heard of a priest abusing children and found such a thing almost inconceivable. Nonetheless, I have already had questions from people who are surprised that our figures are not among the worst, given the long-standing sense that this diocese was one of the 'epicentres' of abuse in this country. The explanation of this seeming contradiction is that the figures released today are about the number of alleged perpetrators of abuse. The sad truth of our community is that we have an exceptional number of people who were victims of abuse by a number of priests who each abused many, many children. That

they were able to do so over long periods is our particular shame and our particular responsibility.

members. They did not, however, tell me very much. In these last five or so years, however, I have met survivors whose purpose was precisely to tell me, make me understand, what had happened in their lives. From them, and from reading many written testimonies, I have learnt just how sickening and depraved the activities of child abusers are. If this Royal Commission can help to put a stop to this scourge in church and other institutions across this country, it will well and truly justify all the time and expense that has gone into it.

Living through this time is pretty shattering for those of us who have loved the church and had our lives enriched and blessed through it. But we have to come to terms with the reality of a vast evil that has also been part of its story. There is no denying it. Now, for the sake of all that is good, we have to change. This important Case Study #50 will be very significant in understanding the 'cultural change' that we must, must, embrace.

For those who have been affected by child sexual abuse within the Church, whether you have been abused yourself or a loved one has been abused; the Healing and Support Team of Zimmerman Services are there to support you on your individual journey towards healing. Please contact Maureen or Lisa on 4979 1390.

To the Catholic People of the Maitland-Newcastle diocese.  
My dear people,

As I'm sure you know, the 50th case study of Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to

Child Sexual Abuse began today in Sydney. I was present throughout the day's proceedings.

Church in Australia responded to that abuse. Case Study #50 will also look at how various church authorities have responded so far to the findings of earlier case studies. In the language of the Royal Commission, the issue is how 'cultural factors' in Catholicism have affected our past responses to child sexual abuse and whether those same or similar elements in Catholic culture continue to affect the Church's response now and into the future. It is an important discussion about the extent of change that is necessary across the Church.

This case study, which has also come to be known as 'the Catholic wrap-up', is concerned with the present policies and procedures of the Catholic Church in Australia in the field of child protection and its current ways of responding to reports of abuse. These will be considered in the light of those things that have emerged in earlier case studies or other submissions to the Royal Commission as factors that may have contributed to the occurrence of child sexual abuse in Catholic institutions or to the way the

After an introduction to what is expected to be considered over the next three weeks, Counsel Assisting the Commission then presented data on the extent of child sexual assault offending in the Catholic Church in

Before coming into this diocese, I knew something of the abuse suffered by three personal friends, one of them having been abused by a priest, the other two by family

As I am writing here to my fellow Catholics, I conclude by asking your prayers for the success of the present Case Study as an agent of change for the nation and the church. Now and always, too, let us pray for all those who have been hurt and harmed, one way or another, by crimes of abusers or the failures of our wider church or its leaders.

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# LEAP

*A heart-breaking, heart-lifting, effortlessly enjoyable story about love and grief and everything in between.* Joe lives-despite himself. Driven by the need to atone for the neglect of a single tragic summer's night, he works at nothing jobs and, in his spare time, trains his body and mind to conquer the hostile environment that took his love and smashed up his future. So when a breathless

girl turns up on the doorstep, why does he let her in? Isn't he done with love and hope? On the other side of the city, graphic designer Elise is watching her marriage bleed out. She retreats to the only place that holds any meaning for her-the tiger enclosure at the zoo-where, for reasons she barely understands, she starts to sketch the beautiful killers. *Leap* is a beautiful urban fairytale about human and animal nature, and the transformative power of grief. While at its heart is a searing absence, this haunting and addictive novel is propelled by an exhilarating life force, and the eternally hopeful promise of redemptive love.

## REVIEW

by Alan Vaarwerk

Three years on from a tragedy that claimed the love of his life, twenty-something Joe loses himself in menial work, parkour and his mentorship of a teenage delinquent, using burnout and exhaustion as a coping mechanism. When a beautiful nurse temporarily moves into his spare room

and a mysterious Facebook profile wants to reminisce about his dead girlfriend, he begins to wonder if there is more out there for him. Meanwhile, middle-aged artist Elise becomes obsessed with the tigers at Melbourne Zoo, visiting them in a secret weekly ritual that allows her an escape from her crumbling marriage and her own spiralling sense of loss that threatens to overtake everything.

Myfanwy Jones' writing pulses, pushed along with an irrepressible dynamism that echoes its protagonists. Rather than wallowing in self-pity or drug-addled self-destruction, what makes Joe's character so compelling is his nihilistic energy and battle against his own ambition. Jones captures with a real clarity the swirling mix of rage, hope and world-weariness of the millennial male. This energy make's Joe's narrative arguably the stronger of the two, but it's thrown into relief by Elise's quieter, more introspective storyline.

The women in Joe's life, to varying degrees, seem intent on redeeming him – pushing back against his guilt, grief and insistence



## Myfanwy Jones

Myfanwy started out subbing in a Saigon newsroom before enrolling in RMIT's Prof Writing & Editing course where she grew her debut novel *The Rainy Season*, shortlisted for The Melbourne Prize for Literature's Best Writing Award 2010. Myfanwy's short works have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies including *How We Met*, *Readings and Writings* and *New Australian Stories 2*. Her foray into non-fiction with Spiri Tsintziras, the bestselling *Parlour Games for Modern Families*, was awarded ABIA Book of the Year for Older Children 2010. Myfanwy's second novel, *LEAP*, published by Allen & Unwin in 2015, was long-listed for the Voss Literary Prize and shortlisted for the 2016 Miles Franklin Literary Award. Myfanwy provides manuscript appraisals and mentoring to emerging writers through Writers Victoria and the Australian Society of Authors, and she is a member of Editors Victoria. She lives by a creek in Melbourne with her human and non-human family.

that he's not worth their trouble. The nurse who moves in is unnamed and interacts with no-one else in the novel – deliberately one-dimensional, transient, barely real. But then there are other characters, like Joe's co-worker Lena, so vibrant and full of life they practically leap off the page. While the narrative at times feels a little crowded with motifs and characters, some left unresolved, each element is enjoyable and contributes to the boisterous, buzzing tone of the novel. Stylistically similar to the most recent novels of Chris Flynn and Chris Womersley, *Leap* is a pleasure to read and a compelling piece of Australian contemporary fiction.



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## Approval of plans for poultry farm expansion at Elderslie subject of rescission motion

A rescission motion has been lodged against the approval of the demolition of two existing poultry sheds and construction of four new sheds at Elderslie. The development application was considered at Singleton Council's extraordinary meeting on Monday, where a majority of councillors voted to approve the plans with amendments to the

conditions of consent. However, the Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, and fellow councillors Hollee Jenkins and Sarah Lukeman have given notice of a rescission motion, citing:

1. Conditions of consent in regards to hours of

operations being ambiguous;  
2. Variation of setback and as such over development of the site;  
3. Uncertainty how occupational certificate will be issued if sheds are to be constructed in stages and as such how noise and odour



monitoring will function; and  
4. Storm water management on site - lack of written information - sizing of dam. As well as the construction of four replacement poultry sheds, the development application included a machinery shed, dwelling pad and associated landscaping at a site on Elderslie Road. The application was referred to Council for

determination because of the public interest. Council received eight submissions during the notification period. Common issues included the odour impact of the development and the existing and proposed noise concerns due to the operation of the facility. The rescission motion will be considered at Council's next meeting on 24 April 2017.

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## Police enforcing road safety this Easter

The NSW Police Force has launched its annual Easter long-weekend operation, vowing to enforce road safety for the safety of motorists. The operation begins on Thursday with double demerit points for speeding, seatbelt and helmet offences enforced from 0001hrs Thursday 13 April and concluding at 2359hrs on Monday 17 April 2017.

Minister for Police Tony Grant said motorists heading away this long-weekend need to be vigilant on the road and to be wary of other drivers. "The Easter holiday period has

been a particularly tragic time of year. Over the past ten years, 53 fatal crashes have occurred on our roads taking the lives of 60 people. "Road trauma leaves nothing but destruction and devastation in its wake and that's not what we want to see this long weekend. "Police will be out in force penalising motorists doing the wrong thing but drivers also need to take responsibility and take care on the road," Minister Grant said. **Overview** The demerit point system

provides an incentive for drivers to improve their driving behaviour, obey road rules and comply with NSW traffic laws. The double demerit point scheme applies for the following types of offences: Speeding, Illegal use of mobile phones, Not

wearing a seatbelt, Riding without a helmet Double demerit periods were introduced in 1997 in NSW. By law, double demerit periods must be advertised and awareness campaigns are co-ordinated with traditional enforcement and increased police numbers.

