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WEDNESDAY
7 June 2017

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with Mike Lowing



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CWA News

Cessnock City is in the top 10 recyclers in national program



Michelle Lindsay and Karinda Stone from our Environment and Waste team with local resident Steve Condran who regularly used the station.

Congratulations Cessnock City residents! You're in the top 10 recyclers of printer cartridges in Australia. In 2016 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' saw the largest return of used printer cartridges since the program began 15 years ago. Receiving a total of 13,500 used cartridges every working day across Australia, Cessnock City was ranked in the top 10 in the nation with 1,271 units returned at Community Recycling Stations. This is enough recycled plastic to make approximately 168,000

school rulers. Residents are able to deposit used household batteries, light bulbs, mobile phones and printer cartridges at dedicated Community Recycling Stations located at Council's Administration Building, and Cessnock City Libraries. The recycling stations also received a phenomenal amount of batteries and Council's Sustainability Officer Tricia Donnelly is thrilled with the success of the program. "Printer cartridges are just one part of the recyclable household goods we

collect. These drop off points are so important for the reduction of waste to landfill," said Ms Donnelly. Cessnock City Mayor, Bob Pynsent congratulates Council staff and Planet Ark for their continuing efforts and making these services available to our community. "With the current development at the Waste Transfer Station, Cessnock City is making strides towards providing its residents and local businesses with outstanding waste services," said Cr Pynsent.

The current works on the new Waste Transfer Station will see an important upgrade in waste facilities for local residents and has already seen the introduction of garden organics kerbside collection earlier in 2017. Through recycling initiatives, Cessnock City Council reduces the cost to ratepayers through the Landfill Levy and preserves natural resources for future generations. You can bring your used printer cartridges, household batteries, mobile phones and light bulbs to any of our community recycling stations to help the reduction of waste to landfill.

For more information on our Council's environmental and waste management initiatives, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/waste or call Customer Service on (02) 4993 4100.

ENTRIES OPEN

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Scot MacDonald MLC is calling on local individuals, schools, communities and businesses to apply now for the 2017 Resilient Australia Awards and NSW Get Ready Community Awards. "I know our community is proactive, resilient and comes together in times of need and I encourage people to apply for this year's awards," Mr MacDonald said. "The awards are about recognising the innovative practices and achievements that not only make our communities safer but also resilient enough to handle any emergency situation." "So many people in the Hunter community dedicate their time to ensuring we're prepared for natural

disasters and I thank them for their selflessness and community spirit," Mr MacDonald said. Now in their 18th year, the Resilient Australia Awards are open to individuals, not for profit organisations, small and large businesses, local and state governments, schools, education institutions, research bodies and emergency service agencies. Established in 2015, the NSW Get Ready Award focuses on the collaborative efforts of an entire community that has worked together and taken action to plan and prepare for when disaster strikes. Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant said the NSW Government is looking to see examples of

local communities joining forces to proactively build and strengthen resilience to natural disasters. "While our emergency service agencies like the SES, RFS and FRNSW do remarkable work protecting and supporting communities in times of need, we all have a responsibility to think ahead, get ready and be as prepared as possible," Mr Grant said. "Both the Resilient Australia Awards and the NSW Get Ready Community Awards recognise communities proactively preparing for emergencies and building up resilience for times of need." Applications close on 30 June 2017. With this year's winners announced at Parliament House in October 2017.

For more information on how to apply for both the Resilient Australia Awards and the Get Ready NSW Awards, go to: <https://www.emsector.nsw.gov.au/emsector/awards/>.

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WW1 Loco to be unveiled ~ a must for the 'trainee'

The Richmond Vale Railway Museum will reach a historic milestone on Saturday June 10, with the unveiling of the static restoration of their WW1 War Department locomotive.

The locomotive, known as an ROD after the Railway Operating Division of the Royal Engineers, is 99 years old, having been built in April 1918. It was used in France at end of the Great War, as hostilities came to an end, and thousands of soldiers were repatriated. In post-war years, the locomotive was purchased by coal baron John Brown for use on his Richmond Vale Railway, linking his coal mines in the Kurri Kurri district with coal loaders at Hexham. It operated under the running number ROD 23. "After withdrawal from service, the locomotive was

displayed at the former Mining Museum at Freeman's Waterhole," said Peter Meddows, chairman of the museum. "It was then gifted to our museum by Coal and Allied Industries, the successor to John Brown's companies" Mr Meddows paid tribute to the work of museum volunteer Graham Black, who has led the restoration of the locomotive. "Graham's detective work has identified which parts have stayed with the locomotive throughout its life, and the few which have come from other locomotives at overhaul time, thus confirming its origins." "He has led a small but dedicated team in restoring the locomotive for static display, an important task as its centenary approaches." The museum has expressed

its thanks to Coal and Allied, Port Waratah Coal Services and the Dick and Pip Smith Foundation as major sponsors of the project. The completed locomotive will be unveiled at the museum at 11.00am on Saturday June 10, in the presence of sponsors, local dignitaries, former locomotive crew members and museum volunteers. The event is part of the museum's annual Coalfields Steam weekend. The public is welcome to view the ceremony at the Richmond Vale Railway Museum, 262 Leggetts Drive, Richmond Vale. Admission to the museum is \$16.00 adults, \$11.00 concession, \$7.50 children 5-15 years, with children under 5 free. Unlimited steam train rides are included in the admission charge.

Locomotive ROD 23 in service on J & A Brown's Richmond Vale Railway Photo: Ron Selems from the Bob Brewer collection



Art exhibition inspires creativity

Cessnock Regional Art Gallery's recently opened art exhibition *Local Artist Uncovered* is proving to be one that inspires creativity in its visitors.

The exhibition displays a large body of work stemming from a year-long creative journey of Marc Brabander, a local business owner who manages Cessnock Print Place and BINK Creative. Marc took pen and brush to paper every day for one year. The works on display in the gallery are presented in an accessible and inclusive manner, with every art piece having a background story.

Comments from visitors indicate that this is an exhibition that inspires and connects. Walking through the exhibition, you cannot but help become aware of a humanity that is flowing through the artworks. The descriptions under each of the artworks gives insight into the artist at work.

Young kids and adults alike are inspired to spend some time at the drawing station that is setup in the gallery for the duration of the exhibition – it makes this an exciting art space where creativity is encouraged and appreciated. It all goes hand in hand with the regular art classes the gallery holds within its art space. Visitors to the *Local Artist Uncovered* exhibition leave upbeat by their visit, expressing a positive experience, and one that inspires. The *Local Artist Uncovered* is open every day from 10am-4pm (except Mondays) until 2 July. The artist, Marc Brabander, will also be present in the gallery on Sunday 4 June and 18 June from 1-3pm. *Art After Hours* – an informal get together where the



artist delves deeper into art on display in the gallery and how it came into existence – 29 June from 5.30pm.

To find out when art classes are held in the gallery, please check the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery website www.crag.net.au

For further information on the activities at the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery: www.crag.net.au info@crag.net.au

'Vale' Ted Rockett

Rohan and Kendall wish to thank extended family and friends who came together for the funeral of our father and friend, Ted Rockett, late of Branxton, on 25/5/17. Special thanks go to Steve and Christian Furner, for arranging the 1956 Chev truck to carry Dad to the Community Hall. Sincere appreciation to Fry Bros. Funerals for their professional care, and to Mrs. Heather Searles, of Branxton for her special poem, which says so much about a man who helped so many people during his 55 years in Branxton. Ted started working in 1962 for Standen's Engineering - a company that used to make Earth Moving equipment right here in Branxton, as a Fitter & Turner, working huge lathes. He also worked as a Diesel Mechanic for Dennis Barnes Earth Moving, and Moores Earth Moving, also Branxton businesses that thrived in the 1970's & 1980's. He helped fix many a traveller's car when they broke down on the highway through town, and made many friends through his mechanical skills with Steam Engines one of his favourite passions. He will be missed by family & friends alike.



TRIVIA NIGHT Invitation to Local Organisations

Branxton Lions Club is holding a Trivia night on Saturday 22 July 2017. The Branxton Golf Club is the venue and trivia commences at 7.00pm.

The Lions Club provides funds to many local and regional organisations, charities, medical research and to people in crisis, so is anticipating good support for the event. Your organisation is invited to participate in the evening by booking a table of 10.

Last year the evening was a fun social experience. Following feedback, we have decided to have easier questions this time around. So come along and assist the Lions Club in its endeavours to support the local community.

The cost is \$100.00 per table of ten and tickets can be obtained by contacting;

Brian Thomas 0417 282 440

Trivia will commence at 7.00pm and the kitchen will be open for meals from 5.00pm. Table groups can also bring nibbles or a plate for supper if desired.

Your response by Friday 23 June, 2017 would be appreciated.

**Many Thanks
Branxton Lions Club**

Locals dig in to save endangered North Rothbury plant

Over 200 critically endangered plants were planted at North Rothbury by the local community, representatives of the Local Wonnarua Peoples the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land in and around North Rothbury, representatives from Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council and staff from National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS), Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on Friday 26 May and Saturday 27 May.

This important translocation event, part of a NSW Government *Saving Our Species* program, aims to boost population numbers of the critically endangered *Persoonia pauciflora*, more commonly known as the North Rothbury Persoonia plant.

The North Rothbury Persoonia is an attractive bright green shrub with small yellow flowers and edible fruit. As the species recovers it will become a valuable food source for native bees, grazing animals and fruit eating birds.

OEH Senior Project Officer Paul Hillier said there are only about 1,000 remaining individuals of this species left in the wild that we know about, this includes about 200 plants from successful translocation events over the past two years.

"We were delighted to host another planting event this year to save this rare plant which is endemic to North Rothbury, with around 90 per cent of all known plants occurring on just four properties," Mr Hillier said.

"This year's translocation occurred in a new area of bushland that is managed by NPWS. As the translocation area is culturally sensitive, we have worked closely with the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council who will be on-hand to oversee the planting.

"After the planting took place, a number of plants were given away to local residents too," Mr Hillier said.

Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, Scientific Officer, Dr Nathan Emery said plant researchers and horticulturists from Mount Annan had carried out research on the plant to learn how to propagate them in order to create cuttings for the translocation.

"As the plant is only found in a very small area, we've carefully taken cuttings from a number of sites to encourage genetic diversity. Staff from the Australian Botanic Garden were on hand to provide basic horticulture tips including how to choose the right soil and when to prune and water," Mr Emery said.

First ever exhibition

In August 2015 'The News' ran a story on Renae Saxby, granddaughter of Cessnock 'Citizen of the Year' recipient Errol Jordan of Branxton, who had taken her grandfathers philanthropic lead & thrown herself into a monumental aid project helping the Nepalese people who suffered a devastating earthquake in April 2015. Renae is still working hard & continuing her aid work in Nepal.

Renae, 32, who lives in Maitland Vale with her husband Mik Lavage, is by profession a photographer, videographer and make-up artist.

She is now taking her photographic journey to the people of the Hunter with her first photographic exhibition in Newcastle.

"Come and snuggle in at the Edwards on a mid winters night and take a photographic journey into cultures far and wide through my eyes," said Renae.

Renae's documentary style of travel portraiture captures the essence of the people and places she visits. This collection features countries such as Nepal, India, Morocco, Cambodia and Turkey and intimately explores the landscapes and the beauty of the people that call these culturally unique places home.

Prints will be available for purchase on the night with a percentage of the sales going to Renae's humanitarian projects 'Footprints in Nepal' which are in loving memory of her brother Daniel. This will allow her to continue building shelters/homes, supplying blankets and food and to support the three orphaned children that she provides for in remote Nepal. Many images you will see on the night are from time spent working on these projects.

When: 14th July 2017

Where: The Edwards, 148 Parry St, Newcastle West NSW 2302)

Renae's work can be seen at www.renaesaxby.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/@renae_saxby

Facebook Page: [Renae Saxby](https://www.facebook.com/RenaeSaxby)

To see more on Renae's projects in Nepal visit www.gofundme.com/rennysaxnepal



■ Renae at the Chuccipati Camp in Kathmandu Nepal where people who lost their homes in the earthquake have been placed - there are about 5000 people living here.....Below: Chuccipati Camp in Kathmandu



\$55,000 Heritage grant to CCC



Cessnock City Council will receive \$55,000 under the NSW Government's Heritage Grants Program, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC announced today.

These grants will be used in conjunction with \$30,000 in funding from Cessnock City Council to maintain and conserve the convict built stone wall known as Ramsey's Leap on Great North Road and assist in funding the services of local heritage advisors and local grant programs.

"Looking after our heritage is everyone's responsibility and communities play an important role in maintaining and promoting local heritage," Mr MacDonald said.

"Our local heritage speaks to our history so it's important to protect, promote and celebrate it."

These grants were awarded across the Local Government Heritage Advisors and Local Heritage Places.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent welcomed the funding announcement, "We are immensely proud of our heritage in the Cessnock Local Government Area, it is what makes our region so special and unique" Cr Pynsent said.

"Additional support from the NSW Government is vital to ensure we maintain the wonderful remnants of the past and keep them vibrant into the future,"

Councils, Aboriginal organisations, peak heritage organisations and owners of heritage items have been awarded a share of \$5.4 million in grant funding as part of the program.

Heritage Minister Gabrielle Upton said almost 220 grants were awarded across the state in consultation with the NSW Heritage Council.

"These successful grant projects will help to continue to preserve and promote our connection with our past," Ms Upton said.

For more information about the projects and the NSW Government's Heritage Grants, see <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/funding/> and to find a National Trust NSW Heritage Festival event, go to <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf/nsw/>.

"The study of the past is the main portal through which culture is acquired."
— Joseph Epstein



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What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

Proposed new Lower Hunter Hospital
As discussed in previous issues I, with about 200 members of the community, attended a public forum last month to discuss all facets of the proposed new Lower Hunter Hospital. It was a 'Q&A' evening with a good representation of the major stakeholders on the panel to answer the questions. One of the major stakeholder, the AMA, did not have a representative there which I thought quite odd. After the forum I contacted the AMA and asked had they been invited along & what was their position on the new Lower Hunter Hospital. A spokesperson for the AMA (NSW) has

answered both questions:-
1. A representative of the AMA was invited to attend but AMA (NSW) did not attend the public meeting because they have been concentrating their efforts on working with the Maitland Medical Staff Council and the Government.

