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5 July 2017

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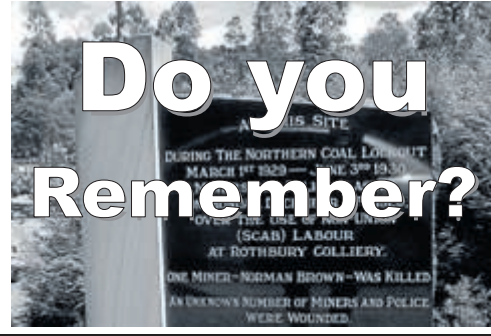
Lower Belford CWA Report

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Branxton Greta CWA Report

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Do you Remember?

BACKPAGE



Russell Brothers achieve rare milestone



Congratulations to Jake, Sam and Ben Russell who have notched up 300 first grade games between them for the Greta/Branxton Colts.Full report Backpage

Branxton Greta Business Chamber get good hearing from Deputy Premier



President of Branxton Greta Business Chamber Brett Wild (standing) giving the Business Chambers presentation to the Deputy Premier, John Barilaro (seated far left), last Friday afternoon at the Royal Federal Hotel. Also present were Cessnock Mayor Bob Pynsent & Member for Upper Hunter Michael Johnsen MP. **FULL REPORT P. 4**

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all details page 12



NORTH ROTHBURY

Ahead of the game when it comes to building approvals



Cessnock City Council is continuing to work hard to improve its processes and timeframes when it comes to residential building approvals and the March performance report is proof this hard work has paid off.

The Hunter Regional Plan outlined Cessnock City Council will have a projected increase in dwelling approvals of 6,350 between 2016 and 2036, this averages 318 applications per year. Cessnock City Council is far exceeding the forecasted figures as

data shows at the end of March 2017 quarter, Council has already approved 323 dwellings. In the 2016/17 financial year to date, Cessnock City Council has approved a massive \$284 million worth of building approvals. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said, "We are expecting over 400 residential building approvals by the end of this financial year." "This continuing trend, which is projecting record numbers of building approvals wouldn't be possible without the dedication and fantastic work of Council staff and the ongoing interest of mums, dads and housing companies seeking to building new homes in the LGA."

"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. "These figures are also a reflection of the Cessnock Local Government Area's reputation as a thriving, attractive and welcoming place to live. I certainly will continue to promote our region and look forward to welcoming new comers to Cessnock City," added Cr Pynsent. Cessnock City Council will continue to strive for excellence in its development assessment performance and processing times.

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New Governor for local Rotary District

Rotary District 9670 officially welcomed its new District Governor last night when Helen Ryan became the third woman to be appointed as the region's Rotary leader.

Mrs Ryan of the Rotary Club of Nelson Bay will hold the position for the next 12 months. Spanning from Newcastle in the east to Dubbo in the west, District 9670 is home to over 1,100 Rotarians committed to serving and building their local communities.

During her tenure, Mrs Ryan hopes to increase Rotary's involvement in communities across the District by working with Clubs to develop strategic plans on how to best help local people.

"As a service organisation, Rotary has an important role in our local communities and I want to continue the fantastic work Rotary has been doing on a grass-roots level." Mrs Ryan said.

"Rotary has offered me an amazing opportunity to work with a diverse group of people committed to serving our local area. By working together, we can make our communities stronger".

A Rotarian for close to two decades, Mrs Ryan has dedicated much of her spare time to working with stakeholders and community members across the Port Stephens and Hunter region to develop strategies and projects that support and assist society's most vulnerable.

"During my time as a Rotarian I have been involved in programs that have given people a second chance. Rotary does such great work in our communities and I want to bring my experiences as a Rotarian to my role as District Governor".

Mrs Ryan will spend the next 12 months increasing awareness of Rotary's involvement in local activities that contribute to social cohesion and promoting Rotary International's campaign to eradicate Polio, whilst advancing Rotary's 2017-18 theme, *Rotary: Making a Difference*.



● Outgoing District Governor Steve Jackson with District Governor Helen Payne at the Changeover Dinner last Saturday evening



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**



LOCATION

Dalwood Road, East Branxton from Wyndham Street intersection to the westerly limit of the road, adjacent to Lion's Park.

THE WORKS

Construction of drainage infrastructure and re-alignment of road to provide improved parking facilities and traffic movement.

FUNDING

This project is funded by Roads to Recovery (R2R)

DESIGN

The design provides:

- Road re-alignment with addition of a turning head
- Increased vehicular parking and drop-off zones
- Drainage upgrades
- Pedestrian facilities and vehicle separation
- Increased storage for buses on Wyndham Street

The design provides improved safety for both vehicle users and pedestrians. Rear to kerb parking will be formalised and the total number of parking spaces will increase. Allowance will be made for drop off or 'Kiss and Ride'. Stormwater infrastructure will be improved at the site. Stormwater that currently discharges in front of No. 8 Dalwood Road will be

diverted via pipe into the swale drain running adjacent to Maitland Road.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction works commence July 2017 and require significant traffic control measures to be implemented on Dalwood Road. Works are programmed to be completed in September 2017.

DISRUPTIONS

Dalwood Road west of the Wyndham Street intersection will be closed periodically during construction as required and will not be available as a drop-off or pick-up point. Council will work with residents directly affected by the closure to provide access to their properties.

During this construction period, drop-off and pick-up for school bus passengers should occur at Miller Park soccer fields, on the southern side of Maitland Road so that pedestrians can use the signalised crossing to access the bus stop. Works are programmed to commence on the first week of July, 2017, during school holidays to minimise impacts.

Up to date project information will be available on CCC's webpage www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/works, and on roadside electronic signs during construction.

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Craft beer motion aims to top up Hunter economy

Federal Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon has spoken on a motion to support the growth of the craft beer brewing sector in an aim to generate employment, tourism and exports in both the Hunter and other regional communities.

Joel Fitzgibbon and Labor colleague, Member for Grayndler Anthony Albanese lodged a private members' motion calling on the government to ensure policy settings encourage craft brewers. With a number of craft brewers in the Hunter electorate Joel Fitzgibbon believes growth in the sector is a great opportunity to further diversify local tourism.

"This is a job-creating proposition, and, importantly for me, a regional job-creating proposition," Mr Fitzgibbon said Monday

evening. The motion encourages state and local governments to tailor planning and development controls more favourably for craft beer endeavours.

At present, craft beer brewers are disadvantaged by an unfair excise tax system. Beer in a 50-litre or greater keg is charged one level of excise while if it is in a smaller container (most commonly used for craft beer batches), brewers are paying up to 40 per cent more excise than big-ger competitors.

"We are not asking tonight for a level playing field. But it is not just about the tax, of course. As the member for Grayndler indicated, this is a job-creating proposition," Mr Fitzgibbon said. "In Hunter wine country,

we are enjoying new economic diversity. They once just came to sample wine at the cellar door. Then we opened restaurants, so they came for our restaurants as well. Then we moved on to concerts, weddings and balloon rides. Increasingly and very quickly, we are now moving on to beer tasting. That is the sort of diversity you want in any region to cushion you against the shocks.

"There's great potential for beer tours, which they are already having in his (Mr Albanese) part of the world. It is already happening in Newcastle, not so distant from me. I have no doubt that those tours will make their way up to the Hunter as well."



The burgeoning craft beer scene in the Hunter has already provided a boost to the local economy, but will be better supported by a fairer tax rate for producers.

"Just in my own backyard, I have the IronBark Hill Brewhouse, the Hunter Valley Beer Co., the Lovedale Brewery, the Hope Brewhouse and the Matilda Bay Brewhouse Hunter Valley. Once it would have been sacrilegious to have beers, a brewery and a pub, if you like, in the heart of the Hunter wine country. It is making an enormous difference. It is creating jobs," said Joel.

"Also, I know some of the brewers are trying to provide a good gluten free beer so that the editor of this paper can once again enjoy a good cold beer in the summer. "As he said to me not long ago he doesn't know how the present gluten free beer brewers get the cats to sit on the bottles. "I welcome it because it is creating jobs in my electorate. It is creating jobs right across this country. Every member in this place should be supporting this initiative." With the motion garnering bipartisan support in the House of Representatives, Joel now hopes to see action from the Coalition Government to facilitate growth in the craft beer brewing sector.



Ⓐ Above: Joel Fitzgibbon MP

North Rothbury Tidy Towns disappointed at non-action of Cessnock City Council

North Rothbury Tidy Towns recently made representations to local 'C' Ward Councillor Anne Sander requesting a concrete slab at the bus shelter at Mayne Street, North Rothbury. Secretary of NRTT's, Pat Ables, has received a reply to their request and to say the NRTT is not happy could be the understatement of the year.

It appears that Council officers have investigated the subject matter and have advised the following:

❑ *The bus stop in Mayne Street, North Rothbury, is not on the current priority program that was submitted as part of an application to the Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme (CPTIGS) in September 2016. (Council has not received advice on the success or otherwise of its application);*

❑ *Bus stop upgrades in the North Rothbury area for DDA compliance and replacement of the shelters are identified in a 2012/13 priority list for; 11 Mayne Street (priority 40 out of 41), 4 Rothbury Street (priority 34 out of 41) and 24 Rothbury Street (priority 41 out of 41);*

❑ *The projects for the North Rothbury area did not make the list for 2016/17 due to other higher priority projects across the LGA and a change in the subsidy rate available through the CPTIGS, which saw a reduction in the number of projects submitted by Council due to insufficient funds to meet the funding requirements;*

❑ *A further CPTIGS funding round is expected for 2017-19 however no announcement has been made by the State Government in relation to this;*

❑ *In the event of further funding being made available through the CPTIG Scheme, Council officers will include Mayne Street, North Rothbury as part of a future application.*

President of NRTT, Mike Lowing, said that the matter will be a priority at their next meeting & that a suitable reply to Cessnock City Council will be forthcoming. "It appears that CCC is suffering dire financial plight. If need-be NRTT will provide the slab through their own funds. Thank you Cllr Sander for going into bat for us," said Mike.

School holiday fun at your local library



School holidays are just around the corner, so if you are on the lookout for things to keep the little ones entertained, there is plenty happening at Cessnock City Libraries. The action-packed school holiday program l

craft afternoon at Cessnock Library where kids enjoyed a movie and puppet making. One of the many highlights is the opportunity for local children to interact with real stuffed Australian native animals in a workshop presented by Emma Best from Newcastle Museum. In this educational workshop, they will touch fur, feathers, scales, fossilised poo and even get a face-swapping selfie with their favourite animal. But the fun doesn't stop there! Kids will also be strumming ukuleles, learning to shimmy at belly dancing classes, creating Lego masterpieces and meeting some of our local

kicked off last Monday 3 July with a film and

firefighters. NAIDOC Week coincides with the school holidays, so there will also be a range of activities for kids to learn about and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. As part of this, local Aboriginal artist and storyteller, Tracey Coombes, will run an Aboriginal art workshop where kids will have the opportunity to make their very own gratitude rocks. Places for these activities are limited, so avoid disappointment by booking ahead.

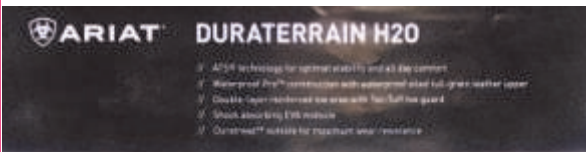
For more information and to book your spot, drop in to your local library or call Cessnock City Library on 4993 4399 or Kurri Kurri Library on 4937 1638.

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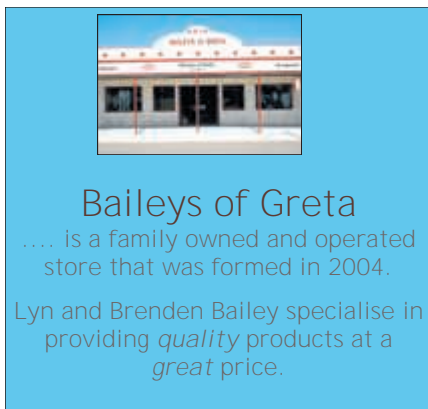


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Nominations Due for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards

The NSW volunteer awards is an opportunity to acknowledged the dedicated behind-the-scenes people a chance to honour those amongst us who keep our community ticking over. Volunteers are everywhere in our community but often unseen and unacknowledged. These awards, now in their 11th year, provide a public platform to recognise the endeavours of the thousands of volunteers in our midst. The deadline is Friday 14 July and can be made online at www.volunteering.com.au/volunteer-awards/nomination or call The Centre for volunteering 9261 3600.

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What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

THE Deputy Premiers visit to Branxton last Friday to meet with representatives from the Branxton Greta Business Chamber was well received by all those who attended. It was obvious the Deputy Premier was well versed on the main items on the agenda which were:-

- Advocate for the delivery of solutions to improve connectivity between Branxton & Greta (ref: Memorial Cycleway), Radford Park & Branxton (East) and Huntlee and Branxton (South) including to Branxton Railway Station.
- Redevelopment of the Main Street, as outlined in the Cessnock City Council's 2016 Branxton Town Masterplan.

President Brett Wild gave a very well prepared presentation outlining the difficulties that the towns have had since the opening of the Hunter Expressway and the failure of all levels of government to adequately compensate the area.

He said that Branxton has been the gateway to the mining region since mining commenced in the Hunter Valley region. "Coal trucks have used the Branxton main street to access the region, yet in the first round of Resources for Regions funding, the Cessnock LGA was exempt from applying."

"The delivery of the main street revitalisation project is essential to the long term stability of existing business within the Branxton township – as well as to attracting new investment within out town," Brett said. "We are no longer a highway town – we have experienced a 90% reduction in through traffic as a result of our bypassing. It should

also be noted that Singleton council have received \$35.3million, in two separate grants for their CBD upgrades; and their main street was never used as a direct thoroughfare for coal trucks," said Brett.

Other matters that were mentioned included the 'infamous' cycleway to nowhere at the Radford Park development on Elderslie Road & the connectivity of Huntlee to 'Old Branxton' & in particular the railway station as there are no formal pathways leading from the railway station to anywhere and there is a guardrail blocking connections to Wine Country Drive.

Also briefly mentioned was the fact that the Country Link passenger train goes through Branxton but does not stop. The Deputy Premier was asked if he would make representations on the community's behalf to have Branxton included in the service. Brett emphasised that the economic landscape in which Branxton exists has changed and new opportunities exist for business and community.

"Now bypassed by the Hunter Expressway, Branxton is morphing into a regional hub suitable for retail, tourism and well positioned between the Hunter Valley wine region, mine region, and Newcastle to be a thriving hub for commerce.

"The emergence of the new Huntlee precinct and the Radford Park development means that now is the time for Branxton to consider its identity & to move forward in it's changing environment. We precariously sit on two council boundaries, fighting for economic development and investment, infrastructure improvements, and an opportunity to promote ourselves as a town reinventing itself," said Brett.



New Presidumbtial Seal

Remove Eagle and Replace With Narcissistic Fathead

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Big, Fat Blabber Mouth

Stoopid Long tie is over compensating For?

Asterisk: for steroid Era of fake Presidents

IRVIN © PoliticalCartoons.com



Be fair!

The Deputy Premier has announced a \$100 million Regional Cultural Fund for community halls, libraries, museums & art galleries. I won't argue that it is not needed and that it will and can be well spent but putting it in context to what the state government is spending, for the same purpose, in Sydney

needs to be realised by the voters in regional NSW. Sydney will be getting \$600 million for the Opera House, Sydney Theatre Company & the Art Gallery of NSW; six times what regional NSW is getting! Regional NSW needs the state government to revise the funding to include programs & staff not just real property.

