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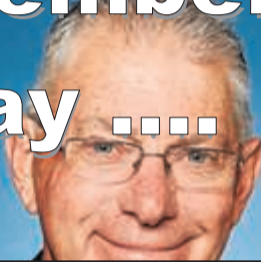
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19 July 2017

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\$50m Funding Round announced



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School News



Wallabies bound for Hunter Wine Country

Cessnock City Council is excited to play host to the Qantas Wallabies when they come to town for a training camp on Sunday 6 August in preparation for their Bledisloe Cup clash against the All Blacks. The training camp will take place at the Cessnock Sportsground, the same ground that hosted the A-League pre-season clash last year and the Japanese national team training camp ahead of the Asian World Cup in 2015.

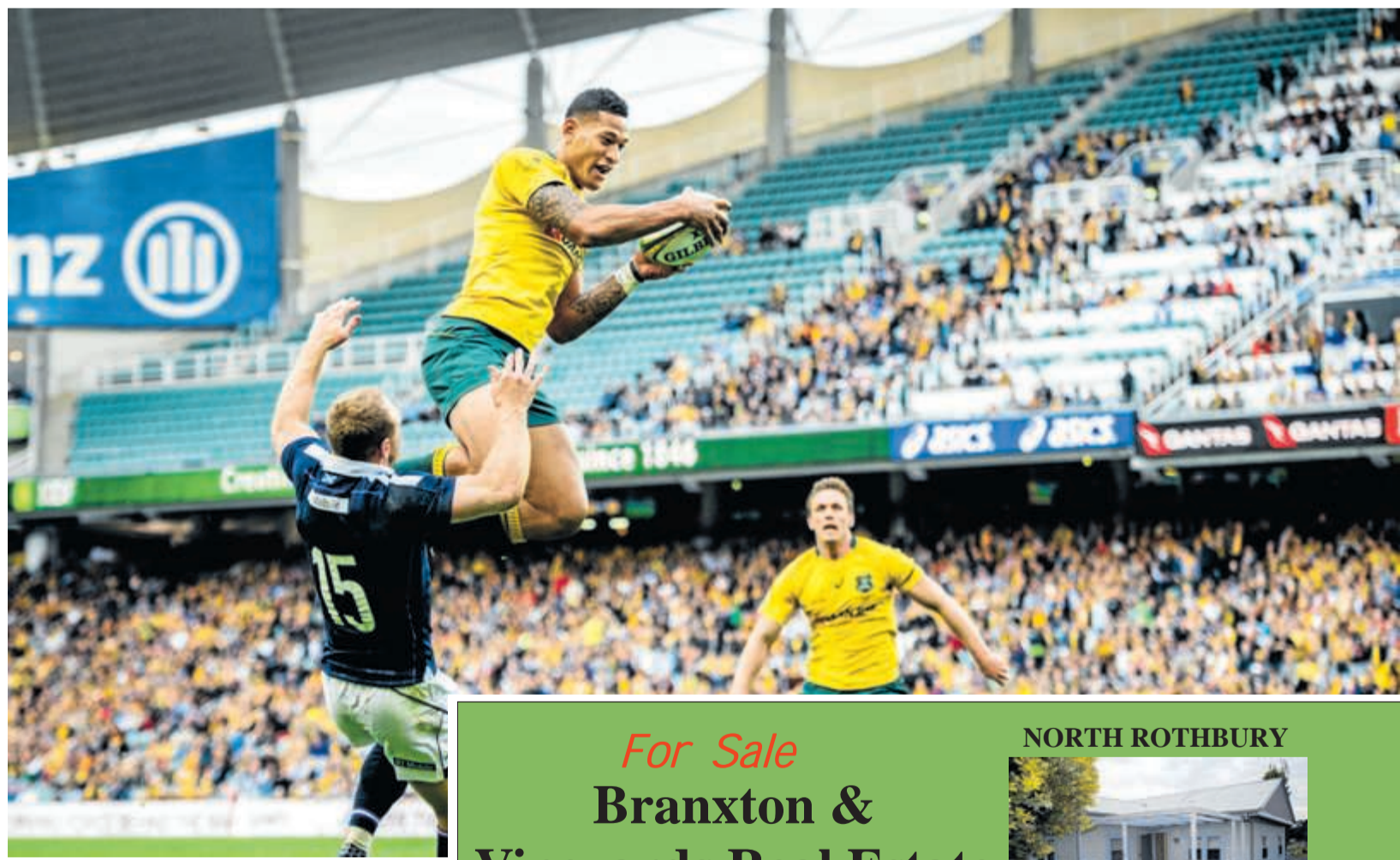
Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he was thrilled with the announcement and is looking forward to welcoming the players and coaches to our wonderful region.

"It is fantastic the Wallabies have recognised the Cessnock Sportsground as a world class facility and this is another opportunity for us to show off this top-notch sportsground."

Prior to their visit, the Wallabies will hold a training camp in Newcastle in late July, which forms part of their commitment to visiting regional areas and cities across Australia. Qantas Wallabies Coach, Michael Cheika said, "Country and regional rugby all around Australia is our heartland. The Wallaby support is very strong in these areas so Cessnock and Newcastle will be a great chance for us to feel that support before we take on New Zealand."

"I've already been up there a number of times - great facilities, great people and a great chance for us to share the gold jersey with the people of the region while we get ready for the mother of all matches in Sydney. It's going to be a great week."

"I'm looking forward to the week and spending



time with fans who follow the Wallabies, as well as making some new friends and fans in our time there," added Cheika.

More information on the details of the Qantas Wallabies' visit to Cessnock and how our community can get involved will be made available closer to the date.

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all details page 12



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PO Box 152, Cessnock 2325 NSW

57/2017/1: BRANXTON SUB-REGIONAL LAND USE STRATEGY AND TOWN CENTRE MASTER PLAN

In June 2016 Cessnock and Singleton Councils adopted the Branxton Sub-Regional Land Use Strategy. Cessnock Council also adopted the Branxton Town Centre Master Plan. Some of the actions identified in the Master Plan include the making of a Development Control Plan and Public Domain Plan for the Branxton Town Centre. The Development Control Plan will establish development guidelines for all future development within the Branxton Town Centre while the Public Domain Plan will identify public domain infrastructure upgrades servicing the Branxton Town Centre such as paving, street furniture and street trees.

These documents will seek to implement more detailed actions identified in the Master Plan including:

- Rationalising car parking and vehicular movement;
- Improve pedestrian and cycle networks;
- Protect and complement the unique character of the area; and
- Encourage infill mixed use and residential development.

You are invited to a public workshop to provide input into the drafting of the Development Control Plan and Public Domain Plan. The workshop will be held at **Branxton Memorial RSL Hall, 67 Maitland Road Branxton at 7:00pm on Tuesday 1 August 2017.**

If you are interested in attending, please register your attendance for the public workshop by no later than **Wednesday 26 July 2017.** Registration can be made by emailing council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au or telephoning Council's Strategic Land Use Planning team on 4993 4183.

To view the Branxton Town Centre Master Plan please visit Council's website www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development/publications/BranxtonSubregionalLandUseStrategy

PO BOX 152
CESSNOCK 2325

STEPHEN GLEN
GENERAL MANAGER

Local representation at State RSL Conference



Chief Petty Officer Catherine Harvey travelled furthest as a delegate, returning on leave from her posting in Kabul, Afghanistan, to represent the Branxton sub-Branch

Local servicing officer Chief Petty Officer Catherine Harvey attended the State RSL Conference in Wagga Wagga. The above photo is Catherine with NSW Governor General David John Hurley, AC, DSC is a former senior officer in the Australian Army and the 38th and current Governor of New South Wales.



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



Roadworks have begun for the new bus drop of point for the school bus interchange at the bottom end of Dalwood Road, Branxton. The work is expected to be completed by the end of September, weather permitting. Drainage infrastructure & the road re-alignment will help parking & traffic movements. The work is being funded by 'Roads to Recovery'



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Police applaud local community



Six-year-old William Crick of Greta had the adventure of lifetime on Saturday week ago when he scaled the back fence of his family's home in Greta & headed for Branxton. Well he had his trusty balance bike & the world was his oyster. Young William is autistic & was not

driveway of their home as she didn't want to leave her daughter at home alone or in case he ventured home. "Plus I needed to wait for the police," said Monique. The message went out very quickly that William was missing & neighbours, police, fire fighters, friends & some complete strangers joined the search. "My husband knew where everyone was looking as he was out in his car then on foot," said Monique. "Friends and neighbours kept coming back to the house to check in. From the driveway I saw numerous cars circling the Greta oval plus people with torches everywhere." With the search concentrated close to their home & mainly in Greta area an 'angel of mercy' saw a young lad in East Branxton & intuitively thought something was not quite right. Kylie Peta Johnson of Lochinvar said she saw a little boy on his bike all alone on Dalwood Road, East Branxton on the 'dark on the side of the road' and thought 'what's going on here .. something is not right'. "I stopped and turned round & I pulled up beside him and asked him if he was lost .. he just looked at me and started riding his bike so I turned around and followed him and asked him again ... still no answer he continued to ride his bike so I followed slowly behind him ... he crossed the road and went into a driveway so I thought maybe that's his house ... I turned down a street to drop my daughter and friends off at a party & as I turned I noticed he came out of driveway and looked like he was going to head back down Dalwood Road so I quickly dropped them off and went to see where he'd gone he had continued up Dalwood Road so I followed him again ... no-way was I going to leave him and I reassured him I'm not going to hurt him and I want to help him find his mum and dad and again he

aware that for the next two hours he would cause some very anxious moments not only for his mum & dad but for some very good 'Good Samaritan'. When it was discovered he had vanished, which he had never done before, his mum Monique stayed in the


took off across the road to View Street I pulled over and called the police and they sent out a car but he took off so I couldn't stay and wait for them ... I caught up with him again, asking him his name but again no response he took off and ended up in a street with a cul-de-sac I pulled over again and he went into a driveway in the dark I got out and walked down the driveway and called out but no answer ... he had disappeared and I noticed the fence wasn't complete and headed out to the highway so I ran back to car and drove around to see if I could see him but 'no' he had gone. I then drove back to that street and he had come back out ... thank God he stopped I pulled over beside him and picked up my phone and he came to my window ... I phoned police again & told them I had him with me on the side of road and with that he took off again down Church Street so I slowly followed him while talking to the operator ... she told me to put hazard lights on so the police could locate me. He then rode his bike down another driveway and just as he came out the police came up the road," said Kylie. Mum Monique said that if anything was to come of this then she would like to see an Autism Awareness community program. "The program would encompass letting the community know that if they do see a child out alone & obviously lost don't assume they are from a family that don't care as the child could have autism or another diagnoses and in their mind they don't know right from wrong. "They are not being 'naughty' but acting how they wish without any inhibitions. "One person diagnosed with autism is not like another person with autism, they are all different just like any neurotypical person or 'normal' person.

Greta, Branxton and Lochinvar community, police and Greta Rural Fire Service for the extensive search for son William. "He was found safe and well with no fear and not aware he had done anything wrong, just a very happy boy that got to ride his bike," said Monique. "We would especially love to thank Kylie Johnson from Lochinvar who stayed with him until the police arrived. "You are an angel and we will always be indebted to you," said Monique. A spokesperson for the NSW Police Force said that they applauded the quick actions of community. "Without the local community pulling together it may have had a tragic end," said the police spokesperson.

☺ Photo: Mum Monique & son William after the ordeal

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"William is non-verbal so he wouldn't be able to answer questions like 'where do you live?' or 'where's Mum?' Or even 'how are you?' or 'or you OK?'," said Monique "Our family would like to thank the

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What's Happening & other matters

with Mike Lowing

Wyndham Estate to re-open

Great news for our neck of the woods with the announcement that Wyndham Estate at Dalwood is to reopen. The estate has been purchased for a reported \$3million by the Iris Capital Group & is currently undergoing some restoration work. When reopened it will again cater for concerts, wine sales, weddings & corporate events.

Prior to closing its doors in 2014 it was one of the largest employers in the area with many local students working there on a casual basis. I have some pleasant past memories of the facility with my second eldest son having his wedding reception there, attending many, many Seasons Plate luncheons, 'Opera in the Vines' & many concerts.

Just to name a few; I saw Michael Crawford, Ray Charles & Shirley Bassey in concert there & they were memorable events. Brett Wild, President of the local business chamber, said the announcement was particularly pleasing not only for the economic benefits it will give the area but also for its historic antecedents. "It was credited with being the first commercial shiraz vineyard in Australia & has been in continuous operation, except for a last 3 years when it was closed, since the early 1820's. Also, the property surrounds the trust listed Dalwood House," said Brett. No date has been given for the reopening but I'm sure it will be well announced.

New hospital will be at Metford

The announcement last week by the Minister for Health that the new Lower Hunter



Hospital will be built at Metford has come as a blow for the proponents of commonsense. Federal Member for the Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Cessnock City Council, locally Billy Gurr & private community lobbyists all agree that the decision is one that will be regretted well into the future. "To make a decision like that is outrageous & defies logic," said Billy Gurr. The new hospital is supposed to provide residents of the Hunter better access to healthcare and relieve pressure on Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital. Cessnock City Councillor, Paul Dunn said building the new facility at Metford will not achieve these key goals. "A true regional hospital needs to be accessible to all residents in our community, including those living in outlying areas". "Putting the hospital along the Hunter Expressway would provide for the most direct route as the majority of the population boom is on the west side

of Maitland". "The positive benefits of locating a hospital on the Hunter Expressway would not only be felt on the region's healthcare but on our local economy". Member for the Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon said that the decision is bad news for residents of Cessnock, Singleton & Muswellbrook LGA's. "The original idea was to build a new hospital on the western side of Maitland somewhere between Rutherford & Greta which would have placed the new facility at the heart of our key points of population growth," said Joel. Cessnock City Councillor Rod Doherty said many months ago that he would not stop his fight for the new facility to be on the Hunter Expressway until the first brick was laid. "Unfortunately, I think the first brick has been laid," said Rod.



'do it once and do it right'

In 'letters to the editor' it was pleasing to see that our Federal member is standing up for the campaign against the closure of the Maitland hospital and the location of the new hospital. It is a pity that our members for our region were not doing the same instead of being railroaded

into accepting the inappropriate location put up by a person only interested in political points instead of the needs for the community. As stated it is nowhere near the Hunter Expressway as I have stated before. Why not do it once and do it right.

W. Gurr, Branxton

Cart before the horse

As one who attended the Public Meeting on the 4th. July, which was organised by the local Business Chamber, to assess the community's response to a proposal for a Memorial Branxton/Greta Cycleway, it seemed assumed that the cycleway was a foregone conclusion, with a patron committed and a possible bottom line of \$2.5million which would be paid for by local business and residents.

It was however gratifying that Cessnock Council endorsed such a significant Memorial for our locality but the endorsement seemed to exclude any meaningful funds. The extent of the Memorial's priority can be measured by it being proposed to be completed in time for the 2018 Anzac Day. So the Public Meeting was about priorities. An inspection will reveal

For the past 16 years I have been corresponding with Cessnock Council about completing bitumen sealing of the remainder of Orient Street between the highway and its junction with Wyndham Street. The first letter of reply was signed by Mayor John Clarence in 2001. Because the boundary line between Cessnock and Maitland Councils is the centre of Orient Street, Maitland Council has been included in correspondence. Mr. Peter Blackmore, the Mayor of Maitland states in his replying "Maitland Council has discussed the road condition issues with Cessnock Council many times in the past and will continue to make representation for the sealing of Orient Street. This is a Cessnock City Council road and the maintenance or upgrading of the road is solely their responsibility".

that all the properties whose owners pay rates to Cessnock Council have bitumen frontage. In February 2016 the Maitland Mercury newspaper contained a photo of other residents highlighting the state of the street. It would seem blatant - No Rates, no action! As far as our property is concerned, the section is partly sealed along portion of the boundary, but only because the owners of the properties opposite are Cessnock ratepayers. The Meeting on the 4th July was certainly about priorities, and after 16 years of no action, one wonders if the Memorial proposal is another pipe dream. Or maybe, just maybe, the Memorial and the Orient Street bitumen might just happen. Yours faithfully, Peter Young, Greta

Pointing the finger Cricket Australia is a marketing organisation that sells the game of cricket to generate a profit. However, to generate such profit, it must have employees to promote. So where are we today? Basically the employer has no employees, and so cannot deliver on its contracts. Unless Cricketing Australia opens up to real discussion and finds a fast fix to this standoff, it is subject to lawsuits from multiple sources, including sponsors and the media who have invested large amounts of money into this sport. The players are not to blame; they are justified in their action. They are only ensuring that they do not fall into the hole that a whole lot of us do. Andrew Connell, Newtown New Hospital

It would seem that the foundation stone is close to being laid! A further \$5million has been allocated in this year's State Budget to planning for the new replacement Maitland Hospital. This past week the State

Government also announced plans for a "Not for Profit" group such as the Mater Hospital would run the hospital. And I chuckled at the comment from our Federal Member for Hunter in the 'Advertiser' and elsewhere that the hospital is being built in the wrong place! This is the first I have heard from our Federal Member for Hunter on the hospital issue. Where has he been the past six years that we have been advocating for it to be built in the Expressway corridor. The only support our community has had in 6 years has been from our State Member for Cessnock on the location on the new Lower Hunter Hospital (Not new Maitland Hospital) Those people who made the very poor decision to build a replacement hospital for Maitland will ultimately see the errors of their ways. Clr Rod Doherty, Kurri Kurri

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Jamila Gordon set to inspire at School Leaders' Breakfast



Cessnock City Council will once again host a School Leaders' Breakfast as part of Local Government Week and this year's guest speaker, Jamila Gordon is nothing short of inspirational. Separated from her entire family, Jamila arrived in Australia when she was just 18 years old, after escaping the Somalian civil war, via Kenya. Before sending her to Kenya, Jamila's father gave her advice on how to survive and thrive, which was make yourself useful, be the best version of yourself and grow big dreams. Jamila has done just that. Jamila's intelligence, aptitude and determination has led her on a journey to a global career, which has included working for the likes of Qantas, IBM Europe and more recently, Director and Global CIO of GetSwift Ltd. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he is very much looking forward to the event and believes our local students can gain so much by hearing from someone like Jamila. "Jamila Gordon faced challenges in her early life that are unfathomable and her success proves that dreaming big and remaining positive can lead to great things." "I am certain our school leaders will walk away from this feeling inspired," added Cr Pynsent. Kicking off at 9am, the School Leaders' Breakfast will be held at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

on Tuesday 1 August 2017. Schools from across the region have been invited to attend the event, giving students the opportunity to hear Jamila's story and ask questions.