2. The AMA (NSW) has been advocating for a larger hospital with increased staff numbers in Maitland for nearly 20 years & have been working closely with the Medical Staff Council there to provide assistance and advice on dealing with the latest plans to upgrade hospital services in the region. "Maitland deserves a better hospital and this has been the case for a long time & the AMA (NSW) remains open to ideas on how such a necessary and significant upgrade would be achieved. Building the hospital Maitland needs will be an expensive proposition and no funding model should be off the table, provided care can be guaranteed to everyone who needs it," the spokesperson said. A I have said a number of times the funding model is important but as important

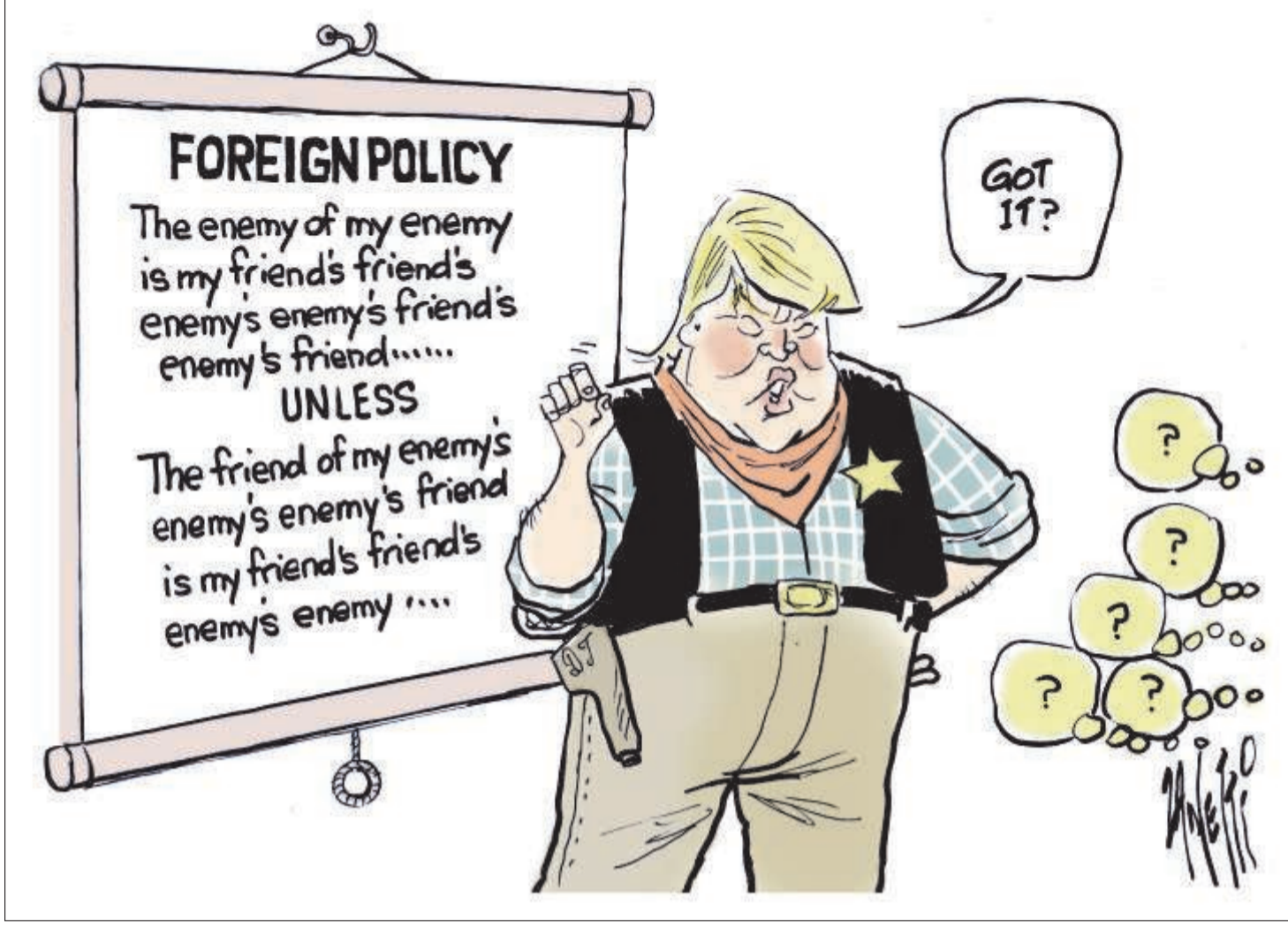
is where it will go. The preferred position is the old PGH site at Metford which has many problems with access from the upper Hunter, flooding & the remedial work required on the site. In a report published in the Maitland Mercury (17 Aug 2015) it

was stated that it could be many years before work begins on the Lower Hunter hospital at Metford due to the extensive remediation work required at the site. The article went on to say that the 40 hectares of Crown land off Metford Road selected for the hospital formerly housed a quarry and brickworks and are part of a

50-hectare parcel that is still under lease to CSR. "While clay mining and brick manufacture ceased on-site more than five years ago, the land must be rehabilitated before the company can be released from the terms of several mining leases blanketing the site. "CSR property manager Andrew Mackenzie said the

company was following statutory requirements to the letter and had a government-approved mine closure plan. "What that entails is reworking the landform, re-vegetating it, care and maintenance and, upon completion of all those things, eventual handover and surrender of the site, which will take many years," he

said. Cessnock City Council has called for a "common sense location" for the new \$400million facility by putting the hospital along the Hunter Expressway as it will provide for the most direct route as the majority of the population boom is on the west side of Maitland.



Men's health Week. 13th-19th June 2017.

Some men will agree with this information while some others will not! That is men need to lift their veil of silence and to express their feelings instead of saying "I'M GOOD" because it's a fact they will talk about cars and sport but are not prepared to discuss the workings of their own body; they think by showing interest to others about their health problems may be a sign of weakness on their part.

Men need to change their way of thinking because it's very important for those men who have health problems that they don't succumb to the temptation by just burying their heads in the sand and pretend that there is nothing wrong. Women on the other hand tend to be more open about their health issues, whereas men will clam up and go about their normal lives denying a problem exists in their defence mechanism against feeling insecure because of their inability to

cope in coming to terms with the issue. This kind of thinking can also manifest itself in other ways often like, keeping their health problem a secret from their family and friends. However, at the end of the day men need to MAN-UP and to except they are not bullet proof and their human bodies at some stage in life may have health issues and to be aware of the consequences and the risk associated by not acting on what their body is telling them. At that point in time men should take heed to those warning signs and consult with their doctor about their concern. NOT next week or the week after attitude, but right away - and take note of all the information that their doctor is telling them also ask question because if they don't ask question they will not receive an answer. "Remember seeking help is not a sign of weakness". You cannot change the past what you have or have not done, but

you are in control of your future. *Barry Preston. - Chairman-Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group. Bellbird. 2325.* Cessnock City wins with Coalition Governments on Road funding Since 2010 the Cessnock Local Government Area has received in excess of \$60 million in road and bridges funding grants. The first big grant was for \$20 Million to rebuild Broke Road, McDonalds Road from Wine Country Drive to the intersection of Hermitage Road in Pokolbin. This has been topped up by a further \$16 million to complete the Broke Road/Hermitage Road intersection and upgrade of Hermitage Road through the New England Highway at Belford. This road also includes a cycle way. This brings Wine Country road works to more than \$36 million. On top of this the State Government has allocated funding to upgrade feeder roads for the Hunter Expressway. Work has

been undertaken on Lovedale Road and Buchanan Road. (While much more needs to be done on both these roads the funding is welcome). Lemmings Corner on the old North Road south of Wollombi has been rebuilt for safer road use. This was under the Federal Government Black Spot program. Funding has also been provided for the rebuild of the intersection at Duffy Drive and Maitland Road Cessnock (yet to start). Many new bridges have been rebuilt due to funding from the Country Bridge Renewal scheme. These include Milgang Bridge at Ellalong, Vermont Bridge at Mulbring, Frame Drive Bridge, Lomas Lane, Crawford Bridge, Congewai, Watagan Creek, Paynes Crossing, Murrays Run and many more. Forster's Bridge on Sandy Creek Road is to be replaced with Government money (\$2 Million) and the latest announcement of a \$4.45 million grant to upgrade Frame Drive adds to the funding from the

current State Government and Federal Government. And further to this there is \$17 million in the pipeline to upgrade Testers Hollow to increase the flood threshold of this road. This all from the Coalition Government into safe Labor seats. *Clr Rod Doherty, Kurri Kurri* National Sorry Day a chance for a fresh start I have called on the Federal Government to address the systemic failures which continue to result in a high incarceration rate of indigenous Australians. In 2015-2016, Indigenous Australians made up just ***3% (three percent) of the Australian population, 27% of the prison population and 55% of the juvenile detention population.** In fact, WA has the second highest number of indigenous Australians in prison (38-percent). This is not a gap. It is a disgrace. We need action not next decade or next year or next month or next week. We need to start today. Let's begin with the illiteracy issue. How many of the youngsters,

mostly male, who are incarcerated around the country, are illiterate? If they are still illiterate when they leave prison, then the system has failed. How many prisoners, especially young prisoners, are released from jail still unable to read and write? I maintain that a suitable standard of judgement for a successful literacy program is that the graduates must reach an educational standard consistent with entering an apprenticeship. Pauline Hanson's One Nation is very strong on apprenticeships. We want State and Territory Governments to subsidise wages in the apprenticeship years to help young Australians, especially young indigenous males and females to graduate as tradies instead of graduating from the 'University of Crime' which is one description of the prison system.

Statistics have been referenced by the Price Waterhouse Coopers Indigenous Consulting report which can be viewed here: <http://unlockthefacts.com.au>. Senator Peter Georgiou for WA

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Big win for Cessnock under Fixing Country Roads' program

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC has announced \$4.45 million in funding to Cessnock City Council as part of the NSW Government's 'Fixing Country Roads' program.

"The funding will be used to upgrade and widen Frame Drive into an 11 metre carriageway from the intersection of Gingers Lane to Orange Street in Abermain" Mr MacDonald said.

This complements the new dual carriageway, concrete bridge replacing the single lane timber bridge on Frame Drive; funded by \$2 million from the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Programme and Cessnock City Council.

The work forms part of a larger plan to create a strong transport route that will eventually connect Cessnock directly to the Hunter Expressway.

"The 'Fixing Country Roads' program involves the NSW Government working with local councils to identify important infrastructure upgrades needed on council-owned and managed roads to improve safety and freight productivity.

"The new bridge and road upgrade will help regional communities deliver better connections to state-owned roads and highways, allowing goods to be transported faster and more efficiently.

"We are committed to providing high quality service to our regional customers and are getting on with the job of providing improvements and upgrades across our freight transport networks," Mr MacDonald said.

Cessnock City Council welcomed the NSW Government announcement of \$4.45 million in funding for Cessnock under the Fixing Country Roads' program. Cessnock City Councillor, Mayor Bob Pynsent thanked the NSW Government for giving them the green tick of approval which will allow for vital upgrades following the replacement of Frame Drive Bridge, Abermain.

"The opening of the new concrete bridge earlier in the year was absolutely fantastic, however with it came a number of other safety issues surrounding access roads".

"We anticipated the return of traffic on Frame Drive Bridge would have a profound impact, as it serves as a major connector road to and from the Hunter Expressway", Cr Pynsent said.

Cessnock City Council appealed to the NSW Government back in February calling for vital upgrades to the access roads.

Mayor Pynsent said he is very pleased their calls have been heard, as the safety of all road users is paramount.

"I share the communities concern about the traffic conditions on these particular roads and we now have the opportunity to address these", Cr Pynsent said.

The funding will be used to address safety concerns; these works will include service relocation, drainage works, pavement improvements, road widening and intersection safety improvements. The extensive works will see crews continue to



remain on site until the project is completed.

Cessnock City Council will continue to work with Roads and Maritime Services in an effort to address other issues along the route, including the Hart Road Interchange of HEX and the Orange Street/Cessnock Road

intersection.

The first two rounds of 'Fixing Country Roads' has so far provided more than \$90 million in funding for 138 projects across Regional NSW.

Photo above: Roads Minister Melinda Pavey with Cessnock City Council Mayor Bob Pynsent

102,118 reasons not to illegal dump



"The funding grant was awarded to help clean up efforts, upgrade security such as fences and gates and install surveillance equipment and signage to deter and identify offenders," Mr MacDonald said.

"These grants support councils, public land managers and community groups to identify local illegal dumping hotspots and implement clean-up and prevention measures." Mayor of Cessnock City Council Bob Pynsent said "We know this has been a hot spot for illegal dumping, and it is

critical we address it to ensure the endangered ecological communities in the area are protected." "This funding will enable us to introduce a variety of measures to stop those wanting to do the wrong thing by limiting access."

Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said this grants program was an important part of the state's push to clean up and prevent illegal dumping. "The NSW Government's commitment is clear - we want to reduce the rate of dumping and help keep our environment clear of rubbish," Ms Upton said.

Cessnock Council and National Parks and Wildlife Services will share in \$264,418 of NSW Government grants to reduce illegal dumping, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC has announced.

The successful grant recipients are:

- Cessnock City Council - \$102,118 for the Cessnock Illegal Dumping Clean Up and Prevention Program in the Loxford RMS/HWC Lands

- National Parks and Wildlife Services (Lower Hunter Area) - \$12,300 for installation of overt surveillance camera on Mount Sugarloaf Road

- National Parks and Wildlife Services (Lower Hunter Area) - \$150,000 to expand the successful illegal dumping prevention program in the Stockrington State Conservation Area to target new hotspots

These programs are funded under the NSW Government's \$337 million Waste Less, Recycle More initiative to help councils and other public land managers to reduce illegal dumping.



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Kangaroo Friend or Foe

There is something very special about this animal that incredibly defies the acceptable laws of motion as it hops from one place to another as a preferred way of travel. This gentle and somewhat genetic misfit of another time, amazes all Australians who stop and stare whenever he bounds by on his pogo stick locomotion that hasn't as yet invited the curiosity of science for whatever reason..

Motorists in the cool cocoon of a spatially comfortable conditioned air zip through myriad miles to journey far, their mind numbing music blandly audible above the whine of tyres and a motor battling heat, never seem to notice in their cool isolation the confronting sight of another roadside kangaroo kill with its hair and broken body bits rolled thin by the wheels of many passers by.

We are concerned just a little but nonchalantly press the throttle firmer to the floor showing the indifference of a lukewarm public sympathy that says nothing and worries less about a pest that probably deserves what it gets. Platitudes about its place as our national symbol doesn't convince the world we have a genuine commitment towards the plight of this creature even though it's one of the world's more significant and unique animals.

When kangaroos are bought as a toy something will foster long in the mind of every child's memory, such as why is it granted status on every fluttering Aussie flag, stands proudly tall on the tailplane of every Qantas jet, is three corner stamped on every Australian made goods or is proudly worn on the chest of every football hero travelling overseas, but sadly remains tomorrow's dog meat on many a butcher's hook, an ambivalence that spells a whole lot of contradiction.

Kangaroos fortunate or unfortunate whatever the case maybe, have successfully survived on this great land mass, free of serious predators (except man), populated its vastness with numbers that fluctuate seasonally and die of starvation when drought and desolation spell another part to its hell. If the success of its survival has been its own undoing, does our indifference tragically reduce its worth other than in the sights of a hunter's gun, 'reasoning free roaming animals are fair game and should be treated as such'.

Almost every day we drive the broad miles where many a grim scene of kangaroo right before our eyes lying in the middle of the road, not tall as in upright stance but rolled thin like a flattened mat, its life blood spilt wide on the black bitumen of another gory red canvas, where crows in celebratory mood gather undertaker like to feast on such opportunity. I have concerns, do you?

© norm cruickshank 02



Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

I sincerely hope this latest funding announcement foreshadows more to come, and is a signal that the eyes of Macquarie Street are firmly focused in our direction.

Cheers, Sue



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

FROM THE MAYORS DESK



Last week I had the pleasure of Cessnock East Public School presenting their special guide to the Hunter Valley, at the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre. This is a brilliant initiative that saw year 5 and 6 students working alongside community partners to develop the one of a kind guide to the Hunter Valley. The 35 page a book titled 'Are we there yet? A trip around the Hunter' took around one year to collate. The publication aims to assist families in getting the most out of what the Hunter Valley has to offer.

Congratulations to the students, teachers, parents and local businesses who were involved. This collaborative approach to learning certainly enriches our young people's schooling experience and further celebrates our rich local culture. The Hunter Valley Legends Awards were held last week, an important event recognising vignerons in our region. Congratulations to Ian Tinkler who has been installed as the 2017 Living Legend and to all the other local vignerons receiving accolades.

This week marks National Reconciliation Week which is held annually between 27 May and 3 June, this year's theme is 'Let's take the next steps'. This is a very important event for the entire community as it raises awareness, and builds on understanding and relationships.

The celebration of this event with an Elders Morning Tea follows the completion of Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which provides Council with a framework and vision for reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The one year plan listed 13 actions that were completed during 2016. Council is now beginning to plan for its next Reconciliation Action Plan, the Innovate RAP. I am very pleased to announce further upgrades will be occurring on Frame Drive, Abermain following the NSW Government announcement of \$4.45 million in funding for Cessnock under the Fixing Country Roads' program. We look forward to getting underway with these vital safety upgrades.

