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WEDNESDAY
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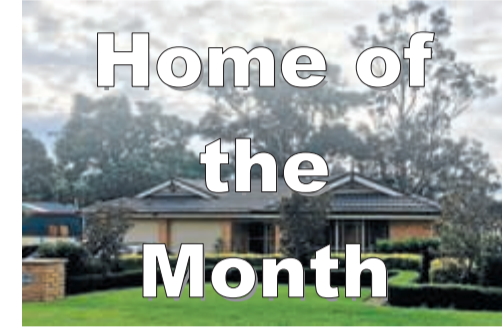
Celebrating 50 years

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Members Say...

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Home of the Month

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Branxton VIEW News

50th Anniversary

Noeleen and Ernie Bendeich (page 17), Robyn & Ian Talbot & Jeanette & Gary Wilton (page 5) have just celebrated their 'Golden Wedding' Anniversaries this month. All celebrated the occasion in different fashions but they have one thing in common; Agape Love.



Business Chamber has successful meeting with Premier & Cabinet

Brett Wild, Branxton-Greta Business Chamber President, met with the NSW Premier the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP last week while she and her cabinet were in the Hunter. On behalf of the Business Chamber members he raised directly with the Premier a number of issues facing Branxton & Greta; the failure of Cessnock Council to undertake the main street redevelopment & the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway proposal.

Mr. Wild said that Branxton and Greta have been, for over 100 years, the gateway to the Hunter Valley's mines & over that time every coal truck, miner & spare part have travelled through Branxton & Greta. "I told the Premier that Branxton had missed out on the allocation of funds for the redevelopment of the main street with the opening of the Hunter

Expressway. "The RMS has a moral obligation to ensure that the survival and prosperity is part of their due diligence for towns that are to be bypassed, and every town in NSW that has ever been bypassed has received funds", said Mr Wild "I also spoke about the failure of Cessnock Council to fight for Branxton, and as the bypass went in so did Branxton's opportunity for redevelopment went with it." said Brett.

Brett said that on a positive note the premier directed her staff to introduce Mr Wild to various Ministers that are relevant to the Branxton needs. "I spoke to the Deputy Premier Hon John Barilaro MP and Minister for Regional NSW, the Hon Andrew Constance MP - Minister for Transport, and the Hon Melinda Pavey MP - Minister for Roads.



Local Business Chamber President Brett Wild with Premier Berejiklian at their meeting last week.

"A considerable number of issues were raised such as the lack of bus shelters opposite Miller Park. This issue was discussed with Andrew Constance who has indicated that he will have staff from his department visit Branxton in the coming weeks to view the

issue first hand and to take all possible steps to make this happen," said Brett. Mr Wild also discussed the relocation of the school buses from the Branxton Rotunda and the allocation of parking for car polling near the onramp to the Hunter Express Way.

CONT PAGE 3

New Gp Surgery in Branxton...



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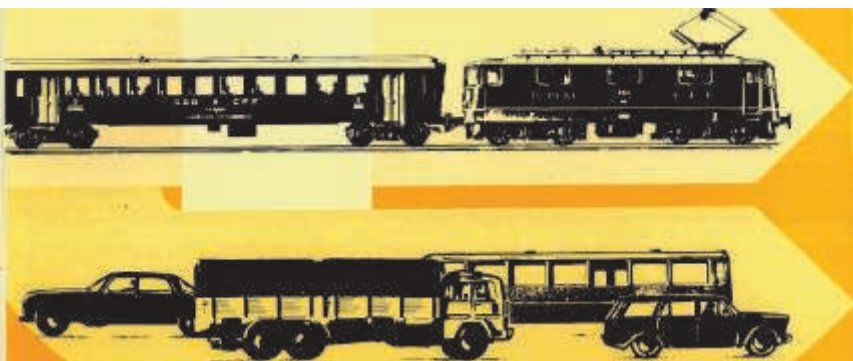
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Have your say on the Traffic and Transport Strategy



Local residents are being asked for their input on a draft Traffic and Transport Strategy as the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) continues to experience rapid growth. The strategy now on exhibition comes in response to an increase in population and associated travel demand. By 2041, the number of dwellings in the Cessnock LGA is predicted to reach 39,225, which represents a massive 65% increase. This growth is expected to result in further traffic and parking demands on our community.

for the future traffic and transport demands is a priority for Council. "The aim of this strategy is to identify current network deficiencies and both improve and future-proof the transport network for our residents." "We have taken into account travel patterns, parking, travel behaviour, road safety, public transport needs, congestion, along with walking and cycling needs." "I encourage everyone to take the time to look at the strategy and make a submission," added Cr Pynsent. The draft Cessnock LGA Traffic and Transport Strategy is the blueprint for

the region's future transport network and is on public exhibition from 10 June to 24 July 2017. It can be viewed on Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au, at Council's Administration Building or Cessnock City Libraries. For those wanting to find out more, drop in sessions will be held at the following locations:
 Cessnock Library on Tuesday 20 June 2017 from 9am-12pm
 Kurri Kurri Library on Wednesday 21 June 2017 from 2-6pm
 If you would like to have your say, submissions must be received by 5pm on Monday 24 July 2017.

Creeping weed discovery




Cessnock City Council's Weeds Officers are asking locals to keep an eye out for the pesky Paraguay burr weed, which has been discovered in our region. Paraguay burr (or *Acanthospermum australe*) is native to South America and the Caribbean and is a creeping plant that can often emerge on roadsides, footpaths, gardens and waste areas. This weed is commonly spread by its 'burs' becoming attached to animals, clothing and vehicles, but seeds and stem fragments may also be spread by soil, water, mowers and other road

maintenance activities. This species was first recorded in south-eastern Queensland in 1994, yet it has now been widely naturalised in districts of Central NSW between the



Hunter Valley and Wollongong. Paraguay burr is usually easily recognised by its hooked burrs and creeping stems that can form dense mats of vegetation. The younger stems are green and hairy, while older stems tend to be woody in nature. You can play an important

role in stopping the spread of this invasive weed, so if you see it around, contact Cessnock City Council's Weeds Officers on 4993 4100. For more information on weed management in our region, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/environment/weeds.



Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

Firstly, we'd like to thank everyone who participated in our competition to find Cessnock's cutest pet! We had an overwhelming response to the competition, with over 200 entries and while there was some pretty stiff competition, there could only be one winner.

Miss Penny, who is a 12 week old mini Dachshund, took out the crown for Cessnock's cutest pet with over 1,200 likes on Facebook. Proud owners Amanda and Chris were chuffed with the announcement and took home a \$200 Goldmans Petland voucher to spoil and pamper their much-loved pooch.

While puppies were very much in the spotlight throughout the competition, it's important to remember that responsible pet ownership applies to all animals, including cats.

Responsible cat ownership includes proper housing, feeding, control, care and breeding. One of the most important things is to make sure your cat can be readily identified with a collar, tag and microchip. Proper identification ensures that your cat is returned to you as soon as possible and is not mistaken for being unowned.

Cat owners also need to be aware of the problems which can occur if they are allowed to roam as they can cause considerable damage to the environment.


While it is not an offence under the Companions Animals Act 1998 for a cat to roam, Cessnock City Council urges cat owners to keep their cats indoors at night. This is to protect the wonderful native birds and animals that also call Cessnock home.

If you have spotted a feral cat on your property, Council can supply you with a cat trap. Cat traps will only be loaned out for the genuine removal of a feral or unowned cat as those identified with a collar or microchip must be released immediately.


Cat traps must only be used on private property and will only be loaned out for a period of time negotiated with a Cessnock City Council Ranger, normally one week.

Key things to keep in mind to be a responsible cat owner are:

- make sure your cat is registered with Council
- make sure your cat is identified with a collar, tag and microchip
- keep your cat indoors at night
- desex your cat as early as possible
- clean up after your pet.



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





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**

Local history....

The below photo was dropped into our office last week and shows the then (we don't know when) employees of the Branxton Butter Factory. The only clue to the date is that it was after 1918 which was the year the new factory was built. The photo shows from left to right: F. Hatcher, G. Perrett, M. Brunner, H. McDermott, J. Irwin, Reg Mallyon, J. Thomas, R. Wheeler, G. Langdon, Dick Johnson, J. Atkinson, C. Smith, T. McDermott, C. Cant, R. Shearer, T. Meissner & Geo Partridge.



Business Chamber has successful meeting with Premier & Cabinet

The issue of lack of RMS funds and regional monies to Branxton from mining royalties, was discussed in length with the Hon John Barilaro MP. Mr Wild indicated that Mr Barilero will arrange to visit Branxton in the coming weeks to meet with the Business Chamber to discuss and view the requirements of Branxton first hand. Also raised with the Roads Minister was the gazetting of the main street of Branxton and its hand-over to Cessnock City Council and the proposed Memorial Cycleway project between Branxton & Greta. Mr Wild will meet with the RMS staff in Newcastle in the coming weeks to explore a way forward regarding funding. Mr Wild said that he was very appreciative of Michael Johnson MP, Member for the Upper Hunter, for ensuring his attendance and opportunity to raise the issues directly with NSW Ministers. "The Branxton and Greta Communities can be assured that the Business Chamber is working to build a better community for us all," said Mr. Wild

Community urged to attend public meeting Proposed Memorial Cycleway Branxton to Greta

A COMMUNITY Public Meeting has been scheduled for 4th July at Greta Workers Club to gauge community support & to bring the community up to date on the locally proposed Memorial Cycleway between Branxton & Greta. The public meeting will commence at 5:30pm. **Branxton - Greta Cycleway Project**
Aim of the project
To link both towns together, by means of a Memorial Cycleway/Walkway. The project of this kind takes considerable funding & effort. Once completed, it will be of significant benefit to both Branxton & Greta Communities & the local tourist industry. The project will require & meet sound needs, research, & have a strategy of overall community participation. The project outline will involve support of Government, Councils, local groups, individuals, business & members of the Branxton Greta Business Chamber. There will be an opportunity for family & community members to support the project both financially & in kind, to give it a total community feel. Once started, it will evolve over the 2017-18 time periods, depending on weather, hopefully culminating in 2018, signifying the end of 100 year celebration

of the actual signing of the Armistice. **PROPOSAL**
The proposal involves a cycleway-walkway, between the towns of Branxton & Greta, running from "Rotunda (Branxton) to Rotunda" (Greta), as a permanent tribute to mainly, the WW1 veterans from our communities who enlisted in our country's time of need in 1914-18, many of whom did not return. The overall length of the project, is just under 5 kms long. Where the existing road fits into the cycle way, for example, the Branxton end, there is a reasonable footway between our Rotunda & Miller Park - about 1 km. Greta has a little less, with around point 6 km of useable roadway, close to the town. A line of Lone Pine trees will be planted beside the cycleway, (approx. 10 metres apart) signifying, one tree for each Branxton or Greta Digger. We have approximately 300 names of Diggers currently who signed up between both towns. There will be a small brass plaque at each tree, with the names & service numbers of all those who served in WW1. If the Digger has no living

relatives, this will be part of a school's initiative, in that, the Digger will be researched by local school pupils. The schools will be part of "Support a Digger" programme, which will be established at Branxton & Greta local schools. These schools will be approached for their involvement, as part of an "Anzac Day project" for 2017-18. Hopefully the project will be completed in time for the 100 year Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice on 11/11/18 **Benefits to Community**
We need to identify & seek support from those members of the Community both young, senior, & veterans, who for health reasons, would benefit by walking, riding or running, on the pathway, to assist them in creating a healthy life style. Other examples of cycleway users are:
Swimming club members
Sporting teams, soccer, league, union, Aust rules.
Walking/running groups
Senior community members
School children
Physical trainers
Tennis /croquet clubs
Bike riders.
Cricket, Netball, golf clubs.
Tourists & Visitors.
A documented Cycling project is part of the Cessnock LGA & strategic plan. This plan was recently approved into both councils Singleton/Cessnock in

August 2016. Both Branxton - Greta RSL Sub branches, in conjunction with The Branxton Greta business Chamber, would like to ask Cessnock Council to move this proposal forward into 2017-18 financial year. We would like to have it funded under the coal mines & Federal Grants Roads to recovery Program. This Funding includes the towns of Greta/Branxton/Lochinvar, who have been severely impacted by coal operations in the Lower Hunter for over 100 years. The funding would enable the Branxton & Greta communities to build infrastructure in the form of a cycleway, dedicated to mainly the WW1 servicemen who enlisted from the Branxton /Greta region following the countries call for volunteers to help the nation in the 1914 WW1 conflict. This Memorial would be a permanent structure for both towns, enabling the descendants of these locals, to pay their respects to those, that we owe so much to. When the cycleway is completed, the opening would coincide with the 102 year celebration of WW1, which will culminate on the Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice on (11th Nov 2018). Governments are now

promoting healthy lifestyles more than ever, as a cost benefit to all communities due to significant health advantages of exercise. We consider tourists & the community alike would benefit by this Memorial. It would link into Radford Park, Huntlee & the M1 new expressway, that now by passes both towns, of Branxton-Greta & has a cycleway connection to the M1. Both Communities for years due to their proximity, have sporting links with each other, as most of the towns teams have the Branxton /Greta prefix due to town size; Branxton/Greta Colts: Branxton/ Greta pony club, Branxton/ Greta Bowling club, Men's shed, Swimming club, Business Chamber, Scouts, Guides, Football clubs, churches, Little Athletics, Local Schools, golf club, swimming pool, tennis club & netball. For this proposal to move forward to the planning stage, it will take a group of people, who have the vision to support the project & who are willing to spend the time to assist bringing it to fruition. It will also require the cooperation of State, Federal & local departments working together with our Communities. This proposal is being supported by the Branxton Greta Business Chamber, Branxton & Greta RSL sub branches & Branxton Guides to name a few.

Late news

Mid range PCA - Greta:
About 9:50 pm on Friday, 16th June 2017, the accused a female, aged 60 from North Rothbury was

the driver of motor vehicle a blue Toyota Corolla hatch travelling in a Southerly direction on the New England Highway, Greta. At the time police were patrolling in a Northerly direction. The accused was stopped for the purpose of a Random Breath Test. The accused returned a positive roadside breath test and was arrested and conveyed to Singleton Police Station where a Breath Analysis returned a reading of 0.123 grams of alcohol in 210 litres of breath. Field Court Attendance Notice issued and suspension notice issued and explained to the accused. The accused is to appear at Singleton Local Court on the 13th July 2017.

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What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

FOR those residents of North Rothbury they would, by now, have seen the renovated tennis court in Ayrefield Miners Memorial Park. Cessnock City Council have resurfaced the court, installed a basketball hoop & re-lined giving us a multi purpose facility. The park, with the new playground & shelter, is now fantastic facility. On behalf of the residents of North Rothbury & its Tidy Towns I would like to, firstly, thank our local C Ward Councillors (John Fagg, Anne Sander & Melanie Dagg) for their support & to the Cessnock City Council staff involved in the project. The shelter & BBQ are available for the local community to use for

any special occasion. You can give me a call on 0414 757 826 & I will arrange for the shelter to be opened.