Public holiday period	Double demerit periods
Easter	13 to 17 April 2017
Anzac Day	21 to 25 April 2017
Queen's Birthday	9 to 12 June 2017
Labour Day	29 September to 2 October 2017
Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day	22 December 2017 to 1 January 2018

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# Cessnock 'Stomp' 23 April 2017



day. Don't miss another new attraction, the Cessnock Stomp Pub Challenge where you can watch and cheer our local pubs go stomp to stomp to become the Pub Challenge Champions. For residents and visitors to Pokolbin there will be a designated iHop bus to bring you to and from the festival. Please check out [website](#) for times and pick up and drop off points. So, if you're looking for a great day out with family or friends this is the place to be.

The Cessnock Local Government Area funding round for ClubGRANTS is now open. The closing date for applications is 4:00pm, Friday 2 June 2017. ClubGRANTS funding is made available by Local Clubs who earn over \$1 million annually in gaming machine revenue. The grant provides funding for a wide range of local social services and community projects, with the aim of addressing social need and disadvantage in the local community. For more information on ClubGRANTS, including accessing the grant guidelines and the online application form, please visit the Cessnock City Council website: <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/grants/club>  
**PLEASE NOTE:**  
 ClubGRANTS applications will only be accepted using the Clubs NSW website online submission portal. Late applications will not be accepted. The application form is available [here](#). If you received a Club GRANT in 2016 or 2015 you must ensure all funds have been reported and acquitted to the club using the [Standard Report](#) Form before you are eligible to apply for a 2017 grant.  
**ClubGRANTS LOCAL INFORMATION SESSION**  
 To assist community groups in applying for funds, an information session will be held on Thursday 27 April 2017 at 10.30am -11.30am, Ante Room, Cessnock City Council. The information session will provide an:  
 - Overview of the Grant Guidelines, including eligibility;  
 - Overview of the on-line application form; and  
 - Overview of Grant timeline.  
 If you would like to register to attend the information session, or require any further information please contact me on P: (02) 4993 4258 or email [Jo.Miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)



Take off your shoes, roll up your pants, and get ready for the fun, Cessnock Stomp festival is on again! The Cessnock CBD will be transformed into an extravaganza of wine, beer, food and fun on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 4pm. The Cessnock Stomp

Festival attracted over 10,000 attendees in 2016 and was a huge success. The 2017 festival has a whole lot more to offer and will certainly be a day to remember. Vincent Street, Cessnock will be closed from Hall Street to Wollombi Road for the festival and offers

an array of Hunter food and wine, beer, market stalls, fashion parade and entertainment. Again, the highlights will include the Great Cessnock Stomp, a grape stomping competition, the very popular Mad Hatters Tea Party with tickets for both available to purchase from

their website [www.cessnockstompfestival.com.au](http://www.cessnockstompfestival.com.au). This year we are bringing you our new stomping area "The Selfie Stomp" where families and friends can have a go at stomping the grapes while having a selfie, tickets are \$5 each and will be sold on the



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Trivia

# click



# MOVIE REVIEW

## Beauty and the Beast

In The NEWS

### Time's Running Out For Office 2007

The clock is ticking for support for Office 2007. While the Office Suite will work with Windows 10, security and bug-fix support

require some top-flight hacking skills to break into a tech giant like Yahoo, right?



Actually, zero hacking skills were required at all. The breach was a result of an old-fashioned phishing scam. Phishing is where an email purporting to be from a trusted source like a bank, a coworker, or your email provider is sent and users are told to click on a link or supply their passwords. This either results in malware being planted on the user's computer that's spread to the entire company network or with crooks using your account information to steal from you or get into sensitive company systems.

In this case, a phishing email was sent to a Yahoo employee and that person took the bait. The government says a hacker was able to gain access to Yahoo's user database and the program needed to edit the databases. Then the hackers could target any users they pleased since they had their usernames, passwords, and other sensitive information.

#### Be careful what you click on.

#### New iPad Is The Cheapest Yet

Apple's latest iPad has a lot going for it, but for a lot of consumers, the attraction will be the price, the lowest starting price ever for an iPad. At \$US329, this 9.7-inch tablet is priced more along the lines of an iPad mini or a high-end Android.



Let's take a look at what it offers. The 8.7" Retina display features a 2058 x 1536 resolution.



The 64-Bit A9 chip is not the latest generation of processors, but it should be plenty fast enough for streaming and playing games. Apple also promises that this tablet has up to a 10-hour battery life. (though I wouldn't count on that if you're watching 10 hours of streaming video or playing a game.)

The new model features Touch ID to allow you to lock your device and open with a fingerprint. You can also lock apps or use touch ID to make purchases through Apple Pay.



The tablet offers an 8MP rear-facing camera for taking photos or shooting HD video and 1.2 MP front-facing camera to use with apps like FaceTime.

The tablet has a slim profile, only 7.5 mm thick (around 1/3 of an inch) and it weighs just one pound.

If you're willing to pay a little extra you can purchase the WiFi + Cellular model. With the addition of this model, there is no more iPad Air offered by Apple. There's simply iPad.

for the program end on October 10, 2017. Security support is especially important with Office products since vulnerabilities in Office are a popular target for malicious hackers.

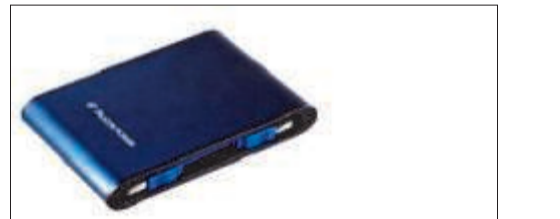


Office 2007 isn't going to just stop working, but if you aren't ready to upgrade, I wouldn't have it on a PC that connects to the Internet.

Sam from Singleton is having difficulty with his back-up. He writes "I have an external drive for my backup and am having a problem with my backup files and I am getting the following message. Check your back up. A shadow copy could not be created. Please check VSS and SPP Application event logs for more information. Details : Insufficient storage available to create either the shadow copy storage file or other shadow copy data . Error code 0x81000019. Your help will be greatly appreciated. For a young gentleman of 70 it is getting difficult to keep up with everything."

Hi, Sam. Thanks for the great question! Well, in a nutshell, it means that there's not enough space on your drive so save your backup. This could be for one of two reasons. The first thing that you want to make sure of is that the external hard drive that you're using is at least as large as the drive that your backing up. If your external is smaller than the capacity of the drive that you're backing up, like say you've got a 1 TB hard drive, and, to save money, bought a 500 GB external drive, it will work for a while, until your drive capacity exceeds 500 GB. At that point, your drive will no longer back up because there's not enough space.

Now let's look at the other possibility, and reverse the situation. You have a 500 GB hard drive on your computer and a 1 TB backup drive. So your backup drive has twice as much space as your hard drive. You're all set, right? Well, not necessarily. Let's say that your first backup has a shadow copy of 150 GB. Then, the next month, you've only saved a little data, so your shadow copy is now 200 GB. During the next month, you discover how to store HD movies on your hard drive and use up a lot of hard drive space storing cool new movies.



So the next month your shadow copy is 400 GB. The next month it's 450 GB. Well, first off, it might be time for you to delete some stuff off of your hard drive, because your computer is probably running pretty slowly, but you should still have plenty of room, right? Because you have a 1 TB backup. Well... no. Because on that drive you already have shadow copies of 150 GB, 200 GB and 400 GB, totalling 750 GB. That means that you only have 250 GB available. You see, it keeps each shadow copy just in case you need to restore to an earlier backup due to, say, a virus.

So how do you fix this? Delete your shadow copies, or at least enough of them to make the space that you need to store your new backup. If you want to keep some of your old backups to be safe, you might want to start with your oldest shadow copies. I hope that this helps.