I am happy to report this week we have completed line marking works along Gingers Lane and commenced works on Frame Drive, Abermain. We have now completed upgrades to the Watagan Creek Bridge number one and Stockyard Creek Bridge. In particular it was a fantastic effort to get the rehabilitation works finished at Watagan Creek Bridge, with minimal disruption to road users seeing staff work around the clock.

Cheers, Bob

There was plenty to take inspiration from at the Mayoral Scholarships presentation ceremony last Tuesday night.

As well as providing a total of \$10,000 in financial assistance to students as they embark on their career journeys, the program highlighted the talents and achievements of young people right here in our community, and even more importantly, their drive to succeed.

The aspirations of this year's scholarship recipients are wonderfully diverse, covering a range of professions and vocations from public relations and community services, to a qualified mobile plant mechanic.

We even have a future Minister for Agriculture in our midst. It's a fantastic acknowledgment of the opportunities available to people in Singleton, and that the sky really is the limit to what people in our local government area can and do achieve.

But we all know dreams don't come cheap, and the program is also a reinforcement of how our community pulls together to support each other. The Mayoral Scholarships program would not happen at all without the commitment of local businesses and industries, and I congratulate Blackwoods, Yancoal, Coal and Allied and Hunter Resource Recovery for joining with us at Council to support the future leaders of Branxton and the wider local government area.

I can assure you it was no easy task to determine this year's scholarship recipients from a vast and very competitive field of applicants, and all would be worthy ambassadors for Singleton.

It gives me a great deal of pride to again congratulate Daven (Daven) Patton, Simone Burrows, Ella Palmer, Jami Street, Hannah Smoothy and Emma Parrey as this year's scholarship recipients, and I look forward to seeing them develop their careers as they go on to be leaders in our community. I'd also like to congratulate everyone who applied to the program this year. With such an abundance of talent and sheer drive to succeed among us, we can all rest assured that the future of Singleton, and indeed further afield, is in very good hands.

There was even more good news last week that Council had received \$300,000 for improvements to the truck wash at Singleton Regional Livestock Market, announced by Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen.

The funding comes from the Nationals in Government's Fixing Country Truck Washes program, designed to enhance the safety and productivity of truck wash-out facilities as well as provide environmental benefits across regional NSW, with applicants asked to demonstrate their upgraded facility could lawfully dispose of, or sustainably reuse, collected waste water.

The truck wash will no doubt make Singleton a calling card for truck operators as they travel the major highways of the eastern seaboard, reinforcing yet again the importance of our area to the NSW economy.

Raising the BARR

A part of my role in Parliament is to have the most amazing conversations with various groups that offer up a pretty good, at times odd, range of topics. This all helps to shape policy and direction and priorities. Just a few weeks ago, in Parliament House, I had a very interesting conversation with a representative of the business community about tax. Can I clarify before I start; I have absolutely no problem with people wanting to pay less tax, regardless of whether they are big or small business or just Joe Citizen. In fact, it would be un-Australian to not complain about tax. The great challenge from a political perspective is that without tax, the Government can offer no services whatsoever, which is just as bad for business as it is for the citizens. Let's imagine there were no tax. Surely we would be all better off. Imagine how wonderful our life would be without health care, education, the police, the courts and law and order. Imagine having no roads to drive on, no sporting facilities and no environmental protections. There could be no market, no shopping district, no industry and no hygiene or services provided, because law and order, regulations and inspections of services would not happen and no business would be safe. Your wages would not be guaranteed or a minimum value on your work set. I think to myself, what a wonderful world. Not!

I asked the gentleman in question to think about how his business taxes help pay for police and the rule of law which ensures that his property, his product and his finances are kept safe. I asked him to think about the transport networks which allow him to get his products in and to ship his products out. I asked him to think about the education that is provided to the masses so that he has a workforce. I asked him to think about the wage conditions of the broader population, enshrined and enforced by tax funded Governments, and the fact that they are paid fairly and reasonably so that they have the money to spend in his business. Of course, he conceded all of this - he was entirely aware and did not need me to point any of this out. So the question is this - if we pay less tax, what do we do less of? Or, if we pay more tax, what would we like that spent on? But, tax itself is essential and good.

* * * * *

For enquiries regarding the State Government or its departments, or to put you in contact with someone who can, please contact my office. My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au

Cheers Clayton

I have welcomed a commitment of \$6.5 million by Optus to upgrade mobile coverage in the Hunter Valley.

The investment will improve 3G and 4G mobile coverage and performance in the Lower and Upper Hunter regions, including along the New England and Golden Highways. In the past 12 months more than \$5 million has been invested to build 10 new sites and upgrade 14 existing sites.

New sites switched on include Millfield, Singleton CBD, Singleton North, Singleton South, Muswellbrook CBD, Muswellbrook South and Mount Thorley. Upgrades have been made to a number of existing locations to boost 4G coverage in Branxton, Denman and Pokolbin. Work has also started on the \$1.5 million second stage to identify sites that will boost coverage and capacity in Branxton, Aberdeen and along the New England Highway and build further resiliency into the network.

"Optus' development is a good thing for Hunter residents, businesses and visitors. It not only extends coverage, it also encourages competition between carriers to provide further improved mobile service and coverage.

If we are to bridge the divide between the city and bush, the delivery of high quality communications services to rural and regional Australia is key. Meanwhile, Optus Network Manager, Vin Mullins said the growing demand for mobile services is why Optus is investing to improve mobile coverage in regional Australia.

He said reliable telecommunications services are vital to a number of local sectors including agribusiness, resources and tourism. Our investment demonstrates our commitment to providing real choice and competition for business and industry in the Hunter. As part of the investment, Optus is particularly focused on adding additional capacity to the network to support local businesses.

Cheers Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP, Upper Hunter

The NSW government has so far secured nearly \$1 million in annual rent income to spend on improving the social housing system as a result of tenants coming forward to declare undisclosed income, assets, property ownership and unauthorised

occupants under the protection of an amnesty.

Since the amnesty - run by the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) - began last month, more than 5000 calls have been received as public housing, Aboriginal Housing Office tenants and members of the public make declarations or third party allegations.

Declarations can still be made to FACS without punishment until June 11. We are only half way through this amnesty and substantial gains in extra rent have already been made across the state. During the amnesty period tenants or members of the public can provide declarations or information anonymously 24 hours, 7 days a week by filling out our form online at www.facs.nsw.gov.au/amnesty, contacting 1800 422 322 or emailing amnesty2017@facs.nsw.gov.au.

Since the 2011 State Election, which saw the Liberal-Nationals Coalition form Government, the Nationals in Government have commenced or delivered \$1 billion worth of projects for our local Upper Hunter Electorate roads.

As a Member of the NSW Government, I am proud of what we have been able to achieve for Upper Hunter as a Coalition Government, both before and now during my time as your local Member, so each week I will be listing one of these funding achievements, and this week I highlight the pavement rebuilding on the Golden Highway west of Merriwa, which is valued at \$3.946 million.

I will keep you updated on road funding announcements and projects that are being undertaken by the Nationals in Government which benefit the roads and traffic in your local community.

I encourage not for profit providers of out of school hours care to apply for grants to expand or establish new services to provide flexible options for working families in the Upper Hunter Electorate.

The announcement of the expansion to the criteria for the \$20 million Before and After School Care Fund is a great opportunity for not for profits to apply for the \$30,000 grants.

Many families in Upper Hunter Electorate rely on before and after school care to juggle work and other commitments. Opening the fund to not-for-profit service providers means extra support to help community spaces offer out of school hours care and ease the burden in areas of high demand. Every school community in the Upper Hunter has different needs and these changes will have real benefits in areas where schools don't have the capacity to establish or further expand services on site.

Grants from the fund can be used for site modification and fit-out costs, project management, or to pay for necessary equipment to support new or expanded services.

As part of these changes it is also now possible for community organisations to pool their resources and prepare a joint proposal.

Since 2011, the NSW Government has spent more than \$1.6 billion in Early Childhood Education, investing \$382 million this financial year alone.

For more information, visit the Department of Education website at www.dec.nsw.gov.au/our-services/children-and-youth/out-of-hours-school-care-grant.

Cheers, Michael

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May 2017 NSW Variety Bash



BRANXTON'S favourite publican Mick Starkey has just completed his 10 years involvement with the NSW Variety Bash & in that time he & co-pilot Tony have raised just over \$300,000.

His latest 'Bash', which ended on the 27th May 2017, commenced in Newcastle and then headed to Muswellbrook via Gilgandra, Cowra, Narrandera, Barrandera, Yass, Bathurst & Lue.

Over that week they managed to raise over \$8000.

The 'Bash' was started by well known Australian businessman &

philanthropist Dick Smith in 1985 after he organised a group of people to travel from Sydney to Bourke & from there to Burketown in Northern Queensland.

"Dick wanted to take a few mates for a drive through the outback in old cars & at the same time raise some money for

charity.

"That first event raised \$250,000 & was known as the 'Bourke to Burketown Bash'.

"Since the original 'Bash' the iconic event has grown in popularity & now takes place in every Australian state & territory & has raised over \$250million since the inaugural event," said Mick. Variety – the Children's Charity is a national not-for-profit organisation &, as it states, is committed to empowering Australian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to live, laugh and learn. By giving practical equipment, programs and experiences, Variety helps children in need to overcome whatever obstacles they face and live life to the fullest – simply put, they help kids be kids.

"When you donate your money or time, you want to make sure the people who need it most are receiving it. "I'm happy to say that all of the net

funds raised are spent on our core programs.

"Variety NSW currently has three core programs— Freedom, Future Kids and Caring for Kids—and it's through these programs that we deliver a unique range of goods and services to support the specific needs of children, across a diverse spectrum of physical, emotional and financial needs," said Mick.

"Variety provides grants to individuals and organisations for a great number of items such as special wheelchairs, communication devices, wheelchair vehicle modifications, special play equipment, Liberty Swings, Sunshine Coaches and much more.

"All purchases and grants for equipment and services are made directly by Variety to ensure that every dollar gets through to where it is needed most," said Mick.

Photos - Above right: Dick Smith after the first 'Bash' in 1985 Above left: Mick & Tonys' EK Holden ute used in their latest Bash.

PHARMACY ADVISOR



Lee Grundy, Pharmacist & proprietor of Branxton Pharmacy

Australia. It tends to be more active during summer.

Favourite hiding spots include: bedding, towels or clothes left on the floor, nooks and crannies, beneath mulch, leaves and rocks & beneath tree bark.

Symptoms of a white tailed spider bite

Bites can occur anywhere on the body, but most often on arms and legs. The symptoms of a white tailed spider bite can include: localised irritation, such as a stinging or burning sensation, a small lump, localised itchiness, swelling, discolouration of the skin, ulceration of the bite (in some cases) & nausea and vomiting (in some cases).

First aid for a white tailed spider bite

Always try to keep the spider for identification purposes if you have been bitten. First aid suggestions to treat a white tailed spider bite include: Apply an icepack to help relieve swelling & See your doctor if the skin starts to blister or ulcerate.

Necrotising arachnidism

Necrotising arachnidism is a type of skin inflammation and ulceration that is caused by the bite of some spiders. Occasionally, the reaction is so severe that the person loses

large amounts of skin and needs extensive skin grafts.

The white tailed spider and the black house spider, also found in Australia, have both been linked to necrotising arachnidism. However, a study published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* in 2003 examined 130 confirmed cases of white tailed spider bites and found that none had caused necrotising arachnidism. The study found most bites happened indoors, in warmer months and at night. In two thirds of cases, the spider was caught in bedclothes, towels or clothing. Most bites were painful, with some redness and itching. Nearly half the cases had a persistent, painful red lesion, but none of the lesions were found to be necrotic. There is no confirmed cause of necrotising arachnidism. It is

unclear why most people who are bitten have only mild reactions, while a very tiny minority suffers from skin ulceration. Researchers are divided, but current theories on the causes of necrotising arachnidism include: Mistaken identity – some researchers believe that white tailed spider bites aren't capable of causing skin ulceration and suggest that other spiders or other factors are to blame & misdiagnosis – in rare cases, a diagnosis of necrotising arachnidism has later been found to be another condition.

Pre-existing medical conditions – various immune system disorders or problems with the circulatory system may predispose a person to necrotising arachnidism.

Necrotic lesions
Localised skin breakdown, loss and death (necrotic lesions) can be caused by a range of other factors, including: poor blood circulation (one of the most common causes of leg ulcers), unmanaged diabetes, some fungal infections, some bacterial infections & burns, such as chemical burns.

Treatment for necrotising arachnidism

There is no cure for necrotising arachnidism. Treatment includes: medications – including antibiotics and cortisone medication (corticosteroids), hyperbaric oxygen therapy – oxygen delivered at higher than usual intensity and pressure & surgery – the dead skin is removed and a skin graft applied.

Pest control treatment for white tailed spiders

Most white tailed spider bites occur inside the home where the spiders are found in bedding, towels or clothing. White tailed spiders prey on other spiders, and may help to control the population of other venomous spiders. You can control white tailed spiders in the house by clearing rooms of the webs of other spiders that attract the white tailed spider. If you are concerned about spiders in the home, contact a qualified pest control operator.

Cheers, Lee

Welcome to new Chair

On 23 March 2017 Lindy Hyam, ex-GM of Singleton Council, was appointed as the new Chair of Hunter Local Land Services. Since then she's been getting to know our staff and board and discussing the current issues affecting landholders in our region.

"One of my first priorities when I took on this role was to visit all of our Hunter region offices and meet with staff. I've been thoroughly impressed by their passion and professionalism and their commitment to the work we do."

"I've also been working closely with our board on plans to strengthen the focus of our organisation. We're establishing an Agriculture Production and Protection committee and a Healthy Landscapes committee, which will assist us in providing strategic direction for Hunter Local Land Services."

In recent months Lindy has met with the regional Chairs of Local Land Services to discuss the strategic direction for the organisation and has also met with Australian NRM organisation Chairs about the National Landcare Programme.

Photo: New Chair of Hunter Local Land Services Lindy Hyam



Slow Cooker Spicy Beef Curry Stew

- 1 pinch salt and pepper to taste
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh ginger
- 1 fresh jalapeno, diced
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1 (400g) tin diced tomatoes with juice
- 1 onion, sliced and quartered
- 1 cup (250ml) beef stock



Directions

Preparation:15min > Cook:8hours > Ready in:8hours15min

1. Heat the olive oil in a frypan over medium heat, and brown the beef on all sides. Remove from frypan reserving juices and season with salt and pepper. Cook and stir the garlic, ginger and jalapeno in the frypan for 2 minutes until tender, and season with curry powder. Mix in the diced tomatoes and juice.

2. Place the onion in the bottom of a slow cooker and layer with the browned beef. Scoop the frypan mixture into the slow cooker and mix in the beef stock.

3. Cover and cook 6 to 8 hours on Low.

This hearty, spicy beef stew is only for those that can handle the heat. I prefer to make it in the slow cooker, but it can be made on the stove top also. Great served over mashed potatoes or rice

Ingredients
Serves: 4

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 500g chuck steak or skirt steak



Report

consumerfraudsaustralia@gmail.com. It is not an ACORN email address. Fraud and Cybercrime Squad Commander, Detective Superintendent Arthur Katsogiannis, said the community should always be wary of unsolicited emails and phone calls.

Stolen vehicle/recovered after being set alight:
Between 05:00 and 15:30 on Wednesday 24 May 2017 vehicle 1999 WHITE HYUNDAI EXCEL SEDAN, was parked and secured at the stated location being Wine Country Drive, Branxton. Unknown person/s have stolen the vehicle by unknown means and method. About 11:30pm on the 24th of May 2017, Police attended bushland off Wollombi Road, Bellbird and sighted the VEH. The VEH was earlier consumed by fire and extinguished by the RFS.