I AM just amazed that after many years, the UK still have not learnt about the danger of aluminium in a

fire.

I remember the Falklands War when ships with aluminium superstructure were burnt with a terrible loss of life.

The British Navy may have got the message but it does not appear to have been passed on to the local construction industry. From my reading of the disaster at London's Grenfell Tower it was a disaster waiting to happen & I hope heads do roll.

I have been told that here in Australia the oft-demonised Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union, has been warning of the danger posed by flammable cladding for at least two years.

Will the many buildings with non-compliant cladding be retrofitted with safe cladding or will we wait for deadly fires of our own before doing anything



about it? Can we at least not build any more buildings using this stuff?

A reminder to our local wood burning home owners that they do need to be concerned about air pollution & to do their best to restrict the amount of smoke

their fires emit. Some hints:~
 1. Always burn small logs of aged, dry hardwood. Unseasoned wood produces more heater smoke due to higher moisture content
 2. Store wood under cover in a dry ventilated area. Freshly cut wood needs to be stored for 8-12 months
 3. Never burn rubbish, driftwood, treated or painted wood as

these can pollute the air with poisons
 4. Use plenty of dry kindling to establish a good fire quickly when lighting a cold fire
 5. Stack wood loosely in your fire box to allow air to circulate
 6. Keep the flame lively and bright. Wood fires should only smoke for a few minutes when first lit and when extra fuel is added

7. Open the air controls fully for five minutes before and 15-20 minutes after reloading
 8. Don't let your heater smoulder overnight, keep enough air in the fire to maintain a flame
 9. Check your chimney regularly for smoke and increase air supply to the fire as needed to reduce smoke
 10. Clean the chimney every year to prevent the build-up of harmful

creosote build-up. Creosote is a sticky black residue that can build up in your chimney restricting air flow making the fire harder to start. A creosote-clogged chimney can cause smoke and fire to spill into homes when the heater door is opened.

Cheers, Mike



Rate exemptions!

I recently wrote to our NSW Premier referring to what land is exempt from rates under the NSW Local Government Act. Her office replied that local government rates were currently under review. Frankly I don't expect any change. The following currently do not pay rates.

Ref: 555 (1) (e) land that belongs to a religious body and is occupied and used in connection with:
 (i) a church or other building used or occupied for public worship, or

(ii) a building used or occupied solely as the residence of a minister of religion in connection with any such church or building, or
 (f) land that belongs to and is occupied and used in connection with a school (being a government school or non-government school within the meaning of the Education Reform Act 1990 or a school in respect of which a certificate of exemption under section 78 of that Act is in force),

including:

- (i) a playground that belongs to and is used in connection with the school, and
- (ii) a building occupied as a residence by a teacher, employee or caretaker of the school that belongs to and is used in connection with the school,
- (5) A parcel of rateable land belonging to a religious body that is partly occupied and used in a manner described in subsection (1) (e), and partly in a manner that would result in part of the parcel not being exempt from rates under this section, is to be valued in accordance with section 28A of the Valuation of Land Act 1916 to enable those rates to be levied on the part that is not exempt.

Ref: 556 What land is exempt from all rates, other than water supply special rates and sewerage special rates?

- 1. (d) land used for a public cemetery and vested in the Crown, a public body or trustees,
- (h) land that belongs to a public benevolent institution or public charity and is used or occupied by the institution or charity for the purposes of the

- institution or charity,
- 3. A parcel of rateable land belonging to a public benevolent institution or public charity that is partly used or occupied by the institution or charity for its own purposes, and partly for a purpose that would result in part of the parcel not being exempt from rates under this section, is to be valued in accordance with section 28A of the Valuation of Land Act 1916 to enable those rates to be levied on the part that is not exempt.
- (e) land that belongs to a religious body and is occupied and used in connection with:
 - (i) a church or other building used or occupied for public worship, or
 - (ii) a building used or occupied solely as the residence of a minister of religion in connection with any such church or building, or
 - (iii) a building used or occupied for the purpose of religious teaching or training, or
 - (iv) a building used or occupied solely as the residence of the official head or the assistant official head (or both) of any religious body in the State or in any diocese within the State,
- (f) land that belongs to and is occupied and used in

connection with a school (being a government school or non-government school within the meaning of the Education Reform Act 1990 or a school in respect of which a certificate of exemption under section 78 of that Act is in force), including:
 (i) a playground that belongs to and is used in connection with the school, and
 (ii) a building occupied as a residence by a teacher, employee or caretaker of the school that belongs to and is used in connection with the school,
 (p) land that is managed by the Teacher Housing Authority and on which a house is erected.
 These bodies have been subsidised by the NSW common ratepayers/ taxpayers for too long & it is time it was stopped. In most cases they own the best land in NSW and use all the facilities provided by local councils. They are political and one at least has its own diplomatic corp, they have not protected the children of this state from the acts of their members. Some religious bodies, cults, etc should have been declared criminal organisations for its subjugation of others long ago. They offer life in the hereafter which, I believe, is fraud in a universe with no predictable path for a grand plan or purpose.

evening and for women during the day. Tennis for teens on the weekend and dances on Saturdays in the church hall. In this free country people can believe what they like, but I, for one, do not want to pay for their beliefs. Churches I believe do not pay taxes either. There is info on Google on how to start your own church and probably get a grant to do so. Ridiculous!
 (Name and address supplied but withheld at writers request)
 TAFE investment is important On National TAFE Day last week, I highlighted Labor's commitment to invest in local jobs and skills by reversing Malcolm Turnbull's cuts to local TAFE and apprenticeships.
 In this year's budget, Malcolm Turnbull cut another \$637 million from TAFE and apprentices – including \$192.4 from New South Wales over the next four years.
 Australia now has 130,000 fewer apprentices and trainees than when the Liberals were elected. Malcolm Turnbull has no plan for education and no plan for Australia's future. In too many towns and regional centres across Australia, including in the Hunter, TAFE campuses have closed, courses have been scaled back and fees have increased. For generations Australians have followed the trusted path into decent work through an apprenticeship. They provide young people with the opportunity to build prosperous working lives, as well as re-training for experienced workers seeking to reskill throughout their career.

We will not stand by and watch Malcolm Turnbull cut skills and training even further in the Hunter. Australia's economy is changing fast and the skills Australians need to get well-paid and secure jobs are changing too. Labor will reverse Malcolm Turnbull's \$600 million cuts to skills and training and invest in TAFE and apprenticeships by:
 1. Establishing a new \$100 million Building TAFE for the Future Fund – and re-establishing TAFE facilities in regional communities to meet local industry needs and support teaching for the digital economy.
 2. Restoring TAFE as the backbone of our vocational education system by guaranteeing at least two thirds of public funding goes to TAFE.
 3. Setting a target of one in ten apprentices on all Commonwealth priority projects, because we know local jobs need to be put first.
 4. Investing in pre-apprentice programs to help up to 10,000 young jobseekers start their apprenticeships.
 5. Establishing an Advanced Entry Adult Apprenticeships program to fast-track apprenticeships for up to 20,000 people who are facing redundancy or whose jobs have been lost.
 Only Labor will provide more opportunity for Australians of all ages to gain the skills they need to get good quality jobs.
 Joel Fitzgibbon MP
 Member for Hunter

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Police		
Branxton.....	4938 1244	
Lochinvar....	4930 7209	
Ambulance	131 233	
NSW Fire Brigade		
Branxton.....	4938 3396	
Rural Fire Brigades		
Belford.....	6574 7149	
Broke.....	6579 1491	
Greta.....	4015 0000	
Bishops Bdg	4015 0000	
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Rothbury.....	4015 0000	
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Flat.....	6574 5186	
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(Cessnock)...	4015 0000	
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Domestic Violence Support		
	4990 9609	
Centrelink Self Service		
	136 240	
Medicare	132 011	
Native Animal Rescue		
	0418 628 483	

Letters to the editor can be sent to:
 The Editor, The BGV News,
 12 Clift Street, Branxton
 NSW 2335
 Or emailed to
 thenews@hotmail.net.au

Jeanette & Gary Wilton celebrate 50 years of marriage

Jeanette (nee Crouch) & Gary Wilton of Branxton have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on the 3rd June 1967 at St Brigids Church, Branxton. Gary had his brother Ray as his Best Man & Jeanette had two 'miniature' bridesmaids, Suzanne Stafa & Kaye Ingold, with her Matron of Honour being Janette Lantry. The late Jack Bendeich did the honours as MC at their reception.

In that 50 years Gary & Jeanette have raised 4 children (Rod, Peter, Janine & Erin) and now have 8 delightful grandchildren (Cooper, Ethan, Phoebe, Ashton, Charlie, Lewis, Elley & Kenny).

Gary is very proud of the fact that he has been a continuous member of Branxton Gold Club for 59 years & is still doing some beekeeping which he has undertaken for 59 years.

Gary has been retired for 16 years and both he & Jeanette enjoy coach trips going to different parts of Australia when they can get away.

Prior to their marriage Jeanette worked at Singleton Army Base while Gary had 40 years of service with Pender Bros & just over 2 years with Maitland Sheet Metal.

Congratulations on your wonderful achievement & may you enjoy many more years together.



☛ Gary & Jeanette on their wedding day 3rd June 1967

Robyn & Ian Talbot celebrate 50 years of marriage

Robyn (nee Whiddon) & Ian Talbot of North Rothbury celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last Friday evening with a wonderful marriage vow renewal ceremony at the church where they were originally married in 1967.

Saint Matthews Church at Georgetown saw family and friends gather to witness their renewal of vows with son Peter having the honour of walking his mother down the aisle.

Robyn & Ian first moved to the area some years ago when Ian was appointed Anglican Parish Priest at Branxton and they lived in the manse in Cessnock Road.

Both are now 'sort of' retired and live in North Rothbury with their two cranky dachshund watchdogs! Congratulations to you both on a wonderful achievement.



Robyn & Ian on their wedding day 16/6/1967



☛ Photo above: a recent photo of Gary & Jeanette with their extended family

☛ Photo at right: Gary & Jeanette cutting their 50th Anniversary cake at a celebratory party attended by family & friends.

The Hunter Region in the Great War ~ Author event: Greg & Sylvia Ray



Do not miss much loved local Hunter authors Greg and Sylvia Ray when they visit Kurri Kurri Library this week to discuss their eighth book: *The Hunter Region in the Great War*.

The Hunter Region in the Great War tells the story of the region's servicemen and women, and their families, in their own voices.

Greg Ray and his wife Sylvia have woven together the strands of many Hunter families' sometimes gruelling stories from the First World War. They have done this by drawing upon the voices of those who were in the trenches, using diaries, letters and journals of soldiers.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encourages locals to come along and enjoy what will be a fascinating talk about a very important book.

"The Ray's latest book is a truly unique survey of the impact of World War I on Newcastle and the Hunter because it is largely told in the words of those who were there to experience it," said Cr Pynsent.

The Hunter Region in The Great War is the Ray's biggest, most ambitious and challenging project to date, representing many hundreds of hours of research and

writing.

What: The Hunter Region in the Great War with Greg & Sylvia Ray

When: Thursday 22 June, 10.30am – 12pm

Where: Kurri Kurri Library

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

This is a free event but bookings are essential. You can reserve your place by phoning Kurri Kurri Library on 4937 1638.

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYORS DESK

It is with great pride that I announce we will be hosting a visit from His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Hurley. I certainly am looking forward to the Vice Regal visit from 23 - 24 June and showcasing the Cessnock Local Government Area and all we have to offer. Last week I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Abermain Fire Station. It was an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Fire and Rescue NSW to our community, especially during the most recent fire season. Cessnock residents are very appreciative of the work emergency personnel do in protecting and educating our community. Our community was certainly very supportive of the decision by the NSW Government to keep the Weston Fire Station open. The Cessnock Cutest Pet Competition has wrapped up, seeing Miss Penny, the dachshund take out the title. It was great to see over 200 entries into the competition aimed at promoting responsible pet ownership. To find out how to microchip or register your pet visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals>.

NAIDOC Week 2017 is just around the corner, with the official week running from the 2 to the 9 July 2017. Our celebrations commence early with the first event on the 22 June, 2017. I encourage residents to view the program at <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies> and get involved in the very important week celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island history, culture and achievements. Works completed around the local government area this week include drainage and road works on Hillview Road Greta, road rehabilitation works have finished up on Harle Street Weston and Kerlew Street, Kurri Kurri. We are now turning our focus on Greta with works commencing on Colliery Street, Greta.

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO - THINK GLOBAL - ACT LOCAL?

At times I write in this column about international aid funding. I often get blasted from some in the community for that. Fair enough - we all have our different views on that. And then I hear the State Governments complain about their fair share of GST from the Federal Government, mainly when their state is doing well and they are getting less than \$1 back for each \$1 paid in. If we think about really local issues, we see Council making decisions about roads (for example). No doubt they try, to the best of their ability and budget, to ensure that the roads in a small village like Wollombi are not too different to a larger centre like Weston or Branxton. But the truth is that most of the funding, the rates that we pay in this LGA, come from centres like Cessnock and Kurri Kurri. A "spend it where it comes from approach" would undoubtedly see our small villages crumble.

Equally, most of the State funding comes from the big centre of Sydney and to a lesser extent Newcastle/Lake Macquarie and Wollongong. Sure coal in the Hunter plays a role in the State (2-4% of Budget), but that is far from the point. Is it not equally important to offer health and hygiene and police and education to those in Gilgandra or Bourke or Walcha, as it is to those in Parramatta, Maitland or Port Macquarie? Extending that logic to the national level and the GST, I am sure that we have all seen images of some outback communities, often Aboriginal communities in extremely remote locations, living in conditions that are simply not acceptable. Most of these communities are not in NSW. The GST plays an important part in spreading the funding around to help these less populated states to provide for these small remote communities, among other things. After all, as Australians, don't we all deserve access to clean water, education and health? And now think globally. Have you ever seen an image of a starving child with flies around the mouth and nose but no energy to swat them away? We give to these charities on a regular basis, probably not as regularly as we should, but as humanity, as caring people, we despair at those images. And now, just tweak your mind a little and think about climate change, access to cheap energy and the fossil fuel debate. Who should be doing more to rise up to the challenge? Should it be starving nations that often go without food, clean water and safety that lead the charge on addressing climate change and the use of fossil fuels? Or, is it a responsibility of a modern western world, like Australia, that has its own problems, but by and large has the bulk of the population experiencing a life that is incredibly 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", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au Cheers Clayton



Clr Melanie Dagg - Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

TOWN COORDINATOR FUNDING SECURED

Cessnock Council recently resolved to provide a further \$10,000 in the coming financial year to assist with funding the Town Coordinator position for the Branxton & Greta communities. This is provided on a dollar for dollar basis with the Business Chamber, who late last year employed Tammara Ward to hold the position. She and Chamber President Brett Wild have been working incredibly hard to ensure continued pressure on both Cessnock and Singleton Councils and the needs of our community are heard. The Chamber's strategy of highlighting community projects and working closely and constructively with elected representatives such as myself will no doubt see the long term progression of our towns. The Chamber will be holding its Community Breakfast and Teddy Bears Picnic on Sunday, 25th June at Miller Park and I'd encourage everyone to attend and show their support for the Chamber and the local businesses who very generously donated to ensure the days success. ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO CONTINUE It's been a great couple of weeks for Council with a number of grants headed our way. It was confirmed that Cessnock Council was to

receive \$4.45M in grant funding under the Fixing Country Roads Program. This money will be used for vital upgrades around Frame Drive, Abermain after serious safety concerns were raised following the re-opening of its bridge. Road widening, drainage and intersection safety improvements are just some of the issues to be addressed. Frame Drive serves as a major connector to the Hunter Expressway and this funding will go a long way to ensuring the safety of motorists and local residents alike.