### You Won't Believe What Caused Yahoo's Data Breach

Yahoo is still reeling from a massive data breach where half a billion customers' sensitive information was exposed. Now the government says they think Russian hackers were behind the breach. So how did they do it? You'd think that it would

#### ABOUT

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" is a live-action re-telling of the studio's animated classic which refashions the classic characters from the tale as old as time for a contemporary audience, staying true to the original music while updating the score with several new songs. "Beauty and the Beast" is the fantastic journey of Belle, a bright, beautiful and independent young woman who is taken prisoner by a beast in his castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the Beast's hideous exterior and realize the kind heart and soul of the true Prince within. The film stars: Emma Watson as Belle; Dan Stevens as the Beast; Luke Evans as Gaston, the handsome, but shallow villager who woos Belle; Oscar (R) winner Kevin Kline as Maurice, Belle's eccentric, but lovable father; Josh Gad as LeFou, Gaston's long-suffering aide-de-camp; Golden Globe (R) nominee Ewan McGregor as Lumiere, the candelabra; Oscar nominee Stanley Tucci as Maestro Cadenza, the harpsichord; Oscar nominee Ian McKellen as Cogsworth, the mantel clock; and two-time Academy Award (R) winner Emma Thompson as the teapot, Mrs. Potts. Directed by Oscar (R) winner Bill Condon based on the 1991 animated film, "Beauty and the Beast" is produced by Mandeville Films' David Hoberman and Todd Lieberman, with eight-time Oscar-winning composer Alan Menken, who won two Academy Awards (R) (Best Original Score and Best Song) for the 1991 animated film, providing the score, which will include new recordings of the original songs written by Menken and Howard Ashman, as well as several new songs written by Menken and three-time Oscar winner Tim Rice.



#### Not So Brief Plot

**Synopsis:** Belle (Emma Watson) can't live the button-down life like you. She wants it all: the terrifying lows, the dizzying highs, the creamy middles. Sure, she might offend a few of the Gastons (Luke Evans) with her cocky songs and wild ideas — oh, she'll never be the darling of the so-called city fathers who cluck their tongues, stroke their beards and talk about "What's to be done with this Beast (Dan Stevens)?"

#### "Critical" Analysis:

1991's *Beauty and the Beast* didn't just represent the high point of Disney's latest animation renaissance; it was their most empowering tale to date. Belle wasn't a princess (at least, she didn't start out as one), but was both intelligent and educated, and also fiercely independent. Her rejection of Gaston — a caricature of Prince Charming tropes — represented a narrative path previously untread by the Big Mouse.

The original paved the way for movies like *Tangled*, *Brave* and *Frozen*, and the idea of the headstrong Disney heroine has become something of a cliché itself. It thus *kind of* made sense for the studio to revisit what many still consider its best movie (and the only animated movie nominated for Best Picture in the old

five-movie format), only this time with some actual live people. Director Bill Condon and writers Stephen Chbosky (*The Perks of Being A Wallflower*) and Disney vet Evan Spiliotopoulos have also taken the story in directions which, rather anachronistically, reflect a more modern value system. Belle's village is markedly more diverse than one might expect from 17th century France, while Belle herself is now the inventor instead of dad (Maurice is an artist). She's also much more physically active this time around, less content to let the Beast do her dirty work. Those factors alone would probably be enough to trigger (heh) another pointless online boycott by the online failure brigades, but then that would waste valuable Twitter characters perhaps better spent howling about the openly gay Le Fou, played by Josh Gad. Gad has a tendency to go too saccharine (*A Dog's Purpose*) or too disquieting (*Pixels*), but he's perfect here as a much more introspective lickspittle. What you may not have heard is Le Fou is one of \*two\* gay characters, and the reveal of the second (a very minor role) provides one of the movie's biggest laughs. In a good way. The problem is, they've shoehorned in some unnecessary backstory for both Belle and the Beast that slows the pace of the movie almost unforgivably and, worse, adds nothing of value. Were you

curious about whatever happened to Belle's mother? Well, lucky you, even though it does more to flesh out Maurice's (Kevin Kline) character than hers. And was anybody asking for that?

The new songs, like the movie itself, are largely unnecessary. None really stand out, possibly because neither Watson or Stevens are very accomplished vocalists. But you know who is? Luke Evans. If you didn't realize the guy who played Bard in those execrable *Hobbit* movies was a musical theater vet, you're not alone. His Gaston is a delight and if there's any justice in this world Disney will make a *BatB* prequel that just has Gaston being an enormous singing asshole.

Huh, that was an unintended visual. *Beauty and the Beast* is fine. It's fine. Even (most) of the enchanted servants — Lumière (Ewan McGregor), Cogsworth (Ian McKellen), Mrs. Potts (Emma Thompson), Madame de Garderobe (Audra McDonald) — are entertaining. Take the kids (unless you're one of those parents who seriously frets about how to explain "the gays" to them), just don't be surprised to find the new opulence do.

3.5/4





# 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



{THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN ISSUE 13, THE 13TH MARCH, 2003. Andrew has been up to his neck in grape nectar & wasn't able, with the Easter break, to finish his article on time. Ed.}

One of the ways the kids of Pokolbin would pass the time away in the 70's and 80's was to spend endless hours at the huge playground at Hungerford Hill. Many of you would remember the huge old wine casks joined together by long unsteady bridges made from old tyres and chains. Sharp metal spikes would protrude from aged areas of the site, tyres would be held by only one bolt making them spin on an axis, ladders in the cask would often be cracked or lopsided or missing not to mention huge branches from the trees above would catapult down in the most unfortunate places. Not a day went by at the Hungerford Hill playground when some poor soul didn't wind up hospitalised. Most injuries occurred by kids running around the bridges only to misjudge a tyre and have one leg with full power go straight through the centre while the other would snap in two or three places trying to follow; fingers would become stuck in the chain railings at full speed twisting and breaking instantly; simply falling off the incredibly high playing equipment would see broken arms, broken noses, broken backs, children laying in pools of blood, you name it, it happened. Would we learn our lesson? Not at all! We loved it. I will cherish those days forever. I retain many war wounds from that time and whenever I feel pain or a creeek while working in the winery I disregard it and reminisce about the great days spent at Hungerford Hill (and then I take a painkiller!). There is no way on earth that the Hungerford Hill playground could exist today the way it did then. I certainly do not need to bring light upon the subject of public liability to you because in the last few years we are all aware of the astronomical cases which are surfacing. We only need to step out our front door and if anything even remotely upsets the equilibrium of our lives, someone, somewhere, is to blame. They are liable.

We all know about smokers with terminal illnesses brought upon by smoking suing cigarette companies and people suing their local council for falling 'off the gutter' but many cases rest within businesses and worksites. I recently had the pleasure of a chap who turned up bright and early on a Monday morning at the winery and handed me a card:- Myron Smith, Risk Management Consultant. His name wasn't really Myron but he reminded me of one. Myrons are always gutless, private types who were probably dropped on their heads as kids and still live with their mothers and often choose really wimpy careers in things like say..... risk management for instance.

Anyway, Myron explained that he was sent by our insurance company to advise on the best policies of keeping our property as safe as possible, from fires, theft or public liability. At his request I took him on a brief tour of the vineyard, cellar door facility and the winery and he frantically wrote short notes on a tiny paper pad not much bigger than a standard stamp. Each time he entered something into this catalogue he would raise his head and force a wry smile showing the huge gap between his two front teeth. Myron was pleased about most initiatives we had regrading the safety issues of our business but I'd like to share with you just some issues which arose. I have cylinders of carbon dioxide which I tie up very securely with rope against a pole which sits in the middle of a concrete floor with a few stainless steel tanks nearby but nowhere near any walls and under a very high ceiling. Myron suggested that the rope should be replaced with chains to prevent fire from burning the rope leaving the

cylinders in a position to possibly fall over. Although the possibility of flames reaching them is a billion-to-one, if a fire just happened to gust through I think the safest place for the cylinders to be would be lying on their side on the ground rather than strangled by chains. Regardless of that I now have chains.

A chap who works in the vineyard brings his dog to work everyday. Although the dog can barely find the energy to even breath in his 15<sup>th</sup> year, Myron insisted that a warning sign should be placed at the front gate to warn people that a vicious canine lives here and it eats people. His reasoning was if a child or teenager tormented the dog with a stick and the dog retaliated, even uncharacteristically, the person could only sue you for \$2 million instead of \$5 million if the sign was in place. What a relief! Upon observing the machinery shed housing three tractors with everything under a modern alarm system, Myron still found clause with one of the tractors not being fully registered. It doesn't leave the property but Myron took great delight in reminding me that our driveway is in fact a public road. I responded simply by exclaiming that I now don't feel like such a loser that one fateful night after refreshing myself at the old Tallawanta Hotel I was dropped off at the front gate by God-knows-who and proceeded to hitchhike up the driveway, even on occasions seriously becoming agitated that there were no cars passing. And on a public road!! The tractor is now registered just in case one of us decides to jump on and start mowing down our beloved customers as they drive in.

