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WEDNESDAY  
24 May 2017

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Page 4


with Mike Lowing

**What's Happening**  
& other matters

Letters to the Editor  
& ZANETTI Cartoon

Page 6

**Members Say...**



Page 14

**Branxton Greta Colts Match Reports**



Page 24

**Greta Branxton 2016 — 2017 Junior Cricket Presentation**



## Mayor Peter Blackmore not to seek re-election

MAITLAND Mayor Peter Blackmore OAM has officially announced that he will not be contesting the coming local government elections this September. In a press release issued last Wednesday Peter confirmed one of the worst kept secrets; that he would not be seeking re-election. "Last Wednesday it was announced that I won't be running for Mayor or as a

Councillor in September's Local Government elections," said Peter. "I have spent 22 years of my life as Mayor of this great city, in addition to the time I worked as the NSW Member for Maitland. Working for the public has been an honour and I feel extremely lucky that I've been able to achieve what I have. "I do, however, feel very comfortable with this decision. I'm very aware of

the fact that it's time for me to give back to my family and to be there for them, as they have been there for me. My wife Robyn has been by my side for this journey and I can never thank her enough for the support she has given me. I also want to spend more time with my children and grandchildren and watch them grow up and be there to support them and to watch them succeed. I'd also like to hit the road in my caravan,"

said Peter. "There's parts of this country I haven't had the chance to see and Robyn and I are excited to explore more of what Australia has to offer. I want to thank the staff at Council for everything they've done for me, including General Manager David Evans who's been great to work with over the years. Maitland is well served by a diverse, enthusiastic and talented workforce committed to the community and I'll leave my role with confidence that this won't change. "Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those people in the community who have supported me, but also those who have challenged me as it's made me a better public servant and a better person. Thank you for the opportunity and the many fantastic memories, that I will never forget. I look forward to serving you as Mayor up




until 9 September," said Peter. Mayor Blackmore was first elected to Maitland Council in 1980 & served his first term as mayor from 1986 to 1990. He was the state member from 1991 to 1999. In 1997 Maitland council was dismissed & a referendum followed where the community elected the mayor leading to a four-year term. In 1999 he was elected mayor again and is still in the chair. Mayor Blackmore, on receiving an Order of

Australia Medal last year, paid tribute to his parents for teaching him ... "that it was the people behind the community who made it great." "I was brought up this way, to work with the community and be actively involved in everything I did," Peter said. He also gave credit to former Maitland MP Milton Morris, who he described as his mentor. It wasn't all plain sailing for Peter with accusations in 1991 of impropriety that led to an ICAC enquiry of which

he was exonerated. In 2002 he was arrested and charged with sexual assault that took 20-months to have all charges thrown out & he being awarded costs. At the time he was reported as saying that, despite calls for him to stand down, he never considered giving in - "not even in my darkest moments." As of today it can be confirmed that two sitting councillors have flagged their decision to stand for Mayor in September.

CONT. Page 2

**New Gp Surgery in Branxton...**



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all details page 12

## PUBLIC EXHIBITION DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT 2017-21 DELIVERY PROGRAM DRAFT 2017-18 OPERATIONAL PLAN & BUDGET

At its meeting of 3 May 2017 Council resolved to place the draft Community Strategic Plan - *Cessnock 2027*, draft 2017-21 Delivery Program, draft 2017-18 Operational Plan and draft Resource Sourcing Strategy on public exhibition from **Wednesday 10 May 2017 to Wednesday 7 June 2017**.

The draft documents will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days in order to seek public comment, as required by sections 402, 404 and 405 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*.

The draft Community Strategic Plan - *Cessnock 2027* describes the community's aspirations for the area, while the draft 2017-21 Delivery Program outlines how Council will contribute to making the community's vision a reality. The draft Resource Sourcing Strategy describes the elements (assets, financial and workforce) that will support the draft Delivery Program. While the draft 2017-18 Operational Plan details Council's proposed activities for 2017-18 including the draft budget, as well as Council's proposed Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2017-18.

The draft documents 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 on the draft documents should be addressed to the General Manager and will be accepted up **until 5.00 pm Wednesday, 7 June 2017**.

*Full copies of submissions (including petitions) may be made available to the public including your name and address, unless Council receives a request for personal details to be suppressed.*

**PO BOX 152  
CESSNOCK 2325**

**STEPHEN GLEN  
GENERAL MANAGER**

### FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Mayor Peter Blackmore not to seek re-election

Cr Philip Penfold & Labor's Cr Loretta Baker have officially announced their intention to stand for the Mayoral position come September. Mayor Blackmore, when asked who he would prefer to take the reins, said that all of his deputies would be able to fulfil the position more than adequately. On learning of Mayor Blackmore's pending retirement Singleton Mayor, Sue Moore, said that without a doubt Peter has been a driving force in the Hunter for many years. "Here in Singleton LGA we

were fortunate to receive 5.7 million dollars for the Gym and Swim under Peter's chairmanship of the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund. Through Hunter Councils I have had the opportunity to work directly with Peter while he chaired for several years. "Sitting beside Peter recently when I realised he was planning his retirement I expressed how much he will be missed. Having said that I very much appreciate the dedication and commitment Peter has given over the many years and wish

him and Robyn all the best for their retirement years", said Sue. Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent said that Peter Blackmore has given an outstanding contribution to our region through his role as Chair of Hunter Councils. "Peter's leadership skills have been an example for all mayors. He will be sorely missed and I wish him all the best for the future." said Bob. Cessnock Liberal Councillor Rod Doherty said that he had known Peter since

1975 when Peter first owned a Service Station in Maitland. "I was a member of the Hunter Valley Sporting Car Club and an Ambulance officer working out of the Rutherford Ambulance Station in those days. Our relationship goes back 43 years and during that time Peter was always involved in the future of the Maitland district. "I have a lot of respect for Peters tenacity and his political ability to get things done. When he made the comment that Maitland is a "Can do City" he meant it. His Vision

for Maitland and the support from council staff over the years is extraordinary with the results there to prove it. "I wish Peter all the best in

his retirement and hope that he and Robyn enjoy the Grey Nomads lifestyle," said Rod. Mayor Peter Blackmore will leave behind a marvellous

legacy & whoever takes the reins will have some mighty big shoes to fill. Well done Peter Terence Blackmore OAM.

### Foregone, forgotten but still relevant

A whole show of yesteryear -- foregone, forgotten but still relevant is the subject of the latest exhibition

organised by the Murrurundi and District Historical Society Inc. From the kerosene cupboard and 'sink' to the wick scissors, the exhibition is themed "before Power".

It is difficult to imagine life without the mobile phone, television, the fridge and the cookers -- all available at the turn of a switch," president Des Dugan comments. "Yesteryear, not so fluid.

"Before power you had to chop the wood or, if you happened to live in a town with gas tanks, you could turn on the tap.

"We take so much for granted and in the digital future, there is a danger of our past being

consumed by technology to the point where the oldies will be the only ones who can relate to what came before -- the ingenuity and the necessity of invention."

The museum has cherry-picked the items that made life a little easier including the kerosene heater, the ice chest (yesterday's fridge) and the mangle 'ringer just to mention a few.

The exhibition is being held in the museum's church hall and is free. It will run until the end of June and is open from 10am to 1pm Saturday and Sunday or by appointment.



Photo above: part of the display at the Murrurundi and District Historical Society church hall.



## Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

Did you know if you sell a dog it is your responsibility to change ownership details? While a new owner is provided with a copy of the paperwork the responsibility sits with the seller. In fact, after selling the animal you have 14 days to notify Cessnock City Council of a change in ownership. A failure to do so is a breach of legislation, in fact those in breach could face a penalty starting from \$165.

The good news is changing and updating details for your pet has never been easier. Once you have your pet's microchip number visit the NSW Pet registry online at [www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au). On the home page you will be given the option to set up your 'Pet Owner Profile'. Once set up, you can enter your pet's microchip details and 'claim' them, which links them to your profile. Now that your pet's details are linked to your Pet Owner Profile you can update their status (i.e. home/missing), name identifying marks and your home address. You also have the option to transfer ownership online whereby you nominate the new owner of the animal and they 'claim' the animal as their own.

In a few simple steps your mate's registration can be kept up-to-date. Jump online now and keep your mate safe [www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au).

Cessnock City Council would like to thank everyone in the community who entered their pet into the Cessnock Cutest Pet Competition on Facebook. We were overwhelmed with entries with almost 200 pets all vying for the title and we must admit we are home to some very cute, cuddly and often very cheeky pets. Good luck to those who have made the top ten and we look forward to announcing the winner on June 2, 2017.

A reminder to all pet owners the last day to get your dog microchipped for free as a part of our Microchip Month of May is Thursday 25 May, 2017 at Stanford Merthyr Park from 1pm to 4pm. Getting your animal microchipped is an important part of being a responsible pet owner, especially if your mate goes wandering, with a microchip we can return them safely to you.



You can contact Council on 02 4993 4300  
or [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)



# New and improved space for our young people

Cessnock City Council held the official opening of the newly renovated Cessnock Youth Centre Outreach Service (CYCOS). The upgrades to the facility followed Cessnock City Council receiving funding under the NSW Government's Community Building Partnerships Grant. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent thanked the NSW Government for their support.

"The grant totalling \$38,000, which Council matched was vital in seeing this project become a reality. CYCOS provides an invaluable service to our community, especially to local young people and their families" Cr Pynsent said.

NSW State Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP said it was fantastic to support 19 local projects through the grants.

"I was very pleased CYCOS was successful in their application, this will provide more opportunities for youth focused organisations such as the Reach Foundation to provide additional support to young people", Mr Barr said.

The refurbishments include an alteration of the configuration of the building resulting in two new offices spaces. The Reach Foundation will operate out of one of these rooms while the other space will be hired out on a casual basis to other youth focused service providers.

Mayor Pynsent said to help celebrate the completion of works members of the Youth Week organising committee attended the official event who were also thanked for their hard work.

"It was great to be able to shine a spotlight on those who made Cessnock's Youth Week a success".

"Youth Week would not be possible without the support we get from the NSW Government, young people, volunteers, collaborating youth and community service agencies and businesses who generously donated", Cr Pynsent said.

Photo at right: Youth Week



Mayor Bob Pynsent doing the honours with help from State Member Clayton Barr



# What's your vision for the Commercial Precinct?

Cessnock City Council is urging residents of their LGA to have their say on the draft plan for the Cessnock Commercial Precinct as the public exhibition period is now underway.

The plan provides a framework for public domain infrastructure upgrades setting out a strong vision for Cessnock as an attractive, thriving and vibrant commercial precinct.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it is exciting to see the plans for our community.

"There are a number of opportunities that will transform the heart of Cessnock and provide for a better experience for businesses, residents and visitors".

"Take the time to look at the plan and you'll see we have a variety of options to improve our current commercial precinct including the development of a town square".

Mayor Pynsent encouraged the community to provide feedback and attend the community drop-in sessions being held in May and June.

"A local perspective is vital as we work towards building a thriving commercial precinct. We need to strategically plan together for the anticipated growth of our local government area," Cr Pynsent said.

The plan features a number of ideas including:

- *Town Square*, a meeting place to bring locals and visitors together, enhancing the cultural experience and identity of the Cessnock Commercial Precinct.
- *Increase in building height*, to reinforce Vincent Street, Cessnock as the core of the commercial and retail precinct.
- *Development Incentives*, to encourage design excellence and sustainable design.

Council is hosting drop-in-sessions on the corner of Charlton & Cooper Streets, Cessnock (Cessnock Library if raining) on Tuesday, 30 May 2pm - 6pm and on Saturday, 10 June 10am - 2pm. Residents will be able to provide their feedback on the plans until the 14 June 2017. To view the plan and have your say visit: <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/cessnockcommercialprecinctproject>.



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Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world. - **Malala Yousafzai**  
If we want to reach real peace in this world, we should start educating children. - **Mahatma Gandhi**  
In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the best anti-poverty program around is a world-class education. - **Barack Obama**  
There is no greater violence than to deny the dreams of our children. - **Kailash Satyarthi Nobel Peace Prize winner**  
The education and empowerment of women throughout the world cannot fail to result in a more caring, tolerant, just and peaceful life for all. - **Aung San Suu Kyi**  
Education is a human right with immense power to transform on its foundation, rest the cornerstones of freedom and democracy and sustainable development. - **Kofi Anan**

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# What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

I attended the Public Forum on the proposed new Lower Hunter Hospital held in Maitland last week. A bevy of experts explained, to a large degree, why the Metford site was the preferred site for the new \$400million health facility. The number of beds & to whether it will be Private or Public tended to be the prominent theme. It appeared that the new hospital will be at Metford & a Private/Public partnership facility, to a large extent, run by the private sector. This is because of budget constraints it was noted. The thing that did amaze me was the fact that the

new Health Minister publically stated, only weeks ago, that 'everything was back on the table'. In that report he challenged the state health department to prove to him that the Metford site was the optimum site from 35 sites they examined & if the running model viz., public/private,

would give the best outcome for the community. A reminder to the State Health Department; public servants don't make decisions, our elected representatives will always have the final say. Put your arguments forward, make a recommendation & don't try and pre-empt a political decision. Some of the criteria that the Health Department used to decide on the location & running model, as taken from their information website, included:

- Accessibility to existing communities, transport links and support services
- Proximity to population centres and areas of population growth and density



- Travel time to other major public and private health facilities
- Access to a skilled and

- specialist health workforce
- Environmental and geotechnical factors
- Consideration of flood prone

- areas and the implications for access and operation during flooding
- Land characteristics such as

- slope, elevation and orientation
- Potential cost to develop, including connection to utilities
- Heritage and cultural aspects.

As one Letter in this issue stated .. "We owe it to the local Mid-Hunter residents as well as the whole of NSW to get it correct".



Stop the Rot  
Amid a litany of foul-ups over illegal weapons, crime and other associated events over recent years, I have called for a royal commission into the Australian government organisations associated with border control, including the Australian Federal Police. From what I have witnessed in the media, it appears that criminals have been treating our borders as if they don't exist. Similarly, they have absolute disdain for the effectiveness of the Australian Federal Police when it comes to identifying and stopping their criminal enterprises. I am referring to the illegal

importation of Glock pistols into Australia in engine parts, plus those posted to a Sydney post office from Europe. Large numbers of pistols are still unaccounted for and in the hands of criminals. The major political parties who have governed this country in recent years have destroyed an effective law enforcement regime and it needs to be fixed – immediately. No doubt there are good law enforcement officers doing a great job, but the politics of federal law enforcement have caused formerly effective agencies to be carved up and diluted to satisfy petty political

aims. Senator Brian Burston, One Nation Senator for NSW New Location for proposed new Lower Hunter Hospital Most of the population of the Hunter Region lives within 25 km (16 mi) of the coast, with 55% of the entire population living in the cities of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. Large growth was also recorded in Hunter Valley (excluding Newcastle), just to the north of Sydney, up by 3,400 people. Maitland SA2 recorded the fastest growth in this region at 5.1%, which was also the fastest growth outside Greater Sydney. The total number of people usually resident in Maitland in 2016 was 78,096. This represents an increase of 14,591 people (22.98%) from the 2006 total of 63,505 people. In the rest of NSW, the highest population densities were in Newcastle - Cooks Hill (2,900 people per sq km), nearby Waratah - North Lambton (2,500). These people have The John Hunter Hospital the Mater Hospital and several first class private hospitals to service that area.