Photo above: Jamila Gordon

Calling all armchair philosophers!

If you fancy yourself as a budding philosopher, why not consider joining the Cessnock Philosophy Group?

Simply put, philosophy is the love of wisdom and the Cessnock Philosophy Group meets monthly at Cessnock Library to promote greater knowledge of the self and the world around us. The philosophy discussion group is facilitated by volunteers who plan topics and presentations to help steer each monthly discussion. With a different philosophical topic or idea discussed in each meeting, participants are encouraged to come prepared to join in the conversation and share ideas.

Library Services Coordinator, Rose-Marie Walters said everyone is welcome.

"You don't need to have done any philosophy study before coming along, all you need is an interest in exploring and discussing ideas."

The Cessnock Philosophy Group meets on the third Friday of each month from 1-3pm at Cessnock Library. The topic this month is 'truth', so come along with your ideas on Friday 21 July.

This is a free event and no booking is required, but if you would like more information, contact our team at Cessnock Library on 4993 4399



NOTICE

Our school is inviting artists to enter our art show on 26 August. The theme is 'To Infinity And Beyond'. Entry is free.

Entry forms can be obtained by phoning Jacquie on **0417 009 912**.

If you would like to showcase your artwork and make a sale, please consider joining us on this day!

It would be wonderful if you could share this information with your readers.

Best wishes

Jacquie Mather

(On behalf of the Parents & Friends of St Phillips, Nulkabah)



If you require assistance please call

0414 757 826

SINGLETON LIONS MONSTER BOOK SALE

Lions Club of Singleton will hold their annual **BOOK SALE** on Thursday 27 July, Friday 28 July and Saturday 29 July 2017.

The **BOOK SALE** will be held in the N.A.A. Pavilion, Singleton Showground, Bathurst Street, Singleton and will be open from 9am to 5pm on each of these days with one extra hour on Thursday to 6pm.

All good quality second-hand items (books, magazines, games, CDs, DVDs etc) will range in price from 50c to \$2!

There will be a large Children's Section.

Free entry to the Book Sale and free tea and coffee will be available.

We look forward to seeing you at our BOOK SALE!

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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

FROM THE MAYORS DESK

Last week we celebrated NAIDOC Week across the region and what a fantastic celebration it was! Council partnered with a number of local community groups to put together an action-packed program of events and it was great to see everyone come together to join in the festivities. I had the honour of participating in the flag raising ceremony at the Barkuma Family Fun Day, which saw an incredible turnout and a huge range of activities on offer, along with great weather to boot. As always, the Wakakulung traditional dancers put on a great performance and I even tried my hand at some painting. The Black Creek Street Parade and Family Fun Day was also a special celebration of the diversity and harmony within our community. NAIDOC Week is so important as we celebrate, recognise and learn from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and I'd like to congratulate everyone who played a part in our local program of events. Our City of Cessnock Hall of Fame has grown to 59 members as Mr Amos Ambrose Fogg and Mr William "Bill" Noel Hicks were inducted on Wednesday 28 June.

Mr Amos Ambrose Fogg was posthumously inducted for his vision for the need for public transport within the Cessnock Coalfields and Hunter Valley and Bill Hicks was inducted for his commitment to conservation, in particular, his development of the innovative 'long stem planting'.

It was fascinating to hear Amos and Bill's stories as while these ambitious and talented men were in very different fields, they were both so forward thinking, which is why they excelled in what they put their minds to. I also attended the Rotary and Lions Club changeover events, which was great to recognise the fantastic work of service clubs in our community. I'd like to make special mention of Loretta Porter and Ross Lidbury for receiving Paul Harris awards for their outstanding work over a number of years.

During the Governor of NSW, General David Hurley and his wife, Linda Hurley's Vice Regal visit to the area, we were able to showcase our proactive community, which was very well received. The Branxton Greta Chamber of Commerce invited the Governor to be a patron of the Branxton to Greta Memorial Cycleway which recognises the over 300 men who joined the armed forces in World War I. I congratulate the Chamber for their initiative in having a high profile patron for this exciting project.

If you are yet to do so, do not forget to check out the Kurri Kurri District Strategy which is now on public exhibition. It is really important we hear from a broad cross section of the community, so we encourage you to have your say. If you would like to find out more, we are holding two more drop-in sessions where Council staff will be on hand to explain the strategy in more detail. The next one will be held at the Weston Civic Centre on Friday 14 July from 10am to 2pm and then at Rotary Park in Kurri Kurri on Friday 21 July from 10am to 2pm. To view the strategy, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/exhibition/kurrikurridistrictstrategy.

Our road crews have a busy schedule this week so you are sure to see them out and about! The team will be on Wine Country Drive, Nulkaba and Dalwood Road, Greta completing road and drainage construction.

There will also be culvert reconstruction works happening on Buchanan Road Buchanan and Whitburn Road Greta.

Cheers, Bob



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

Parliament's Budget session ended in a flurry at the end of June as the Government scrambled to secure the passage of its schools funding plan. In the early hours of Friday morning on June 23 it secured enough Senate votes to pass the Bill. The price was an additional \$5 billion over 10 years.

Things became interesting when the Greens reneged on their original commitment to Malcom Turnbull's so-called Gonski II. The Green's back-down came after internal Party revolt. So with Labor opposed to the Bill, the Government needed to secure the votes of all of the Senate's cross-benchers. It did so by offering the additional money. The problem is, the 10 year funding proposal remains \$15 billion less than the original Gonski proposal. In other words, much less than Gonski originally said was necessary to provide our kids with the standard of education needed to restore our international competitiveness and to give every child the best chance in life. It's good our opposition secured the additional \$5 billion but it is not enough. Don't worry about the claim more is not affordable, dumping all or some of the proposed corporate tax cuts will more than pay for it. So too would Labor's proposed changes to negative gearing and capacitance gains tax arrangements.

The other big issue which wasn't debated before the Parliament rose was the proposed changes to our citizenship laws. I think the PM may be having second thoughts, and so he should! The proposals are populist and wrong. The overwhelming majority of migrants who come to Australia are not refugees. Most come under "skilled" visa categories. Living here for four years before applying for citizenship has always been a requirement. The Government's proposal is to insist a resident is here for four years on a "permanent residency" visa rather than four years on a combination of visas; two years on a work visa and two years on a residency visa for example. It's not much of a change but serves no purpose.

The big one is the proposal to make the language test much harder. This is just silly. If you moved to France would you want to learn the language? Of course you would. But I'm sure you know, it won't be easy, even at the most basic level. But given all those who apply for citizenship have already been granted permission to live here permanently, what is the point in making it harder for them to become citizens. In the end it will create two classes of residents, those who are citizens and those who can't be. It's a sure way to create division and resentment in our communities. It makes no sense.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Australia
Federal Member for Hunter
Parliament House: P: 02 62774500
Electorate office: 02 4991 1022

Cheers, Joel



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

Raising the BARR SELLING THE HARBOUR BRIDGE – SERIOUSLY?

I have been inundated by community complaints about the NSW Government's plan to "sell the Sydney Harbour Bridge" (SHB). It is both appropriate and troubling that we would be so concerned about that one piece of real estate. So many other items have been sold and barely an eyelid has been battered: hundreds of parcels of Crown Land, Travelling Stock Routes, iconic sandstone buildings, school sites, Aboriginal sacred sites, our ports, our motorways and even our land titles. I understand that the SHB is iconic, it appears in all of our tourism promotions and possibly has more visitors and photographs taken than any other Australian site, but really, is it any more or less important than some of these other things already sold (please don't get outrageously upset with me – I am just charging a logical argument).

You see, the reality is that at the moment everything in NSW that makes a profit, or is simply deemed by Government as an "asset" as opposed to a "necessity" is being sold. And in reality, the Sydney Harbour Bridge is no different – it certainly makes a nice tidy profit after having being paid off decades ago. The private sector is only interested in buying profit making assets.

The question you really need to be asking yourself, your family and your friends, is whether or not you believe selling it all is the answer. And if you in part agree with the philosophy, then where and how and why do you draw the line. At the moment, it is impossible to even say that there is a line in the sand for the Government. Nothing at all seems to be not for sale. Forget the SHB, what is more important than land title – the foundation of our Nation's economy? But it doesn't end with the sale of assets. Just a few weeks ago I moved a Motion in Parliament to prevent the Government from selling all of our personal and private information. I did this, because they had just moved a new rule to allow for it to be sold. The truth is that all of our information, from cradle to grave, is held by Service NSW – formerly RMS (RTA), Births Deaths and Marriages, Fair Trading, etc. Prior to the new rule by Government, made and proclaimed in April this year, no external non-Government agency could access your information. This all changed in April. Is the Harbour Bridge more important to you then your own personal information? Do you want these corporate profit making entities knowing about your health, your disabilities, your licences, your business dealings, your insurances, your marriage status and everything else? Please, don't get me wrong, I think that the proposed sale of the SHB is disgusting. But I am equally, and at times more, disgusted by some of the other "for sale" items that make up the \$50B worth of assets sold by this Government since March 2011.

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

You also follow me on my Facebook page "www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp", go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at www.claytonbarr.com.au

Cheers Clayton



Clr Melanie Dagg - Cessnock City Councillor - Ward C

CESSNOCK POOL

One of the first major projects raised with Council this term was the Cessnock Aquatic Centre. Cessnock Pool is in poor condition and no longer meeting the needs of the community, so the previous Council undertook various analyses and studies in an attempt to come up with a resolution. Unfortunately it wasn't able to be finalised prior to the last election and the decision therefore came to rest with this Council. The three options put to us were (a) do nothing which would cost \$9million over a decade to upgrade current facilities, (b) create a new facility on Aberdare Road at a cost of \$36million, and (c) create a new facility on Aberdare Road at a cost of \$48million. Options (b) and (c) both required Council taking out loans for \$20million, jacking up rates and crossing our fingers we would receive grant funding to cover the difference. As far as I am concerned, none of these options are acceptable.

At our last meeting a further two options were proposed, each at a cost of \$20million. As most would know, Singleton and Maitland Councils recently upgraded their facilities for much less than the price tag we are being asked to accept. It was decided by the majority of the Chamber that these neighbouring facilities should be considered to see how much bang they got for their buck.

One independent Councillor has been vocal in his criticism of myself and the other Councillors in our deep consideration of the details and apprehension to sign off on such huge expenditure and cost to Council's bottom line. His cries are populist, politically motivated and give no consideration to the vast number of residents living outside Cessnock on the border of the LGA, such as Branxton/Greta and Kurri Kurri/Weston where Council already maintains two public pools.

Whichever way Council chooses to go, I believe we owe it to our communities to consider ALL of the options, even if it takes a little longer to come to that resolution. This pool will be a huge cost to Council and will mean we have less funds to put towards other projects. The cautious, sensible and responsible approach is to diligently consider the facts and figures and ensure this project stacks up. Our community expects nothing less.

RID SQUAD PARTICIPATION
Council recently resolved to continue its participation in the Hunter Central Coast Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad. RID Squads are regionally based teams that specialise in dealing with illegal dumping and landfilling. The Squads work across LGA boundaries using a strategic, coordinated approach to prevent illegal dumping and focus on particular issues within the region. You will probably have noticed the yellow and red RID signs near Greta Waste Transfer Station, which has been identified as a problem area. If you spot any illegal dumping please call 131 555 immediately.

CULTURAL FACILITIES
I recently moved for the creation of a Cultural Facilities Committee, of which I nominated as a member, to work with Cessnock Regional Art Gallery

(CRAG) and Cessnock Performing Arts Centre (CPAC) about the possible co-location of these two facilities. As a gateway to Cessnock's city centre, CPAC is in a wonderful situation where it has the potential to draw in tourists and encourage them to explore the CBD and spend some money, rather than simply drive through on their way to the vineyards. I believe CRAG's co-location would enhance the space and create a cultural hub, indeed creating further potential for the site. Arts and culture are invaluable to our City and I look forward to exploring options with the Committee.

Cheers, Me



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

Our sense of place and the connection to where we come from plays a critical role in shaping our identity as individuals, and collectively as a community.

Our home lays the foundation for how we see the world as the viewing platform for what happens beyond our doorstep, and beyond our street. And that sense of home extends further than our address, and grows to encompass all of those things local to where we live the further away from home we are.

A shared sense of home is where the seed of communities is sown, and history well documents that villages, towns and cities evolve from the nucleus of the town centre as a marketplace for people to meet, trade and pool resources and ideas. Despite the global expansion of the concept of "community" driven by modern telecommunications and social media, the concept of "local" as it applies to our town centres continues to be the centrepiece for our communities.

It's well known the Singleton Town Centre has undergone a transformation in the past few years that has redefined how the people of Singleton, and visitors to our area, view our LGA. And it's not finished yet - Singleton Council is in the throes of our application for further funding under the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program to add to \$3.5 million we received in the previous round for further phases of the Town Centre Revitalisation.

At the same time, Cessnock City Council is now embarking on a process to create a Development Control Plan and Public Domain Plan for the Branxton Town Centre that will provide the guidelines for future development and infrastructure upgrades such as street trees and furniture.

Cessnock City Council will hold a public workshop at Branxton RSL on Tuesday 1 August 2017 at 7pm, to allow members of the community to have their input. Investment in town centres is important to constructing the identity we have of our places as a reflection of ourselves. But the true spirit of community doesn't lie with pavers, or a few bench seats, or even red light poles.

People make communities, and even local councils with limitless budgets and resources cannot replicate the passion and commitment – not to mention the countless hours of volunteer work – that many people in our area give for no other reward than the sheer pleasure of making our place better.

Branxton and surrounds are no exception. We are fortunate to have countless individuals and community organisations who give every day to benefit the people they live with, and work with, from the members of the Branxton Chamber of Commerce through to the volunteers who deliver Meals On Wheels.

CONT P. 9

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News
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Quitline also provides a call-back service, a free Quit pack and information on Quit courses.

* Ask for help. Get what support that suits you best. Support is available from your doctor, a stop-smoking course or the Quitline telephone service. Tell your family and friends of your intention to stop smoking and ask for their support. Don't under-estimate the support you will need from family and friends.

* Think about prior attempts to quit and what went wrong. Plan how to avoid the same pitfalls this time.

* Decide on your strategy. For example, do you intend to go cold turkey, use nicotine replacement therapy or use an SMS or internet support service such as [QuitTxt](#) or [QuitCoach](#)?

* Write a list of all the reasons why you want to stop smoking and refer to this list whenever you feel tempted to light up a cigarette.

* Throw away all cigarettes, lighters and ashtrays in your home and car. If your partner smokes, suggest that they stop too, or only smoke outside the house and away from you.

* Plan for situations that you know make you want to smoke.

* Avoid possible weight gain by eating more fruit, vegetables and wholemeal cereals, and less processed food that is high in fat and sugar (such as chips, biscuits, lollies and soft drink). Do some exercise you enjoy, such as walking or swimming.