We have an art gallery in Cessnock that is desperately in need of funding.

I am unable to welcome this announcement when we are deprived of appropriate and adequate funding compared to what the 'Big Smoke' are getting.

I believe that this State funding approach is clearly city-centric and inequitable. Cultural funding needs a significant rethink with appropriate financial allocations to all communities throughout the NSW. Gabby Horvath, Rothbury NSW

"Value Adding"

The mare had an exceptional record. The stallion to whom she was mated was a world legend. So when the vet confirmed the mare in foal, the breeder did not hesitate to arrange an Insurance Policy in the event the foal might die by accident before birth. The foal's future was expected to be outstanding, and big dollars were anticipated.

The gynaecologist declared the woman pregnant and via the ultrasound confirmed the child's gender. Would the child be a modern Mozart, Astronaut, Inventor or mere mortal?

Should the unborn child be insured ?

The wife and her husband had big holiday plans. The need for two incomes to swell their investments, and did not need the expense of another mouth to feed. So the abortionist was instructed - Terminate !

Little wonder our world is so confused when our values are so unbalanced.

There is a saying .. "we reap what we sow." The predictions are that the values and priorities of today's inhabitants of the planet will reap a harvest of despair, regret & sorrow at eliminating God's code of conduct from our lives.

Peter Young, Greta NSW

"Due process"

'Lastweek we learned the news that Victoria Police have charged Cardinal George Pell with historical

sex offences. As a community, we must allow the judicial system to do its job, promote due process and uphold a fundamental right of everyone, the presumption of innocence. I note in that connection, that Cardinal Pell strenuously maintains his innocence.

We know from the ongoing stories shared with the Royal Commission and the accounts of survivor's in our own diocese, the undeniably disturbing picture of the consequences of sexual abuse and of the historical failings of the church in dealing with reports of child sexual abuse. As Bishop of the diocese, I strongly support the work of the Royal Commission led by Justice McClellan to address these past failings and ensure they are not repeated in the future. I remain committed to protecting children and working with survivors to support them on their individual journeys toward healing.

This news will undoubtedly affect many in our community and diocese in a number of ways, and I

encourage all who wish, to contact Zimmerman Service's Healing and Support Team on 4979 1390 for dedicated support.' - Bishop Bill Wright Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Bad Planning

I have used a parliamentary speech to launch a full scale attack on the NSW Government's acute hospital planning in the Hunter region. I told the House of Representatives that seven years after the NSW Government identified the need for a new hospital, not a sod of soil has been turned. The indecision and funding uncertainty is deferring investment in existing hospitals.

I saved the heaviest criticism for the decision to build a new but unfunded hospital in Metford.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: over my dead body will the State Government downgrade or close any existing hospitals in the Cessnock LGA to build a new hospital on the eastern side of Maitland. In any case, it is the wrong site for many reasons, including traffic problems and parking problems.

The story grows worse: in the State Budget just this week, the New South Wales Government allocated just \$5 million to the project—\$5 million for a new hospital! So, seven years after identifying the need for a new hospital, Area Health has not turned a sod of dirt,

there is no money in the budget and, just as bad, if not worse, investment in existing hospitals is being deferred, obviously because there is a new hospital proposal. It is a disgrace; it is a slap in the face for the people I represent in the area and the New South Wales Government has to fix the problem.

Mr Fitzgibbon MP Member for Hunter

Remember the elderly

The current furore on predatory retirement villages is a timely reminder and an insight into the often forgotten pillars of society, the elderly. With so much focus on looking after and developing our youth, and the constant noise and bustle from working middle-aged adult fighting for homes in the real estate market, it seems a sad product of our modern times that the elderly are frequently an afterthought. We can only hope that as an ageing population we start taking a good, hard look at ourselves and the path that lies ahead for us all as we become older, and in so doing remember to serve each other justly in the process of this whirlwind of life

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Towards Zero campaign kicks off in Cessnock Council LGA



Cessnock City Council is pleased to announce Roads and Maritime Services has funded the supply of *Towards Zero* billboard signage in two 50km/h areas within our local government area.

Towards Zero is a state-wide road safety campaign highlighting the fact that the NSW road toll is not simply a number, it is people and a number that is unacceptable until it gets to zero.

The *Towards Zero* campaign identifies speeding as a contributing factor in 40% of all fatal crashes in NSW each year and where speed is a factor, it exponentially increases the severity of all crashes.

The sites selected for installation of the signs in the Cessnock LGA are Old

Maitland Road, East Cessnock and Melbourne Street, Aberdare. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent, said speeding is an ongoing

issue on our local roads and encourages locals to take note of the signs and slow down.

"I've seen the local traffic data which reveals that on Old Maitland Road over 80% of vehicles exceed the 50 km/h speed limit and on Melbourne Street over 70%

of vehicles exceed the 50 km/h speed limit."

It is hoped the new signs will serve to remind drivers of their obligation to adhere to speed limits and to always drive to prevailing conditions.

■ Photo at left: Mayor Bob Pynsent under new signage



LOWER BELFORD



NEWS

The 'sun shines' for CWA luncheon at Lower Belford

We had a perfect day for our Annual Luncheon (Photo above). This year our Guest Speaker was horse trainer Todd Howlett who gave an interesting & informative talk on how he started out. He now employs eight people & has over 35 horses in training & so has come a long way since his early days.

Plenty of questions were asked & answered giving an insight as to just what is involved in preparing a horse for racing including 4.30 am starts, definitely a labour of love especially these cold mornings!

Our craft table, looked after by Edith, & the fresh produce looked after by Agnes & Ken were a great Success; home -

grown fruit & vegies, home-made pickles & free-range eggs being very popular.

Some ladies enjoyed having their lunch at our outside tables in the sunshine & with all our members lending a hand, where needed, a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to all the CWA branches who attended; also our friends from Merriwa to Belmont. We hope to see you all again next year.

Jill Bowman (President), Agnes Meany (Secretary) & Janette Casey (Treasurer)

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYORS DESK



Ø Murray Thompson and Jordan O'Brien

What an honour to host a visit from His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Hurley. It was with great pride I accompanied them during some parts of their visit in our local government area. Highlights included visiting Mount View High School, where we had an important discussion on domestic violence. Congratulations to former Mount View High School students Murray Thompson and Jordan O'Brien who spoke about their involvement in establishing the White Ribbon pledge at the school which continues today. This really is an important event, which was named Community Event of the Year at the 2015 Australia Day Awards. We finished the day off at Drayton's Family Wine, showing off our spectacular wine country and talented vigneron.

The Vice Regal Reception held on Friday 23 June was a wonderful occasion. Cessnock Leagues Club was the perfect venue, as it gave our visitors an opportunity to meet some of our outstanding community members who play a vital role in making our community the special place it is.

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, and Mrs Hurley finished their visit to the region on Saturday dropping into PCYC, Cessnock Mens Shed and Handmade in the Hunter Markets. Congratulations to everyone involved in the Vice Regal Visit, we certainly did our community proud.

The annual National General Assembly of Local Government was held in Canberra from Monday 19 June. I am happy to report a motion put forward by Cessnock City Council received overwhelming support from councils across Australia. The motion urges the Federal Government to provide financial support to all Councils to help address growing local infrastructure backlogs.

Of the three tiers of government, local government has the feeblest ability to apply a tax or levy, yet it is required to prop up approximately 74% of the nation's road network, placing enormous pressure on council budgets. It for this reason I was not surprised to receive such strong support, and I sincerely hope we get a response from the Federal Government.

The Community Strategic Plan, 2017-18 Delivery Program, the 2017-18 Operational Plan & Budget and Resourcing Strategy have now been adopted by Council. These plans set out the delivery of Council's ongoing activities and key initiatives for the year ahead. I look forward to seeing what we can achieve and will continue to look for other funding sources to supplement our Delivery Program.

The Kurri Kurri District Strategy is now on public exhibition and we are urging community members to provide their feedback, especially those living in Weston and Kurri Kurri.

The draft strategy sets out opportunities for the future and will guide development as we continue to build a community that is active, accessible and thriving into future.

The 28 day exhibition period commences on 21 June, 2017 and finishes on 2 August, 2017. To make a submission or for more information visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/kurrikurridistrictstrategy>.

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR NSW BUDGET 2017 – GOOD OR BAD FOR NSW & CESSNOCK

Now every year when I write about the Budget I am bombarded with replies from the community about how badly Labor did when they were in Government and about how unfair I am being, in criticising the Coalition Government of today. So this year let me take a more straight forward approach, tease the grey matter and reference certain pages of the Budget, that will help everyone to understand my fundamental claim about the NSW Budget – there is a train wreck coming to the NSW bottom line and it will arrive in the next 3-4 years.

The NSW Budget is normally (for the past 20+ years) handed down in 5 different booklets. This year there were only 4. Your own personal interests will determine which Booklet you are most interested in – and for me, the Key to the State finances is in Book 1 - The Budget Statement. Book 1 is the big picture, the long term view. All NSW Budget papers are available on-line. Anything that I write and say can be cross referenced and found in the Budget Papers.

Now over the past 6 years I have commented regularly about the sell-off of our profit making assets, things like Ports, Poles & Wires, our Land Titles Office, etc. Some have told me that my views were "moaning and whinging" and Labor focused. Some also said that the sell-off was due to the "terrible position that Labor left the State in". Regardless of your view, surely we can all agree that selling the profit making assets means that there will be less money coming in to the Budget in future years. So it is. Budget Paper 1, Chart 2.2 on page 2-4 shows falling growth for future income/revenue. It is nosediving! Since 2015/16 the slope has looked like a ski jump, with no end in sight. That is because all of this income/profit making assets will no longer return their profits to the State. The State will be growing by less than 2% by 2021 with cost growing by more than 3% at much the same time.

Many have been led to believe that as a result of the sell-off of \$50B of our State that our debt would be much lower and that this would be good for the State. Sorry to disappoint. Table C.2 in Budget Paper 1 on page C-3 shows that when Labor left office in 2011 the State level of "borrowings" was \$22.5B and as at June 30, 2017 it will be \$33.02B – a 50% increase. And for the next 365 days of 2017/18 the State will pay **\$5.75M PER DAY** in interest on the \$33.02B debt. So we can clearly see the sell-off has not helped pay down debt at all. This is because the sell-off money was forced, by the Government's own Legislation, to be used to build stuff, not pay down debt. And as we all know, the building of stuff is happening in Sydney, to a very large

extent.

So where to from here? Well, when the money coming in dries up and when the costs of producing services continues to rise, we will be in a real mess. Selling your home to buy a sports car is what the Government have been doing these past 6 years. There is every chance that the costs of many projects will blow-out and that the AAA credit rating will be at risk (when our debt + superannuation is 120% of the budget). This is the financial future that is being set up by the current Government. Yes, there is a train-wreck on the horizon. But there will be some shiny new bridges and tunnels and a whole bunch less Government services.

* * * * *

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



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Relationship is an important word in local government.

We all know there's been a lot of focus recently about the relationships between Singleton and the State and Federal governments, prompted not least by the NSW Cabinet meeting visit last month. But while it might be easy to assume the most critical relationships are at the State and national level because they are the most visible (and attract the most media attention), the reality is vastly different. As the Mayor of Singleton, a vital part of my job is to maintain connections with a range of government departments and organisations in order to advocate for the needs of my community.

Equally important is the relationship between councils, and in particular our neighbours at Cessnock City Council. We are fortunate to have an extremely productive and successful working relationship with the people of Cessnock, as demonstrated most recently with the joint \$17 million Hermitage Road upgrade and cycleway project, which crosses the boundary between both local government areas and will be officially opened in the coming months. Singleton has also been working with the Branxton Chamber of Commerce and Cessnock City Council in the very early stages of a new approach to cross-section Section 94 contributions to benefit those residents who live on the Singleton/Cessnock border.

But perhaps most significantly, Singleton and Cessnock have a shared interest in the promotion, development and advancement of the Hunter Valley wine and tourism industry which has been cemented for the past two years with the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Alliance.

The Alliance exists between both councils and the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association to be a harmonious "one voice" to grow the destination and foster sustainable industry growth. It was that common viewpoint that we could then present to His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (ret'd), Governor of NSW, when he visited a round-table meeting of the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association on Friday 23 June, and where

we saw the forging of yet another relationship between our region and Government House.

The word "relationship" is defined as a connection, association or involvement. But I would suggest the most productive relationships occur when there is mutual benefit from such a connection, association or involvement – and we can certainly demonstrate plenty of those in Singleton

Cheers, Sue



Clr Melanie Dagg – Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

FLYING-FOX PLAN

The draft Flying-Fox Camp Management Plan is now on exhibition and Council is calling on the community to have their say.

While flying-fixes to play an important role in the ecology of our region, their growth of the population and impact of noise, smell and potential health risks continues to be of concern to residents. The draft Management Plan will be on exhibition until the 31st July.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OUT-COMES FROM STATE BUDGET

In the recent NSW State Government Budget a number of promises were made, the following being most relevant to the local government sector:

- * \$79 million for the Pensioner Rebate Scheme which subsidises council rates and charges for pensioners.
- * Funding for local libraries through the State Library is budgeted at \$28.8 million, an increase from \$28.3 million in 2016/17. Submissions were made to Government to increase funding to public libraries to \$40 million per annum in 2017/18 and index it from the following year to ensure council libraries can fulfill their important social role in the community. In October 2016, a commitment given by former Premier Mike Baird to look at significantly increasing funding to libraries. It is disappointing that commitment has not translated into the budget.

- * \$10 million for the Weeds Action Program, which provides funding to councils and local land services to manage identified weeds. This is the same as the 2016/17 funding allocation, representing a decline in real terms and is far short of what is needed. It is accepted within the local government sector that \$20 million per year is required to ensure councils are properly resourced to tackle problem weeds in their LGAs.

- * An allocation of \$52.7 million for the Arts and Cultural Development Program, which is similar to the \$53 million allocated in the 2016/17 budget. The program supports artists and organisations across NSW, including providing funding to councils for arts and culture initiatives.

- * A welcome allocation of \$100 million over four years for a new Regional Cultural Fund to fund cultural infrastructure in regional NSW. This new funding is part of the NSW Government's Cultural Infrastructure Program. The funding is to support investment in new arts and cultural facilities and can be used to upgrade existing spaces including galleries, theatres, libraries, museums and halls.
- * Capital expenditure on roads infrastructure is to increase to \$8.4 billion; an increase of 17% on the 2016/17 Budget figure of \$7.2 billion and more than 30% compared to the

revised 2016/17 Budget figure of \$6.4 billion.

- * \$543 million has been committed to Fixing Country Roads (\$155 million has been expended and/or allocated so far under rounds one and two). The Fixing Country Roads program enables councils to address key strategic freight pinch points on their local roads networks and Cessnock Council was a recent recipient of funding under this program for the roads around Frame Drive Bridge, as I detailed in a previous column.

- * Bridges for the Bush received an additional \$900,000 in the current Budget, up from \$63.8 million allocated in the 2016/17 Budget, however is much less than the \$76 million in the 2015/16 Budget. This program covers mainly state-owned roads infrastructure.

- * A new \$1 billion Regional Growth: Economic Activation Fund was announced in this year's State Budget to unlock economic growth and deliver quality services in regional NSW. The fund will support investment in:
 - Growing local economies: through investment in enabling infrastructure
 - Resources for regions: addressing infrastructure requirements in mining communities
 - Connecting country communities: improving connectivity in regional NSW to drive economic growth

- Regional sports infrastructure: supporting participation in regional sporting communities
- * A commitment of \$200 million over three years for the Strong Country Communities Fund to improve community facilities like swimming pools, health centres, bike paths, playgrounds and community halls.