However, 36 % of the NSW population currently live in regional or rural

areas. The latest development is Huntlee, close to Branxton NSW. Branxton is equal distance from other centres of Cessnock, Singleton and Maitland. Huntlee began life as Sweetwater, marketed from the late 1990s by its original developer, Duncan Hardie, who in 2005 envisaged a town of up to 50,000 people on the 2000 hectare site. A decade later, the fully approved Huntlee has a projected population of up to 20,000, with a 200 hectare town centre surrounded on three sides by four separate villages comprising as many as 7500 homes by 2035. The Huntlee site straddles the Cessnock and Singleton local government areas. Currently we who live in the area are serviced by regional hospitals at Singleton and Cessnock and Maitland. If we the residents between Singleton and Maitland along the new freeway have any serious medical emergency now we are taken by ambulance to the John Hunter hospital in Newcastle which is straight down the brand new M15 (50km and takes 39 min by private vehicle) but much less by ambulance as there is less built up areas to negotiate. My last trip in

an ambulance was 2015 and took just less than 30min. The John Hunter is the quickest hospital reached as the freeway bypasses Maitland. The existing Maitland Hospital is 23 min (22.2 km) via New England Hwy/A43 navigating through many built up areas. (Google Maps) I understand that Maitland is aiming to have a new Hospital developed at the old PGH brickworks. This distance is 33 min (30.5 km) via New England Hwy/A43. The proposed area of Metford is totally unsuitable for the following reasons.  
1. The PGH Brickworks site is influenced by the Williamtown flight-path while the Branxton area is unrestricted air space.  
2. Most of the approaches to this site from the south and west are congested.  
3. The road under the railway line at this site periodically gets flooded. The demographics of the area of North Rothbury are changing dramatically with people moving here already. An additional 20,000 within 20 years must be catered for. Any site along the new artery road, the M15 would be suitable. In fact a new hospital at the Branxton exit could be optimum and is only 15 to 20 minutes from Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Singleton and Maitland more especially if it were a teaching hospital. It is also envisaged to eventually have a campus of the Newcastle Uni at North Rothbury. If the new Health Minister is true to his word, as reported recently in both the Maitland

Mercury & The Newcastle Herald, he will need to reconsider as he stated. The proposed location at Metford is not the optimum site & if it goes ahead then we will bear the consequences of the wrong decision for possibly up to 60 years. We owe it to the local Mid-Hunter residents as well as the whole of NSW to get it correct. Maureen Lind, North Rothbury NSW For Brad - please listen to reason!

I have been following the hospital debate with a keen interest for some time and have forwarded letters as well as suggestions to the previous Health Minister Julian Skinner as to a more appropriate location that fits the criteria that was set out for the new Lower Hunter Hospital. It was a relief to hear that the new Health Minister, Brad Hazzard, has stated all options were 'back on the table' (Maitland Mercury 10 May). As was stated the location must be in close proximity to the M1 freeway, close to railway access, free from flooding, to have helicopter access, public transport as well as a large population expansion projection. To answer all of the above is a location I put up some two years; the Wine Country Drive Branxton Greta off ramp. It covers all the requirements;  
\* Hospital approx 200mtrs from freeway  
\* Railway station  
\* Branxton and Greta approx 4klms each way  
\* A bus service past the front door  
A projected 30,000 increase in local population with Radford Park & Huntlee + the 8,000 already living

here. The public forum that was held at East Maitland Bowling Club on 15 May was a sham. All that was talked about was Metford. People were refused to make comment and to only ask questions re; Metford (of which the questions were poorly answered). It was stated there was no flooding. I have a copy of the news article that appeared in the Maitland Mercury showing the streets that were flooded in April 2016 and how it isolated the Metford area. It was also stated that this area has no flight restrictions but I had checked with CASA after the media reported that the Rescue helicopters would not be flying into the hospitals at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri and I was told this Metford area was a RAAF training area for Williamtown RAAF Air Base so a NO FLY ZONE APPLIED for this area. At the proposed sight off the Wine Country Drive there is an area that could be appointed for the purpose of a helicopter landing area. There is a saying in the building game "measure it twice and get it right as a mistake can be very costly" William Gurr, 2 Russell Street Branxton 2335

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**Letters to the editor can be sent to:**  
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or  
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[thenews@hotmail.net.au](mailto:thenews@hotmail.net.au)

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# Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2021 officially adopted to steer the future of the LGA



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Singleton Council has adopted the Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2021, setting the course for the support, growth and development of our community for the next 10 years. The document was developed over the past 12 months with significant input from more than 2,000 residents across the Singleton Local Government Area (LGA), business and community leaders and service providers who attended face-to-face engagements

and workshops, posted on social media and completed surveys. Councillors at the ordinary meeting also adopted a suite of documents to support the delivery of the plan, including the Delivery Program 2017-2021 and 2017/2018 Operational Plan and Budget. The Delivery Program includes a \$100 million injection into the maintenance and improvement of community assets over the next four years, including the realisation of Riverside Park on the former Sutton's site, the second stage of the Town Centre revitalisation and the Singleton Regional Livestock Market Upgrade, as well as a forecast underlying budget surplus in 2018/2019. Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, said the resolution cemented the direction for Council for the next 10 years according to the community's priorities – including the economy, which is represented with the addition of a new community pillar to the

Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The document is divided into Our People, Our Places, Our Environment, Our Leadership and Our Economy. "Council conducted a significant community engagement program to gather input for the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) which gave us an invaluable insight into the important issues and the aspirations of our residents," Cr Moore said. "The CSP sets out the projects, services and programs that Council has committed to deliver, covering all facets of our operations from waste collection to economic development. "It's a really exciting time for the Singleton economy with so many opportunities for growth and development, so it's important that we get it right. "Equally importantly, the CSP also informs what we as elected representatives will advocate for to the State and Federal governments on behalf of

our community, such as transport, health care and policing." General Manager Jason Linnane said the Singleton Community Strategic Plan provided the benchmark for residents to evaluate Council's performance. "This document is Council's contract with our community and every line in it is a commitment we have made to our residents," he said. "Our performance against each of these commitments is how we will measure how successful we have been as an organisation in supporting our community and what we will use to inform our Annual Reports for the next four years and beyond. "I'm looking forward to working with the elected Council and our residents to celebrate the successes we will have together as we turn the words in the CSP into outcomes for our community."

## Cessnock in the spotlight at Senate Inquiry into decentralisation

Cessnock City Council will speak at the Senate Inquiry into the decentralisation of Government offices to regional locations and make a case for Cessnock as a preferred option. The invitation to address the Senate Committee follows a Mayoral Minute in February urging the Federal Government to consider the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) for any relocations. Cessnock City Councillor, Mayor Bob Pynsent said if the Commonwealth is going to proceed with plans to relocate yet-to-be-identified departments and agencies to the regions he wants Cessnock on the list. "Cessnock and Kurri are perfectly positioned with our close proximity to Newcastle and Sydney". "However we are concerned the current criteria being used for possible relocations may rule out Cessnock as we are not within 10 kilometres of a university," Cr Pynsent said. Mayor Pynsent said Cessnock City Council is one of four regional councils who have been asked to present.

"This is a unique opportunity for Council to promote our local government area as a potential site for any government departments. We are in a central location, perfectly positioned for growth and are spoilt with a fantastic lifestyle and affordable housing," he said. Cessnock City Council provided a submission in response to the Senate Inquiry, *The Operation, Effectiveness and Consequences of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability*, in March this year.



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

## He's In The Shed

by Norm Cruickshank

Homes are homes, and sheds are sheds, and never the twain shall meet. Well something to that effect, seems a possible introductory exploration, into the life and times of sheds. Sheds are not all alike, for they come in all shapes and sizes, and don't stand out, as from any particular architectural era. That aside, the ones we are presently interested in, are those that frequent the back yard of many homes past and present. Even though the house maybe neat and sweet, colourful and cared for, sheds stand apart different, and often strangely at odds with the home's gilded glamour. There it is, a much more specialised single purpose abode, possibly male orientated and often frequented by them alone. That may sound a bit over the top, but fellas do seem to be found there, (more than in the house) fiddling, or tinkering, or banging things, or just plain wasting time, when there seems to be more important things afoot elsewhere, "by you know who".

Yesterday's older sheds have had it tough. Somewhere down the track, they've suffered unusual growing pains, through a long period of gestation and neglect. Some can be seen forlorn and unhappy, leaning on luck, with that hang dog look, as though the next breeze will be there last. One must take pity on their age, and try to not disturb the creaking slumber of their greying years. Rusty sheets of nailless corrugated iron, limply clutch at one another, as friendly weeds and bushes closely gather in support. Hinges on drunken doors are locked in a vice like rusty grip, scared to let a soul past for fear of the disturbing nature of 'others'.

But the sheds we are about to 'invade', if that be the appropriate word, is the domain of modern man, who has seen the need to find for himself a special place. A retreat, a cave or a hideaway, a world of his own, where time stands still, and he is once more master of his own patch. A castle he will defend with the utmost vigour, against all things feminine. You know, those who cry and try to cross its threshold, to soften and spit polish clean, his innermost precious male sanctum. He will complain about her house untidiness, but low and behold walk through the door (if you can) of his nuts and bolts emporium, pointing the finger of scorn, and you're in trouble with a capital 'T'.

I've seen some strange looking things hanging on those walls, balancing on top of shelves, in rusty padlocked boxes or tied to the ceiling amongst the spider encrusted rafters, that would make any self respecting female freakout, or scream for that matter. You can never make head nor tale of it. It's not as though he seems to do anything in there, besides accumulate old iron of a thousand unmentionable shapes. Goes to the dump with a great load of it, and returns with a dam sight more. Bangs hell out of it, for no good reason, then leaves it lying around in a confounded mess. I'd like to get me hands on it for sure. Plus his mother's old biscuit tins full of rusty old bolts. Then there's all those old bent and twisted nails in jam tins, looking like a mess of imprisoned geriatric worms.

If I asked him to do a spot of painting, excuses! excuses! Or he produces an assortment of old long forgotten brands and colours of the 50's. When opened with a hammer and chisel, the rock hard contents, are well and truly past their brushing date. Heaven forbid not that stuff. But best of all, he quickly reseals it for future use, then back to the shelf they go. Hasn't heard about plastic paint yet. Ya' just can't win.

Then there's this washing machine that needed a new belt fitted. Don't worry luv, I'll fix it myself, simply as falling of a log. Poetic words, it having long gone the way of so much that enters that shed. Torn asunder in haste, and 10 years down the track, I doubt if you could find a recognizable two bits, that would remind you of its past, but give him his due, he's a trier. Then there's that car engine, he decided to rebuild in '88. Bought an expensive set of tools, coupla' hundred bucks and before long there was a pile of pistons, wires, gaskets, plugs and spreading oil, would take a General Motors team of experts for ever to assemble (said he lost a nut, YEA! I can believe that).

On venturing to the door one day, there he was sound asleep on something he calls a chair, which he had 'welded together' (if that's the term), from heavens knows what. I have never seen anything quite like it, must have been drunk when he dreamed that up. Strange, he'll still complain that our lounge is not very comfortable. I daren't clean the place up (like once) or he would raise all hell. Only tidy the work bench, swept a few unimportant little bits of nothing into the garbage, and generally gave the place a dam good clean up. Never heard anyone kick up such a din. I thought he would be pleased. Just shows you, you can't help some people.

So since then he's locked the door and a 'keep out' sign scrawled in chalk across it, stares at me. What really does go on in there anyhow? It's not work for sure, for I hear him whistling, as though he's enjoying himself, and that worries me. Whenever I yell out "Edie". All I get is a "what do you want?" sounds like a menacing voice inside a drum. A reluctant head offers "Comin'" at the mention of food. Candidly, I think he could get by without food, but just because he's me ol' man, better keep him alive and happy for a few more years.

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Cheers, Clayton



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

## FROM THE MAYORS DESK

Congratulations to the 12 local students who were awarded a Mayoral Academic Scholarship to assist them in reaching their potential as they undertake further education and training.

I am very proud Cessnock City Council is able to support students in our community who are working hard to achieve their goals. Often student's struggle financially as they attempt to keep up with the course load and maintain a job. This practical support can assist them in focusing on their studies and help alleviate some of the financial strain.

I would also like to acknowledge all those who nominated for a scholarship. Congratulations on your studies, we encourage you to consider applying again next year. The Mayoral Academic Scholarships are made possible by our wonderful sponsors, thank you very much for being involved and we look forward to the Mayoral Academic Scholarships 2018.

On Friday 5 May we welcomed ten new Australian citizens to our community. It was a wonderful service and we are very lucky to have the presence of the Australian Champion town crier Stephen Clarke who always makes the Cessnock ceremony extra special. A warm welcome to each new citizen and I wish you all the best on your journey as an Australian.

On Friday 19 May, 2017 I have the opportunity to speak at the Senate Inquiry into the decentralisation of Commonwealth Government offices. I am proud to say we are one of four regional councils in New South Wales who has been asked to come before the Senate's Finance and Public Administration References Committee. I certainly will embrace this unique opportunity and promote Cessnock and Kurri Kurri as preferred locations, especially as they are both centrally located, in close proximity to Sydney and Newcastle.

We are currently midway through Microchip Month of May giving residents the opportunity to get their dog microchipped for free. Residents may attend either Manning Park, Cessnock on Thursday 18 May or Stanford Merthyr Park on Thursday 25 May, both running from 1pm to 4pm. For further information please contact visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/news/microchippingmay>.

This week in our local community I am happy to report we have completed kerb and guttering in Wermold Street Kurri Kurri, finished works on Maitland Street Kurri Kurri as a part of the Road Rehabilitation Project and completed construction on a major culvert and northern headwall as part of the Hillview Road, Greta drainage project.

Cheers, Bob

There's been a lot of emphasis lately on developing Singleton's identity across a range of platforms for a range of reasons, not least our community's perception of itself and how we want to present ourselves to the world.

The adoption of the Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 earlier this month set more than a framework to drive Singleton into the future. It paints a picture of the destination we are heading towards, complete with a new community vision as vibrant, progressive, sustainable, connected and resilient.

Indeed, one of the strategies contained within the pages of the document is to foster initiatives that strengthen Singleton's brand identity.

It's opportune then that there are conversations happening at this very moment about the future of the Upper Hunter, particularly around land use, workforce, the economy, businesses and housing, and Singleton's place in it.

As the unofficial gateway to the Upper Hunter, it's imperative that Singleton has a voice in those discussions.

At the same time, and with the advent of the Hunter Expressway, it's prudent that we consider our geographical placement as the link between the Upper and Lower Hunter, and to ensure consistency in our messaging, and particularly our identity, at all forums and at all levels of government.

We must also be mindful of the identities of our townships and villages, such as Branxton, Broke, and Bulga, and what unifies us all as residents of the Singleton LGA.

Singleton is uniquely positioned because we can claim proximity to the industrial and social benefits of coastal Newcastle as well as the Upper Hunter and, with ongoing transport improvements, to Tamworth and beyond.

Combined with our own natural resources and industrial innovation, Defence presence and ongoing expansion in tourism, retail and dining, we are ideally positioned to continue to grow the resilient and diverse economy that you, as residents of Singleton, demand and deserve.

In pausing to reflect on the progress that has occurred in Singleton in the past three to five years, with major projects such as the Singleton Town Centre Upgrade and Gym & Swim expansion and upgrade, there's no doubt Singleton is well advanced on a path of growth and change, and must be a significant consideration in plans for the future of our region.

We now have a wonderful opportunity to take stock of the new identity we have of ourselves, and to build on it to cement our place as a leader in industry, economic development and local government both within our region and beyond.

Cheers, Sue

## Raising the BARR

### YOUR FUTURE IS DECIDED AT BIRTH

Reading my little headline there, many of you are already outraged. You are reading these opening few sentences to see what this raving mad Politician has to say for himself – but you are surely only going to give me 20 seconds of your life so I better talk fast. Can I urge you to please read on.

Imagine two new babies born side by side in the same hospital. One born to parents who have always worked, are well educated and travel a lot. The other baby born to parents who do not work, have low levels of education and definitely do not travel. Can you see the obviously different futures that are ahead of those 2 children?

By the time those children go to school they will have deep and different understanding of what a typical day looks like. One child will have seen mum and/or dad waking in the morning, having some breakfast, putting on work clothes and leaving the house for many hours, before coming back in the afternoon or evening and settling back in to the family and house. The other child has watched while mum and/or dad woke up whenever, had some breakfast, maybe got dressed, or not, and maybe left the house to do something, probably for a short period of time, and then was back in the house and doing nothing much in particular. One child will have had many books read to them, will have held pencils and scissors, will have practiced alphabet songs, counting games, and will have a basic understanding that reading goes from left to right on the page, from top to bottom, that the pictures often tell the same story as the words and that when you turn the page the story continues. The other child may have seen few or no books, done very little work with letters and numbers, may not have ever held a pencil, may never have done some drawing or cut something out with scissors.