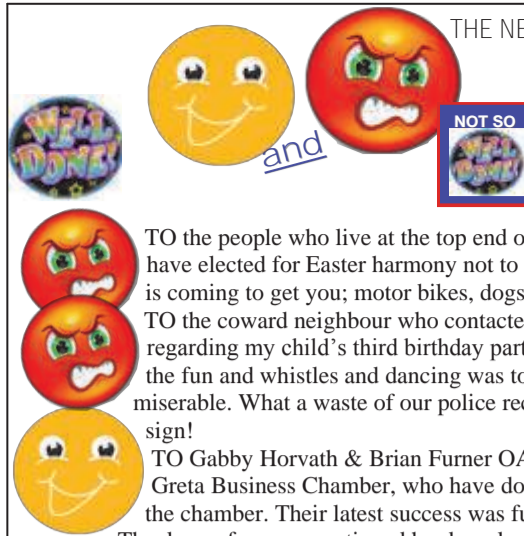
Myron noticed a pair of scissors in the laboratory sitting on a bench within full reach of a small child to which I replied "Well, don't do anything silly now Myron, you could hurt yourself". I am the only person who ever goes into the lab but without a good, solid lock on the door and a sign that clearly states that either "No-one under the age of 18 is to enter" or simply "No Entry" is visible, I am liable when a kid cuts himself to ribbons with my scissors.

You get the picture. There was a long list of similar scenarios which only a few years ago you wouldn't even consider. In the end Myron had advised us that covering our own butt could very well pay its way one day even though the changes were fairly costly and theoretically unnecessary but that's the climate of today and so it really is better to be safe than sorry.

I thanked Myron for his guidance and watched him putt out of the car park in his 1974 Mini Minor at about 10km/hr and indicate where the road slightly curved, both hands clenched to the steering wheel all the way to the gate where he than sped up to a wild 40km/hr. He was obviously in a hurry to get home to his mother who had prepared milk and cookies using his favourite plastic mug and plate before changing into his jam jams for a mid-morning nap. Let's just say that Myron is part of a breed that wouldn't have cut it with the old Hungerford Hill crew. (OK, enough about Myron!).

Oh, I better go, I think I hear some customers. They must have missed the new "Enter at your own risk" sign. I must hurry in case they come face-to-face with the dog or break into the winery and into the lab and start hacking themselves with a pair of scissors or God forbid - swallow some alcohol!!

Cheers Andrew



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

TO the people who live at the top end of our street in Branxton (street named but have elected for Easter harmony not to name it! *Ed*) ~ the Noise Abatement Society is coming to get you; motor bikes, dogs & music, all in disharmony!!

TO the coward neighbour who contacted police at 6.30pm on Tuesday evening, regarding my child's third birthday party, complaining it was too loud. I guess the fun and whistles and dancing was to much for you because your life is miserable. What a waste of our police resources. Oh .. and thanks for the For Sale sign!

TO Gabby Horvath & Brian Fumer OAM, both board member of the Branxton Greta Business Chamber, who have done so much work in obtaining funding for the chamber. Their latest success was funding for the Branxton Historical Walk. Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of the chamber & the community.



### 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/stenton](http://www.mtatravel.com.au/stenton)  
E: [stenton@mtatravel.com.au](mailto:stenton@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](http://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 z501 z50zj zt70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841  
**Work Wanted:** Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292  
**Work Wanted:** Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397  
**Work Wanted:** Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601  
**Work Wanted:** HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701  
**Work Wanted:** Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567  
**Work Wanted:** Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081  
**Work Wanted:** Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.  
**Work Wanted:** experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804  
**Work Wanted:** Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 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/>  
**For Sale:** Brand new 7x4 box trailer, Led light, 15in wheels & 12mths NSW registration \$1000.  
GO TO FB for further details



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

#### Dates for your diary >

Tues 11/04 ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
Wed 26 April ~ first day of Term 2 for students  
Thur 27 April ~ Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meeting Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm. Guest- Jenny Noble from The Hunter Melanoma Foundation.  
1 May to 30 June 2017 ~ Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival  
Tues 2 May ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
Tues 9 May ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
Tues 16 May ~ 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 ~ 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 ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
Tues 6 June ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
Tues 13 June ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
Sun 21 Jun ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
Thur 4 Jul ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
Tues 11 Jul ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
Sun 16 Jul ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

#### Dates for your diary >

Tues 1 Aug ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
Tues 8 Aug ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start  
Tues 08 Aug ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
Sun 20 Aug ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
Tues 5 Sept ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
Tues 12 Sept ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
Sun 17 Sep ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
Tue 3 Oct ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
Tue 10 Oct ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start  
Tues 10 Oct ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
Sun 15 Oct ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
Tues 7 Nov ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
Tues 14 Nov ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
Sun 19 Nov ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
Tues 5 Dec ~ Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
Tues 12 Dec ~ B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
Sun 17 Dec ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Hunter Valley Vineyards Concerts  
21 October 2017 Opera in the Vineyards



## Greta Public School

With Sarah-Jane Hazell

Relieving Principal, Greta Public School



We have made it to the end of a very full term with lots of exciting events at Greta Public School. Our lead in to the holidays was made even more active with the always popular Easter Hat Parade, Easter chocolate raffles, and a sausage sizzle organised by year six. Our new library furniture is now fully installed and classes are using the wonderful new space.

We ordered A LOT of beautiful new books and these are available for students to read or borrow. Our upgrade has been very generously supported by the P&C Association who have donated a number of laptops and a charging trolley for use in the library. We recently had an exciting win in cricket against the Branxton Public School team and will move on to the next round of the competition.

We have two community events coming up next term and would like to extend an invitation to all local parents. We have a free Fruit and Veg Sense Workshop presented by the Cancer Council of NSW. This workshop focuses on how to save time and money making healthy meals, learning clever ways to entice fussy eaters, and provides a free recipe book to all participants. It will be held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May at the Greta Public School Hall from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. Please RSVP by contacting the school on 49387331. We are also hosting a six week parenting program called 'Tuning in to Kids: Emotionally Intelligent Parenting' which will be run by Maitland and Singleton Family Support Services. This will assist parents to better communicate with their child, support them in managing their emotions, and teach them to deal with conflict. It will be held on a Tuesday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am from the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. You can register for the course by calling 6572 4288 or emailing

admin@singletonfs.org.au.

To all enjoy the school holidays.

Sarah-Jane Hazell



## Branxton Public School

A very busy Term 1 is now complete and students and staff are ready for a well-deserved rest. Term 2 will be just as busy with Peer

Support, Cross Country, Starstruck, visiting performances and various sporting pursuits.

Our Easter Hat Parade was held on the last Wednesday of term. A wonderful day was had by all with a special visit from the Bunny himself, performances by Kindergarten, the Infants' Choir and the Primary choir. The Easter Hats were spectacular! The Year 6 did a roaring trade with their cake stall, raising over \$650 for their end of year gift to the school.

It is with very mixed emotion that we farewell Mr Howell from our library. He successfully gained a position at Adamstown Public School and will begin there in Term 2. He has been a wonderful asset to our school and his dedication to all the students has been very much appreciated. Good luck Mr Howell. We will miss you dearly.



Year 6 Cake Stall



Easter Hats

Students are invited to attend the Anzac Day Town March on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April. The march will depart from near the Branxton Fish and Chippery. Students are asked to arrive by 11:15am in full school uniform. The march will then proceed down the main street to the rotunda at Branxton Oval for the Anzac Service. We will have an Anzac Service at school on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 11:30am.

Congratulations to our new P&C Executive. Our new President is Mrs Kerrie O'Brien, Vice President is Mr Jeremy Hill, Treasurers are Mrs Mel Nemeth & Mrs Marianne Mathers and Secretaries are Mrs Sharna Milgate and Mrs Melissa Enright. Many thanks to the departing executive who have done an excellent job over the years.

### Dates for the Calendar

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Town Anzac March 11:15am

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – first day of Term 2 for students

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Cross Country Carnival

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May – PBL Celebration Day

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



Mrs Maier with the Special Guest



# Upcoming events

## Soil health field day

When: 12th Apr 2017 8:30am-1:30pm  
Where: Scone TAFE 2 Flemington Drive, Scone  
Contact: Sarah Giblin 02 6540 2414

Details: Upper Hunter landholders are invited to a free workshop to find out what the numbers in a soil test mean and to determine what the local soil benchmark figures are for their farming system. Department of Primary Industries will deliver the workshop.

Bookings are essential, please contact Sarah Giblin at the Hunter Local Land Services Scone office on 6540 2414 or email [sarah.giblin@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sarah.giblin@lls.nsw.gov.au) by Monday 3 April.