- * An additional five projects under the Regional Water and Waste Water Backlog program, bringing committed funding up to \$107.1 million for a total of 37 regional projects. I'm hopeful this will have an impact on the timing of North Rothbury's sewer connection.
- * The NSW Government reiterated its promise to invest 30% (or \$6 billion) of its \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan in regional NSW so that all communities experience the benefits of the proceeds from the partial sale of the poles and wires businesses.

It's important to remember that local councils manage 74% of the State's road infrastructure and councils more than ever are expected to provide many more services for the communities than simply managing rates, roads and rubbish. Previous funding opportunities have been frozen and we have just lived through a lengthy period of uncertainty whilst the forced amalgamation process has been underway - council budgets are tight. Rural and regional councils quite often are much poorer than their metro cousins simply due to the vastly smaller number of residents within their LGAs, greater areas of infrastructure to build and maintain, with a lower rate of economic development. Regional areas however do pull their weight, and indeed on a local level the Hunter is an economic powerhouse which contributes greatly to the State's coffers through the income generated by the mining, thoroughbred, agriculture, wine and tourism industries. One would have thought regional communities would therefore receive a greater share from the sale of OUR poles and wires than a measly 30%.

Cheers, Mel

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Tinea

What is tinea?

Tinea is a common skin condition caused by a fungal infection. The fungus thrives best in warm moist environments, so areas like the feet ('athletes foot'), the groin ('jock itch'), the scalp and body (such as under the breasts) and sometimes the toe or finger nails are ideal places for the fungus to grow.

Tinea symptoms

Symptoms can include a red flaky rash that can crack split and peel, blistering and itching.

Sometimes the rash appears in a circular ring pattern which is called 'ringworm' and can be a little misleading because there is no worm involved.

If tinea forms in the nails they may develop a yellow or white discolouration. If tinea forms on the scalp, bald spots may occur.

Types of tinea

Tinea infections can affect many areas of the skin and depending on their location and fungal type, the infection has different names:

- Athlete's foot (tinea pedis): fungal infection of the skin on the feet.
- Ringworm of the scalp (tinea capitis): fungal infection that develops on the head.
- Ringworm of the body (tinea corporis): fungal infection of the body that develops on the top layer of the skin.
- Jock itch (tinea cruris): tends to create a rash in the moist, warm areas of the groin.
- Pityriasis versicolor (tinea versicolor): fungal infection that develops on the trunk, face or arms.

•Onychomycosis (tinea unguium): fungal infection of the toe or finger nails.

Tinea treatments

Tinea is treated with antifungal medicines and generally clears up within four weeks. You can purchase these creams from any pharmacy and some supermarkets. Follow the application instructions on the package carefully and speak to your pharmacist if you have questions.

Although rare, tinea can spread to other areas of the body, so good personal hygiene is important to prevent the infection spreading. Most tinea infections are mild and can affect anybody. Young people and men tend to be affected more by tinea on the foot ('athletes foot'). In addition, people who play a lot of sport, spend time in communal changing rooms and showers, or wear trainers (sneakers) are more likely to be affected.

If you have tinea there are a number of things you can do to help manage the condition. Here's some self-help information:

- tinea is treated with antifungal creams. You can purchase these creams from any pharmacy and some supermarkets. Follow the application instructions on the package carefully and speak to your pharmacist if you have questions
- tinea is contagious so it's important not to

share towels, flannels, bathmats, treatment creams and shoes

- after washing, dry the skin thoroughly, especially between the toes, in the groin and under the breasts
- try to expose the skin to as much fresh air as possible
- wear clothing made from natural fibres instead of synthetics to prevent sweating and developing warm moist skin areas
- use antiperspirants to help control excessive sweating
- make sure your feet are completely dry before putting on socks, stockings or tights
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after washing the infected area to make sure you don't spread your infection to other parts of your body or onto other people
- try not to scratch your rash as you may spread the infection to other parts of your body
- wear socks and shoes made from natural materials (such as cotton) whenever possible
- change your socks, tights or stockings and bra every day
- wear shoes or footwear which keeps your feet cool and dry.

Moving towards the right balance in road funding

Road networks are a critical component of our State's infrastructure and provide the means by which our State and regional economies can effectively work together.

Local councils have a vitally important role to play in ensuring that road networks at all levels are well maintained and efficient and for this reason other levels of government – most notably through Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) – provide funding support to enable councils to carry out their responsibilities as custodians of local roads. Over \$200 million was distributed across New South Wales in 2016/2017.

In the Hunter Region and across our State as a whole a major part of the road network is the responsibility of small rural and regional councils. These rural and regional councils are challenged at all levels by the combination of large geographic areas, extensive road networks and a limited rates base to address the liabilities generated by their road network responsibilities. This situation has in recent years been made worse by the grants for rural road works – as opposed to metropolitan works – not keeping pace with the actual cost of providing the service.

It is for this reason that

discussions have been taking place for a considerable period of time in regard to the Financial Assistance Grants funding methodology as interpreted by the NSW Grants Commission and the degree to which smaller rural and regional councils are disadvantaged by the approach that the Grants Commission employs.

The Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils which represents the ten local government areas of our region has responded to this



situation by funding a ground breaking study into the Financial Assistance Grants regime and its impact. According to the Chair of Hunter Councils and Mayor of Cessnock, Cr Bob Pynsent, the study to be undertaken by Price Waterhouse Coopers will focus as a test case on the application of Financial Assistance Grants to local government in the Hunter and how better outcomes might be achieved.

He said, "The support provided by Financial Assistance Grants is an important consideration for all councils as they address their road infrastructure responsibilities. As a region, however, we recognise that our smaller rural and regional councils face particular challenges in regard to their local road networks. It is for this reason that we have commissioned Price Waterhouse Coopers to review the existing criteria applying to the Grants and to see

whether factors currently not in the mix – economic development, funding priorities and considerations of equity and distance – could lead to a better outcome."

He added, "Local government in the Hunter has a track record for cooperation and resource sharing. While we cannot unilaterally change how Financial Assistance Grants are applied we can certainly show leadership in analysing the impact of the program and in identifying how refinements and local initiatives – for example a voluntary redistribution of grants within the region – might lead to better outcomes for all of our communities." Price Waterhouse Coopers are currently engaged in an analysis of the Financial Assistance Program as it relates to local roads and will be reporting in due course their findings to the Joint Organisation of Councils Board.



Ingredients

- 40g butter
- 1 large red onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 cup (75g) fresh breadcrumbs (made from day-old bread)
- 1/3 cup (25g) finely grated parmesan
- 1 lemon, zested, cut into wedges
- 1/4 cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon drained capers, chopped
- 1.8kg Coles Australian Pork Leg Roast Boneless
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons sea salt
- 1 garlic bulb, halved
- 1kg baby potatoes
- Steamed broccolini, to serve
- Traditional gravy, to serve

Method

•Step 1

Preheat oven to 230C. Heat the butter in a small frying pan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic. Cook, stirring, for 5 mins or until onion softens. Transfer to a bowl. Add the breadcrumbs, lemon zest, parmesan, parsley and capers. Stir to combine. Season.

Lemon and parmesan pork



•Step 2

Place the pork, rind-side up, on a clean work surface. Pat dry with paper towel.

Turn pork over and use a small, sharp knife to make a 5cm-deep cut under the centre of the meat to make a cavity for the stuffing. Place the stuffing across the centre of the pork. Roll up the pork to enclose the filling. Use kitchen string to tie the pork at 3cm intervals to secure. Place, rind-side up, in a large roasting pan. Drizzle with half the oil. Sprinkle with salt. Rub the salt over the rind and into the cuts. Roast for 30 mins or until rind begins to crackle.

•Step 3

Reduce oven to 180C. Roast for a further 30 mins. Arrange the potato, halved garlic and lemon wedges around the pork. Drizzle with remaining oil. Roast for 1 hour or until pork is just cooked through. Transfer the pork and vegetable mixture to a serving platter. Set aside, covered, for 15 mins to rest.

•Step 4

Thickly slice the pork. Serve with the potato mixture, broccolini and gravy.

8.5/10

HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

VICE-REGAL VISIT TO HUNTER VALLEY WINE COUNTRY

Hunter Valley Wine Country was honoured to receive a visit from His Excellency General The Hon David Hurley AC DSC (ret'd), accompanied by Mrs Linda Hurley, at Drayton's Family Wines on Friday 23rd June. The visit included a round table meeting and wine and tourism was at the forefront of the discussions held, as well as the economic needs to grow tourism to our region. The Governor values the wine and tourism industries. He assured us that all Government House functions serve 100% NSW wines, 15 in total and 5 of which are Hunter Valley wines. The Governor's support is appreciated and he

will ensure it remains prominent as he engages with the Government, Ministers and Members of Parliament. The round-table meeting was hosted by John and Jan Drayton at Drayton's Family Wines and was attended by members of the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Alliance, Cessnock City Council and Singleton Council.

☞ Pictured below (left to right): John and Jan Drayton - Drayton's Family Wines, Stewart Ewan - Bin 688 Vineyard & HVWTA Committee, Jo Thomas - HVWTA GM, John Davis - Pepper Tree Wines, Mrs Linda Hurley (front), His Excellency General The Hon David Hurley AC DSC (ret'd), Keith Tulloch - Keith Tulloch Wines (rear), Councillor Anthony Burke - Cessnock City Council, Brain McGuigan AM - Australian Horticulture Management, Joe Spagnolo - The Vintage GM & HVWTA Committee, Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent - Cessnock City Council (rear), James Agnew - Agnew Wines, Mayor Councillor Sue Moore - Singleton Council.



officers arrested a 36-year-old man at the scene and conveyed him to Cessnock Police Station. Police will allege over a 12 hour period, the man assaulted, choked and detained his partner, a 39-year-old woman at the location. The woman sustained a number of injuries and bruises to her body, head and neck during the ordeal and required medical treatment. The man was charged with ten offences including:

- Contravene AVO;
- Intentionally choke person with recklessness (x2);
- Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (x3);
- Take / detain person with intent to obtain advantage occasioning actual bodily harm;
- Common Assault (x2); and
- Assault with act of indecency

He was refused bail and appeared before Maitland Local Court on Saturday 24 June 2017.

NSW Police joins National Firearms Amnesty

NSW Police Force has joined the National Firearms Amnesty aimed at reducing the number of unregistered and unwanted firearms in Australia. Anyone with an unregistered firearm or firearm-related item in their possession will have the chance to legally dispose, or register it without penalty between 1 July and 30 September 2017. Deputy Commissioner Metropolitan Field Operations Jeff Loy said the amnesty provides an opportunity to register or give up an unregistered firearm without penalty. "Unregistered and illegal firearms are a significant risk to our community, especially when they end up in the hands of criminals," Deputy Commissioner Loy said. "There are hefty penalties for possessing unregistered or prohibited firearms, however, amnesty arrangements provide protection from prosecution, so now is the time to dispose of them."

Deputy Commissioner Regional NSW Field Operations Gary Worboys said gun theft is a major concern for NSW Police, particularly in regional areas. "NSW Police is committed to stopping firearms falling into the hands of criminals," Deputy Commissioner Worboys said. "Too many firearms are not stored securely, making them an easy target for thieves to steal multiple firearms during break-and-enters, particularly at rural properties." Police are also reminding firearm licence holders of their legal responsibility and encouraging owners to keep firearms at their primary residence, opposed to locations infrequently habited. Firearms and firearm-related items can be surrendered under amnesty arrangements at approved drop-off

points, which include licensed firearm dealers, mobile stations, and police stations. Under no circumstances should loaded firearms be taken into public places – including police stations. Anyone with concerns about handling firearms or safely transporting them, can contact the NSW Police Force Firearms Registry for assistance. For more information visit www.firearmsamnesty.ag.gov.au or call 1800 909 826. Anyone with information concerning gun crime in NSW should contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Remember, information can be provided anonymously. We don't need to know who you are; all we need is the information you have to hand. It may just help us get illegal guns of the street, and save lives in the process.

Man attends hospital with gunshot wound – Central Hunter

Police are appealing for information after a man presented at hospital with a gunshot wound on Monday, 26 June 2017. About 4.45pm (Sunday 25 June 2017), a 22-year-old man presented at Maitland Hospital with a single gunshot wound to his left hand. Police from Central Hunter Local Area Command were alerted and commenced inquiries. The circumstances surrounding the incident are unknown and police are urging any witnesses who have not yet spoken to police to come forward. Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers. The man was treated and released. 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. **NSW Police joins launch of national Facebook AMBER Alert system** The NSW Police Force has joined Federal and State and Territory law enforcement agencies to roll out a standardised alert system for abducted children. The AMBER Alert system replaces the Abducted Child Alert and Concern for Child Alert in NSW and introduces Facebook as a broadcasting and communication channel. The AMBER Alert system will upload information about an abduction of a child to Facebook which will then automatically appear in users' news feed within a specified geographic radius set by police. While child abduction incidents reported to NSW Police are rare, each incident is treated seriously. NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller APM, said time and information are crucial to the safe recovery of an abducted child. **CONT PAGE 11**

Report

Police have been told the 61-year-old woman was struck by a Toyota Corolla and died at the scene. The driver of the Toyota Corolla, a 22-year-old woman was arrested and taken to Singleton Hospital for mandatory tests before being taken to Muswellbrook Police Station. She has since been released. Officers from Hunter Valley Local Area Command established a crime scene and are continuing with their inquiries into the incident. Initial inquiries suggest the women are known to each other. A report will be prepared for the Coroner. Witnesses are urged to come forward and contact Crime Stoppers. Police are urging anyone with

information in relation to this incident to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers online reporting page: <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au/>. Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. We remind people they should not report crime information via our Facebook and Twitter pages **Charges laid after woman allegedly detained during domestic – Kurri Kurri** A man has been charged following a domestic violence incident in the Kurri Kurri on Saturday, 24 June 2017. About 8pm (Friday 23 June 2017), police from Central Hunter Local Area Command attended a unit in Kurri Kurri following reports of a domestic incident involving a man and a woman. Following inquiries,



Pedestrian dies after hit by car – Hunter Valley

A woman has died after being struck by a car in the Singleton on Wednesday, 21 June 2017. Just after 6pm (Tuesday 20 June 2017), emergency services were called to Dalton Avenue at Singleton, following reports a woman had been struck by a car.

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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

of bracket creep would assist them to make the decision to sell. We also believe other incentives, like reduced stamp duty granted to first homebuyers, should be targeted towards older Australians. "Helping downsizers with reduced stamp duty is one of the key ways to instantly help with the supply issue as it creates increased market activity with no loss of revenue for the government. In fact, it has been projected that there could be a gain in government revenue. "Instead the NSW Government has given itself a pat on the back and continues to put its hand out to ordinary Australians who are trying to put a roof over their heads," Mr Cunningham said.