Add to this the importance of music, songs, nursery rhymes, games and play, cuddles, love and nurturing. All of these things are not "natural" to a new mum and dad, unless as children the mum/dad were also exposed to this. And finally, when these two children arrive at school, they are already on two very different paths for the rest of their lives. Neither child asked to be born or got to choose to whom they were born. This is why we shouldn't ever use terms like "lifters and leaners" – it seems to suggest that we all have the same capacity for personal choice regardless of our childhood or upbringing. How narrow minded and absurd! Surely our social fabric, our society, needs to recognise that we all have different needs and we will all need different amounts of energy and investment to help us to our full potential, largely as a result of the life and family into which we were born.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

The Showy Hydro Company has three owners; the Governments of NSW, Victoria and the Commonwealth. Readers may be aware that Malcolm Turnbull recently announced an intention to buy the States out. Last week the Opposition Leader in NSW made a very significant announcement. Luke Foley said that a future Labor Government would invest in the regions every cent from any sale of the State's share of Snowy Hydro. That investment could be as much as \$4 billion.

His announcement is welcome and we would all love the Premier to match it. We were short changed when the Port of Newcastle was sold, with the majority of the money going to Sydney.

The money should go straight in to the Singleton and Muswellbrook by-passes.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am grateful to AGL for hosting me and a number of the Region's Labor Members of Parliament on a visit to Bayswater power station. It has been a long time since I've been on site and for many of my state and federal colleagues, it was a first.

Bayswater and Liddell are amazing facilities and between them, one of our biggest employers. But they are old and approaching the end of their commercial lives. Sadly, AGL confirmed Liddell only has five years left in it and Bayswater will be gone within 20 years.

AGL also confirmed that like other energy companies, it sees no future in investing in new coal-fired power stations. But as I've said many times before, that doesn't mean we can't create new jobs in energy generation and that's exactly what we need to do. We are well placed to grow our solar and wind energy footprint and we have big gas opportunities.

Hopefully, "hot-rock" geothermal will become commercially viable too.

But investors need signals from government policy and they need it quickly.

\*\*\*\*\*

The House of Representatives is sitting this week but the Senate is not. Senators are busy in "Budget Estimates" committees which provide them with an opportunity to grill public servants about just about every aspect of the Budget.

The Committees are not formed just for estimates hearings, they are standing committees of the Senate. So for example, the Senators on the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will have Defence and Foreign Affairs officials appear before them. Members of the Senate Education and Employment Committee will grill senior public servants from the Department of

Education. And so the list goes on. The process is an important part of our Parliamentary system. It brings high levels of transparency and accountability to our democracy. Understandably, Oppositions enjoy the process more than Governments! Why not go the extra step by following me on my Facebook page "Joel Fitzgibbon" or on Twitter and type in the search bar "fitzhunter". Or by regularly checking my website at [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or you can even sign up to my E-Newsletter. To contact the office, phone 1300 301 753, visit [www.joelfitzgibbon.com](http://www.joelfitzgibbon.com) or by post 3 Edward Street, (PO Box 526) Cessnock, 2325.

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Upper Hunter

Businesses in the Upper Hunter are preparing for a major economic boost with construction commencing on the Singleton Regional Livestock Market upgrade.

I am excited to see construction get underway on the old livestock market which plays a vital role in the regional economy.

The Government and community both are very excited to see construction get underway on this fantastic project, as it will provide a huge lift for our region's agricultural industry.

The Nationals in Government are proud to fund this \$6 million local project in the Upper Hunter Electorate through the Restart NSW Resources for Regions program, which has provided \$233 million to stimulate the growth of regional communities throughout NSW that are related to mining activities.

The construction works, which are being managed by Singleton Council, will include installing a roof over the Northern Yards selling area, upgrading walkways, updating onsite electrical, hydraulics and fire services, installing rainwater harvest tanks and upgrading the intersection leading to the Gresford Road facility.

The Singleton Regional Livestock Market is a vital piece of infrastructure for this area of NSW, and we are committed to securing its future and enabling its growth.

By building a bigger and better facility we will be able to attract more buyers and stock, with the number of cattle held in the facility expected to grow by 20 percent. This will allow Singleton to expand its reach to new markets across the region.

Local farmers, suppliers and the regional agricultural industry, as a whole, will all feel the benefits of this renovation.

An upgraded facility will ensure that our local area can attract more economic activity, enhance competitiveness and promote diversification.

Once completed, we'll have a first-class facility that will serve our local farmers and the beef industry as a whole.

We can't wait to see the difference that these upgrades will have on our Singleton community and our local economy.

The Resources for Regions program has contributed to 43 regional projects across the health, water, road, education and tourism sectors in NSW, as well as in the refurbishment of regional CBDs.

Cheers, Michael

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**Type 2 Diabetes**

Type 2 diabetes is a progressive condition in which the body becomes resistant to the normal effects of insulin and/or gradually loses the capacity to produce enough insulin in the pancreas. We do not know what causes type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is associated with modifiable lifestyle risk factors. Type 2 diabetes also has strong genetic and family related risk factors.

Type 2 diabetes:  
•Is diagnosed when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin (reduced insulin production) and/or the insulin does not work effectively and/or the cells of the body do not respond to insulin effectively (known as insulin resistance)

•Represents 85-90 per cent of all cases of diabetes

•Usually develops in adults over the age of 45 years but is increasingly occurring in younger age groups including children, adolescents and young adults

•Is more likely in people with a family history of type 2 diabetes or from particular ethnic backgrounds

•For some the first sign may be a complication of diabetes such as a heart attack, vision problems or a foot ulcer.

Is managed with a combination of regular physical activity, healthy eating and weight reduction. As type 2 diabetes is often progressive, most people will need oral medications

and/or insulin injections in addition to lifestyle changes over time.

**What happens with type 2 diabetes?**

Type 2 diabetes develops over a long period of time (years). During this period of time insulin resistance starts, this is where the insulin is increasingly ineffective at managing the blood glucose levels. As a result of this insulin resistance, the pancreas responds by producing greater and greater amounts of insulin, to try and achieve some degree of management of the blood glucose levels.

As insulin overproduction occurs over a very long period of time, the insulin producing cells in the pancreas wear themselves out, so that by the time someone is diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, they have lost 50 - 70% of their insulin producing cells. This means type 2 diabetes is a combination of ineffective insulin and not enough insulin. When people refer to type 2 diabetes as a progressive condition they are referring to the ongoing destruction of insulin producing cells in the pancreas.

Initially, type 2 diabetes can often be managed with healthy eating and regular physical activity. Over time most people with type 2 diabetes will also need tablets and many will eventually require insulin. It is important to note that this is the natural progression of the condition, and taking tablets or insulin as soon as they are required can result in fewer long-term complications.

**What causes type 2 diabetes?**

Diabetes runs in the family. If you have a family member with diabetes, you have a genetic disposition to the condition. While people may have a strong genetic disposition towards type 2 diabetes, the risk is greatly increased if people display a number of modifiable lifestyle factors including high blood pressure, overweight or

obesity, insufficient physical activity, poor diet and the classic 'apple shape' body where extra weight is carried around the waist.

People are at a higher risk of getting type 2 diabetes if they:

- have a family history of diabetes
- are older (over 55 years of age) - the risk increases as we age
- are over 45 years of age and are overweight
- are over 45 years of age and have high blood pressure
- are over 35 years of age and are from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background
- are over 35 years of age and are from Pacific Island, Indian subcontinent or Chinese cultural background

•are a woman who has given birth to a child over 4.5 kgs (9 lbs), or had gestational diabetes when pregnant, or had a condition known as Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome. Many people with type 2 diabetes display no symptoms. As type 2 diabetes is commonly (but not always) diagnosed at a later age, sometimes signs are dismissed as a part of 'getting older'. In some cases, by the time type 2 diabetes is diagnosed, the complications of diabetes may already be present.

Symptoms include: Being excessively thirsty, Passing more urine, Feeling tired and lethargic, Always feeling hungry, Having cuts that heal slowly, Itching, skin infections, Blurred vision, Gradually putting on weight, Mood swings, Headaches, Feeling dizzy & Leg cramps

**Managing Type 2 Diabetes**

While there is currently no cure for type 2 diabetes, the condition can be managed through lifestyle modifications and medication. Type 2 diabetes is progressive and needs to be managed effectively to prevent complications.

Cheers, Lee

**State Conference being held in Pokolbin**



The conference's keynote speaker, teacher education expert and former director general of CIMO at the Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture, Dr Pasi Sahlberg.

Catholic school principals from across NSW and will come together today, Thursday and Friday (24 - 26 May) at the Crowne Plaza in Pokolbin for the 2017 Association of Catholic School Principals (ACSP) State Conference. The bi-annual conference theme, Encounter New Horizons, will see principals, directors and education officers take on the challenge of extending the focus of the conference from new horizons in 'how' they educate, to new ways of thinking about

'why' they educate, to develop a deeper sense of purpose with the concurrent need to develop better practise to support this. ACSP Primary representative and Chair of the Primary Principals' Association in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, Mr Peter Treloar, who is also Principal of St Joseph's Primary School, Merewether, says that through the event, principals will explore Pope Francis' challenge from Laudato Si, Care for Our

Common Home.

"In paragraph 215, Pope Francis says, "Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature," which is key to progression in our schools," Mr Treloar said.

One of the conference's Keynote and Masterclass presenters is Finnish educational leadership and teacher education expert and former director general of CIMO at the Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture, Dr Pasi Sahlberg.

"Over the years, thousands of school leaders from around the world have travelled to Finland to learn from the successful Finnish education system, so we are very excited to have Dr Sahlberg with us to help our school leaders to craft usable new ideas for their own school," Mr Treloar said. Joining Dr Sahlberg at the conference are Keynote speakers and Masterclass presenters Cardinal John Dew,

Bishop Edwards, Dr Pak Tee Ng, Professor Stephen Dinham, Professor Chris Sarra and Professor Louise Stoll. These experts have all been selected to encourage varying learning experiences to ignite thought and discussion. The conference is one of the most significant educational gatherings of the year with 86% of principals from the Diocese of Armidale, 79% from the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and 48% of principals from the Archdiocese of Sydney to attend. Representatives from the New Zealand Catholic Primary Principals' Association will also be in attendance.

**Lochinvar Twisted Sisters Cafe first Birthday**

by John Saxon Bryant. OAM.

When Lochinvar was by-passed by the Hunter Expressway the Take-away Shop was closed for a year. Recently, the "Twisted Sisters", Toni and Nikki, who live locally celebrated their first Birthday since opening. They serve a variety of tasty food, including their own homemade pies and salads.

Travellers, truck drivers and locals, flock to the (now by-passed) area of the New England Highway, to enjoy the delicious food. We, at "The News", wish them every success!



**Cooking lamb shanks for a long time ensures that they become succulent and very tender**

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup plain flour
- 8 large French-trimmed lamb shanks
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 large onions, unpeeled, cut into 1cm slices

**Slow-cooked lamb shanks**

- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 cups beef consomme
- 3/4 cup red wine (such as merlot)
- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons cornflour, 2 tablespoons cold water & Salt, to season.

**Method**

**Step 1**

•Preheat oven to 180°C. Place flour and salt and pepper in a shallow dish. Lightly coat shanks with flour. Heat oil in a saucepan over high heat. Cook shanks, in batches, for 3 to 4 minutes or until browned. Transfer to a large roasting pan.

**Step 2**

•Add onions and garlic to saucepan. Cook over medium heat for 2 to 3 minutes or until soft. Add consomme, wine and maple syrup. Stir to combine. Bring to the boil. Season with salt and pepper. Pour over shanks and cover pan tightly with foil. Roast for 1 1/4 hours. Remove foil. Turn shanks and roast for 45 minutes or until tender.

**Step 3**

•Transfer shanks to a platter and cover to keep warm. Strain cooking liquid through a sieve. Discard onions. Return liquid to pan. Mix cornflour and water in a bowl until smooth. Stir into liquid and bring to the boil, stirring, over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for 5 minutes or until reduced slightly. Serve shanks with gravy, cheese and herb mash and steamed cabbage.

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## Lochinvar's Tenison Woods Education Centre to transition to the Newcastle Maitland Catholic Diocese on 27th May

Following an announcement in November 2016 confirming purchase of land and buildings located at Lochinvar from the Sisters of St Joseph, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is officially taking carriage of the Tenison Woods Education Centre (TWEC) from May 2017.

The centre will continue to offer dedicated adult faith programs and courses supported by the diocese's Adult Faith Formation Council and Office.

Recognising the long standing history of TWEC, the diocese is committed to a smooth transition says Bishop Bill Wright:

"With a long history in education the Sisters of St Joseph are an important feature of the history of not just Lochinvar, but our diocese as a whole.

"By bringing TWEC directly into our diocesan structure we're looking forward to being able to continue the outstanding work the Sisters of St Joseph have established over the last 24 years in Lochinvar. We plan to support TWEC with both our Adult Faith Formation Council and Office – equipped to ensure the future direction and courses offered continue to meet the needs of the community."

"We will be marking the occasion with a formal transition event on Sunday 28 May onsite at Lochinvar. This will provide opportunity for all within the community to engage with the history of TWEC, and take part in a ritual to mark the handing on of this important ministry," Bishop Bill said.



Lochinvar's Tenison Woods Education Centre

## Support ex-servicemen "doing it tough"

Major General Jim Molan will speak at the Cessnock Rugby League Supporters Club, proceeds to assist the Cessnock Lions Club's fundraising. Proceeds will be utilised to support "Ex-Servicemen Doing It Tough".

Jim Molan has been an infantryman, a helicopter pilot and Commander of Army units.

On behalf of the US Commanding General, he controlled the manoeuvre operations of all forces across

Iraq, including the security of the

country's Oil, Electricity and Rail infrastructure. This involved 300,000 troops (including 155,000 Americans). Following his retirement, Jim was the co-author of the Government's border control policy and was appointed the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for border control.

Jim Molan is a highly-sought speaker, regularly commenting on Radio, Television and writing for national and international publications.

In the mould of another Australian General and an engineer, Sir John Monash, Jim Molan will be able to provide lessons learned from leadership in a major conflict. This exclusive opportunity to meet and hear Jim should not be missed.

Topics of discussion:

- The Middle East Conflict
- Relationship with Indonesia
- The plight of many of our Returned Ex-Servicemen
- Questions

Major General Molan will be formally introduced by the Hon Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon, our former Minister for Defence.

A vote of thanks will be delivered by staunch Lions' member, Peter Torenbeek.

Details: Date Monday 26th June 2017 Time 6.30 p.m.

Cost \$20 (\$200 for table of 10) includes light refreshments

To buy your ticket(s) go to <http://www.cessnockleagues.com.au/book-tickets/>

Click on "Lions Club – Major General (Retd) Jim Molan AO DSC" and follow the prompts.



Major General (Retired) A.J. (Jim) Molan AO DSC Legion of Merit (US)

BRANXTON GRETA BUSINESS CHAMBER PRESENTS

### COMMUNITY BREAKFAST & TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

SUN 25 JUNE 2017

INCORPORATING

- ~ ST BRIGID'S MARKETS
- ~ KIDS PLAY ZONE
- ~ RUGBY & VINTAGE CAR DISPLAYS

MILLEN PARK, BRANXTON

9AM - 12PM

INFORMATION: BOBC SECRETARY: 0438 404 631

## Want to be involved in shaping the future of your community?

Cessnock City Council is encouraging residents to have their say on a number of plans now on public exhibition including the Community Strategic Plan, *Cessnock 2027* which describes the community's aspirations for the next ten years.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said these documents focus on achieving the community's vision that was originally developed following extensive community consultation in 2009.

"Our community has identified how it wants our local government area to be for future generations. We want to live in a connected, safe and creative community. We want to live in a healthy environment. We want to have a prosperous economy, accessible infrastructure, service and facilities, accompanied by strong civic leadership".

"The Draft Community Strategic Plan is structured around these five desired community outcomes and I look forward to working hard to deliver these outcomes", Cr Pynsent said.