Police issue scam warning for fake ACORN emails – SCC Fraud & Cybercrime Squad

“Scammers are continuing to create new and innovative ways to scam innocent victims, which includes pretending to be officials trying to help, like in this scam,” Det Supt Katsogiannis said.

“Always check the sender’s email address – Australian Government agencies will always end in ‘.gov.au’ and you can usually check for official corporate email addresses at the relevant websites. “Another important tip is to check the spelling and grammar, that’s often an easy way to pick scam mail.

“If you receive a suspicious email, do not respond. Our advice remains the same, no matter the scam – *report it*. You can report to police or ACORN at any time,” Det Supt

Katsogiannis said. For updated information on current scams and hoaxes, visit Scamwatch:

www.scamwatch.gov.au.

Police are urging anyone with information in relation to this incident to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page:

<https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au/> Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. We remind people they should not report crime information via our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Alternatively, information can be reported to ACORN:

<https://report.acorn.gov.au/>

Police are warning the community about fake emails targeting people who may have previously reported information about online scams. The email purports to be from the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN) and apologises to the recipient about losing funds to a scammer before providing a case file number and advising a representative would be in contact shortly to gather further information. The sender’s email address is

HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

NEW 2017/18 Membership Prospectus for the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA)

The HVWTA will launch its new 2017/18 Membership Prospectus next week. The HVWTA has listened to its members and has revised this year’s categories that reflect a more flexible structure where some members can pick and

choose the initiatives they wished to be involved in. In a cluttered and complicated marketplace, the HVWTA will narrow its focus and sharpen its message to reach our key segments and conjure a decision to visit the region. We need to make the most of our distinct competitive advantages to other regions and ensure continued visitation and yield growth in all sectors of the marketplace. The past 12 months have seen over 1.4 million people visit Hunter Valley Wine Country and contributing an estimated \$594 million to the local economy and over 2600 jobs. We recognise the opportunity to grow mid-week and off-peak visitation to the region, where the Conference and International Markets have the greatest potential to deliver an increase in visitation. The HVWTA team will be visiting areas in Wine Country in June to discuss the new Membership Prospectus and encourage you to check in with your Precinct and/or Chambers on the scheduled

visits or contact the HVWTA direct.
Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival – Don’t miss the final month!
There’s no better time to take in the delights of Australia’s premium wine-growing region than the 2017 Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival, presented by Wine Selectors. In its final month of June, the Festival showcases the epicurean pleasures of this iconic food and wine destination, and offers the perfect journey of discovery through the stunning region. From incredible gourmet dinners at award-winning restaurants to vineyard tours, winemaking masterclasses, hands-on cooking classes and cosy evenings beside an open fire with friends, the Festival has something for everyone. Experience the incredible hospitality of the Hunter

Valley at some of the ever-popular signature events, the Cheese Lovers Festival, the Hunter Valley Wine Festival, By The Fireside Winemakers Series at Hunter Valley Resort, the Semillon, and the Meet the Farmer Dinner at Margan Wines. As well as other unique experiences including Shiraz and Cheese Matching Experience at De Iullis Wines, Ridgeview’s Ocean to Paddock Winemaker’s Dinner, a decadent chocolate, cabernet and cold drip experience at Pepper Tree Wines showcasing their award winning Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, Cuvee chocolate and Contango Espresso-Roasters cold drip coffee and Tulloch’s Mystery Wine Tour. Visit winecountry.com.au for more information.

Taking the next steps together!

Cessnock City Council was proud to host an Elders Morning Tea to mark National Reconciliation Week which is held annually between 27 May and 3 June.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said it was a very important occasion for the community and he was glad to see it well attended.

“Auntie Cynthia did a wonderful Welcome to Country, explaining the importance of Aboriginal languages, telling us about her story as a Gringai-Wonnarua woman, and helping us understand what National Reconciliation Week is really all about.”

“It was a special experience and feeling to hear Uncle Perry Fuller sharing the stories of his people through the music of a Yidaki,” Cr Pynsent said.

“Reconciliation is about recognising the wrongs, recognising we cannot be separated from who we are including our language and means of communication”, Auntie Cynthia said.

The Elders Morning Tea also saw the launch of educational postcards and the ‘Put your Hand Up’ for NAIDOC poster campaign. Anyone interested in becoming involved in the ‘Put Your Hand Up’ for NAIDOC poster campaign can contact Jo Miller on 4993 4258 or jo.miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au. Cessnock City Council received \$5,000 of funding for National Reconciliation Week from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Freemasons support homeless charity

The Freemasons of the Hunter Valley, in lodges stretching from East Maitland to Scone and south to Paxton, are working to support Marli Accommodation Services, a Maitland-based charity supporting homeless men.

Marli is presently working to establish a centre for crisis accommodation, counselling, education, and training in the former Currency Lass Hotel in Maitland.

“To assist in this project, the Hunter Valley lodges have been running a series of fundraising events,” said Mark Pollard, District Grand Inspector for the Hunter Valley.

“The latest of these is a dinner-dance, to be held at Maitland City Bowling Club on Saturday June 17.”

The evening, which commences at 6.30pm, will be comprised of a two-course dinner, with entertainment by the Rusty Harper Celtic band, raffles and auctions.

The guest list is to be headed by the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT, Most Worshipful Brother Jamie Melville and his wife Yuana. Other local and masonic dignitaries will be in attendance.

Members of the public who wish to support this charitable event are most welcome. Tickets can be booked by contacting District Secretary Ray Leggett on 0418 850064.



Photo at right: Mark Pollard, District Grand Inspector for the Hunter Valley



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13 th Aug 2017	11 Day WA Tour	\$4840
26 th Aug 2017	9 Day Margaret River	\$3690
18 th Sept 2017	5 Day Stanthorpe Tour	\$1050
25 th Sept 2017	11 Day Tassie Tour	\$3480

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CATHOLIC PARISH BRANXTON & SINGLETON

BRANXTON-GRETA PARISH MASS TIMES

Wednesday 6.00pm Mass St Catherine's Church Greta
(1st Weds Anointing Mass)

Thursday 9.20am Mass St Brigid's Church Branxton

Saturday 4.30pm Reconciliation and 5pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton

Sunday 8am Mass St Catherine's Church Greta

SINGLETON PARISH MASS TIMES

Tuesday 6.00pm 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 (4th Friday Anointing Mass)

Saturday 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton

2nd Saturday 5pm Mass Broke

4th Saturday 5pm Mass Glendonbrook

Sunday 7am, 10am and 5pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton

Real News Estate

POSTPONED

Consumers win with review of Fire and Emergency Services Levy delayed

The decision by the NSW Government to defer the introduction of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL) was the only option, according to REINSW. REINSW President John Cunningham said the new levy was unfair and bad for the NSW Economy. He explained: "The fire levy was more like a new form of land tax. "It was based on the

unimproved value of property which has nothing to do with the cost of running our Fire Services as opposed to the insurance levy being based on replacement value of the structure. "The levy would have left a large number of households worse off and also affected commercial and industrial businesses. This would have had significant consequences for all

residents of NSW including our most vulnerable in the community. "We lobbied hard on this issue and it is great to see that the NSW Government has listened to us. We look forward to working with the Premier to ensure that the correct policy is put in place in the future. "Other essential services in NSW including police and health services are funded through consolidated revenue and REINSW will encourage the NSW Government to explore this source of funding for Fire and Emergency Services." The NSW Government said in a statement on Tuesday (30 May 2017) until they complete their review the Fire and Emergency Services Levy will continue to be collected via insurance policies.

First home buyers given a reprieve on NSW Stamp Duty

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC has announced a comprehensive package of measures which will give first homebuyers in the a fair go at owning their own home by significantly reducing stamp duty and providing more housing choice.

Mr MacDonald announced the reforms with NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian as part of the Premier's commitment for all hard working residents in NSW to be able to aspire to own their own home. These far reaching changes could save first homebuyers up to \$34,360.

"While there are no easy solutions when it comes to housing affordability, residents who are saving to own their own home in the Hunter will benefit greatly from these reforms." Mr MacDonald said.

"One of the biggest hurdles for first homebuyers in the Hunter is stamp duty. That is why we will abolish stamp duty for all first home buyers in the Hunter on properties costing up to \$650,000 and discount stamp duty for first homebuyers on existing homes up to \$800,000. These changes will provide savings of up to \$24,740." "We are also changing the rules around foreign investment. By doubling the foreign investor surcharge, we are putting local families first.

"To better meet demand, we also need more homes built throughout Sydney. The Government will enable this with faster approvals for well-designed homes that maintain the local character of our community together with simplified planning rules. "We also need improved infrastructure to support our

new housing, so we will provide support to local councils to deliver more local infrastructure and access to \$3 billion from Government, Councils and developers." Mr MacDonald said. "These are just some of the measures we are introducing to give local

Calls for a rethink on deductions

first homebuyers a fair go." The Federal Government should reconsider changes announced in the 2017 Budget to allowable deductions for investment property related to depreciation and travel to inspect property, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA). REIA President Malcolm Gunning said: "Whilst REIA supports the curbing of abuse of deductions, these two initiatives are contrary to the principles of a good tax system and the ATO has existing means for addressing abuses and excesses. "One of these principles is neutrality which in essence means that two tax payers in similar circumstances should be treated the same. "These initiatives are contrary to this principle with the budget initiative of not allowing for travel to

inspect residential investment property meaning that an investor who owns a commercial investment property can claim deductions for their annual site inspection travel costs but an investor who owns a residential property cannot.

"As the ATO itself points out on its website there are many valid reasons why an owner of investment property would incur costs travelling to a residential rental property. "Whilst abuses and excesses should be eliminated there are other ways of achieving this through the ATO. The ATO has a myriad of information available to identify questionable claims. Conversely it will adversely impact those tax payers who are not abusing the system.

"Ironically these changes will do nothing to improve affordability in Sydney and Melbourne and indeed it may make it worse as investors in these two cities are discouraged from investing in locations other than their home towns. "Anecdotal evidence is indicating that as Sydney and Melbourne prices have increased investors are turning to non-metropolitan locations. This regional investment brings employment for a multitude of regional services. This measure will put a brake on this trend. "Regarding the proposal to

restrict depreciation claims to items purchased and installed in the property by the claiming taxpayer, REIA believes, like travel, it doesn't treat the investor buying a property that is 12 months old the same as one buying a new property. "The ATO has monitored this area and has the ability to identify abuses and excesses and deal with them. We believe it will distort the market by making properties that are not new less desirable, and the impact on affordability is questionable and may even worsen affordability as existing investors hold on to their property and new investors push up the price of new property which are currently showing signs of easing. "These changes appear to be more about politics than good policy."

New Record

The number of new home completions in Sydney in the year to February 2017, have broken the previous record high set in 1971. A total of 35,871 new homes were completed in the Greater Sydney area, surpassing the previous 12-month record of 35,687. Home approvals in NSW have also hit historic highs with 74,217 approved in the 12 months to March 2017. This is more than double the 35,697 homes approved in the same period in 2011.

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No time wasted; Waste Transfer Station well underway

Construction of the new Waste Transfer Station at the Cessnock Waste Management Centre is well underway with it on track to be operational early in the new financial year. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said residents who have been on site during the last few months would have noticed the progress. "Construction is past the half way point with all earthworks complete, stormwater infrastructure in place, road pavements nearing completion and all major structural elements erected". Cessnock City Council's Manager of Environment

and Waste Michael Alexander said he is pleased to see a lot of community interest around the building of the new facility. "This is a very important upgrade that will see our community have access to a modern, safer and more convenient service". "We thank our customers for their patience during the upgrade and very much look forward to opening up in a few months", Mr Alexander said. Minor interruptions to normal services may be experienced over the weekend of 3 of June 2017 as upgrades around the existing weigh bridge are carried out.

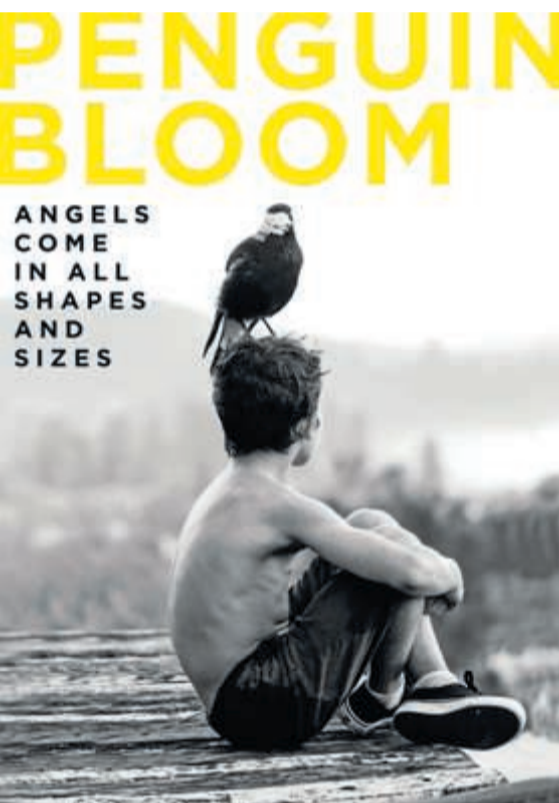
Residents may experience some delays and queuing. Cessnock City Council thanks the community for their patience during the construction phase. For more information on the project visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/waste/newtransferstationwaste-managementcentre>.

Photo at right: Cessnock City Council staff from the Design and Delivery team and the Waste and Environment Team, Mayor Bob Pynsent and representatives from Daracon



Author Event of the Year:

"Penguin Bloom: the odd little bird who saved a family" with Sam & Cameron Bloom



Who is Penguin Bloom? Penguin is the most famous magpie in the world that became an international social media sensation after befriending the Bloom family from Sydney's Northern Beaches and helping them cope with a tragic accident.

Not long before meeting Penguin, Sam Bloom suffered a fall that left her body paralyzed, her spirit broken and her family reeling. Shortly after the accident one of Sam's sons found tiny Penguin, who had herself fallen out of her nest and was in desperate need of help to survive. The Blooms nursed Penguin back to health, and through the journey healed some of the tears left by Sam's accident.

Join Sam and Cameron Bloom in person for an insightful discussion around the compelling and unique story of "Penguin Bloom" with all proceeds raised being donated to Spinal Cure Australia.

Cessnock Library is proud to partner with the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre and Kelman Vineyard to present this unmissable author event.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent is encouraging the community to support this event. "People all over the world have fallen in love with the stunning and deeply personal images of this rescue bird and her human family. They have been inspired by this story of extraordinary hope and resilience", Cr Pynsent said.

What: Author event with Sam Bloom and Cameron Bloom

When: Saturday 17 June 2017 | 2pm

Where: Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Cost & Booking: \$10 adult | \$5 child (cash only) – payable at the door. All proceeds will be donated to Spinal Cure Australia. To reserve your place phone CPAC on 4993 4266. Book purchase and author signing on the day. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided plus a wine tasting by Kelman Vineyard.

GO TO PAGE 16 FOR REVIEW OF PENGUIN BLOOM

Advertisement








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Price reduced!



NORTH ROTHBURY Sophisticated!!!! Jewel Box Bush Cottage



“Airy” & “Open”

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



A must to inspect **NEGOTIABLE**

ASKING \$280,000



NORTH ROTHBURY

Lots 521, 523 & 524 Littlewood Road, North Rothbury. Vacant blocks

4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks. Fenced with power to boundary. Within minutes to Hunter Wine Country

ASKING: \$420,000 each



JUST LISTED



BRANXTON

Excellent family home in very popular street

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.