Countdown begins to strata window safety



Strata building windows can be fully opened and still comply with the legislation which says they have to be fitted with safety devices to enable them to be locked at 12.5cm by 13 March 2018. The new legislation is being brought in by the NSW Government to prevent

children falling from windows. Each year around 50 children fall from windows or balconies in Australia. As a result the NSW Government is making amends to the Building Code of Australia and the Strata Schemes Managing Act, which owners corporations need to comply with by 13 March 2018. If the requirements are not met by then, owners corporations face fines. However windows only have to be locked when children are in the apartment or on all common access areas such as stair landings. Dr Cathy Sherry, Senior Lecturer of Law at the University of New South Wales, said: "I have heard anecdotally from a number of people that their strata managers are making them install locks that will prevent them ever opening their windows more than 12.5cm. "In fact, the legislation allows locks and limiting devices to have an override, as long as it is child-proof. That way, if there are no young children present, people can open their windows as wide as they want. "Having spent a lot of time working with The Children's Hospital, Westmead, on the reforms, it would be a real shame to see them being implemented in a way that is going to frustrate and

annoy people. "The idea was for everyone to have the physical ability to keep kids safe; not for no one ever to be able to fully open a window." A campaign has been created called **Kids Don't Fly** providing information on simple and effective ways to prevent kids from falls. Strata title management company, Strata Choice, has also made an informative video on child window safety, which you can watch. **Who and what is affected?** The window of strata apartments form part of the building and so it is the owners corporation who is responsible for ensuring that windows meet requirements. Windows affected are ones which open and have a two metre or greater fall on the outside, and a 1.7 metre or less height on the inside. The details are explained in the **Strata Schemes Management Regulation 2010**. How to be compliant? The most common solution is to install a locking device or stopper fitted to the affected window so it is restricted to opening only 12.5cm. Security screens such as bars or grills can be installed with permission from the strata manager, but plastic or wire flyscreen's are not strong enough unless reinforced.

Windows must also meet a pressure test of 250 newtons, or the same force as 25.5kg of weight in pressure. Lot owners can install a window safety device by letting the owners corporation know. However, tenants must get written permission from their landlord if a lock requires drilling.

First homebuyers package

By Tim McKibbin – REINSW CEO

The package of measures to support first homebuyers released by the NSW Government is a step in the right direction. However, a lot more needs to be done. The package will see stamp duty exemptions extended to first homebuyers of existing homes up to \$650,000 from 1 July 2017 and then reducing proportionally to dwellings up to \$800,000. This will also apply to new homes. Whilst welcome, I believe the stamp duty concessions need to be increased further to reflect the current median dwelling prices. More also needs to be done to address bracket creep, which has not been reviewed for more than 30 years. REINSW has been lobbying fiercely for a long time on these issues and

whilst we're pleased with the new package, there is still a long way to go.

A Reminder ..

Drowning is a leading cause of preventable death in children under 5 years of age. In 2012, the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* was amended to improve the safety of children around swimming pools in NSW. The changes include:

- swimming pool owners must register their swimming pool or spa pool on the NSW Swimming Pool Register
- accredited certifiers registered with the Building Professionals Board and local councils can carry out inspections of swimming pools
- from 29 April 2016 and unless exempted, a copy of the valid certificate of compliance or non-compliance or relevant occupation certificate (as the case may be) must be attached to the sale contract for any property with a swimming pool or spa pool, to rent a property with a swimming pool or spa pool, a copy of the valid compliance certificate or relevant occupation certificate (as the case may be) must be given to the tenant at the time of entering into the residential tenancy agreement. As an agent it is vital that you understand how the swimming pool laws affect the properties that you list, sell, lease and manage. As your professional association we have developed this topic page to give you a one-stop shop to find all the information, advice and documents you need to ensure that you can comply with the law and continue to provide a valued service to your clients.

NSW budget fails to deliver for consumers



said. "Stamp duty collected is projected to rise to \$7.2 billion next year or 5.9 per cent and up to \$8.5 billion in 2020-21, an average annual growth of 5.4 per cent over the next three years. "And yet again the NSW government has failed to address stamp duty brackets which have been left untouched for the last 30 years. "A review of stamp duty brackets would assist all residents of NSW. Instead the government continues to gain from its failure to recognise that bracket creep is an inhibitor to supply. "Retirees who are sitting on large family homes have been given no incentive to downsize. A simple review

Despite the good intentions of a package to support first homebuyers the NSW Government has failed to deliver for those seeking to purchase property. REINSW President John Cunningham said the NSW Government has again missed the opportunity to pass on the real reward the budget should have delivered all property consumers. "The NSW government has seen an increase of nearly 10 per cent to \$6.8 billion, on the stamp duty collected from the sale of homes in NSW," Mr Cunningham

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Singleton Council, Business Chamber and Two More Trains for Singleton on same track for more rail services



Action to address the gaps in Singleton's passenger train timetable is steaming ahead, with Singleton Council and Singleton Business Chamber teaming up with Two More Trains for Singleton following talks with NSW Transport Minister Andrew Constance MP last week. Discussions about the possibility of additional public transport services topped the agenda when Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore, General Manager Jason Linnane and Singleton Business Chamber president Ruth Rogers met with the Minister last week. Martin Fallding, from Two More Trains for Singleton, said he was happy to see the issue discussed with the NSW Government, and was looking forward to working with Council, Business Chamber and Transport for NSW to see additional services between Singleton and Maitland added to the timetable.

"Two More Trains for Singleton has met with NSW Government Ministers and made numerous submissions for over five years. The group is asking for a 10 year plan for passenger trains to run every two hours between Singleton and Maitland, providing a safe, cost and time effective transport option for residents and visitors," he said. "The preferred train frequency is unlikely to be achieved immediately. However, Two More Trains for Singleton has proposed a new timetable that can be introduced quickly." Cr Moore said the meeting with the Minister was a good start to addressing rail service limitations. "I am very conscious of the importance of public transport to our community and it's an issue that has a very strong focus in the Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027," she said.

"I am more than confident that if Council and Two Trains for Singleton continue to work closely together to lobby for the transport services that Singleton deserves, we will achieve positive outcomes." Singleton Business Chamber president Ruth Rogers said she would be following up with the Minister's office as a result of last week's meeting that was organised by the Chamber. "It was a wonderful

opportunity to meet with [Transport Minister] Mr Constance on our home turf about this issue and we are very appreciative of his time," she said. "Having said that, the Business Chamber in conjunction with Council and the Two More Trains for Singleton group will be in contact with the Minister's office to follow up on what was discussed at the meeting." Two More Trains for Singleton will provide Transport for NSW with

options for additional train and potential link bus options, and is seeking community feedback on the timetable options in a community and train user survey. Feedback received will assist the group to draft a submission to the NSW Government. President of the Branxton Greta Business Chamber, Brett Wild, said that the local chamber are supportive of the proposal and will organise a get-together with Singleton Business Chamber in the near future. "At the meeting with the Deputy Premier last week we asked if he could make

representations to Country Link to have their services stop at Branxton. "If the Singleton 10 year plan is adopted then we are smack bang in the middle of the service. "It can only be good for our local area," said Brett. The survey is available online for completion at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/TrainServicesSurvey closing Sunday 23 July. Photo: (L-R) Two More Trains for Singleton representatives Anne and Phillip Boyd, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore and Singleton Business Chamber president Ruth Rogers are keen to address the gaps in Singleton's passenger train timetable.

FROM PAGE 9

NSW Police joins launch of national Facebook AMBER Alert system

"The ability to broadcast important details as a matter of urgency to a wide audience is critical for the timely return of a child to their loved ones," Commissioner Fuller said.

"Police rely on information from the community and the AMBER Alert system ensures more people across a location are notified and able to be alert to anything that could assist police.

"While the system streamlines protocols already in place, it is solely used in cases of an abducted child, however the element of abduction may not alone be enough to warrant an AMBER Alert."

AMBER Alerts are used when there is reasonable belief a child is at risk of serious harm and/or death.

Police must have enough information about the child or abductor to share with the public to help locate the young person.

When an AMBER Alert cannot be issued, police will consider other means of seeking community assistance such as media releases, public appeals and the use of social media.

"Abducted and missing children can have a profound effect on loved ones and the community as well as the child, which is why NSW is taking part in the national roll-out," Commissioner Fuller said.

It will also ensure NSW Police provide assistance to neighbouring state or territories to reports of child abduction if an abducted child is believed to be in or heading to NSW.

"Social media is an invaluable tool and with over 15 million Facebook users across Australia, it is a vital resource to reunite children with their families quickly," Commissioner Fuller said.

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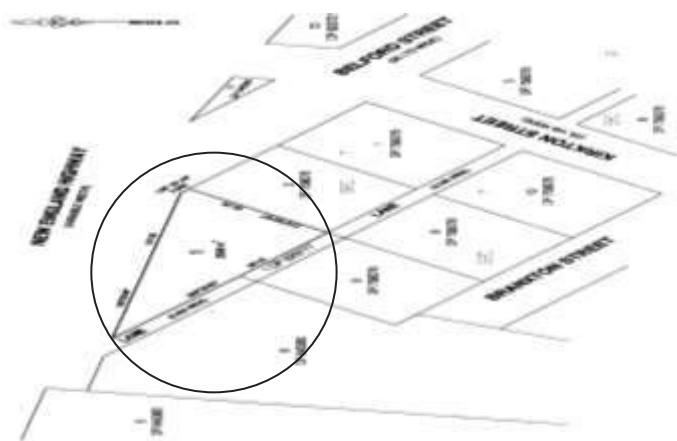


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Jewel Box Bush Cottage

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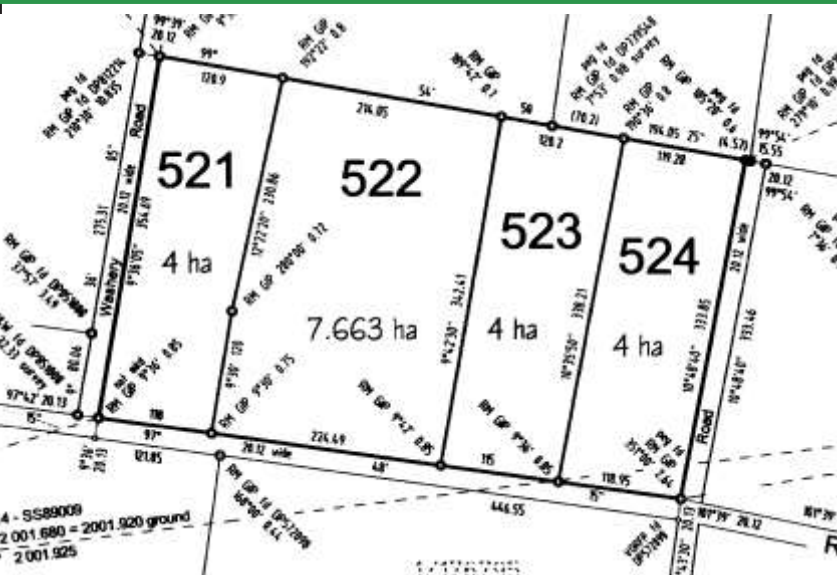


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who attended on the day. The aroma of the cooking of eggs, bacon and sausages from the Lions Barbecue was too tempting and am sure we were not the only ones who went back for "seconds".

Branxton/Greta CWA were happy to be participating in the Branxton Community Markets on Sunday, 25th June, with a cake/slice stall and were delighted to support some of the other lovely colourful stalls and admire the vintage cars on display which were also of interest to the many people

Thank you to all members who cooked the great variety of lovely cakes and slices for the Markets. Thank you also to all on the Branxton Chamber of Commerce for organising the Markets and will be looking forward to finding out how much was raised for the Cancer



Ø Branxton Community Markets held on Sunday, 25th June

Council, who do such valuable work in the fight against cancer. Thank you also to our supporters on the day and for those who donated to the Cancer

Council. Next on the calendar will be the Branxton/Greta CWA All-in-One Day on Tuesday, 18th July, which incorporates our Birthday,

Ø Our helpers at the Branxton Community Markets held on Sunday, 25th June



Cultural, International, Handicraft, and Agricultural/Environmental which will be held at the

Branxton Community Hall, Guest Speaker, Hot Lunch, 10.00am for 10.30am - \$15. Please phone Marie -



6574 7174 or email branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com for RSVP 14/07/17 and also for any dietary requirements. Denise McGoldrick, Publicity Officer.

Ø Photo above: One of the vintage cars on display at the Branxton Community Markets held on Sunday, 25th June

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Have your say on our roads



Businesses impacted by traffic, road networks, parking, cycling and transport within the Cessnock region are encouraged to participate in public consultation on a draft Traffic and Transport Strategy. As the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) continues to experience rapid growth, our traffic, parking and

transport needs are anticipated to change. The strategy now on exhibition provides in depth staging of major roadworks, including suggested bypasses and upgrades for relief of congestion. It also addresses issues with parking and connectivity in our town centres. Cessnock City Mayor, Council-

lor Bob Pynsent said adopting a robust plan 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 and businesses."

By having a robust strategy in place, Council will be in a

better position to lobby for increased funds and grant allocations for the project priorities listed in the plan.

"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 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. Simply email your submission to

TTS@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or post to PO Box 152, CESSNOCK NSW 2325.



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Sh#tbox Rally

Ex-Branxton businessman, Noel Delforce, has just completed the 2017 Sh#tbox Rally which saw approximately 200 teams complete the arduous course from Adelaide to Cairns via the Oodnadatta Track & Plenty Highway.

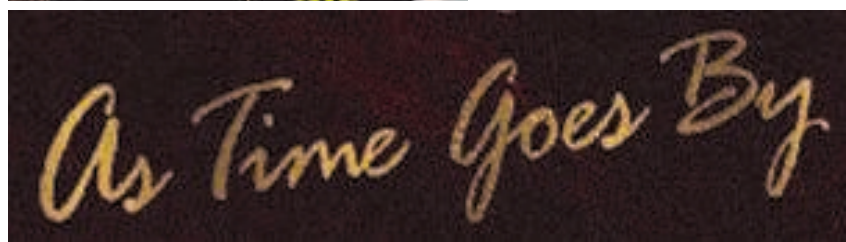
"The Sh#tbox Rally is an annual event dedicated to raising much needed funds to support cancer research. By getting out and doing something unique, positive and proactive, it brings an element of fun and excitement to the formidable task of raising



money to cure this heartbreaking disease," said Noel.

Shitbox Rally is not a race, rather a challenge to achieve the unthinkable ... to drive cars worth just \$1,000 across Australia via some of its most formidable roads, all in the name of charity.

"Enthusiasm and drive are what's enabled box rallies to raise over 11.5 million dollars for cancer research over the last seven years," said Noel. Well done!



THE NEWS Issue No 223 26th April 2007 page 9

Greta Branxton Bicycle Walking Path a 'dead duck'

A reply from the RTA to a Greta resident, who enquired as to when the Greta Branxton Bicycle Walking Path was to be completed, has been told that funding is currently fully committed & it will need to compete for future funding with other worthwhile projects.

The project was initially funded by the state government with Cessnock City Council going \$ for \$. The state had allocated \$600,000 & retracted the funding when Cessnock City Council had some difficulty in arranging their timeframe for funding.

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MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

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by Grace Uhr in 2015 for the Cairns Post. Please read...

Former weather man to pen book on far North Queensland murder of Bruce Schuler

Grace Uhr, *The Cairns Post*, October 6, 2015
A TV weather man turned author who inadvertently interviewed Cape York grazier Stephen Struber only weeks before he killed prospector Bruce Schuler is planning to pen a book on the gripping crime.
Monte Dwyer, who was formerly the Today Show's weather man, is now an acclaimed author, playwright and musician and spoke with Struber on his Palmerville property as part of a his Red in the Centre series, which showcases bush stories around Australia.

The interview became police evidence as they built a case against Struber and co-convicted wife Dianne Wilson-Struber, who were handed life sentences in July 2015 despite Mr Schuler's body never being found.
"Anyone I tell the story to finds it a really interesting subject," he said.
"Since then I've kept an eye on proceedings."
Mr Dwyer said he came across the couple through a variety of travel blogs and message threads, warning of their hostility towards those trying to pass through their lands.