* Your body will absorb more caffeine than usual after quitting. Cut down on coffee and tea to prevent caffeine-induced anxiety and restlessness.

* Treat yourself with the money you have saved. Your efforts deserve to be rewarded.

* Remember, if you do have a cigarette, it's not the end of your quit attempt. A slip-up is a setback, not a defeat. Take note of what your triggers may be and plan how to avoid these in the future. After a

slip-up it is safe to keep using quitting medications, including nicotine replacement products, and to keep trying to quit.

Use tools. There are many tools and much help available for you such as apps (you can download MyQuitBuddy from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)), the [Quitline](#) (call 13 7848) and the [Quit website](#), where you can also find [QuitTxt](#) and [QuitCoach](#).

Dealing with cravings when quitting smoking

Cravings only last a few minutes. Get through them by using the 4Ds:

* **Delay** acting on the urge to reach for a cigarette.

* **Take deep breaths.**

* **Drink water.**

* **Do something else** to occupy your mind while your craving passes.

Nicotine replacement therapy: There is a range of nicotine replacement therapy products that can ease the withdrawal symptoms when you stop smoking, and increase your chances of success.

Prescription drugs for quitting smoking: The prescription medications bupropion (brand names Zyban and Prexaton) and varenicline (brand name Champix) can also reduce some nicotine withdrawal symptoms.

Courses for quitting smoking. In some areas there are courses available to help and encourage smokers to quit. These can increase your chances of successfully quitting. When you consider these courses, remember that:

Full details of the course should be made available before you sign up and pay your money, including cost, length of sessions, length of the course and techniques used. The course should make no unrealistic guarantees about its success rate. Typical rates of successful quitting for group courses in the long term are around 14 per cent. Be wary of claims that far exceed this. If claims such as no weight gain, and no anxiety or withdrawal symptoms seem too good to be true, they probably are!

Cheers, Lee

Keep stock of your livestock



The message from Cessnock City Council Rangers is, keep stock of your livestock, following an increasing occurrence of straying livestock across the region.

Straying livestock on local roads can pose a serious safety hazard to motorists and while a majority of the time it is not intentional, there are steps that can be taken to prevent it happening.

Firstly, it is important for livestock owners to be aware of their responsibilities in making sure their animals are kept within their property boundaries. This can be done through the regular

maintenance of fences and monitoring of cattle.

Cessnock City Council also encourages landowners and graziers to register their livestock, so in the case animals do stray, they can be promptly returned.

It is free to register, simply call Council's Customer Service Team on 4993 4100 or email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au and ask to add your animals to the stock register.

Council's Ranger Team Leader, Kurt Livens, said it is always our intention to return straying stock to their owner, but this is difficult if we are not able to

identify who the owner is.

"We really want to work with local graziers to prevent this happening, so by simply supplying contact details and registering stock, it makes it a simple process to return them."

"It is also important to be careful if you come across straying stock as they can often be unpredictable, just contact Council and one of our rangers will come and help," added Kurt.

For more information about straying livestock, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/livestock.

\$50 Million Funding Round announced



Scot MacDonald

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC today urged the Hunter community to apply for funding for local infrastructure improvement projects through the NSW Government's latest \$50 million *Resources for Regions* round. Mr MacDonald said the program, which is part of the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government's \$1.3 billion *Regional Growth Fund* announced in the 2017-18 NSW Budget, recognises the impact mining operations have on local infrastructure and services. "*Resources for Regions* provides extra support for projects such as road upgrades and improvements to regional airports, as well as community facilities that improve the quality of life in mining towns," Mr MacDonald said.

"With applications currently open, I encourage local councils, community groups and non-government organisations to identify potential projects and how we can turn these ideas into a reality. I look forward to working with the community to workshop projects to develop strong applications that we can submit for funding."

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the *Resources for Regions* program has made significant improvements to local amenities and infrastructure in mining affected towns, helping to create attractive and vibrant communities.

"Mining makes a significant contribution to the NSW economy, supporting more than 100,000 jobs, and we recognise that these benefits place additional stress on resources and infrastructure, such as the condition of local roads. It is important that the mining communities that contribute so much to the state continue to thrive as attractive regions to live and work," Mr Barilaro said.

Resources for Regions has previously provided \$236 million to 42 successful economic growth and community quality of life projects since 2012. Mining-affected communities in Local Government Areas located outside of the Sydney Metropolitan area can apply for program funding from 1 July, 2017. Further information about *Resources for Regions* and the application process is available at www.nsw.gov.au/resourcesforregions.



Ingredients

- 800 g ham hock
- 1 brown onion finely diced
- 2 carrots chopped
- 2 celery sticks chopped
- 2 cups yellow split peas rinsed
- 1 bay leaf
- 10 cups water



Slow Cooker Pea and Ham Soup

Method

- STEP 1 Place split peas on bottom of slow cooker.
- STEP 2 Add carrots, celery, onion, bay leaf, and ham hock.
- STEP 3 Cover with water.
- STEP 4 Cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 4-6 hours, or until meat will fall off the bone easily.
- STEP 5 Remove bone, discard fat and skin. Chop meat and return to soup.

Notes

This soup freezes well. I freeze in 1 meal portions and microwave on high in a microwave casserole dish until piping hot. This recipe is for an 800g hock, if the hock is smaller use less water in recipe. Serve with bake at home crusty bread rolls.

FROM PAGE 6
Sue Moore, Mayor
Singleton Council

Members say ...

That's why I'm really happy to support the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards and am encouraging everyone to nominate someone you know, or a group in our community, for the difference they make in making Branxton a better place for all of us.

Plus, they'll be in the running to win some great prizes, including \$2,500 cash or a PRIME7 TV package.

Nominations can be made in a range of categories, including the Volunteering Award and Community Group of the Year Award, as well as excellence in customer service and aged care. Nominations close on 16 August 2017. For all the details, visit awardsaustralia.com
Cheers, Sue



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Member for Upper Hunter

It's Official: Our 40km/h Zones are Keeping Us Safe

A new study into the state's 40km/h speed zones clearly show they are reducing deaths and injuries in high pedestrian and traffic areas.

The study, by the Centre for Road Safety, found there was a 33 per cent reduction in crashes causing serious injuries and deaths between 2005 and 2015, where 40 km/h zones had been introduced. The results show the 40 km/h speed zones help save lives and prevent devastating injuries. They are an important part of our road safety strategy looking to the future.

We are now looking to expand the roll-out of these reduced speed zones around the state. The Centre for Road Safety will work with Roads and Maritime Services, focusing on locations with high pedestrian activity, especially around train stations, bus interchanges and shopping centres.

Last year saw a spike in pedestrians dying on our roads with 74 people losing their lives in NSW. This was 13 more deaths than in 2015 and we need to constantly be looking at ways to keep everyone safe on our roads including incorporating more 40kmh zones. We know that a vehicle that hits a pedestrian at 50km/h is twice as likely to cause a fatality as the same vehicle travelling at 40km/h, which is why speed limits in high pedestrian areas are so important.

Community Building Partnership Now Open

Just to remind Upper Hunter electorate community organisations, local councils and not-for-profit groups to apply for funding through the 2017 Community Building Partnership (CBP) Program. CBP grants are available annually for community infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes. Through the program, the NSW Government ensures funding is available to support organisations that think first-and-foremost about the needs of locals.

Local sports clubs, charities and men's sheds are just some of the groups that benefit from this program. The grants can pay for much-needed improvements to local facilities that promote participation in the local community. If your organisation needs some extra funding for the building, refurbishment or enhancement of facilities, then I encourage you to take the time to carefully prepare your application. Applications for funding are currently open and close on Wednesday 9 August. Before applying, applicants must read the program guidelines to check that both their organisation and proposed project are eligible. If you have any questions relating to this the CBP please contact the Electorate Office on 65431065.

FUNDING TO HONOUR UPPER HUNTER MEMORIALS

I am pleased to announce that the Scone Pool Memorial and the Rylstone Boer War Memorial will receive NSW Government funding as part of a proud commitment to honour Australia's servicemen and women.

The Scone Pool Memorial will receive \$3000 and will be used to clean and restore cement and sealant issues and the Rylstone Boer War Memorial will receive over \$2,200 for cleaning and restorative works.

It is fitting that as we commemorate the Centenary of Anzac we invest in repairing and looking after local war memorials in honour of those Australian servicemen and women who sacrificed so much for our nation.

The NSW Government has allocated more than \$129,000 to fund 26 projects across the state as part of the Community War Memorials Fund. The Community War Memorials Fund offers grants of up to \$10,000 for the protection and conservation of war memorials, including statues, memorial gates, halls and honour rolls.

I welcome the NSW Government's commitment to invest in the preservation of some of Upper Hunter's longest surviving war memorials. These memorials have significant heritage value and meaning for their communities, with some commemorating conflicts as far back as the Boer War, which ended in 1902. The Community War Memorials Fund was set up to fund projects which help protect and conserve existing war memorials across the state. Interested applicants for the next round of Community War Memorials Fund grants are encouraged to monitor the Veterans Affairs website for further information or contact my office on 65431065.
Cheers, Michael

Biosecurity Act 2015 now in action

Cessnock City Council is reminding residents the Biosecurity Act 2015 commenced on 1 July 2017 and is set to provide a more effective framework for managing biosecurity risks. The new legislation was adopted following extensive public consultation and was passed in September 2015 to replace all or part of 14 Acts addressing biosecurity issues.

Local landholders are encouraged to get themselves up to date with the new legislation, which is expected to enable better management of biosecurity risks that impact on our economy, environment and the community. Cessnock City Council's, Weeds Coordinator Barry Shepherd said the new legislation covers a broad range of areas and is urging Cessnock landholders to familiarise themselves with the changes. "Unlike the repealed *Noxious Weed Act 1993*, the new legislation does not discriminate between land managers, public or private. All land managers have the same responsibility to manage biosecurity risks and impacts of invasive weed species."

"The new Act manages biosecurity risks from animal and plant pests and diseases, to weeds and contaminants".

"If our community educates itself on these risks we are better able to minimise the impacts of them on our environment."

Cessnock City Council's, Ranger Team Leader, Kurt Livens advises "The Act covers everything from straying stock and regulation of the poultry, cattle, sheep, and goat industries."

For more information simple facts sheets can be found online at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

Local Volunteer of the Month



Local resident of North Rothbury & Tidy Towns member Maj. Steve Lind (R'ted) has been awarded 'Volunteer of the Month' for July 2017 for his continual volunteering work for NRTT.

Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate
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Report

removed from trays or vehicle stored in a secure location. Please report all incidents of theft so Police are aware of areas being targeted.

Over 1,000 fined for using a phone or not wearing a seat belt in one-day Operation – Operation Compliance 2 Officers from the State's Traffic and Highway Patrol Command issued more than 1,000 tickets for mobile phone and seatbelt offences in a one-day state-wide traffic operation.

The infringements were issued during Operation Compliance 2 which ran Wednesday 12 July 2017, targeting dangerous driver behaviour.

During the operation, officers continued to see people disobeying the law, with officers issuing 713 infringements for mobile phone offences, and 317 infringements for people not wearing seatbelts.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Stuart Smith of the State's Traffic and Highway Patrol Command said seatbelts and mobile phone offences put all road-users at risk.

"So far this year, 195 people have died on NSW roads. It is risky and selfish behaviour that is costing these lives in many instances.

"To have more than 1,000 booked in a single day for mobile phone and seatbelt offences shows a lack of responsibility by many drivers and other road users. "Simply put, seatbelts save lives. Despite them being compulsory since 1971, people still seem to ignore the basic task of putting a belt on as they enter their vehicle.

"Using a mobile phone while driving means a driver's eyes are off the road and their concentration is somewhere other than driving, which is putting all road users at risk.

"We run Operation Compliance throughout the year specifically focussed on key risks to drivers, their passengers, and others on our roads in the hope we can change driver behaviour.

"These operations will continue until everyone can comply with simple road rules," Acting Assistant Commissioner Smith said.

Attempt armed robbery charge – Greta

Friday, 07 July 2017 11:18:01 AM

A man has been charged after an attempted armed robbery in the Hunter region on Wednesday. About 8.30pm (Wednesday 5 July 2017), a man entered a service station on High Street, Greta. The man, armed with a knife, approached two employees and demanded money.

One of the male staff members approached the unknown man and an altercation ensued.

The man fled empty handed in a Holden utility. No one was injured during the incident.

A short time later, the Holden utility was found abandoned on Water Street, Greta. A search of the vehicle located a knife, alleged to be involved in the incident.

The items were seized and will undergo forensic examination.

Following inquiries a 30-year-old man attended Maitland Police Station and was arrested.

He was charged with attempted robbery whilst armed and granted conditional bail to appear at Singleton Local Court on Thursday 17 August 2017.

Singleton area and surrounds

There have been a number of steal from motor vehicle incidents over the past week in the Singleton area and surrounds. Unlocked vehicles and work utes are mostly being targeted. Offenders are stealing easily accessible items, such as loose change, phone chargers, and wallets. Work utes are having work tools stolen from the trays. All vehicle owners are reminded to lock vehicles when they leave them unattended and not to leave valuables in the vehicle. Work tools, where possible, should be

Cowan's Bus Service Day Tours

Extended Tours – Home Pickup

5 th Aug 2017	8 Day Kimberley Tour	\$3690
13 th Aug 2017	11 Day WA Tour	\$4840
26 th Aug 2017	9 Day Margaret River	\$3690
18 th Sept 2017	5 Day Stanthorpe Tour	\$1050
25 th Sept 2017	11 Day Tassie Tour	\$3480

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CATHOLIC PARISH BRANXTON & SINGLETON

BRANXTON-GRETA PARISH MASS TIMES

Wednesday 6.00pm Mass St Catherine's Church Greta (1st Weds Anointing Mass)
Thursday 9.20am Mass St Brigid's Church Branxton
Saturday 4.30pm Reconciliation and 5pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton
Sunday 8am Mass St Catherine's Church Greta

SINGLETON PARISH MASS TIMES

Tuesday 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
Wednesday 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton
Thursday 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton
Friday 9.20am Mass (4th Friday Anointing Mass)
Saturday 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton
2nd Saturday 5pm Mass Broke
4th Saturday 5pm Mass Glendonbrook
Sunday 7am, 10am and 5pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton

Water Safety grants funding now open

Applications are now open for organisations in the mid-Hunter to improve water safety in the community and help prevent drownings throughout NSW.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC said last summer, 41 people tragically drowned at a range of

locations across the state. “Whether in the surf at the beach, kayaking on a lake or river, out on a boat or taking a dip in the backyard swimming pool, it’s important to recognise that where there’s water, there’s danger,” Mr MacDonald said. “To ensure we don’t experience another horror summer season, I urge local community-based organisations that run water safety initiatives to apply for funding.”

The Water Safety Fund Community Grants Program will prioritise initiatives that target high-risk groups and locations, identified in research undertaken by Royal Life Saving Society Australia for the government. This includes projects that focus on:

- encouraging parents to actively supervise their children around water;
- changing the risk-taking behaviour of men;
- highlighting the dangers of swimming at unpatrolled locations; and



educating Aboriginal communities, CALD communities, and international visitors. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$250,000, and collaborative projects between water safety and community organisations will be given precedence. Mr MacDonald said each drowning death in the community is one too many. “Let’s work together to make the 2017-18 summer season a safe one.”

Applications for the Water Safety Fund Community Grants Program close on 4 August 2017.

For information on how to apply, visit:

<http://www.watersafety.nsw.gov.au/Pages/water-safety-fund/Water-Safety-Fund.aspx>.

The *Summer Drowning Report 16/17* by Royal Life Saving is also available at: <http://www.watersafety.nsw.gov.au>.

District 15 Freemasons charitable donation

The Freemasons of District 15, which encompasses the Hunter Valley from East Maitland to Scone, have made a significant donation in support of local charity Marli Accommodation Services.

At a recent function held in Maitland, the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and ACT, Most Worshipful Brother James Melville, presented a cheque for \$6,000 to Marli CEO Elizabeth Berger as a cash donation from district lodges.

The cash donation was supported by the state charity Masonicare, and was in addition to significant in-kind contributions to the refurbishment of the former Currency Lass Hotel, for use as an accommodation and training venue for homeless men from across the Hunter.

“The lodges of District 15 have once again cooperated in support of an important charitable initiative,” said Very Worshipful Brother Mark Pollard, District Grand Inspector of Workings. “Such projects are significant representations of the important



values of Freemasonry, which incorporate love for fellow man and relief from poverty or suffering.”

Bro Pollard expressed his thanks to the many sponsors and community members who had supported the fundraising venture.

The lodges will continue their fundraising activities, with a view to presenting a similar donation to ClothesLine, a statewide charity which operates in association with Marli Accommodation in the Hunter.