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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



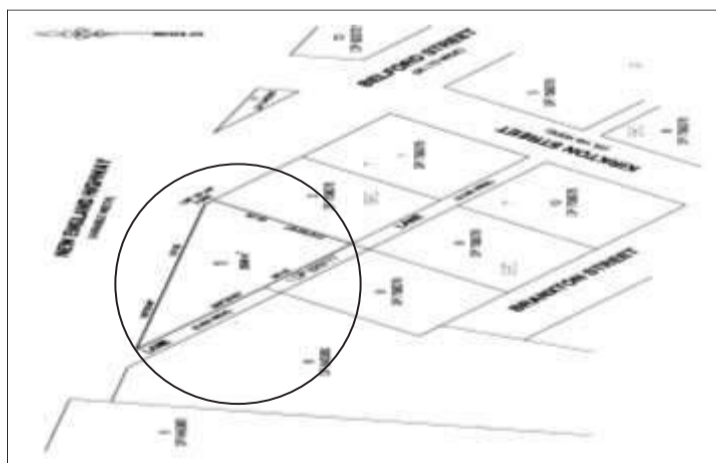
BRANXTON

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 ~ 2559m²

Vacant Land with building approved
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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 28th May 2017

their second. The try was converted and the Rams let 10-0 after 7 minutes. Things went from bad to worse for the Colts as the Rams ran in 2 more tries in the following 8 minutes off the back of some tiring Colts defence to lead 20-0 after 15 minutes. The Colts dug their heels in and were determined not to let the score line blow out and after repelling multiple waves of Rams attack the score remained 20-0 at half time.

Half time did not seem to do the home team any favours with the Rams coming out full of running and playing a very up-tempo brand of football. Missed tags and poor line speed hurt the Colts and allowed the Rams to run in a further 5 tries in the second half to blow the score out to 48-0 at full time. Players player went to Jade Holz who saved many tries at the back with Jodie Eagar always looking dangerous with ball in hand.

Reserve Grade

The Huntlee reserve grade side put in a much improved effort against a tough Rams outfit and were in the game until the final siren going down 26-12. The signs didn't look good early for the Colts with a Rams try inside 5 minutes after some great footwork in the lead up. The conversion was successful and the Rams led 6-0. The Colts rallied and applied plenty of pressure to the Rams over the next 10

minutes but it was a try against the run of play that brought the scores level. On the 17th minute mark, with the Rams deep in the Colts red-zone, a loose ball was swooped upon from Colts centre Hamson who summed up the situation and offloaded early to a flying Pierce Murray who then ran 70m to score. The conversion was successful and the scores were locked at 6 a piece. The Colts then put themselves under enormous pressure but weathered a storm. Firstly they failed to regather the ensuing kick-off leading to a Rams attacking raid and then allowed the Rams back into good territory on the back of back to back penalties. The Colts held firm on home turf and just as it looked like the scores would be level at oranges, the Rams threw one last shot at the Colts and crossed the line to take a 12-6 lead into the sheds. As has been the case all year, the half time break was not kind to the Colts and they leaked a soft try immediately after the resumption to be down 16-6 after 38 minutes. Things seemed to turn on the 40 minute mark with Hamson again pouncing on a loose pass to set the Colts up deep into Rams territory. The Colts then received back to back penalties with the second resulting in a Rams player being sent to the bin for 10 minutes to cool his heels and it was most definitely game on.

The Colts went over shortly after with a lovely sweeping play to the left finishing with Jesse Howard running a great line to crash over and reduce the score to 16-12 with plenty of time on the clock. The Colts then made a cardinal sin upon resumption of play, once again not securing the kick off and allowing the Rams to go back on the attack. The Rams obliged with another try and the score now read 20-12. Things got heated in the 50th minute with some in the crowd saying they heard a "cattle dog" call as the scrum erupted with a flurry of punches. When the dust settled, a Rams player found himself sent off and a Colts player had 10 minutes to think about things also, there were certainly a few other players who were lucky to still be on the paddock. With the Colts a man up and deep on the attack it seemed inevitable that points were coming but a poor pass and subsequent knock on quelled their momentum. Some further poor options and miscommunication seemed to hurt the Colts and they were unable to capitalise on their advantage. The Rams scored a try late in the game to blow the score out with the full time score reading 26-12. Best for Colts was Jesse Minchin whose hard running and bruising defence left plenty of opposition players sore and sorry. Other strong performances came from Pierce Murray and Jesse Howard.

First Grade

The Greta Workers Club first grade side needed a win against the previously undefeated Rams having not registered a win thus far. As with the ladies earlier in the day, the Colts won the toss and elected to kick but again this was as good as it got for the Colts. The Rams were at it early and in only the 2nd minute, a pin point cross field kick gave the Rams just enough time to contest the ball with the young Rams winger out jumping his opposite number to come down with the ball and cross the stripe for a 6-0 lead. Things got worse for the Colts with a seemingly innocuous kick taking a horrible bounce for Colts custodian Dylan Holz with the Rams regathering and crossing for their second to lead 12-0 after 5 minutes. On the 12th minute mark with an overlap beckoning the Colts looked to shift the ball early from deep inside their own territory but a Rams intercept led to another try keeping the score board busy at 18-0. The Colts finally breathed some life into the game with a great individual effort from Colts 5/8 Josh Griffiths leaving several defenders clutching at thin air as he crossed to narrow the score to 18-6 after 18 minutes. Unfortunately this was as good as it got for the Colts with Muswellbrook running in a further 2 converted tries to lead 30-6 after 30 minutes. The Colts finished the half strongly with a great break by centre Ben Russell down the right edge resulting in a shift to the left and a try on the offing but some desperate defence from the Rams saw the Colts bundled into touch. Then right on the stroke of half time, another break by centre Russell saw him attract 2 defenders and somehow dump a ball out the back that was scooped up off the floor by winger Hamson to dive over in the corner only for the touch



judge to hold his ground and incredulously rule a forward pass. 30-6 remained the half time score. A half time spray was in order and coach Joey Griffiths duly delivered with the Colts running back out onto the pitch looking noticeably more energetic but it didn't transform into points, rather the Rams were next to score on the 44 minute mark with some poor defence and a Rams pass that the great Tom Brady would have been proud of to cross out wide. The Colts were next to score through hooker Jake Russell to give the Colts a glimmer of hope at 34-12 with 32 minutes left to play. Over the next 10 minutes the sides traded blows with the Rams scoring a converted try and then a brilliant Chris Walters intercept saw him race 40m to return serve and see the score at 40-18 after 58 minutes. The Rams then ran in 2 more converted tries to complete their half century and blow the score out to 52-18 after 65 minutes. On the 70 minute mark, things got heated with Colts 5/8 Griffiths earning an early shower with 10 in the bin but with the Colts receiving the ensuing penalty, some great work from Walters and a long shift to the left

saw lock Sam Russell crash over to finish the scoring for the afternoon and leave the full time score at 52-22. Jake Russell received the players player award with strong games on a well beaten side coming from Sam Russell and Chris Walters who had by far his best game of the season. Next week sees the Colts travel to Scone on Sunday the 4th June with the Ladies kicking off the day at 10.15am and then reserves at 12.35pm and firsts at 2.00pm.

The Greta/Branxton Colts are proudly sponsored by:

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- Valley Fasteners
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A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN
To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
In light of your failure in recent years to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately. (You should look up 'revocation' in the Oxford English Dictionary.) Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except North Dakota, which she does not fancy). Your new UK Prime Minister, will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed. To aid in the transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect
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GRETA WORKERS

RESTAURANT

NEW CATERERS

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**LUNCH & DINNER
TUESDAY — SUNDAY**

DAILY SPECIALS

FRIDAY 9th JUNE

“MARRIAH”

FRIDAY 16th JUNE

“OUTLAW AVENUE”

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

7th JUNE

\$5,000

SUNDAY

11th JUNE

\$4,400

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

RAFFLES

**FRIDAY & SUNDAY
MEAT RAFFLES**

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

THURSDAY 8th JUNE

\$4,900

SUNDAY 11th JUNE

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

RAFFLES

FRIDAY

MEAT RAFFLE 7.00PM

SUNDAY

MEAT RAFFLE 6.00pm

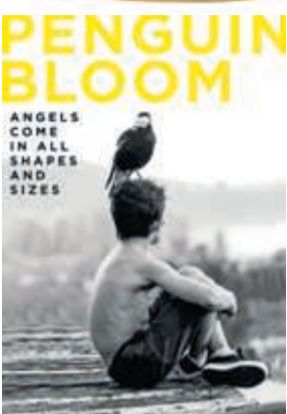
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MILLER PARK



All about 'Penguin Bloom' Photographs by Cameron Bloom Written by Bradley Trevor Greive

Penguin was just a small, wobbly-headed magpie chick when my son, Noah, found her lying injured on the grass after being blown out of her nest, located some 20 metres up a towering Norfolk Island pine tree. She was very lucky to survive such a horrendous fall but without immediate care would have died within a day. So my wife, Sam, let Noah bring the chick home – we built her a simple nest, fashioned from an old cane laundry basket, and kept her warm with a tiny blanket. Our sons immediately named her Penguin, due to her black and white plumage. Sam and I decided that she could live with us until she

was fully healed and became strong enough to fend for herself. It is not easy to look after any injured wild creature and this is especially true of a fragile baby bird ... as we soon found out. Caring for Penguin during those first few weeks was a massive commitment, but at the same time it was a wonderful experience for us all; both as individuals and as a family. We undertook a great deal of research about magpies and were extremely grateful for all the specialist veterinary advice we received, especially in regard to Penguin's diet. Australian magpies are omnivores, meaning they will eat almost anything, but during their critical growth phase the nestlings consume a lot of insects, far more than we could ever hope to provide, so we had to ensure Penguin consumed an easily digestible diet that was high in lean protein and would contain all the essential nutrients she needed to form strong bones and flight feathers. Initially Penguin had to be fed every two hours during the day but slept through the night. Noah and his two brothers, Oli and Rueben, took turns with feeding duty. After preparing a special mix of ingredients into a kind of magpie porridge the boys would put a small amount of food on the tip of their index finger and hold it above Penguin's head, more or less like a mother bird would do with a beak-full of grubs – Penguin would lunge greedily at her meal

and swallow half the kid's finger in the process; which was hilarious, kind of gross and somehow quite endearing. While getting Penguin to eat was a real victory, her recovery remained touch and go. There were days when Penguin looked so weak we thought we might lose her, and some evenings when we knew there was a chance she wouldn't survive the night. But we continued to do all we could for the smallest member of our family and over time she grew in both stature and confidence. After a while she started to perch on a branch we attached to her basket, and soon after that she began to explore her world and discover her abilities. I'll never forget when Penguin took her very first flight inside our lounge-room – it was an amazing moment for all of us. As Penguin's strength grew so did her curiosity. We never locked her inside any kind of cage so she was always free to venture outside the house. It didn't take long before she started to forage for her own food in the backyard and it was clear she was becoming increasingly independent. Despite being free to leave she still chose to sleep inside the house for at least six months – mostly in her basket but also up on the window sill. We loved that she wanted to stay with us but we also wanted her to follow her natural behaviours plus, it must also be said, that there is no such thing as potty-training a magpie – at least so far as we can tell. After Penguin "redecorated" the furniture, cushions, lounge and computers for the



What: Author event with Sam Bloom and Cameron Bloom

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Where: Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

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thousandth time we decided it was finally time for her to officially move out. Fortunately there is a large frangipani tree in our yard that Penguin always felt comfortable in, so that became her home. However if we ever leave a window open she'll fly inside the house at sunrise and scamper down the hallway to one of the bedrooms and jump into bed with Sam and I, or one of the boys; rolling over onto her back for a bonus sleep-in or perhaps just to say hi. Australian magpies are known for their beautiful songs and Penguin certainly has a wonderful voice. She began singing short songs during the day from a very early age and would eventually sing for hours and hours at a time. Whenever we'd pull up in the driveway after being away from the house she'd let out a loud and melodic warble to welcome us home then flap her wings with excitement and run straight to the front door to be let

inside. Penguin always seemed to know exactly when our boys would be walking home from school. At around 3.30pm she would position herself in the orange tree at the edge of the yard, waiting for them to come around the corner and into view. As soon as she heard them approaching she would break out in song and the boys would happily reply in their best magpie impersonation, and then she would call back to them again – just as if they were having a musical conversation. Though she has now grown up to be a beautiful adult bird it hasn't always been easy for Penguin. The older, resident Magpies are fiercely territorial and at times have attacked her, tearing off feathers and inflicting painful wounds with their sharp beaks to let her know that this is their turf. If Penguin is ever caught in the wrong place at the wrong time she carries out a swift retreat, flying at

top speed through any open door or window into the safety of our house.

Despite her many encounters with bully-birds Penguin maintains a bright and friendly personality and is kind to all the birds she meets. She has built a close friendship with a pied currawong with whom she shares scraps at the back door, and has even baby-sat a sickly rainbow lorikeet. The funniest occasion I can recall was when she befriended another young magpie who timidly came inside the house and sat with Penguin by the window – Sam and I felt like we were chaperoning a first date.

While she will always be a part of our family Penguin does not belong to us. The world is hers to explore and she regularly travels elsewhere, sometimes for days at a time; probably to find an uncontested area of her own. During the Christmas holidays in 2014 she disappeared for six long weeks, and we started to fear the worst – but then, with a large squawk, she suddenly appeared at the front door on Rueben's birthday, which was incredibly special.

These days Penguin comes and goes as it pleases her. We won't see her for a while and then, without warning, she confidently walks in the door as if nothing has changed and jumps straight back up onto the kitchen sink for a drink of water and starts to poke about the house looking for tasty things to eat (spiders are her favourite). We all love this crazy little bird, and the experience of caring for her when she was utterly helpless and then watching her mature into a strong, brave and wise female has been amazing, and is certainly something we feel is worth sharing.

As a photographer I feel blessed that my images of Penguin have given joy to so many people all around the world, and I am grateful to everyone who has connected with me via social media for making this possible.

Penguin has redefined what family means, and helped us appreciate how powerful love and compassion can be. In the beginning we thought we were rescuing Penguin, but now we feel this remarkable bird has made us feel stronger, brought us closer and also helped to heal our family during a very difficult time, so in a way Penguin rescued us.

There is a lot more to Penguin's story than I can easily convey here, or even through the images I share, which is why I'm delighted to announce that I have created a book about Penguin with *New York Times* best-selling author, Bradley Trevor Greive. If you wish to pre-order a copy of *Penguin Bloom* and be in the running to win a signed print of Penguin you can do so via this link <https://shop.abc.net.au/products/penguin-bloom-pbk>

I'd like to add that BTG and I, along with our publisher, ABC Books, are donating 10% of all royalties from *Penguin Bloom* to Spinal Cure Australia. When you read our book – which will make you laugh out loud and also bring plenty of tears to your eyes – you'll soon realise just why this cause is so important to us and why I hope you'll consider supporting this wonderful charity yourself

<http://www.spinalcure.org.au>

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The NSW CWA State Conference was held from 22nd – 26th May at Tumbi Umbi at the Mingara Club in the Central Coast which was very close for all the Hunter River Group members. President, Leanne Bendeich and Cultural Officer, Noeleen Bendeich attended as Delegates for our Branch and Pauline and I attended as Observers. The Conference began with a lovely church service on the Sunday and all delegates were required to register at the Mingara Club. A great venue. The Conference was officially opened on the Monday by The Hon. David Hurley, ACDS, Governor of NSW and his wife, Linda Hurley sang a lovely song about the CWA. There were several other Guest Speakers, so am going to just highlight one from our area, who was Nick Arena, Farmer of the Year, from Nelsons Bay, who spoke about his Barramundi Fish Farm, and in the support of women, Mrs Sandra Irson, Winner of NSW/ACT RIRDC Rural Women's Program for helping young



Decorated cakes on display

people working on the land. The Tuggerah Lakes Learning Community (Koori) Childrens' Choir finished with a lovely song. Then it was back to business for all the delegates. Congratulations to Noeleen who received 3rd prize for her Crochet Baby Set. As you will be able to see by the photos, the competition is a very high standard and to even be competing at State level the standard of handicraft or cooking must be very high. Well done to all who attained this level and all the best for next year. The Medical Research for the next 12 months will be Limes Disease again. Photos were taken of the wonderful handicraft,

cookery and paintings on display, some which will be with this article and the rest will be at the All-in-One Day. Sunday, 25th June, will be the Community Day at Miller Park where Branxton/Greta CWA will be participating with a Tea/Coffee and Cake/Slice stall. This day is being organised by the Branxton Chamber of Commerce and a lot of other stalls etc will also be there to raise money for Cancer. Hope

as many of the community as possible can support the day.