He said it echoed similar disputes across the country between tourists, prospectors and pastoralists and he had approached Struber on his remote property for an interview in May, 2012.
Mr Schuler disappeared two months later while prospecting with three friends.
"I found him a little bit tetchy, certainly he was an anxious sort of a bloke," he said.
"It was only when I came back to North Queensland to attend a writers' festival in Atherton and I think it was one of the guys (with Mr Schuler when he disappeared) who said would I give my vision to the cops.
"I asked why, and he said because Struber had killed

one of his mates."
Stephen Struber and his wife Dianne were handed life sentences in July 2015 over the murder of Bruce Schuler.
Mr Dwyer said he had spoken with the three friends with Mr Schuler that trip, who were key witnesses during the trial, and they had

ABOUT Monte Dwyer



Monte Dwyer (born 1958) is an Australian journalist, TV personality, musician and author, best known as the weatherman who pioneered the travelling weatherman blueprint for Channel Nine's *Today* during the 1990s, also voted Australia's favourite weatherman for over 15 years.

Early & Personal life

Dwyer was born in Newcastle, Australia on 21 July 1958, and educated in and around Lake Macquarie. After leaving school, he trained as a psychiatric nurse at Morisset Hospital, then began traveling and worked variously as a professional fisherman, fashion model, foreign aid worker abroad and hospitality industry journeyman.

Married to Julie Brooker in 1996 but divorced in 1999. In July 1997, his daughter Lucy was born. In 2014, Monte married high school sweetheart Loloma Roberts (now Dwyer) and currently resides in Lake Macquarie.

Arts and media career

In the late 1980s, Monte trained in Theatre Arts in Darwin, Northern Territory under Gündüz Kalıç, then began presenting the weather on the local ABC TV station, gaining notoriety for his theatrical presentations which included singing, rapping and race-calling the weather. During this time, he was a columnist for the NT News and hosted various Darwin ABC Radio programs, including Breakfast, Drive & Afternoons.

In 1991 he moved to Sydney and became the weatherman on *Today* on Channel Nine. He left in 2002.

In 2007 Dwyer produced content for Charles Wooley's radio program *Across Australia* while travelling around Australia in a motor-home. In 2008, he was in one season of *Postcards From the Bush* for Channel Seven's *Sunrise*.

After leaving the program, Dwyer began to produce video stories and travelogues for clients including Tourism Australia and Australia Network. He also self-publishes/produces books & DVDs under the Red in the Centre brand, and turns out the occasional CD of original music.

tentatively agreed to be interviewed.
He said he was also making contact with family members and working to get access to court documents.
"At the core of it all, don't ever forget, there's a family grieving," he said.

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"From all accounts he was a decent family guy loved by all around him who went up there and never came back, let's never forget that.
"If in any way this book could offer any comfort to the Schulers, who I've never met, then that's enough.
"It's tragic, it's titillating – it's everything you want in a read."
 Interestingly, Struber has never revealed the location of Mr Schuler's body, despite the High Court this month ruling out an appeal against

his conviction & Fiona Splitt's hopes of finally burying her murdered husband have received a jolt with retrospective "no body, no parole" legislation introduced to Queensland Parliament (The Cooktown woman has led a campaign to change the law following her husband murder).
Struberville (2017), Monte's latest book, is the story of Bruce Schuler's murder at Palmerville Station on the 9th of July, 2012. His murderers, Stephen

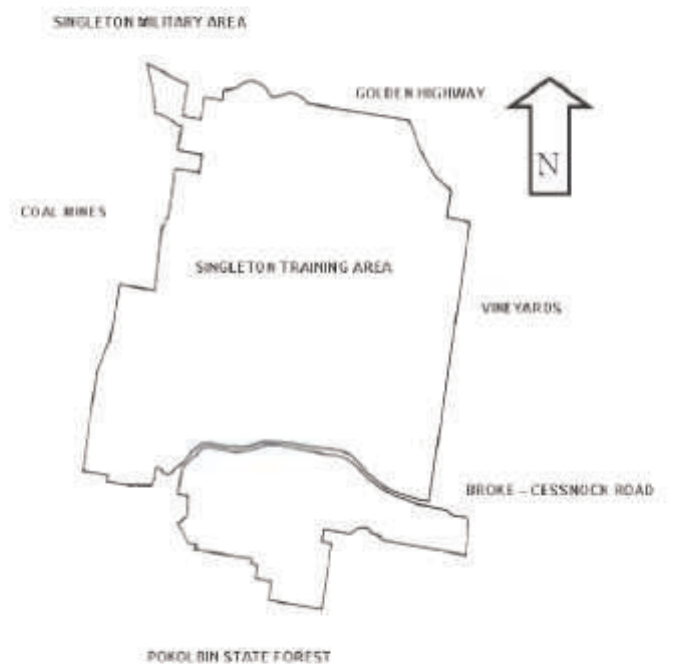
Struber and his wife Dianne Wilson, had for decades been a law unto themselves, terrorising all who dared cross 'their' land. Or as Struber saw it, playing 'Cowboys and Indians' and chasing them off the property. Using real bullets. As Monte says ... 'Struberville is also a look at the darker side of isolation, and what happens to the civilising influence of society when nobody's watching out there.'
 My next read,



Australian Government
 Department of Defence

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High intensity program unit to open at Cessnock Correctional Centre



Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald

In a first for NSW, inmates serving short sentences will undertake mandatory rehabilitation programs to reduce reoffending following the construction of a High Intensity Program

Unit at Cessnock Correctional Centre. The 2017-18 Budget allocates \$20 million, from a total program of \$237 million, for these ten units being opened next month across the state with Corrective Services NSW creating 87 roles to deliver programs annually to more than 1,200 male and female inmates. The new units will deliver intensive

services, programs and pre-release planning to help inmates get their lives back on track. The 80-place unit at Cessnock will focus on inmates convicted of general violence and aggression offences, who have significant treatment needs. Offenders with less than 12 months to serve

will be eligible. Nine other units will be opened next month at Mid-North Coast, Bathurst, Wellington, Dillwynia (Windsor), South Coast and Cooma correctional centres and will focus on: **Domestic violence** - five units, with 40 inmates each, will prioritise male inmates convicted of domestic

violence offences. **Female inmates** - three units will provide the program to groups of 20 and 40 women. **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates** - two units will be focused on delivering education, services and programs in a culturally appropriate way. **General violence and aggression** - This cohort of inmates has significant treatment

needs and offenders with less than 12 months to serve will be eligible. One unit will provide high intensity programs to 80 inmates. Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald said the government was committed to reducing reoffending rates and keeping the community safe. "Participation in the high intensity units will be mandatory," Mr MacDonald said. "Inmates will complete the course in four months, ensuring they are ready for release and

making a better contribution to the community." Minister for Corrections David Elliott said the NSW Government investment meant CSNSW was now in a position to service cohorts of offenders that hadn't been effectively reached before. "These are offenders who keep returning to custody on short sentences that will now have access to intensive programs and services to try and break this cycle," Mr Elliott said.

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Watch Out For Android Banking Malware

It seems like every issue I tell you about some new scam that's threatening your PC or phone. Unfortunately, that's because scammers are working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to come up with new ways to steal your information and your money.

The newest threat out there is a piece of phone malware that steals user names and passwords from dozens of shopping and banking apps. The crooks do that by having the malware pose as a Flash Player update. It was first made public by security experts Zscaler Threatlabs.

The Marcher malware is particularly tricky and has claimed to be everything from free preview of a hot new game to celebrity sex tapes to con people into clicking on it.

This time, it's disguised as an update to Adobe Flash player. Most of us are used to updates for software and apps and are inclined to approve them. Here's the screen you'll see if you're infected.



Once you agree to the installation, this tricky malware hides and removes its own icon. It will then contact the scammer's server with a list of all of your installed apps.

Here's where it gets even trickier. The malware lies in wait for you to open one of 40 apps that use financial information. When you open your banking app, it generates a fake login page.



Thinking this is the normal login page, users supply their name and password. According to Zscaler, the targeted apps include

- Yahoo Mail
- Gmail
- Paypal
- Ebay
- Gumtree

What's even scarier is that these fake apps do such a good job of disguising themselves that most

anti-virus programs don't even detect them.

Fortunately, there's an easy way to avoid this nasty app. So far the apps carrying this tricky malware have only shown up in third-party app stores. So stick to downloading your Android apps only from the Google Play Store. To make sure you aren't tempted to install any sketchy apps, go to the settings for your Android device and choose

Security.

Make sure to turn off the ability to install apps from unknown sources. This will save you a world of hurt. If you think you've fallen for this trick, a reset to factory settings is in order for your phone. Plus, you'll want to change the passwords to all of your accounts and take a close look for any suspicious financial transactions.

What Is Usoclient?

I received a text this morning & the enquirer wanted to know just what the heck **usoclient.exe** was and why it popped up briefly and then disappeared when he was booting up his Windows 10 laptop. Nobody wants to see a mysterious .exe file on their PC.

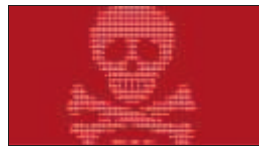


It's nothing to worry about. The usoclient is the Windows 10 Update Orchestrator. It's part of the process that reboots your PC after automatic updates. So it's not a virus or anything you need to worry about. Though some folks have complaints about how it works.!



Massive Ransomware Attack Hits US & Europe

In what's being called a global ransomware incident, utility companies, stores, banks, and government agencies in Europe, the UK, Australia, and the US have been hit by one of the largest cyber attacks in history. Among the companies hit are US Pharmaceutical company Merck, Russian oil company Rosneft, and a French retailer. The Ukraine experience problems with their public transport, postal service, and it even caused problems with the monitoring systems for the Chernobyl nuclear plant.



Experts say this attack is much more sophisticated than the WannaCry Ransomware that shut down the UK's NHS. Again, if your Windows software is up-to-date, you won't be affected by this malware. The cyber-criminals seem to have reverse-engineered a Windows update patch and used it to attack unprotected systems.

Google Hit With \$2.7 Billion Fine

The European Union levied a \$2.7 billion dollar fine against Google, accusing the company unfairly favouring its own services in search results.



Google disputed the ruling. Senior VO Kent Walker said, "When you shop online, you want to find the products you're looking for quickly and easily. And advertisers want to promote those same products." This ruling could force Google to change its search algorithm in Europe.

Super Nintendo Coming Back For Christmas

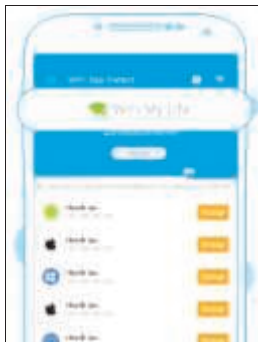
The Super Nintendo Entertainment System will be back on the shelves just in time for Christmas. The SNES Classic Edition will hit the shelves at the end of September. Priced at approx.\$US79, it will include Super Mario World, Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past, Donkey Kong Country, and more.



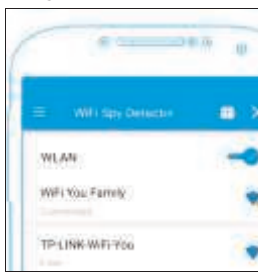
Last year's NES Classic was a huge hit for the company

WiFi Spy Detector: Find Network Freeloaders

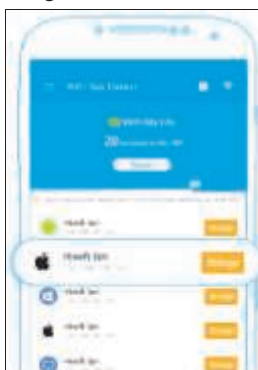
Ever worry about who might be connecting to your WiFi? There's a nifty Android app called WiFi Spy Detector that can help you manage those connections. It's available free from the Google Play Store. WiFi freeloaders could slow down your network and potentially gain access to your private information. This app will quickly identify all devices that are connected to your router.



You'll be able to add the devices of friends and family members to the app, so you'll be able to tell at a glance whether the user is someone you know or a stranger.



You'll be able to tell at a glance whether the user is someone you know or a stranger.



You'll be able to see relevant data about the connected devices such as IP address, manufacturer, device name, MacAddress, Gateway, Network mask, and DHCP Server NSD.



Devices will also be identified by type such as game console, PC, tablet, or phone.



The app will also remind you to change your WiFi password should you encounter any freeloaders on your network. You can find this app in the Google Play store.

MOVIE REVIEW

The House



Synopsis

After Scott and Kate Johansen (Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler) lose their daughter Alex's college fund, they become desperate to earn it back so she can pursue her dream of attending a university. With the help of their neighbour Frank (Jason Mantzoukas), they decide to start an illegal casino in the basement of his house

- Genre: Comedy
- Running Time: 88 MIN
- Release Date: 29 June 2017
- Consumer Advice: Strong violence
- Director: Andrew Jay Cohen
- Main Cast: Will Ferrell, Amy Poehler & Jason Mantzoukas

Strange but true: Amy Poehler and Will Ferrell had never shared significant on-screen time before *The House*. Sure, the *Parks and Recreation* star had a supporting role as Ferrell's skating rival in *Blades of Glory* and was a reporter in a sequence towards the end of *Anchorman 2*, but it's taken a long time to get them together in this caution-to-the-wind caper.

Overall, the wait was worth it - once you get past the creaky comedy floorboards of the first 20-or-so minutes. *The House* follows the money-chasing adventures of Scott (Will Ferrell) and Kate (Amy Poehler) Johansen - over-bearing helicopter parents to college-bound Alex (Ryan Simpkins). Scott is mathematically challenged but a grammar pedant, while Kate keeps him on track with her grasp of numbers. Will Ferrell fans won't have much of an axe to grind

The film opens with the nauseating couple and insipid daughter attending

an open day at the college she hopes to attend, with pride and empty nest dread proving quite the welcome cocktail for the parents. Turns out, though, that Alex's scholarship is not the sure thing all had thought and, dreams dashed, the Johansens need a new plan. The jokes at the start (if you can call them that) are not particularly funny and it's easy to think that two of the best comedians around today have been wasted on a bad script. Stick with it - they're just setting the scene.

Jason Mantzoukas' Frank (pictured right) is the most lovable character in the film. *Dirty Grandpa* and *Bad Neighbours* star Jason Mantzoukas carries *The House* on his back early on as Frank - Scott and Kate's disaster zone best friend. He is in the depths of despair as his wife is leaving him and the bank are about to take his house. Forcing his friends to go to Vegas to help him get over his break-up, the seeds for a "get rich quick" scheme are sown - after further humiliation at the roulette wheel, naturally. Two prim and proper mothers take to the ring to resolve their dinner party



row This is where *The House* starts to win. The tone completely changes and the cookie cutting suburbanites let their hair down at the new underground casino chez Frank - The Prohibition-meets-*Fight Club*, if you will. You can't but laugh at the mammy-on-mammy violence, run-in with a local gangster and mountains of ketchup dirtying up squeaky clean Middle America.

The mayor begins to unravel as he loses control of the town. *The House* isn't a classic, but it is enjoyable. It is ridiculous, but even stern critics at the press screening could be seen laughing along at slapstick as the overbearing couple transform into the feared local mafia.

Don't leave when the closing titles start to roll as there are some very funny outtakes. Ferrell and Poehler mustn't leave it so long to work together again.