Council is currently exhibiting its LGA Traffic and Transport Strategy which is a blueprint for the region's future transport network. I am generally supportive of the draft document as a whole however there is one issue for which I need your help. Figure 57 on Page 120 deals specifically with the Branxton and Greta Cycle Network and there is no mention of the Branxton-Greta Cycleway. This is due to the fact that the figure was taken from the 2016 Cessnock Cycling Strategy which was completed prior to Council resolving to support the cycleway. However, it's important the cycleway appears as a priority in the document as this will assist Council when applying for grant funding for its construction. In order for it to be included in the Strategy submissions are needed from the public. I encourage everyone to do so by emailing TTS@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post to PO Box 152, Cessnock 2325. Submissions must be received by 5.00pm on Monday, 24th July 2017.

APPROVALS PERFORMANCE IMPROVING

The March performance report of Council's residential planning approvals has returned dividends for staff who have been working hard to improve processes and timeframes. With 323 dwellings approved already this financial year worth \$284 million, this is well ahead of the 318 projected by the Hunter Regional Plan and indicates we should hit 400 by the end of June. The main growth area is in our neck of the woods, North Rothbury. Mayor Bob Pynsent said this past week, "We are going through a period of rapid growth and our staff are committed to working closely with key stakeholders to continuously improve our processes to ensure we are meeting increased demand effectively and efficiently." This growth in approvals is a good news story as it illustrates Cessnock's improving reputation as a welcoming and liveable community with a thriving business sector and importantly, increased confidence in Council. PUMP TRACK LOCKED IN - THANK YOU SAM!

I've previously written in my column about Branxton local Sam Hamilton, an 11 year old who created a petition calling for a skate park in Miller Park. Last Council meeting Sam addressed the Chamber and spoke passionately about the importance of recreation facilities for the young people of the LGA. Sam spoke tremendously well without any hint of nerves and I'm proud to say Councillors unanimously supported the creation of a pump track. This track will provide the space local skaters need but also ensure a point of difference from the skate park at Greta and the future regional skate park and bmx track to be built at Huntlee. This was yet another example of Council delivering for our community by investing in its wants and needs and I'm glad it chose get behind this project. If you haven't heard of a pump track before then make sure you Google it. I'm sure my kids will love it, the tracks look like a heap of fun - and if you see Sam around town be sure to thank him! Cheers, Mel



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

There's nothing like the Premier coming to town to shine a brighter spotlight on our community, except, perhaps, the Prime Minister. Following the visit from Premier Gladys Berejiklian - with the NSW Cabinet in tow - last week, Singleton was this week being represented in Canberra at the National



Singleton Mayor Sue Moore with NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian

General Assembly of Local Government 2017, where we were promoting the needs of our community at the federal level. The Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 places significant emphasis on Council's role as advocates for the community, and mere months after its adoption, we are certainly off to a good start.

I wrote to Premier Gladys Berejiklian earlier this year, inviting her to Singleton to discuss, among other issues, the future of the NSW Government's Resources for Region program and in particular, Singleton's allocation of funding in relation to the contribution we make in mining royalties.

In her acknowledgement, the Premier said she "hoped to have the opportunity to visit Singleton in the near future". Perhaps she had last week's Community Cabinet meeting already in mind when she put her signature to the letter. The outcomes from the visit puts us lightyears ahead of where we might have been had we approached individual ministers in their offices on Macquarie Street, two hours down the freeway and where we would be competing for their attention with other parts of the State.

To have all the ministers in town was a rare and valuable opportunity for the decision-makers to be on our turf, talking to our community, and looking at our issues.

It also reinforced the importance of our local government area to the economic prosperity of NSW, and the General Manager and I certainly made that point when we met with the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Infrastructure Andrew Constance. Central to the matters we discussed was Singleton's position that we be considered for a greater portion of Resources for Regions funding, as well as the need for increased public transport options to better connect the people of www.singleton.nsw.gov.au Singleton with the wider Hunter region, and conversely, people from outside the region with us.

We also had very productive conversations with other Cabinet ministers including Deputy Premier John Barilaro, Minister for Lands Paul Toole and Minister for Roads Melinda Pavey, which I'm pleased to say we are already following up.

It was a privilege and certainly advantageous for Singleton to host the Premier and the Cabinet last week, and who knows - we might also see the Prime Minister on John Street soon.

Cheers, Sue



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Upper Hunter

ANZAC AMBASSADORS PROGRAM APPLICATION OPEN

Six young people from across NSW will have the opportunity of a lifetime to travel to historic battlefields in Greece and Israel as part of the 2017 Premier's Anzac Ambassadors Program. I encourage students from across Upper Hunter electorate to apply for the Premier's Anzac Ambassadors Program for the chance of a lifetime to retrace the steps of our Anzacs who gave so much for our country. It is important for young people and students to understand and commemorate the great sacrifices the Anzacs made over 100 years ago in foreign wars and on foreign battlefields.

This journey to key First World War battlegrounds is an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the events and contributions made by young men and women that shaped our nation a century ago. The six successful applicants will travel to Lemnos in Greece and to Israel for the centenary of the Charge of the Fourth Light Horse Brigade at Beersheba as part of a two-week tour that is sponsored by ClubsNSW.

Interested students have been asked to submit a 1000-word essay on "Why is the Centenary of Anzac important for modern Australia and what lessons are learned from the Battle of Beersheba in 1917?"

The tour will leave Sydney on 24 October and return home 5 November. Applications close Monday 31 July 2017. For more information about how to enter please visit www.clubsnsw.com.au/anzacambassadors Cheers, Michael



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Decentralisation is trotted out from time to time by lazy politicians with no real ideas.

They know most people think it sounds like a good thing. It's an easy way to be popular. But decentralisation is not an economic plan. Further, in recent years just about every regional community across NSW has lost a large number of Centrelink, Medicare, AEC, and tax office staff. Few communities could hope to have those replaced by a relocated agency. There can be no one-size fits-all approach to building stronger regions. Every region and regional town is different. Some towns were established on a railway line which no longer exists or a highway that has been by-passed. Some were once home to the employees of a mine, or manufacturing plant which moved on long ago. Often these towns have lost so many residents the local school or hospital is no longer viable. They've lost their only GP and can't attract a new one. Many have lost their Post Office and their local bank branch.

Other regional towns are doing quite well. They may have a strong services sector, be minerals rich or have a strong agriculture sector. They may enjoy the benefits of a strong tourism sector. Every town's needs and aspirations are different.

Beware the politician who says he or she comes with simple solutions or opportunities for these towns. Regional communities need more than spin. I believe in six basic rules as a foundation.

First, no region can reach its full potential without a strong economy and that requires competent economic management at the national level.

Second, remember the private sector is the key driver of economic activity and jobs growth.

Third, government must provide the enablers - roads, rail, bridges, ports, telecommunications (NBN), an educated and healthy workforce which has access to support like childcare.

Fourth, government has a role to play in industry development; to provide strategic guidance for investors and to help create market opportunities.

Fifth, government must provide for the protection and efficient management of the natural resources we so heavily rely upon. In the 21st Century, we must focus on the long game.

The sixth rule is; the best results come when planning comes from the bottom up, not dictated by Canberra. Locals know best!

Cheers, Joel

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draws moisture into the skin.

5. Smooth corns and calluses gently. Use a pumice stone to smooth corns and calluses.
6. Trim your toenails each week or when needed. Trim your toenails straight across and file the edges with an emery board or nail file.

7. Wear shoes and socks at all times.

- Never walk barefoot.
- Wear comfortable shoes that fit well and protect your feet. Feel inside your shoes before putting them on each time to make sure the lining is smooth and there are no objects inside.

8. Protect your feet from hot and cold.

- Wear shoes at the beach or on hot pavement. Wear socks at night if your feet get cold.

9. Keep the blood flowing to your feet.

- Put your feet up when sitting. Wiggle your toes and move your ankles up and down for 5 minutes, 2 or 3 times a day.

- Don't cross your legs for long periods of time.

Don't smoke.

10. Be more active. Plan your physical activity program with your doctor.

11. Check with your doctor. Have your doctor check your bare feet and find out whether you are likely to have serious foot problems. Remember that you may not feel the pain of an injury. Call your doctor right away if a cut, sore, blister, or bruise on your foot does not begin to heal after one day. Follow your doctor's advice about foot care.

12. Get started now.

- Begin taking good care of your feet today.

- Set a time every day to check your feet.

13. Fight Fungus.

Over-the-counter antifungal treatments come in many forms -- lacquers, creams, lotions, liquids, spray powders, and spray liquids. These products work best on mild cases of athlete's foot, and probably not at all with toenail fungus, which is difficult to treat.

No matter the form, they have one of the following active ingredients, which are all equally effective: terbinafine, tolnaftate, miconazole, ciclopirox, or clotrimazole. Tabari says tea tree oil, sometimes called melaleuca oil, also works well on mild cases of athlete's foot.

Look for a medicated powder or spray if you have sweaty feet. Powders usually contain aluminum chloride hexahydrate to help keep feet dry.

- If you have dry feet, look for an antifungal lotion. Dry your feet thoroughly before you apply antifungal powder or lotion. Dark and damp conditions let the fungus that cause athlete's foot flourish. Basic good foot hygiene is the best way to prevent fungal infections. Wash your feet frequently and dry them thoroughly, especially between your toes. Wear fresh socks or other hosiery daily.

14. Get Support. Standing for a long time can make your feet sore. Wearing insoles can help make shoes more comfortable.

- Look for insoles that have a plastic shell at the bottom. Podiatrists say the shell makes them strong enough to provide real support.

15. Wear Sunscreen. Wear sunscreen on the tops of your feet. Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30 to your feet when you're going barefoot or wearing open sandals. *Cheers, Lee*



Total: 50 min
Active: 10 min
Yield: Two 8-inch meat pies
Ingredients

- 3 pounds beef chuck, diced 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/2 cup flour
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon celery seed

Australian Meat Pie



- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 4 cups beef or chicken stock
- 4 sheets puff pastry
- 1 egg, beaten, to glaze crust
- Black pepper

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Dredge beef in flour and sear in oil in a hot pan. Add the garlic and onion and saute for 4 more minutes. Add the spices, Worcestershire and soy sauce and cook until the liquid is almost dissolved. Add the stock and cook until the meat is coated in thick gravy. Transfer to a container and cool. Roll 2 sheets of pastry to 1/2-inch thickness. Line 8-inch tart molds with the rolled pastry. Line the pastry with tin foil and prebake for about 8 minutes. Let cool. Roll out the remaining pastry sheets and cut lids for the pies. Fill baked shells with the meat mixture and cover with the cut pastry lids. Attach lids with egg wash. Brush the tops with the remaining egg wash and sprinkle with black pepper. Bake for 8 minutes or until golden brown.

YOUR VOICE IN CANBERRA

Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Federal Member for Hunter

If you need assistance with a Federal Government issue, visit my information stall at
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Quotable Quotes....

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." — Dr. Seuss
"I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best." — Marilyn Monroe
"Be yourself, everyone else is already taken." — Oscar Wilde
"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind." — Bernard M. Baruch
"I am so clever that sometimes I don't understand a single word of what I am saying." — Oscar Wilde, The Happy Prince and Other Stories



Report

spond to all levels of crime including drug and rural crime. "Police officers across the state work hard every day to put the communities they serve first and foremost and I am pleased to see these results reflecting their hard work."

Police re-appeal after newsagency robbery – Cessnock.

Thursday, 15 June 2017 06:17:32 PM
Images of the man and the vehicle are posted on the NSW Police Force Facebook page

Police are re-appealing for information following an armed robbery at Cessnock in April 2017. Just after 2.30pm on Saturday 1 April 2017, a 27-year-old man was working at a newsagency on Wollombi Road. A man armed with a knife and his face covered, entered the store and demanded cash.

The worker complied with the demand before the man left the store. Police from Central Hunter Local Area Command have released CCTV images of a man they believe can assist them with their inquiries. The man is described as wearing a balaclava, a hooded light grey jacket with a dark stripe down the arms, black gloves, dark-coloured long pants and dark shoes with white socks.

Police have also released a CCTV image of a vehicle they believe may be connected to the robbery. The vehicle is described as a silver Mitsubishi Mirage with yellow and black number plates, standard hub caps and damage to the left rear wheel arch.

Anyone with information in is urged to contact Cessnock Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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 social media pages.

Crime Continues to Fall Across NSW

Thursday, 08 June 2017 11:39:32 AM

All major crime categories have remained stable or continue to fall in the latest crime data released by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

NSW Police Commissioner, Mick Fuller APM said none of the 17 crime categories had increased in the 24 months to March 2017.

"This result goes to show how targeted and proactive policing is helping to drive down crime across the state."

The offences trending down were:

- Robbery with a weapon not a firearm (down 10.9%)
- Break and enter – dwelling (down 5.9%)
- Steal from person (down 15.2%)
- Fraud – (down 4.3%)

All other offences remained stable.

"While we're seeing great results across the board, there is still a lot of work to be done including building a more efficient structure for the future of policing in NSW."

"Our commitment is putting the community first and ensuring our police have the structure and support behind them to continue preventing, disrupting and responding to crime." Non-fatal shootings have remained stable in the two years to March and over the longer term have shown a significant downward trend in the past five and ten years.

In line with the State-wide trend, crime is either stable or falling in regional areas with a few exceptions such as Break and enter dwelling, which has seen increases across two regions and Steal from dwelling which is also up in two areas.

"The recent appointment of a dedicated Regional Deputy Commissioner will further enhance police capabilities to target and re-

HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

Ministerial 'roundtable' in Wine Country

On Wednesday 14th June, the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) was pleased to receive a visit from the Minister for Trade and Investment, Primary Industries and Regional Water, the Hon Niall Blair MLC.

The Minister who also sits on the State's Expenditure Review Committee was visiting as part of a NSW Cabinet Visit to the Upper Hunter the following day.