The documents on exhibition also include the Draft 2017-21 Delivery Program and the Draft Resourcing Strategy comprising the Asset Management Strategy, Long Term Financial Plan and Workforce Plan

The documents set out Council's operational activities over the next four years including Council's proposed capital works program. Roads and infrastructure continue to be a major priority and the plans include proposed construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, footpaths and cycle ways.

Mayor Pynsent said we remain focused on securing external funding for activities outside of our budgeted capital works program.

The suite of documents on exhibition also includes the Draft Fees & Charges for 2017-18.

The 28 day exhibition period commenced on 10 May, 2017 and concludes on 7 June, 2017. To make a submission or for more information visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au).



## Midweek share accommodation

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## Scotts Flat Rural Fire Brigade

### AGM

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Stanhope Station,

Stanhope Road, 7pm

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#### Extended Tours – Home Pickup

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

[www.cowans.com.au](http://www.cowans.com.au) ☎ 6547 4416

### 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



negative gearing or change the capital gains tax as this would increase the tax burden on Australians trying to provide a future for their families. This recognises that the current arrangements increase the supply of housing for our growing population, keep rents affordable and ease the burden on social housing. “With home ownership in Australia declining and first homebuyers finding it increasingly difficult to enter the housing market, allowing first homebuyers to build deposits with superannuation through voluntary contributions is welcome. “Whilst REIA has advocated for a more aggressive approach to bridging the deposit gap by allowing first homebuyers access to existing balances in superannuation accounts the Government’s initiative will reduce the time taken to save for a deposit by around 25 per cent.

“The change in the threshold for foreign resident capital gains tax withholding to \$750,000 from the current \$2 million is not welcome and could be considered misguided as most foreign investors buy higher valued properties in Sydney and Melbourne and to a lesser extent in Brisbane,” Mr Gunning said. “It is more red tape and not necessary. With the median house price of \$743,776 across Australia this will mean most properties will be subject to this requirement and results in more work for sales agents and conveyancers and depending

on the workload this presents for the ATO may even delay settlements.

“With forecasts of moderate growth, an improvement in the unemployment rate, inflation well within the RBA’s target zone, the Budget is welcome news for home owners, prospective buyers and renters,” Mr Gunning concluded.

### The great Australian dream is bulls\*\*\*

by Kieran Clair



WE’VE reached a tipping point. Debate rages about Australian housing affordability, fuelled again this week by 35-year-old rich -list property developer Tim Gurner, who claimed the current crop of first home buyers need to stop complaining and start saving. “They want to eat out every day, they want to travel to Europe every year. This generation is watching the Kardashians and thinking that’s normal. Thinking that owning a Bentley is normal, that owning a BMW is normal,” Gurner said on 60 Minutes.

Property experts are suggesting, however, the national obsession with universal home ownership needs to stop.

“The assumption that we’ve always had about ‘The Great Australian Dream’ — that everyone wants to have their own home — well that’s bull\*\*\*, it just doesn’t happen,” said Kevin Turner, broadcaster and property commentator.

“I think we’ve got to get used to the fact that not everyone in Australia is going to be able to afford to own their own home. They’re going to be renters long-term, or they don’t want to own a home.” Mr Turner said the rise in the ‘Generation Rent’ has also been bolstered by both a lack of affordability and compulsory superannuation. “Superannuation in my age demographics is about having your own house,” he said. “But now that young people are putting so much money away for their retirement — maybe they don’t need a house?”

Mr Turner said one benefit of permanently renting is you don’t need a long-term plan for being able to one day live in your dream suburb.

“One of the advantages of renting is that you get to live where you want to live straight away — you don’t have to get there through a series of moves.” He said our cities must to adapt to the change, because we need to find a way to fit more people into less space. “We’ve got to get more people into more square metres. So that probably is a big challenge.”

He also believes the change isn’t going to be contained to Sydney.

“I think it’s going to become more critical for Brisbane.

“I think we’re going to see good growth potential in Brisbane and I do think it’s probably going to become ... not as acute (as Sydney and Melbourne) but certainly headed in that direction.” Noel Whittaker, investment adviser and commentator, said with Australia’s population forecast to hit 40 million within 40 years, he understands why young buyers would consider renting long-term.

“I must confess, I have no idea how young people on average incomes could afford a property without help from their parents. “Of course, cheaper accommodation is available outside the capital cities but this may not suit most people because of lack of job opportunities and health facilities,” he said. Mr Whittaker said if you analyse the figures, long-term renters can be financially better off than homeowners.

“There are many studies which show that renting is cheaper than owning, but most renters don’t invest the money they save by renting instead of buying.” Mr Whittaker believes the long-term implication of a rent-only generation is a widening wealth chasm. “The gap between the haves and the have-nots is continuing to increase. How can any retiree who is single cope on the full-age pension of \$423 a week if they pay rent?”

Peter Wargent, CEO of Allen Wargent Property Advisory & Buyer’s Agents, said a lifetime of renting is

becoming a reality for more and more people.

“It’s not everywhere, but particularly in places like Sydney, I think home ownership rates are going to slide and I think it is becoming more of a likelihood for a lot of people. “There’s previously been an expectation that people will aspire to own their own home and somehow there’s a feeling that renters are second-class citizens.”

He believes Brisbane will see a rise in renters long-term because property prices will continue to rise.

He says renting has its advantages, particularly with a transient population that’s crossing state borders, or even travelling overseas, to pursue their career.

“It’s a more difficult concept to be a homeowner if you move around a bit because you’re actually going to pay the stamp duty every time you move.

“More people are renting where they want to live and have an investment property to get their foothold on the property ladder.”

Mr Wargent said if the next crop of buyers choose to rent instead of own, they must be disciplined enough to ensure their superannuation is adequate come retirement.

“In theory, it’s cheaper to rent than to buy.

“One of the challenges when renting is not to spend those extra dollars you save on other things. The key really is to have a plan.”

### REIA welcomes focus on affordable housing

The 2017 Budget has recognised the need to address housing supply and affordability through a number of complementary measures, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA). “The boost to infrastructure spending, measures to improve housing supply, the extension of small business concessions, and the retention of the current negative gearing as well as

CGT arrangements for taxation of property investments will help ensure that the property sector remains an important contributor to economic growth,” REIA President Malcolm Gunning said. “Whilst investment in dwellings has peaked and growth is forecast to decrease to 4.5 per cent in 2017/18, compared to 8.0 per cent in 2016/17, it is still a major driver of economic growth.

“We are pleased that the Government reiterated that it will not remove or limit

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- Vinden Estate
- Wynwood Estate

**Rising Star of the Year**

- Rauri Donkin, Bimbagen Estate
  - Frank Fawcner, EXP Restaurant
  - Annabel Holland, First Creek Winemaking Services
  - Jessica McLeish, McLeish Estate Wines
  - Brian Rooney, Pokolbin Village & Agnew Wines
  - Ebony Tinkler, Usher Tinkler Wines
  - Brett Woodward, Saddler's Creek Wines & Woodward Wines
- Viticulturist of the Year**
- Belinda Kelly, Briar Ridge Vineyard
- Winemaker of the Year**
- Andrew Pengilly, Tyrrell's Wines
  - Matthew Burton, Gundog Estate
  - Jim Chatto, Mount Pleasant Wines
  - Stuart Hordern, Brokenwood Wines



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

**2017 HUNTER VALLEY LEGENDS AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED**

The much anticipated line up of finalists for the 2017 Hunter Valley Legends & Wine Industry Awards has been announced. This year's gala black tie awards dinner will be held at Cypress Lakes Resort on Thursday, 25 May at 7pm. The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) is excited to announce this year's stellar line up of finalists in the categories of Winemaker of the Year, Rising Star of the Year, Viticulturist of the Year and Cellar Door of the Year – Congratulations to the following finalists listed in alphabetical order:

**Cellar Door of the Year**

- Bimbagen Estate
- Briar Ridge Vineyard
- Glandore Estate Wines
- Gundog Hunter Cellar & Gourmet Pantry
- Hungerford Hill
- Margan Wines
- Mount Pleasant Wines
- Saddler's Creek Wines
- Thomas Wines

• Mark Richardson, Tyrrell's Wines

• Mark Woods, Leogate Estate

A Hunter Valley Legend will also be inducted along with a winner from each of the above categories.

**LUXURY/HIGH-END SOCIAL MEDIA FROM CHINA TO VISIT THE HUNTER VALLEY**

HVWTA in conjunction with Destination NSW are hosting a media fam in the Hunter Valley for five luxury/high-end social media influencers from China next week. China is a key target market for the Hunter Valley and next week we have the opportunity to showcase some of our tourism products to their audiences. The influencers have a combined reach of 4.8 million via Weibo (China's version of Instagram) and will visit historical Audrey Wilkinson, hatted restaurant Muse Kitchen, iconic Hunter Valley Resort and the stunning property of The Vintage at Chateau Elan. The Hunter Valley is the most visited wine region in Australia by International wine visitors and this opportunity will further expose the region.

**Australian Tourism Exchange Sydney (ATE)**

More than 700 international travel buyers from over 30 countries converged in Sydney this week for 2017 ATE with Hunter Valley operators Balloon Aloft and Hunter Valley Resort attending the event. The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) has also been very busy coordinating over 65 international travel buyers for pre and post ATE famils visiting our region and our member's businesses. HVWTA members kindly hosted the important trade famils, providing valuable exposure to the international market with the long term goal of increasing mid-week visitation from Inbound market. The HVWTA assisted Destination NSW to produce a series of [trade factsheets](#) to assist industry partners in selling and promoting NSW products. These were distributed at ATE and includes a number of operators from the Hunter Valley region (Cellar Doors, Restaurants, Accommodation and Tours).

Photo below: Phil Hele, GM Hunter Valley Resort at ATE



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House of the Month Caring for our environment

Congratulations to the residents of 30 Rothbury Street, North Rothbury who are North Rothbury Tidy Town 'House of the Month'



A woman awakes in the middle of the night to find her husband not in bed. She suspects that he's preparing a surprise for her since today is their 20th wedding anniversary, so she puts on her robe and goes downstairs to look for him. She finds him sitting at the kitchen table with a cup of hot cocoa in front of him. He appears to be in deep thought, just staring at the wall. She watches as he wipes away a tear from his eye. "What's the matter, dear?" she whispers as she steps into the room. "You haven't been sitting here all night, have you!?" The husband looks up from his drink, "It's the 20th Anniversary of the day we met." She can't believe he has remembered and starts to tear up. The husband continues, "Do you remember 20 years ago when we started dating? I was 18 and you were only 15," he said solemnly. Once again, the wife is touched to tears thinking that her husband is so caring and sensitive. "Yes, I do," she replies. The husband pauses... The words were not coming easily. "Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car?"

"Yes, I remember," said the wife, lowering herself into a chair beside him. The husband continued, "Do you remember when he shoved the shotgun in my face and said, Either you marry my daughter or I will make sure you spend the next 20 years in prison?" "I remember that too," she replied softly... He sighed as he wiped another tear away from his cheek and said, "I would have gotten out today."

**Do your beliefs hold you back?**

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

We all have that little voice in our heads when we want to do something. For some of us, that voice is positive, telling us to do things, to sign up for that fun run, or apply for the new job, or start going to fitness classes. It's a "yes, I can do that" kind of feeling. We jump at the new ideas and experiences with confidence, not a doubt in our minds, happy to be taking action. For some people, the little voice in their head is the doubter, the nay sayer. The one who says running isn't fun, or tells you not to apply for the job because you won't get it anyway, or not to join the new fitness class because everyone else will be fitter than you and you will look silly. This voice keeps us safe, in our comfort zones.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next time I will talk about the hidden costs (and benefits) of not reaching your goals. Until then, if you would like help setting and reaching your goals, or identifying your beliefs and how they are helping or hindering you, contact me via my website [www.louisecairns.com.au](http://www.louisecairns.com.au).

**What else is happening at "Fit for Life"?**

I am taking a two week break to go skiing in Japan. When I return keep an eye out for my 10 week "Health and Fitness Challenge" which will kick off towards the end of March. If you would like more information please contact me.

While I'm away I will be continuing my training for the UTA50 in May, I will let you know how I go running in the snow!! For those who don't know this is a trail running event in the Blue Mountains. This is my fourth time running in this event and I am hoping for a PB.

**Louise Cairns Fit for Life**

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



**St Brigid's Markets @ Branxton**  
9.00am to 1.00pm  
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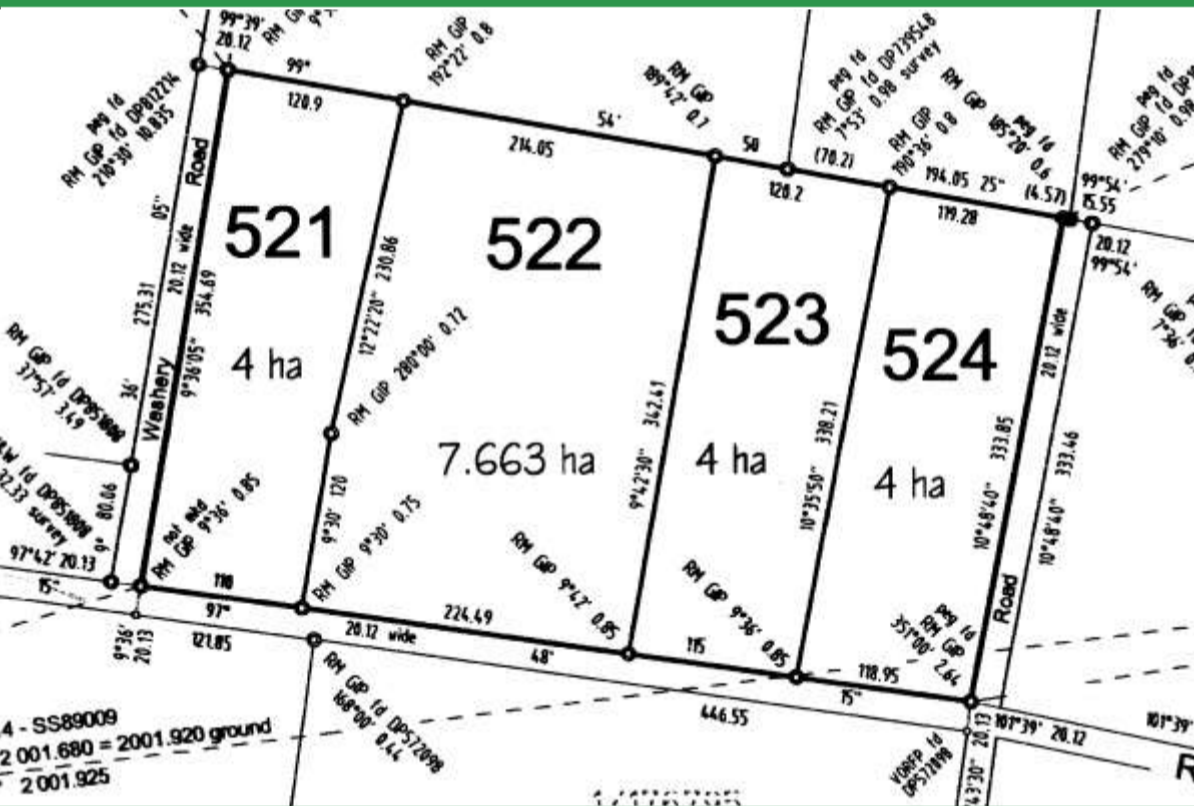
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This well established family home is located in the central part of Branxton. The property includes three (3) spacious bedrooms, separate lounge room, open plan dining area with slow combustion fire, neat kitchen, good sized bathroom, side access to single garage & rear decking overlooking a spacious backyard.

This property has been very well maintained & is on 1011square metres; a quarter acre block.

**ASKING \$350,00**



**FOR LEASE**

**Commercial property in Maitland Street, Branxton**

**Rent by Negotiation**



**EAST BRANXTON**

**Features include:-**

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

**Asking \$370,000**



**BRANXTON**

**Senior Living**

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

**\$315,000**



**GRETA**

**Oldie but a Goodie**

**First home or astute investor**

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

**ASKING \$275,000**



**GRETA**

**For the astute investor**

**Approx. 2000sm (half an acre)**

**58 High Street, Greta**

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

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



**BRANXTON**

**Modern 3 bedroom Townhouse**

Modern three bedroom townhouse of brick & tile construction. Split air con. Ensuite to main bedroom. Open plan living with modern kitchen, separate lounge room. Double lock-up garage with internal access. Private & secure back yard

**Asking \$320,000**



**BRANXTON**

**Low maintenance living**

Spacious two bedroom home with large living areas; all tiled. Split air con, internal access garage & auto roller door. Modern kitchen with ample bench space. Lovely courtyard for entertaining.