Photo: L to R - Grand Master of NSW & ACT Freemasons James Melville and District Grand Inspector Mark Pollard present the donation to Elizabeth Berger, CEO of Marli Accommodation Services

Official notification of Guinness World Record

Tracey Franks and Lynn Brosi from Singleton Crafters celebrate the official notification of Singleton’s inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Singleton is celebrating its inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records after notification today that the World Record attempt for the most people crocheting simultaneously is official. A total of 604 people crammed into the Civic Centre on 29 April armed with crochet hooks and yarn, including Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore; Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen; and Upper Hunter Local Area Command Policer Inspector Joanne Schultz. The final figure well eclipsed the previous record of 485 people set by the American University of Nigeria in Yola, Nigeria in 2015.

Singleton’s World Record attempt was the brainchild of the Singleton Crafters group, and organised with the assistance of Singleton Council as part of the Singleton Festival 2017.

Founder of Singleton Crafters, Tracey Franks, said the notification from the Guinness Book of World Records was read to the group’s meeting at Singleton Library today, and she was still buzzing with the news the record was official.

The group held crochet lessons at the library in the months leading up to the event, and visited schools to get as many people as possible hooking into crochet.

“I said to everybody beforehand that I’m not looking at the number of people who come along on the day; we’re already winners because we taught half of the community to crochet and we brought everyone together doing something that people usually think of as being outdated,” Tracey said.

“The day itself was such a buzz. The line for people to get in came out of the Civic Centre and out around the library and everyone was excited.

“The youngest person we had was five years old, and the oldest was 95.

“There were men and women, people of different nationalities and of all ages. People came from all over NSW – and we even had one person pull up out the front in a caravan.

“I just can’t believe it; it was a fantastic day and now we are world record holders.

“It’s given me a great boost of confidence that we’re capable of achieving anything now.” Singleton Crafters meet at Singleton Library on Tuesday afternoons and Thursdays.



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 here.

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.

RBA keeps neutral interest rate position

The Reserve Bank of Australia has kept interest

rates on hold at 1.50 per cent at its July 2017 board meeting.

REINSW President John Cunningham said the decision came largely as expected. He said: “It comes at little surprise that the RBA has decided to keep a neutral position for the 10th meeting in a row. We believe that this will continue into the second half of the year, but we may see interest rates rise as early as October.

“It is important that those seeking to enter the property market and those already servicing a mortgage think carefully about the effects that several interest rate rises will have on their ability to service a mortgage.” The RBA cut interest rates by 25 basis points in August and May 2016. The RBA will next meet on Tuesday, 1 August 2017.

Reforms to fire safety certificates

Proposed reforms have been drafted aimed at helping strata managers ensure fire safety measures are properly checked. The NSW Government released a draft Fire Safety and Building Certification Regulation 2017 to public consultation at the end of last year, which is aimed at improving fire safety in new and existing buildings. The Department for Planning and Environment (DPE) is currently

reviewing the submissions to help inform the final fire safety regulation.

The DPE is also developing guidelines for building certifiers and building owners to help them choose appropriate practitioners in the interim period before a new accreditation system comes into effect.

A DPE spokesperson said: “The reforms will help strata managers to ensure that essential fire safety measures are properly checked by tightening up the requirements for who can check these systems by introducing an accreditation system for fire safety practitioners.”

The reforms will require greater involvement of specialist practitioners to perform certain fire safety functions, such as carrying out annual fire safety statement checks. Specialists will be regulated through a new accreditation framework, which will be released for public consultation.

What do the proposed reforms include? The proposed changes cover a broad range of buildings, at various stages of construction, including the design, construction, pre-occupation and post-occupation stages. The proposed reforms include:

- * new requirements around submitting and checking plans and specifications for fire safety systems in some buildings

- * additional critical stage inspections for some buildings

- * reports required for all alternative fire safety solutions in some buildings

- * random inspections of fire safety systems by Fire and Rescue NSW before occupation certificates can be issued for multi-dwelling residential buildings.

- * The draft fire safety regulation proposes changes to building regulation and certification covering seven key areas:

- * the involvement of competent fire safety practitioners in certain specialist fire safety functions
- * Requiring submission of plans and specifications for relevant fire safety system work relating to Class 2-9 buildings

- * Limited exemptions from compliance with some Building Code of Australia standards relating to relevant fire safety system work

- * New critical stage inspections for Class 2-9 buildings

- * New inspections of fire safety system work relating to Class 2 and 3 buildings by Fire and Rescue NSW before occupation certificates are issued

- * Requiring an Alternative (Performance) Solution report for all fire safety Alternative Solutions for Class 1b-9 buildings

- * Requiring fire safety certificates/statements to be in a form approved by the Sec. Department of Planning and Environment.

Cessnock City Council Youth Week simply the best



The Cessnock Youth Week Organising Committee could be up for a back to back award following an announcement they have been shortlisted as a finalist for Best Youth Week Program 2017. The Committee is no stranger to the Local Government Awards, having been awarded Most Innovative Youth Week Program in 2014 and taking out the Best Youth Week Program award last year. Youth Week 2017 was bigger and better than ever with an action-packed program of events for our local young people to enjoy. This included 24 free events, with crowd

favourites such as Take the Stage, Youth Fest, silent discos and outdoor cinemas being a hit with the young ones. Phoebe Morris (aged 20) who was part of the 2017 Youth Week Committee said the enthusiasm and cooperation from our local young people during Youth Week 2017 was both outstanding and heart-warming. "Seeing the amount of young people who came together, worked together and had fun was fantastic. These events go to show a working community, along with the generous support from volunteers who help contribute really make a difference."

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent couldn't be prouder of everyone involved for their dedication to young people in our community. "Our local Youth Week is always absolutely fantastic, made possible by a truly collaborative effort by our passionate committee in partnership with our youth." "I am blown away that we have been shortlisted as a finalist for the second year running and this is testament to the hard work that goes in," added Cr Pynsent. The winners will be announced at the Local Government Awards Evening in Sydney on Thursday 3 August 2017.

Abandoned trolley folly: Who is responsible?

There is nothing more disappointing than seeing an abandoned trolley dumped on a footpath, in a park or in car park. Unfortunately a dumped trolley is a sight we see all too often around our beautiful local government area. Not only is it an eye sore but a public hazard for pedestrians and motorists, they are also often used as tools for vandalising public spaces. Cessnock City Council is calling on large retailers and community members to do their bit in minimising the number of trolleys being left unattended. Cessnock City Council's, Ranger Team Leader, Kurt Livens said a collective effort is needed to reduce the number of trolleys being discarded. "There appears to be a misconception in the community that it is solely the responsibility of Council to retrieve abandoned trolleys. It is actually the retailers who need to provide adequate drop off points and must also take responsibility for wayward trolleys."

While Council is not directly responsible for the collection of trolleys, staff do work closely with organisations such as Trolley Tracker in order to reduce the problem. Project Manager for Trolley Tracker NSW, Lyn Hall said for 21 years Trolley Tracker has provided councils and residents with a quick and easy way to report Woolworths, BIG W and Dan Murphy's shopping trolleys for collection. "We support Cessnock City Council in its goal to ensure every resident understands how important it is for all trolleys to be returned to the trolley bays where they belong." Trolley Tracker also provides an incentive for residents to make a report, as once the report is received they enter the draw to win one of the five \$1,000 gift card rewards



offered every month. To make a report to Trolley Tracker you can do so on the app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or call 1800 641 497. The information will be sent immediately as a text message to the appropriate collector who will pick it up and return it to its rightful place. For any Coles Trolleys dial

1800 TROLLEY (1800 876 553) or download the free **Trolley Collect App**. Residents are reminded Council Rangers can issue on the spot fines to those leaving an abandoned shopping trolley in a public place as set out in Section 32 of the Impounding Act.

St Brigid's Markets @ Branxton
9.00am to 1.00pm
Dates for 2017

Sun - 20th Aug Sun - 17th Dec
 Sun - 17th Sep

Helen 0427 047 024
www.facebook.com/stbrigidsmarkets

Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

The message from our Ranger team this month is, keep stock of your livestock, following a notable increase in the occurrence of straying cattle across the region. Straying livestock on local roads can pose a serious safety hazard to motorists, even with drivers who may be familiar with the area. While we understand the majority of the time this is not intentional, there are steps that can be taken to prevent it from happening. Firstly, it is important for livestock owners to be aware of their responsibilities in making sure animals are kept within their property boundaries. Preventable measures can be put in place including the regular maintenance of fences, ensuring they are up to scratch and not easy for cattle to break down and get out. With this, it is also important to regularly monitor your cattle and ensure all stock is able to be easily identified. We are also encouraging landowners and graziers to register their livestock with Council so in the case they do stray onto neighbouring properties or public roads, they can be promptly returned. It is free to register and all you have to do is simply call our Customer Service Team on 4992 4100 or email council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au and ask to add your animals to the stock register. It is always our intention to return straying stock to their owner as quick as we can, but this is really difficult when we are not able to identify the owner. This is why simply supplying contact details and registering your stock can make this process a whole lot easier. If it is not possible to identify the animal or find the owner, we have to proceed to impounding the animal and holding them for seven days. If the owner comes forward during this time, a release fee is charged and if they don't come forward after this timeframe, the stock are sold at auction. This is really the last resort and we would like to work with our local landowners and graziers to prevent this from happening. While we are discussing this topic, it is also important to remind people to be careful if you come across straying stock as they can often be unpredictable. Our advice is to not take control of the situation yourself, but rather contact Council and one of our rangers will come and help. If you would like more information about straying livestock or about our livestock register, visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/livestock.

You can contact Council on 02 4993 4100
 or www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

School's back and police hope some parents have learned their school zone lesson

Police believe some parents might be learning a lesson about appropriate driver behaviour in school zones. Traffic and Highway Patrol Command's Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy said most school students returned from holidays today (Tuesday 18 July 2017). "Last financial year (2016/2017) the number of school zone related legal actions has declined by around 1650 to 14, 930, we are hoping those parents can help us spread the road safety message in their school community.

"Road safety is our number one priority. Despite the decline in legal actions taken, police will remain on the road, targeting those who have been speeding, double parking, or using phones in school zones. "These are the people who continue to put themselves, their passengers, local school children, parents, siblings, teachers and support staff at great risk in what is a built up, high vehicle and pedestrian area during school hours each day."

Assistant Commissioner Corboy recommended the following road safety advice around school zones;
Dropping off / picking up by car

- Make sure your children are in an appropriate child car seat that is fitted and used correctly.
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone as children are about.
- Look for buses pulling out – watch for flashing wig wag lights.
- Always park and turn legally around schools.
- Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns.
- Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
- Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school's designated drop off and pick up area.
- Calling out to them from across the road is dangerous – they may run to you without checking for traffic.
- It's safest for children to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road to be away from passing traffic.



Walking together to and from school

- Plan your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible.
- Always hold your child's hand.
- Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways.
- They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.
- Drop off and pick up your child near the school gate and avoid calling them from across the road.
- Talk with your children about Stop, Look, Listen and Think every time they cross the road.
- STOP! one step back from the kerb.
- LOOK! for traffic to your right, left and right again.
- LISTEN! for the sounds of approaching traffic.
- THINK! whether it is safe to cross.

Young children can learn these safe pedestrian habits from you and continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone. "School zones are there for a reason, with flashing signage, to keep our children safe." Assistant Commissioner Corboy said. Most school zones operate from 8 to 9.30am and from 2.30 to 4pm. However, there are a small number of non-standard school zone times in NSW, which are identified by red/orange school zone signs showing the times when school zone flashing lights operate.

For Sale

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EAST BRANXTON

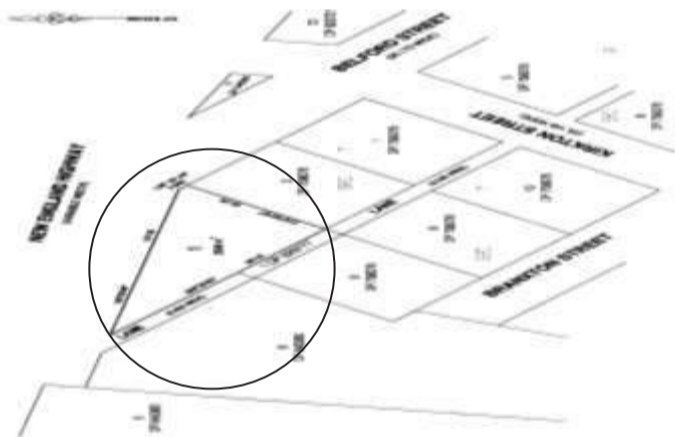


AN ideal opportunity to renovate one of the oldest homes in Branxton! This home is on approx 1100sm corner block. The

house needs extensive work but the core is there to rejuvenate this wonderful example of a Federation home back to its original glory. Three bedrooms, separate lounge, fireplace, wooden kitchen. The work has already commenced with a new power board & extensive plumbing renovation. 6 X 8 shed with power at rear.



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Vacant Land ~ 2559m²

Vacant Land with building approved
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Well over half an acre of good level block.

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Commercial property in Maitland Street,
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EAST BRANXTON



Modern 3 bedroom Townhouse

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

Asking \$320,000

NORTH ROTHBURY



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
NEGOTIABLE

Asking \$290,000

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NORTH ROTHBURY

Lots 521, 523 & 524 Littlewood Road,
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4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks.
Fully Fenced & within minutes to Hunter Wine Country

ASKING: \$420,000 each



BRANXTON

Excellent family home in very popular street

This well established family home is located in the central part of Branxton. The property includes three (3) spacious bedrooms, separate lounge room, open plan dining area with slow combustion fire, neat kitchen, good sized bathroom, side access to single garage & rear decking overlooking a spacious backyard. This property has been very well maintained & is on 1011 square metres; a quarter acre block.

ASKING \$350,00



BRANXTON

"Central Branxton ~ you won't do better"

Large family home on 1160 square metres. Features include:- Sep lounge, open plan kitchen & living area, French door onto a large covered entertainment deck, 3 good sized bedrooms all with built-ins, neat & tidy bathroom & single lock-up garage with carport

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Innovation and Excellence Award to Helen Scott for her services to the Branxton Community

The Rotary Club of Cessnock last Thursday inducted their newest President, Graham Farish, at their annual Change-over Dinner.

After an extensive career across the Hunter region, Mr Farish joined the Club as a means of giving back to his community.

Mr Farish will spend the next 12 months working closely with the area's youth and elderly community to grow and develop social cohesion. "Cessnock is a beautiful place to live and our Club will be working closely with young people and the aged to ensure they feel a sense of belonging in our community" Mr Farish said.

"Often the young and elderly are forgotten in our community. The reality is, they make a significant contribution to our growth and development and it is important they are offered recognition, support and assistance".

Mr Farish also intends to promote Rotary's theme for the year, *Rotary: Making a Difference* by further integrating the Club into the programs

and activities that contribute to the area's growth.

"Our Club is entering its 80th year in Cessnock and over that period we have continually strived to make a difference. I want to ensure that we maintain an active presence in our community by offering service and support to those in need" Mr Farish said.

The Changeover also marked the end of Ross Lidbury's year as President.

Mr Lidbury focused his year on building connections throughout the Cessnock region as a means of improving the ability for individuals to access vital resources and services.

Rotarians, Peter Carver and Jack Jowett were also presented with Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow pins as recognition of their contribution and service to the Cessnock community. The Club presented An Innovation and Excellence Award to Helen Scott for her services to the Branxton Community. Helen works tirelessly for the community running the St Brigids Market, the Anglican OP Shop, the Community Hall and many other causes.



Photo above (L-R) Outgoing Rotary President Ross Lidbury, Helen Scott & incoming President Graham Farish

Council on board with future freight corridor

Cessnock City Council welcomed Infrastructure Australia's finding the Hunter Valley freight rail corridor is a key transport corridor and that action should be taken.

The *Corridor Protection: Planning and investing for the long term* report released this month calls for action to be taken to protect vital infrastructure corridors.

Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent supported the findings, and in particular would like to see progress on the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor.

"This is a real opportunity to provide essential infrastructure to meet growing demand in our community, we know the Cessnock Local Government Area is experiencing rapid growth."

"All levels of government need to be working strategically to improve connectivity and efficiency. The establishment of the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor should be a priority as it is critical as we plan for our future."

"In light of population growth passenger rail should also be a priority and we urge all levels of government to provide this vital transport link not just for the lower hunter but also the Upper Hunter."

Transport NSW has undertaken preliminary investigations into the Lower Hunter Freight Corridor and have identified a number of key benefits including improving congestion and urban amenity in Newcastle.

Cessnock City Council's, Economic Development Manager Jane Holdsworth believes the benefits generated by investing in rail and better infrastructure in the region will have far reaching impacts.

"Investing in infrastructure such as rail is crucial. We would also like to see plans ramp up for the future extension of the M1 Pacific Motorway to the Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace. These projects are vital for future job growth."