In the picture taken from the roundtable discussion held at Keith Tulloch Wines from L to R Stewart Ewen, James Agnew, Jerome Scarborough, Geoff Krieger, Joe Spagnolo, Minister Niall Blair, George



Photo above: (L to R) Stewart Ewen, James Agnew, Jerome Scarborough, Geoff Krieger, Joe Spagnolo, Minister Niall Blair, George Souris, Kelli Dorward & Bruce Tyrrell.

Souris, Kellie Dorward and Bruce Tyrrell.

During the meeting the discussion entered around strategies for export enhancement and inbound tourism. Included in the discussion was the recognition of Hunter Wine Country as the State's pre-eminent wine region and strategies to ensure a greater representation of Hunter wines at government sponsored events and in the restaurant wine lists.

Hunter Wine Country is gearing up for the 2028 bi-centenary of the first continuously commercial wine grapes production in Australia. It is intended that domestic and world interest in the

'start of the Australian wine industry' would be high and that the celebrations be of the highest calibre.

This meeting in the Hunter follows an earlier Ministerial visit hosted by the HVWTA by the Hon Adam Marshall, Minister for Tourism and Major Events a month ago conducting a meeting at Hunter Valley Gardens. The HVWTA is also preparing for a Vice-regal visit it next week by the NSW Governor, His Excellency General David Hurley and Mrs Linda Hurley, where the Association will host a roundtable discussion at Drayton's Family Wines. The Vice-regal visit will be part of a broader visit to the Cessnock Local Government Area.



May/June Fishing Club Update

Some cool conditions and ordinary weather saw a dip in the Tatts Hotel

Fishing club results in the June outing but some good catches were recorded in May. The May outing saw Mark Dever continue his good form off the beach with a heap of Bream and Tailor. Brad Dorn continued to Slay the Flatty and picked up a nice Snapper close to 2kg, and the Beckett Brothers Scotty and Robert cleaned up at Lake St Clair with Bass and a couple of big Yellowbelly. Judy Masters continued to wave the Womens flag with another Bream from Forster. The June Outing only had one fish weighed in and it became the first recorded junior fish for the year. A 44cm 1.2kg Snapper was caught by Tyson Nevin off Broughton Island on light tackle saw him grinning with excitement at the chance to weigh a fish in and show his dad up for the trip (Pictured at right). Our next outing is July 7th-9th up at Glenbawn Dam. We are hoping for a good turnout to enjoy some nice fishing and some story telling

around the fire with a few ales.

Any enquires about the Club

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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

marginally in New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Historically, rental affordability declined markedly from the June quarter 2007 reaching its lowest point in the March quarter 2010. Since then rental affordability has been showing a trend improvement reflecting the pickup in investment in housing from the end of 2011.

Regulators Impact

The latest housing finance figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) confirm the actions by the regulators and banks to dampen investor demand for property is working, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA). "The value of investment housing commitments decreased by 1.0 per cent in April in trend terms. This is down 2.3 per cent from a year ago, in seasonally adjusted terms, and is well down from its 2015 peak," Mr Malcolm Gunning, REIA President said. "Overall the figures for April 2017 show, in trend terms that the number of owner-occupied finance commitments decreased by 0.5 per cent. If refinancing is excluded, in trend terms, the number of owner

occupied finance commitments increased by 0.1 per cent, following a rise of 0.2 per cent in March. "Decreases were recorded in all states and territories except the Northern Territory which had an increase of 1.8 per cent. Queensland and Western Australia had the largest decreases of 1.0 per cent. "In trend terms, the number of established dwellings purchase commitments decreased by 0.7 per cent, while new dwelling construction increased by 0.6 per cent and the purchase of new dwellings decreased by 0.1 per cent. "The number of first home buyer commitments decreased by 17.5 per cent after an increase in the previous month and is the lowest since January 2017. "The April figures show that the market is adjusting. We have seen this week the impact that a slow down in residential construction has on GDP and we will need to closely monitor the cumulative impact of recent actions by the regulators, banks and the Federal Budget," Mr Gunning concluded.

Strata building defects off to a false start

By Leisha De Aboitiz, Partner, Massons
The new building defects

regime for strata schemes is supposed to start on 1 July 2017. However, a bill is currently sitting in parliament which (if passed) will delay commencement until 1 January 2018. It won't be debated in the legislative assembly until 20 June 2017 at the earliest, which means stakeholders will be left waiting until the last minute to find out whether they will need to comply as at 1 July. The new regime is primarily set out in part 11 of the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 (NSW) ('Defects Regime'), and the bill which contemplates pushing out the commencement date for this regime is the Electronic Transactions Legislation Amendment (Government Transactions) Bill ('Bill'). It has already been passed by the state legislative council, but it won't be debated in the legislative assembly until 20 June 2017 at the earliest. When do strata managers need to be across this? Despite an approaching and uncertain start date, it will be some time (perhaps years) before strata managers start to see this regime impacting their practices. It is intended that the Defects Regime will only apply to construction contracts signed, or works that begin, on or after the commencement date of the regime (i.e. on or after

1/7/17 or 1/1/18, depending on whether the Bill is passed). It follows that a strata manager will not be involved in implementing or monitoring compliance with the new regime until after construction is complete and the new strata scheme is established. How will the scheme work? We think it is highly likely that the Bill will be passed before the 30 June deadline and therefore the commencement date will be pushed out to 1 January 2018 – but here's a quick refresher on how the Defects Regime will work just in case it isn't delayed. **The law will apply** to any building work carried out on strata scheme buildings that are wholly or partly residential (including mixed use buildings), unless they are eligible for home warranty insurance (or would be eligible save for the contract price being below the specified threshold). **Developers will be required** to provide a 'building bond' (equal to 2% of the contract price of the building work prior to an occupation certificate being issued) to the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation ('Secretary'). **Developers will be further required** to appoint an independent building inspector within 12 months

after the completion of the building work. Assuming the appointment is not contested, the inspector must carry out inspections on the building work and provide interim and final reports to the Secretary. One of the main reasons for the proposed delay to Part 11 is to give Standards Australia enough time to complete the new national standard they have been working on known as AS4349.2 – Group titled properties. The standard will form part of the defect inspection report that is applied by the scheme. **If the report identifies defective building work**, the building bond can be used in part or in full by the Secretary to compensate the owners corporation for any cost incurred towards rectification. However, the Secretary may refuse or reduce a claim on the building bond if the developer is unreasonably refused access to the scheme to rectify the work themselves. **The building bond must be returned** (in whole or in part) if it is not used for rectification, there is surplus remaining after rectification works are completed, or certain timeframes or other provisions in the legislation apply which trigger its return. DISCLAIMER - This article is intended to provide commentary and general information. It should not be relied upon as legal advice. Formal legal advice should be sought having regard to any particular facts or circumstances.

Affordability increases, first home buyers out in the cold

Housing affordability improved across all states and territories in the first quarter of 2017, however, the number of both first home buyers and loans decreased, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA). The latest Adelaide Bank/REIA Housing Affordability Report found the proportion of median family income required to meet average loan repayments decreased by 1.3 percentage points to 30.4 per cent. REIA President Malcolm Gunning said first home buyers now make up 13.4 per cent of total owner occupied housing. This rate has been dropping steadily over the past 5 years yet seems to have stabilised over the past 18 months.

"It will be interesting to see the effects that stamp duty exemptions and concessions announced in Victoria and more recently in NSW have on first home buyers. "We anticipate that more first home buyers will be enticed to enter the market place. However, it will take time for any response to filter into our data as the changes do not come into effect until 1 July 2017 in either state," Mr Gunning said. Over the March quarter, the proportion of median family income required to meet rent payments increased by 0.1 percentage points to 24.6 per cent. However, the results are variable across the states and territories with rental affordability improving

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Cessnock City Council thinks ahead



Clr Jay Suvaal, at left, & Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent

Cessnock City Council is always on the lookout for new opportunities and the relocation of the Newcastle Paceway to the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) is now on the agenda.

The Newcastle Harness Racing Club has a long-standing lease on the paceway located in Broadmeadow, which it has had since 1989. The club may soon be looking for a new home

with the lease set to expire in 2027 and there have been recent discussions about redeveloping the existing precinct.

Cessnock City Council is looking to seize the opportunity and earmark Cessnock as the perfect spot if the Newcastle Harness Racing Club considers a relocation in the future.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said a facility like this

would be well suited to our community and have economic benefits with increased visitors.

“Harness racing is hugely popular in the Cessnock LGA, with a large number of trainers and owners in the area, and it would be great to see this built upon.”

“Given our central location, ease of access with the Hunter Expressway and rapid growth predicted, we are a prime spot for a new

paceway,” added Cr Pynsent.

Council will write to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Scot Macdonald and the Newcastle Harness Racing Club to set up a meeting to discuss future plans.

Council will also investigate potential sites for the paceway that will include, but not be limited to vacant land close to the Hunter Expressway, along with existing sites for possible redevelopment.

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TICKETS \$10



Applications open for ‘Student Ambassadors’

Six young people from across NSW will have the opportunity of a lifetime to travel to historic battlefields in Greece and Israel as part of the 2017 Premier’s Anzac Ambassadors Program. Parliamentary secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC welcomed the launch of the program today, encouraging local high school students to take part in the essay competition.

“I encourage students from across the Hunter to apply for the Premier’s Anzac Ambassadors Program for the chance of a lifetime to retrace the steps of our Anzacs who gave so much for our country,” Mr MacDonald said.

Minister for Veterans Affairs David Elliott said it is important for young people and students to understand and commemorate the great sacrifices the Anzacs made over 100 years ago in foreign wars and on foreign battlefields.

“This journey to key First World War battlegrounds is an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the events and contributions made by young men and women that shaped our nation a century ago.”

The six successful applicants will travel to Lemnos in Greece and to Israel for the centenary of the Charge of the Fourth Light Horse Brigade at Beersheba as part of a two-week tour that is sponsored by ClubsNSW.

Interested students have been asked to submit a 1000-word essay on “Why is the Centenary of Anzac important for modern Australia and what lessons are learned from the Battle of Beersheba in 1917?”

ClubsNSW CEO Anthony Ball welcomed the launch of the fourth annual Premier’s Anzac Ambassador’s Program.

“ClubsNSW is proud to play a part in keeping the legacy and spirit of Anzac alive for the next generation,” Mr Ball said. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for young people to learn about the service and sacrifice made by Anzac soldiers and nurses, and to pass this knowledge onto their peers after they return home.

The tour will leave Sydney on 24 October and return home 5 November. Applications close Monday 31 July 2017. For more information about how to enter please visit www.clubsnsw.com.au/anzacambassadors

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Join us for a fun afternoon
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Sat 26th Aug @ 2.00pm
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Asking \$370,000



BRANXTON

SOLD

Senior Living

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

\$315,000



GRETA

Oldie but a Goodie

First home or astute investor

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

ASKING \$275,000



GRETA

For the astute investor

Approx. 2000sm (half an acre)

58 High Street, Greta

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

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



BRANXTON

Just listed

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



SOLD

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



Under Contract

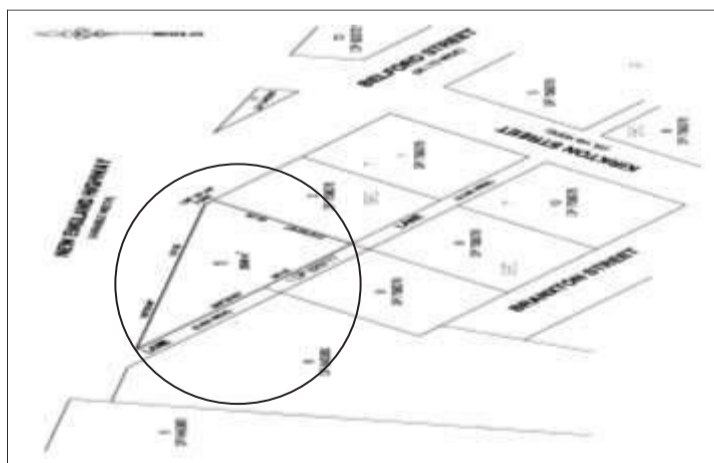
BRANXTON

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



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PRICE \$160,000 ONO



EAST BRANXTON

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PRICE \$300,000

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“Airy” & “Open”

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NORTH ROTHBURY

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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



their support. We are looking for new members to assist in our voluntary work for our community. Call Alan on 4938 1654 or Brian on 6574 7186. Lions Club District Governor Ken Hallan welcoming new Lions Club member Melanie Dagg



Contrary to some opinion, the Rotary Club of Cessnock has not closed for business. In fact last Thursday they held their weekly dinner meeting at the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, who were the recipients of the Innovation and Excellence Award. Members and guests enjoyed canapés, main course and dessert prepared by the volunteers at the Gallery. The club returns to Potters

Tavern this week and the following week & on the 29th June the club will celebrate its Changeover Dinner (the annual change of one board to the next). The club would like to hear from anyone who might consider joining. Also, any parents looking to have their children join the many Rotary Programs designed to assist the youth of our community. Graham Farish will be the new President and he would be happy to receive enquiries on 0414 842 327. The Effie O'Neil Debate between Cessnock High

and Mount View has been contested since 1990 by the Rotary Club of Cessnock on a yearly basis. Nicole Craft was one of the adjudicators and she was also in the very first debate between the two high schools all those years ago. President Ross Lidbury is pictured presenting the trophy to Tahlia Hughes from Mount View High on this occasion, but it was 13 to 13 to each high school up until this debate. Teachers from both high schools attended the debate and the Rotary Club of Cessnock donated \$100 to each school.

Fundraiser for 'Lions Kids Cancer Genome Project Biggest Morning Tea'
ON Saturday 6th June the Branxton Lions Club held a

BBQ Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Singleton. All proceeds from this fundraiser was given to the Lions Kids Cancer Genome Project Biggest Morning Tea. We would like to thank Bunnings at Singleton for



Changeover Dinner

ON the 30th May 2017 the club had its annual Changeover Dinner at Greta Workers Club. Guest for the evening was District Governor Ken Hallam who inducted the new Board Members for the 2017 ~ 2018 year & also a new member Ward C Councillor Melanie Dagg. The new executive & board members are:- **President** Brian Thomas, **Secretary** Alan Bechley, **Treasurer** Tony Ernst, **Vice-President** Ken Meaney, **1st & 2nd** Alan Becker, **Year Directors** Eddie Barrett, Ron Hungerford & John McGoldrick
LCIF Coordinator Brian Thomas, **Membership** Alan Humphreys, **Dinner Chairman** Brian Thomas, **Event Chairman** Ken Meaney, **Publicity Officer** Ken Meaney, **Lion Tamer** John McGoldrick, **Tail Twister** John McGoldrick, **Past President** Bob Rhodes
Photo at left: Branxton Lions Club 2017/2018 new Board.

Photo at left: Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings in Singleton. The money raised went to Lions Kids Cancer Genome Project.



President Ross Lidbury with Cessnock Regional Art Gallery volunteers.