**Asking \$290,000**



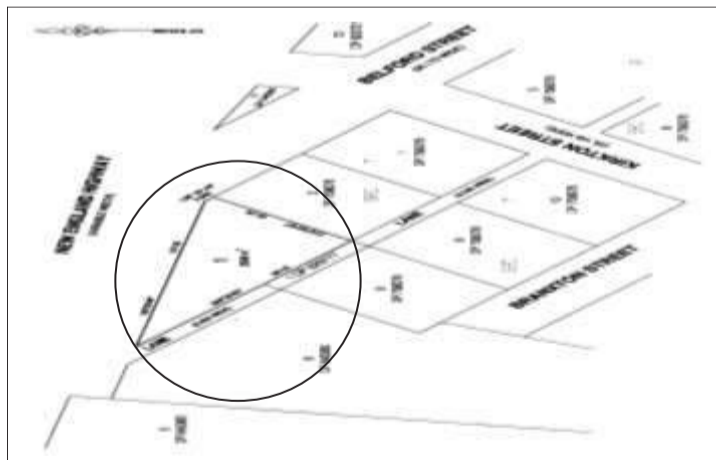
**BRANXTON**

**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**



**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**



## Game Reports Sunday 21st May 2017

the lead to 14 with the conversion again waved away. Next it was the Colts custodian Jade Holz to show her worth when she made a break from 30m out and showed a clean pair of heels to cross untouched and extend the lead to 18 with the conversion once again from out wide being waved away. With a couple of minutes to go, a rare lapse in defence saw the Colts allow Denman to cross for a consolation try to leave the final score 18-4 to the Colts. In an excellent effort from all the girls, the players player went to Amy Heinzel with other notable performances from Jade Holz, Bianca Morris and the always dangerous Jenna Cole.

### Reserve Grade

The Huntlee Reserve Grade side came to Greta Central Oval looking to post their first win of the season but fell short going down to a more disciplined Denman side 22-12. The Colts started poorly and allowed a soft try in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute with some poor one on one defence with the unsuccessful conversion leaving the score at 4-0 to Denman. This seemed to lift the Colts and they hit back in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute after a break from Alex Kowalski led to Bradley Maher crossing out wide. The subsequent conversion was waved away and the scores were locked at 4 all. After a Colts dropped ball in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute, the Devils were next to score with the

conversion again unsuccessful leaving the score at 8-4. Another poor error in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute from the Colts again invited the Devils into their territory and again they made the Colts pay crossing out wide after a desperate cover defence effort from young gun Tyler Younie. Another missed conversion from the Devils kept the score line at 12-4 which is where it looked like settling at half time until five eighth John Hamson saw an overlap down the short side with classy half Pierce Murray holding the ball up perfectly to put centre Dion Charnock through a hole and score right on the stroke of half time. A change of goal kickers had the same result with the conversion missed – the 5<sup>th</sup> missed conversion for the half – to leave the score at 12-8 going into oranges. Half time was not favourable for the Colts with the Devils first to strike almost immediately after some very passive defence from the Colts on their own try line. Yet another missed conversion leaving the score at 16-8. The Colts hit back and seemed full of running in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute when 5/8 Hamson kicked across field for evergreen back rower Neville Belman to clean up the scraps and score 20m to the left of the uprights. Yet again the conversion was missed to leave the score balanced precariously at 16-12. The Colts were at it again in the 60<sup>th</sup> minute

spilling possession and inviting the Devils back into attack which they duly accepted crossing out wide for a 20-12 lead. The conversion was kicked – the only one out of 8 taken on the day – to take the score to 22-12. The Colts tried valiantly for the remaining 10 minutes but were unable to crack the Denman defence. A slew of handling errors and missed tackles hurt the Colts but there are plenty of encouraging signs there for coaches Kowalski and Cowper. Players player went to Alex Kowalski with the pundits on the hill being heard to say Hamson, Younie and new recruit Matt Yates also had strong games.

### First Grade

The Greta Workers Club first grade side were also looking to post their first win of the 2017 season hosting a hot and cold Denman Devils outfit keen to bounce back after 2 losses of their own. A notable mention for Tyler Younie making his first grade debut having only turned 17 last week. The action started thick and fast in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute with a lovely off-load from front rower Daniel French leading to Hayden Smith running 30 metres including a beautiful in and away to stand up the Denman fullback to cross out wide. The difficult kick was converted by DJ Smith for the Colts to lead 6-0. The Colts were at it again in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute with another attacking raid almost ending in points with Colts centre Ben Russell being adjudged to knock the ball on trying to ground a kick in the in goal. The momen-

tum swung in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute after it had been all the Colts early with a couple of penalties for poor discipline marching the Devils outfit down field. Denman looked ready to pounce and after a slick backline movement to the right was well contained by the Colts left edge, a cross field kick back to the left on the ensuing play led to the Devil's opening try. The try was converted and the scores level at 6 all. With the Colts deep on the attack after repeat penalties, a third penalty on the 30 minute mark resulted in the Colts opting to take the 2 but it was waved away and the Devils marched downfield deep into the Colts red zone. Just as the Devils looked likely, a dangerous cross field kick was not only defused by left centre Jay Smith but he then proceeded to race 90m to score untouched burning several cover defenders along the way leading to some on the hill to scratch their heads as to whether they have witnessed a cleaner set of heels to grace a Colts jersey. The subsequent conversion from right in front was knocked over by Dylan Holz with it being his first goal in first grade leaving the scores at 12-6 after 32 minutes. The Colts had the better of the remaining 8 minutes and almost extended their lead but were again adjudged to knock on in goal attempting to ground a Josh Griffiths grubber. Half time score remained 12-6. The second half started as an arm wrestle and it took 13 minutes for the next points to come. A penalty close to the Colts line saw a dubious quick



tap being taken by the Devils inside the Colts 10m resulting in a barge over try that caught the Colts napping. Captain Joey Griffiths questioned the call but the decision stood and with the conversion successful the scores were once again level at 12 apiece. In the 59<sup>th</sup> minute with the Devils coming off their own line with the ball they were penalised for dissent and the Colts opted to take the 2 with Holz again converting to take the score out to 14-12. A short time later, the Devils looked to kick on the last but amazing reflexes from back rower Hayden Smith not only saw him pluck the ball out of the air but then race 60m to score and complete a personal brace. Another conversion was successful off the boot of Holz and in the blink of an eye the Colts led 20-12 with 15 minutes to play. On their very next set with the ball the Colts gave away a poor penalty again for dissent and Denman duly took their chance to score a converted try and

bring the scores to 20-18. Denman were suddenly full of running and were finishing the stronger when in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute they went down a short side and a perfectly timed pass saw them score out wide and with the conversion missed they led 22-20 with 6 minutes to go. The Colts could have stolen the game in the 78<sup>th</sup> minute when a simple overlap and 2 on 1 went begging and the full time score remained 22-20 to the Devils. Player's player went to Hayden Smith with other strong performances from Dylan Holz, Jake Russell and Tyler Younie on debut. **Next Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> May sees the Colts at home again hosting Muswellbrook in all 3 grades with the Ladies kicking off the day at 10.15am and then reserves at 12.35pm and firsts at 2.00pm. In what will be must win games for all 3 sides it would be great to see a large crowd down at Greta Central Oval for what promises to be a great day of rugby league.**



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- Cessnock City Youth First Program - how are our young unemployed trainees tracking?
- Economic development initiatives
- Millennials - brief overview of the results of our May 23 Workshop on the 'Millennial Effect'

The Hunter Valley Visitor Centre and Advance Cessnock City invite you to meet and network with a range of businesses supplying, working across and servicing visitors in Hunter Valley Wine Country. Meet like minded business people over a local wine or brew, make appointments, capture growth and generate business! Learn about opportunities. BRING ALONG YOUR BUSINESS CARDS!! RSVP Next Page...



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# **GRETA WORKERS**

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**FRIDAY 26th MAY**  
**DUPLEXITY**

**FRIDAY 2nd JUNE**  
**DEFACED**

### **MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**

**WEDNESDAY**

**24th MAY**

**\$4,800**

**SUNDAY**

**28th MAY**

**\$4,200**

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

### **RAFFLES**

**FRIDAY & SUNDAY**  
**MEAT RAFFLES**

# **MILLER PARK**

### **MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**

**THURSDAY 25th MAY**

**\$4,700**

**SUNDAY 28th MAY**

**\$5,000**

**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

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**MEAT RAFFLE 6.00pm**

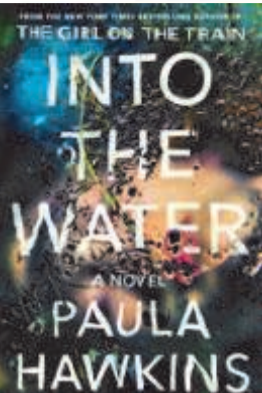
## **HAPPY HOUR**

**MILLER PARK WEDNESDAY**

**GRETA THURSDAY**

**4.00—6.00pm**

**\$3.40 a Schooner**



**REVIEW**  
**'Into the Water'**  
by Paula Hawkins  
&  
**The Top 10 Fiction Bestseller List**  
© Nielsen BookScan 2017  
Week Ending 6/5/17

It was always bound to happen. Paula Hawkins's latest psychological thriller *Into the Water* was one of the year's most highly anticipated releases, securing its place at Number 1 on the Top Ten Fiction bestseller list. When a single mum is found dead in the water, her fifteen-year-old daughter is left behind to uncover murky secrets from the past. Not far behind is David Baldacci's latest crime novel *The Fix* securing the Number 2. It tells the story of detective Amos Decker, who acquired the unique neurological phenomenon synaesthesia and an incredible memory after a

head trauma, is witness to a series of apparently random and senseless murders. Until the unthinkable happens. Danielle Steel's *Against All Odds* comes in at Number 3, exploring levels of risk-taking and danger in New York City. Some great Australian authors on the list, too. A new release from Rachael Johns, *Talk of the Town*, is a moving story about love and new beginnings, and sits at Number 6 on the best-selling fiction list. In similar spirit is Karly Lane's new book *If Wishes Were Horses*, which is the Number 8, and reinforces that Australian authors are on the rise. Liane Moriarty lovers will notice that all her most acclaimed novels are represented on the Top 10 list, including *The Husband's Secret*, *Big Little Lies*, and her most recent book, *Truly, Madly, Guilty*.

The much-anticipated conclusion to *Assassin's Fate* trilogy by Robin Hobb has hit the shelves, and it took two days from release date to make it to Number 7 on the Top 10 list. **Into the Water** by Paula Hawkins (Doubleday) **The Fix** by David Baldacci (Macmillan) **Against All Odds** by Danielle Steel (Macmillan) **Big Little Lies (TV tie-in)** by Liane Moriarty (Pan) **Truly Madly Guilty** by Liane Moriarty (Pan) **Talk of the Town** by Rachael Johns (Mira) **Assassin's Fate: Fitz and the Fool** by Robin Hobb (HarperVoyager) **If Wishes Were Horses** by

Karly Lane (Arena) **The Husband's Secret** by Liane Moriarty (Pan) **Big Little Lies** by Liane Moriarty (Pan).

**REVIEW**  
**'Into the Water'** by Paula Hawkins

**PRECIS**  
The author of the #1 New York Times bestseller and global phenomenon *The Girl on the Train* returns with *Into the Water*, her addictive new novel of psychological suspense. "Hawkins is at the forefront of a group of female authors - think Gillian Flynn and Megan Abbott - who have reinvigorated the literary suspense novel by tapping a rich vein of psychological menace and social unease... there's a certain solace to a dark escape, in the promise of submerged truths coming to light." -Vogue A single mother turns up dead at the bottom of the river that runs through town. Earlier in the summer, a vulnerable teenage girl met the same fate. They are not the first women lost to these dark waters, but their deaths disturb the river and its history, dredging up secrets long submerged. Left behind is a lonely fifteen-year-old girl. Parentless and friendless, she now finds herself in the care of her mother's sister, a fearful stranger who has been dragged back to the place she deliberately ran from--a place to which she vowed she'd never return. With the same propulsive writing and acute understanding of human instincts that captivated millions of readers around the world in her explosive debut thriller, *The Girl on the Train*, Paula Hawkins delivers an urgent,

**ABOUT**  
Hawkins was born and raised in Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe). Her father was an economics professor and financial journalist. Before moving to London in 1989 at the age of 17, Hawkins attended Arundel School, Harare, Zimbabwe then studied for her A-Levels at Collingham College, an independent college in Kensington, West London. Hawkins read philosophy, politics and economics at Keble College, University of Oxford. She worked as a journalist for *The Times*, reporting on business. She then worked for a number of publications on a freelance basis, and wrote a financial advice book for women, *The Money Goddess*. Around 2009, Hawkins began to write romantic comedy fiction under the name *Amy Silver*, writing four novels including *Confessions of a Reluctant Recessionista*. She did not achieve any commercial breakthrough until she challenged herself to write a darker, more serious story. Her best-selling novel *The Girl on the Train* (2015), was a complex thriller, with themes of domestic violence, alcohol, and drug abuse.<sup>1</sup> The novel took her six months, writing full-time, to complete, at a time when she was in a difficult financial situation and had to borrow from her father to be able to complete it. The novel was adapted into a film in 2016. She lives in South London.



**PUBLISHED WORKS**  
*Guerrilla Learning: How to Give Your Kids a Real Education With or Without School* (2001) (Amy Silver) (with co-author Grace Llewellyn) (ISBN 9780471349600)  
*Confessions of a Reluctant Recessionista* (2009) (Amy Silver) (ISBN 9780099543558)  
*All I Want for Christmas* (2010) (Amy Silver) (ISBN 9780099553229)  
*One Minute to Midnight* (2011) (Amy Silver) (ISBN 9780099564638)  
*The Reunion* (2013) (Amy Silver) (ISBN 9780099574491)  
*The Girl on the Train* (2015) (Paula Hawkins) (ISBN 9781594634024)  
*Into the Water* (2017) (Paula Hawkins) (ISBN 9780735211209)

twisting, deeply satisfying read that hinges on the deceptiveness of emotion and memory, as well as the devastating ways that the past can reach a long arm into the present. Beware a calm surface--you never know what lies beneath.

**REVIEW**  
By Alison Flood ~ Alison Flood is a writer on [guardian.co.uk/books](http://guardian.co.uk/books) and former news editor of the Bookseller  
*Hawkins exchanges the simplicity and directness of her global bestseller for multiple narrators and plot lines*  
It's impossible to pin down the alchemy that turns a novel like Paula Hawkins's *The Girl on the Train* into an unstoppable bestseller. It was a beautifully twisty, chilling thriller, but so were many others published in 2015. It can't all be attributed to the magic of the now-ubiquitous "girl" in the title. But perhaps it has something to do with the apparent simplicity of its concept - a woman who drinks too much sees something she shouldn't have from a train window. It's easy to tell people about; it's easy to imagine ourselves into the heroine's situation. There's no simple, one-line description for Hawkins's

follow-up, *Into the Water*, released two years after *The Girl on the Train*, when the author might have been still lounging around on the riches earned from global sales of 18m copies. In contrast to the three narrators of *Girl*, *Into the Water* has at least 11. Rather than digging into the lives of a few characters, Hawkins throws her net across an entire town. That's Beckford, in the countryside near Newcastle, a place with a river running through it and a pool where women, "all those troublesome women", have drowned themselves, or been drowned, for centuries. "People turned a blind eye, though, didn't they? No one liked to think about the fact that the water in that river was infected with the blood and bile of persecuted women, unhappy women; they drank it every day." Hawkins's story opens with the death of Nel Abbott in the Drowning Pool, a death that her teenage daughter Lena believes was suicide, but that Nel's estranged sister Jules, summoned reluctantly back to Beckford, believes was something else. As Jules looks for answers, in her own past and among the locals, she finds that Nel has made a number of enemies while writing a book about the Beckford drownings, and that Lena's best friend, Katie, died a few months earlier in the same place. "Beckford is

not a suicide spot. Beckford is a place to get rid of troublesome women," Nel wrote. There are so many strands that it's hard to keep track, with viewpoints given to everyone from the local psychic to a school teacher, a headmistress and the police investigating Nel's death. Hawkins provides us with more unreliable narrators than you can shake a stick at, and in case we forget they aren't telling us, or even themselves, the whole truth, they say ominous things like "I couldn't touch her. Not after what I'd done." "Seriously: how is anyone supposed to keep track of all the bodies around here? It's like *Midsomer Murders*, only with accidents and suicides and grotesque historical misogynistic drownings instead of people falling into the slurry or bashing each other over the head," observes Erin, the outsider police officer who's been banished to Beckford from London. *Into the Water* isn't as slick or as clever - or as relatable - as *The Girl on the Train*, but it's creepy enough, provided you can stay on top of the multiple voices and the deaths piling up through the centuries. The supernatural tinge given by the psychic might not be to everyone's liking, but I think Hawkins pulls it off pretty nicely, and I will admit to having to put the novel aside when home alone one evening: my litmus test for scares.