Nicolette Lennox



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

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



A few years ago now, I agreed to take two students from my former school for two weeks work experience. The fact that the school was in complete favour of the idea put my conscience at ease, considering at 16 or 17 years of age they were obviously under the legal age to consume any of the product they would be

working with. After the initial introductions, it became very apparent that they both assumed that winemaking was simply a way for chronic winos to be working with their beloved booze. Interestingly, I didn't have a comeback for that one. The two weeks the boys were staying with us just happened to coincide with the two quietest weeks on the winemaking calendar. All my wine was either maturing in oak or bottled and the vineyard was pruned and well tended. On the first day, it took me an hour to show them the winery and another hour for the vineyard, after which we enjoyed a cup of tea. I then suggested that I take them for a drive and give them a bit of insider knowledge of the wine area of the Hunter. That took another hour. Looking at the clock I had two options.

Firstly, take the boys back and have them perform a strict cleaning roster using toothbrushes in the hard-to-reach places for the rest of the two weeks, or secondly, take them to the pub. I will never allow myself to encourage drinking, particularly in the case of minors, so I did what any other responsible adult would do and put the ball in the boys' court and asked them what they wanted to do. They reluctantly informed me that they would be quite happy in accompanying me to the pub so I reluctantly took them. That took five hours. On our way home I suggested that this morning we had wasted valuable time and that the pub opens at 10.00 am for a reason....."Let's not be late tomorrow!" For those of you who are beginning to form the impression that we simply sat in the Tallawanta Hotel drinking all day for two weeks, I hate to disappoint you but that wasn't the case. We also played golf at Cypress Lakes twice, went out for lunch several times and engaged in some very interesting wine tastings with some of my colleagues. The boys met and talked with many Hunter winemakers, chefs and viticulturalists. Hold on, that was at the pub so you can disregard that final sentence.

At the end of the stint, the boys had to write a summary of their experiences. We doctored up some sort of winemaking twaddle they never actually performed and I knowingly signed it. The very next week I was back into the hard slog and thought that maybe the boys might have benefited from seeing that this was actually the reality of the wine industry. I wondered whether I had acted responsibly and was a little concerned that the entire fortnight had been a fruitless waste of time.

At four years of age, I wanted to be a fireman. At eight, I wanted to be a pilot. At twelve, a professional gambler. At fourteen a rock god. At sixteen, in the Mafia. At eighteen-a porn star!

For my first choice, I would probably burn myself to death. For my second choice, I would have crashed the plane. The third, I would have lost all my money. The fourth, a drug overdose. The fifth, shot in the back of the head onto a plastic mat and my sixth and final choice, being told I was way over qualified! (cough!cough!)

It is interesting when engaging in passing conversation how people fall into their chosen careers. For some, it was a childhood dream, for others maybe the chance to earn good money and for many - simply an income. I know they are calling the youth of today 'Generation Y', where they seem to want to have it all straight away but I do sympathise with teenagers in their final years of school who are not only made to decide on their future, but make that decision whilst battling away with the difficult Higher School Certificate syllabus. The structure and emphasis on the final two years for students is stressful and often without any solid experience in the workforce, they are made to decide on their entire futures. The education system needs a massive overhaul and students need to be encouraged with an updated syllabus. Easier said than done of course but you can somewhat sympathise with 16 and 17 year olds placed under that type of pressure. Well anyway, I'm with you, guys.

The perception of certain career paths is evidently distorted by the painful reality of the practical implications. Kids see detectives on television running through the streets in 'Lethal Weapon' style and automatically entertain the idea of joining the police force. Others look through this charade but are then faced with a dire want to be an actor. People who love wine envisage sitting on their verandah, overlooking their

beautiful Semillon vines with the breath-taking Brokenback mountain range in the background, sipping on a glass of their Estate grown produce and telling lies to their impressionable friends and so desire a life in the wine industry (Wait! What!)

I remember in year seven at school, our English teacher explaining that it was important for us to consider our future career paths. We were twelve or thirteen years old - Please! He made us stand up one-by-one and tell the class what we aspired to do with our lives. One of my best friends, Ed White, was first off the rank. Ed grew up on the picturesque property 'Belltrees' at Scone and his family are avid polo players. Ed jumped up and exclaimed that he would like to be a professional polo player. Our teacher insisted that professional polo was not a legitimate career choice and asked Ed to stop 'dreaming' and tell the class his chosen career. Ed looked around, thinking quickly what he could say just to keep the peace.

"Sir, I'd like to be a winemaker in the Hunter Valley."

"Sit down White, winemaking and professional polo are not careers!.....OK, Marsh you're next."

"Sir, I'm going to be a winemaker." He rolled his eyes as the class laughed.

"Sit!"

"But Sir my family"

"Sit Marsh! OK, Archer?"

"Sir, I want to be a winemaker in the Hunter Valley." The class roared with laughter.

"White, Marsh and Archer you're not funny! Saturday morning detention for the three of you!"

During Saturday morning detention we were made to clean all the windows in the school's quadrangle. Ed seemed to be enjoying it. At the end of the day, our teacher approached us and exclaimed... "OK, now I'll ask the question again.....what are your aspirations for your future? You first, White." Ed thought for a second and he suddenly smiled.

"Sir, I'd like to be a window cleaner." The teacher stared at Ed in disbelief.

"That's great, White, you can start next Saturday morning!" Ed's face dropped.

"Marsh, any new ideas on a career?"

"Sir, I really think I'm going to be a winemaker because my Dad....."

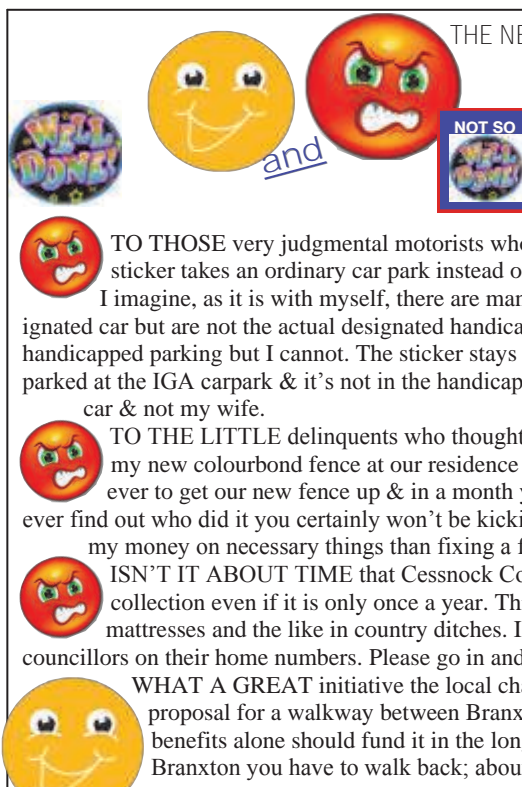
"See you next Saturday, Marsh!.....Archer?"

"Sir, I want to be a winemaker as well." I looked over at Chris Archer and wondered why he just didn't say something else; I thought he was just joking around in class to be funny.

"Next Saturday, the three of you will start on the common room windows 9.00 am sharp!"

To cut a long story short, Ed White now owns and runs one of Sydney's premier window cleaning companies. Chris Archer went on to become a winemaker at Tyrrell's and Pepper Tree for years before moving to New Zealand to make wine. And our beloved English teacher.....well....who cares? and

Some people will have one career in life, others twenty. Some will relish opportunities, some will fail, the dreamers will dream and most small fortunes made will have probably started as larger ones. Who knows, I am not a careers advisor but I can tell you this. Those two boys who did work experience with me have both recently graduated in Oenology (wine science) from university and are now officially winemakers Hhhhhmmmm!!
Cheers, Andrew



TO THOSE very judgmental motorists who complain when a car with a handicapped sticker takes an ordinary car park instead of using the handicapped designated parking. I imagine, as it is with myself, there are many, many motorists who are driving the designated car but are not the actual designated handicapped person. In my case my wife can use the handicapped parking but I cannot. The sticker stays in the car. So, next time you see the car parked at the IGA carpark & it's not in the handicapped parking then it's because I'm driving the car & not my wife.

TO THE LITTLE delinquents who thought it would be funny to kick in some panel's of my new colourbond fence at our residence in Greta last Friday evening. It took us forever to get our new fence up & in a month you have ruined some of the panels. If we ever find out who did it you certainly won't be kicking anymore down! I'd rather be spending my money on necessary things than fixing a fence that didn't need fixing.

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME that Cessnock Council initiated a heavy-duty garbage collection even if it is only once a year. This will enable me to stop depositing mattresses and the like in country ditches. I urge all inhabitants to call their local councillors on their home numbers. Please go in and bat for us.

WHAT A GREAT initiative the local chamber of commerce (sic) has taken with the proposal for a walkway between Branxton and Greta. Just the health & fitness benefits alone should fund it in the long term as if you walk from Greta to Branxton you have to walk back; about 9k's. Fantastic.



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



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 - Branxton Greta CWA ALL-IN-ONE DAY (Birthday, Handicraft, Cultural, International, Ag/Env.). Guest Speaker, Branxton Community Hall, Hot Lunch, \$15, 10.00 for 10.30am, RSVP Marie 65747174 by 14/07/17.
Tue 18 Jul - Branxton Public School Lucas Proudfoot performance
Tue 25 Jul - 8pm. 12pm Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, 198 Vincent Street, Cessnock; "Bakersfield Mist"
Thur 27 Jul - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meet 27th July at Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm-4:30pm. Guest speaker Glen Parsons- From Singleton Cancer Council Topic: Talk on 5 top cancers- steps to prevent cancer- what to do in the event of a diagnosis- what treatment means- FREE supportive care measures that are available. Meetings open to the public. Cost FREE. Contact Co Convers Barry) Rose 49904554 0457073852.
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

Do you REMEMBER when....

First Published The news Issue No 56 18th Nov. 1999

The Rothbury Legacy by Norm Cruickshank

With the 70th Anniversary of the Rothbury Riots on the 16th December this year, Norm has put pen to paper and given us his reminiscences of those times through the perspective of his childhood. The photo of (W.) Norman Brown is also courtesy of Norm. (Ed. Note)

“Much has been written of 1929 when the worlds economy collapsed and fell into disrepair. The mines of Greta Rothbury on which both towns totally depended stopped stone dead, three at Greta alone employing hundreds were affected, much like others in the industry. With few customers worldwide and not many locally, one of the bleakest periods of the 20th century was off and running, plaguing millions of lives for over a decade or more. Optimism following the 1914—1918 war had dissipated overnight. Even accustomed to all the vagaries of a stop start, strike ridden, poor pay and conditioned workplace, miners were stunned with the depth of the tragedy and to make matters worse, there general line of work offered little fall back skills on which to seek other scarce employment.

Miners were miners, and of their trade they were justly proud. Prowess with dynamite, reputations at the coalface, hard won abilities in the foulest unlit cramped space, locked in their own personal hell hole, deep in the bowels of the earth, spawned fierce matey loyalty amid the stress of collapsing tunnels and generated an abiding brotherhood, liberally spiced with their own remarkable sense of survivalist humour. Entering a mine each & every day, this close dependency bred a tough unyielding single-mindedness. In reality they were glued like few other working fraternity, a cohesion of spirit that would determine the deep depths of the Rothbury affair, and result in one young miner dying from bullet wounds. His funeral was to give vent to an unforgettable outpouring of emotional bonding on the grand scale. Thousands dressed in sombre black from every mining community in the country, descended on Greta and marched many abreast along High Street, turning slowly up Wyndham’s long gravel climb to the town’s hilly cemetery service, there to mourn the loss of a good ‘mate’.

On family holidays at Tuncurry the telegram to dad spelt out the death of Norman Brown. Both were work and cricket mates in Greta’s team playing in the Maitland District Competition. Norman quiet and unassuming was the only son of Arthur Kidd of Lewis Street, Greta. A team photo, looking pleased after a winning effort prior to Rothbury has a strong nostalgic twinge of sadness about it. His death fostered an added heartache to the lives of this mining community, that brooded an ever festering distrust of mine management. Many talked of revolution and the happenings in Russia, starvation stalked many homes, lots of kids, bills to pay, rent, food, clothing, no money. Adding to their disillusionment a few workmates were accepting non union jobs in restarted pits where wages were non negotiable very low, a take it or leave it option, and fuelled the fire of discontent. Those breaking union ranks under these conditions found friends deserted them like rats from a sinking ship. Ostracised by all, these families moved out of town, for other more sympathetic places to live. Those deciding to stay found the going unbearable. Unable to talk with friends and neighbours they lived an insulated existence on the very edge of normal life. Their claim for going down this path of action “it gave their families food on the table”, the very thing others wanted, but the conditions proved highly unpalatable.

As a small kid going to Greta’s Primary School pre 1929 everything appeared just normal like every other day, father working full time in the mine, money not a problem, each day with a few pennies spent at Sos Campbells fruit and lolly shop, mouth full of gum, stick of sugar cane filled this 6 year old wants. With other mates from Whitburn Estate scalliwagging up the main street, playing on the dam perimeter near school, throwing sticks and sailing boats, all the world was a great place to live

and play. Gathering at one another's place every day cemented a growing dependency on each other, rollicking, wrestling, chasing, cowboy hero worshipping, slabs of bread and jam from the kitchen, fruit from a backyard peach tree, swimming nude in Black Creek, climbing trees for birds nests, wandering to the river, rolling stones down Mount Misery or who was the best shanghai shot at jam tins. Best of all harmony of mateship, arms around each other after a dam good wrestle on the grass at dusk under a street light, until parents yelled out “come on in now” and everyone left for home. It was a childish innocent world, until one day mum quietly tells me “no more playing with.....?”

WHAT??? Its not possible to feel as bad as never ever never ever “He’s my mate my friend mum, why can’t I?” “That’s the way it is” no further explanation. Years on I grew to understand the rules men make to survive and live by, ones that fall mighty hard on small boys wanting to play with a best friend. A lifetime has not erased the hurt and youthful tears that burned deep.

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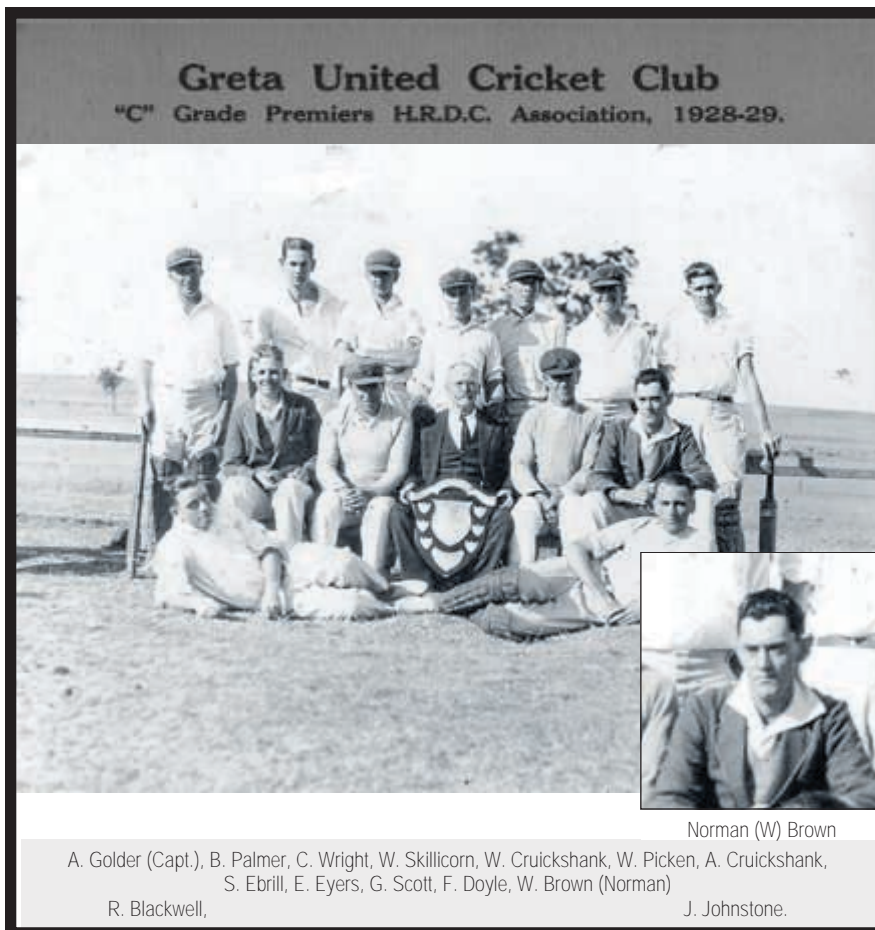
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This monument is dedicated by the Northern District Miners Womens Auxiliary to honour all of those who endured the lockout and who were at Rothbury Monday, December 16th, 1929

AT THIS SITE DURING THE NORTHERN DISTRICT LOCKOUT MARCH 1928 - 1929 3000 MINERS AND POLICE CLASHED ON MONDAY DECEMBER 16th 1929 OVER THE USE OF NON-UNION (SCAB) LABOUR AT ROTHBURY GALLERY ONE MINER - NORMAN BROWN - WAS KILLED SIX OTHERS NUMBER OF MINERS AND POLICE WERE WOUNDED.