President Ross Lidbury presenting the Effie O'Neil Debate Trophy



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GRETA WORKERS CLUB
2 WEST ST GRETA

MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB
6 MAITLAND RD EAST BRANXTON

GRETA WORKERS

RESTAURANT

NEW CATERERS

GREAT AUSSIE FOOD

LUNCH & DINNER
TUESDAY — SUNDAY

DAILY SPECIALS

RAFFLES

FRIDAY & SUNDAY
MEAT RAFFLES

FRIDAY 23rd JUNE
“RENDEZVOUS”

FRIDAY 30th JUNE
“2STUFD2JUMP”

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

21st JUNE

\$5,000

SUNDAY

25th JUNE

\$4,600

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

MILLER PARK

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

THURSDAY 11th JUNE

\$5,000

SUNDAY 25th JUNE

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

“THE PARK”
RESTAURANT

WEDNESDAY —
SUNDAY

GREAT FOOD
CLUB PRICES

RAFFLES

FRIDAY

MEAT RAFFLE 7.00PM

SUNDAY

MEAT RAFFLE 6.00pm

HAPPY HOUR

MILLER PARK WEDNESDAY

GRETA THURSDAY

4.00 — 6.00pm

\$3.40 a Schooner



MICHAEL CRICHTON



REVIEW 'Dragon Teeth' by Michael Crichton & The Top 10 Fiction Bestseller List

© Nielsen BookScan 2017
Week Ending 3/6/17

A welcome new addition in the Number 1 place for this week's Top Ten Fiction List is Nora Roberts' latest *Come Sundown*, a story of love, lies and murder. Right behind it, at Number 2, is Paula Hawkins' long-awaited second book *Into the Water*. After a fifteen-year old girl's mother is found dead in the water, she begins uncovering murky secrets from the past. Lee Child's *No Middle Name* is a collection of Jack Reacher short stories and includes an exclusive novella *Too Much Time*. It's essential reading for all Jack Reacher enthusiasts and thriller buffs alike. Taking the Number 4 spot is *The Fix* by David Baldacci, following detective Amos Decker, who acquired the unique neurological phenomenon synaesthesia and an incredible memory after a head trauma. As he deciphers a series of apparently random and senseless murders, the unthinkable happens.

Another new title to the list is Karen Rose's novel *The Monster in the Closet*, which is a standalone that reunites readers with her bestselling Baltimore series. From multi-million

copy bestselling author and winner of the CWA Diamond Dagger award, Peter James, *Need You Dead* sees Roy Grace faces his most mysterious case yet. This week it's at Number 6. Number 9 this week is the new Michael Crichton, *Dragon Teeth*, a novel that explores ancient discoveries, an epic rivalry, and an adventure that made history.

A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron is at Number 10. Puppies are constantly being reborn with the souls of old dogs, and the book looks at the most essential of human (and dog) questions: why are we here?

Liane Moriarty has two much-loved titles on this week's list, including *The Husband's Secret* and *Truly Madly Guilty*.

- Still want more to read? **Come Sundown** by Nora Roberts (Hachette)
- Into the Water** by Paula Hawkins (Doubleday)
- No Middle Name** by Lee Child (Bantam)
- The Fix** by David Baldacci (Macmillan)
- The Monster in the Closet** by Karen Rose (Hachette)
- Need You Dead** by Peter James (Macmillan)
- Truly Madly Guilty** by Liane Moriarty (Pan)
- The Husband's Secret** by Liane Moriarty (Pan)
- Dragon Teeth** by Michael Crichton (HarperCollins)
- A Dog's Purpose** by W. Bruce Cameron (Pan)

REVIEW
'Dragon Teeth'
by Michael Crichton
Michael Crichton's recently discovered novel—an adventure set in the Wild West during the golden age of fossil hunting.

The year is 1876. Warring Indian tribes still populate America's western territories even as lawless gold-rush towns begin to mark the landscape. In much of the country it is still illegal to espouse evolution. Against this backdrop two monomaniacal paleontologists pillage the Wild West, hunting for dinosaur fossils, while surveilling, deceiving and sabotaging each other in a rivalry that will come to be known as the Bone Wars.

Into this treacherous territory plunges the arrogant and entitled William Johnson, a Yale student with more privilege than sense. Determined to survive a summer in the west to win a bet against his arch-rival, William has joined world-renowned paleontologist Othniel Charles Marsh on his latest expedition. But when the paranoid and secretive Marsh becomes convinced that William is spying for his nemesis, Edwin Drinker Cope, he abandons him in Cheyenne, Wyoming, a locus of crime and vice. William is forced to join forces with Cope and soon stumbles upon a discovery of historic proportions. With this extraordinary treasure, however, comes exceptional danger, and William's newfound resilience will be tested in his struggle to protect his cache, which pits him against some of the West's most notorious characters. 4 1/2/5

Quotes from *Dragon Teeth*
"You would think that people who had experienced injustice would be loath to inflict it on

ABOUT Michael Crichton
John Michael Crichton (October 23, 1942 – November 4, 2008) was an American best-selling author, screenwriter, film director and producer best known for his work in the science fiction, medical fiction and thriller genres. His books have sold over 200 million copies worldwide, and many have been adapted into films. In 1994, Crichton became the only creative artist ever to have works simultaneously charting at No. 1 in U.S. television (*ER*), film (*Jurassic Park*), and book sales (*Disclosure*). His literary works are usually within the action genre and heavily feature technology. His novels epitomize the techno-thriller genre of literature, often exploring technology and failures of human interaction with it, especially resulting in catastrophes with biotechnology. Many of his future history novels have medical or scientific underpinnings, reflecting his medical training and science background. He wrote, among other works, *The Andromeda Strain* (1969); *Congo* (1980); *Sphere* (1987); *Travels* (1988); *Jurassic Park* (1990); *Rising Sun* (1992); *Disclosure* (1994); *The Lost World* (1995); *Airframe* (1996); *Timeline* (1999); *Prey* (2002); *State of Fear* (2004); *Next* (2006), the final book published before his death; *Pirate Latitudes* (2009), an unfinished techno-thriller; *Micro*, which was published in November 2011; and *Dragon Teeth*, a historical novel set during the "Bone Wars", published worldwide in May 2017.



others, and yet they do so with alacrity. The victims become victimizers with a chilling righteousness. This is the nature of fanaticism, to attract and provoke extremes of behaviour. And this is why fanatics are all the same, whatever specific form their fanaticism takes."

success, souvenirs to send to sweethearts and loved ones, or simply ways of remembering, of grasping a moment in a swift changing and uncertain world."



"Photographs provided a tangible reality to men who were far from home, fearful and tired; they were posed proofs of

Let's celebrate NAIDOC Week

Cessnock City Council has partnered with local community groups to put together another exciting program of events for NAIDOC Week across the LGA, and everyone is invited to join in. NAIDOC Week is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and provides a great opportunity to recognise, enjoy and learn about these cultures in our local community. The theme for this year's NAIDOC is 'Our Languages Matter'. The language traditionally spoken in most of the Cessnock LGA was the Wonnarua language and there are groups across our region who are working to revitalise this. While celebrations are officially held from 2 to 9 July, the program in Cessnock will be kicking off a little earlier with a special performance of Coranderrk at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre next Thursday 22 June at 8pm. Coranderrk recreates the Parliamentary Inquiry in 1881 where the men and women of Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve went head to head with the Aboriginal Protection Board. It is an important story in our Indigenous history, one of

determination and strength. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent encourages our local community to check out the program and join the NAIDOC Week festivities. "It is fantastic to see such a wide range of activities that provide so many different opportunities for the community to get involved in." "There are many highlights in our local program including workshops, family fun days, the annual Cessnock street parade, the Koori Cook-off and two exhibitions opening at the Cessnock Gallery," said Cr Pynsent.

If you would like to find out more, the local program is available online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/events-ceremonies/naidoc, in Council's admin building, Cessnock City Libraries and participating venues. Cessnock LGA NAIDOC Week 2017 is proudly supported by Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre, Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation, Catholic Care, Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, the Samaritans Foundation, Hunter New England Health, Cessnock City Libraries and CYCOS.

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Celebrating NAIDOC Cessnock LGA 2017
Artwork by Les Elvin, 2015

Celebrating Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage.
A full program of activities is available from Cessnock City Libraries, Council Administration Building or visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au



A SPECIAL EVENT for TWO VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE, NOELEEN and ERNIE BENDEICH occurred on Saturday, 3rd June.

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, NOELEEN AND ERNIE
 Noeleen and Ernie celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a Mass at St. Brigids Church, followed by a relaxing dinner for family and friends at the McCauley Hall. Noeleen has been a member of Branxton/Greta CWA for over 40 years and was presented with a Life Membership in 2015 in recognition of her service. Noeleen is also Patron, Treasurer, Cultural Officer and Delegate for Hunter River Group Council Meetings and annual State Conferences and has also volunteered several times at the kiosk at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Whilst raising a family of five children and now ten grandchildren and also two great grandchildren, as well as all the other voluntary commitments in

the community, you would think it would be time to slow down – but not Noeleen, or Ernie. When Noeleen has some free time, she loves to knit or crochet and has been known to donate some of her lovely handicraft for raffles, as well as entering in CWA or Show competitions, often winning first/second or third place.

Ernie, an honorary member, has been a great support to Noeleen and also of great assistance with setting up for functions/clearing out sales/Bunnings Sausage Sizzles etc and also with cleaning up afterwards. His contribution and support has also been very valuable and much appreciated. Noeleen has been a great support also to

Ernie on the farm over the years. They are a great twosome, in that they are always there for one another and their family. How they manage to do what they do, not just for the CWA, and still have time for their ever growing family, is truly inspirational. Congratulations again, Noeleen and Ernie on your 50th Wedding Anniversary. All the best for the future.



Noeleen and Ernie cutting their Anniversary cake (made by daughter, Roslyn)



Noeleen and Ernie on their Wedding Day

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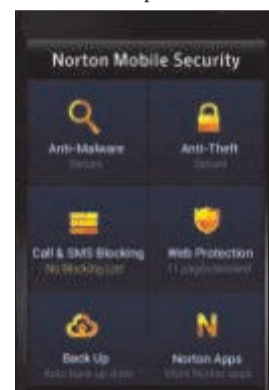
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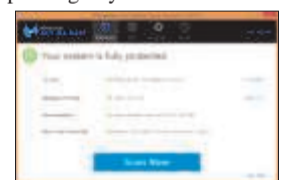


Why Is Security Software Sold As a Subscription?

I've had a few questions from people recently as to why the majority of security software like Norton, Kaspersky, Bitdefender, McAfee, and Malwarebytes is sold as a subscription. It's not cheap, a year of Norton can run close to a \$100. So why a subscription and not a one-time price?



Security threats are changing daily, even hourly. In our everyday life, there are many forms of security. You could buy a deadbolt for your door for a one-time price. That's because that deadbolt is designed to do one thing that never changes. All it has to do is make that door more secure. Once it is manufactured, the maker never has to put any more money into it. They know what the materials and labour cost and what to charge the store for in order to make a profit. The store doesn't have to do anything other than selling it to you. It's designed to protect against someone pushing in your door.



Nothing about the threat to your door ever really changes and nothing about that lock's job ever changes. The police force in your town is another type of security. What threats they have to look out for change from day to day, depending on what types of crimes are happening and what tools criminals use. What a police force needs to do could change drastically if a criminal gang were to move into your town to set up shop. That's why instead of a one time fee for lifetime police protection, the police budget changes yearly and we pay our fees with taxes that are subject to change. Those taxes could be paid yearly, quarterly, or with every purchase, depending on how your community pays for the police force. It's the same with security software. Companies have to work constantly to be aware of and fight new threats. They also have to apply their security technology to new types of devices as they gain popularity. It would be

almost impossible for a company to know what it's going to take to protect and individual's device five or 10 years from now. They could guess, but new threats could come along that might require them to double the staff to stay up to date. When you buy security software, you aren't just buying a program that sits on your computer and never changes. You're purchasing something that requires constant maintenance by the developers to be effective.

Your iPad is updating to a 'New Look'

The familiar iPad is getting an all-new look in iOS 11. Apple's latest mobile operating system is expected this fall. Let's check out the changes for the device that launched the tablet revolution.



One major change is the introduction of a file system, similar to the file manager you see in Android devices. The Files app allows you to search and organize files in one location. And not just your iPad files. You can check out files in apps, and on your iPhone, Mac, or iCloud service. You can also access cloud service like Dropbox.



The iPad now features a brand-new dock. It's available from any screen. You can customize with your favourites apps and the dock will also suggest apps based on what you used recently on your iPad as well as your iPhone or Mac.



Users can now open a second app from the dock and keep both apps active in a split view.



You'll also now be able to drag and drop text, photos, and files between apps on the tablet.



And, yes Android and Windows tablet users, I know these features sound familiar. But they are new to this device and I think a lot of iPad users will like them. It's also going to make the iPad interface seem a lot more familiar to Android and Windows users.

What Does Google Have On You? Download Your Data

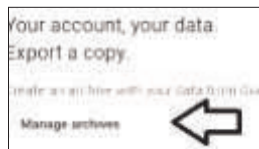
If you use Google for searching, use the Chrome browser, have Gmail, or view videos on YouTube, Google has a whole lot of information about you. But just how much do they have. And more importantly, how can you see it? Fortunately, there's a handy way to download a copy of what they know. It's called Google Takeout. You'll be taken to the page below.



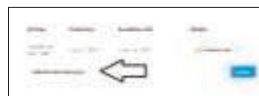
You can scroll down to select what types of data you want to see.



There's a pretty long list of options of everything from your fitness tracker to maps to your Google Wallet. Make sure there's a check next to the data you want to download. Then select Manage archives.



Then Create New Archive.



Select the type of file and the maximum size.



Then choose the delivery method and click Create Archive.



Depending on the amount of data it could take hours or even days to create the archive. You'll receive a Gmail message when the information is ready. Click Download.



Once the information is downloaded, you can open the Takeout file and explore the individual file folders for each service to see what type of information Google keeps about you.

Then I did this for my personal account. I was stunned. The file for my information was so large that even the zipped file took a full 20 minutes to download. It's going to take me quite some time to go through everything they have.

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.

MOVIE REVIEW

Despicable Me 3

Synopsis

Available in 2D and 3D

The team who brought you Despicable Me and the biggest animated hits of 2013 and 2015, Despicable Me 2 and Minions, returns to continue the adventures of Gru, Lucy, their adorable daughters—Margo, Edith and Agnes—and the Minions. Despicable Me 3, directed by Pierre Coffin and Kyle Balda, co-directed by Eric Guillon, and written by Cinco Paul & Ken Daurio, will be released in theaters in summer 2017.

The animated film is produced by Illumination's Chris Meledandri and Janet Healy, and executive produced by Chris Renaud.

Joining Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig in Despicable Me 3 is Emmy, Tony and Grammy Award winner Trey Parker, co-creator of Comedy Central's global phenomenon South Park and the Broadway smash The Book of Mormon. Parker voices the role of villain Balthazar Bratt, a former child star who's grown up to become obsessed with the character he played in the '80s, and proves to be Gru's most formidable nemesis to date.