The extension of the M1 Pacific Motorway to the Pacific Highway at Raymond Terrace is crucial to connect the Port and Airport of Newcastle, increasing access to the Hunter Valley Wine Country, and ultimately increasing visitation to the region.

To keep up to date with Transport NSW progress on the project visit

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/lower-hunter-freight-corridor>.

\$650,000 for St Philip's

St Philip's Christian College, Cessnock Campus will get new facilities for the junior school using funding provided by the NSW Government.

The project is receiving \$650,000 to support the \$2,497,698 project under the Building Grants Assistance Scheme, with further funds provided by the school community.

The project is the construction of the final stage facilities for the junior school comprising one large flexible classroom for multiple Kindergarten streams including 3 smaller general learning areas, a music room, 3 music practice rooms and a music storage room, a STEAM lab, a Learning Resource Centre/Library, COLA and two quiet rooms and store rooms.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald MLC welcomed the funding and congratulated St Philip's Christian College for their successful project.

"This funding will help St Philip's get these works off the ground and I'm delighted the NSW Government is able to support this project," Mr MacDonald said.

Education Minister Rob Stokes said the Building Grants Assistance Scheme was an important initiative to support local school communities.

"This funding will help improve facilities so schools are equipped to meet the learning needs of students today and into the future," Mr Stokes said.

In 2015 the NSW Government announced an additional \$50 million dollars over four years for non-government schools under the Building Grants Assistance Scheme.

The grants are directed towards independent and Catholic schools with the greatest need, to help schools cater for growing enrolments and to refurbish or build new facilities.

BGAS is administered by the Association of Independent Schools NSW and the NSW Catholic Block Grant Authorities and funded by the NSW Government.

Since 2011, the NSW Government has committed more than \$5 billion to both government and non-government school facilities to ensure students have the best possible learning environments.



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RESTAURANT

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GREAT AUSSIE FOOD

LUNCH & DINNER
TUESDAY — SUNDAY

FRIDAY 21ST JULY

SOLID GOLD

FRIDAY 28th JULY
THE SEARCH PARTY

MEMBER'S BADGE DRAW

WEDNESDAY

19th JULY - \$5,000

SUNDAY

23th JULY - \$4,800

Christmas In July
TOY RAFFLE
Sunday 23rd Over
\$1200 prizes

MEMBERSHIPS
ARE NOW DUE
TWO CLUBS
ONE MEMBERSHIP

MILLER PARK

MEMBERS BADGE DRAW

THURSDAY 20th JULY

\$5,000

SUNDAY 23rd JULY

\$5,000

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

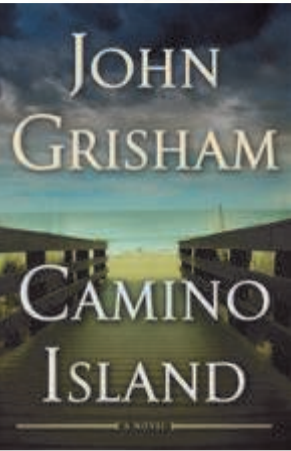
"THE PARK"
RESTAURANT

WEDNESDAY — SUNDAY

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courthouses that dot his 20-plus legal thrillers, here he gently ushers us onto an island off the coast of Florida, a sleepy place whose town's social life is enlivened by a busy independent

bookstore run by a garrulous peacock who has a different-coloured seer-sucker suit for every day of the week.

At Bay Books, Bruce Cable presides over book signings with authors on tour and regular dinners with local writers. But since his real money comes from trading in rare first editions, this makes him a suspect as a possible fence for the Fitzgerald manuscripts, the clever theft of which gets "Camino Island" off to its suspenseful start. Law enforcement goes after the thieves, but so does a mysterious private company that specializes in "security and investigations." Enter Mercer Mann and her thwarted second novel. A representative from the unnamed company taps her to get close to Bruce. Why does she agree? The company will write off her college-loan debt as well as hand her a hefty paycheque. (As with so many thriller plots, it's best not to get bogged down in the plausibility of this setup.)

Grisham is crafty in his construction. "Camino" begins with the theft, and the quick, precise portraits of the perpetrators lead you to assume this is going to be a caper novel. Then the focus switches to Mercer, and you start wondering how this innocent with writer's block is going to connect to the criminals. Cable, the colourful bookseller, is the glue that holds Grisham's plotting together. He's also a way for Grisham to have more fun than usual. "Camino Island" contains leisurely passages in which Cable gasses on entertainingly about collecting first editions by writers ranging from Virginia Woolf to J. D. Salinger to John D. MacDonald. Sometimes,

ABOUT ~ John Ray Grisham Jr. born February 8, 1955 is an American bestselling writer, attorney, politician, and activist best known for his popular legal thrillers. His books have been translated into 42 languages and published worldwide.



John Grisham graduated from Mississippi State University before attending the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1981. He practiced criminal law for about a decade and served in the House of Representatives in Mississippi from January 1984 to September 1990. His first novel, *A Time to Kill*, was published in June 1989, four years after he began writing it. As of 2012, his books have sold over 275 million copies worldwide. A Galaxy British Book Awards

winner, Grisham is one of only three authors to sell 2 million copies on a first printing.

Grisham's first bestseller, *The Firm*, sold more than seven million copies. The book was adapted into a 1993 feature film of the same name, starring Tom Cruise, and a 2012 TV series which "continues the story of attorney Mitchell McDeere and his family 10 years after the events of the film and novel." Eight of his other novels have also been adapted into films: *The Chamber*, *The Client*, *A Painted House*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Rainmaker*, *The Runaway Jury*, *Skipping Christmas*, and *A Time to Kill*.

Grisham, the second of five siblings, was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Wanda Skidmore Grisham and John Grisham. His father worked as a construction worker and a cotton farmer, while his mother was a homemaker. When Grisham was four years old, his family settled in Southaven, DeSoto County, Mississippi. As a child, Grisham wanted to be a baseball player. Grisham has been a Christian since he was eight years old, and he describes his conversion to Christianity as "the most important event" in his life. After leaving law school, he participated in some missionary work in Brazil, under the First Baptist Church of Oxford.

Although Grisham's parents lacked formal education, his mother encouraged him to read and prepare for college. He drew on his childhood experiences for his novel *A Painted House*. Grisham started working for a nursery as a teenager, watering bushes for US\$1.00 an hour. He was soon promoted to a fence crew for US\$1.50 an hour. He wrote about the job: "there was no future in it". At 16, Grisham took a job with a plumbing contractor but says he "never drew inspiration from that miserable

though, Grisham gets a bit too relaxed, letting his dialogue become both simplistic and florid, as when Mercer, pondering Woolf, sighs sadly: "She killed herself. Why do writers suffer so much, Bruce? So much destructive behaviour, even suicide." There are also repetitions: In these pages we encounter "seasoned thieves" and a "seasoned raconteur," and find Cable described as a "seasoned professional" when it

comes to sex. That's a lot of seasoning. Yet these flaws don't impede the jolly appeal of the novel's storytelling. Grisham has said that he and his wife dreamed up "Camino Island" during a long car ride to Florida, and the book provides the pleasure of a leisurely jaunt periodically jolted into high gear, just for the fun and speed of it.

work". Through a contact of his father's, he managed to find work on a highway asphalt crew in Mississippi at age 17. It was during this time that an unfortunate incident got him "serious" about college. A fight with gunfire broke out among the crew causing Grisham to run to a nearby restroom to find safety. He did not come out until after the police had detained the perpetrators. He hitchhiked home and started thinking about college. His next work was in retail, as a salesclerk in a department store men's underwear section, which he described as "humiliating". He decided to quit but stayed when he was offered a raise. He was given another raise after asking to be transferred to toys and then to appliances. A confrontation with a company spy posing as a customer convinced him to leave the store. By this time, Grisham was halfway through college. Planning to become a tax lawyer, he was soon overcome by "the complexity and lunacy" of it. He decided to return to his hometown as a trial lawyer.

He went to the Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, Mississippi and later attended Delta State University in Cleveland. Grisham drifted so much that he changed colleges three times before completing a degree. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1977, receiving a BS degree in accounting. He later enrolled in the University of Mississippi School of Law to become a tax lawyer, but his interest shifted to general civil litigation. He graduated in 1981 with a JD degree.

Law and politics ~ Grisham practiced law for about a decade and won election as a Democrat in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1983 to 1990, at an annual salary of US\$8,000. Grisham represented the seventh district, which included DeSoto County. By his second term at the Mississippi state legislature, he was the vice-chairman of the Apportionment and Elections Committee and a member of several other committees. Grisham's writing career blossomed with the success of his second book, *The Firm*, and he gave up practicing law, except for returning briefly in 1996 to fight for the family of a railroad worker who was killed on the job. His official site states: "He was honouring a commitment made before he had retired from the law to become a full-time writer. Grisham successfully argued his clients' case, earning them a jury award of US\$683,500 — the biggest verdict of his career."


REVIEW
CAMINO ISLAND

By John Grisham

No. 1 on the
The New York
Times Best Sellers

Mercer Mann, a young novelist struggling to come up with an idea for her next book, is recruited by a shadowy company to locate five priceless F. Scott Fitzgerald manuscripts that have been stolen from the Firestone Library at Princeton. In John Grisham's latest thriller, the inspiration-starved Mercer spends a lot of time moaning about her lack of juicy subject matter, even as she runs down clues to the Fitzgerald theft and befriends a cunning rare-book dealer she suspects may be the crime's mastermind. About midway through, you may feel like tapping Grisham's heroine on the shoulder: "What do you mean, you can't think of a plot? Look around you! You're living in a dandy one!"


The veteran suspense novelist is off on a happy lark with "Camino Island," a resort-town tale that reads as if Grisham is taking a vacation from writing John Grisham novels. Instead of hurtling readers down the dark corridors of the



Australian Government
Department of Defence

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Residents of areas adjacent to Singleton Training Area are warned it is an Army Live Firing Range. Singleton Training Area is described generally as the area bounded to the south by Pokolbin State Forest, to the east by commercial vineyards and to the west by a combination of rural developments and open cut coal mines. The northern boundary is defined by the Golden Highway which separates the range area from the Singleton Military Area. Firing practice using live ammunition are conducted continuously on this training area. Low power laser range finders are also used. Death or serious injury may result from being struck by a projectile. Eye damage may occur when viewing laser beams from within the training area boundary. Unexploded ammunition is extremely DANGEROUS and should NOT be handled, but should be reported immediately to the nearest Police Station or Army unit. No reward will be paid for the reporting of ammunition which may be located on the training area. Persons found trespassing on Army Training Areas will be prosecuted. Enquiries regarding the Singleton Training Area should be directed to:

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Local RID Squad to continue fighting illegal dumping battle



continues to be a problem across the region, with 287 incidents being reported in 2016-17 in the Cessnock LGA, 46.3% of these being household waste. "Being part of this joint initiative with our neighbouring councils has been hugely successful over the past four years and by continuing our efforts, it can only get better." "It's also about sharing the responsibility and I encourage

anyone in the community who sees illegal dumping in our region to come forward and report it." "We are also committed to educating the community about the damage illegal dumping can do to our environment, so watch this space for our upcoming campaign," added Cr Pynsent. To report illegal dumping, call the EPA Environment Line on 131 555 or for more information about the Hunter Central Coast RID Squad, visit <http://ridsquad.com.au/>.

As part of its ongoing commitment to tackle the issue of illegal dumping, Cessnock City Council has decided to continue participation in the Hunter Central Coast RID Squad. RID Squads are regionally based teams who specialise in dealing with illegal dumping and landfilling, along with other waste contamination issues. The squads are jointly funded by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and member councils who opt to work together and pool resources to address the problem. The NSW EPA recently announced it would continue to fund the Hunter Central Coast RID Squad from July 2017 to June 2021 under its Waste Less, Recycle More program. With this, Cessnock City Council will allocate \$50,000 annually from its Better Waste and Recycling Fund payment to cover its contribution to being a full member of the squad, which includes having a full-time officer located at Council. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent, welcomed this decision as illegal dumping

IRISH GHOST STORY - This story happened a while ago in Dublin, and even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's true. John Bradford, a Dublin University student, was on the side of the road hitch-hiking on a very dark night and in the midst of a big storm. The night was rolling on and no car went by. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him. Suddenly, he saw a car slowly coming towards him and stopped. John, desperate for shelter and without thinking about it, got into the car and closed the door ... only to realize there was nobody behind the wheel and the engine wasn't running. The car started moving slowly. John looked at the road ahead and saw a curve approaching. Scared, he started to pray, begging for his life. Then, just before the car hit the curve, a hand appeared out of nowhere through the window, and turned the wheel. John, paralysed with terror, watched as the hand came through the window, but never touched or harmed him. Shortly thereafter, John saw the lights of a pub appear down the road, so, gathering strength, he jumped out of the car and ran to it... Wet and out of breath, he rushed inside and started telling everybody about the horrible experience he had just had. A silence enveloped the pub when everybody realized he was crying ... and wasn't drunk. Suddenly, the door opened, and two other people walked in from the dark and stormy night. They, like John, were also soaked and out of breath. Looking around, and seeing John Bradford sobbing at the bar, one said to the other... 'Look Paddy ... there's that idiot that got in the car while we were pushing it!'

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MOVIE REVIEW

DUNKIRK



When 400,000 men couldn't get home... home came for them. From filmmaker Christopher Nolan ("Interstellar," "Inception," "The Dark Knight" Trilogy) comes the epic action thriller "Dunkirk." Nolan directed "Dunkirk" from his own original screenplay, utilizing a mixture of IMAX® and 65mm film to bring the story to the screen. "Dunkirk" opens as hundreds of thousands of British and Allied troops are surrounded by enemy forces. Trapped on the beach with their backs to the sea they face an impossible situation as the enemy closes in. The film's ensemble cast includes Fionn Whitehead, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Harry Styles, Aneurin Barnard, James D'Arcy and Barry Keoghan, with Kenneth Branagh ("My Week with Marilyn," "Hamlet," "Henry V"), Cillian Murphy ("Inception," "The Dark Knight" Trilogy), Mark Rylance ("Bridge of Spies," "Wolf Hall") and Tom Hardy ("The Revenant," "Mad Max: Fury Road," "Inception").

The first reactions to Christopher Nolan's World War II action-thriller *Dunkirk* have landed online. Written and directed by Nolan, the film follows the true story of Operation Dynamo, the rescue operation that saved hundreds of thousands of British soldiers who were trapped on the beaches of Dunkirk during World War II. At 1 hour and 47 minutes, this is Nolan's shortest film since his debut feature *Following*, but it's certainly not small in scale. Reuniting with his *Interstellar* cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema, the film was



shot with a mixture of IMAX and 65mm film to bring the story to the screen in the most immersive way possible. So what's the word? Well, unsurprisingly, those who saw the film at the press day have high praise for Nolan's

craft. The guy is a master filmmaker, and with *Dunkirk* it sounds like he's put together a non-stop, edge-of-your-seat thriller. The IMAX photography is also getting strong notices, as folks point out that experiencing this movie in full IMAX is the best way to do it. But there seems to be a bit of an undercurrent of underwhelming notices for the characters and story. Nolan's film sounds more experiential than anything, and there's no individual standout character. Also, if you looking for movie stars, this ain't the film—Tom Hardy apparently only has a handful of lines. The film stars Fionn Whitehead, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Harry Styles, Aneurin Barnard, James D'Arcy, Barry Keoghan, Kenneth Branagh, Cillian Murphy, Mark Rylance, and Tom Hardy.

"Dunkirk relies on very little dialogue, but is entirely impactful. We all know what happened on that beach, but Nolan's take is worth visiting. Truly thrilling from first to last second. A heart-breaking, heart-pounding, nail-biting offering. Nolan fans, rejoice ... *Dunkirk* relies heavily on sound of an increasingly fast ticking clock to build suspense. It may be a cheap trick, but it's effective AF. And for those asking: Harry Styles does well in *Dunkirk*, was pleasantly surprised."

Canada To Google: Filter Your Results

Canada's Supreme court says Google must stop showing search results featuring Datalink Technologies. And not just in Canada, but all over the world. The company has been accused by Equusteck Solutions of stealing their technology. They wanted Google to stop sending people to Datalink's pages. Some might argue that this violates freedom of speech, but the Canadian court said, "This is not an order to remove speech that, on its face, engages freedom of expression values, it is an order to de-index websites that are in violation of several court orders."

Google says they are reviewing the ruling before deciding what to do next. **Galaxy Note 7 Rises From The Ashes** Samsung is not selling a refurbished version of those problematic Galaxy Note 7 phones that kept blowing up due to bad batteries. Faced with criticism from Greenpeace for planning to dispose of the unused phones, the company refurbished them to re-sell in order to be eco-friendly.