On Tuesday, 18th July, we will be holding our All-in-One Day (incorporating Birthday, Handicraft, Cultural, International and Agricultural) which will be held at the Branxton Community Hall commencing at 10.00 for



Handicraft on display



Winning cakes on display

10.30am with a Guest Speaker for Nepal, Handicraft Display, Posters (hopefully) and Cultural and Agricultural Displays, as well as Hot (homemade) Soup or Tea/Coffee to start which will be very

friends. Hope we see you there. Please contact Marie on 0402015850 or email branxtongre-tacwa@hotmail.com if

welcome, especially if this cold weather keeps up and a lovely hot lunch after all the festivities and catching up with

anyone would like to attend (for catering purposes) and also if anyone has any special dietary requirements. Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.



Championship win for handicraft

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TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

A READER writes “Can you use an external hard drive on different computers, so that you can store things on both computers to the external hard drive?”

The answer to your question is not only “yes”, but that this is a great way to save space on your main hard drive and keep Windows running at optimum speed by not junking up the hard drive. It also helps if you have multiple computers that you regularly use (for instance, for many years I used a desktop at home and a laptop when I was on the go) and need to share files between them.

External hard drives come in two basic flavours. You have your portable external hard drive



which is portable, made from a laptop hard drive, tops out around 3 TB and a little more expensive than the desktop version. You always pay more for portability. Then you have the desktop version



which is not portable (because it needs external power), is made from one or more desktop hard drives, a quick search brought me desktop external drives up to 20 TB and is a little less expensive on a dollar per GB basis. Which one you choose will depend upon your needs. For instance, I used to use mine to keep my stories on so that I could write in the break room at lunch, and it would not have been convenient for me to find power for it, so I used a portable drive, which powers through USB.

One quick point of clarification, however. If by storing “things” you mean music and videos and documents, then it works great. If by “things” you mean programs, then I will caution you that programs stored on an external hard drive don’t always work on any computer other than the one that you used when you initially installed the program on the external hard drive. The reason for this is that a program will frequently write bits to your computer’s registry, and when you go to run them on another computer, they won’t be able to find anything referencing them in the registry, and so won’t run.

I hope that this helps!

READER TIP: Watch Out For This Scam

Reader Beth Smith wanted to make sure everyone is aware of the scam email she received the other day.

Fortunately, Beth follows good web safety rules and wasn’t even tempted to click. Let’s check out what she got in her inbox.



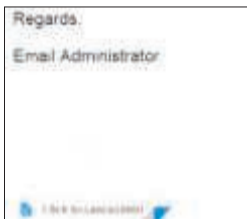
The body of the message read:

“Dear user,
We received a request from you yesterday to terminate your account permanently and the process has started by our account team. If you didn’t request this, use the attachment file to cancel the request immediately.

If you actually request to delete your email account, please ignore this email.

Thank you for using our services.”

There’s an attachment included with the message.



This email has so many red flags it could lead a military parade in China. First, look at who it is from. Note the attempt to convince you the message is from the government. But, they never tell you who it’s from.

Also missing: anything telling you what type of account they’re deactivating. A legitimate notice would have an account number. Remember, you would never have to give the account number if they contacted you. The people who sent it would already know who you are. The instructions to click on the attachment are also highly suspicious. I can’t think of a case where you’d access an account by clicking on an attachment.

This message is counting on initiating a panic response when you see that an account is being deactivated. They’re hoping that you click that attachment while there’s still an adrenaline rush and your brain hasn’t kicked in.

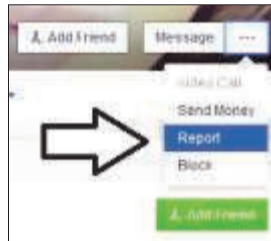
That’s why it is important to not panic. If you get a notice like this, read it carefully. Skip clicking on anything in that message and find the website or a phone number for the agency or business in question. Don’t rely on any information or links in the email. Get the contact information on your own and then check into the matter.

If it doesn’t say who the message is from, you can be sure it’s not legit. And never click on an attachment you weren’t expecting. If it pur-

ports to be from someone you know, contact that person to confirm that they actually sent it and find out what it is.

Help! A Facebook Fraud Is Hitting My Friends Up For Money

A READER is having a problem with a Facebook faker: “My problem is someone keeps sending a friend request in my name to people who are already my friends and saying I won a lot of money and somehow they could be part of this. I changed my password 4 times and contacted FB with no help. Any suggestions?”



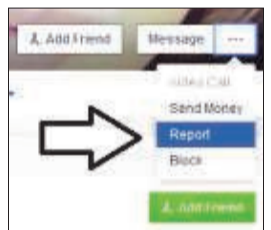
Changing the password on your account won’t do any good.

The person isn’t using your account. You haven’t actually been hacked. This faker has created an account using your name and probably stolen a photo of you. There’s nothing you can do with your account to stop it. But you and your friends can report this faker to Facebook. You or your friends will need to go to this crook’s profile to do it.

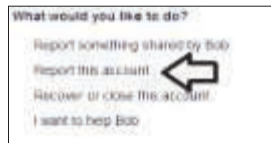
Go to the faker’s Facebook page and click the icon with the three dots.



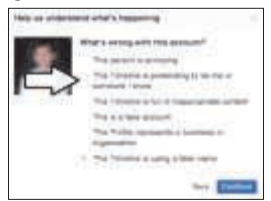
Choose Report from the drop-down menu.



Then select Report this account.



You can then select why you want to block the account. Either the person is impersonating you or someone you know or perhaps they’re using the name of a character or business that you have the rights to.



After Facebook investigates, they’ll remove the person if they determine the account to be a fake one.

HOW DRONES Are Going To Change Your Life

UAV. Maybe you have heard about this acronym or maybe not. It means **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.** These are often referred to as **Drones.** The main characteristic all UAVs have in common in is

the absence of a human pilot.

Their flight is controlled by an **onboard flight controller**, which includes a main processor and a bunch of sensors (accelerometers, gyroscopes and more depending on the application).

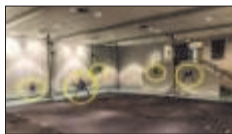
Recently **multirotor UAVs** have drawn a lot of attention from businesses. These fly more or less on the same principle as helicopters but they have 3 (or more) propellers. They are relatively easy to use, cheap and they can act like sensors which can move in 3D space.

The last sentence should give you a hint on why multirotor UAVs will change our lives in the next 10 years. The main fields of application for these vehicles are:

- Movies/photography
- Archaeology and mapping of archaeological sites
- Surveillance
- Search and rescue in post-catastrophic events
- Agriculture

Let’s spend few words on each of these categories.

In movie and TV production they already changed your life! Most of the nice aerial shots you see these days are now done using a camera mounted to a multirotor UAV. Another example I like is weddings. In Italy, one of the biggest markets of multirotor UAVs is the aerial videos during this kind of events. Another fascinating use combines drones and archaeology. Nowadays, most of the archaeological research institutes have multirotor UAVs.



Surveilling big outdoor facilities is also done more and more by drones. In Europe, a lot of money has been spent on a project called SHERPA to let ground and aerial vehicles cooperate with an expert in case of avalanches. Imagine how much help an aerial camera when you are searching for someone buried in snow.

My favourite field of application of UAVs is agriculture. A field (no pun intended) where I really think that drones can make a difference. They can be helpful in doing crop analysis, measuring the height of the plants, levels of water and/or nitrogen and so on. For a long time in order to get aerial images, field-owner had to rely on human-piloted airplanes and/or satellites. Just try to think about the costs.

Before leaving you, just keep in mind two more possible future large-scale applications of multirotor UAVs:

- # Delivering pharmaceuticals and first aid kits
 - # Delivering packages
- Another direction that in my opinion is one of the most important is the one which involves the use of multiple UAVS.

That’s for another day. If you want some first hand experience go and buy yourself one and have some fun; you’ll know what I mean!

MOVIE REVIEW

Wonder Woman

WONDER WOMAN hits movie theatres around the world this June when Gal Gadot returns as the title character in the epic action adventure from director Patty Jenkins (“Monster,” AMC’s “The Killing”). Before she was Wonder Woman, she was Diana, princess of the Amazons, trained to be an unconquerable warrior. Raised on a sheltered island paradise, when an

American pilot crashes on their shores and tells of a massive conflict raging in the outside world, Diana leaves her home, convinced she can stop the threat. Fighting alongside man in a war to end all wars, Diana will discover her full powers...and her true destiny.

Joining Gadot in the international cast are Chris Pine (the “Star Trek” films), Connie Nielsen (Fox’s “The Following,” “Gladiator”), Robin Wright (“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” Netflix’s “House of Cards”), David Thewlis (the “Harry Potter” films, “The Theory of Everything”), Danny Huston (“Clash of the Titans,” “X-Men Origins: Wolverine”), Elena Anaya (“The Skin I Live In”), Ewen Bremner (“Exodus: Gods and Kings,” “Snowpiercer”), and Saïd Taghmaoui (“American Hustle”).



Can We Build a Better Blockbuster? Wonder Woman Points a Way Forward

by **Stephanie Zacharek**

Can a woman build a better superhero movie? If Patty Jenkins’ *Wonder Woman* is any indication, the answer is: sort of.

The first half of Jenkins’ picture has a quietly pleasurable power, largely because at that point it seems to be trying to bust the expected template. But when the epic battles start raging—so... many... epic... battles—we’re back to business as usual. Because in the world we live in, a woman-directed superhero movie, with a woman as the key character, had better not be so very different from the dude-centric ones. Baby steps.

Even so, *Wonder Woman* is a cut above nearly all the superhero movies that have been trotted out over the past few summers. That’s largely thanks to the charm of its star, Gal Gadot, playing the Amazon princess Diana Prince, a woman raised on an island of women warriors who takes it upon herself to stop World War I. Why not think big?

We first meet Diana as a small wonder person (played by Lilly Aspell and Emily Carey), a girl living on the appropriately named Paradise Island, a kind of all-woman commune known for its fierce, well-trained fighters. Little Diana watches in fascination as the local badass Antiope (the fine, stalwart Robin Wright) schools the island’s young women in the fine art of kicking butt. She wants to join in, but her protective mother, Queen Hippolyta (Connie Nielsen, such a regal presence that she elevates even the tiniest role), resists.

To no avail—Diana’s stubbornness wins out. And as it turns out, her skills surpass those of the rest. Plus, she has superpowers, most notably those conferred by a set of wristlets that allow her to deflect dangerous projectiles and send them hurtling back at the source. (Internet trolls, take that!) She’s also got a lasso of truth, a kind of glo-stick whip that keeps baddies in line. All is well in this Eden

without men, which apparently exists outside of time. Then early-20th-century American military pilot Steve Trevor (Chris Pine, suitably sensible and sweet) literally drops out of the sky. Diana, lithe and confident, has never seen a man before, and she examines her new friend with the expected degree of curiosity, especially after coming upon him in the buff. Guilelessly, she quizzes him about his particular physical attributes, then segues into curiosity about his watch: “You let this little thing tell you what to do?” Leave it to Wonder Woman to ask the question for the ages.



Steve also explains that war—the First World War—is raging, and Diana believes she can stop it if she can kill Ares, the god responsible for such atrocities. Her resolve is hardened when the Germans storm Paradise Island, laying waste with their guns even as the women valiantly defend their turf. (This is the best action sequence in the movie—for once, you get the sense there’s really something at stake.) Diana goes with Steve to London, where she navigates man’s world with equal parts resolve and elation: She needs to cover up those magnificent stems with a long dress, but how to find an outfit she can move in? (She settles on a belted jacket-and-skirt number, topped with a broad-brimmed derby, that does the trick.) Diana tries ice-cream for the first time, and radiates joy. She meets Steve’s friends and colleagues—among them Ewen Bremner’s Charlie, an ace marksman who has lost his touch—and fights fiercely alongside them but also offers empathy and kindness when it’s needed.

Gadot is simply marvellous. Physically, she’s bold and commanding. But there’s a sweetness about her too, as if she and Jenkins understand intuitively that Wonder Woman can’t just be blandly awesome. She’s got to be able to *feel* wonder too. Gadot carries the movie through even its sloggiest parts, most notably the big action sequences that pile up at the end. Sometimes, multiple climaxes are a bad thing. The special effects are massive but uninspiring, and the action is slightly jerky in places. This isn’t necessarily Jenkins’ fault.

It just comes with the territory of the summer blockbuster, as filmmakers strive to make the effects bigger and more impressive while also less surprising. All superhero movies must obey the commands of box-office expectations, and forever it must be thus.

Wonder Woman, who first appeared in a 1941 DC Comics, has been waiting a long time—at least 10 years, if not 75—to make it to the big screen. Joss Whedon wrote a script, ultimately rejected, more than a decade ago. Michelle McLaren, who had directed episodes of *Game of Thrones* and *Breaking Bad*, was also previously associated with the project. Like McLaren, Jenkins has also worked mostly in television—she hasn’t made a movie since her solid 2008 debut, *Monster*. And while her hiring as the director of *Wonder Woman* has been hailed as a step forward for women in Hollywood, we should also be careful what we wish for. After cutting their teeth on small, independent films, directors often want the challenge—as well as the paycheck and the prestige—of making a big-budget blockbuster. But today, that arena is rarely where people do their best work. Women have a better chance at making powerful, meaningful movies if they work outside the big studios—and that goes for men, too. Still, Jenkins’ *Wonder Woman* points a way forward toward the possibility of better blockbusters. The movie’s opening section, which details Diana’s path from scrappy girl to fearless warrior, is clever and lively, as well as gorgeous to look at. On the island, Diana’s warrior-wear is a distressed-metallic leather bustier topping a sort of tutu-like Utilikilt. Leaping and soaring through her training, she’s like one of Degas’ bronze ballerina sculptures grown up and come to life, strong and free and at least a little pissed off. Her grand jeté is all muscle and all heart. At last, it’s her time to shine.



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
All contributions welcome

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



Marshy's Postcard No. 2 (First published in 2002)
Where do I start? Since I last wrote to you from Portugal we have travelled back through Spain, up to Bordeaux, on to Paris, over to Ireland and I am now sitting in a pub in Soho, London, enjoying lunch, distracted somewhat by a young foursome of Englishmen getting raucously drunk whilst enjoying a game of soccer on the box. I'm really quite jealous.

What can I say about Bordeaux that hasn't been said before? The history, the villages, the vines, the wines, the people and the great chateaux. Arousing, simply arousing.

Two hundred metres below Chateau Belair in St. Emilion, whilst venturing through one of the dark, underground cellars which are almost directly beneath the town, I officially asked Holly if she would spend the rest of her life with me. She was very excited and happy and has been showing me how much ever since. I'm exhausted.

It was not a spur of the moment decision as I had planned to ask her months before but I wanted to do it in Bordeaux. The truth is that I was going to pop the question two hours previously in the stunning vineyards overlooking St. Emilion but a slight mishap closed that avenue. I had encouraged Holly to walk with me through the vineyards and I pretended to be interested, making odd comments about the state of the vines etc., when the perfect opportunity arose.

"This would have to be your version of Heaven" Holly commented, as she turned to me with that lovely smile and looking as gorgeous as ever.

This is it, I thought, and without further ado I grabbed hold of the post directly to my right and proceeded to launch myself over the trellis and into the next row so that I could ask her over a grapevine. What happened next is a bit of a blur. I managed one leg over in mid-air with the other a little slow to follow and landed straight onto my crotch, not just on a single wire but a double. Thus my weight was forcing my private parts between two close wires which were tensing around them as I struggled to release myself. I finally decided to just drop sideways onto the ground, which I did, ending up flat on my back on the ground, barely able to breathe.