Consumer Advice: Mild Themes and Animated Violence

Directors: Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin Main Cast: Kristen Wiig, Jenny Slate & Steve Carell

Genre: 3D, Action, Adventure, Animation Running Time: 90 MIN Release Date: 15 June 2017



Gru and the Minions are back in the third installment of Illumination's popular franchise, which world-premiered at the Annecy Film Festival.

Repeating a formula that worked like gangbusters in the last installment, which became the most profitable film in Universal history, Despicable Me 3 offers up more of the same: more Gru — actually Gru times two if you count his twin brother, Dru; more Minions (though thankfully less than in their own exhausting 2015 spinoff); more Looney Tunes-esque sight gags; more pop-culture references, with an emphasis on the 1980s this time; and more catchy Pharrell Williams songs on the soundtrack.

It's an if-it-ain't-broke-then-don't-fix-it approach that works just fine if you're simply looking to take another ride on the rollercoaster, with Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig returning to voice a pair of lovey-dovey superspy parents out to rid the world of evil yet again. Indeed, the original film's enticing premise, about a bad guy who can't help turning good, has been somewhat forgotten, even if series creator Pierre Coffin (working here with Kyle Balda and co-director Eric Guillon) tries to insert a bit of pathos and family matters into the action. Otherwise, this rather clever, breakneck-paced cartoon gives fans exactly what they want: Like the new nemesis voiced by Trey Parker, it shoots multiple machine-gun bursts of bubblegum at the audience, asking them to chew and enjoy. Expect them to do so when the film hits theaters June 30. When we last left Gru (Carell) and Lucy (Wiig),

they had forged a happy home with the three girls (Miranda Cosgrove, Dana Gaier, Nev Scharrel) the big bad softie wound up with in the first movie. When this one starts, their livelihood is quickly threatened when their Anti-Villain League's new boss (Jenny Slate) fires the couple after they fail to apprehend an arch villain named Balthazar Bratt (Parker) — a former '80s child TV star who has gone all Different Strokes and turned to a life of crime.

The opening reel offers up a slew of Tex Avery-style stunts, music cues ranging from Michael Jackson to Van Halen to A-ha, and enough of the Minions to keep the kids happy. There's a lot thrown at the screen at once, yet Carell and Wiig manage to anchor the action with characters that can seem both outlandish and emotionally real, trying to keep their couple afloat amid the chaos that surrounds them. Coffin and his fellow directors — working with returning scribes Cinco Paul and Ken Daurio — keep several balls in the air at once, kicking off the second act by introducing Dru (Carell again, though with a less pronounced Slavic accent), a long-lost twin brother who seems to be everything Gru isn't, all the way down to a swath of blond hair that Donald Trump could only dream of implanting. But things are not necessarily what they seem, and the brotherly love turns into something else as we learn more about Gru's family history, including a brief cameo from his mother (Julie Andrews), who looks like she's caught in a pool scene from a softcore Italian porno. There are plenty of other outlandish jokes here, such as a French character that's a spitting image of Gerard Depardieu, a rather outré depiction of a fictional European island (whose inhabitants include lots of

cheese-eating kids, a bunch of drunks and a somewhat offensively rendered woman with major facial hair) and, in what may be the film's piece de resistance, two laugh-out-loud Minion sketches: one that may be a direct reference to the song-and-dance number in Charlie Chaplin's Modern Times, and a prison sequence scored to Pharrell's hit "Freedom." The filmmakers seem to be having a blast, sometimes at our expense but most of the time in a lively and bonkers enough way that forces you to clap along (to quote Pharrell's hit from the last movie). With a running time of only 96 minutes, not including credits for all 550 crew members, the pacing is so fast that there's barely room to breathe — although Coffin puts just enough emphasis on Gru's "issues" and just enough throwaway gags (cue up another Minion) to keep the movie grounded. Things of course wind up leading to a big-bang final battle where the notion of Hollywood excess literally comes home to roost. One could perhaps see such an ending as a form of industry self-mockery in the way that, say, the Lego movies like to poke fun at their own existence. But the Despicable Me franchise, which has grossed \$1.5 billion and counting thus far, hardly needs to look deep into its soul for further meaning. It has its recipe perfectly down pat by now, and with further installments likely on the horizon, it only asks that we laugh with it all the way to the bank. **3.8/5**



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

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



There are and always will be times in our lives which will evidently come back to haunt us. Fortunately, many are innocent enough to not warrant too much of a stir, yet regrettably there are some which surface with dire consequences. My situation was fortunately in the formative, however I rue the day it began.

In the mid-eighties, my friends and I were sitting in our maths class, waiting for our new teacher to arrive. This was the teacher's very first day, yet as an old boy of the school, he was far from a freshman of any kind- his reputation preceded him. We had done our homework on this chap by scouring through a multitude of old school magazines and as one does without any prior engaging, assumed he was a total wanker! Upon his entrance and introduction, we had removed all doubt that our assumption was indeed precise.

After some general chit-chat, he asked us to stand up one at a time and tell him our names and our goal in life. As we each stood up and stated our names, he would interrupt with pretentious quips. For example.....

'My name is Ed White and my.....'
'Are you from the Belltrees Whites' of Scone?'

'Yes, sir.'
A smile would grow and his eyes would imply a disturbingly potential favouritism towards some of my classmates. It continued.....

'My name is Sam Laws and.....'
'Let me guess, you want to get into radio like your father?'

'Umm.....yes, sir.....maybe!'
'Good boy.....next!'

'My name is Louie Mountbatten and.....'
'Enough said Louie.....I know who you are.....nice to finally meet you.....next!'

After sizing this chap up, I formed the distinct impression that to be on his wrong side could serve little justice. I painfully envisaged myself sitting like the majority of the others, clearly having this chap hammering us and siding with his pets. My turn eventually came.

'My name is Andrew Marsh and.....'
'Any relation?'

'....Um...I beg your pardon?'

'Any relation?'

I struggled to think who he was talking about yet I gave cricketing great, Rod Marsh and golfing legend Graham Marsh, a well weighted chance. As I realised that this just could be my ticket to having him eating out of my hand, it took me no time to answer.....

'Yes, sir.....Uncles!'
'Great...and what is your goal in life?'

'Sir, I would like to think that cricket or golf would be certainly on the radar, however, I have a deep desire to become a teacher... and maths is my favourite subject...so if I put in the effort, maybe a maths teacher!'

Oh my, that was painful enough to vomit, although the eager smile which inexplicitly fortified upon my teacher's face was a priceless gift.

'Just like your Uncle Graham?' he kindly replied. I had absolutely no idea where he was going with that comment but I learned soon after that Graham Marsh was actually a qualified maths teacher. Well, I'll be!

Mathematics became a pleasurable pastime for a select group. Our teacher's disgustingly obvious favouritism was serving us well. Mind you, my total focus was meandering towards finding out as much as possible about Rod and Graham Marsh, so that my secret could never be revealed. Gaining the relevant up-to-date information was a potentially difficult task and I had to scour every newspaper, day in, day out to make sure I was fully in the know. My teacher was a golf and cricket nut and impressively up-to-date with the latest news, reviews and developments. Why did I have to have the same name as two sporting brothers who played two different bloody sports?

Following just one was tricky enough but two really sucked some time from my life. There was no such thing as the internet in those days. In fact, computers were very rare. Every day was the same in maths.....

'Nice catch of Rod's yesterday in the opening over...sharp as a tack!' He would then quickly grab the duster from the base of the blackboard and fire it straight at me. Without a hint of fright I would catch it - every time - and he would laugh and shake his head..... 'runs in the family!'

I was assisted during this time by one of my father's oldest and dearest friends, Neil Marks. Marksy is an icon in Australian cricket and is one of Australia's leading cricket and sporting authors. Known in the cricketing world simply as 'Harpo', Marksy couldn't stop laughing the day I sheepishly phoned him and informed him of the awkward dilemma I had placed myself in. At one stage I was calling him weekly, frivolously digging for as much information about the Marsh brothers as possible.

'You are aware that they're Western Australian?' said Marksy during our first call.
'Yes, I know.'
'Does your teacher know that?'

'Yes.'
'...And?'

'Does he know that they don't have an older brother who is a vigneron in the Hunter Valley?'

'Obviously not.'
'Hhhaaaaa, Hhhhaaaaa, Hhhhaaaaa.....I love it!'

The amusing part was that the entire class knew that I had pulled the wool over our teacher's eyes. I had done enough homework to have him completely convinced, to keep the ball rolling. Now here's where things begin to get interesting. I sail through the entire year and pass maths with flying colours. What I don't consider however, is that the top sixteen mathematicians in the year who will be studying three and four unit maths in the final two years, will ultimately be in this chap's class for the remainder of their schooling life..... I was number sixteen!

I remember feeling rather queasy. I couldn't keep this façade up. The previous day, I had to sit in the school's dining hall with my maths teacher and another maths teacher called Dave Willis, brother of English fast bowler Bob, talking cricket for two hours. I could feel my time running thin.

Suddenly, our parent-teacher night sprang up. In an unusual new format, the school decided to include both parents and students in order for the benefit of the exercise to precipitate into an immediate and more thorough effect. Both my parents were aware of my situation with my maths teacher, as Marksy had blurted it out at a party they had attended not long before. They were not amused. I sat with them over dinner before they prepared themselves for the onslaught of teachers pouring their hearts out that I am more interested in sport than schoolwork and that I am a constant disappointment; a loud mouth; the class clown and am constantly disrupting the other students. My grades were always good however (how, I will never know!). My main problem here was that I needed to tell my parents that this ongoing fascination my teacher had with Rod and Graham Marsh being family members had to stop, before it spiralled out of control. Dad suggested we simply tell the truth and if they are present when it is done, all should be okay and forgiven.

So we arrive at the maths block to find my teacher salivating over one of his pets in the form of Sinclair Munro of the 'Moree Munros'. We wait with hesitation and overwhelming trepidation. My father turns to me again and states.....

'Just tell the truth and everything will be alright.' I felt at ease with this.

Finally we were ushered in and my teacher made a huge fuss as to what a great student I am; diligent, courteous, hard-working, a pleasure to teach and the list goes on. Mum and Dad are curiously eyeing off this chap in disbelief. I could see my mother thinking he must be muddled with another student.

Suddenly, the conversation turned from my mathematical skills to the cricket pitch and golfing fairways. My maths teacher rehashed a couple of his favourite Marsh stories and finally fixed his excited face towards my father's and asked Dad....

'What was it like growing up with your younger brothers?'

I could see Dad slightly hesitate and I prepared to surrender. Sweat dripped from my brow, my hands became clammy, my knuckles were as white as snow and my heart was beating like mad. Dad looked over to me, then straight to my mother, who appeared to look as fearful as I did. In a moment of sheer clarity, I could sense that Dad seemed torn between emotions. My parents had worked hard to send three boys to Australia's most expensive private school, with a grand total of thirty years of school fees. The three of us spent more time in the Headmaster's office than in any of the classrooms the entire time we were there, yet here was a teacher describing one of us as diligent, courteous and hard-working. Dad looked back to me and a smile grew upon his face. He turned back to the teacher, looked him straight in the eye and began.....

'Rod and Graham were always so competitive when we were kids. We would play in the backyard.....'

Cheers
Andrew



to the person/s who ride their horses around the streets. I have no problem with that but I seem to end up with all the manure in the front of my unit.

to the people who continually ride their unregistered motorbikes/registered motorbikes around North Rothbury at, sometimes, death defying speed and with ear splitting noise.

'The Noise Abatement Society' is coming to get you & the local constabulary! I know that some are from elsewhere so I hope you read this and give us a break!

to the NSW Police Force highway patrols who where out in force over the Queens Birthday long weekend ~ last month I drove from Branxton to Nowra & back again & did not see one highway patrol; double de-merits must be the difference!

to the cowardly neighbour who contacted police at 6.30pm on Tuesday evening, regarding my 3 year olds birthday party, complaining it was too loud. I guess the fun and whistles and dancing was too much for you because your life is miserable. What a waste of our police resources. Oh .. and thanks for the 'For Sale' sign you placed on the house that evening.

To our local 'C' ward councillors & Cessnock City Council staff who have done a marvellous job at the Ayrefield Miners Memorial Park in North Rothbury; new shelter, new playground equipment & renovated multi purpose tennis court (from the editor).

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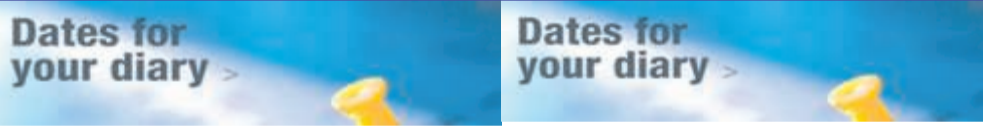
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Guitar Lessons: Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.
Microchipping: Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.
Mobile Travel Agent: 20 yrs experience. Will come to you for expert holiday planning. Obligation free appointments. P: 1300 365 68 (ext 595) M: 0404 831 867
W: www.mtaltravel.com.au/sfenton
E: sfenton@mtaltravel.com.au
Fitness Classes: 'Core & Strength'. Get fit. Classes are 6am and 10am Tuesday, 6am and 8am Thursday, at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478
Riding Lessons: agjstment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton; off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067
Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866
Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 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/>

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

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



Fri 23 June - Branxton Public School Primary Athletics Carnival
Fri 30 Jun - Branxton Public School PBL Assembly
Sat 1 Jul - 2pm Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, 198 Vincent Street, Cessnock. 'Earth's Prehistoric Aquarium'
Tue 4 Jul - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Sun 9 Jul - Lulo Reinhardt and Bart Stenhouse, Global Guitar Conversations Australian Concert Tour - July 2017 will be performing at the Adamstown Uniting Church
Tues 11 Jul - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
Wed 12 Jul - 12pm Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, 198 Vincent Street, Cessnock. "Mr. Stink!"
Sun 16 Jul - St Brigid's Markets ~ Cnr Station & Mailland Sts Branxton NSW. 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
Tue 25 Jul - 8pm. 12pm Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, 198 Vincent Street, Cessnock; "Bakersfield Mist"
Tues 1 Aug - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Tues 8 Aug - 7pm - NIGHT TIME BINGO - Anglican Parish Branxton, Greta & Lochinvar at Greta Workers Club
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

9-10 age group.