**QUOTES**  
"Passionate attraction to someone of the opposite sex will make a hero or a fool of a novelist each time."  
— Roman Payne, *Europa: Limited Time Edition*  
"As it is I'm a dated novelist, whom hardly anybody reads, or if they do, most of them don't understand what I am on about. Certainly I wish I had never written *Voss*, which is going to be everybody's albatross." — Patrick White  
"No poet or novelist wishes he was the only one who ever lived, but most of them wish they were the only one alive, and quite a number believe their wish has been granted." — W.H. Auden

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for the morning and introduced Georgie .. and Clint Ekert from the Cancer Council who Informed all in attendance of the valuable work done by the Cancer Council in support of all treatment and after care of cancer. Thank you to the Cancer Council for your continued, valuable



© Greta Pharmacy looking forward to m/tea.

one through cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Thank you also to Clint for calling the Bingo game which was a great highlight to the day.

We are happy to inform you all that \$2,000 was raised for the day for the Cancer Council. THANK YOU ALL. Thanks also go to all the Businesses in Branxton/

Greta and other phone orders received for the day which contributed to this amount. All received a THANK YOU certificate. As with any function, it is all in the preparation and many hands working together, and Marie and Helen are to be



© Denise and Jan catching up.

congratulated on all the planning and co-ordination that this day required and to the cooks and helpers for all their cooking and work on the day and in setting up and cleaning up. THANK YOU ALL.

It was a great pleasure to be able to host the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea for



© B/G CWA members and Helen Scot

another year, not just because it is a worthy cause but because Branxton/Greta CWA was able to do what they do best, SERVE THEIR COMMUNITY. Anyone interested in joining us in this endeavour can contact

Marie on 0402015850 or email branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com for any information.

Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.



© Op Shop ladies ready for m/tea.

A lovely autumn day was a great start to the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea held at Branxton on 16th May and hosted by Branxton/Greta CWA. Approx. 100 guests were treated to a sumptuous array of scones, cakes and slices. Delicious lamingtons were donated by Cox Bakery in Singleton – Thank You so much. Kerrie Bendeich was MC

work. Ten stalls had asked to attend to support the occasion and we hope all enjoyed their participation. The raffle prizes were donated by Helen Scot and Stall holders. Lucky door prizes were donated

by Cancer Council and Helen Scot and Helen also supplied the Bingo prizes. THANK YOU ALL for your generosity. As all enjoyed the great assortment of food prepared by Noeleen, Leanne, Roslyn, Marie, Dorothy, Pauline and Kerrie, It was an opportunity for everyone to catch



© Overview of guests at morning tea.

up with old friends and also make new friends and support a worthy cause. Many of those in attendance, if not all, would probably have a story of cancer, whether it was supporting a loved one, or surviving cancer themselves or losing some



© Selection of stalls on display.



© Display of antique teapots and cups etc by Helen and Marie.

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31/5/2017



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Friday 26th May 2017  
6.00pm Shotgun start



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14/5/2017  
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Mums 1/2 Price  
With a paying Adult

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# MOVIE REVIEW

## JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2

### TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

#### Music storage & other

A reader wanted to know more about digital music options: "I like the idea of having all of my music handy on something like an iPhone. But I don't really want or need a smartphone. Do you need one to stream music? Does a music player have to go through a mobile phone company these days?"



If you want to stream music - listen to it over WiFi or a data connection while it plays on an app - you will need a smartphone or WiFi connected device like an iPod Touch. And you must stay connected the entire time you stream.

If you want to listen to digital music that you've purchased or copied from your own CDs, tapes, or albums - you can use a stand-alone player. You could use an iPod, which requires iTunes on your PC to transfer and manage music or choose another stand alone player. These players can hold thousands of tunes - likely your entire library. You transfer the music by plugging the device into your PC. Transferring music is simple. Your PC basically recognizes the device just like it does a flash drive and you just drag and drop. Once music is transferred, you're set until you want to copy more. There's no need for WiFi or any kind of data plan.

These devices range from little more than USB sticks with a headphone slot to ones that can also play videos and double as a voice recorder.

#### The Facebook Safety Rule That Parents Keep Breaking

There's one Facebook Safety rule that millions of parents break every day. And that's allowing kids under 13 to have a Facebook account.



Thirteen is the minimum age that a child is permitted to have an account on the popular social media platform. There's no way for anyone under the age of 13 to have an account unless they lie about their age. What's surprising is how many of

these kids are doing it with their parents' full knowledge and permission.

While the age of 13 may seem arbitrary to some, there are some real changes in our cognitive abilities around that age that can make kids a little less susceptible to predators and other online problems.

But, kids still aren't completely smart about what's okay and what's not. (Heck, many adults aren't even there yet.)

If you let a 10-year-old on Facebook, it's pretty close to dropping off a kid who has never left his hometown in the middle of metropolis all by himself. There are untold millions of people, some good and some bad. But you're expecting a 10-year-old to be able to understand the difference.

No matter how mature your kid is, she can wait three more years to join Facebook

#### Are My VHS Movies Valuable?

A reader wants to know if her movie collection has more than sentimental value. "I'm looking at a collection of approx. 1000 VHS movie titles that my grandfather and mother had copied over the years. A lot of Errol Flynn and John Wayne movies as well as titles from the 70s and 80s. To me they are valuable, but this may be just a sentimental stance. I've watched them in my working player over the years and seeing that I'm not interested in today's TV shows movies and remakes I'm inclined to keep them. Would anything like this be of value to anyone else or should I consider chucking it?"



Nearly all of these theatrical titles are probably available on DVD (probably in a multi-movie collection) or through streaming. And since you say that your grandfather and mother copied them, the quality probably isn't very good. If they were purchased VHS tapes from the store that still played pretty well, you might be able to find someone willing to pay a dollar or two each for them. If they were recorded on home tape by your folks, it's actually illegal to sell them. If they are taking up room, I'd chuck them. Maybe keep a couple as a reminder. But you can likely find much better copies of the movie available at very reasonable prices.

#### Free Up iPhone Space With This Easy Trick

Need to free up some space on your iPhone or iPad? Your mobile device usually

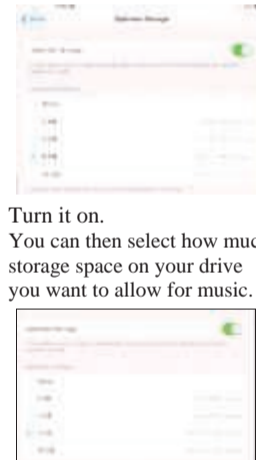
doesn't have a lot of space. Plus, unlike many Android devices, Apple devices don't offer the option of adding a microSD card to expand storage. If you happen to have music on your device, here's a quick way to open up some space. First, you'll want to open **Settings**.



Under **Settings**, choose **Music**.



You'll then see the option to **optimize storage**.



Turn it on. You can then select how much storage space on your drive you want to allow for music.

Lower the amount of space that you're currently using and your phone will delete songs you haven't play in some time from the device and clear up space. Those songs will still be available on iTunes, so you can download them again if you like.

Remember, if you delete a song, you won't be able to access it unless you have a data connection.

#### 3 Things You Must Do To Prevent Crippling Ransomware Attacks

By now, you've heard all about those ransomware attacks that crippled Britain's hospitals and businesses and organizations in 150 countries. The worst part is that this round of attacks was entirely preventable if good, basic security rules had been followed. And I'm not even talking about teaching employees not to click on suspicious links or unexpected attachments. If the people in charge of keeping these systems safe had been serious about security, this never would have happened. The flaw that allowed these attacks to go down was identified months ago by Microsoft and a patch was

issued back in March to protect systems against this exploit.

The problem is that many places are still running the unprotected XP operating system or just not bothering to do security updates for their system.

I know a lot of you love XP. But Microsoft ended security and bug updates THREE years ago. And even if you're running Norton or any other third-party security system, they can't properly patch or protect XP. XP systems are especially vulnerable because when patches are issued, hackers can do what's called reverse engineering. They analyze the security patch to figure out what it's patching and then write up a bit of malware to take advantage of that flaw in unprotected systems. That means Windows XP (and now Vista) AND Windows systems that haven't had recent security updates. Your PC is a sitting duck. Hey, maybe you've been running XP without issue for three years, but, as I've said in previous articles - I had a great uncle that went to Queensland three months out of the year and used to leave his door unlocked. No one ever broke in. But I sure wouldn't want to try that.

Big entities with money to pay for ransom are the preferred targets - for now. Keep in mind that the ransomware landscape is changing. You don't need to have any real tech knowledge these days to be a cybercriminal. Crooks can purchase ransomware packages all ready to go. There are even services to collect their payments for them. Expect home users to be targeted more and more as more criminals enter the ransomware game and need more victims. Here's what you (and companies and other organizations) must do to protect themselves.

1. Use an up-to-date operating system. If you're using Windows XP, Vista, or a version of Mac OS that is no longer supported - stay offline with that computer. Also be careful about loading files onto that PC.
2. Run those security updates ASAP. This refers to both Windows and Mac updates and to any updates from third-party security software. If your device isn't already set for automatic updates, set it now.
3. Be cautious about any links or attachments you receive.

As a consumer, be proactive. Ask your doctor, lawyer, financial advisor, bank etc... what operating system is being used and if security is updated regularly. If they can't answer, ask them to find out who can. Check in with your church, club, or any other organiza-

#### ABOUT

In this next chapter following the 2014 hit, legendary hitman John Wick (Keanu Reeves) is forced back out of retirement by a former associate plotting to seize control of a shadowy international assassins' guild. Bound by a blood oath to help him, John travels to Rome where he squares off against some of the world's deadliest killers



There is a startling scene near the midpoint of *John Wick: Chapter 2* where the eponymous hero, a lethal gun-toting assassin played by Keanu Reeves, runs through an underground nightclub in Rome and just, like, totally massacres whoever gets in his way. It is such a hoot, watching him shoot everyone in the nightclub. He shoots them in the face, under the chin, through the temple. Blam! Blam! Blam! Screams! Gore! Death! How can you go wrong? What could possibly be offensive about a fun-packed gore-splattered nightclub massacre sequence in 2017?

There are, it seems, only two ways of talking about the John Wick franchise, which began in 2014 as a low-budget ultraviolent B-movie that nonetheless grossed £70 million at the box office. One is that it is just cartoon violence and that, according to the filmmakers and talent involved, it is balletic and beautifully choreographed violence that has more in common with dance and high art than the grubby screen killings of traditional action movies. And the other approach is that these films

are morally abhorrent gun porn that serve no purpose other than the debasement of cinema and culture. There is a third approach, however, and this is where *John Wick: Chapter 2* is especially relevant - it is boring. Who would have thought that the gleeful depiction of the deaths of 128 people (the film's official body count), 104 of which are unflinching, skull-bursting "headshots", could be so uninviting? And yet this film is tedious. There is no attempt at a plot - instead Wick has simply annoyed the assassin fraternity, including bad-boy Italian super-villain Santino D'Antonio (Riccardo Scamarcio), and so must kill them all before they kill him before he kills them all before they kill, etc. Cue shoot-outs in Rome and New York, in museums and hotels, all executed via the kind of long-take wide shots that exist solely to showcase the weapons training and kung-fu moves of the dedicated star Reeves but which actually serve to underscore the deadening sameness of the whole project. Whenever Wick runs out of bullets and knives (yes, he manfully stabs a henchman in the anus in one touching scene) he resorts to hand-to-hand combat, and with each

punch and chop he shouts an assertive, "Shuh!" Powerful for a brief moment, but it soon begins to sound ridiculous, with entire scenes devoid of audio except the repetitive grunting: "Shuh! Shuh! Shuh! Shuh!" Eventually I found myself willing him to finish the sentence, "Shuh, shuh, shouldn't have let my agent talk me into another one of these clunkers!"

On moral grounds, of course, *John Wick: Chapter 2* is repellent and vile bully-boy cinema at its worst, and while you watch it you feel that a tiny part of your soul is dying. Yet everyone, deep down, already knows this. What they don't know is that it is also seriously dull.

- Rating: MA (for strong violence throughout, some language and brief nudity)
- Genre: Action & Adventure, Drama
- Directed By: Chad Stahelski
- Written By: Derek Kolstad
- In Theatres: May 18, 2017 limited
- Runtime: 122 minutes

2/5



tion you belong to and make sure they are safe.

Check with your friends and relatives to make sure they are up-to-date. Remember, someone who gets into their information, might be able to find out quite a bit about you



#### Timelapse

Welcome to Timelapse: Landsat Satellite where you can watch the world change over three decades of collected satellite images. When you arrive at the site, you'll get a preview of what this looks like as part of the introduction to the site, and

then a location menu will load offering you the opportunity to look at Las Vegas, Dubai, Shanghai, the Oil Sands, Mendenhall Glacier, Columbia Glacier and a search field that will let you look for other locations.

I started with the search option and looked up my hometown to see how granular the search could be. I was impressed when it was able to show me a timelapse from 1984 to 2016. I recommend checking out where you live!

After that I looked at each of the locations that they offered on menu to see how the world had changed. It's fascinating to watch cities sprawl and eye opening to watch lakes dry up. While you're watching a timelapse, not that you can change the speed that it plays

at in the bottom left corner. They are set to fast by default. You can also pause the timelapse in the same area. Beneath the timelapse interface, you'll find a series of essays about time, space, resources, urban sprawl, and more.

This is an interesting way to look at the world around us and how the humans have changed the landscapes around us over the last three decades. Go check it out today! <http://world.time.com/timelapse/>

CLICKS & Movie Review is proudly sponsored by...  
**The Branxton Greta Vineyards News**



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

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



This article was first published at the commencement of the difficult 2012 vintage, where inclement weather patterns wrecked havoc on the wine industry.....

"The sun. The engine room of our universe. The divine power source for all living things on Earth. Every sunrise brings forth a new day, a new start, a new possibility. The magic of each and every sunrise whispers to us, singing rhetorical lyrics and soaking us with its never-ending vitality and comforting warmth....."

This is an excerpt from a book I am writing on 'Sunsrises'. The book is nearly finished and is called, with dazzling originality, 'The Sun - Where the F\*\*\* Were You in 2012?'

You see, sunrises represent life on so many platforms. One of the more obvious ones is its ability in signifying the evolving state of our level of consciousness. This was brought home to me as I studied the behaviour of a grandfather, his daughter and his granddaughter playing in a park with their dog several mornings ago. The granddaughter played away resoundingly unaware of the sun's presence. To her, the sun rising signifies that it's time to get up and get on with things. Nothing more. Her mother on the other hand, longingly stares towards the magic of the emerging feast of light and positively affirms.....'Today is a beautiful day!'

The grandfather stands back, watches his granddaughter throw a stick to the dog; listens to his daughter's blessing of the day and recedes into his chosen manner of the ultimate defeatist....."It'll rain later.....you watch!"