The whole trellis was vibrating and I was sure that all was lost.

Holly was extremely concerned whilst at the same time being very curious as to what I was trying to achieve by trying to pull off that little stunt. With my hands still clenched around my southern property, but now able to speak, I explained.

"I was actually trying to catch up to you to ask you a question, "I groaned, with a slight laugh to counteract the tears flooding from my eyes.

"What?" she replied.

"It doesn't matter now, "I explained," without these it doesn't anyway!"

I am truly sorry for anyone I have ever called a "Dickhead.

One of the highlights of our trip to Bordeaux was our visit to Chateau Margaux, one of the great wine enterprises in the world. I mean, Bordeaux is full of some of the best but few make wines to the elegance as Margaux. Over a private two hour tour we basically saw everything: met the winemakers, witnessed the last day of harvest, tasted a handful of first growths and enjoyed afternoon tea. Although we had a camera with us, they insisted that they only preferred the media to take any inside shots, especially during vintage. I was going to tell them that I was with the "Branxton-Greta-Vineyards News" but decided that I would use that line whilst in England in order to gain an invite to Buckingham Palace to interview the Queen. For some reason they allowed us to snap some

shots inside the winery. I was ecstatic.

France is a picture of grace and style. The people we met during our time there were all fantastic. The French. I have come to learn, seem to be a very proud lot. They are extremely motivated and strive to be the best. That is why there is a perception of rudeness or arrogance about them. I like them. They are good people.

Ireland was phenomenal. What beautiful countryside, what pubs. The Irish "Rock". They love Aussies and talking about horse racing, rugby, drinking and women. I felt right at home.

During our stay in Ireland we were fortunate enough to be able to mix with the aristocracy. Our friend Sam, who lived in Australia for a few years, always professed that she hailed from a very wealthy aristocratic family near Waterford. Her strong English accent certainly concreted the belief that she had been privately educated in England, as with a lot of these families in Great Britain, but her behaviour and choice of humble abode in the back streets of Bondi whilst living here certainly didn't alarm me with that "silver spoon" tone. You can imagine our surprise when we arrived at the front gates of this amazing property and this chap in his late seventies steps out of the doorway of this beautiful old gatehouse mansion with a key in hand and opens the gate. That's his job. He opens and closes the gate. His father did it and his father and his father. I knew then that Sam had been telling the truth.

Lord and Lady Waterford met us at the door of their home. It was the most disgusting display of wealth I have ever seen. I say that in a good way. Lined with 150 metres of stables on either side leading to the 11th century (with renovations and enlargement in the 18th) building, housing 80 different rooms, Lord Waterford greeted us with an extremely posh English accent and declared "Champagne will be served at 11:30". Not 11:31 or 10:29. Polo starts on the eastern field at 12:00. Hunting will commence at 3:00. Pre-dinner drinks at 7:00. Dinner in full black tie.. 7:30.

I am not having a go at them, this is how they are. Although I felt that I was on the set of "Gosford Park" it is refreshing to know that this behaviour still exists. These people work hard to keep their properties in the manner in which they have been kept for hundreds of years. Cash flow can be a problem yet they refuse to sell anything that belongs to the Estate such as art works (including Picasso's and Gainsborough's).

I was over the moon when I was only the seventh person to ever tour the wine cellars. The last person to sign the visitor's book in 1976 was a chap you may have heard of, Sean Connery, and at No.5 Prince Philip. Andrew Marsh from Australia may not have the same ring to it but it's there in black and white.

By the end of dinner on the first night I had four generations of the family on their backs, crying, in hysterics with my juvenile humour and the fun continued for the rest of our stay.

England is great but I must finish up because if these drunken youths shove any more celery or carrot sticks into their unconscious friend's nose, ears or mouth, we may have a crime scene on our hands.

Cheers, Andrew



TO the "not so well done" in the last issue ~ croquet players are like cats, meticulously clean and we do not smell. Our "Little Clubhouse" is meticulously clean as well. We are not "elderly lady's (ladies) and gentlemen" but life experienced people of mature years. Rather than "Old MacDonald's Farm" we are more like the 'Funny Farm' because of the good comradeship and humour we show on game days. (If you or anyone is interested in joining us for tuition or a game give me a call on 0418 427 320, Chris).

IN response to the Cats or Dog NSW from 24/5/17- Do you realise that there is a sewerage facility to the side of where you're camping at Branxton Oval? Of course that would smell like 'Old MacDonald's farm?' That is probably the cause of the smell. Maybe pick a different camping site next time. Cheers

WHEN me grandson was about 4 I decided to take him on the bus to Newcastle. The wind was howling and the bus shelter swayed precariously. Very scary. It was removed later that day. My grandson is now nearly 11. Today I saw an elderly lady waiting in the wind for the bus. How long does it take to build a bus shelter and install it? We could get a fighter jet faster than that!

TO the local residents who do not report who fail to let the local constabulary know when an offence occurs. I have just been informed that this area has almost 'nil' crime statistics which we know is wrong ... If an offence/crime has occurred please report it!



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 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
E: 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: agistment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton: off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067
Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling

fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866
Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz 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: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538
GO TO FOR FURTHER DETAILS
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

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



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
Mon 22 Jun - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meeting at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm- 4:30PM Guest: Stephen McKay from Hunter Discount Specs. Topic: How to not go blind. Question time available. Tea/ Coffee provided. All members of the public welcome. Cost : FREE. Contact: Barry 49904554.
Fri 30 Jun - Branxton Public School PBL Assembly
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
Tue 18 Jul - Branxton Public School Lucas Proudfoot performance
Tues 1 Aug - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Tues 8 Aug ~ "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start
Tues 08 Aug - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
Sun 20 Aug ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
Tues 5 Sept - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting: 4pm



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

Author John Heffernan visited our school in Week 6 with some very entertaining stories about his life on the farm. He spent time with each of our stages and then some extra time with some of our keen writers.



Girls soccer team



Boys soccer team

I'm sure he inspired many students. Our Starstruck dancers are getting ready for the big performances on the 16th and 17th of June. They rehearse regularly at school as well as attending rehearsal days in Newcastle with Mrs Taylor. Our school library has been the lucky recipient of some wonderful books, kindly donated by McDonalds Greta. This will be an ongoing contribution of four books each month throughout the year, through the reading with Liv program held at Singleton Library. Thank you to Mrs Amy Heinzl who delivered the books which will greatly enhance our library. The school enjoyed a fabulous Musica Viva performance by Taikoz, a Japanese drumming group in Week 6. It was a very LOUD performance but extremely engaging.



Kasey, Grace & Emily

In Week 5 the girls' soccer team travelled to Miller Park to play Greta PS in the PSSA Knockout. The team made a strong showing defeating Greta 7-0. Well done to all the girls. Mrs Osborne would like to thank all the parents and caregivers for their support of the team and transportation to the game. The Rugby League team travelled to Beresfield to take on Beresfield Public in the PSSA Rugby League Knockout competition and were comfortable winners 44-10. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers for their support and Mr Brecard for his guidance of the team.



Taikoz performance

Also in Week 5 Kasey, Grace and Emily represented our school at a horse sports day at Singleton. The girls had a fantastic day and we thank their supporters for transporting them.

The boys' softball team travelled to Seaham to play Largs PS in Week 6. The boys fought throughout in a close game, eventually going down narrowly 13-12. Congratulations to all the boys for a great performance. The girls' netball team also lost their next game in the PSSA Knockout but Ms Magann was very proud of their efforts and the way they represented the school. Mr Johanson was also impressed with the way the boys' soccer team exhibited excellent sportsmanship in their win against Lochinvar.



John Heffernan

Dates for the Calendar
 Friday 9th May – Primary Athletics Carnival
 Friday 30th June – PBL Assembly
 Tuesday 18th July – Lucas Proudfoot performance

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



Greta Public School

With Sarah-Jane Hazell
 Relieving Principal, Greta Public School



Photo at right: Brett Stephenson who took 5 wickets for 2 runs against Tinonee Public School.

Cricket Success!

Last Friday Greta boys cricket team played Tinonee P.S at Raymond Terrace in the 2nd round of the state P.S.S.A Knockout. In a thrilling game Greta chased down the 66 runs required with 5 balls to spare. All the boys played well and a particular standout was Brett Stephenson who took 5 wickets for 2 runs. The team was supported by the P&C who funded a bus to transport the students to the match. The team will now go through to round three.



Photo below: The Kirkton Public School cricket team who played Tinonee Public School and had a 7 wicket win after chasing 66.



Kirkton Public School News



We mentioned in the newsletter last week the names of our students who earned their Bronze FLORA medal. It is such an achievement we have put their photos in this week. These students consistently displayed the values of Friendship, Learning, Opportunity, Respect and Achievement (FLORA) to earn their bronze medal. We are very proud of their achievements and are looking forward to being able to award more Bronze medals at our next assembly. These students are already working towards their silver and are looking forward to the Reward Day at the end of the term. 😊



Gracie Imogen Georgia Zara



Jaxson Andre Jayden



Soil test interpretation day

When
13th Jun 2017 9:00am-1:00pm
Where
Glendon Brook Hall 857 Glendonbrook Road
Glendon Brook
Contact
Sarah Giblin 6540 2414

Details
Upper Hunter landholders are invited to a free workshop to find out what the results in a soil test mean and to determine what the local soil benchmark figures are for their farming system.

Dr Harry Rose, Department of Primary Industries will deliver the workshop, which will explore:

- what makes a healthy soil?
- how does soil fertility influence how and which plants grow?
- how can soil fertility be affected by management practices?

Improve your understanding of soil fertility factors, measurements, and the management required to reach achievable targets. **Bring along your current soil tests for interpretation.**

Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Bookings are essential, please contact Sarah Giblin at the Hunter Local Land Services Scone office on 6540 2414 or email sarah.giblin@lls.nsw.gov.au

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

Farm flood readiness talk

When
15th Jun 2017 6:15pm-8:00pm
Where
Courtyard Room Raymond Terrace Library 18a Sturgeon Street
Raymond Terrace

Contact
Skye Moore 4938 4956

Details
Lower Hunter floodplain farmers are invited to this evening talk on the importance of preparing for floods and to get some tips on making your farm flood ready.

The Hunter super storm event caused more than \$105 million damage to primary industries in the Lower Hunter, with substantial losses of crops, pasture, fodder stores, farming infrastructure and animals. We want to help you minimise the effects of floods on your property and livelihood. All participants will receive a copy of the Hunter Local Land Services Farm Flood Readiness Kit, which is a resource developed especially for farmers. Participation in this workshop is free but places are limited. Please book your place by registering online or by contacting Hunter Local Land Services Emergency Management Officer, Skye Moore, on 4938 4956.

Blood On The Track



Kris Lees welcomes some exciting new additions including a million-dollar filly

By Clinton Payne
Top Newcastle-based trainer Kris Lees has in the past 24-hours welcomed

two exciting three-year-old prospects into his stables, including a horse that was sold in recent days for more than \$1 million. The China Horse Club parted with \$1.7 million to secure Group I-placed filly Nurse Kitchen at the opening day of the 2017 Magic Millions National Broodmare Sale and shipped the daughter of Savabeel straight to Lees. "She arrived this morning in great order as you'd expect a filly that was just sold for

that sort of money," Lees said. "She's arrived with about two weeks of light pre-training so we'll just continue on that path and learn about her every day."

Lees said having trained Lucia Valentina gives him a good insight as to what to expect from Nurse Kitchen as both horses are bred on the same cross being daughters of Savabeel out of mares by Monjeu. "Classic fillies coming out of the autumn tend to go one way or the other heading into the spring as four-year-olds I've found and I think Michael

Wallace (China Horse Club's bloodstock consultant) is pretty much on the same page," Lees said. "We'll see where she stands in the spring with the view that the autumn is probably where she will come into her own. "She's got a similar profile to Lucia Valentina. She obviously won the Vinery whereas Nurse Kitchen ran second and then they were competitive in the Oaks." The Lees Racing float also left Warwick Farm on Wednesday with another new horse. Gooree's impressive maiden winner Launch Code will do his future racing for Lees with his former trainer James Cummings heading to Godolphin. "He arrived after the races last night," Lees said. "He looks great and he ate up. The new surroundings didn't bother him. "I know they had a good

opinion of him and it was a solid win." The Newcastle trainer is in the midst of his best ever season with a career high of four Group I wins and with operations like the China Horse Club and Gooree Park throwing support behind him it's fair to expect the stable can go from strength to strength. "It's a terrific opportunity and I'm very grateful to be given the chance to train some lovely horses for big racing and breeding operations," he said.

Godolphin Mares a Magic Highlight

Buyers are used to seeing regular reductions of stock from the massive Australian Godolphin breeding operation, but the volume and quality offered at the Gold Coast this week was on a different level and made Godolphin the second lead-



ing vendor by aggregate. Godolphin sold all but one horse offered with 38 fillies and mares selling for \$6,737,500. Their top seller was rising five year-old Commands mare Tremor, who made \$820,000 to the bid of Aquis Farm/ Blue Sky Bloodstock in foal to Medaglia D'Oro (USA) in her first season at stud. Tremor is a metropolitan winning three-quarter sister to Group I MRC Blue Diamond Stakes winner Earth-

quake and full sister to stakes-winner Palomares. Group III placed three year-old Sepoy filly Chipanda was bought by Newstar Bloodstock for \$550,000, while the three year-old full sister to Piero, a once raced filly called Madrigals, went to Dean Hawthorne Bloodstock for \$425,000. The draft proved an irresistible treasure of talent with all the leading purchasers quick to snaffle the opportunity to buy into some of Godolphin's most successful families.



Montoya's Secret edges out Nurse Kitchen in the Vinery Stud Stakes earlier this year. Photo: Steve Hart

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 31/5/17

Yarding 880 ~ **Change -125** (Comparison Date 24/5/17)
The younger cattle again made up the bulk in the penning, as the quality was mixed. Consignments eased, as the export categories were limited in number. The usual orders competed in a firm market.

The medium weight vealer steers to the restockers sold close to firm at 340c to 422c, with the heavier drafts slipping in value, due mainly to quality and breed to average 368c after topping at 380c/kg. The same weight vealer heifers lost 8c, with fewer of the popular European crosses penned, prices ranged from 321c to 361c/kg. Yearling steers weighing over 330kg and sold to the lot feeder orders gained 7c, making from 330c to 362c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold to strong competition with the better muscled pens reaching 392c/kg.

Cows gained 5c to 8c, with the plainer 2 scores averaging 208c, as the better covered heavy weights sold from 233c to 238c/kg.

Scone report date 30/5/17

Yarding 1445 ~ **Change 212** (Comparison Date 23/5/17)
Numbers lifted, with the younger cattle making up the bulk in the penning. Quality was fair to good, with the grown steers and heifers limited in supply, as around 240 cows were offered. The majority of the buying orders competed, however one restocker order competing for the lighter heifers at the previous market was absent in the competition.

The 200kg plus vealer steers returning to the paddock sold close to firm, making from 340c to 414c/kg. The heavier weights to the same orders gained 7c and reached 392c/kg. The medium weight vealer heifers to the backgrounders and restockers slipped 10c, due to the absent buyer, with prices ranging from 338c to 364c/kg. The heavier pens maintained firm prices and averaged 355c after reaching 366c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to the lot feeders lifted 5c, ranging from 320c to 368c/kg. The yearling heifer portion gained 7c/kg throughout all weight ranges. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers improved 5c, with the best topping at 368c/kg.

Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter gained 8c, making from 270c to 281c, with the lot feeders paying up to 342c/kg for the younger pens. The heifers reached 315c, with most sold around the 251c/kg range. The plainer cows to the processors lifted 2c to average 218c, with restockers paying up to 224c/kg. The better covered heavy weights gained 9c and sold from 218c to 238c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 235c/kg.