Congratulations to Joel Stafford who recently competed at the National Trampoline Championships. He is now a National Champion in synchronised trampolining and trampolining in the



Country Zone Representatives

Well done to our Zone Cross Country representatives who ran at Cessnock Race Course in Week 6. Jake Garth qualified for State, coming 4th. All students represented our school extremely well, achieving their personal best. Our Starstruck dancers had a wonderful time performing in Newcastle in Week 8. The 32 students, along with Mrs Taylor enjoyed a busy but exciting few days. Thank you to the families who assisted with transport over the Starstruck journey. Sam Hamilton recently organised a community petition for a Branxton skate park, gaining over 200 signatures. In recognition of Sam's efforts, Council invited Sam to speak at the meeting before the Council voted on whether to build it or



Starstruck Dancers

not. Sam spoke very well and was applauded by the Council and attendees for his efforts. The Council voted unanimously to build the pump-track at Branxton. It is a fantastic result and will be a great facility for the Branxton Community. Well done Sam. Kindergarten enrolments are currently being accepted. Please pop in to see the friendly Office Staff or phone the school on 49381214 for more information if you have a little person to enrol for 2018.

The Primary Athletics Carnival has been re-scheduled for Friday 23rd June.

Dates for the Calendar

Friday 23rd June – Primary Athletics Carnival

Friday 30th June – PBL Assembly & final day of Term 2

Tuesday 18th July – Lucas Proudfoot performance & first day of Term 3 for students

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



Joel



Greta Public School

With Sarah-Jane Hazell
Relieving Principal, Greta Public School



Next term Greta Public School are introducing a 'Smart Starters' program for pre-school children who will be starting Kindergarten in 2018. The idea of the program is to get our new Kindy students in the school as early as possible participating in pre reading, writing and maths activities with their parents or a carer. Smart Starters will take place every Friday morning from 9.00am in the school library for a period of 2 hours. The intention is to stretch this out to 2 1/2 hours during Term 4 so that children have the opportunity to have recess with the rest of the school to best prepare them for next year. By participating in Smart Starters, the school staff will have the opportunity to build relationships with children and will get a clear understanding of your child's individual needs before they start school in the New Year.

If you are intending to enrol your child at Greta Public School next year, please come along to our

Smart Starters information session on Friday 21st July at 9.00am in the school library. Please contact the school on 49 387331 to RSVP.



Kirkton Public School

Congratula- There are a who we are

PSSA Soccer Knockout

Our Soccer team played their first game in the Knockout competition last Thursday (June 1st) against Fern Bay Public School at Corroba Oval, Stockton. The score was 11-0 in our favour. tions to our Team and their coach Mr Mercieca! few other teams who have to play in the comp before we know up against next.



Local History



St Brigid's Church, Branxton prior to renovations in 1962

The photo above is of the interior of St Brigid's Catholic Church just prior to commencing renovations in 1962. The art-works on the ceilings & walls were magnificent as was the altar & communion rails. Whilst the renovations were being carried out, which took 12 months to complete, Mass was celebrated in the old school.



New board members elected across 11 Local Land Services regions

Chair of Local Land Services, Richard Bull today announced the names of 34 people who have been elected as members on the 11 local boards across NSW.

"The locally-elected board members will work with the appointed Chairs and board members to focus on the strategic direction of the organisation, promote the services offered, encourage partnerships and build strong relationships with investors while also communicating the priorities and concerns of customers," Mr Bull said.

"I am now looking forward to working with a new group of chairs and board members."

The 34 elected board members will join 44 people who were appointed by the Minister for Primary Industry, Niall Blair earlier this year.

They include six women and 18 board members who were elected to local boards in the first Local Land Services elections in 2014.

"I congratulate all of the candidates on their election and welcome their input to the strategic direction of the organisation," Mr Bull said.

"They have put up their hands to serve and provide leadership in their regions and will be a voice for the view of our customers and other stakeholders."

One hundred candidates nominated for positions across the 11 regions.

Mr Bull said the engagement of an external contractor ensured a streamlined and transparent process as Local Land Services was not the returning officer, as it was for the initial election process in 2014.

Hunter elected members were Deborah Willis, Ron Campbell & Art Brown

2017 NSW Landcare Awards now open with inaugural fish habitat award

The 2107 NSW State Landcare Awards are now open, with the addition of the inaugural NSW Fish Habitat Award.

The Landcare Awards celebrate the achievements of the volunteers around the country who dedicate their valuable time and energy into caring for the land and water that sustain us.

To allow time for Landcarers to get their entries into the Awards the closing date has been extended to 17 July.

The existing categories of the Awards recognise work in a number of areas, including sustainable farming, Indigenous land management, young Landcare leaders, Coastcare, innovation, and now work to protect and build fish habitat in NSW.

The NSW Fish Habitat Award is proudly supported by the NSW Fish Habitat Partnership.

Chair of the Fish Habitat Partnership Mark Bulley said "The intent of this award is to recognise and say thank you to those out there in community doing such fantastic work to ensure the benefits of fish habitat are sustained and improved into the future".

Chris McCulloch, Landcare Program Manager with Local Land Services, encourages everyone who works with community, schools, government, Councils, Indigenous groups or even by themselves to enter these great awards.

"The Landcare Awards supported by Landcare Australia have now become a truly prestigious opportunity for us to recognise and importantly showcase the work our communities are putting in to protect our country," Mr McCulloch said.

"Landcare is so diverse in NSW, it has strength in its flexibility, dedication and especially in its people power. These awards are a way for the whole community to celebrate its champions."

The NSW Landcare Awards link directly to the National Landcare Awards and will be presented at the Gala Dinner of the 2017 NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference in Albury from 25 to 27 October.

Champions of each category will receive financial support to attend the Conference in Albury.

For more information, to submit an entry or to nominate a champion in your community visit the Landcare Australia website.

Blood On The Track



Sizzling

Weir cracks 400-win mark at Ballarat

Premier Victorian trainer Darren Weir smashed another barrier when Ancient King won a hurdle at Ballarat last Thursday.

Ancient King scored his third straight win but the import also made history as he enabled Weir to

become the first Australian trainer to prepare 400 winners in a



Darren Weir notched his 400th win of the season at Ballarat

season.

Weir made history last season when he broke John Hawkes's Commonwealth record of 348 victories in a season before surpassing that tally in the autumn. Weir's landmark tally is the latest highlight of a

rise that took him from a tally of 184 wins in the 2012/13 season to 400 in the space of four years. Weir has notched eight Group I wins this season, which has helped the stable amass more than \$22.9 million in stakes with six weeks to run in the 2016/17 campaign. Jockey John Allen has been a key part of Weir's success with his ability to ride on the flat and over jumps and the Irishman hailed Weir's milestone win, which came on the trainer's home track. "Obviously it's been a great season and I'm sure it's a big team effort from all Darren's staff and everyone who is involved," Allen told Racing Victoria. "I suppose when I came out here at first I had never heard who Darren Weir was. But I'm sure everyone knows about him now. "Look what he has done.

He has been unbelievable and just gone from strength to strength."

Two Derby winners confirm NZ shuttler a top sire

Very few of the progeny of Iffraaj, a 2001 foaled former high quality performer at 1400m in



England, sired at his headquarters at Darley's Dalham Hall Stud at Newmarket UK or in southern hemisphere use at the Chitty's Haunui Farm at Papakura in the

Auckland region in New Zealand, win at 2400m or further, but this has not stopped him having two Derby winners in this part of the world in a span of four weeks. They are Gingernuts, a clear winner of the New Zealand Derby at Ellerslie on March 4, and Jon Snow, annexer of the \$2million Australian Derby at Randwick on April 1.

Photo above: Iffraaj



Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licencee-in-Charge

BRANXTON & VINE-YARDS REAL ESTATE

12 Clift Street
BRANXTON NSW 2335
P: 4938 3300



Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 14/6/17

Yarding 720 ~ **Change - 300** (Comparison Date 7/6/17)

Consignments eased, the breed and quality overall improved and the bulk entered the younger categories. Yearling heifers along with the grown steers and heifers were limited in supply, and there were 45 cows penned. The usual buyers competed in a firm to dearer market. The over 200kg vealer steers to the restockers sold close to firm, at 336c to 400c, while the improved quality heavier drafts also to the restockers gained 12c, making from 320c to 365c/kg. The heifer portion also to restocker orders lifted 11c and sold from 311c to 351c/kg. The lighter end of the yearling steers gained 8c, with the balance maintaining firm prices, and the medium weights topped at 361c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold to solid competition, with the best yielding pens reaching 378c/kg. Heavy weight bullocks reached 275c, with the lighter end to the lot feeders and restockers topping at 324c/kg. Cows also improved in yield and quality and prices were 2c to 4c/kg dearer. The plainer 2 scores averaged 206c, while the better finished heavy weights ranged from 222c to 230c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 240c/kg.



Score report date 13/6/17

Yarding 1080 ~ **Change -465** (Comparison Date 6/6/17)

Quality was fair to good, as numbers eased, with the bulk in the penning entering the younger categories. The older heifers lifted in number, with the majority suitable for restocker orders, while there were around 70 cows in the yarding. The usual buyers competed in a firm to slightly dearer market. The 200kg plus vealer steers returning to the paddock sold close to firm at 340c to 414c/kg. The equivalent weighted heifer portion to the same orders lifted 6c, making from 316c to 370c/kg. Yearling steers sold firm to slightly dearer, with the 330kg plus pens to the restocker and lot feeder orders ranging from 308c to 355c/kg. The unfinished yearling heifers sold at similar prices, with only the quality contributing to any price changes. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers topped at 354c/kg. Heavy bullocks reached 280c, with the older heifers to slaughter topping at 274c, while those to the restockers ranged around the 234c to 300c/kg mark, depending on the age offered. Cows sold close to firm, with the better covered heavy weights making from 210c to 225c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 240c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date 5/6/17

Yarding 1595 ~ **Change 300** (Comparison Date 29/5/17)

The overall numbers showed an increase with no sale scheduled for next week due to the public holiday. All categories were represented with a large offering of cows and increased supplies of grown heifers as pregnancy testing continues as producers offload empties. The quality and condition of the penning was quite mixed. The regular buyers were in attendance. Demand for young cattle remained strong from both restockers and feedlotter with weaner steers selling on a firm to slightly dearer market trend. There was little change in the market for heifer weaners to restock. Well finished vealers suitable to the local trade sold to a cheaper trend. Medium and heavy yearling steers to restock and feed saw a firm to dearer market trend with some breed specific premiums. There was very little change in the market trend for heifer yearlings to restock and feed. There was some quality related price change in a firm to slightly cheaper market trend for the well finished heavy grown steers. The increased supply of grown heifers as saw a lift in quality with the market trend firm to dearer. There was little but quality related price change in the medium weight 2 and 3 score cows. Odd sales remained firm in the heavy weight cows, those sales restricted to the high yielding lots. Otherwise the market trend was cheaper with demand not as great as the previous sale.





Family Learning for Life program. We meet their educational costs from primary through to University which means we need to fund annually over \$4,000. One of our children comes from a family of seven brothers and four sisters. This is why we so deeply appreciate the patronage and support of our local people and visitors to our fundraising events.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to our dear member, Berice Mc Kinley, who has had many health problems. We look forward to seeing you again. Dot Comer, we miss you and send special thoughts for your return to good health.

Enjoy the wintry weather, at last and keep well, warm and happy. We live in a wonderful country. *Peace and love to everyone Judy Spillard*

VIEW ZONE CONFERENCE

East Maitland Bowling Club 20th May, 2017 Eight members from Branxton VIEW Club attended this event.

Photo: From Left: Gloria Walter (VIEW National Vice President), Cathy Lindsay, Guest Speaker Kate Ryan, Sandie Smith, Bethany Oldfield (Branxton President) Denise Hungerford, Evelyn Thrift, Judy Groves, Sheryl Schofield and Lorraine Montgomery (VIEW Conference Convener). (Missing is Yvonne Bell)

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
Secretary Chris Robertson
0418 427 320
Play days Tues & Sat 9.00 to noon
Venue Branxton Oval

Cessnock Croquet Club
Derek Stephens
49 905 640
Fri 9.00am Noon
Tues 2.00pm to 5.00pm
Calvary Retirement Community, Grounds, Nulkaba



LAST TUESDAY the 13/6/17 we played the Novice Handicap Singles. The weather was perfect even if the lawns were a little slow to start due to the weather over the last few days. The new Novice Handicap Singles Champion is Carole Strong with the Runner Up being Jim Coskerie; congratulations to them both on their success.

This week we have the Handicap Singles and due to the numbers involved it is likely we will have to play them over a few days.

It was very good to see our new members present again last week and a big welcome to Murray and Mary.

The club is progressing well and we had a lovely article in the Branxton Greta Vineyard News last week with colour photos. A big thank you to Mike Lowing of the Branxton Greta Vineyards News for the excellent coverage of our day with Cessnock Croquet Club. The club will be doing a demonstration and introduction day at the Branxton Greta Business Chambers's Teddy Bears Picnic Day on Sunday the 25 June at Miller Park. *Cheers, Chris*

Branxton VIEW Club members will be selling soft drinks at the Branxton Greta Business Chambers Community Breakfast & Teddy Bears Picnic. This event will be held at Miller Park on Sunday, 25th June. Many local charities will be there along with Rural Fire Service display, Vintage Car display and many fun activities for the children. This should be a great community day. Thanks to the organisers-a great community event benefits

everyone!
Several of our ladies attended a VIEW Zone Conference held at East Maitland Bowling Club. The guest speaker was Kate Ryan, a stroke survivor. These annual zone conferences allow many VIEW clubs to meet, exchange ideas and learn the latest news from the Smith Family.
Our local VIEW club sponsors four disadvantaged Australian school children through the Smith

Our next popular event is our 29th Birthday Celebrations which will be held on Thursday, 10th August at Greta Workers Club. We are delighted to announce that local bush poet, Heather Searles will share her award winning talents with us that day. A great day out with hot lunch-main meal and dessert, and some surprise entertainment. For bookings please phone our Secretary Evelyn on 4938 1513.

Advance notice of our annual donna-lou Fashion Parade to be held on Thursday, 21st September just in time for Spring and Summer. Further details soon.

Welcome to our newest member, Margaret Driscoll, who incidentally won the raffle on her very first day of attendance. May you have many happy, fun filled days with us, Margaret. New members are always welcome- come along and meet us, enjoy lunch and make new friends. Just ring our secretary. Evelyn 4938 1513.



Greta Museum's
Old Style New Wares & Sweet Shop
SALE now on -
50% off all sweets in the shop
Great for gifts or just to indulge
Open most Wednesdays & Saturdays
96 High Street, Greta

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WATCH ALL THE GAMES LIVE HERE ON THE BIG SCREEN
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2 JULY - SUNCORP STADIUM
WBO WORLD WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
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LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN
JULY 2nd
50 MAITLAND RD BRANXTON
49381335 E: ENQUIRIES@ROYALFEDERAL.COM.AU

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 8-6-17

Stableford

Div 1 Winner T Seamer 30 pts
R/u E Munzenberger 27 pts (c/b)
3rd G Gazzard 27 pts

Div 2 Winner M Hunt 35 pts
(SOD) R/u P Anderson 31 pts 3rd
R Yandle 27 pts (c/b)
Ladies - Insufficient number to form a division.