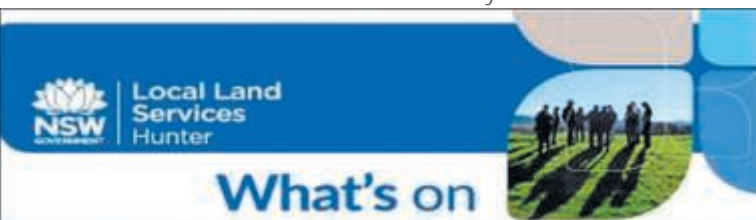
Above: The 1928/29 "Greta United Cricket Club 'C' Grade Premiers HRDC Association" which included Norman Brown. Norman was shot and killed & upward of 40 other miners received serious bullet wounds. (Photo: courtesy of Norm Cruickshank)

Fifth Generation for the Russell Family

Mark and Alison Kelly are please to announce the arrival of their son, Reid John. He was born on the 30/7/99. Reid is the fifth generation of the Russell family in Branxton. Pictured is Alison, her father Lindsey Russell, Lindsey’s mother Thea Russell and Thea’s mother, Alice Pidding. Reid also has a great-grandfather, Ted Peters of Branxton and great-grandparents Allan and Val McLaren of Telarah. Congratulations to the Russell family on their recent addition. May their be many more generations to come.



Above: The Memorial & inscription at Nth Rothbury.



New Biosecurity Act to protect our state

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, has announced the commencement of the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* from the 1 July 2017. The new Act will replace 14 outdated Acts with a modern, cohesive framework for protecting the State from the threat of diseases, pests, weeds and other contaminants.

As part of the announcement today, Minister Blair also launched 11 Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans developed by Local Land Services in conjunction with Regional Weed Committees. Eleven regional strategic weed management plans were launched last week to safeguard the state against the threat of weeds.

Local Land Services Acting Chair, Richard Bull said the impact of weeds on Australian agriculture was estimated to be \$2.5 billion in lost production and \$1.8 billion in control activities every year.

“These plans set the vision for weed management across the Local Land Services regions for 2017-22 and outline strategies and actions to achieve goals that focus on shared responsibility for weed management, sustainable landscapes and collaborative leadership and innovation,” he said.

“The plans were developed using a tenure neutral approach to weed management by 11 Regional Weed Committees to support the implementation of the weeds components of the Biosecurity Act 2015.

“The Regional Weed Committees comprised government agencies, local control authorities, public and private landholders and community members. This process drew on the experience and knowledge of people involved with existing local control authorities.”

Mr Bull said the plans would guide resource allocation and investment in each of the 11 Local Land Services regions and would provide a consistent basis for regional planning and delivery.

“Strategic and coordinated regional weed management is critical to building the sustainability of the primary industries, natural environments and local communities throughout the state,” he said.

“The plans contain established strategies and actions to achieve goals that focus on shared responsibility for weed management, sustainable landscapes and collaborative leadership and innovation.”

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* adopts the concept of a general biosecurity duty, which means that anyone who is aware of a potential risk should take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise or eliminate that risk.

Mr Bull said the 11 regional strategic weed management plans were a direct response to this legislative reform.

“The primary outcome of the weed reform process will be the integration of weed management efforts across the State,” he said.

“For the first time in NSW, there are a set of agreed priorities and actions which apply across both public and private land.

“Increased collaboration in the management of weeds will improve biosecurity outcomes and increase agricultural productivity.”

Blood On The Track



Best On Breeding

Mark Smith
Several stallions with their first crop on the track this season have made very encouraging starts. In fact, a case can be made for all currently residing in the top ten. It's pleasing to see Animal Kingdom (USA) returning to Arrowfield this spring while Excelebration (IRE) has made a strong case for a return to Coolmore. A 4-time Group I winning son of Exceed And Excel, Excelebration (IRE)

(pictured) did not get the usual take-up of Coolmore stallions. He covered 109 mares in his first season in 2013 at a fee of \$27,500 but support had dropped three years later, serving just 49 mares despite a reduction in fee to \$13,750. That sealed his fate for 2017, however, Coolmore may be regretting that decision now. In his first crop, Excelebration (IRE) has sired the Chris Munce-trained Saint Patricks Day who captured the \$100,000

Dalrello Stakes at Eagle Farm and was fourth in the BRC Sires' Produce Stakes. Another youngster with a promising future is Australian Bloodstock's Excelamour, a fast-finishing winner in the \$100,000 Inglis Scone 2YO Classic. In the northern hemisphere, Excelebration (IRE) has one of the best three-year-olds in Europe, the Group I St James's Palace Stakes hero Barney Roy. The Robert and Luke Price-trained Can Party might not

be of that class however he became another winner for Excelebration (IRE) when successful at Kembla Grange at his most recent start. A \$30,000 purchase from the Widden draft at the 2016 Inglis Classic Yearling sale, Can Party will be at extended odds in Saturday's opener at Rosehill Gardens. A half-brother to three winners, Can Part descends from a family that has served the Cummings clan well over the decades. The flying filly Storm Queen carried the purple, green sleeves and white cap of Bart Cummings' brother Pat to victory in a host of top races including the 1966 Golden Slipper, AJC Champagne Stakes, Caulfield Guineas, VRC Sire's Produce Stakes and VRC Lightning Stakes. Storm Queen was one of four stakes winners out of the Bloodhorse Breeders' Plate and Gibson

Carmichael Stakes winner Storm Gleam who was owned by Pat Cummings and his father Jim. They were all by the champion SA stallion Coronation Boy. The first was Ana Rose whose wins included the VATC One Thousand Guineas and VRC Bloodhorse Breeders' Plate. Her family became synonymous with Newhaven Park. Ana Rose's daughter New

Bid (Wilkes) produced the VATC Blue Diamond Stakes winner New Gleam and the STC Shannon Quality winner For All Seasons. Another daughter of Ana Rose, Creation (Gaul), produced the very useful racemare French Gown (Buoy), in turn the dam of the Zamazaan mare Damzelle. The winner of four races in Melbourne, Damzelle was third in the Group I South

Australian Oaks. She played her part in a little bit of history with two of her sons, Dodge (Canny Lad) and Tenor (Star Watch) winning the Group I Queensland Derby. A three-quarter sister to Dodge is the three-time winner Canny Dancer (Canny Lad) the dam of Can Party.

Photo at left: A 4-time Group I winning son of Exceed And Excel, Excelebration (IRE).

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 28/6/17

Yarding 875 ~ **Change - 155** (Comparison Date 21/6/17)
Numbers increased, with the bulk offered being younger cattle, with the majority suitable for the restocker and lot feeder orders. There were numbers of prime conditioned cattle suitable for the butchers, with the export drafts scarce in the pens. The usual buyers competed, however the younger heifers sold to weaker demand. The 200kg plus vealer steers returned to the paddock sold to firm, making from 320c to 391c, with most around the 370c/kg range. The equivalent weighted heifer portion to the restockers and backgrounders lost 20c, ranging from 270c to 340c/kg. The ideal weighted yearling steers to the feeder orders sold from 328c to 358c, with the yearling heifers also to the restockers topping at 328c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold to solid competition, with the highest yielding pens reaching 367c, with the heavier yearling steers making up to 357c/kg. The plainer cows mainly went to restocker orders, these sold from 196c to 219c, with the lighter end to the processors averaging 207c/kg. The better covered heavy weights made from 218c to 235c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 268c/kg.



Scone report date 27/6/17

Yarding 722 ~ **Change -56** (Comparison Date 20/6/17)
Consignments again slipped, as the quality on average was plainer compared to the last market. The bulk entered the younger categories, with the majority suitable for the lot feeder and restocker orders. The prime conditioned younger cattle suitable for the butchers also lost yield, week-on-week. The usual buyers competed in a firm to cheaper market. The medium weight vealer steers returning to the paddock sold close to firm at 346c to 400c/kg. The equivalent weighted heifer portion also to restockers lost 8c, with breed and quality contributing, as prices ranged from 310c to 358c/kg. The medium weight yearling steers to feed and restocker orders trended 8c cheaper, making from 316c to 362c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the trade eased 8c, with the best B muscle reaching 370c/kg. The younger grown steers to the lot feeders topped at 322c, with the heavy weights to slaughter selling from 258c to 260c/kg. Cows sold to a mixed trend, as the plainer medium weights lost 6c to average 208c, with the better covered heavy weights lifting 3c, ranging from 222c to 230c/kg. The best heavy weight bull topped at 240c/kg.



TRLX Tamworth report date

26/6/17
Yarding 1190 ~ **Change -766** (Comparison Date 19/6/17)
Numbers were reduced to 1,190 mostly good quality cattle, with some producers holding back until the close of financial year. Vealers and young cattle were well supplied, as was the cow portion of the yarding. Weaner steers, heifers and yearling heifers also had good numbers. There were some good pens of grown steers and there were plainer conditioned cattle offered. All regular buyers operated. Demand for weaner cattle were slightly cheaper, as was the case for yearling heifers. There was a demand for heavier feeders, but they were also back on last week. High yielding cows were dearer with an 8c/kg rise. Lighter cows also showed a dearer trend.



Helen Lowing, Proprietor & Licence-in-Charge

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Cessnock paves the way for local roads across the country

Councils across Australia backed Cessnock City Council's motion at the National General Assembly of Local Government, urging the Federal Government to step in and address growing local infrastructure backlogs, while as the same time generating work creating national economic stimulus. The motion put forward in Canberra attracted overwhelming support, with calls for the Federal Government to provide funding to assist Councils in removing their large infrastructure build ups. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent was not surprised by the response from his fellow local government delegates. "The dilemma of maintaining critical infrastructure is a shared battle we all face, in

particular, our road networks are in need of serious attention," Cr Pynsent said. The National State of the Assets Report released in 2014 highlighted this predicament, indicating Australia's total road network length is in the order of 911,500km. Incredibly, councils are responsible for approximately 670,000 km's, equating to almost 74% of the nation's roads. Further to this, it is estimated more than 10% of the sealed roads under management of councils are in a very poor state. Mayor Pynsent said in the Cessnock Local Government Area alone there is approximately 1120km of road network, of which 697km is sealed. "Local residents are calling for Council to repair these roads, however it is both an

enormous and impossible task with current budget constraints." "Of the three tiers of government, local government has the feeblest ability to apply a tax or levy, yet it is required to prop up approximately 74% of the nation's road network, placing enormous pressure on council budgets," Cr Pynsent said. Addressing infrastructure backlogs can often mean that other council services suffer as a consequence, so passing this motion at the National General Assembly of Local Government is a huge step in the right direction.

The Australian Local Government Association will now request the Federal Government provide this additional support on behalf of all councils.

State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock, Clayton Barr, MP, has announced that the NSW Government will once again conduct the Community Building Partnership Program in 2017. Applications for funding open at 9am on Monday 26 June, 2017 and will close at 5pm on Wednesday 9 August, 2017.

"The Program is open to local councils and incorporated not-for-profits such as charities, sporting, social and environmental groups that are looking to build or refurbish essential facilities for their community," Mr Barr said. "In previous years, the Program has helped local government and charities deliver new infrastructure for schools and community groups, and helped pay for much-needed improve-

ments to local sports facilities, parks and clubs. This is grassroots funding which directly benefits communities." "If your organisation needs funding for the building, refurbishment or enhancement of facilities that deliver positive social, recreational, inclusive and environmental outcomes for the community, I encourage you to apply," Mr Barr said. "There is a high demand for funds through the Program, so please ensure you take the required time and care in preparing your application against the assessment criteria." The Community Building Partnership Program, first introduced by the Labor Government in 2009 has provided funding to thousands of community groups, sporting clubs and councils across NSW to

build or upgrade local facilities. Applications can only be made via the Community Building Partnership website www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au, where potential applicants

can obtain additional information regarding the Program and the types of projects that are eligible to apply for funding. **Applications will close at 5pm on 9 August, 2017 and no late applications will be considered.**



WILD DOG/FOX CONTROL 1080 BAITING

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is undertaking 1080 wild dog and fox baiting from Monday 14th August 2017 to Monday 11th September 2017.

The Ground baiting program is proposed on NPWS managed land adjacent to Black Creek at North Rothbury.

Neighbours within 1km of a bait location will be notified by mail, email or phone. Any neighbours wishing to coordinate baiting programs should contact Hunter Local Land Services.

Warning
Domestic pets are not permitted in national parks and reserves. If a domestic cat or dog were to ingest a 1080 bait, it could be lethal.

For further enquires please contact the National Parks & Wildlife Service at Bulga on 6574 5555.



Office of Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



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Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 22-6-17 Stableford

Div 1 Winner I Harris 33 pts R/u G Wilton 28 pts (c/b) 3rd G Anderson 28 pts
Div 2 Winner S Dunker 34 pts (SOD) R/u J Flynn 27 pts (c/b) 3rd C Parker 27 pts
Ladies Winner M Hunt 28 pts R/u R Friis 25 pts 3rd
R McCarthy 24 pts
NTPs Ladies R McCarthy Gents G Scobie
Members draw - Not won Well! The sun shone brightly, although there was a chill in the air, on the 35 players who gathered for a round of golf. Congratulations to Stan Dunker on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to all winners and placegetters.

Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 29-6-17 Stableford

Div 1 Winner T Seamer 32 pts (SOD) R/u G Beeton 29 pts 3rd M Ryan 24 pts (c/b)
Div 2 Winner P Hocking 28 pts (c/b) R/u J Flynn 28 pts 3rd B Turner 26 pts
Ladies Insufficient numbers to form a division
NTPs Ladies M Hunt Gents A Cannon
Members draw - Not won Well a morning of passing showers, however, this did not deter our determined group of 23 players from having a round of golf. Congratulations to Tony Seamer on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to other winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes, Hon Sec BRANXTON GOLF CLUB – SAT 24TH JUNE 2 MAN AMBROSE CHAMPIONSHIPS – 60 players

SCRATCH WINNERS - Troy McCaw / Greg Gillard 67 c/b
SCRATCH RUNNERS UP - Mark Moylan / Peter Wilton 67
NETT WINNERS - Terry Partridge / Todd Richards 62.75 nett
NETT RUNNER UP - Paul Johansen / Paul Bush 63 nett
NETT THIRD - Errol Munzenberger / Chris Zawirski 64 nett
NETT FOURTH - Stephen Kearney / Jim Sheedy 64.25 nett c/n
NETT FIFTH - Daniel Turner / Trent McGee 64.25 nett
NTPins- 2nd/ 11th D.Hodges 406 cms 4th Lennie Porter 56 cms 13th Greg Gillard 178 cms 9th/18th Jim Sheedy 105 cms
The club's 2 Man Ambrose Championships were held on Saturday, with 60 players teaming together in this annual event. Players both hit off each tee, then hit their next shot from the best tee shot—hopefully giving each team two bites of the cherry for their shots. Troy McCaw and Greg Gillard won the scratch event with an excellent 3 under par 67. Greg's shot to the difficult 13th, which won the nearest the pin, would

have been very welcomed by both players. This has certainly been a wonderful year for Troy as he continues to play impressive golf. They won on a countback from the strong pairing of Peter Wilton and Mark Moylan, both single markers. Terry Partridge and Todd Richards won the nett competition, in an incredibly close contest from Paul Joahnsen and Paul Bush—winning by 0.25 of a point. Errol Munzenberger and Chris Zawirski were third another point behind with 4th going to another strong pairing of Steve Kearney and Jim Sheedy, just ahead of Daniel Turner and Trent McGee. The shot of the day belonged to Lennie Porter, whose tee shot at the 4th finished only 56 cms away. Lennie is making a habit of winning some Nearest the Pins, a task most of us fail to do each week.

Branxton Lady Golfers Results of PAR Event held Wednesday 21st June, 2017.

Winner: Carol Miller with -1
Runner-up: Trish McMillan with -2
Third: Kerrie O'Connell with -4
No NTP
Results of Round 3 Pauline Thomas Stableford Event held Wednesday 28th June.
Winner on Countback Trish McMillan with 33 point
Runner-up Carol Miller with 33 points
Birdie to Trish McMillan on 4th
Nearest to the pin Ruth McCarthy.

Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 18th June

The Weekly Challenge has been won by Travis Clayton of the Maitland GC with 38 points from Tamworth GC members Matt Whiley and Simon Whiley both with 36 points filling the minor placings. Ball winners were: Mitchell Nolan 35, Shannon Coates v35, Nathan Mudd 33, Anthony Lucas v33, Phil Kelaher v32 and Brendan Smith 32 c/b

Tuesday 20th June
Brendan Connor had to survive a countback from Paul Smith to claim the Tuesday Stableford after both had 39 points returns with Gerry Irwin taking 3rd spot with 38. Ball winners were: Grahame Sheldon 37, Wayne Cowan 37, Ray Newton 36, Ken Scott-MacKenzie 36, Steve Piggot 35, Mark Barrow 35, Ray Hodson 34, Rhys Soper v34, Graeme Flynn 34, Lindsay Self 34 and Geoff Sweetman 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Greg Ireland (3rd) John Stewart (4th) Steve Piggot (10th) and Ray Hodson (17th)

Wednesday 21st June
The HRDGA held the inaugural Matchplay event with 14 Ladies from across the Hunter taking on a 'Rest of the World' team of invited players, the day has been hailed as a great success with the Hunter Ladies going down 9-5 in closely contested matches played in fine spirits. The remaining Hunter Valley Ladies played Stableford with Kerry Choromanski winning the day with 34 points from Mary Fortey 33 and Brenda Mannix in 3rd place. Ball winners were: Jill Ramsden, Jill Slatter, Sue Peel and Kay Dunn. The Nearest-the-Pin went to Sue Peel (3rd). Next week the Ladies will play Stroke, Round 4 of the golf NSW Medal and Putting competition.

Thursday 22nd June
A 3 way countback was needed to separate the winners in the Vets Bisque Par event with Ian Newell getting the nod from Rex Talbot and Geoff Sweetman after they all returned +8. Ball winners were Steve Rawlings +7, Kevin Smith +6, Wayne Barber +5, John Pascoe +5, Heinz Kestermann +5 Wayne Cowan +4, Ray Hodson +4, Dave Fury +3, Robyn Dunlop +3, Graeme Flynn +3, Ken Harris +3, Greg White +2, Paul Ireland +2 and Ray Newton +2 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Geoff Sweetman (3rd) David Peel (4th) Garry Clarke (8th) Doug Wand (10th) and Dale Macklinshaw (17th) Next week the Vets will play 2 person Stabrose.

Saturday 24th June
Great conditions greeted the Saturday competition players but only the top 2 in each grade matching or beating Par. A Grade went to Troy Wallis with 39 points from Ryan Stig of the Belmont GC with 37 points, B Grade to Peter Baker from Indooroopilly GC (Qld) with 38 points from Adrian Kent on 36 and C Grade to Anthony Bower with 39 points from Jeff Shanahan with 38 points. Ball winners were John Barbour 35, Graeme Flynn 35, David Peel 35, Nicolas Looby 35, Tim Stork v35, Dale Macklinshaw 35, Steve Abel 35, Grahame Sheldon 34, Peter Milas 34, Russell Calderwood 34, Steve Piggot 34, Wayne Cowan 33, Steve Oswald v33, Ken Stork v33, Bruce Chambers 33, Paul Bullock 33, Simon Nicholson 33, Tom Oswald v33, Tracy Morison 32, Tony Butler 32, Jason Mould 32, Reg Crick 32 and Ray Hodson 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Jesse Gafney (3rd) David Peel (4th) Jaye Stevens (8th) John Stewart (10th) and Grahame Sheldon (17th). Next weeks event will be a Medley Stableford

***Please Note:** Membership is now due with a \$100 voucher for Food and Beverage or use at the Ubika Spa is available to all who renew by June 30th
Sunday 25th June
A 3 way countback was required to split the Weekly Challenge leaders after Nicholas Cowburn (1st) of the Toronto GC, Anthony Beavis (2nd) of Kurri GC and Craig Rhodes (3rd) all had even Par rounds of 36 points. Ball winners were Jason Cowburn v35, Patricia Wilson v33, Grahame Mankelov 33, Chris Connolly 32, Steve Piggot 32 and Patrick Jakubowski v32 c/b
Tuesday 27th June
Steve Piggot claimed the Tuesday Stableford with an excellent 41 point round from his 6 handicap from Michael Watson 39 and Greg Amlloh 3rd with 38 points on countback. Ball winners were: Steve Rawlings 38, Garry Marsden 37, David Peel 36, Rick Turnchini 36, Steve Abel 36, Margaret Whiteman 35, Adam Goldfinch v35, Garry Clarke 35, Benn Corbett 35, Ken Scott-MacKenzie 34, Andrew Parsons v34, Ian Newell 34, Helen Owens 34, Angello Korlevic 34, Gerry Irwin 34 and Ken Harris 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Garry Clarke (3rd) Angello Korlevic (4th) Steve Abel (8th) and David Kennedy (17th).
Wednesday 28th June
Wet and cool conditions greeted the Ladies for this week's Golf

NSW Medal and Putting comp with Melita Watson handling conditions best with a fine 68 net from Jenny Chamber 70 and Dale Hamilton 3rd with 73 net. Ball winners were: Kay Dunn 76, Isabel Skeates 76, Jill Ramsden 77, Zelma Powell 78, Jill Slatter 79 and Jan Hovey 80 c/b. The winners of the Putting comp were: Dale Hamilton, Isabel Skeates and Jenny Chambers. Next week the Ladies will play an American Foursome Dress Up.

Thursday 29th June
Thursday's Vets Stabrose turned into a very close contest with Wayne Berry, Darrell Preston and John Harrison ending on top of the field with 55 points from Eric Smith and Heinz Kestermann 53. Ball winners were: Wayne Cowan & Ray Newton 52, Ian Newell & Maurice Peters 52, Ken Harris & John Carmody 52, Wayne Barber & Grahame Sheldon 51, John Stewart & Rex Talbot 50 and Kevin Smith & David Peel 50. Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 1st July
Par proved had to beat in the Medley Stableford with only each of the Grade winners doing so. Belmont's Ryan Stig claimed A Grade with 38 points from Angello Korlevic with 35 points on countback, B Grade to Dean Morison with 38 points from Steven Abel 34 and C Grade to Michael Tsakissiris with 37 points from Adam Pratten 35. Ball winners were: Corey Lamb v35, Paul Bullock 35, Matt Killick 35, Peter Holt 34, David Peel 34, Craig Sharp 34, Bruce Chambers 34, Greg Ireland 34, Ray Hodson 33, John Stewart 33, Ben Bradley 33, Dan McLeod 33, Greg Bellamy 32, Nathan Nancarrow 32, Wayne Barber 32, Lorraine Clack 31, Ray Newton 31 and Tony Lamb 31 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Scott Jones (3rd) Matt Killick (4th) Angello Korlevic (8th) and Ryan Stig (17th)
Next week will be the Monthly Medal Stroke rounds U/9's
This week Pokol-



What's at your CORE?

I have so many people tell me that they have "no core strength", but the reality is if you had no core strength you would not be able to stand up, walk around, or even sit upright in a chair.

What exactly IS my core?

Your "Core" is a complex series of muscles in your torso and includes much more than your "Abs". The best description I have ever heard is to imagine your spine as the mast of a ship, with your core muscles being the "stays" which hold it in place – the more "stays", the more secure the mast, and better it can function as the anchor point for the sails (in this case your arms and legs) allowing them to work effectively. As well as the "Abs", the core muscles include the transverse abdominals, multifidus, diaphragm, pelvic floor, internal and external obliques, and many other deeper muscles. Most of these reside in your middle and lower back and your tummy.

Your core is used to stabilize your chest and your pelvis during dynamic movement and it also provides internal pressure to expel substances (eg vomit from your stomach, faeces from your bowel, air from your lungs, etc.), and in some cases hold substances in until you are ready for them to come out! Anyone who has sneezed or coughed and felt a little bit of wee come out knows the value of a strong pelvic floor!

So how do I improve my core strength?

The god news is you CAN strengthen your core. Start by doing the core exercises included here once every other day.

As you get stronger and more confident with these exercises, you can do two or three sets each day. Your Core WILL get stronger if you stick with this.

Exercise descriptions

The number of repetitions are guides only, if you want to do more, then please do! Remember though, more is not always better. You want to feel like you have worked you core, but not to the point that you are not able to function! It is also important to realise that all of these exercises balance you out – don't significantly increase the number of one exercise until you are confident with all of them.

Crunches – these are NOT sit ups. It is just a small crunch up into your abs, laying on your back, knees up, feet on the ground or in table top position (to increase the degree of difficulty), hands behind your ears and elbows out to the sides, come up for a count of three then back down again.

If you have a sore lower back, keep your feet on the ground but do more repetitions if you feel like it.

Single Leg Extensions – starting on your back, knees up and feet on the floor or in table top position (to increase the degree of difficulty), hands out to the side. Extend one leg forward until it is almost touching the ground, bring it back to the starting position then extend the other leg.

Spinal Twist – starting on your back, knees up and feet on the floor, hands out to the side. Lower your knees to one side, back to the middle, then lower them to the other side. If you want to increase the degree of difficulty, put your legs in table top position.

Bicycle crunches – as for normal crunches but bringing opposite knee to elbow.

Plank – this is probably one of the best exercises you can do for your core. Starting face down on the ground, place your forearms on the ground with the elbows aligned below the shoulders, and arms parallel to the body at about shoulder-width distance. Ground your toes into the floor and squeeze your glutes (bottom muscles) to stabilize your body. Look at a spot on the floor about 30cm beyond your hands. Your head should be in line with your back. If this is too hard, you can start with your knees on the floor.

These exercises will benefit men as well as women (who doesn't want great abs?). Improving your core strength will help your posture and balance. Improving your core strength will also help you if you are a runner, horse rider, snow skier, or if you play a sport which involves lots of twisting or turning. If your core is strong your movements will be more efficient and you can keep going for longer!

If you have any questions at all about any of these exercises, please give me a call on 0439 383478, or email me via my website www.louisecairns.com.au

What else is happening at Louise Cairns Fit for Life?

Two weeks ago we finished our first ever 10 Week Health and Fitness Challenge. Congratulations to Brony Gould and Jane Tudor who both had outstanding results and won one on one PT sessions. Alison Trunk was a close runner up and won two free classes.

This week we kicked off the WOW Wipe Out Winter 6 week Challenge. Louise is also training for the Raffertys Coastal Run, a 35km run through Caves Beach and Catherine Hill Bay.

About Louise

Louise Cairns is a Personal Trainer and Life Coach based in Branxton. 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 work shops and speaking engagements. Find out more at www.louisecairns.com.au



BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The NEWS SPORT

Russell Brothers achieve rare 'Milestone'



Ben, Sam and Jake Russell receive their 100 first grade games awards from club president John Gorman (left) and captain coach Joey Griffiths (right).

by Mark Bercini

Identical triplets Ben, Jake and Sam Russell achieved an extremely rare feat last Sunday week when they all ran out for their 100th first grade game together for the Greta/Branxton Colts at Greta Central Oval.

After starting with the

Colts' junior ranks in U/12's and playing each year up until U/18's after that, they all debuted with the first grade team in 2008, and have clocked up some outstanding individual and team achievements along the way.

The Colts' first U/18's

Group 21 team in 2007 saw the boys reach the grand final, in which they were defeated by Singleton. Jake was named the Group 21 U/18 'player of the year' to cap off a memorable season which saw all three represent Group 21, with Sam going on to represent Northern Division.

The following year saw them all debut for the Colts first grade side, yet again reaching the club's first ever first grade grand final, but were unfortunately beaten by Singleton once again in the decider. Ben and Sam both represented the Group 21 senior representative side that year.

2009 was a breakthrough year for the Colts, with the trio all part of the club's maiden premiership winning first grade side. The locals got one back on the old foe by defeating Singleton 22-16 in front of 3,500 fans at Greta Central Oval. Ben and Sam once again represented Group 21 earlier in the year.

The trio stayed with the Colts for the following two seasons, with Jake named in the Group 21 rep side in 2010. He was also named in the Group 21 team of the

year at hooker, and capped this off by winning the first grade best & fairest award at the Colts' annual presentation. The brothers tried their hand in the Newcastle competition with Cessnock in 2012, before returning to the Colts in 2013 to again reach yet another grand final, this time going down to Denman at Denman on the big day. They spent the next two seasons at Forster and Cessnock respectively, but returned home in 2016 where they had their hearts set on achieving their century of first grade games together. Jake was awarded the first grade best & fairest award that year for the second time.

Ben, the elder of the three plays in the centres, whilst Jake plays hooker and the youngest sibling Sam plays in the back row.

As most people who know them are aware, they are

inseparable, and in what has been a tough 2017 for the Colts, it was only fitting that the 28-year-old trio ran out onto Greta Oval for the 100 first grade game milestone together. In front of a very healthy and appreciative crowd, the team unfortunately could not deliver the boys a win as they were soundly beaten by ironically, an inform Singleton Greyhounds outfit.

Tough, hard-working,

dedicated, a great attitude and willingness to learn are all features of this unique triad who are so close yet so competitive among each other.

They are an integral part of the club and on top of their busy schedule training and playing this season, they are also co-coaching the Colts' Ladies League Tag team.

Congratulations boys, well done!

Ⓞ Below: Jake, Sam and Ben



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