Samsung has changed the name of the phone, calling it the Galaxy Note Fan Edition. The phone is on sale now in South Korea for \$US610. Samsung hasn't decided if it will sell the phone outside of South Korea.

4 Ways To Protect Your Online Reputation

While many small businesses, organizations, clubs, charities, and churches work hard to build a good reputation, few are putting in enough effort into actually protecting their reputation. Having your brand tarnished can cripple your business. While big companies can recover from this type of damage, most small businesses and organizations do not have this luxury. That's why you need to take the initiative in securing your brand and protecting your customers/members. Here are some strategies that you can use to prepare for the worst.



Monitor Your Reputation Online

While the Internet can help your business reach a wider audience and expand your business, you have to put in a lot of effort into monitoring your reputation online.

Angry customers, competitors or general complaints on social media, message boards, and authority sites can damage your reputation. This is very important because 81% of people conduct research before they buy online. Monitoring your brand also allows you to reply to social media mentions which have multiple benefits. You can figure out what customers think about you reach out to influencers that support you, and engage with your target audience. There are many in-house and third-party software solutions to help you monitor your brand. You can think of these tools as an online public relations platform.

Keep Up with Site Security and Use Backup Software

Most small businesses are now using content management systems (CMS) like WordPress, Drupal, Joomla, and Magento for their websites. What these small business owners don't understand is that these CMS platforms can easily be hacked without proper security in place. One statistic shows that out of all the sites hacked in 2016, four of the five were running WordPress. The reason why this happens so often is that CMS platforms have many vulnerabilities out of the box. You need to make sure that your admin options are well set up and that you're using a theme that has strong security. The majority of hacks result from hosting platform, insecure themes, and vulnerable plugins/extensions. That means you have to do your due diligence and look through every theme and plugin/extension you're using for your site. It's also imperative that you update your CMS, theme and plugins/extensions regularly as developers are always working to improve security every few months. Finally, you need to be backing up regularly so that if you do ever get hacked, you can recover from the attack.

Install a Data Loss Prevention System

There have been many stories in the headlines about organizations accidentally leaking sensitive customer information. Some of these brands have leaked social security numbers, credit card information, addresses and other personal details that leave their customers vulnerable to fraud and other malicious actions. The best way to prevent this from happening to your small business is to invest in a data loss prevention system. DLP systems make sure that your in-house employees cannot send out sensitive information outside of the company network. Implementing a system like this will protect your company's valuable

information from being leaked whether it's accidental or intentional. Installing such as system can be challenging. However, there are many things you can do to make the process easier. Isaca recommends that you minimize such as system's impact on business operations and create meaningful policies to manage your data. They also offer many other tips to help you successfully implement a DLP solution.

As you can see, there are many ways your name can be damaged. You have to make a commitment to protect your business if you're serious. As mentioned earlier, an attack on your brand can cripple your business if you're not prepared to handle it. While investing in the proper security measures can be costly, you have to understand that it's an essential part of running a business and is the key factor that will protect your customers.

I Thought Everyone Knew This Trick: I Was Wrong

There's a keyboard shortcut that I use daily. One so common that I thought everyone knew about it. But I found out the other day I was wrong. A friend accidentally deleted a paragraph she was working on and went to open a drop-down menu to see if "undo" was available. I said, "Why not just use Control Z?" She said, "What's that do?" To be fair, this was a very young friend, who actually doesn't use a PC often. She's more of a smartphone gal



Well, in case you didn't know, pressing the Ctrl key on the keyboard plus the Z key is just about magic. It will undo almost any action on a Windows PC. If you're a touch typist, move the pinky from the a down to the Ctrl and your ring finger from S down to Z.

Launch Taskbar Programs With This Keyboard Trick

Here's a quick keyboard trick for launching programs that are pinned to your taskbar in Windows 7, 8.1, and 10.



Press the Windows key and then the number corresponding to the position of the program on the taskbar. Windows Key + 1 opens the program to the right of the start button. (In this case, Chrome) and so on.



The numbers go all the way up to the 10th program on the taskbar. You'll press 0 to open that one.

A New Twist On The Microsoft Scam

I received this upsetting message from a reader. "Have you heard of a Microsoft scam that uses the iTunes cards for payment instead of credit cards or other means of payment. I think I was scammed by these people in the amount of \$1300. Ouch!"



Yes, I have heard of this iTunes gift card scam, though this is the first time I've heard of it used in conjunction with a Microsoft scam. I've heard it used as part of the "grandparents" scam where people are convinced a grandchild is in jail and needs either bail or a lawyer, who must be paid only with iTunes gift cards. This is also used as part of IRS scams, fake lottery winnings, and just about any other type of scam you can imagine.

Why gift cards? Well, if you go out to the store and purchase iTunes cards, they are virtually untraceable once they are sent to the scammers. They can sell them off at a discount such as \$35 for a \$50 iTunes card and still make plenty of money. There's one important rule to remember: You'll never be asked to pay for anything legitimate with gift cards. At no time, under no circumstance, will anyone who is telling you the truth ask you to pay for anything with gift cards. Got it? If they do, stop communicating with this person immediately. Legitimate companies don't mind leaving a record of transactions. They want one. Another important rule to know: Microsoft will never contact you to tell you something is wrong with your computer. NEVER! Got it



This PC Self-Destructs If You Mess With It

Here's a device that takes security pretty seriously. This tiny Orwl computer fits in your hand, but it's got some big security. You can't access it or any of its ports without a password and a keyfob.



Plus, if someone does try to mess with it and get it open, it will wipe all of the data off your disc. It's available for Windows, Ubuntu, and Qubes operating systems at a fairly reasonable price of \$2000 and comes with a 480GB encrypted SSD.

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



This was first published in issue 194. Andrew has been away & was unable to finish his article in time for publication. When I was very young, my two brothers and I would sell table grapes

on the side of the road in Deasys Road. One row of table grapes were planted at the bottom of one of our shiraz blocks and each vintage we would profit from the crop. My eldest brother, Simon, exhibited a natural instinct to broker deals in anything that wasn't chained down. The three of us would pick several buckets of the beautifully sweet brown muscat (frontignac) grapes. A single table was erected on the side of the road and two big signs would lean against the table with the price. We would use scales to weigh out the grapes into single pounds and transfer them into brown paper bags ready for sale. By 10am we were ready and open for business and although all the roads in Pokolbin were gravel, the passing trade was huge as only a handful of wineries and cellar doors existed. Although the grapes tasted great in the cool of the early morning, by midday the temperatures would soar well above 30°C and often near or above 40°C. The paper bags would be quite noticeable throughout the afternoon. My middle brother, Nick and I would try to persuade Simon to use eskys and ice to keep them cool but Simon would throw us a sinister kind of laugh and explain that "maximum profits would not be attainable if we over capitalised." That's all well and good and in hindsight I agree but he was all of nine years old - that's not simple logic, that's frightening! After the first summer, Simon wanted to expand the business and so the next season we dressed up the signs a little and offered the customers napkins with their purchase. Simon explained that a little extra touch goes a long way. Business was booming and by the end of the second week we had run out of table grapes. Being one of the founders of Terrace Vale Wines next door, Mum and Dad still had equal shares and Simon felt it appropriate that we pick our share of the table grapes which formed part of a lower block near the back shed. Business just continued to excel and every morning our "share" in the block became bigger and bigger. With a shortage of grapes still inevitable, Simon worked out a plan. We put the price of the grapes up substantially. We then packaged them in smaller bags so that they would be bursting at the seams, to appear more generous. Simon then explained that people were buying the grapes because we were little kids and kids are cute. "Doesn't matter what we're selling... they'll buy it!" he would say. By the third season business was out of control and despite an embarrassing influx in the price, demand was going to outstrip supply. Simon decided we needed a stiff competitor to begin a price war and so a second table was erected about 50 metres up the road. Charging an extra 50c a pound, Simon had stationed me in my own stall while he and Nick remained at the main table. He dressed me in these old baggy rugby shorts of Dads with my favourite red Lacoste polo shirt and ruffled up my hair, to which he insisted the ladies would melt. "Either way, we'll clean up" explained Simon.... "They'll either think you're too expensive and buy from Nick and I or feel sorry for you and think you're cute and buy from you." He always had such a wicked twinkle in his eye. Although I was so small and could hardly reach the table, Simon's plan worked and we were officially selling a pound of grapes for a higher price than Mum and Dad were getting for each bottle of wine at Marsh Estate. We were on fire! Nothing could stop us! As soon as we ran out of table grapes, we would start picking the wine grapes. They were not as palatable but we didn't have time to consider the products quality- far too busy for that! By the fourth season our little business was absolutely thriving. Simon had all sorts of business plans and strategies and would implement hypothetical trials on how to guarantee and finish the sale. Maybe Mum dropped Simon on his head as a baby or maybe she should have. We now had two stores in Deasys Road and one in Hermitage Road. I remember Neil McGuigan stopping at the Hermitage Road stall when I was manning it one day. Neil was in his late teens and it was a scorching summers day. He saw the price of the grapes and scoffed. He begrudgingly paid me the fee and grabbed a bag. Upon getting back into the car, he grabbed a handful and loaded them into his mouth. The next thing I know

Neil exploded like a canon and mashed grapes shot out all over the place. The grapes were so hot they had burnt his mouth. I offered him some of the water from my plastic drink bottle but upon lifting it I burnt my hand. I don't think Neil was too happy so I did what I thought was a fair thing - I cried! By the end of that season there were no more grapes left and so Simon came up with the brilliant plan of selling cheese and biscuits. Mum kept a plentiful supply of cheese for the tasting room and packets and packets of crackers hogged the pantry. Did they sell? Did they what! By 1pm we had sold out. Mum and Dad were busy and hadn't noticed the missing items. The three of us were dividing the profits when Simon came up with another furtive idea. Grabbing some old wine boxes, we completely cleaned the pantry of every single visible item. Tinned salmon, tinned beetroot, baked beans, spaghetti, salt and pepper, cup-a-soups, corn flakes, light bulbs, vegemite, lasagne sheets, beef stock cubes and the list goes on. We placed the items on the table and allowed the passers-by to stop and view them and make a selection. Again, I'm dressed in the baggy shorts and ruffled hair. Business was o.k. but we felt we were now clutching at straws.

By late afternoon we decided to pack up and head home. Suddenly, we noticed a car that looked disturbingly like Mum's driving out of Marsh Estate. Simon and Nick tried to quickly clear the table of the foodstuffs but panicked and hid underneath the table where we would normally store the grapes, which was covered by a large tablecloth. I remained, just standing next to the table full of our pantry's contents, looking as if I'd committed a murder. Mum came to a halt and asked how my day had been. As young, guilty kids often do, I didn't elaborate and answered with the unconvincing "good!".

"Where's Simon and Nick?" she asked.

I shrugged my shoulders.

"I thought you had sold out of grapes?"

I shrugged my shoulders yet again.

Mum squinted her eyes and focused upon the individually marked items on the table. Her jaw dropped and the car door opened. She came over to the table with a puzzled look until it dawned that what she saw before her had previously adorned her own shopping trolley. "Where's Simon?"

I looked to the ground and shrugged again.

"Simon!" she yelled.

"Oh hi, Mum... what's up?" Simon sprang to life from under the table. There was an uncomfortable silence as Mum picked up a can of sardines with a one-dollar price tag. She looked at Simon in the way that parents do when the excuse is never going to equal the truth.

"Mum, I promise we only took a few things," said Simon so convincingly that I think Mum could almost see an amusing side to it. Mum then picked up a packet of mosquito coils with a two dollar price tag. She didn't speak for a few seconds as she scoured over the table.

"We'll talk about this later. I have to go into to town quickly to buy some cheese.... you boys have to stop eating so much cheese.... it's for the customers! Then again, they all seemed to bring their own cheese and biscuits in today" she reflected.

Mum then noticed the empty biscuit boxes and crumpled cheese pieces in our bin and threw Simon a horrible look of contempt. Simon noticed Mum was still holding the items from the table and ever so crudely broke the silence by declaring.... "Mum... if you promise not to tell Dad.... we'll give you the sardines for fifty cents and the mosquito coils for a dollar."

Mum then noticed the empty biscuit boxes and crumpled cheese pieces in our bin and threw Simon a horrible look of contempt. Simon noticed Mum was still holding the items from the table and ever so crudely broke the silence by declaring.... "Mum... if you promise not to tell Dad.... we'll give you the sardines for fifty cents and the mosquito coils for a dollar."

Cheers Andrew



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



The Crick family would love to thank the Greta, Branxton and Lochinvar community, police and Greta fire brigade for the extensive search for our 6 year old non verbal son with Autism who scaled our backyard fence in Greta around 5.30 at night with his balance bike on Saturday 8th July. Some people drove their cars, walked with torches or rode their push bikes up and down the streets, parks and reserves. He was found safe and well with no fear in East Branxton 2 hours later, not aware he had done anything wrong, just a very happy boy that got to ride his bike.

We would especially love to thank Kylie J. from Lochinvar who stayed with him until the police arrived. You are an angel and we will always be indebted to you. A 'Well Done' is no where near the appreciation we have for our amazing community. Thank you all, The Crick Family (Greta)



Could the builders erecting new homes in the extension of Lakes Folly Drive subdivision kindly dispose of their rubbish in a more suitable manner. Two large bags of food wrappers and builder debris was collected from a neighbouring property over the weekend - and that came from only 3 new homes!



To the administration of the Newtown Huntlee development; would love to know the timeframe for the opening of the proposed Coles & other precincts in the development; I travel the road between Branxton & North Rothbury continually & it is mostly a painful experience with all the roadworks going on. The sooner it is finished the better!



Classified's

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

Classified's

Computer Tuition: From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908
Computer Services: Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128
For Rent: Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460
For Sale: 20ft. shipping container for sale, at Lambs Valley. Good condition, except for leaking roof! \$1100 Ph. 49 345913 or Email 1491nofrackingway@gmail.com 3 drawer steel filing cabinet, fawn colour \$50 Lambs Valley 493345973
For Sale: Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809
For Sale: Firewood. Ironbark & well seasoned. 6x4 trailer \$80 - pickup P: Greg 0411 315 548
Guitar Lessons: Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.
Microchipping: Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.
Mobile Travel Agent: 20 yrs experience. Will come to you for expert holiday planning. Obligation free appointments. P: 1300 365 68 (ext 595) M: 0404 831 867
W: www.mtatravel.com.au/sfenton
E: sfenton@mtatravel.com.au
Fitness Classes: 'Core & Strength'. Get fit. Classes are 6am and 10am Tuesday, 6am and 8am Thursday, at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478
Riding Lessons: agistment, horses trained. www.byalee.net 0407 453 494
Share accommodation: Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton; off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067
Share House: Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866
Wanted: high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris

& Tag. P: 0414 757 826
Wanted: all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct170 st170 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841
Work Wanted: Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292
Work Wanted: Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397
Work Wanted: Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601
Work Wanted: HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701
Work Wanted: Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567
Work Wanted: Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081
Work Wanted: Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.
Work Wanted: experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804
Work Wanted: Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3753
Work Wanted: Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989
Work Wanted: Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538

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

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

Dates for your diary >

Dates for your diary >

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.
Sun 30 July - NEWCASTLE & HUNTER JAZZ CLUB presents ERIC GIBBONS NEWCASTLE NEW ORLEANS JAZZ BAND featuring Eric Gibbons: trombone/vocals, Bob Henderson: trumpet, Peter Buckland: reeds, Rachel Hamilton: keyboard, Guy Thomson: bass and Joel Davis: drums. 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm \$10 Jazz Club members. \$15 Guests Central Charlestown Leagues Club, Bula Street, Charlestown 2290
Tues 1 Aug - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Tues 1 Aug - North Rothbury Tidy Town bi-monthly meeting; 6.30 pm at John and Margaret Butler's house at 1696 Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury.
Tues 8 Aug - 7pm - NIGHT TIME BINGO - Anglican Parish Branxton, Greta & Lochinvar at Greta Workers Club
Tues 08 Aug - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton

Sun 20 Aug ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
Tues 5 Sept - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Tues 12 Sept - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
Sun 17 Sep ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
Tue 3 Oct - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Tue 10 Oct - 'Night Time Bingo' at Greta Workers Club 7pm start
Tues 10 Oct - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
Sun 15 Oct ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
OCT/NOV B/G CWA Land Cookery/Product Promotion (Native Finger Lime) Day, Venue and Date TBA.
Tues 7 Nov - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Tues 14 Nov - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
Sun 19 Nov ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm
Tues 5 Dec - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club
Tues 12 Dec - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton
Sun 17 Dec ~ St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Hunter Valley Vineyards Concerts

SAT 21 October 2017 Opera in the Vineyards
SAT 21 October 2017 Midnight Oil: The Great Circle with special guests Birds of Tokyo & Ash Grunwald



Branxton Public School

We said farewell to Mrs Kleinman at the end of Term 2 as she embarks on new adventures. Mrs Osborne will soon be leaving us for a while to



Debating team



Athletics carnival



PBL Colour Run



Athletics carnival



Mrs. Kleinman with school band



PBL Colour Run

As school resumes for Term 3 we ready ourselves for another busy term full of a range of educational opportunities. We begin with celebrating NAIDOC Week which will include the official opening of our Indigenous Garden. Mr Cousins has been working hard to complete the project over the holidays and it is looking fabulous – a great asset to our school. Kindergarten enrolments are currently being accepted. Please pop in to see the friendly Office Staff or phone the school on 49381214 for more information if you have a little person to enrol for 2018.