NTPs Ladies M Hunt

Gents G Wilton

Members draw - Not won

A gentle introduction to Winter, including a break in the weather which gave us a fine morning, pleasing the happy group that gathered for to-days round. Most players were in the clubhouse dry, with a few tail-enders getting a little damp, not enough to dampen one's spirit. Congratulations to Margaret Hunt for winning the mixed division 2 and achieving the 'Score of the Day'. A well done to other winners and placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 15-6-17

Stableford

"Pairs Aggregate"

1st B Smith/

P Kelly 54 pts

2nd M Hunt/

L Hunt 53 pts (c/b)

3rd R Yandle/

M Ford 53 pts

4th R Brooks/

K Anderson 52 pts (c/b)

5th J Scobie/

R Chenery 52 pts

NTPs Ladies M Hunt

Gents G Wilton

Members draw - Won

(A Hackett)

A mild Winter's day enticed 38 players to gather for to-days' event, a hotly contested round as the scores will attest. Also, the rain stayed away making the occasion very comfortable for the players. Congratulations to Bill Smith and Peter Kelly on winning the day and a well done to other winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec

Branxton Lady Golfers

Monthly Medal was played on Wednesday 14th June.

Winner: Jan Scobie with 75 Nett
Runner-up: Robyn Hoffman with 76 Nett

Least Putts went to Robyn Hoffman with 28 Putts.

Robyn Hoffman chipped in on the 1st and Carol Miller Birdied the 9th and 18th sinking a putt off the green on the 18th.

Carol Miller also took the nest of thirteen ball landing 1.27 metres from the pin on the 9th.

Thanks, Trish

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 4th June The Weekly Challenge has been won by Steven Balks with a solid 40 point return from Mitchell Nolan 39 and Paul Neuss with 38 points. Balls winners were: Steve Piggott 36, Dan Storey v35, Jason Cowburn v35, Grahame Mankelov 35, Victor Matt 34 and Glenn Hamilton 33 c/b

Tuesday 6th June Ray Newton with 39 points claimed the Tuesday Stableford from Geoff Sweetman 38 on countback to Ken Harris. Ball winners were: Ian Newell 37, Rex Talbot 37, Graeme Flynn 36, Dan Taylor 35, Garry Marsden 35., Michael Young 35, Dean Morison 34, Lindsay Self 34 and Wayne Barber 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Anthony Royle

(3rd) David Peel (4th) and Ray Hodson (8th & 17th)

Wednesday 7th June The rain washed out this week's Ladies comp. This week the Ladies will play away at 'The Springs'

Thursday 8th June A reduced field turned out for the vets Springbett 74, Glenn Hamilton v74 and Sandra Smith 74 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Lorraine Clack (3rd) Brad Burgess (4th) Nathan Nancarrow (10th) and Glenn Hamilton (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford.

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB SAT 10TH JUNE STABLEFORD

A GRADE WINNER - Lee

Heuston 39 pts

A GRADE RUNNER UP-

Cameron Johanson 37 pts

A GRADE THIRD PLACE- Chris

Zawirski 33 pts

B GRADE WINNER- Kelvin

Mather 39 pts c/b

B GRADE RUNNER UP- Tony

Seamer 39 pts

B GRADE THIRD PLACE- Paul

Bush 37 pts

C GRADE WINNER- Geoff Jones

37 pts

C GRADE RUNNER UP- Michael

Maddock 36 pts c/b

C GRADE THIRD PLACE- Noel

Hughes 36 pts

BALL COMP

32 pts

NTP ~ G Walsh 207cm

B Turner 86cm R Miller 628cm

J Willard 50cm

Lee Heuston produced an excellent

round in very wet conditions to

win Saturday's A Grade with 39

pts from his single figure

handicap. This round also enabled

him to win his singles match play

event with John Martin who is

always hard to beat in this format.

Cameron Johanson played the

round of the day, recording 37 pts

from his 1 handicap—a par round

when there was no run and many

heavy showers. Chris Zawirski

finished third with his 33 pts,

indicating that most A Graders

struggled on the day. Kelvin

Mather won B Grade, on a count-

back from Tony Seamer, with 39

pts, both very pleasing rounds on

any day. Paul Bush's 37 pts was

good enough for third. Geoff Jones

won C Grade with 37 pts just

ahead of Michael Maddock's 36

pts and Noel Hughes' similar

score. The shot of the day

belonged to Barry Turner's shot to

the 4th which finished only 86 cms

away—the good news was he

holed the putt! Barry certainly

turned on the lights during his

round recording four 4 pointers—

he obviously suffers from the same

affliction that we all endure in

golf, that being consistent through-

out the day—if we were allowed a

few mulligans our scores would be

so much better! Long term

member and one of the most calm,

relaxed and unruffled players in

the club, Richie Turnbull, showed

he can show his emotions like the

rest of us. His round included

using 3 putters—one being the

driver—and a broken golf

umbrella which surfaced when the

heavy rain hit! His playing group

were quite astounded and amused

that Richie finally showed some

emotion when things go wrong—

well done Richie! (it must be said

that his broken putter was not

deliberately broken!). Steve Ross

playing in this group was also

quietly satisfied after his round of

36 pts as he is now playing off his

lowest handicap of 15—with many

thanks to our local pro Marcus

(I wasn't going to mention this as I

don't want Marcus to get too big

headed- but well done pro!)

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB SAT 17TH JUNE STABLEFORD

A Grade- Winner: Peter Wilton

40 pts 2nd(c/b) Damian Lawrence

38 pts 3rd. Daryl Sheppard 38 pts

B Grade- Winner: Stephen Ross

36 pts 2nd. Daniel Turner 35 pts

3rd. Eddie Garland 34 pts

C Grade- Winner: Noel Hughes

39 pts 2nd: Ted Zawirski 37 pts c/b

3rd: Kevin Walton 37 pts

Ball Competition: 32 pts

NTPins: 2nd/11th: Gary Wilton 216

cms; 4th: Lennie Porter 180 cms

13th: Riley McClung 434 cms

9th/18th : Tom Foster 57 cms

Peter Wilton showed his class to

win A Grade with an outstanding

40 pts from his 4 handicap, on a

day when very few played bettered

handicap, with only 32 pts needed to win ball. Peter's round equated to a par round off the stick, a great round in any conditions. Damian Lawrence and Daryl Sheppard filled the minor places with their pleasing rounds of 38 pts. Steve Ross continues to impress, winning B Grade with 36 pts, the second week in a row that he has played to his new lowest handicap. Long hitting Daniel Turner

finished runner up with 35 pts with Eddie Garland third with his 34 pts. Noel Hughes played beautifully to clearly win C Grade with 39 pts, with Ted Zawirski and Kevin Walton next with their 37 pts. The shot of the day belonged to Tom Foster whose shot to the last was only 57 cms away which would have looked very close from the tee.



What happens when things don't go to plan?

"You Achieve What You Believe"

Those of you who have been following my articles know that for the last six months I have been training for the UTA50, Australia's premier trail running ultramarathon in the Blue Mountains. This was my fourth time running the 50km Ultramarathon and I was looking forward to it.

I only had two goals

I was looking forward to beating my PB (Personal Best) of 9h 57min. I know 10 hours to "run" 50km sounds pretty slow and you are right. Especially when the leaders are generally finished in four and a half hours! One relative of mine actually suggested that I must be walking it, because that is my average pace during the event...

My second goal was to finish without injury or, more importantly, cross the finish line feeling like I still wanted to run. This is something which has not happened before – on the three previous occasions I finished so sore and sorry for myself I vowed never to enter the *%&#@\$@ race again!

I had a plan

I decided to train, and not just aimlessly like I had for past events. I decided to train properly, and I knew that to do that I needed the right support. To help me, I enlisted the help of an experienced running coach, I joined some local running clubs and I did running specific cross-training. I ran longer and further than I ever had, and I set a new PB time for 10km. I was feeling good, and as the event got closer I was fairly confident that I would beat my previous PB.

Not everything went to plan

Of course, not everything always goes to plan ... The weekend before race day I entered a local dressage competition and for the first time ever I was unceremoniously dumped from my mare! That hurt (my pride as well as my body). I got back on and finished the event, but I was bruised and shaken. Another factor I couldn't control in the lead up to Race Day was the weather. The forecast was for torrential rain, and potential flooding. Knowing that you are going to be running 50km is one thing, but knowing you are going to be cold and wet while running is another! As one friend put it though, it's all about the mindset. You can be cold and wet and miserable while you are running, or you can just be cold and wet. It is up to you!

I hadn't trained for this!

My biggest concern was that except for one day in early April, I had not done any training in cold and wet conditions. And on that particular day I froze! I had no idea what clothes I should wear, how I would handle the extra weight in my backpack if I decided to carry dry clothes with me, or if I would even be able to finish within the cut off times in the predicted conditions. Despite the months of preparation, my resolve to even start in the race was beginning to waiver.

Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse

Roll on race day minus one and the weather was indeed cold and wet and Council and State Government agencies were considering closing part (or all) of the course. Race organisers had been asked to look at their contingency plans and at 6pm on the evening before the race they announced their decision to change the course. My head went into a spin!! How was I going to run on a course I had never seen? What's more, the start time had been put back to 10am, which meant I would definitely be finishing in the dark, on a course I had never run before.

Overnight I had plenty of time to think about it

After the initial shock had worn off, my brain went into over-drive. Of course, everyone would be in the same situation (although some had run the course before, in other races). But knowing that everyone was in the same situation didn't really help me. My concerns were still the same. What was the terrain like? How cold would it be running for two hours or more in the dark? Especially if I was wet from rain? Fortunately, this is where the planning and training I had done really paid off, as did belonging to a running group and having experienced coaches. Unlike previous years when I had entered the event with a couple of friends who didn't know any more about the event than I did, this time I had a large "virtual" group, all of whom had similar questions, and the coach made herself available to answer them. I also had course notes for the new course, and I reminded myself that I had put in months of training which would stand me in good stead. I was going into this with my eyes wide open! Due to the weather conditions I had already resigned myself to not setting a new PB, but I was confident I could still finish the event. The question remained though – how hard would it be, and what sort of condition would I be in when I finished?

I needn't have worried

Despite the forecast, by the time the race kicked off at 10am the sun was shining! This meant (another) last minute change of wardrobe, but it also meant we were dry on the start line. My unfamiliarity with the course meant that I was never quite sure how far I had run, or how far I had left to go. I also didn't know exactly where the major hills were. This made pacing myself difficult. A lot of people had also made reference to a section of the course called "Nellie's Glen" (part of the Six Foot Track) and how tough it was, so I wanted to make sure I had enough energy left to tackle this section. On the approach a lot of runners were saying what I was thinking – they were worried about Nellie's Glen and the stories they had heard. They were dreading it before they even got there. This was difficult as I was trying to keep a positive mindset. After all, I had trained for Furber Steps. Surely it couldn't be worse than that? Thankfully, despite a few moments of disorientation in the dark, I made it up Nellies Glen and I had enough energy to run most of the way to the finish (about 5km).

In the end, I finished 10 mins inside my previous PB. Of course, this time cannot be directly compared to my times on the other course, but I was pleased I had finished in less than 10 hours. What I was more excited about was the fact that when I crossed the finish line I felt like I could have kept going!

Will there be a next time??

When you consider that running is not a full time occupation for me, it is my "second sport" (after dressage), and I am close to 50, I am quite proud of the fact that every time I have entered this event I have finished. I am also grateful that I have been able to apply "lessons learned" from previous events to get a better outcome this time around. I feel on top of the world knowing that the approach I took to my physical training as well as my mindset (values, beliefs, and self-talk) enabled me to complete this amazing event. I may not ever be on the leaderboard, but I can continue to challenge myself and succeed. If you would like help uncovering your goals, whatever they are, then contact me via my website

www.louisecairns.com.au.

What else is happening at "Fit for Life"?

We are nearing the end of our 10 Week Health and Fitness Challenge. If you would like to join us in the next one, please call me or check us out on Facebook! Casual visits are also welcome – contact me for details.

I have entered two more races. One is the Raffertys Coastal Run (35km near Lake Macquarie and Catherine Hill Bay). The other is the Blackmores Half Marathon in Sydney. I'm super excited that I still feel like running after the UTA50!

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 workplace speaking engagements. Find out more at

www.louisecairns.com.au

BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The New **SPORT**

Great Bowling on annual Ron Banister Versatility Mixed Triples day

On Sunday 18th June, Greta Workers ran their annual Ron Banister Versatility Mixed Triples. The tournament was washed out in 2016, however, it only took two weeks to fill the 'Tournament' this year with players from Cardiff, Wallsend, Denman, Telarah, Kurri, Cessnock, Beresfield, Lorn, Easts, Stonebridge, Bellbird and Greta participating. When teams returned to the green after lunch for the final game there were four two game winners and with none of those sides playing each other the money was there for the taking for any one of those sides. In the end only one team managed to win 3 games, handing them the winners purse.



Photo above -Winners: (L-R) S. Adams, M. Adams & R. Murray with Leslie Banister

M. Adams & S. Adams
2nd : P. King, K. King & P. King
3rd : W. Lewis, G. O'Neill & S. O'Neill
Our Thanks go to **GRETA GUARDIAN**

PHARMACY for their Sponsorship. Greta is always looking for new lady and men bowlers; beginners and juniors are most welcome.



Pokolbin U9's
Reds played a well versed Nelson Bay team at Tomaree. With only 6 players, Nelson Bay boosted our numbers.

First half was a bit shabby, moments of brilliance, but our slow ruck play for support of our ball carriers let us down.

Then came the 2nd half...

I don't know what happened... but the U9s turned on a great performance. Supporting each other in the clean out, passing well before going to the ground. Our defense was key to keeping Nelson Bay out, with everyone tackling around the legs and keeping the Bay boys limited in their attack.

A great team effort & some well deserved kudos from the Nelson Bay team. We were fast and tough! Thanks Nelson Bay for a great turn out and thanks junior Reds for a top morning of Rugby!!

Pokolbin Under 7s

17/06/17

This weekend the under 7s went up against the Southern Beaches at Gateshead.

With both teams having a full side it was fast passed game with quick passes.

Everyone getting involved and backing each other up. Defence from Beaches was strong and we were only able to get a few try's. Finishing up with a draw.

Under 11s hosted the Lake Macquarie Roos at SPCC and the Roos were ready to win from the start when they posted a converted try within the first 30 seconds. The much bigger Roos team were surprised by the Reds attack and defence and the Reds captain Jack Wills posted their first points with a try in the corner after a 20 metre maul took them to the line, a forwards delight!. The Reds hit back again in similar fashion soon after with Oscar Dent crossing the line and the Reds went in to the half time break three points ahead. The Roos struck back straight after the break and posted three quick tries thanks to some disorganised soft defence by the Reds. The Reds reorganised themselves with great defence from Dylan Orłowski, Riley Walters and Alec Gough. Strong running from Cal Barr, TC Metcalfe and Meg Meyers kept the Reds going forward with Alec rewarded with two converted tries. The Reds played their greatest game so far this year but went down 26 to 24.





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