*This event is being coordinated by Hunter Local Land Services with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.*

## Community planting day

When: 19th Apr 2017 9:30am-12:30pm  
Where: Ash Island via Ash Island Bridge, Hexham  
Contact: 02 4964 9308

Details: Volunteers play an enormous role in helping to restore native vegetation in the Hunter estuary. Since 1995 over 190,000 trees and shrubs have been planted. Head over to Ash Island for a community planting day, get your hands dirty and share a cuppa with some like-minded people.

A free lunch will be provided. Call 4964 9308 to book in and confirm details.

[Find out more about Kooragang Wetlands in the Hunter Wetlands National Park](#)

## Thinning your forest for production or conservation

When: 22nd Apr 2017 9:30am-3:00pm  
Where: Main Creek  
Contact: Rob Henderson 02 4938 4934

Details: The Hunter Farm Forestry Network (HFFN) with assistance of Hunter Local Land Services (HLLS) will host a free practical workshop / demonstration on thinning native vegetation on property.

Topics to be covered include:

- Property and project background – Judy Boyden (HFFN)
- What NSW laws enable me to thin vegetation? – Nicolai Cooper (HLLS)
- Hunter valley vegetation in context (Botanist TBA)
- Approaches and techniques to thinning – Annabelle Kater (HFFN)
- Results of project and experimentation in farm tour– Judy and Annabelle (HFFN)

Please reserve your place by [registering online](#) or by contacting Rob Henderson at the Hunter Local Land Services Paterson office on 02 4938 4934. Sandwiches and morning tea will be provided. Full details on the event will be provided upon registration.

## Blood On The Track



## Million dollar yearlings keep coming at 2017 Inglis Australian Easter Sale

By Darryl Sherer  
At the 2008 sale there were 28 lots make \$1 million or more, 23 in 2007 and now in 2017 there have been 17 with seven sold on Thursday. The sale average on Section I of the sale is \$356,755 - an increase of 25 percent on 2016. Apart from the sale-topping \$2.5 million Redoute's Choice colt the competition on those perceived top lots was fierce. George Moore signed for the Snitzel half-brother to Group III BTC Classic winner Havana at \$1.7m and said the sale is a reflection of market forces. "The best thing about the Easter Sale is you get the pedigree to go with the type," Moore said. "Fair play to Inglis, they've

done a magnificent job but with a smaller catalogue the better lots are probably selling for 30 percent more than you might expect. "We were close on the on the \$2.4 million Medaglia d'Oro colt and this colt was close to him on type. Snitzel is a sire on fire with four Group One winners in recent weeks and this colt has everything you would want. "He will start off here in Australia, we'll decide who trains over a nice dinner tonight." Julian Blaxland expressed similar thoughts after paying \$1.5 million for a colt by I Am Invincible on behalf of Aquis Farm in Queensland. "The market is very, very strong. We are looking to buy fast colts that will eventually become stallions and this colt fits that bill," Blaxland said. "All the big buyers are looking for the same sort of colts so you expect to pay a premium. We really liked the Medaglia d'Oro colt that sold for \$2.4 million and are involved in him."

Blaxland said a trainer has not been chosen - yet. "We haven't decided but Ciaran (Maher) loves him and wants to have him, so we'll see." Robbie Griffiths will prepare the three-quarter brother to Group III winner and successful sire Beneteau after Darren Dance of Australian Thoroughbred Bloodstock paid \$1 million for the Snitzel colt. Dance said the colt will race for established clients and represented value at the sale. "We thought he'd make more - he's the right type of horse, looks like an early runner and fits our criteria," Dance said. "He's pretty much sorted for a group of breeders in Victoria and hopefully we can turn him into a stallion in the long term. "I think the market is in great shape, the whole industry is in great shape."

### Redoute's Choice colt tops Australian Easter Yearling Sale

Michael Wallace seated alongside Mr Teo from the



## Detailed saleyard report



## Saleyard report - cattle

### Singleton report date 5/4/17

Yarding 380 ~ **Change -380** (Comparison Date 29/3/17)

Substantial rainfall across the supply area reduced numbers for a small yarding of fair to good quality cattle. The bulk entered the younger categories, as a better percentage were prime and suitable for the butcher orders. The export cattle were limited in supply. The medium weight 200-280kg vealer steers purchased by the restockers improved 12c, ranging from 360c to 449c/kg. The heavier end also to the restockers gained 6c, as the best reached 406c/kg. The equivalent weighted heifer portion lifted 6c, making from 336c to 389c/kg. The yearling steers entering the lighter categories improved in quality and prices gained 3c to average 380c after reaching 383c/kg. Yearling heifers suitable for the restockers sold to solid competition, prices ranged from 302c to 349c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers remained firm to 8c dearer, as the best reached 404c/kg. Cow buyers continued their strong competition, with the plainer 2 scores to the restockers reaching 240c, while the better covered heavy weights to the processors ranged from 232c to 239c/kg. The best younger heavy weight bulls topped at 271c/kg.



### Scone report date 4/4/17

Yarding 631 ~ **Change - 614** (Comparison Date 28/3/17)

Numbers slipped due to the supply area receiving good rainfall, as the quality was fair to good. The bulk entered the vealer categories, with fair percentages of yearlings also in the penning. Grown steers and heifers were scarce, as around 60 cows were penned. The usual orders competed in a firm to dearer market. The medium weight 200-280kg vealer steers returning to the paddock gained 7c, making from 362c to 444c/kg. The heavier end lifted 12c to top at 400c/kg. The medium weight vealer heifers to the restocker and backgrounder orders remained firm at 352c to 380c, as the lighter weights reached 436c/kg. The light weight yearling steers to the restockers gained 15c to average 372c after reaching 384c, with the heavier drafts selling from 324c to 368c/kg. The unfinished yearling heifers maintained firm prices at 308c to 344c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers reached 372c/kg. Cows sold to a mixed trend, as the plainer medium weights gained from 5c to 14c, making from 180c to 238c/kg. The better finished heavy weights remained firm to range from 225c to 242c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 255c/kg.



### TRLX Tamworth report date 3/4/17

Yarding 1789 ~ **Change +681** (Comparison Date 27/3/17)

Numbers lifted with an increased supply of vealers and yearlings. Cows made up the bulk of the grown cattle with limited supplies of well finished grown steers and heifers. Overall the quality of the young cattle was fair to good with some nice lines of very well bred weaners and yearlings available. All the usual buyers were in attendance with demand strong throughout. Most of the young cattle were purchased by restocker and feedlot interests with little in the way of trade competition. Dearer market trends for the most part through the young cattle with demand from both restockers and feedlotters very high. Some outstanding results at recent weaner sales carried into the market with weaner steers under 330kg up to 50c/kg dearer. There were some very well bred steers available while breed variations and quality created a large price range. The heavier steer weaners were also much dearer. The heifer weaners to restock were up to 20c/kg dearer with the limited numbers purchased by the local trade were also dearer. Medium and heavy weight yearling steers to restock and feed sold to a dearer trend with the medium weights to restockers and the heavy feeders most affected. Breed was also a factor in the average price rise. Yearling heifers to restock and feed were also dearer with average quality improvements accounting for some of the price increase. Heavy grown steers and heifers to process sold to a dearer trend with Northern processors competing strongly in the face of supply concerns related to flooding and wet weather. Plain condition cows to both process and restock saw little change. The well finished cows sold to a dearer trend of 7c to 13c/kg. Heavy bulls almost reached 300c/kg.



☞ The Redoute's Choice colt out of Secluded.

China Horse made all the running until being joined after \$2 million by Sheikh Khalifa's representative Tim Stakemire with Stakemire having the final nod at \$2.5million. The colt, out of Secluded, is a brother to the Group III Canonbury Stakes winner and Group I Blue Diamond Stakes runner-up Pariah and a three-quarter brother to Group I winner Melito. Stakemire declined to speak to the media afterwards however, John Messara of Arrowfield said the sale exceeded his expectations. "Very pleased that Sheikh

Khalifa has got this colt as he's been a great supporter of the stallion all the way

through and lets hope he follows in the footsteps of his brother," Messara said. "I was expecting a big price but didn't know what it would be, there were a lot of people interested in him and it's fitting, I think, that Redoute's should top the sale. "I think this colt is a bit more mature, more forward at this stage than Pariah was." The colt out of Secluded is the 73rd yearling by Redoute's Choice to sell for \$1 million or more at public auction. Arrowfield sold Pariah as a

yearling at this sale last year and have bought back into the colt with a 50 percent stake for an undisclosed price. "He's a fantastic colt that I've kept tabs on since we sold him here," Messara said. "He'll stay with Peter and Paul Snowden and be managed by James Harron. They've done a great job with him. We will take him over once he's finished racing. "It was really important to me to get back into him as I think he's going to make a terrific stallion."



**Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licencee-in-Charge**

## BRANXTON & VINE-YARDS REAL ESTATE

**12 Clift Street  
BRANXTON NSW 2335  
P: 4938 3300**

# HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

## HUNTER VALLEY UNCORKED AVALON

Off the back of the successful event Hunter Uncorked Balmoral, the HVWTA is running the same event in Avalon Sunday 23 April, 2017. The Village Green at Dunbar

Park will come alive with the renowned pleasures of Australia's oldest wine region where visitors can immerse themselves in the Hunter Valley way of life and its well-loved charm under the sunny skies of Avalon as they wander through food stalls, sampling fresh, gourmet delights and the incredible wines of the picturesque region. The Wine Selectors Expert Tasting Panel will hold a range of informative and fun cellar sessions for all lovers of wine – from experienced palettes to those just beginning their wine-tasting journey of

discovery. During the sessions there will be tastings of an amazing range of varieties, including new-style, old favourites like chardonnay and shiraz; as well as some exciting, alternative Hunter varieties shaking up the scene and cementing the Hunter Valley's reputation as one of the most progressive and dynamic wine regions in the country. Visitors can register for sessions at the Wine Selectors Cellar Door on the day. Sample Hunter Valley's finest drops from Allandale Winery, Brokenwood Wines, De Iulii Wines,

Glandore Estate, Hungerford Hill Wines, Ironbark Hill Brewhouse, Macquariedale Organic Wines, Margan Family Wines, McLeish Estate Wines, Mistletoe Wines, Mount Pleasant Wines, Oakvale Wines, Pepper Tree Wines, Peterson House, Saddler's Creek Wines, Thomas Wines, Tulloch Wines, Tower Estate, Two Rivers Wines, Tyrrell's Wines, Vinden Estate Wines and Wine Selectors. Restaurants and producers include Despana, Hunter Valley Cheese Company, Inbocca, Miss Mabels Organic Food, Pizzico, Pukara Estate, Sneaky Gride Coffee, The Shuck Truck and The Cellar Restaurant. Digital amplification commenced last Friday, targeting Northern Beaches. 10,000 DL flyers will be distributed to Palm Beach, Whale Beach, Bilgola and Avalon with 300 A3 posters distributed to local businesses including theatres and cinemas. PR

packs and invitations to HUA17 were hand delivered this week by House of Airlie to 20 top digital and print media in Sydney, along with a media release which has so far secured clips in Time Out Sydney, Food Service News, What's On calendar of manlyaustralia.com.au. For more invitation visit winecountry.com.au  
**FINANCIAL REVIEW'S 2017 TOP AUSTRALIAN RESTAURANTS**  
Congratulations to Bistro Molines, Esca Bimbadgen, Margan Wines & Restaurant and Muse Restaurant who have been announced as one of the top 500 restaurants in Australia by Financial Review. The top 500 list is compiled by Good Food Guide editors. Each restaurant then votes for 10 of their peers on the list, resulting in the annual rankings of Australia's Top 100 Restaurants, to be announced on June 19 at a gala event at The Star, Sydney.  
*Cheers, Jo*

## Last chance for applications in minor categories of Singleton Mayoral Scholarship with deadline extended

Applications in the minor categories of the Singleton Mayoral Scholarship program have been extended for two weeks, so it's not too late to apply for one of 12 x \$500 scholarships on offer. The minor categories include Hospitality, Retail, Agriculture and Community Service that incorporates people pursuing careers in nursing, childcare or aged care.



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Applicants must be a current resident of the Singleton Local Government Area or a student from the Singleton local government area who has relocated for study. The aim of the scholarships is to assist local residents to achieve qualifications to further their career opportunities.

There has been a strong uptake in the major categories for the 2017 scholarship opportunities, with more than 40 applications received to date.

However the minor categories will remain open until Friday 14 April 2017, to allow more applications. Examples of short courses eligible for consideration in these categories include RSA, RCG, youth work, customer service, retail, agriculture, aged care, child care and nursing.

The Singleton Mayoral Scholarship was established in 2009 and celebrates community contribution and academic achievements of people in the Singleton Community.

Since 2009, the program has awarded more than \$130,000 in scholarships to deserving recipients. To apply for the Singleton Mayoral Scholarship Program visit [www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/scholarships](http://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/scholarships)

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Easter Sunday

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Easter Monday

10am - 10pm



# The results are in and Cessnock residents get the green tick of approval!

Cessnock City Council is excited to announce the first month of the Garden Organics kerbside collection service has been an overwhelming success.

Figures show residents of the Cessnock Local Government Area have diverted a total of 513 tonnes from landfill since the service commenced on 6 March.

Results also show most residents are doing the right thing and putting the correct materials in the bin with Cessnock having a record low contamination rate of 0.2 percent compared to other Councils involved in the rollout.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he is thrilled with the rollout of the service and in particular the community's response.

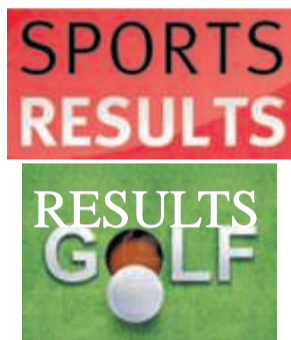
"Congratulations to our community members for embracing this service and ensuring the right materials are being disposed of in the lime-green lidded bin".

"I have witnessed the trucks dumping a full load after finishing a collection run and it was so positive to see almost no contamination".

"We are now diverting a total of 41% of our domestic waste from landfill. It is now every resident's responsibility to participate in this new service and ensure contaminants are kept out of both the organics and recycle bins", Cr Pynsent said.

Contaminants could result in loads being rejected defeating the whole purpose of separate collections, meaning the waste will end up in landfill.

Materials that can go in the Garden Organics bin include: Grass clippings, Prunings, Weeds, Leaves, Flowers, Plants, Palm fronds, Bark, Sticks and branches & Untreated timber.



**BRANXTON GOLF CLUB- SAT 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL**  
STROKE MONTHLY MEDAL  
MEDAL WINNER- KYLE MOUNSER 61 NETT  
A GRADE WINNER Alex Hannah 68 nett c/b  
A GRADE RUNNER UP Chris Zawirski 68 nett  
A GRADE THIRD David Hollis 69 nett

B GRADE WINNER Ian Barnes 68 nett c/b  
B GRADE RUNNER UP Neil Jordan 68 nett  
B GRADE THIRD Cody Chappell 69 nett  
C GRADE WINNER Lee Jackson 69 nett  
C GRADE RUNNER UP Lennard Porter 70 nett  
C GRADE THIRD Michael Maddock 72 nett  
BALL COMP J Tracey 196 cm, S Ross 198 cm K Mounser 69 cm

Kyle Mounser played the round of his life in winning Saturday's Monthly Medal with an outstanding 61 nett from his 10 handicap, equivalent to a one over par score of 71. His short game was brilliant all day, often getting up and down, ensuring he avoided any slip ups. He had two birdies on the back nine for a two under score. His round included a nearest the pin on the 9<sup>th</sup> indicating some excellent iron play. In A Grade Alex Hannah claimed victory with an excellent 68 nett on a challenging course playing long after the recent rains. Chris Zawirski finished runner up on a countback with Dave Hollis third with his 69 nett. Both Dave and Kyle are a part of the B Grade Pennant team so their rounds were excellent tune ups for Sunday's final at The Vintage. Ian Barnes continued his meteoric come back to golf by winning B Grade with his 68 nett score, defeating Neil Jordan on a countback with Cody