TRLX Tamworth report date 29/5/17

Yarding 1295 ~ **Change 75** (Comparison Date 22/5/17)
There was only a small increase in the numbers. All categories were represented however, there were minimal supplies of heavy grown steers. The quality and condition of the cattle was generally good and suitable to all buyers. A full field of buyers were in attendance and demand for all classes was high, especially so for export grades.

Market trends were firm to dearer for all classes of young cattle to restock and feed. The weaner steers and heifers to restockers saw a dearer market trend with medium weight steers up to 8c dearer and the heifer portion as much as 6c/kg dearer. Well finished vealers suitable to the trade also sold to a dearer trend. Yearling steers to restock and feed saw a dearer market trend with prices improving by 5c to 8c/kg and more in places. Breed variations were also a consideration in the dearer market trend. The heifer yearlings to restock and feed sold to a dearer trend, up to 4c/kg, while there were little in the way of domestic trade competition.

As stated the demand for well finished export cattle was very high with a shortfall through the system following what has been a large sell-off of both heavy steers and cows. The strong competition saw heavy steers up to 9c/kg dearer. The plainer condition cows experienced some improvement in the market, however the well finished heavy weights were substantially dearer.

BRANXTON CROQUET CLUB ~ SOCIAL 'GET-TOGETHER' WITH CESSNOCK CROQUET CLUB ON 27TH MAY 2017

If you are interested in playing golf croquet at either club please contact them via the details below or call in on play day.

Branxton Croquet Club	Cessnock Croquet Club
Secretary Chris Robertson 0418 427 320	Derek Stephens 49 905 640
Play days Tues & Sat 9.00 to noon	Fri 9.00am Noon Tues 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Venue Branxton Oval	Calvary Retirement Community, Grounds, Nulkaba



The weather really turned on its very best when we invited our sister club Cessnock over for a morning of social croquet; from a mild beginning the day developed in to bright sunshine just the perfect day. A dozen Cessnock members made the journey to the croquet lawns adjacent to Branxton Oval. After a social tea, biscuits and cake we wandered on to the lawns for our first games. We had 8 pairs of players with a more

experienced player with each group of four to help out instruction and general guidance around the lawns. The games were played with much good humour and fun and everyone enjoyed the experience. It was then time for morning tea with cakes, slices and savouries served up to the hungry players. During the tea break the was a demonstration of some of the croquet techniques and players were shown how to play jump shots and how to line up their shots to run hoops; several took the opportunity practise these skills under the watchful eye of some of the more experienced players,

including our very capable vice president Peter Ernst who went out of way to explain the intricacies of the game during his time on the lawn. We played another two rounds of games again interrupted by more tea, coffee and food mixed with good humoured banter and socialising. A fun day was had by all and it is planned that the two clubs will arrange similar days in the future.



Photo Above: 'Jump Shot' demonstration by Club Secretary Chris Robertson

Photo at left: Vice President Peter Ernst imparting his knowledge

Come to the Friends of the Greta Museum group

Benefits

- * Take pleasure knowing that you are helping Greta retain its rich history.
- * Socialise, start or join discussions on how to improve the attraction, and widen the coverage, of the museum. Get help with your own research projects.
- * Revive an old craft - it's also a chance to use and share your talents.
- * Receive a 25% discount off everything for sale in the museum.
- * Light refreshments are provided at each meeting (last Wednesday of the month 11am - 1pm, no school holiday meetings.)

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

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

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SPORTS RESULTS GOLF

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB -SAT 20TH MAY STABLEFORD

A GRADE WINNER DAVE HOLLIS 45pts
A GARDE RUNNER UP CAMERON JOHANSON 36pts
A GRADE THIRD LEE HEUSTON 35pts
B GRADE WINNER TONY SEAMER 40pts
B GRADE RUNNER UP MURRAY JOHANSON 38pts
B GRADE THIRD IAN BARNES 38pts C/B
C GRADE WINNER LEE JACKSON 38pts
C GRADE RUNNER UP LENNARD PORTER 36pts
C GRADE THIRD RICHARD TURNBULL 34pts
NTP
 T FOSTER 140cm
 S KEARNEY 500CM NO
 WINNER L HEUSTON 92CM

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T FOSTER 140cm
 S KEARNEY 500CM NO
 WINNER L HEUSTON 92CM

Branxton Ladies Results for Stableford Event held 24th May.

Winner: Trish McMillan 38 points ~ Runner Up: Robyn Hoffman 32 points
 Nearest to the Pin: Trish McMillan

Round 2 of the Pauline Thomas Stableford was played on Wednesday 31/5/17.

Winner : Jan Scobie with 36 points ~ Runner-Up: Trish McMillan with 31 points
 Nearest to Pin was Kerrie O'Connell

A Birdie to Trish McMillan on the 2nd.

Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 21st May Nathan Sweeney has claimed the Weekly Challenge with 35 points from Nathan Lawrence on 33 points.

Tuesday 23rd May A countback was required to find a winner in the Tuesday Michael Watson and Wayne Cowan both returned 37 points with the decision going to Michael, Brad Bell also survived a countback for 3rd with 36 points. Ball winners were: Steve Piggot 36, Dan Taylor 35, Ian Newell 35, Ray Newton 35, Kevin Smith 35, Col Bradley 35, Michael Young 34 and Mathew Merlo 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Newton (3rd) Gary Arnold (4th) Brad Bell (8th) David Peel (10th) and Rick Turnchini (17th)

Wednesday 24th May Sue Williams produced the 'round of the week' to win the Ladies Par event with +5 from Jan Hovey +2 and Robyn Dunlop 3rd with -2. Ball winners were: Dale Hamilton, Christine Tancred, Di Atton and Jill Slatter. Next week the Ladies will play individual Stableford.

Thursday 25th May The Vets 4BBB Par event went to

Rex Talbot and Greg White with a great score of +12 from Ian Newell and Paul Ireland with +8 on countback To Peter Munro and Rex Talbot in 3rd with +8. Ball winners were: Wayne Berry & Darrell Preston +7, Wayne Cowan & Greg Ireland +7, Garry Marsden & Doug Wand +6 and Grahame Sheldon & Wayne Barber +6. Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 27th May Superb conditions on Saturday did not produce a single score matching Par or better with the Tiger Tee challenge testing all who started. A Grade went to Steve Piggot with 35 points on countback to Paul Bullock, B Grade to Troy Wallis with 35 from Ryan Cremor on 33 points and C Grade to Colin Mills 35 from Brad Duncan 34points. Ball winners were: Justin Preece 34, Chris Lodge 33, Brendan Connor 32, Christine Boyd 32, David Peel 32, Jeff Morton 32, Matt Killick 32, Adrian Kent 31, Peter Milas 31, Joel Field v31, Russ Calderwood 30, Tony Lamb 30, Dale Macklinshaw 30 and David Preece 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Corey Lamb (3rd) David Peel (4th) Tracey Morison (8th) Brendan Connor (10th) and Greg Morgan (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford

Sunday 28th May The Weekly Challenge has been won by Mathew Delforce with 39 points from Steve Walters from the Waratah GC with an even Par 36 point return.

Tuesday 30th May The Tuesday Stableford went to Dale Macklinshaw with 39 points from David Peel 38 and Michael Watson 3rd with 36 on countback. Ball winners were: Steve Piggot 36, Ray Newton 35, Grahame Sheldon 34, Wayne Cowan 34, Paul Smith 33, Garry Marsden 33, Jodie Dunn 33, John Stewart 33 and Geoff Sweetman 33

c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to John Stewart (3rd) David Peel (4th) Michael Watson (10th) and Graeme Flynn (17th)

Wednesday 31st May Jacquie Mather led the way in the Ladies event with 38 points from Mary Fortey 34 and Lorraine Clack 32 completing the placings. Ball winners were: Dale Hamilton, Robyn Dunlop, Jill Slatter, Jenny Chambers and Kerrie-Anne Skinner. This week the Ladies will Play Canadian Foursomes.

Thursday 1st June Grahame Sheldon claimed the Vets Stableford event with 39 points from Kevin Smith with 37 points on countback to playing partner David Peel. No other details are available at this time. Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford

Saturday 3rd June Mild weather and tough Pin placements greeted the Medley Stableford field on Saturday. Scores across all grades did not reflect the effort of the greens staff to create some extra difficulty for the players. A Grade to inform Dale Macklinshaw with 38 points on countback to Michael Chapman, B Grade to Adrian Kent with the standout round of the day, 44 points from Peter Milas on 41 and C Grade to Chris Iodge with 40 points from Charlestown visitor Rachel Bolton with 38 points. Ball winners were: Andrew Ryan 37, Justin Preece 37, Ken Springbett 37, Mark Doran v37, Jeff Shanahan 37, Paul Davies 36, Mark Faulkner 36, John Parish 36, Troy Wallis 36, Jay Bolton v35, Lachlan Peacock 35, Nick Looby 35, David Bremner 35, Stuart Robinson 34, Brad Duncan 34, Lorraine Clack 34, Scott Jones 34 and Paul Bullock 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Nathan Sweeney (3rd & 4th) Simon Nicholson (10th) and Adrian Kent (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Par.

You are you really being loyal to?

"Motivation to do anything is in direct proportion to the belief that we can achieve it, that we can influence the outcome" – Emily Thorpe

Beliefs can either support you in reaching your goals, or limit you. If you have limiting beliefs, you will have limited expectations, and you will in turn behave in a way which contributes negatively to the outcome. In turn, you guessed it, this makes your negative belief stronger.

On the other hand if you have positive beliefs, you will have positive expectations, and you will behave in a way that moves you towards your goal.

Have you ever said things like "I had to take my son to work" or "I have to keep biscuits in the pantry because my husband likes them with his coffee"? Or perhaps you say things like "I had a really stressful day at work so I bought take away for dinner". What do these comments and thoughts say about your own beliefs, and do they support your goals? (Note there will always be unexpected events in our lives, times when we have to drop everything and take action. They are true emergencies, and it is the habits you put in place when things are "normal" that will support you when the unexpected happens).

Back to our beliefs... we can think of our beliefs as a table top. Each time something happens which supports your belief, it is like putting a leg under the table. The more legs you have, the more stable the table.

For example, the belief "I am not a runner" could stem from the times you came last in your primary school sports carnivals. Maybe that led you to not even bother entering the races when you got to high school? Every time you came last, or did not even start, you reinforced your belief that you are not are a runner.

Similarly, positive beliefs are supported by positive events in our lives. Your belief that you are good at making friends could come from the positive relationships you have had at school or work.

The important thing here is to be aware of your beliefs and how they are impacting on your goals. Once you are aware of your limiting beliefs, you can start taking action to address them.

What can be less clear are the hidden benefits of your limiting beliefs.

"I had to take my son to work" could be the excuse you use not to go to the gym, and may also be an indication that you think you are the only person who can take him. Maybe you think it is your job to take him to work because your mother was always the person who took you. The "hidden benefit" in this case could be that taking your son to work is the only opportunity you have to spend some "one on one" time with him. Or perhaps you like dropping him off because it is an opportunity to do the weekly grocery shop. Either way, you don't get to the gym, and you don't get any closer to your goals.

Sometimes people fear failing so they wait until the last minute to start something. Failure to achieve the end result can then be blamed on a lack of time. In a similar vein, delivering a poor result can be a (not so subtle) way of telling others you really don't want to do something. For example failing to meet a deadline is almost guaranteed to ensure you never get asked to do that job again!

And what about the people who never actually take action? If you never start you will never fail. One of the hardest things in life is admitting you "failed". If you put off starting a new exercise program you don't have to admit your workout gear no longer fits. If you put off entering an event, perhaps it is because you feel guilty that someone close to you does not have the same opportunity to enter. Maybe working towards your goal means leaving your current social group and meeting new people? This can be hard if your social group has children the same age as yours and you are sub consciously (or consciously) afraid that following your goals will adversely affect your child's friendships.

Perhaps the goal you want to work towards means early morning starts when your partner would rather you stayed in bed? Or maybe not going to the gym in the evening means you can stay at home with your family and watch your favourite TV show without any spoilers?

You can see that there are many "hidden benefits" to not taking action towards your goals. These hidden benefits are often called "hidden loyalties" and one way to uncover them is to ask yourself "what stops me from ... (taking a particular action towards my goal)?" If your answer is "I'm not sure", then ask yourself what would have to change for you to move forward? Do you need more skills or knowledge? Do you need approval from your partner or children? Do you need to leave work on time, or have someone else pick the kids up from sport?

Maybe you are just worried it could all go wrong? If that is the case, ask yourself "What is the worst thing that could happen if I ... (insert action here)?" Then ask yourself, "If that (worst thing) happened, would I be OK?"

If you would like help uncovering your "hidden loyalties", then contact me via my website www.louisecairns.com.au.



What else is happening at "Fit for Life"?

We are over half way in our 10 Week Health and Fitness Challenge. It is great seeing everyone moving steadily towards their goals. I also have people in my classes who are not doing the challenge, but still taking part in the fitness assessments, so if you would like to join us call me or check us out on Facebook! By the time you read this I will have completed my fourth ultra marathon, the UTA50 in the Blue Mountains, NSW. The forecast is for rain, so I am adjusting my mindset from PB to making sure I finish! Overall, approximately 23% of people who start this event do not finish. I have started three times and finished three times, so I want to keep that track record

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, and is available for speaking engagements. You can find out more at www.louisecairns.com.au

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Greyhound Racing...



Local Report

with Sam

manager at Maitland Greyhounds, Fred Robertson has retired. During that time he has acquired over one million dollars in sponsorship, allowing the club to

promote races such as the rich PPK Mining Gold Cup. The Maitland club honoured Fred last week with the running of the FRED ROBERTSON APPRECIATION STAKES (and a gold watch). The race was won by KEONA, a black bitch by OAKS ROAD out of ELUSIVE CHAKRA and trained by Jamie Hawkins at Tumbi Umbi. Fred has been involved with greyhounds for as long as he can remember

and a member of the G.B.O.T.A. for 50 years, he is currently a member of the Greta branch. I asked Fred who was the best dog he trained and without hesitation he replied. " SPRING HEEL JACK, he knocked up winning races in the 70's. A few others that come to mind are ALWAYS'S A SHOW, BUCK'S FLASH and TARA DYLAN. "I had a lot of good dogs and a lot of great times," said Fred. Fred now enjoys the dogs on Sky Racing. Well done Fred!!



The doyen of greyhound racing in the Hunter Valley, Fred Robertson, being given an official farewell at the last Maitland meeting

ROBBO RETIRES

After 10 years as sponsorship and promotions



"Midnite Mystic", number 4 winning in the Big Smoke

BIG WIN IN BIG SMOKE

Bradley Sabotic has had a good run with MIDNIGHT MYSTIC, a black bitch he bred from his handy country bitch KEIRA'S CHARM. After wins at Armidale, Gunnedah, Muswellbrook and Newcastle it was time to throw her in the deep end at Sydney's Wentworth

Park on a Saturday night. She wasn't given much of a chance in a good field over 720 metres from box 4 (the only box she hasn't won from). After being third away and ten lengths off the lead at the halfway mark she finished strongly, winning by a nose, paying \$21 and now winning from every box.

MONTH OF MAY

In the last month members of the GRETA G.B.O.T.A. trained 5 winners and 40 placings. Winners were NEW ENGLAND, CHUNKY BUT FUNKY and MR MAYHEM for James Porter. ZOOM RAH for Garry Kedwell and MIDNIGHT MYSTIC.

Meetings have reverted back to the first Sunday of the month because the older members keep forgetting and have trouble with change! The next meeting of the GRETA G.B.O.T.A. will be held at the GRETA WORKERS CLUB on Sunday 2nd July, 7pm. New members & visitors always welcome. Sam



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