In the final chapter of my book, I have decided to penetrate into the core of the subject and hear the other side's point of view. So, yesterday, I took the valiant steps of calling the sun for a quick chat. Have you ever tried calling the sun? I'd rather have my teeth chiselled out with a blunt object! At least with Telstra, when you've had enough, you can simply vent your frustration by yelling expletives into the phone and back them up with a series of death threats. The worst possible scenario you face is your phone being cut off (which would surprisingly bring some peace to your life). However!!! If you start telling the sun to go and procreate with itself or any other such liberal advice, it will retort without remorse....."Ten melanomas to you!!! And ten more if you keep going!!!"

This is how my phone call played out.....

"You have reached the offices of the sun....please select from the following...Press 1 for sunrise and sunset times... Press 2 for global warming updates...Press 3 for solar eclipse forecasts.....for all other enquiries, please hold and an operator will be with you shortly....."

Four hours later.....

"Ello...Dis ist de office of de zun.....English?"

Spanish? Japanese? etc?"

"English please."

"Diz iz English.....Wot u like?"

"HHhhmmmm....I would like to speak with the sun, if I may, please?"

"Zun ist busy!"

"Mate, put the sun on or I'll poison the entire Indian cricket team and every Indian bookmaker with cyanide!"

"Oh...yur lucky day.....zun will speak wiz u now!"

"Hello, this is the sun ..... what can I do for you sir?"

"Oh, hello ..... yes, I am currently writing a book on sunrises and have a few questions for you...."

"Right.....go ahead, then."

"Right.....uummm..... firstly, where have you been lately?"

"Wh...wha...what?? Who are you? My mother? I've been busy!!"

"Doing what?"

"...Stuff!"

"What stuff?"

"Just stuff!!!"

"You're avoiding the question...have you got a drug problem or something?"

"No!!!!...I had in one in the early 22,000,000 BC but I dealt with it."

"C'mon sun...everyone deserves to know where you've been all year!"

"Look, things haven't been going so well up here, you know? I mean, there's a lot of responsibility for me to look after everything in your solar system. I'm not God you know! And that's the problem..... God and I aren't exactly on speaking terms at the moment...."

"Do you want to talk about it?"

"Who are you? My therapist?"

"Hey! Cool down! I'm just offering some support!"

"What? How can I cool down 'Mr I live on Earth and everything's pretty cruisey down here'.....I'm six thousand degrees Celsius on my surface...how am I going to cool down?"

"I'm just trying to help...."

"....Sorry....I get a bit hot-headed....Hehehehe...hot-headed...get it?"

"Sure...it' not funny."

"HHhhmmmm....God and I often disagree on things. All I want to do is come up on a lovely clear day and stun people with my beauty and nourish all living things with my power, but God always wants to intervene."

"In what way?"

"Oh, there's always something! He acts all high and mighty...but he's actually quite sinister. I'm in the board room at the end of last year, right, and I'm sitting with the Moon and Saturn and Mars just chatting about the asteroid league semi-finals, when God storms in, in a foul mood. Complains that Allah cheated in his weekly poker game and took him for all money. So, in response, he yells, "Hey you...Sun...there's a state in Australia called New South Wales you're becoming way too fond of...make yourself scarce for a few months! Very few sunrises, few sunsets...you know the drill!" So I ask him how I'm going to go about it and he just yells, "...I don't know! Go and see La Nina and work something out with her!"

"But this could have disastrous effects," I said, "What about the farmers? And flooding towns? And winemakers in the Hunter Valley?" But God didn't seem to care. He said it was all part of his grand plan and that he didn't understand the Hunter Valley winemaker comment as they were all masters of telling themselves and everyone else that every single vintage is sensational."

"So that's why you haven't been around? Because God told you to make yourself scarce? If God told you to jump off a bridge, would you do it?"

"....UUuummm....Yeah, probably."

"You have some serious self esteem issues, dude!"

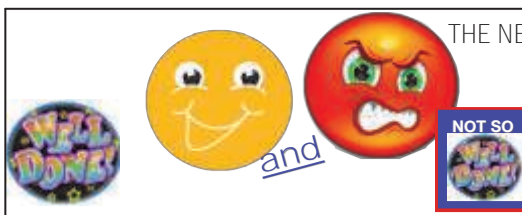
"He is God, after all."

"Yes, but at the cost of your incredible beauty? Your abundant energy? Your natural presence? This isn't a God issue! This is a human issue! We need to appreciate you more, appreciate the beauty of what you are and what you represent. A sunrise is not a random occurrence. It is a universal blessing. You create and set the scene. We are the fortunate benefactors. A sunrise is a reflection of our hearts. The only way we can truly see you, is to see it in ourselves....."

"Wow...thank you!! You know what? I'm going to shine like I've never shone before...thank you for your phone call....."

Excuse me now whilst I go outside and bask in the beautif.....OH F\*\*\*!!!!!! It's f\*\*\*ing raining again!!!!!!"

Cheers, Andrew



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

**Cats or Dog** ~ Cats are meticulously clean, spending a large portion of their days grooming, while most dogs need to be bathed frequently to fend off doggy odour. I noticed a smell at Branxton Oval when speaking to a friend camping on the west side of the oval. I believe it was coming from somewhere near the Little Club house where you see the elderly lady's and gentlemen have their day out & play whatever sport it is. Smells like Old MacDonald farm.

**TO** the person who poisons peoples pets ~ it is a hideous & painful death! "Yes" cats can be a problem if they are not cared for by their owners. However, 'you' are not the judge or the jury ~ you should 'vent' your anger on the cat's owners. Question: how do you poison them? If it is by baiting them you must remember that birds & other wildlife also eat meat. How much wildlife have you killed? Your name should be tendered to the RSPCA and the local constabulary!!

**TO** the hard working committees who run our local junior soccer & football. I have children playing in both comps & they really do a great job, week in, week out. The organisation behind it is terrific & my children are very lucky to have the opportunity to belong.

**TO** the local Branxton Greta CWA for a great 'Australia's Biggest Breakfast' for cancer research. Well done; fantastic!

**Congratulations** to the people at the top end of Mayne Street, North Rothbury, who appear to have successfully trained their dog to bark all day & all night. If, as they say, owners never hear their dogs bark then these people must be overseas!

**TO** the person/s who removed the hot water urn from the McAuley Centre in Branxton please return it ASAP before we need to take further action.

**IF** you are nor already aware it's illegal to ride your motor bikes in Greta Central Park. It is an unsafe practice & if it continues it will become a police matter.



Classified's

Classified's

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

**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:** 20ft. shipping container for sale, at Lambs Valley. Good condition, except for leaking roof! \$1100 Ph. 49 345913 or Email [1491nofrackingway@gmail.com](mailto:1491nofrackingway@gmail.com) 3 drawer steel filing cabinet, fawn colour \$50 Lambs Valley 493345913

**For Sale:** 2015 Mondeo Trend TDi. (first reg. Sept 2015). One owner, 17k's, fully optioned, 4 cyl 2L diesel, turbo charged, fully serviced with full history.

**In 'as new' condition. Asking \$32,500 ono (Approx \$45k new) P: 0405 833 985**

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

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

**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.mlatravel.com.au/sfenton](http://www.mlatravel.com.au/sfenton)

E: [sfenton@mlatravel.com.au](mailto:sfenton@mlatravel.com.au)

**Fitness Classes:** 'Core & Strength'. Get fit. 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:** agjstment, 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 z50j1 z50jz c170 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 "For your Diary" section of The News is a FREE community service.

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

**Thur 25 May** ~ Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group will meet at Leagues Club 3pm. Guest speakers Terry Wheeler, Jim Newton. Topic: Information about their different prostate cancer journey from Diagnosis, treatment, recurring cancer treatment and incontinence. Their insight about this disease may help you along the journey you are on or the one you are about to travel. Members of the public welcome. Cost- Free tea/coffee provided. Co Conveners- Barryl Rose 49904554. 0457073852.

**Fri 26 May** ~ Branxton Public School PBL Assembly 9:20am

**Wed 31 May** ~ Branxton Public School Musica Viva performance 'Taikoz'

**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

**Thur 1 Jun** ~ Branxton Public School visiting author John Heffernan

**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

**Tue 18 Jul** ~ B/G CWA BIRTHDAY (Handicraft/Cultural/International/Ag/Environment), Guest Speaker, Venue and other details TBA

**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 Sept** ~ 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

**OCT/NOV** B/G CWA Land Cookery/Product Promotion (Native Finger Lime) Day. Venue and Date TBA.

**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

**SAT 21 October 2017** Opera in the Vineyards

**SAT 21 October 2017** Midnight Oil: The Great Circle with special guests Birds of Tokyo & Ash Grunwald



# Branxton Public School



The Zone Cross Country was held in Week 4 with 31 students heading off to Tocal to compete. Mrs Whiting, Mr Johanson and Mr Foster were impressed with the behaviour and commitment of the students representing our school. Eight students will now go on to the Regional Cross Country Carnival at Cessnock Racecourse. Dalton Miller will be representing the Maitland Zone at the State PSSA AFL tournament in Week 5. We wish him all the best for the three days away. In Week 3 Mrs Maier took our Softball team to Miller Park to play their first (ever) game



Softball team with Mrs. Naier



Danika, Bella, Jeremy & Asher

Mother's Day was a happy day for all. Peer Support started in Week 3 and is off to a great start. The groups are working on getting to know each other initially and then will explore different ways to resolve conflict. The Canteen held a competition to come up with some healthy and delicious menu ideas. The winners of the competition were revealed last week and we are looking forward to seeing their ideas on the menu soon. Congratulations Danika, Bella, Jeremy and Asher. Congratulations to Elle, Emeilia & Connor who raised the largest amount of money for Camp Quality. In total the school raised \$2100 through our Cross Country sponsorship. Many thanks to our school community for supporting this worthwhile charity.

**Dates for the Calendar**

- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – PBL Assembly 9:20am
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Musica Viva performance 'Taikoz'
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Visiting author John Heffernan

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



Ella at Cross Country - She was placed first in 8-9 years girls



Elle, Emeilia & Connor with their Camp Quality bags

against Iona Public School. This was the first time playing softball for the boys and Mrs Maier was very proud of their enthusiasm and effort. They won 21-8 and are now looking forward to their next match against Largs PS in Week 6.

The P&C's Mother's Day Stall was a big hit with many happy shoppers. There was a lovely range of gifts to purchase and many parent volunteers to help with those difficult decisions. We hope

## Family Fun Day Fire Appeal 28th May 2017 Tatts Hotel Greta

Live Music  
10am - 4pm  
Reel (Postie)  
Red Sun Keepers  
Kailey Pallas

Raffles  
Auctions  
Jumping Castle  
Face Painting  
BBQ  
and much more

Many Thanks to our sponsors:  
Hunter Valley Gliding Club, Wendys Hair & Greta, A Plus Contracting, Farrellys Constructions, Tatts Hotel, Super Strike Rutherford, Hunter Valley Horse Riding, Greta-Branxton Colts, Red Alert Laser Tag, Lakes Folly Vineyard, Ready Cinema Maitland, Tenambit Butchery, McDonalds Greta, Chris Woods Scaffolding, Valley Fasteners, All Weld, Greta News Agency, Greta Take Away.



## Who's living on my land workshop

When: 27th May 2017 12:00pm-4:00pm

Where: Congewai Public School, 605 Congewai Road, Congewai

Contact: Hunter Local Land Services Paterson Office 02 4930 1030

### Details

Equip yourself with the latest knowledge and tools for monitoring native and pest animals visiting your property at this free workshop. All participants will be trained by the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) in the use of infra-red motion detection cameras and then they'll have a chance to take the cameras home and conduct a survey of animals on their property. NPA will then collate the photos and identify species present. Hunter Local Land Services will offer follow-up information, advice and training for you on how to support and promote native biodiversity and manage invasive pests on your property. This event is predominantly for landholders in the Cessnock LGA, particularly Quorrobolong and Congewai areas. Registrations are essential as spaces are limited. Lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

If you own a motion camera and would like to enhance your skills, please indicate on the registration form. [Please register online](#) or by calling the Hunter Local Land Services Paterson office on 02 4930 1030.

## Soils field day

When: 31st May 2017 (all day)

Where: "Kingslyn" Depot Rd (over grid at end of road), Merriwa

Contact: Kim Fenley 0418 570 743

### Details

Upper Hunter Sustainable Farming Group is hosting an on-farm Soil Knowledge Network field day in Merriwa. Come along and discover practical solutions for common soil issues.

Learn how soil structure and chemistry can affect productivity and look at a soil profile pit and compare test analysis results.

Topics to be covered include:

- Exploring local 'problem' soils with productivity issues
- Soil structure – compaction, stability & organic matter
- Soil biology – 'Life' in the soil
- Using soil tests to look at chemical issues
- Just 'What do the numbers on a soil test mean?'
- Farmer-friendly aspects of classifying soils

Bring along a large square of soil about a spade-width in height and breadth, keeping the sample as intact as possible. Plus any recent soil test analysis you may have.

Please RSVP to Kim Fenley, Upper Hunter Sustainable Farming Group via email: [fenshome4@bigpond.com](mailto:fenshome4@bigpond.com) or call 0418 570 743.

This is an initiative of the Upper Hunter Sustainable Farming Group, and is supported by Hunter Local Land Services and funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

## Blood On The Track



Sizzling

mares straight off the track, hundreds more head to auction in foal to the country's and indeed world's leading sires – all 110 of them.

The cover sires include young guns Deep Field (32 lots), Dissident (32), Vancouver (25), Exosphere (23), Wandjina (23), Zoustar (23) and Shooting to Win (22) as well as established stars Written Tycoon (22) and I Am Invincible (18). Plenty of interest will surround at least 19 lots catalogued after being covered in the Northern Hemisphere last spring. That group includes eight served by American champion Tapit and six by English wonder horse Frankel.

Over 220 stakes performed fillies or mares are catalogued and over 530 lots of the Book One catalogue are at second cover or less. Stakes winning maiden mares entered include Miss Cover Girl, Jessy Belle, Kebede, Miss Gunpowder, Nurse Kitchen, Samara Dancer, Scarlet Rain, Tycoon Tara, Ammirata, Elle Lou, I Love It, Petits Filous, Rocket Commander, Royal Tithe, Take Pride and Thyme for Roses.

Buyers on the search for a proven producer will notice the dams of Group One or

Two winners Albany Reunion, Dear Demi, Gust of Wind, Ruud Awakening, Tivaci, Yankee Rose, Bring Me the Maid, Catch a Fire, Gallatin, Lucky Bubbles, Lumosty, Majestic Music, Meliora, Messene and Seaburge catalogued. As well as hundreds of black type performers, the catalogued lots include (at least half) relations to outstanding Group One winners including Brazen Beau, Capitalist, Dundee, Earthquake, Extreme Choice, Foxplay, Hauraki, Hay List, Humidor, Invader, Lankan Rupee, Lasqueti Spirit, More Joyous, Palentino, Pierro, Samantha Miss, Snitzerland, Sweet Idea, Tavistock, Wandjina, Your Song and Zoustar.

The National Yearling Sale (June 6-8) has attracted an outstanding catalogue of 588 lots – all of Australia's leading sires and promising young stallions represented. With 131 individual sires represented the yearling section of the National Sale has a great variety of lots up

for grabs. Among those 131 sires are 20 represented by their first Australian yearling crop. The most represented sires include All Too Hard (17 lots), Congrats (18), High Chaparral (15), Fastnet Rock (10), More Than Ready (13), Pierro (14), So You Think (16), Star Witness (11), Sizzling (12), Written Tycoon (10) and Zoustar (9). The National Yearling Sale provides a wonderful opportunity for buyers to invest in a lot eligible for the \$11.34 million Magic Millions Race Series – the majority of lots to be offered are eligible to be paid up. Past graduates of the sale include winners of the Golden Slipper, Dubai Golden Shaheen, Oakleigh Plate, Victoria Derby, Rosehill Guineas, Queensland Oaks, New Zealand

Oaks, Kelt Capital Stakes and KrisFlyer International Sprint. The National Racehorse Sale will be conducted following Day Three of the Yearlings on June 8 and will present a quality line of lightly raced and exciting racetrack prospects. A highlight of this sale every year is the draft from the powerful Godolphin operation.