Dates for the Calendar
 Tuesday 18th July – Lucas Proudfoot performance & first day of Term 3 for students
 Thursday 20th July – NAIDOC activities and Garden Opening

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

prepare for a new addition to her family. We wish them both health and happiness. The Primary Athletics Carnival was a great success. It was wonderful to see many parents there to enjoy the day with their children. Rutherford Technology High School sent along a group of super helpful students to assist in the running of many events. Thank you to Mr Thomas and the students for allowing the day to run so smoothly. Well done to our Stage 3 debaters who competed late in Term 2. Both the Year 5 and Year 6 team had success on the day and all students extended their skills and confidence through the experience. The boys and girls soccer teams travelled to Tinonee in Week 10, with the boys successfully moving to the next round. Well done to all players and thanks to the parents for transporting them such a long way! In Rugby League news, our team played and defeated Morpeth in Week 10 and will travel to Forster for their next game. Great effort boys. Our Week 10 PBL Assembly and reward afternoon were a huge success. The day concluded with a Colour Run and colour activities including face painting, colourful science and edible rainbow necklaces. Students participating had a messy but enjoyable time.



\$1.7 million Grants program now open for Hunter land managers

Landholders and land managers can apply for grants to improve the sustainability and productivity of land in the region, with applications for the 2017-18 Hunter Land Management Grants now open.

Landholders and land managers across the Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter and Manning Great Lakes districts are invited to apply for grant funding to deliver on-ground projects and implement changed management practices in priority areas.

General Manager Brett Miners encouraged landholders and land managers to apply for funds, with \$1.7 million in grants being offered throughout the region.

"Hunter Local Land Services works closely with landholders and land managers to identify the agricultural and natural resource management issues facing our region and to establish what work is needed to address them," Mr Miners said.

"We are offering a range of grants for landholders in priority areas which support the implementation of sustainable agriculture practices and enhance native and riparian vegetation management," Mr Miners said.

The grants programs are delivered by Hunter Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, Catchment Action NSW, Hunter Catchment Contributions and Hunter Water Corporation.

"The Australian and NSW Governments make a significant investment to support landholders and land managers to improve the sustainability and productivity of their land and safeguard our local environment for the future," Mr Miners said.

Grants are on offer to support eligible applicants to:

- Implement sustainable grazing and land management practices within commercial beef, dairy, sheep and poultry enterprises
- Enhance the condition of riparian, estuarine, and remnant native vegetation by managing stock impacts and reducing threats from invasive species.

"Landholders play a vital role in land management efforts. By working in partnership with them, we are improving land productivity while also protecting and enhancing native vegetation and habitat for threatened species across the Hunter."

Eligibility criteria and guidelines apply. Applications close on 28 August 2017. Grant applicants require assistance from Hunter Local Land Services staff prior to submission. Requests for assistance must be lodged by 1 August 2017.

"Applying for grants can be a daunting process, and we encourage landholders to contact our staff who are available and willing to assist landholders with applications. To maximise the return on investment from public funds, we have prioritised areas and issues in the region; your local staff member can provide more details on these."

Further information about the grants programs is available from the Hunter Local Land Services website at www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au or contact your Local Land Services office.

Blood On The Track with Brian Russell



Zabeel

Zabeel adds champagne flavour to classic pedigrees

TWO sires, who themselves never won beyond 2040m, appear as very good contributors in the production of performers good enough to succeed in Australian classic races at 2400m or further. Two of the greatest sires ever to appear in Australasia, they

are the Patrick Hogan, Cambridge Stud, New Zealand use Sir Tristram (Ire) and his locally bred son Zabeel.

They are in the immediate breeding of the winners of the Australian Derby, Jon Snow (NZ), and Australian Oaks, Bonneval (NZ), at Randwick last month.

Successful in the Derby on April 1, Jon Snow is by New Zealand shuttler Iffraaj (GB)

and from a daughter of a Zabeel mare, and Bonneval is by another dual hemisphere sire in Makfi (GB) and from another Zabeel mare.

The successes of Jon Snow and Bonneval, both competing for the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman Cambridge head-quartered stables means that four of the last six Australian Derby winners had Zabeel in their pedigrees and five of the last six Australian Oaks winners carried his name or that of Sir Tristram.

This year's Randwick Classic winners are both by sires from the Mr. Prospector male line who never won beyond 1600m, Iffraaj and Makfi. Also, Bonneval is the second successive Australian Oaks winner by Makfi, preceded by the Gerry Harvey bred Sofia Rosa, a filly free of Sir Tristram.

Besides his big involvement in breeding and racing in Australia, Mr Harvey owns the prestigious Westbury Stud at Karaka on the outskirts of Auckland.

Westbury has been the base for southern hemisphere use

in six southern hemisphere seasons, 2011-16, for Makfi (2007, bay, 16.0hh), sire also of Marky Mark (dam by Testa Rossa, won Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes-G1), Eleonora (Van Nistelrooy, dual Group 3 winner, third Victoria Oaks), Imposing Lass (Zabeel, won Gosford Belle of the Turf Stakes) and Saville Row (Daylami, three Group1 seconds in 2016-17, the Waikato Herbie Dyke, CJC New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas and WRC Levin Classic).

A winner of four of six starts, including two Group1s at 1600m, the English Two Thousand Guineas and Deauville Prix Jacques le Marois, Makfi is by one of the great sires of this time in Darley Great Britain based Dubawi (Ire) (2017 fee 250,000 pounds sterling), a champion miler who was the only stakes winner from the the brief use at stud by Dubai World

Cup winner Dubai Millennium. He died half-way through his debut season.

Darley brought Dubawi out for the 2006, 2008 and 2009 seasons, resulting in 230 foals, including Shamal Wind (won MRC Oakleigh Plate), Srikanthi (the BRC Stradbroke), Tiger Tees (the Galaxy in Sydney), Willow Magic (Group1 winner South Africa), Happy Archer (Group1 South Africa) and Secret Admirer (the Epsom at Randwick). They are among 27 Group1 winners to represent him from dual hemisphere use, representation that has been responsible world wide for 663 winners (74%, 128 stakes winners, 79 Group race winners) of 2125 races and over \$139million.

Northern hemisphere Group1 winning sons of Dubawi in use in Australia are Akeed Mofeed (GB) (2009, dam by Danehill sire Tiger Hill (Ire), won Hong Kong Cup and Derby,

resident at Golden Farms, Lindsay Park SA, first crop yearlings) and Darley – Godolphin dual hemisphere used Night of Thunder (Ire) (2011, Galileo, won English Two Thousand Guineas, retired to stud Ireland and Australia 2016, visits Victoria) and Poet's Voice (GB) (2007, Chief's Crown, won Ascot Queen Elizabeth, to stud GB and Australia 2009, Hunter Valley).

Both out of Danehill mares, two of Poet's Voice first Australian crop, current 3-year-olds, are My Country, a Listed winner in Brisbane and a Group 3 second Melbourne, and Perfect Rhyme, runner up at Randwick in her last two outings, appearances in the Adrian Knox-G3 and then to Bonneval in the Oaks.

Bred in New Zealand by City Bloodstock Ltd, Bonneval has maternal breeding which suggests 3200m could be within her scope. She is a sister to Imposing

Lass and half-sister to Full of Spirit (Flying Spur, won Adrian Knox, second Hawkes Bay Makfi Challenge-G1, fourth ATC Australian Oaks) and Lady Cumquat (Duke of Marmalade, Group 3 winner NZ, third in the Adrian Knox).

Raced five times for one cheque, a tight maiden win at Gawler, the dam Imposingly is a three-quarter sister to the Zabeel New Zealand champion St Reims (11 wins included the New Zealand Derby, Auckland Zabeel Classic and Avondale Guineas).

She is also nearly a three-quarter relation to Champagne, another Zabeel champion mare, one who in 1998 followed up a win in the Mackinnon with a neck to yet another of his daughters, Jezabeel, in the Melbourne Cup. Also second in the Australian Oaks at Randwick, she was a half-sister to Bonneville's grandam.

Detailed saleyard report



Saleyard report - cattle

Singleton report date 12/7/17

Yarding 840 ~ **Change – 110** (Comparison Date 5/7/17)

Consignments lifted mainly due to the continuing dry conditions throughout the surrounding area and quality was mixed. The bulk entered the younger categories, with the vealers well supplied. Cows made up the majority of the grown cattle. The usual orders competed with most categories selling at cheaper levels, except for the good quality black vealer steers, which sold to a dearer trend.

The vealer steers returning to the paddock averaged 10c to 20c cheaper, with the medium weights ranging from 300c to 401c, the latter for well-bred blacks, with the heavier end making from 290c to 350c/kg. The vealer heifers to the restockers eased by 15c and sold from 255c to 330c/kg. Medium weight yearling steers trended 10c cheaper, as the heifer portion eased 20c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold 10c cheaper, with yield and quality contributing, and the best topped at 368c/kg.

Heavy weight grown steers to slaughter were back by 12c, making from 230c to 250c, while the grown heifers reached 279c/kg. The plainer cows eased 5c to 10c to average 194c, with the better covered heavy weights also struggling to attract strong competition, to range from 200c to 222c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 230c/kg.

Scone report date 11/7/17

Yarding 1090 ~ **Change 20** (Comparison Date 4/7/17)

Consignments remained close to equal, however the quality especially for the younger drafts was plainer compared to the last market. Vealer steers were reduced in number, as the majority of the younger cattle were suitable for the restocker and lot feeder orders. Cows made up the bulk of the grown cattle, with grown heifers limited in supply. The market trend was cheaper, with breed in places contributing to this lower price trend.

Vealer steers to the restockers lost from 15c to 20c, with the 200kg plus pens ranging from 310c to 396c/kg. Vealer heifers trended from 14c to 30c cheaper, with the medium weights to the restockers making from 270c to 336c/kg. Yearling steers were 13c to 18c cheaper, with the lighter end ranging from 280c to 366c/kg, depending on breed. The yearling heifers also trended cheaper, with the overall quality and the dryer seasonal conditions the main contributing factor. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers were lower yielding this week and this caused prices to drop back around 25c/kg. The heavy weight grown steers and bullocks lost 15c to 20c to average 246c to 253c/kg. Cows trended 3c cheaper for the better covered heavy weights, with these making from 205c to 225c/kg. The plainer conditioned cows were back by 14c/kg. The best heavy weight bull reached 240c/kg.

TRLX Tamworth report date

10/7/17

Yarding 1100 ~ **Change –380** (Comparison Date 3/7/17)

There were 1,100 head penned, 380 less than last week. Prices were generally firm to slightly dearer for feeder types with an extra buyer present. Quite a few numbers off crop were offered as well as a good selection of yearling steers and heifers. A full field of buyers attended.

Weaners showed a cheaper trend with numbers decreasing as they move into the yearling grades. These were cheaper overall. Yearling numbers increased and the quality improved culminating in a dearer trend for the feeders, more so for the heifer portion. The cow market was again cheaper, with numbers and quality playing a part. Bulls were firm to slightly cheaper.



Find us on..



North Rothbury
Tidy Towns
 House of the Month
 Caring for our environment

Congratulations to Cathryn and Dan Smith of 13 Scott Street, North Rothbury.



HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



hosting a myriad of media and trade famils. Media coverage grossed over \$600,000 worth of publicity during the festival period, with a combined readership reach of 5,000,000 over the various publications.
'Fireside Famil': HVWTA Making waves in Business Events to Hunter Valley
 Last weekend the Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association held a business event 'Fireside Famil' for 19 Executive



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

HUNTER VALLEY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL 2017 A HUGE SUCCESS
 The Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival wrapped up at the end of last week and it was a huge success with over 30,000 consumers visiting Wine Country and participating in the events over the 2 months and 70 pieces of editorial written by key media publication. It was a great success for members who contributed to the program with 30 fantastic events held during May and June.
 A huge thank you to all of our valued members who participated in the festival with their own very successful events and for



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and Personal Assistants representing firms such as Commonwealth Bank, ICAP, QIC, KFC from Sydney Interstate and surrounding areas. The VIP delegates took part in a jam packed weekend that showcased some of the Hunter Valley's finest conference facilities, team building activities, food and winery experiences, accommodation, a helicopter ride and the Hunter Valley Wine Festival. A huge thank you to all involved including Kirkton Park Hunter Valley, Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, Hunter Valley Resort, Estate Tuscany, Spicers Vineyard Retreat, Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort, Keith Tulloch Wines, Cocoa Nib, Hunters Quarter, Rover Coaches, Slattery Helicopters, Pinnacle Team Events and Brian McGuigan who gave up their time and provided accommodation, meals and activities for this exclusive Business Events weekend famil. Also, a special thank you to Hunter Valley Events for working with the HVWTA in organising a successful famil.

Cheers, Jo

North Rothbury Tidy Town thank council for refurbished multi-purpose tennis court



North Rothbury Tidy Towns', at its next meeting on the 1st August, will accept a motion to thank Cessnock City Council, its Ward Councillors (Clrs Ann Sander, Mel Dag & John Fagg) & Cessnock City Council staff for providing the now complete refurbishment works at Ayrefield Memorial Park.
 Over the last couple of years Council has provided a new playground, a shelter & has, its last project, refurbished the tennis court into a multi-purpose area.
 "The park is now a wonderful recreational area for the residents of North Rothbury & it is a pleasure to see the facility being used every day by the community," said Mark Stanford, Vice President of North Rothbury Tidy Towns.

"We intend at the same meeting to organise an official opening and invite the Mayor, C Ward Councillors & those council staff involved. Tidy Towns will man our BBQ and provide a luncheon for those who attend. It is just a small token of appreciation from the North Rothbury community & Tidy Town."



Branxton Veteran Golfers

Results 6-7-17
Stableford

Div 1 Winner M Ford 30 pts R/u
K Anderson 28 pts (c/b) 3rd E Barrett 28 pts
Div 2 Winner R Friis 33 pts (SOD) R/u
M Hunt 27 pts (c/b) 3rd L Bootes 27 pts (c/b)

Ladies - Insufficient numbers to form a division

NTPs Ladies R Friis
Gents G Wilton

Members draw - Won (R Crooks)

A coolish Winter's morning with the sun shining brightly, encouraged 34 of our hardest players to join in a round of golf. Although few ladies in number participated, they held their own amongst the men. Congratulations to Robyn Friis on winning her division and achieving the "Score of the Day) and a well done to Margaret Hunt on being Runner Up and other winners and placegetters.

Results 13-7-17

9 hole Stableford

1st L Bootes 22 Pts
2nd R Moylan 21 pts
3rd B Ward 21 pts
4th L Hunt 19 pts
5th G Anderson 19 pts

NTPs Ladies N Craig
Gents G Wilton

Members draw - Not Drawn

A beautiful Winter's day greeted the 40 odd players, who turned up for our "Mid Year Luncheon" golf round. A tightly contested round, made more enjoyable because it included "The Eddie Barrett Olympic Event", to celebrate his 70th birthday. Congratulations to Lester Bootes on winning the stableford round, and a well done to runners up. The luncheon was successful and made more enjoyable by the entertainment that followed, which included an Irish song or two, good one Eddie trust you enjoyed your day of celebration.

Branxton Lady Golfers

Results for PAR Event held Wed. 5th July
Winner: Carol Miller with -4.

No Nearest to the Pin.

Round 5 of the Monthly Medal and HRDGA Rosella Medal were competed for on Wednesday 12th July.

Winner: Robyn Hoffman with Nett 78
Caren Caldwell had the least putts with 27 putts

Nearest to the Pin: Carol Miller.

As the winner of the Rosella Round Robyn has qualified to compete in the Champions of Champions District Play off to be held at Muswellbrook on the 23rd October.