Chappell third with a 69 nett. Lee Jackson continued his good run of form in winning C Grade with his 69 nett just ahead of Lennie Porter and Michael Maddock. Lee was a part of the C Grade Pennant team which won the Pennants final last weekend. A 75 nett was required to win a golf ball. Robert "Shirl" Miller will also remember the day for a different reason—he stepped on a rather large red belly black snake near the 11<sup>th</sup> green, causing the snake to run one way into the creek and our local intrepid golfer to run very quickly the other way. The snake was last seen swimming down the creek keeping a very watchful eye on "Shirl". We did mention that Mark "Snake" Moylan should have intervened with a snake attacking a snake!! As mentioned last week, the C Grade team won the Pennant final last weekend—a full report can be seen on the Hunter District website—we have also included this report on the Branxton Golf Club Website. On Sunday, the B Grade pennant team also won their final after a nail biting battle with Maitland at The Vintage. The team of Tom Foster, Phil Baker, Kyle Mounser, Mark Moylan, Troy McCaw and Dave Hollis had a 1.5 all draw, after Tom and Phil lost 1 up, Kyle and Mark won 4-3 and Troy and Dave finished all square after the Maitland team made a tap in par on the difficult last hole. They then went on to the 19<sup>th</sup> with Troy's par good enough to secure the team's win, sparking some jubilation around the 1<sup>st</sup> (19<sup>th</sup>) green. The team went through the season undefeated and also defended their title from last year—a fantastic effort. I'm sure the team celebrated long into the night. The Pennant season proved to be a spectacular one for our small Branxton Golf Club, with both B and C Grade winning, the Seniors losing in the semi-finals and the A Grade team only missing the final on a countback—they finished the season by defeating the eventual winners, The Vintage. **Branxton Golf club –Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April - stableford**  
A grade winner ~ Gary Wilton 41pts  
A grade runner up ~ Peter

## ANZAC DAY GRETA

Greta RSL Sub-Branch invites all members and their families, residents of Greta and any other interested parties to attend our ANZAC Day Commemorations at Greta.

This year recognises the 100th Anniversary of the Sinai-Gallipoli Campaign, where Australian and New Zealand soldiers were faced with some of the worst privations while fighting valiantly for the cause of democracy and freedom of speech. It is during this campaign that the famed the Australian Light Horse Regiments took their place in history when they successfully charged enemy held territory in October 1917, at the Battle of Beersheba. Massive battles were still being fought on the Western Front and many of the combatants in this campaign were never found. We are only just discovering mass graves of our servicemen and are trying to identify family members, so that long lost relatives may be returned to their homeland.

The Day will commence at 5.30am with the Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the Old Courthouse. The March will commence at 9.30am leaving the corner of the New England Hwy and Nelson St, and finishing at the Cenotaph. The Main Service being held at the Cenotaph at approximately 10am.

Battery powered tealight candles and hand held Australian flags will be available at the table adjacent to the Rotunda prior to the Dawn Service, for a donation. The flags will also be available at the Old Courthouse prior to the March, for a gold coin donation. Our ANZAC Badges, Commemorative Chocolates and Limited Edition Tins of ANZAC Biscuits are available daily at the Greta Newsagency and Greta Guardian Chemist, as well as, Lochinvar Post Office. All these items will also be available on ANZAC Day at the Old Courthouse throughout both Services and at Lochinvar at the 11.15am Service at the Community Hall.

Please come and join our current ANZAC personnel as they remember the generations who have passed before.

Wilton 37pts  
A grade third ~ Dave Hollis 37pts  
B grade winner ~ Richard Crooks 39pts  
B grade runner up ~ Paul Bush 37pts  
B grade third ~ Andrew Henderson 36pts  
C grade winner ~ Roger Yandle 36pts  
Cgrade runner up ~ Lennard Porter 36pts  
C grade third Lee Jackson 34pts  
NTP

Y KWON 54CM  
D HOLLIS 288CM  
D KINCH 63CM  
K MATHER 163CM  
Local super vet Gary Wilton showed all the A Graders how it can be done by convincingly winning Saturday's A Grade Stableford Competition with an excellent 41 pts. He finished 4 pts clear of Peter Wilton with 37 pts, a great round from his low handicap, and Dave Hollis with the same score. Dave has just recovered from last weekend's B Grade Pennant victory and the all night celebrations that followed. Former Club President Richard Crooks took out the B Grade competition with a very pleasing 39 pts, just ahead of Paul Bush with 37 pts and Andrew Henderson's 36 pts. It is an ominous warning to the 18 Branxton players who are heading to the Gold Coast this week that Paul played so well as he would dearly like to take everyone's money in this annual trip. Another local veteran, Roger Yandle won C Grade with his 36 pts, only on a countback form local legend Lennie Porter with Lee Jackson, also fresh form his C Grade Pennant victory third with 34 pts. The shot of the day belonged to Y.Kwon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> which finished only 54 cms away. The story goes that he has a unique way of aiming at this hole—apparently the best way is to aim well right of the oleander tree and hit across your body straight at the hole. It obviously works. As Jordan Speith said at the end of his third round in the US Masters this week, we have to stop worrying what other people think about our swing and swing freely—great advice as we all have our own idiosyncrasies and we can enjoy our golf any which way we can!

Dave Kinch's shot to the 9<sup>th</sup> was also a great shot, finishing only 63 cms away.

**Branxton Lady Golfers 29/3/17**  
This week's events was a PAR Event.  
Winner was Ruth McCarthy with +1  
Runner Up was Jen Selna with -1  
Nearest to the pin was Caren Caldwell  
Carol Miller had a birdie on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 26th March**  
Phillipe Byron played great golf to win the Weekly Challenge with 45 points from Grahame Mankelow with a solid round of 43 points and Matt Dwight also scoring well with 41 points to claim 3rd. Ball winners were: Dane Walton 40, Brent Watson 38, Richard Bennett 37, Steve Piggot 37, Robert Bensley v37, Blake Rouke 36 and Greg Rasmus v35.

**Tuesday 28th March**  
Greg White came out on top of some very good scores in Tuesday Stableford with the winning score of 43 points from Garry Hedges 42 and Jason Cowburn in 3rd place with 41 points. Ball winners were: Rick Turnchini 39, Chris Edwards 39, Mark Fullbrook 39, Eric Smith 39, Ray Newton 37, Paul Smith 36, Andrew Campbell 36, Tim Lonergan 35, Dan Taylor 34, Bob Prentice 34, Michael Ridgeway v34 and Darren Thomson 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Chris Taggart (3rd) David Peel (4th) Eric Smith (10th) and Dan Taylor (17th)

**Wednesday 29th March**  
Isabel Skeates led the Ladies home in this week's Par event with a square from Jeanette Irwin -1 and Sue Peel 3rd with -2 on countback. Ball winners were: Meleita Watson -2, Robyn Dunlop -2, Jill Ramsden -2, Dale Hamilton -2, Christine Tancred -3 and Mary Fortey -3. Next week the Ladies will play Hart Ball.

**Thursday 30th March**  
Kevin Smith handed in his best for a while with 45 points to win the Vets Stableford from Dave Fury 43 and Peter Payne filling the placings with 42 points. Ball winners were: Wayne  
CONT BACK PAGE

## Is organisation getting in your way?

*"Out of clutter, find simplicity" – Albert Einstein*

Do you often find yourself rushing around, late for work or an appointment, trying to find your car keys, or stopping to hang one more load of washing on the line?

What does it feel like when you can't find what you are looking for? And what happens as a result? Do you feel like you are out of control? Do you shout at the kids, or your partner? Maybe the kids miss the school bus and you drive like a mad person to get to the next bus stop, or otherwise drive them all the way to school? If it is in the morning, maybe it sets you up to be running late for the rest of the day? Whatever the consequences, being disorganised is not fun. At best it can be embarrassing or leave you feeling stressed, at worst it can be expensive, with items which have been lost having to be replaced (I'm thinking now of my car key and garage door zapper which have been MIA for about four weeks).

One of the things I have struggled with working from home is having a routine and being organised. When I worked full time, I had a set amount of time before work to ride horses, hang the washing out, have breakfast, etc. When I got home in the afternoon, there were a couple of hours to get all the chores done before dinner and bedtime. Every minute was accounted for. Work had its own routine, with regular times for meetings and lunch breaks. Now, working from home, it is tempting to do things when I feel like it, rather than having a strict routine. I have found though that being organised and having a schedule is more important than ever, as it is this routine that frees me up to spend time on the things that are important.

One of the biggest blockers to getting anything done, including exercise, is lack of organisation. Not being able to find your socks when you want to go for a walk can result in precious minutes being lost and the window of opportunity closing. Having to help your kids find their clean school clothes five minutes before they have to leave for the bus can end in tears (and not just for the kids). Checking a few emails before you leave work at the end of the day can result in you being late home for dinner. And the list goes on!

One way to become more organised is to delegate – you don't have to be responsible for everything on your own! And this applies equally if you are a stay at home mum, working from home, or working full time away from the home. If you have children, having a roster for them to get the clothes off the line, empty the dishwasher and fold their own clothes and putting them away where they belong can help immensely. Discuss it with them, and explain your expectations, then make sure it is done! It may not be perfect to start with. You may find your egg whisk in with the pots and pans, or the clothes might be a bit crumpled, but it's not the end of the world – resist the urge to do it yourself or to redo what someone else has done.