To view the online catalogues for the National Weanling, Broodmare, Yearling and Racehorse Sales visit [www.magicmillions.com.au](http://www.magicmillions.com.au). The weanling, broodmare and yearling catalogues can also be downloaded on the iPad via the EquineLine Catalog App.



Six mares are catalogued for sale in foal to Frankel

## Detailed saleyard report



## Saleyard report - cattle

### Singleton report date 17/5/17

Yarding 780 ~ Change -290 (Comparison Date 10/5/17)

Numbers eased and quality remained fair to good, with the bulk in the penning entering the vealer and yearling categories. The percentage of cows lifted, with around 75 head in the offering. The usual buyers competed in a generally dearer market, with only quality and breed contributing to any cheaper prices.

The 200kg plus vealer steers returning to the paddock improved 16c, making from 330c to 435c, with the heavier end gaining 12c to top at 383c/kg. The same weight vealer heifers to the restocker and background orders maintained firm prices to average 342c, after reaching 359c/kg. The better quality heavier drafts gained 8c/kg. Yearling steers to the restockers lifted 9c, with the best reaching 357c/kg. The yearling heifers to the restockers and lot feeders improved 7c, making from 299c to 337c/kg through all weight ranges. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold to solid competition, with the best topping at 375c/kg.

The limited supply of grown steers to slaughter sold from 260c to 278c, with the heifer portion reaching 260c/kg. Cows sold at similar prices compared to the last market, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 199c and reached 230c/kg to the restockers. The better covered heavy weights were mainly over conditioned and these ranged from 208c to 220c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 240c/kg.



### Scone report date 16/5/17

Yarding 1523 ~ Change 309 (Comparison Date 9/5/17)

The quality was fair to good, as consignments lifted, with the bulk in the penning entering the younger categories. There were around 180 cows, along with a larger supply of heavy weight grown steers and bullocks. The usual buyers were joined by another restocker and lot feeder order and the market overall was dearer.

The 200kg plus vealer steers returning to the paddock improved 12c, making from 346c to 438c/kg. The heavier weights also trended at dearer levels. The heifer portion to the restocker and background order lifted 5c and sold from 306c to 386c/kg.

The yearling steers gained 3c to 8c, with the heavier end to lot feeder orders ranging from 310c to 364c/kg. Yearling heifers to the restockers and lot feeders made from 285c to 349c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers lifted 10c, the best selling for 366c/kg.

The better selection of grown steers and bullocks to slaughter trended 15c dearer, with age and quality contributing in places, as prices made from 265c to 285c/kg. The best of the grown heifers topped at 277c/kg. Cows improved 3c to 5c/kg, with an extra restocker pushing prices to higher levels. The plainer 2 scores to the processors averaged 200c, while those to the restockers ranged from 202c to 227c/kg. The better covered heavy weights made from 210c to 234c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 235c/kg.



### TRLX Tamworth report date 15/5/17

Yarding 1782 ~ Change -418 (Comparison Date 8/5/17)

There was a reduced penning that comprised a large selection of young cattle. Cows dominated supply in the grown section with a limited supply of heavy grown steers. The overall quality of the young cattle was quite mixed with the end of the weaners in sight, while there were some very good quality and well-bred yearlings available to the feedlotters. The full group of regular buyers were in attendance with demand varying throughout.

Market trends saw an improved quality penning of weaner steers sell to a cheaper trend, up to 15c/kg. There were similar cheaper trends through the heifer portion however price falls were not as great in some cases. Medium and heavy yearling steers to restock and feed saw little but quality related price change while there was some breed related premiums. Medium weight yearling heifers saw a firm to slightly cheaper market trend, while well finished heavy weights to feed were 18c to 20c/kg cheaper.

There were limited supplies of heavy grown steers penned, however quality was very good. This resulted in a firm to dearer market trend. There were varying trends in the cow market with medium weights selling to a slightly cheaper trend. Well finished cows saw a dearer trend averaging 5c to 7c/kg and more in places with quality and yield potential improved.

# SPORTS RESULTS



## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 11-5-17 Stableford

Div 1 Winner I Harris 30 pts R/u G Gazzard 27 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> R Hebbe 27 pts (c/b)  
 Div 2 Winner L Bootes 31 pts (SOD) R/u J Atton 30 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> P Tracey 28 pts  
 Ladies Winner M Hunt 24 pts (c/b) R/u R McCarthy 24 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> F Oakes 22 pts  
 NTPs Ladies R McCarthy Gents R Chalmers Members draw - Not won  
 The pleasant Autumn weather continues, making conditions very comfortable for the 37 players gathering for a round of golf, on the "Ultimate 9" golf course at Branxton. Congratulations to Lester Bootes on winning his division; A 'Hat Trick' effort, three division wins in a row; and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done for all other winners and placegetters.

## LN Bootes, Hon Sec Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 18/5/17

Div.1 Winner ~ K. Anderson 32pts R/u G.Anderson 30pts 3rd J. Vassar 30pts  
 Div. 2 Winner M. Hunt 34pts R/u G. Jones 29pts 3rd R. Showman 28pts  
 Congratulations to Marg Hunt on winning Best Score of the Day - the weather was beautiful and we had a good turnout again. Members are gearing up for a trip to Kurri Golf Course on 29th May- get your name on the list if you have not done so already. Members Free Draw not won this week.

## Branxton Lady Golfers Stableford 10/5/17

Winner: Kerrie O'Connell Runner Up: Jan Scobie on a count back from Tracey Miller.  
 Nearest to the Pin: Caren Caldwell.  
 Pennants Results Branxton defeated Hunter Valley in the final round. Branxton ended up 5<sup>th</sup> overall from the eight clubs. A great effort for such a small club.

## Branxton Lady Golfers Stableford 17/5/17

Winner : Ruth McCarthy 32 on count back from Runner Up: Toy Martin 32.  
 Ball winner Jen Salna with 30 points on a count back from Kerrie O'Connell 30 points  
 Nearest to the pin: Carol Miller

## Branxton Golf club Sat 13th May Phil & Sharon Baker sponsors day 4 person Ambrose

**Nett winners** – John Burgess/Graham Bull/ Doug Elphick/David Matt 51.375 nett

**Scratch winners** - Josh Tracey/ Mick Tracey/ Josh Stig/ Mick Simpson 58  
**Nett runners up** – Lee Heuston/ Lester Bootes/ Dakota Watson/ Peter MacKenzie 53.2 nett

**Nett third** – Neil Jordan/ Ed Garland/ Peter Wilton/ Paul Bush 53.7 nett

**Nett fourth** – David Kinch/ Kim Howard/ Michael Carling/ Kel Mather 54.8 nett

**Nett fifth** – David Hollis/ Phil Baker/Sharyn Baker/ Kerrie O'Connell 55 nett

**Greg Gillard** – Hole-in-one 11th hole.

## Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 7th May

The Weekly Challenge has been won by John Rowland of the Nelson Bay GC with 39 points from Darryl Pond of Newcastle GC with 38 points and Nathan Lawrence 3rd with 35 points on countback. Ball winners were: Jamie Keating v35, Matt Dwight v35, Stuart Robinson 34, Darren Hancock v34, Todd Jolly v34, Mark Woods v34 and Mark Limana v34.

## Tuesday 9th May

John Pascoe had a solid 40 point return to win the Tuesday Stableford from Ray Newton 38 and Greg Ireland 36 points in 3rd. Ball winners were: John Stewart 35, Ray Hodson 35, Steven Kane 34, Col Bradley 34, Greg Amlöh 33, Drew Dewar 33, Steve Rawlings 33, Grahame Sheldon 33 and Michael Watson 33. Nearest-the-Pins went to Rick Turnchini (3rd) Ray Hodson (4th, 8th and 10th) and Dan Taylor (17th)

## Wednesday 10th May

The Ladies Stroke event has been won by Dianne Oakes with a Par round of 71 net from Sue Peel 73 and Karen Baillie 74 . Ball winners were: melita Watson 76, Pam Snaddon 76, Kerry Choromanski 76, Isabel Skeates 77 and Christine Tancred 79. Next week event will be Individual Stableford.

## Thursday 11th May

The opening round of the 2017 Vets Championship has seen a tight struggle develop between 2016 Champ Ray Hodson and Ken Harris with only 1 point, in Ray's favour separating them with one round remaining. The daily event and Handicap section of the Championship is also very close the win went to John Pascoe with 43 points from Wayne Barber 42 and Gerry Irwin in 3rd with 38 on countback. Ball winners were: Dave Irwin 38, Ken Harris 38, Garry Marsden 37, Greg Amlöh 37, Bruce Chambers 37, Ray Hodson 37, David Peel 36, John Stewart 36, Darrell Preston 35, Wayne Cowan 35, Garry Clarke 34, Rex Talbot 34 and Peter Payne 34 on countback. Nearest-the-Pins went to Michael Watson (3rd) Peter Payne (4th) John Carmody (8th & 10th) and Gerry

Irwin (17th)/ Next week will be the final round of the Championship playing individual Stableford.

## Saturday 13th May

Sub par rounds were the feature of Saturday's Stroke rounds with Tony Lamb leading the way in A Grade with 66 net from Scott Smith 70 net, Grahame Sheldon won the monthly Medal and B Grade with an 11 under handicap round of 60 net, bound to get the handicapper's attention, Wayne Thompson was runner up with 68 net and C Grade to Mathew Merlo with 68 net on countback to Wayne Cowan also on countback. Ball winners were: Nicolas Looby 68, Michael Sissons v69, Mark Faulkner 70, Ray Newton 70, Michael Tsakissiris 70, Matt Killick 70, Ken Springbett 71, Angello Korlevic 71, Justin Preece 71, Nathan Mudd 71, Stuart

Robinson 71, Sue Peel 72, David Preece 72, Troy Wallis 72, Steve Piggott 73, Bobby Brown 73, Colin Mills 73, Anthony Bower 73, David Peel 73, Kevin Smith 73 and Shannon Atterwell 73. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ben Bradley (3rd) Shannon Atterwell (4th) Russ Calderwood (8th) Patrick Statham (10th) and Cody Barton (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford

## Sunday 14th May

The Weekly Challenge has been won by Ivanhoe visitor Mary Celia Young with a standout 45 point round from Mathew Bird from Maitland with 40 points and Damian Wilson of the Randwick GC with 38 points. Ball winners were: Adrian Kent 37, Adam Pustetto v37, Todd Brinkley v37, Stephen Walters v36, Brodie Poole 35 and

Anthony Lucas 35 c/b  
**Tuesday 16th May**  
 Lindsay Self claimed the Tuesday Stableford on countback to Ray Hodson after both shot 41 points, 3rd place went to Jacob Teague of the Scone GC. Ball winners were: Rick Turnchini 36, Luke McArthur 36, Lindsay Paterson v35, Ian Newell 35, Garry Marsden 34, Steve Piggott 33, Rex Talbot 33 and Wayne Cowan 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Stewart (3rd) Ken Harris (4th) Rick Turnchini (10th) and David Peel (17th)

## Wednesday 17th May

A countback was required for Isabel Skeates to get the better of Charlestown visitor Doris Hoare after both had 37 point returns, Melita Watson completed the placings also on countback with 36 points. Ball winners were: Diane Atton

36, Jill Slatter 34, Dale Hamilton 32, Robyn Dunlop 32, Christine Curtis v29, Leesa Robinson 29 and Lorraine Clack 28 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Karen Baillie (3rd) Sue Williams (4th) and Lorraine Clack (17th). Next week the Ladies will play Par.

## Thursday 18th May

Ken Harris has won the 2017 Scratch title with a solid 59 points total from Ray Hodson who finished on 53 points, Ray said his quest for back to back titles ended when he hit his playing partner's ball on the dreaded 13th hole and was unable to regroup over the remaining holes. Wayne Barber has pipped first round leader John Pascoe for the Handicap title on countback after both had compiled 74 points from their two rounds. The Club extends congratulations to

Ken and Wayne for their efforts and thanks to all who took part in this years event. The daily Stableford event was won by Paul Ireland with a very good 40 point round from John Harrison 39 and Ken Harris 3rd with 37 points. Ball winners were: Ray Newton 36, Ian Newell 36, Bruce Chambers 35, Garry Marsden 35, Wayne Cowan 35, Peter Munro 35, Doug Wand 34, Rex Talbot 33, David Peel 33, Gerry Irwin 33, Wayne Barber 32, Marianne Earl 31, Darrell Preston 31, Eric Smith 31 and Dale Macklinshaw 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Dale Macklinshaw (3rd) Greg Amlöh (8th) Ray Hodson (10th) and Ray Newton (17th) Nest week the Vets will play 4BBB Par.

CONT NEXT PAGE

MAY 31 - JUNE 21 - JULY 12

# STATE OF ORIGIN

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overnight and early Saturday caused many to stay at home leading to a small field taking the challenge of a wet 'track'. With those who did enjoying a better than expected surface. A Grade went to Ben Pickering with 38 points from Steve Piggot on 36, B Garde to Troy Wallis with 'round of the day' a standout 45 points from inform Vet Wayne Barber with 41 points and C Garde to

Nicolas Looby with 40 points from Scott Jones on 34 points. Ball winners were: Chris McAlinden v40, Garry Marsden 37, Bruce Chambers 35, Nathan Stothard 35, Dean Morison 35, Clarke Sturman 34, Nathan Mudd 34, John Barbour 33 and Angello Korlevic 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Garry Marsden (3rd) Wayne Barber (4th) and Troy Wallis (8th). Next weeks event will be a Tiger Tee Medley Stableford.



**Saturday 20th May,**  
The East Coast low which dumped plenty of rain

# Do you REMEMBER when....

THE NEWS Issue No 219 1st March 2007 Page 44



## Branxton Swimmers Number 1

### Branxton break 47 year drought to win Intertown series

The Branxton Amateur Swimming Club has won the Intertown Swimming Series for the first time in the series 47 year history. The series is held annually between the Singleton, Muswellbrook, Scone, Denman, Merriwa and Branxton clubs on a 6 meet format.

## FROM BACK PAGE

### Greta Branxton United Cricket Club 2016-2017 Junior Presentation & Awards Night



Coach Steve Peel with members of the U/10 Blue Team



Coach Stewart Ison with members of the U/12 team



Club vice president Josh Dagg with the Milo Cricket kids



Coach Roger Thomson with members of the U/14 team



President Sean Wright with members of the U/10 White team



Coach Mitch Fallon with members of the U/10 Sky team

# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

# The NEWS SPORT

Branxton Greta COLTS Match Reports Page 14

## Greta – Branxton United Cricket Club Junior Presentation 2016-17



with Mark Bercini

The Greta/Branxton United Cricket Club's junior presentation was held at the McCauley Centre on Saturday 22nd April, with awards presented to the following:

**U/10 White**  
Coaches Award – Jeremy Bourke  
**Most Improved** – Oliver Velt  
**U/10 Sky**  
Coaches Award – Riley McKewen



☺ Vice President Josh Dagg on behalf of coach Greg Andrews with members of the U/16 team

**Most Improved** – Cohen Spliet-Miller  
**U/10 Blue**  
Coaches Award – Phoebe Wilton  
**Most Improved** – Sam Martin  
**U/12's**  
Bowling Aggregate and

**Average** – Ben Ison 7 wickets at 6.86  
**Batting Aggregate and Average** – Jack Mikisch 105 runs at 26.25  
**Coaches Award** – Lewis Jacobs  
**Most Improved** – Riley Hawes

**U/14's**  
**Bowling Aggregate and Average** – William Regan 8 wickets at 8.17  
**Batting Aggregate and Average** – William Regan 100 runs at 25.00  
**Coaches Award** – Reuben Andrews

**Most Improved** – Joshua See  
**U/16's**  
**Bowling Aggregate and Average** – Patrick Andrews 4 wickets at 2.00  
**Bowling Aggregate – Batting Aggregate and**

**Average** – Hayden Regan 60 runs at 30.00  
**Junior Club Person of the Year** – Greg Andrews

*MORE AWARD PHOTOS INSIDE BACKPAGE*



☺ Club President Sean Wright addresses the junior members

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