**Branxton Golf Results
Saturday, 8th July**

A GRADE WINNER Troy McCaw 37 pts
A GRADE RUNNER UP Gary Wilton 37
A GRADE THIRD Chris Zawirski 37 pts
B GRADE WINNER Gary Walsh 35 pts
B GRADE RUNNER UP Steve Ross 34
B GRADE THIRD Ian Barnes 32
C GRADE WINNER John Parr 40 pts
C GRADE RUNNER UP Lester Bootes 39 pts
C GRADE THIRD Robert Watson 37 pts

Balls to 30 pts

NTPs

Lee Heuston 165 cms 4th Lennie Porter 287 cms 13th C.Callaghan 188 cms Richard Crooks 100 cms

Troy McCaw continued his good form from this year recording a sound 37 pts to win Saturday's A Grade Stableford Competition with 37 pts. He won on a countback from local senior legend Gary Wilton and the ever consistent Chris Zawirski. Gary Walsh won B Grade with his 35 pts, indicating the conditions of the day were quite difficult with only 30 pts needed to win a ball. Steve Ross continued his recent good form to finish second with 34 pts with Ian Barnes third with 32 pts. John Parr's 40 pts to win C Grade was the best stableford score of the day, only just defeating our super veteran Lester Bootes with 39 pts and Robert Watson's 37 pts. The shot of the day belonged to Richard Crooks on the last, which finished only 1 metre from the pin, beating Steve Ross's shot from earlier in the day by a few centimetres. The singles match play has reached the semi-final stage with Lee Heuston outlasting Ian Barnes in the first semi-final on the 19th hole. This proved to be an excellent match with both players trading holes all day. Lee came back from 2

down with two to play, recording a birdie on the last to take it down the first again. A lengthy putt finally scored his victory. The Branxton 5 skins competition commenced on Saturday, a competition that runs over 5 weeks with the 3 best stableford scores counted towards deciding the 4 finalists. A prize pool of \$460 will be available for the finalists. Since this competition only requires the 3 best scores players are reminded that registrations are still available over the next two weeks. After Saturday's round the top ten players are: Barry Turner 37 pts; R. Watson 37 pts; Mick Carling 36 pts; Phil Baker 36 pts; Gary Walsh 35 pts; Steve Ross 34 pts; Lee Heuston 34 pts; C. Callaghan 34 pts; Roger Yandle 33 pts; D. Cox 33 pts.

BRANXTON GOLF CLUB –SAT 15TH JULY STABLEFORD

A GRADE WINNER Riley McClung 36
A GRADE RUNNER UP Michael Simpson 36 pts c/b

A GRADE THIRD Lee Heuston 36 pts
B GRADE WINNER Robert Hale 40 pts

B GRADE RUNNER UP Warren Bartlett 37 pts

B GRADE THIRD Stephen Ross 36 pts
C GRADE WINNER Peter Mathews 40

C GRADE RUNNER UP Michael Maddock 36 pts c/b

C GRADE THIRD Douglas Muncaster 36 pts
Balls to 32 pts

NTPs

2nd/11th P.Mathews 197 cms 4th W.Bartlett 244 cms 9th / 18th Riley McLung 150 cms 13th R.Moylan 470 cms

Local promising junior won Saturday's A Grade stableford in dramatic circumstances by making a birdie on the last hole to win on a countback from Michael Simpson and Lee Heuston. The winter conditions are certainly making scores difficult to come by with a DSR of 70 this week after a 71 DSR last week. Robert Hale found his form once again to win B Grade with a very impressive 40 pts, well clear of runner up Warren Bartlett and third place getter Steve Ross. Steve is continuing his ride of playing great golf since his series of lessons from the club's maestro coach, Marcus, getting his handicap down to a "career low" as he strives to reach A Grade for the club championships. His 36 pts will certainly aid his cause. Peter Mathews was also very impressive, easily winning C Grade with 40 pts as well, with Michael Maddock and Doug Muncaster filling the placings with their 36 pts. 32 points was needed to win a ball indicating a very tight field of scores.

Hunter Valley Golf Club

Sunday 2nd July Steven Balks has won the Weekly Challenge with an outstanding 44 point round from Steve Piggot who shot a solid 40 points, Brett Firman rounded out the placings with 37 points. Ball winners were: Jason Cowburn v36, Aaron Hodge v36, Wayne Oliver v36, Joel Nichols 35, Mitchell Nolan 35, Trent Park 34 and Nick Cowburn v33
Tuesday 4th July Luke McArthur claimed the Tuesday Stableford from Steven Abel on countback after both returned 41 points, Ray Hodson collected 3rd place with 37 points. Ball winners were: Col Bradley 36, Paul Smith 34, Rick Turnchini 34, Mark Barrow 34, Ray Newton 33, Darren Thomson 33, Rod Nyman 32, Andrew Cawsey v32, Wayne Barber 32 and Tracy Morison 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray hodson (3rd) David Peel (4th) John Stewart (10th) and Grahame Sheldon (17th)
Wednesday 5th July The Ladies American Foursomes has been won by Kerry Choromanski and Isabel Skeates from Jill Ramsden and Mary Fortey. Ball winners were: Kay Dunn and Jenny Chambers with the Dress Up winners Pam Snaddon, Kerrie-Anne Skinner, Lorraine Clack and Sue Peel. Next week the Ladies will play Round 5 of the Golf NSW Stroke Medal and Putting
Thursday 6th July Garry Marsden had a rare win in the Vets Stableford with 38 points from David Peel 36 and Ken Harris in 3rd with 35 on countback. Ball winners were: Graeme Flynn 35, Wayne Barber 34, Doug Wand 34, Ray Hodson 33, Darrell Preston 32, John Carmody 32, John Stewart 32, Eric Smith 31, David Irwin 30 and Geoff Sweetman 30 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Paul Ireland (3rd) Graeme Flynn (4th) Peter Payne (8th) and Mark Barrow (10th). Next week the Vets will play Money-ball.

Saturday 8th July The Monthly Medal has produced some excellent golf in all grades with Peter Dow in B Grade taking the Medal with 63 net. A Grade went to Angello Korlevic with 67 net from Ray Hodson with 70 on countback, B Grade runner up went to John Brown with 71 net and C Grade to Anthony Bower on countback to Adam Pratten after both had 71 net. Ball winners were: Coen King v70, Brad Burgess 70, Cade Bradley 71, Mark Drage 71, Nick Nancarrow 72, Ryan Stig v72, Bruce Chambers 72, Brad Duncan 72, Ken Springbett 72, Robert King v72, Graeme Flynn 72, Paul Bullock 72, Tracy Morison 72, Ken Smith 73, Scott Jones 73, CONT Backpage

Do you want to show off your arms?

I am passionate about helping you achieve your health and fitness goals. I see SO many people frustrated that as they get older they no longer have the level of fitness they had when they were younger!

Does this sound familiar?

Between marriage, children, longer hours at work and changes in hormones, looking after your health and fitness has taken a back seat. Instead of playing netball or soccer yourself, you are taking your children to netball or soccer matches. Instead of going for a walk or run before work, you are getting uniforms ready and packing lunches. Or instead of the gym in your lunch break, you are working through lunch just to try and get everything done!

Are you are ready to make a change in the way your arms look and feel?

It's the old adage – you get out what you put in – put in the right actions, you will get the right results! And if you only have a few minutes a day, make those few minutes count!

I have so many people tell me that they want lovely toned arms, but they do not want to have arms like Arnold Schwarznegger! Working with small weights, to give your arm muscles some resistance will give them definition without bulk. Everyone already has arm muscles, we are going to work on getting them stronger, with better definition.

I want you to work on these exercises and think about what is more important to you. Strong arms that let you garden, or saddle your horse, or pick up your grand children, or lovely toned arms which look good in a singlet top but which can't lift a bucket of water? If you follow the exercises below, you should be able to have both!

What muscles are in your arms?

Your arms have a lot of muscles but the ones we usually concentrate on are in our upper arms and shoulders. The main muscles here are the biceps, triceps, and the deltoid muscle. These are the ones you can see when you wear a sleeveless top!

Because these muscles are also affected by the muscles in our chest and back, we pay particular attention to the muscles there as **well when we are exercise. If we didn't, we would leave ourselves open to injury.**

It is also important to exercise "opposite" muscles – we want to be balanced, and not look like a body builder from the 70s, all hunched over because we have worked our biceps and our chests and forgotten about the muscles we can't see in the mirror!

Our Biceps are the muscles in our upper arm, at the front. They are responsible for us being able to flex our forearms up, so we can scratch the top of our head, or carry the groceries in from the car. Our triceps are the ones at the back of our upper arm. When are Biceps are flexing our forearms, our triceps are extended. Then when we want to extend our forearms, our triceps contract and our **biceps extend. So it is important to exercise both sets of muscles. Exercising our triceps alone will not get rid of our "tuckshop arms"** – only removing the layers of fat on them will do that! But when the fat does go, your triceps will be there looking strong!

Your Anterior Deltoid is the muscle on the front of your shoulder (the "shoulder cap"). And, you guessed it, the posterior deltoid is the one at the back of your shoulder. As well as wanting them to look good in a sleeveless top, these muscles help our arms move, so they are important!

So how do I improve my arm strength?

Start by doing the arm exercises included here once every other day.

You will need a small set of hand weights (dumb bells) to do these exercises. Most people will be ok with a set of 1kg or 2kg dumb bells, others may want to extend themselves and go to 3kg or more! Weights can be purchased individually from K-Mart or Big W (usually about \$5 per kilo of weight) or you can buy a set which includes 1kg, 2kg and 3kg dumb bells, so you could consider splitting the cost with a friend if you are using different weights!

If you do not want to buy weights, you can use a drink bottle filled with water, or even a can of food out of the cupboard! Just make sure that whatever you use is comfortable to hold and not likely to slip out of your hand.

Exercise	Beginner Level (1 kg)	Intermediate (2-3kg)	Advanced Level (3-4kg)
Half Bicep Curls	10-12 reps	10-12 reps	15 reps
Upright row	10-12 reps	10-12 reps	15 reps
Dumb Bell Flies	10-12 reps	10-12 reps	15 reps
Shoulder Press	10-12 reps	10-12 reps	15 reps
Single Leg Shoulder press to bicep curl combination	10-12 reps	10-12 reps	15 reps
Tricep Extensions/ Dips	10-12 reps	10-12 reps	15 reps
Bent Over Row	10-12 reps	10-12 reps	15 reps
Push Ups	10-12 reps	10-12 reps	15 reps

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 arms, but not to the point that you are not able to brush your hair! 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.**

Half Bicep Curls – stand with your feet slightly apart and your core engaged. Hold a weight in each hand, arms by your side, palms facing forward. Raise your fore arm until it is parallel with the ground, then lower it again. Repeat with the other arm.

Upright Row – stand with your feet slightly apart and your core engaged. Hold a weight in each hand, at chest level, with your elbows out to the side. Try and keep your elbows at shoulder height or slightly above. Lower the weights to your tummy then lift them again (a bit like you are using a bicycle pump), keeping your back straight and your core engaged.

Dumb Bell Flies – Standing, bend your knees slightly and tilt forward at the hips, pushing your bottom and your chest out. Holding a weight in each hand, squeeze your shoulder blades together so your arms come back and out to the sides (the shape your arms make should not change). Take your arms back to the starting position and repeat.

Shoulder Press – stand with your feet slightly apart and your core engaged. Hold your weights in your hands, with your hands next to your shoulders, facing forward. Extend both arms above your head then lower to the starting position.

Single leg shoulder press to bicep curl combination – challenge your balance and your core strength while working your arms! Stand on one leg, then do a shoulder press straight into a bicep curl, then back to a shoulder press.

Tricep extensions – there are three options here –

Overhead tricep extension (these are the ones we mostly do in class). stand with your feet slightly apart and your core engaged, hold a weight over your head with both hands (you can use a weight in each hand if you want to), keeping your elbows pointed to the sky, raise and lower your hands.

Single arm tricep extension – Stand with one foot forward and one foot back, a hand on the foot that is forward and hold a weight in the other hand. Keeping your upper arm close to your body, extend your hand up and down. You can also do this by resting your knee on a bench or a chair.

Tricep dips – only do these if you have no shoulder problems.

Bent over row - Standing, bend your knees slightly and tilt forward at the hips, pushing your bottom and your chest out. Holding a weight in each hand, hold the weights near your chest, then lower your hand towards the ground then back to your chest.

Push Ups - do these on the wall, on your knees, or on your toes

As you get stronger and more confident with these exercises, you can do two or three sets each day.

You can also choose if you want to increase the weight, or the number of repetitions, or both!

Your arms WILL get stronger and more toned if you stick with this.

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?

We are half way through the WOW Wipe Out Winter 6 week Challenge. There have been some frosty mornings at the park, but the ladies are seeing the results of their hard work! Louise also ran the Raffertys Coastal Run last weekend, 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 (they can be related to Fitness or Personal Development). Find out more at www.louisecairns.com.au



BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

The New **SPORT**

Branxton Ladies Open Day

7th July, 2017
A field of 44, playing in three divisions contested the Branxton Ladies Open Day. Players from as far as Mittagong, Wyong and Merriwa attended.

Division 1.
Winner of Branxton Cup : Melita Watson (Hunter Valley) with 92 strokes
Scratch Winner: Lyn Banks (Scone) 93 strokes
Nett Winner: Carol Miller (Branxton) 75 Nett Stableford Winner Deanna Hollis (Muswellbrook) 25 points

Division 2.
Winner Jill Thomas Trophy (Branxton Only) Jan Scobie 33 points
Scratch Winner: Lorraine McCarthy (Wyong) 99 strokes
Nett Winner: Amy Reilly (Cessnock) 74 Nett Stableford: Chris Tancred (Hunter Valley) 32 points

Division 3.
Stableford Only
Winner: Dinie Bishop (Merriwa) 34 points
Jan Roach (Wyong) 33 points
Sue Devlin (Nelsons Bay) 31 points
Nearest to the pin.

Division 1. Lyn Banks (Scone) Division 2. Jan Scobie (Branxton) Division 3. Nil.
Longest Drive
Division 1 June Jukes (Scone) Division 2 Amy Reilly (Cessnock) Division 3 Tania Carrigan (Merriwa)

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HVGC

Russ Lightfoot 73, Peter Puerta 74 and David Peel 74 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Julie Van Den Berg (3rd) Ben Bradley (4th) Jeff Morton (8th) Grahame Sheldon (10th) and Nicholas Wilson (17th). Next week will be a Medley Stableford

Note: The HVGC Open Day will be held on Sunday 10th September playing a 4 Person Medley Event with Tee times available from 10 am. Please contact the Pro shop for further details and bookings on 49910977

Sunday 9th July Maitland members Trent Park and Aaron Fox battled for the top spot in the Weekly Challenge with Trent getting the nod on countback after both returned 34 points.

Tuesday 11th July Matt Killick took out the Tuesday Stableford with 37 points on countback to Ken Scott-

MacKenzie with Paul Smith taking 3rd place with 36 points also on countback. Bll winners were: Ian Newell 36, Wayne Barber 34, Ray Hodson 34, Adam Goldfinch v32, Michael Watson 32, Garry Clarke 31, Paul Davies 31, Garry Marsden 31 and Greg Ireland 31 c/b. Nearest - the - Pins went to Michael Watson (3rd & 4th) Peter Payne (8th) and Matt Killick (17th)

Wednesday 12th July The Ladies played the 5th Round of the NSW Medal Stroke and Putting with Christine Tancred winning the Stroke event with 745 net from Jenny Chambers 76

and Lorraine Clack 3rd on countback. Ball winners were: Dale Hamilton, Mary Fortey, Sue Peel and Isabel Skeates. The Putting winners were: Dale Hamilton, Karen Baillie and Lynette Russell. Next week the Ladies will play Stableford.

Thursday 13th July The Vets Moneyball event has been won by Kevin Smith, David Peel, Bruce Chambers and Ian Newell with 83 points. Ball winners were: Wayne Barber, Grahame Sheldon, John Carmody and Ken Harris 76 points, John Stewart, Mark Barrow, Ken Springbett and Graeme Flynn 65 points and Eric Smith, Heinz Kestermann

and Geoff Sweetman 58 points. Nearest-the-Pins went to Bruce Chambers (3rd) David Peel (4th) Wayne Barber (8th) and Grahame Sheldon (17th). Next week the Vets will play a Medley Stableford.

Saturday 15th July 2016 Club Champion Angello Korlevic has displayed an ominous sign of top form with the 2017 Club Championship only 2 weeks off by winning A Grade easily with a 40 point return from his 2 handicap in the Medley Stableford, runner up, also showing signs of last year great form was Matt Killick with 36 points, B Grade went to Paul

Davies with a solid 39 points from Nathan Mudd on 35 points and C Grade to Wayne Cowan on 37 points from Greg Ireland with an even Par 36 points. Ball winners were: David Peel 35, Dean Morison 34, Shanon Attewell 34, Ray Newton 34, Tony Butler 34, Colin Mills 34, Paul Bullock 34, Brad Burgess 34, Garry Marsden 33, Phil Douglas v33, Clarke Sturman 33 and John Brown 33 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Angello Korlevic (3rd) Tony Butler (4th) John Stewart (8th & 10th) and Shanon Attewell (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford

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