Another way to be more organised is to shorten your "to do" list by saying "No". Will saying "yes" to joining that committee, or writing that newsletter, mean you won't be at home to help with homework? Or does it mean that you have to give up joining a group that will actually help you reach your goal of running 5km without stopping. Sometimes we say "yes" to things because we think we should, or because "we've always done it", or because we don't want to let other people down. But next time you are about to say "yes" to something, think carefully about what you will be missing as a result.

Plan ahead. Cooking meals in advance means that when you get home from mid week meetings or late night dance classes you can have a healthy dinner on the table in a few minutes rather than stopping for expensive take away on the way home. And taking a few minutes to make your lunch and lay your clothes out the night before means you can be organised in the morning, ready to go for a run or head out the door to work, feeling calm and collected!

Declutter. Trying to find the shoes you like to wear in amongst a cupboard full of shoes you haven't worn in years can be frustrating. The same when trying to find that bill you need to pay NOW while digging through a pile of old notes from school. Many bills these days come via email, but they can still get lost in our inbox. Create a filing system within your email program, and set reminders for when bills are due. Better still, pay them straight away and file the receipts where they belong. When decluttering, I also try and follow the "Marie Kondo" method – this involves getting rid of the things which "do not bring you joy" before you decide where to keep the things that are left. It can be hard sometimes, but once you get used to it, removing things from your home can be quite addictive and liberating.

Lower your standards! Yes, you heard me. One of the best pieces of advice I ever received was to stop ironing! Most of my clothes don't need ironing (I make sure I buy low maintenance clothing, or hang it up as soon as it comes off the line), but I used to spend a huge amount of time ironing my son's t-shirts, and my husband's work clothes, until I realised most of the t-shirts were only being worn after school when jumping on the trampoline, and my husband told me he didn't really need his hi-vis stuff ironed. It took me a little longer to stop ironing the pillow cases and tea towels, lol, but even that has stopped now as I realise there are more important things to do! It means I can spend less time ironing and more time putting things away where they belong!

Have a diary or planner that everyone in your family has access to. Many of my reminders are in my phone, or in my email program, but not everyone has access to that. I don't want to be the sole person responsible for knowing when something is happening or needs to be done, so I still have a calendar hanging on the wall in the kitchen (this year it is a nice one from Floriade – thanks mum and dad!). On the calendar we can all write appointments and other commitments, especially the ones which are bit out of the ordinary (eg scout camps or drama auditions). For really important events which involve people outside our home, I set up an event in Outlook (or my Google calendar) and "invite" other family members or friends, so they know it is happening. There are lots of others ways to keep track of appointments, the important thing is to find the system that works for you.

Finally, don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today. How many times have you been driving home only to see the low fuel light come on in your car? And how many times have you thought "it's too hot to stop" or "the kids are tired/hot/hungry, I'll fill up tomorrow", only to be running late the next morning and forced to stop when you really don't have time to.

Getting organised sounds really boring, but being able to find things when you need them, getting to appointments on time and having time to do the things you really want to do, without the stress, is priceless.  
Louise Cairns Fit for Life  
**Louise Cairns is a Personal Trainer and Motivational Life 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.louisecairns.com.au](http://www.louisecairns.com.au)**



# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The New **SPORT**

## HUNTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB CONT FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

..... Berry 40, Ray Tranby v39, Michael Watson 38, Eric Smith 37, Greg Amloh 36, Doug Wand 36, Grahame Sheldon 35, Garry Marsden 35 and Ken Wright 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dave Fury (3rd) Kevin Smith (4th) Peter Mathews (8th) David Peel (10th) and Grahame Sheldon (17th). Next week the Vets will play Stroke. **Saturday 1st April** The heavy rain on Friday led to a soft surface on Saturday will several players showing a liking for the surface. A Grade went to Brad Burgess with an excellent 43 points from Andrew Zok who returned 39 points, B Grade to John Stewart with 40 points from Troy Wallis with 37 c/b and C Grade to Everglades visitor Ross Jespersen with 40 from Peter Dow with 37 points. Ball winners were: Russ Calderwood 37, Matt Killick 37, Ray Brown v36, Grahame Sheldon 36, Mick Hughes v36, Ken Smith 36, David Bennett 36, Bruce Chambers 35, Nathan Mudd 34, John McInnes 34, Tony Lamb 33, Michael Booth 33, Lachlan Peacock 33, Graeme Paterson 33, Dan McLeod 33, Tom Bellamy 32, Shannon Attewell 32, Ben Pickering 32, David Peel 32

and Rod Wales 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd) Brad Burgess (4th) Troy Wallis (8th) and Grahame Sheldon (17th). Next week will be the Monthly Medals in conjunction with Round 3 of the NSW Golf Ladies weekend Medal. **Sunday 2nd April** Andrew Marriott of the Maitland GC has taken out the Weekly Challenge with 37 points from Benn Corbett who returned 35 points **Tuesday 4th April** Gary Arnold used his experience best handling the wet on Tuesday to record 37 points and claim the Tuesday Stableford from Grahame Sheldon on 35 points surviving a countback from Blake Glennie of the Toronto GC : Ball winners were: Garry Marsden 34, Peter Wilson 34, Michael Young 34, John Stewart 33, Steve Piggot 33, Steve Hristov v33 and Nathan Morris v 32. **Wednesday 5th April** The Ladies played Hartball on Wednesday with the team of Dale Hamilton, Robyn Dunlop, Sue Williams and Diane Atton claiming the win from Lorraine Clack, Dianne Oakes and Sue Peel. Next week the Ladies will have a week off due to Greens Coring. **Thursday 6th April** The Vets Stroke event needed a 3 way countback to separate the winners

after all place getters shot 68 net, John Stewart received the judges nod from Dale Macklinshaw and Paul Ireland taking 3rd. Ball winners were: David Irwin 71, Wayne Berry 72, David Peel 72, Dave Fury 73, John Carmody 73, Ray Newton 74 and Doug Wand 76 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to David Peel (3rd & 17th) Doug Wand (4th) and John Stewart (10th). Next week the vets will play a 2 Person Ambrose with a 7:45 Shotgun start. **Saturday 8th April** A strong field contested the Monthly Medal round with the Medal on countback and A Grade going to Ben Bradley with an excellent 67 net, Corey Lamb took 2nd place with 69 net. B Grade went to Troy Wallis with 67 net from John Parish runner up with 70 net and C Grade to Kevin Smith with 70 net after surviving a 3 way countback, Garry Clarke to 2nd spot also on countback. Ball comp nor NTP's have been advised at this time. Next Saturday will be a Medley Stableford. \* Hunter Valley Golf Club entered a C Grade Pennant team this year and although finishing at the top of the regular season had to be content with runner's up after losing the Final 2-1 to Branxton. Have a Happy Easter.

## Late news

## Supporting our community dollar by dollar



Cessnock City Council is inviting locally-based community organisations involved in arts and cultural activities to apply for the 2017 Community Cultural Development Dollar for Dollar Grants Program. The grants aim to provide financial assistance for specific cultural projects or to allow for the improvement of facilities within the local government area. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent

said this is a wonderful opportunity for vital community groups to secure extra support. "This annual program has supported some exciting initiatives in the past. Last year we our successful applicants ranged from the Wollombi Sculpture in the Vineyards to the Cessnock Woodturners Inc. and the Branxton Greta Community Chamber of Commerce Umbrella Festival," Cr Pynsent said.

Grants are offered to arts and cultural groups for projects that can demonstrate a benefit to the cultural or artistic development of the wider community through: improvements to Council owned facilities licenced to, occupied or leased by the group which will contribute to the cultural or artistic use of the facility; and / or developing and /or implementing cultural or artistic projects or programs; and / or the purchase of equipment and / or materials for cultural or artistic projects or programs. Grants will be provided on a dollar for dollar basis, that is, up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the cost of the project and evidence of sufficient funds to match the grant is required. Applications can be for an

amount up to \$3000. \$25,000 is available in the funding program and on average is spread across eight to ten projects throughout the calendar year. Community based organisations outside the area may apply and be considered based on the project's benefit to the Cessnock local government area. Please note the application form has been updated, and it is recommended that applicants read the guidelines prior to submitting the application form by 8 May 2017. Application forms and grant guidelines are available from Council's Customer Service Counter, from Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries and our website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/dollarfordollar](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/dollarfordollar).

Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licensee-in-Charge  
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